

Baltic Science Network

WELCOME to BSN_powerhouse

Partner and Steering Committee Meeting,
23-24 October 2019, Stockholm

The BSN-story in a nutshell

Status quo before BSN

- Very heterogeneous landscape with partially fragmented efforts in the field of Science and Research policy: Nordic cooperation, Northern dimension, EUSBSR, Baltic cooperation, CBSS, ...
- There was no macro regional dimension in science policy
- There was no transnational BSR body or organization dealing with science and research policy issues
- BSR countries consortia in projects funded by the EU underrepresented
- Brain drain from East to West



Creation of the BSN-Network

Involved stakeholders and cooperation partners

Lithuania

- Ministry of Education and Science
- Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre (MOSTA)

Poland

- University of Gdańsk
- Ministry of Science and Higher Education

Russia

- Saint-Petersburg State University of Economics (UNECON)

Finland

- University of Turku
- Åbo Akademi University (representing Baltic University Programme)
- Ministry of Education and Culture

Sweden

- Swedish Research Council

Baltic Sea Region

- Council of the Baltic Sea States
- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
- NordForsk – Research organisation of the Nordic Council of Ministers
- Baltic Sea Region University Network
- Baltic University Programme
- BONUS
- STRING

Estonia

- Ministry of Education and Research

Norway

- Ministry of Education and Research

Denmark

- Ministry of Education and Research, Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education (DAFSHE)

Latvia

- Ministry of Education and Science

Germany

- Hamburg, Ministry of Science, Research and Equalities
- Senate Chancellery of Hamburg
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Science and Equality of the Land of Schleswig-Holstein
- Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of the Land Mecklenburg Hither Pomerania
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

12 Meetings

- 19. February 2015, Hamburg, Brainstorming Seminar
- 7-9 April 2016, Hamburg
- 15-17 June 2016, Cracow
- 10-11 November 2016, Stockholm
- 25-27 April 2017, Turku and Seili
- 14 June 2017, Berlin
- 15 November 2017, Tallinn
- 5-6 February 2018, Hamburg, Retreat
- 9-11 April 2018, Gdansk
- 25-27 September 2018, Turku and Mariehamn
- 27 November 2018, Brussels
- 15-17 January 2019 Oslo



BSN positioned in BSR political structures

Flagship within EUSBSR
PA Education

CBSS Agenda on Science,
Research and Innovation
(CBSS SRIA, CBSS BSSD)



1. BSN has put Science and Research Cooperation in the BSR on the agenda

Events

- 15-17 June 2016, Cracow, **CBSS Ministerial and BSN political kick-off**
- 10-11 November 2016, Stockholm, EUSBSR Annual Forum, BSN panel discussion
- 18 January 2017, Copenhagen, Transnational WS on mobility
- 8 February 2017, St. Petersburg, 1st CBSS BSSD
- 10 February 2017, Vilnius, Transnational WS on research excellence
- 13-14 June 2017, Berlin, EUSBSR Annual Forum, BSN panel discussion
- 15 November 2017, Tallinn, **Widening Conference**
- 24-26 January 2018, Turku, BUP rectors conference and 2nd CBSS BSSD
- 26 November 2018, Brussels, **BSR Powerhouse of Science**
- 22-23 February 2019, **CBSS High Level Meeting on Science**



Press work

62 press releases

7 BSN Newsletters

Articles in other Newsletters
and publications

Tweets

#BalticScienceNetwork

#BalticScience

#BSRSciencePowerhouse

Baltic Science Network Placed at the Heart of European Research Debate



Photo credit: Science|Business Publishing

What better timing for introducing Brussels-based audiences to the Baltic Science Network than the hectic months ahead of the adoption of Horizon Europe, the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Baltic Science Network was placed at the heart of discussions revolving around science excellence, evidence-based policy, smart specialisation and widening participation during the conference "The Baltic Sea Region – A Science Powerhouse".

On 26 November 2018, Baltic Science Network (BSN) and Baltic TRAM in cooperation with Science|Business organised a conference "The Baltic Sea Region – A Science Powerhouse". After the BSN transnational seminar held in Tallinn under the auspices of the Estonian EU Presidency, the Brussels conference was the next milestone of BSN in terms of receiving more high-level vision on its work and prepared researcher mobility and cooperation tools.

