



BSSC Board meeting Stockholm, Sweden – final minutes (per 15.05.18)

Tuesday, 6 March 2018, 1230-17.30, Lunch 1200-1230.

Meeting venue: CBSS, Slussplan 9, Stockholm, Sweden.

Present:

Chairman Mr. Roger Ryberg (Eastern Norway County Network).

Board Members: Mr. Timo Nikolaisen (Eastern Norway County Network/Buskerud), Mr. Martin Rümmelein (Schleswig-Holstein), Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp (Brandenburg), Ms. Sari Rautio (Regional Council of Häme), Ms. Evgeniya Russu (Kaliningrad Region), Mr. Ossi Savolainen (Helsinki Uusima Region), Mr. Stefan Musiolik (Schleswig-Holstein), Mr. Arne Tilk (Association of Estonian Cities).

Board Civil: Mr. Jon Halvard Eide (Vest-Agder County), Ms. Reetta Sorjonen (Häme region), Mr. Janne Tamminen (Helsinki Uusimaa Region), Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska (Pomorskie Region), Mr. Toivo Riimaa (Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities), Ms. Marlene Rothe (Schleswig-Holstein).

Others: Ms. Maira Mora (CBSS Director General), Ms. Olga Zuin (Project Assistant, Baltic 2030 Unit, CBSS), Sebastian Magier (ERB), Carsten Adamsen (UBC).

Secretariat: Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes (ENCN Chairmanship), Mr. Lars Lund Godbolt (ENCN Chairmanship), Ms. Hilde Beate Aaroe (ENCN Chairmanship), Mr. Jan Edøy (BSSC Brussels Antenna)

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Board meeting

1.1. Opening of the meeting – Mr. Roger Ryberg, BSSC Chair

The BSSC Chairman **Mr. Roger Ryberg** welcomed everyone to the CBSS Secretariat's venue in Stockholm and thanked the CBSS for hosting the Board Meeting.

1.2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without any changes or amendments.

1.3. Adoption of Board meeting minutes from Board Meeting in December 2017.

The minutes were adopted without additional comments.



2. Priorities of the Swedish Chairmanship of the CBSS, vision group work CBSS post 2020

2.1. Presentation by Ms. Maira Mora, CBSS

Ms. Maira Mora presented the highlights of the Swedish Presidency in the CBSS. They are currently focusing on six working barriers: 1) Sustainable development and climate change, 2) economic issues including labor, science, research and maritime topics, 3) civil security, 4) children at risk, 5) culture, education and youth and 6) human trafficking.

The CBSS are preparing an analysis on Sustainable Development Goals that will focus on the common challenges across the Baltic Sea Countries and Russia. This will result in a report "Bumps on the Road to Baltic 2030".

The CBSS Labor Ministers' has adopted a Declaration in Berlin in June 2017. This makes up the political framework. There are six areas of common concern that have been identified: 1) Labor mobility/migration, 2) demographic challenges, 3) knowledge supply, 4) Youth employment, 5) migration/integration, and 6) involvement into the labor market of vulnerable people.

The Children at Risk Unit continues to spread the knowledge and practice of the Barnehus- model, and is working closely with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

12 May 2017 the Joint Position on Enhancing Cooperation in Civil Protection Area was adopted at the 15th meeting of the Director General for the Civil Protection in the Baltic Sea Region. The implementation plan for the priorities in Keflavik was agreed on in November 2017 by the EUSBSR Policy Area Secure Steering Group and is now being conducted.

Cultural heritage is the priority of both the incoming Latvian Presidency of the CBSS (2018-2019) and the EU, and the CBSS strives to be an attractive and competent partner in the field of regional cooperation on culture, youth and education.

The main aim for the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2018 is to develop a Transnational Referral Mechanism for victims of human trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region including Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine.

An independent vision group has been established who will develop a model for the future role of the CBSS. It will be a Senior Official meeting in mid-March where the findings will be presented orally. The final document will be presented in May 2018. This will be analyzed, adopted and endorsed in mid-June in Sweden before it will be handed over to the next Presidency in Latvia. By 2019, the post 2020 report will be complete.

