

BSSSC Annual Conference

Workshop No. 7

Join the Dialogue: Shaping the Future of BSR-Ukraine Cooperation

Event location: ATLANTIC Hotel Kiel (Germany), Room *Board Room 2*
Date: Friday, 20th Sep. 2024, 10:30-12:00 h
Moderation: Andriy Martynenko / Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)
Online: <https://zitsh.webex.com/zitsh-de/j.php?MTID=m8a6654561c1dee5e031c79456bac41f4>

ABSTRACT

1. What BSR could give to Ukraine, what Ukraine could give to us?

Defining mutual expectations in a strategic dimension: how each party perceives the potential cooperation of BSR with Ukraine. What are its potential benefits and what purpose would it serve? An attempt to identify development areas of key importance for both parties: which may be the subject of cooperation.

2. What are our and their expectations, needs and visions of future cooperation?

Determining the possibilities of cooperation in the technical dimension: what are the legal, organizational and financial possibilities of developing cooperation, implementing joint activities and creating organizations coordinating joint short- and long-term projects (in particular, determining the formal and actual conditions for the independence of Ukrainian regions). Identification of existing and potential problems and challenges and outline of proposals for their solutions. Defining the vision of cooperation in the next few years and beyond.

3. Practical aspects of cooperation – political, economic, administrative, social

Determining the external conditions of regional cooperation: to what extent and at what level political contacts are required (to initiate and conduct joint ventures), to what extent it is possible to include non-administrative circles (business, investors, youth, cultural circles, etc.), and what areas should be covered by administrative cooperation? What formula ensures the best results: developing solutions through administrative means or involving social organizations and entrepreneurs?

PROGRAMME

10.30 CET/ 11.30 (UA time) **Welcome** by **Andriy Martynenko** / Council of the Baltic Sea States

Short welcome and intro: What can European countries do for the Ukraine? What does the Ukraine expect (except from equipment)? Potential for the BSR to learn from the Ukraine and vice versa.

Housekeeping (explaining why this workshop is hybrid)

10:35 **Presentation of BSSSC, Susanne Grahl** / BSSSC Secretariat / Ministry for European Affairs Schleswig-Holstein;

BSSSC – Who we are, how we work, what we can offer

10.40 **Case Studies of Successful Ukraine-Baltic Sea Region Collaboration:**

Nadija Afanasieva (online) / Director of the Ukrainian Institute for International Politics (UIIP) and Priority Area coordinator (PA 9 Invest in people and skills) for the Danube Region Strategy

Andriy Martynenko / Adviser for the CBSS's Safe and Secure priority area (projects: [Civil Protection Faculty](#) and [RAZOM](#) - both about training in civil protection)

11.00 **Exploring Opportunities for Collaboration:** How to Get Started – **Thorsten Kohlisch** / Interreg Europe; BSSSC representative; funding opportunity,

The Interreg Europe programme area has expanded to include Ukraine, with Interreg Europe facilitating this enlargement by offering cities and regions opportunities for cooperation beyond traditional funding. Interreg Europe provides a Policy Learning Platform, which includes peer reviews and matchmaking services. It emphasizes getting started with network building through best practice examples, with some projects already underway. In addition to funding, Interreg Europe offers knowledge exchange, access to researchers, and other resources to support larger-scale program development.

11.15 **Ukrainian Perspective:** **Olha Novytska** / Consul of Ukraine in Hamburg:

Maybe a brief introduction to the regional reform in Ukraine, which began prior to the war. The reform aimed to decentralize power by empowering regions and fostering the development of regional centers.

National perspective: What can Ukraine gain and contribute in general?

- 11.25 Regional Needs and Opportunities – Representative of the Ukrainian region Poltava: **Olesia Drobotenko** Head of investment department of Poltava Regional Council
- What formats and fields of cooperation are interesting to them based on the previous interventions?(mentoring, knowledge exchange, ...)?*
- What can they offer to BSR cooperation?*
- Fields of interest: smart city /region, participatory budgeting, IT solutions; organisation of volunteers*
- Key questions: What works well? Why is it efficient?*
- 11.35 Regional Needs and Opportunities – Representative of the Ukrainian region Kherson: **Maria Bohodukhova**, Head of investment department of Kherson Regional Military Administration
- Fields of interest: International Cooperation / European funding programs; energy efficiency motivation and energy sustainability; IT solutions for local authorities, participatory budgeting; local social problem solving (education, healthcare, social protection); best legal, organizational, and financial solutions and address challenges faced by local governments and state authorities;*
- 11.45 **Discussion on BSSSC-Ukraine Cooperation** – all panellists & audience
- Examples:*
- Question from the moderator to Thorsten/Interreg Europe: Does everything you have heard align to your experiences?*
- Question to all participants: How can we benefit from the participation of the Ukrainian regions?*
- Question from Interreg Europe to the Ukrainian participants: How can we design cooperation activities? How can we best contribute to local and regional cooperation ?*
- 12.00 Conclusion and closing of the meeting



Name | Function: Andriy Martynenko, Adviser, Safe and Secure Region, CBSS



Andriy Martynenko is an expert in international cooperation, with a focus on the Baltic Sea Region. Since 2016, he has been serving at the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Secretariat in Stockholm, where he coordinates knowledge exchange, capacity building, and joint projects among diverse stakeholders in the region.

