

BSLN

Baltic Sea Labour Network

Working together for sustainable labour markets

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Motivation

- Working together through labour market issues is extremely important since this dynamic region could be developed into one of the most competitive regions in Europe.
- The long-term existing trade relations have been considerably reinforced over the last few years which is also underlined by the increasing demand for skilled labour.



Motivation

- At the same time the Baltic Sea States are facing some major challenges such as the current demographic development which is affecting the decrease in labour force.
- Besides this, the increasing labour mobility - especially commuters in the border regions - calls for new strategies and even more importantly, for detailed information about the respective labour and vocational training markets.

Goals of BSLN

- To look for solutions regarding the impact of the economic crisis and the mobility of labour
- Active labour market policy and social dialogue
- Focus countries were Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland
- Establishment of a permanent secretariat and a Forum for Social Dialogue in the BSR



Goals of BSLN

Political dimension

- BSLN was directly linked with the ***Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)*** and the ***Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)***
- ***BSLN was a flag ship project within the implementation of the EUSBSR***
 - ▶ Flag ship projects are presented in the action plan of the Commission. Through the strategy political decision making can be influenced



Main topics

- Mobility of labour
- Active labour market policy
- Training and education

Project slogan

**Baltic Sea Labour Network –
Working Together for Sustainable Labour Markets**

Transnational level

- Tripartite Steering Committee, tripartite Facilitator Team
- Bringing together key actors / experts
- Seminars, conferences, working groups
- Research, political initiatives, knowledge transfer
- Coordination of pilot projects



National level

- Capacity building of the social partners
- Establishment of national coordination centres in the focus countries
- Pilot projects
- Trainings, seminars
- Studies



BSLN activities: Studies in Finland, Denmark and Sweden

- Finnish qualitative interview study about social inclusion and participation in trade unions and working life among Estonian and Russian speaking immigrants
- Swedish infrastructure project on mobility of labour
- Danish research on migrant workers' living and working conditions

Social dialogue in the BSR

- Social partners are the experts in labour market policy; therefore they should be heard
- Models of SD differ at national level within the region
- In the new member states low trade union and employer organisation density
- Working together is supportive and new strategies can be developed

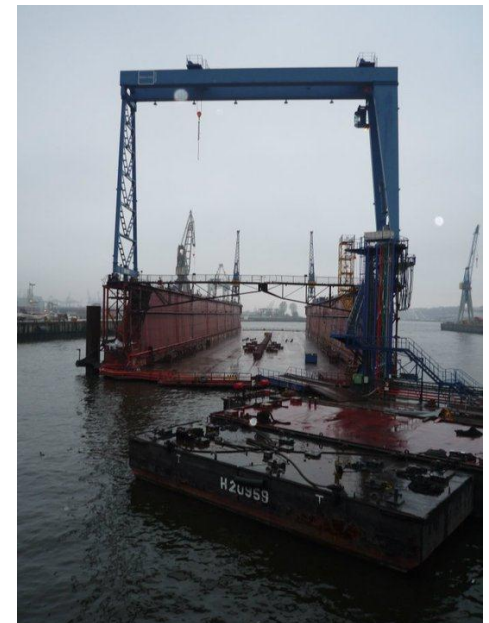


BSLN activities: pilot projects

- Lithuania: Social dialogue centre to provide special educational seminars for young people
- Latvia: Development and strengthening the social dialogue by organising forums in different regions for municipalities, trade unions, employers and experts
- Estonia: Training of future leaders, inclusion in promotion of social partnership at workplace, sectoral and national levels

Cross border information and Competence Centre

- German and Polish partners pooled their expertise (Employer and TU)
- Concept for a Centre in the border region Mecklenburg Western Pomerania and Westernpomeranian Voivodeship
- Information for workers and companies
- Cross border labour and vocational training market monitor



Common transnational activities

- ***The "Tripartite Forum on Mobility of Labour in the Baltic Sea Region / Mobility – blessing or course?"*** took place on 25 November 2008 in Copenhagen. The forum was the kick-off for the network
- Conference ***„Working together for sustainable labour markets"*** took place on 11 May 2010 in Vilnius, Lithuania
- Transnational study on labour market policies



Common transnational activities

- **Final conference** 15 -16 November 2011 in Hamburg
- The conference topics were based on the main tasks and the results of the partners of BSLN and on the work of the research coordination group
- The results were be discussed with other experts
- Results will be also published in a booklet





- At the **18. Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)** (31 August – 1 September in Nyborg, Denmark) the final report of the working group „labour markets“ was presented. One topic was cross border labour markets.
- Based to the recommendations of the working group the conference resolution calls the governments of the BS states to take the results of BSLN into consideration
- At the **19. BSPC** (29-31 August 2010 in Mariehamn, Åland-Islands) the resolution recommended to establish and to support information centres
- **The resolution of the 20. BSPC** (28-30 August 2011 in Helsinki, Finland) recommends the establishment of the forum

Conclusions

- Innovative tools and new ways to deal with labour mobility around the BSR are needed
- National and transnational activities with all stakeholders involved
- Social dialogue should play a key role in achieving decent and productive working conditions in all BS states and in the region as such



Framework

■ Partner

- ▶ Ministry of Research and Science, Hamburg (Lead Partner)
- ▶ Trade union confederations from all BSR EU states
- ▶ Transnational trade union confederations (BASTUN, NFS)
- ▶ Employer organisations (Baltic States and Germany)
- ▶ Governments (CBSS)
- ▶ Parliamentarians (BSPC)

■ **Duration:** 36 Months, ends 31 January 2012

■ **Budget:** About 2.7 Mio. EUR

BSLN

Baltic Sea Labour Network

www.bslabour.net

Thank you very much for your attention
and your contributions.

Contact

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