2.2. Comments and questions

3. CBSS Youth Vision

3.1. Recommendations from CBSS Youth Vision Group by Mr. Martin Rümmelein

Mr. Martin Rümmelein presented the CBSS Youth Vision Group work. The task of this independent group was to develop and present statements for a vision for the Baltic Sea Region and the role of the CBSS beyond 2020. To help give input, the German Martin Rümmelein, BSSSC Youth Board



Member, and the Norwegian Agnes Lusti, BSSSC Youth Network, were sent from the BSSSC network to attend the seminar. The recommendations can be read [here](#).

4. Cohesion Policy post 2020

4.1. Updated information/status by Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp, Brandenburg

Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp gave an update to the Board regarding the EU cohesion policy post 2020. The discussions of the future of the cohesion funds are a part of the discussion on the EUs Multiannual Financial Framework. This is a difficult discussion due to Brexit. Brexit means losing a big net contributor to the budget. There is likely to be a gap of 8 – 14 billion € a year. To compensate, the EU member states' share of the EU budget would have to increase from 1,0 to 1,11 % of GDP. If the gap is not covered by an increase in member countries' share of EU budget, then the most obvious targets for reduction in the budget are the areas of agriculture and cohesion policy. Cohesion policy could lose 15% according to estimates from Commissioner Öttinger. **Mr. Kneifel-Haverkamp** also said the discussions are difficult because of new challenges related to migration and that certain European countries are not willing to accept their quota of refugees accepted into Europe.

The European Commission will publish a draft Multiannual Financial Framework by 2 May 2018. However, this will most likely not be adopted before the European Parliament elections in 2019.

4.2. Public Consultation on EU funds in the area of Cohesion (deadline 8.3 2018)

Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp suggests submitting the BSSSC paper from February 2017 to the public consultation. The questions provided in the public consultation are not very precise. Individual BSSSC members could submit their own responses.

Mr. Jan Edøy emphasised that the process is also affected by the Italian elections, and that the BSSSC should stick to our position. **Ms. Krystina Wroblewska** raised the issue of how the Polish regions are following the process with attention, because if the Cohesion Policy funds will be linked to the rule of law then who will be punished. The government or the Polish citizens. **Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp** stated that we should consider if we need a new or updated paper on Cohesion Policy once the European Commission presents the draft.

Conclusion: The Board agreed that the Secretary General submits the BSSSC paper from February 2017 as a respond to the consultations. The Board encouraged individual BSSSC members to submit their own responses.

5. Annual Conference 2018

5.1. Presentation by Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska, Pomorskie Region.

Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska informed that they have sent out more information for the Board to understand the main slogan of the conference to help the Board on active participation in the



preparations for the AC (see supporting documents). She said that the Board should decide what workshops to arrange and if we should have one on cohesion policy or not.

Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes said that invitations and registration should be sent out and opened in June, just after the next BSSC Board Meeting in Kaliningrad. Mid-August should be the deadline for registration.

5.2. Comments, input and questions

Mr. Jon Halvard Eide commented that sustainable transport could be put into workshop 3. He also asked the questions why there is a specific workshop for the youths - Shouldn't they be involved in all of them? He also proposed that the title of the conference should be improved.

Mr. Stefan Musiolik said that Schleswig-Holstein could be a part of a AC working group. He suggested that in one of the plenary sessions the new Minister from his region, Schleswig-Holstein, could attend. She is highly interested in the topic and BSR affairs.

Mr. Martin Rümmelein agrees with Mr. Eide that youth should be included in every aspect. Not only economic aspect. There are conflicts between issues of economic and social character and how to meet the demands of the youths and elders. We need this dialogue in all kinds of areas. Youth event should have an input to all these topics.