In his role, Mr. Martynenko supports the CBSS Civil Protection Network and coordinates Policy Area Secure within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. A significant part of his work involves initiating and managing cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary projects in societal security. These projects bring together governments, academia, NGOs, and businesses to address pressing common issues such as warning systems, crisis and risk communication, climate change risks, volunteerism, youth engagement in disaster risk reduction, and support for Ukraine.

Before joining the CBSS, Mr. Martynenko worked for the United Nations and the Swedish government.

Bilenkyi Oleksandr Yuriyovych



Bilenkyi Oleksandr Yuriyovych is a Ukrainian politician. Chairman of the Poltava Regional Council, chairman of the Association "Poltava Regional Association of Local Self-Governments", Vice-President of the All-Ukrainian Association of Local Self-Governments "Ukrainian Association of District and Regional Councils", public figure.

Project initiatives of Oleksandr Bilenkyi: the first and only participation budget within the region, school public budget, competition of ecological public initiatives, regional competition of territorial community development projects of Poltava region (development of inter-municipal cooperation), School audio library for children of Ukraine, electronic platform "Smart Region of Poltava Region" and others.

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Olga Novytska



Sie wurde in Kyjiw in eine Ingenieursfamilie geboren.

Ausbildung: Fachlehrerin für englische und deutsche Sprache und Literatur; Master der Personal- und Betriebswirtschaftslehre; Meister der Außenpolitik; abgeschlossenes Aufbaustudium, Forschungsthema „Israels Außenpolitik im Kontext geopolitischer Transformationen im Nahen Osten“.

Seit 2001 war sie im Außenministerium tätig, startete als Sekretärin des stellvertretenden Ministers. Seit 2006 ist sie in diplomatischen Positionen tätig, insbesondere als Deskofficer für bilaterale Beziehungen mit Großbritannien, Irland, Norwegen, Dänemark und Schweden, als Mitarbeiterin der Nationalen Kommission der Ukraine für die UNESCO und beschäftigte sich mit problematischen Fragen des Auslands Investoren in der Ukraine.

Sie arbeitete in ausländischen diplomatischen Vertretungen der Ukraine in Washington, Moskau und Tel Aviv und ist derzeit Konsulin des Generalkonsulats der Ukraine in Hamburg. Die Haupttätigkeitsrichtungen beziehen sich auf die Gewährleistung der Rechte der Kinder-Bürger der Ukraine, die wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und das Landesregister.

Verheiratet, hat einen Sohn.

Name | Function: Thorsten Kohlisch, Lead Manager, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform



Thorsten Kohlisch has dedicated the last 20 years of his professional career to regional development and European cooperation. In his Senior Advisor function at the Berlin Senate until 2010, he supported Berlin's economic integration in the Baltic Sea Region and the "Oder-Partnership" with Western Poland, actively using the opportunities of the ERDF and Interreg.

Since 2010, his management responsibilities in different Interreg programmes (Interreg IVC, Interreg South Baltic, Interreg Euregio Meuse-Rhine) allowed him to drive complex programme development and implementation processes at cross-border and interregional levels. Until today, impact orientation, stakeholder engagement and an open ear for the emerging needs of programme beneficiaries are key principles guiding his work.

Driven by the motivation to complement the "classical" funding offer of Interreg with new, agile and easily accessible cooperation opportunities for European cities and regions, Mr. Kohlisch joined Interreg Europe's Policy Learning Platform in 2018.

Together with his European team of policy experts, he leads the development of targeted peer learning methodologies, takes up new regional development trends and facilitates platform activities on governance, business development, innovation and smart specialisation. He is excited about the recent geographical extension of Interreg Europe, bringing on board the local and regional expertise of Ukraine, Moldova and five countries of the Western Balkans.

In his free time, Mr. Kohlisch enjoys spending outdoor time with his family. Whenever time allows, he supports the Rowing Association of his home town Berlin as an honorary commentator of rowing competitions. In 2023, he had the honour of contributing to the Special Olympics World Games, the world's largest inclusive sport event.