



Monday, 23 May 2016, 13.00–17.00, Seminar on Culture in the Baltic Sea Region

Tuesday, 24 May 2016, 09.00-16.00, BSSSC Board Meeting

Meeting venue: **Pomorskie Marshal's Office**, ul. Okopowa 21/27, Gdansk, ground floor, Herbowa Hall

MINUTES

1. Opening of the Board Meeting (9.00)

1.1. Opening of the meeting – *Mr. Ossi Savolainen, BSSSC Chair, opened the meeting*

1.2. Adoption of the agenda – *the agenda was adopted*

1.3. Adoption of Board meeting minutes Helsinki 16-17 March 2016 - *adopted*

1.4. Presentation by the representative of hosting region Pomorskie

Ms. Wroblewska wished the Board meeting welcome to Gdansk and gave a presentation about the hosting region Pomorskie and the administration on the regional level in Poland. She told which are the main competences of the Regional Administration in Poland.

2. BSSSC member regions and Board members

- Country specific reports from Board members – tour de table
- information about ongoing/planned local/regional reforms (if any)
- important issues/policy areas in focus at the moment

Germany: Mr Musiolik mentioned e.g. the importance of refugee issue in the German politics. He also explained the situation in the cooperation between Schleswig-Holstein and Kaliningrad oblast. Mr. Kneifel-Haverkamp mentioned the partnership with St.Petersburg and the workshop held in April. There has also been a meeting in Warsaw about the management in ERDF.

Norway: Mr. Ryberg stressed the safety situation and reminded also about the importance in the Barents area. In Kirkenes there are available several good examples about the peaceful living between different ethnical and



language groups. In Norway, there are several relatively small municipalities and therefore there is an ongoing process of municipal reform. In addition, a regional reform is also on the table. Important dialogue between counties is taking place - to find common ground for cooperation in larger geographical units making up the new regions.

Estonia: Toivo Riimaa told the new government is very active in finishing the reform in the local and regional administration. On the state level there will be a presidential election in the autumn.

Finland: Mr. Mikkola explained the current situation of the big reform in the regional administration, including the healthcare and social care organizations. Mr. Lipsanen stressed the significant improvement: there will be a direct election for the Regional Councils. Mr. Savolainen mentioned Helsinki-Uusimaa Region will be a huge organization after the reformation.

3. Policy Sectors and Working Groups

3.1. Maritime Issues *Mr. Mikkola and Mr. Tamminen reported from the European Maritime Day, 18-19 May in Turku. Blue Growth, Smart specialization, shipbuilding and the education were the most important issues. They have also participated in the CPMR BSC Maritime working group meeting. In June and November there will be conferences organized by VASAB, Mr. Mikkola and Mr. Tamminen are going to participate.*

There was also a discussion about BSSSC's observer status in HELCOM.

3.2. Youth Policy *There will be a separate meeting on the youth issues after the Board meeting. Ms. Ludwiczek reported the plans considering the youth meeting in Hämeenlinna in September and Mr. Lipsanen explained the conference arrangements. BSSSC will participate in the CBSS Round Table in the Youth Policy.*

3.3. Northern and Arctic Dimension *Ms. Saeternes- There will be a scheduled meeting in the nearest future. EEAS has promised to invite the representatives of BSSSC.*

3.4. Transport and Infrastructure *Mr. Eide reported the current issues on TEN-T*

3.5. Baltic Sea Region Programme *The meeting will be held back-to-back with BSSSC AC*

4. Current issues at other co-operation organizations

4.1. CBSS *The Polish presidency will end in the end of June and Iceland will take the*



presidency from the beginning of July.

- 4.2. CPMR Baltic Sea Commission *Mr Tamminen reported the current issues: the General Assembly back-to-back with a seminar on Smart Specialization Strategies will be held on 25-27 May in Sandviken, Sweden.*

5. BSSSC Annual Conference 2016

Presentation by **Mr. Matti Lipsanen**, Vice Executive Director, Regional Council of Häme

8.1. Comments and input to the draft programme *The Board adopted the proposed programme.*

8.2. Conference resolution

The Board decided to share the responsibilities of the resolution. The members responsible on the different sessions in the AC will write the texts should be sent to the Secretariat until the end of June.

6. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

- EUSBSR Annual Forum 2016, 8-9 November *BSSSC will participate in the official programme with a youth theme.*

7. BSSSC Board meetings 2016 – 2017 and Annual Conference 2017

14 September 2016, Hämeenlinna, Finland

November 2016 (Back to back with EUSBSR Annual Forum), Stockholm, Sweden

February-March 2017, Brussels? (tbc)

May-June 2017 (tbc)

25th Annual Conference 2017 (tbc)

8. Coming events

9. Any other business

16.00 End of the Board meeting