Mr. Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp met the moderator from last year's AC recently. She mentioned that there is little discussion about innovation in the public sector. The BSSC is basically a platform for regional and local actors. In the BSR there are a number of very interesting institutions that deal with that. **Mr. Kneifel-Haverkamp** said that in his region (Brandenburg) they could need some input to boost the institutions. The private sector would talk about clients, we would talk about citizens. What do they want, need, what kind of procedures. The youth probably has a total new way of looking at the world. Therefore, there is a new set of requirements for local administrations.

Ms Reetta Sorjonen said that within the framework of smart societies and green and sustainable regions her home region could perhaps offer some best practice examples. The Hame region has as it's number one priority bio / circular economy. She said they have good examples, companies working with this topic. By the AC the Hame region could get some examples to present. For example there is a circular economy village that is being built in Hame. This is also something that we could discuss at the Youth spring meeting.

Mr. Timo Nikolaisen said that if we are to look at solidarity as a generation issue, it could be nice to join it with the SDGs. If we have a common domain, it might be easier to get across. In Norway, for example, there is the Grandparents climate action group. They take join with younger people who are also engaged in climate change to fight together for a greener future. Mr. Nikolaisen agrees with Mr. Eide and Mr. Rümmelein and said that when it comes to the workshops: youth and youth issues shouldn't be separate. They should be morphed into a general workshop on "solidarity in the BSR region", solidarity between all people and generations.

Ms. Sari Rautio added that youths in Hame made a big issue of the SDGs so it will be a part of the programme in youth spring event in Häme.



Mr. Lars Godbolt commented that we should include and involve youths in all parts of the conference, but we should also remember to emphasize youth involvement in general.

Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska said that the SDGs are very broad, they are horizontal issues throughout the whole AC. We have youths in all the workshops, but also, they want to arrange an own workshop (silver and youth workshop). Maybe it is time to have a workshop prepared by the youth. She also added that for all workshops there should be an introductory speech and then discussions.

Mr. Stefan Musiolik added that we should have a youth member in the work group for the AC.

Ms. Olga Zuin said that with the work of the Regeneration 2030 (Youth Festival on SDGs for the Nordic and Baltic Sea Region Counties), they want intergenerational learnings. They want to engage with the decision makers. They could have a workshop where they gave input to your conference.

Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes explained that she and Krystyna Wroblewska had the idea that the youth workshop isn't for the youth alone, but arranged by the youth - for the participants. This could of course be discussed in Häme youth spring event in April. She also mentioned that we must remember to invite politicians from the ERB and UBC network. At the session on "being smart for the future" we could talk about public innovation.

Ms. Krystyna Wroblewska added that with regards to the structure, there should either be a separate panel for politicians, or the introductory speeches by politicians (at the workshop). She was very positive to the Regeneration 2030 idea. She also mentioned there could be a "culturability project", which consists of innovative approaches to solving societal issues.

6. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Forum 2019 – BSSSC as partner

6.1. Presentation by Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes

Ms. Ann Irene Sæternes recalled that the Board meeting in Drammen supported the idea of BSSSC becoming a partner of the EUSBSR Forum in 2019. The signed declaration is now ready for submission to Poland and application deadline is 23 March. The decision will fall in May 2018. She emphasised that it is important that the members of the Board are involved and that the rapporteurs are involved in the workshops. The BSSSC will like to focus on a sustainable development perspective, a youth perspective and neighbourhood policy. The Norwegian Chairmanship if BSSSC will involve the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation in the preparations for the Annual Forum. Another idea is to present Oslo as "European Green Capital 2019". The BSSSC has also agreed to compile good practices example on circular economy. This could provide the basis of a report.

6.2. Comments and questions

Mr. Sebastian Magier expressed that the application is a good idea and that Euroregion Baltic will contribute to the EUSBSR.

COFFEE BREAK



7. Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme

7.1. Support to new projects? (Deadline 9 April)

A written report from Mr. Matti Lipsanen had been sent out in advance. Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes elaborated a bit on the more recent information. 270 ideas has been loaded up to the database of the programme. Many new ideas for projects. There will be a big competition for funds in the call. Deadline for final applications is 9 April.

Nine applications are submitted to the call for project platforms. BSSSC has provided a support letter to a platform project with the transport projects presented at the Board meeting in Potsdam. Decision will be taken 6 June in the Monitoring Committee.

Two projects within the area of culture was put forward with regard to issuing letter of support from BSSSC. One is Creative Ports 2.0 – that was refused in the 2nd call and was at that point supported by BSSSC. The second one is UrbCultural Planning (former Culturability project). Mr. Stefan Musiolik will provide the BSSSC Chairmanship with information about the projects. Creative Port is OK for a second support. Support to UrbCultural Planning will be handled via written procedure.

8. Reports from policy areas (each 5 min)

8.1. Culture, creative industries and regional identity by Mr. Stefan Musiolik

Mr. Stefan Musiolik emphasised the importance to foster cooperation between the different policy areas. The paper on Culture, creative industries and regional identities - which was mentioned in Drammen - can be a contribution to foster cooperation in an increasingly populist Europe. It provides a link between culture and other EU priorities. However, the paper has been facing some resistance in the steering group on PA Culture. The paper's future is uncertain. The steering group will meet 7 March in Gdansk. **Mr. Stefan Musiolik** made a plea that it could be turned into a BSSSC paper if not accepted in the steering group. This way the paper could still reach Brussels. **Ms. Krystina Wroblewska** suggested that "Let's Communicate" could be used as a platform to promote it. **Ms. Ann Irene Saeternes** commented that if the paper is in line with the BSSSC declaration from Potsdam 2017 it could be considered at the Board meeting in May 2018.

Conclusion: The paper on Culture, creative industries and regional identities will be considered at the next BSSSC Board meeting in May 2018.

8.2. Transport by Mr. Jon Halvard Eide

Mr. Jon Halvard Eide referred to the written report on transport. He suggested that in the future that if the BSSSC were to support any more projects on transport that it should be projects under 3.5: sustainable urban transport and mobility. It is expected that the Financial Framework also will include figures for the Connecting Europe Facilities (CEF) and that the CPMR has expressed an initial position through a letter to Commissioner Bulc and the EP president. **Mr. Jon Halvard Eide** encouraged the participating regions in BSSSC to provide transport-related information to



Mr. Rune Bakkevoll and himself on a more continuous basis in order to have a more comprehensive picture of what is happening in the BSR.

8.3. Maritime policy and HELCOM by Mr. Ossi Savolainen

Mr. Janne Tamminen referred to the written report and informed about HELCOM. He had attended the annual meeting. It is now the end of EU Chairmanship in HELCOM, and Finland will take over the Chairmanship. Most importantly there will be a new version of Baltic Sea Action Plan. This is a concrete step in the ministerial declaration on a healthier Baltic Sea. It is a good atmosphere for such proposals now.

In the Arctic Council, it could be possible for regional organisations like the BSSSC to have an observatory status. In October 2018, it will be a discussion on the ministerial level on environmental protection in Arctic area. Finland has a new strategy for the Baltic Sea.

8.4. Sustainable development and climate change - Baltic 2030 by Mr. Lars Godbolt

Mr. Lars Godbolt informed that much of the work on sustainable development is overlapping with the youth activities because they are tightly connected. The BSSSC has joined the CBSS as a partner in a project called "Baltic Youth 2030". Associated partners are ERB, the Swedish and Latvian Youth Councils, the Leontief Centre in St. Petersburg and the Nature and Environment Centre of Åland. The BSSSC has also been invited to join the "New Nordic" in Helsinki 27-30 May 2018 where the theme will be the Baltic Sea and Nordic Environmental questions. A mapping exercise on the SDGs will be made to make a fundament for the EUSBSR Annual Forum in 2019.

Ms. Olga Zuin elaborated on the re-generation 2030 application where BSSSC is an official partner. It is important to involve the youth in this work and incorporate it into all of our policy areas. It was suggested to use the BSSSC annual conference for youth to manifest and maximize the outcome.

8.5. Working group on youth policy

Ms. Reetta Sorjonen said that the programme draft for the BSSSC Youth Event in Häme, Finland, is almost complete. Invitations have been distributed. Regional Youth Council Members will be present and it will be a side event for the youth coordinators.

Ms. Sari Rautio highlighted the importance of the youth event and looks forward to it.

Mr. Timo Nikolaisen informed that the youth festival at the EUSBSR Annual Forum in 2019, which was discussed at the previous Board meeting, would be a smaller event than initially planned, called a camp, rather than a festival. It will have a larger focus on the aspect of cultural exchange. They will take the opportunity from the CBSS Project Support Facility to seek funding. The deadline is 31 March 2018. The ERB, UBC and BSSSC will be partners. It is essential to establish good contacts in Gdansk in order to see it through.



Mr. Stefan Musikolik suggested that The Baltic Sea Cultural Centre in Gdansk could be a possible partner to the CBSS application. He also suggested that the EUSBSR PA Culture would issue a letter of support for the BSSC Youth camp application.

9. Report from Brussels antenna

Mr. Jan Edøy gave an update on the most important matters in Brussels and also gave an update on the most relevant events and affairs for the BSSC Board Member.

The top of the agenda in Brussels used to be Brexit and the multi-annual financial framework (MFF) of the EU. It has now changed to being about Martin Selmayr. Martin Selmayr is the left hand of Mr. Juncker, now appointed to the new Secretary General of the Commission. There's an uprising in the Parliament.

With regards to the MFF, there are important consultations ongoing in areas such as: Research funding, Erasmus funding, all other programmes, SMEs, single market, infrastructure. They will close the consultations on the 8th March. Hopefully, the final draft will be ready by second of May. To understand the MFF. IF you understand the budget you understand the policy. See the two papers issued from council meeting in February on MFF.

The deadline to apply for the Regiostar for the European week is the 15th April. The award goes to excellent projects around Europe. The award will be given in the autumn at the European week of regions and cities.

Interreg youth initiative. First anniversary. Organised by the ABR (Association of Board of Regions), which is a very useful instrument for addressing the youth to get involved in projects, get trainees, volunteers, etc. European solidarity call. The first years is a pilot face, it will most likely be extended to august 2019.

The European week of region and cities. Deadline 31 March to set up partnerships to be there. Focus on territorial development and cohesion policy, education and youth. We are more than fifty European regional offices. Mr. Edøy also informed about the planed iBSG (Informal Baltic Sea Group) event that will take place on 5 September in Brussels. This year the event will address the quality of water in the BSR.

European Green week 22-24 May. Addressing the green shift, sustainability. From the Oslo Region side – there will be a Oslo Green Capital Event in Brussels in May. Within the topic of green, you have the European strategy for plastic (circular economy). The EC is regarding the BSR as a front runner in that case. Within the interreg central Baltic programme you have the BLASTIC project. A flagship project.

The STRING cooperation has strengthened. The OECD will launch a study on the whole of Scandinavia. This report will be presented in the Committee of the Regions in June.



EEA grants launched on 24 January 2018 a new mechanism called regional cooperation. Within this mechanism there is now a call for 50 million Euros on regional cooperation addressing all kinds of priorities within the EEA Grants: innovation, research youths, etc. The call is open until 1 July 2018. It is possible to cooperate within beneficiary states and with Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Balkan States and Turkey. Here are a lot of options. Also, a possibility for BSSC to investigate.

10. Reports from other organizations, programmes and networks

10.1. EuroRegion Baltic by Mr. Sebastian Magier

Mr. Sebastian Magier informed that the Presidency of the ERB has been transferred to Bornholm and there will be a strong focus on the 2030 agenda with ties to the SDGs. The next Board meeting of the ERB will be held 22-23 May 2018 and therefore clash with the upcoming BSSC Board meeting.

Concerning the seminar “Transforming our Baltic Sea Region” on 7 March approximately 50 participants are expected.

10.2. UBC

Mr. Carsten Adamsen from the Union of Baltic Cities presented the UBC and their work.

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is the leading network of cities (municipalities) with around 100 active member cities around the Baltic Sea. Three of UBC’s primary aims are:

1. Promote, develop and strengthen cooperation and exchange of experience among the cities in the Baltic Sea Region,
2. Strive to achieve sustainable development and optimal economic and social development in the Baltic Sea Region with full respect to European principles of local and regional self-governance and subsidiarity.
3. Contribute to joint Baltic identity, cohesion and common understanding in the region.

UBC is together with the Swedish Institute and Baltic Sea NGO network coordinators of the EUSBSR HA Capacity the group and has prepared the work programme for the periode june 2018 to august 2020 with the following activity areas:

1. capacity building:
 - a. Organising and funding of development processes (flagships)
 - b. Alignment of policymaking on national level with EUSBSR
 - c. Annual spring meetings with NC’s, PAC’s and HAC’s
2. promotion of involvement and participation:
 - a. Co-organize Strategy Forums (Network Village + Speaker’s Corner)
 - b. Participation Day (prior to the Strategy Forums)
 - c. Promotion of involvement and participation
3. coordination and communication :
 - a. Internal and external coordination
 - b. Implementation of the communication plan

UBC Youthful Cities Commission is committed to the cooperation with all organizations of the Baltic Sea region working for a sustainable and prosperous region and is pleased to work together with



BSSSC, ERB, CBSS and LSU on the upcoming workshop “Nothing about us without us – digital tools for youth participation” during the EU Strategy Forum in Tallinn later this year.
We also support the application to CBSS PSF on the project of a Baltic Youth Camp linked to the 2019 Strategy Forum in Gdansk.

10.3. CPMR Baltic Sea Commission by Mr. Janne Tamminen

Mr. Janne Tamminen informed that it will be a Committee meeting the following week in preparation of the upcoming General Assembly. It will be a new Presidency this year. The General Assembly will be held in Madeira in October 2018.

11. Next Board Meeting in Kaliningrad 22-23 May.

11.1. Information by Ms. Evgeniya Russu

Ms. Evgeniya Russu informed about the VIII International Forum of the Kaliningrad Partners Regions which will be on the day before the BSSSC Board Meeting. They are gathering more than 200 people from their partners, both European and Russian.

She encouraged the BSSSC Board to go through the proposed programme (attached in the supporting documents) to help find the best persons from our regions to participate in the round table events. The BSSSC Board Meeting will be 23 May from 10-1400. The Kaliningrad region can arrange some evening arrangements if people want to stay – it depends on the travelling arrangements. She encouraged people to fill in and send the necessary forms for arranging visas in good time before the forum.

12. Coming events

18- 21 March, Smart-up BSR project, Innovation Camp, Aarhus, Denmark

22-23 March. Baltic Sea Days, St. Petersburg, Russia.

18 April, CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development, Stockholm, Sweden.

18-20 April, BSSSC Youth Event, Hämeenlinna, Finland

25 April, Smart Specialisation seminar (Let’s Communicate project), Oslo, Norway

15-16 May, CPMR-Baltic Sea Commission General Assembly, Oulu, Finland

22 – 23 May, BSSSC Board Meeting, Kaliningrad, Russia.

2-3 June, Youth Event with Euroregion Baltic and Union of Baltic Cities, Tallinn, Estonia.



BSSC BOARD MEETING
FINAL MINUTES
Stockholm, Sweden
6 March 2018

4-5 June, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Annual Forum 2018, Tallinn, Estonia.

18-20 August, ReGeneration 2030 Summit, Mariehamn, Åland Islands

26-28 August, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, Mariehamn, Åland Islands

Other affairs:

Mr. Toivo Rimo informed about the reform of his association, The Estonian Association of Cities and Municipalities. It now consists of most parts of Estonia: Only six municipalities are not members. Current BSSC Board Members from Estonia, Marili Nits and Arne Tilk have both agreed to continue their work for the BSSC, but the Board in the Estonian association must also decide they want them to continue.

17:30 END OF MEETING