Throughout five panel discussions among distinguished speakers, such as Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President of the European Research Council, Signe Ratsso, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) of the European Commission, and Christian Müller, Deputy General Secretary of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Dr. Ralf Grosse, Director General of the Ministry of Science, Research and

2. Knowledge Production

Studies WP 3

Research and Innovation Excellence

3.1 Challenges and barriers to research cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

3.2 Scientific Excellence: Joint Potentials in the BSR – an explorative study



Studies WP 3

3.2 Outcomes of the expert groups

Scientific Excellence in
Life Sciences in the BSR

Fostering Sustainable and Inclusive
Labour Markets in the BSR:
A Life Course Perspective

Creating unique and sustainable
value through Scientific Excellence
in Photon and Neutron Science in
the Baltic Sea Region

Baltic
Science
Network



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN
REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
FUND



Interreg
Baltic Sea Region

Studies WP 3

Research and innovation excellence

3.3 Draft working paper on
“Joint programming in a macro-regional setting”

3.4 Roadmap for Transnational
Utilisation of Existing and
Planned R&I Infrastructure



Studies WP 4

Mobility in Research and HE

4 International Mobility of Researchers in the BSR

4.1 Challenges to Researchers' Mobility in the BSR

4.2 Researcher Mobility Tools for the BSR

4.3 Working paper on BSN Mobility tools (finished, will be published soon)



Studies WP 5

Widening Participation

5.1 Study on Research Cooperation in the BSR: Existing Networks, Obstacles and Ways Forward

5.2 Participation in ERA and BS RDI Activities: Analysis and Policy Implications for Widening Participation of Strong and Moderate Innovators

5.2. Drivers for participation in transnational research cooperation and recommendations for increasing participation of low performing countries / regions in transnational research activities



Studies

6.1 Overview of the Best Practices of Researchers' Mobility Programmes

6.1 Research and Innovation Excellence in the BSR

6.2 Baltic Science Network – Learning Experiences - Do's and Don'ts

BSN Final publication "BSR – Powerhouse of Science"



3. Policy Outputs

Policy outputs

BSN influence:

- Russia signed the Interreg-contract
- Science was, due to active influence by BSN, one of the main topics at the BSPC 2017
- Latest update of the EUSBSR action plan: due to BSN influence “Research” was added as topic in PA Education (PA Education, Research and Employability)
- Current update of the EUSBSR action plan: New idea to strengthen “Science and Research” are discussed
- Voice heard in Brussels (Policy papers, conference in Brussels)



Policy Papers

Baltic Science Network Position Paper “Tackling widening participation in R&I from the BSR perspective”

Baltic Science Network Policy Paper regarding the FP 9



About this position paper
The Baltic Science Network (BSN) is a cross-regional forum for higher education, science and research cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and involves organisations and institutions from around the Baltic Sea drainage area. BSN comprises national science ministers as well as national, Nordic and EU research funding organisations, university networks, Baltic University Programme and Baltic Sea Region University Network and individual researchers representing researchers in BSR, it focuses university-based knowledge, State University of Economics and the key multinational body of the ERB Council of the Baltic Sea States and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region are involved. The BSN can be considered a first step for developing and implementing innovative measures for widening the access to high-level research and innovation activities. A third of the EU leading innovation areas are located around the Baltic Sea. This paper is looking at EU wide trends, taking stock of the results of FP7 and the FP8.

Efforts to widen participation in the European Research and Innovation (ERI) policy, but not only aim to secure the development of high-level R&I in all parts of Europe. Additional R&I instruments from European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI) for transnational research projects, dedicated measures from the Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and Innovation (FP), the 'Opening Excellence and Widening Participation' programme (OWP) in Horizon 2020 have been implemented and efforts made by the EU Member States to increase the competitiveness of Europe. However, there is a concentration of funds to the 'ERDF Member States' (20-17) and the participation of most of the 'New Member States' (20-17) in ERDF funds is still low (10-15%).

Recommendations
In light of the recently published proposal for establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe - the European Programme for Research and Innovation by the European Commission, ERI to improve the BSR widening participation gap in the EU.

More information about the Baltic Science Network can be found on our website: www.baltic-science.eu
If you are interested in this topic, we invite you to contact us via email: info@baltic-science.eu



Introduction
Science and innovation are essential to Europe's future. The Baltic Science Network (BSN), which is active in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR), one of the most competitive and innovative science regions in the world, sets a first-class higher education, research infrastructure and innovation ecosystem - in order to make a major contribution to shape science and innovation in Europe.

The BSN as a transnational forum for science and research cooperation in the BSR would like to contribute with a discussion paper focusing on the transnational aspects in the domain of the next European Union (EU) Research and Innovation Programme (FP9).

Due to the relative success of BSN members, the network's relevance being an added value to the European Union. The BSN enables regional and national science ministers (EU FP9), as well as their EU partners (European, national, Nordic and EU research funding organisations) to act in the BSR. The areas of the activities are represented by the two EU wide action diversity research Baltic University Programme and Baltic Sea Region University Network and individual researchers, coordinated by their national, Nordic, Finnish and the key multinational body of the ERB Council of the Baltic Sea States and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region are involved in BSN.

Over time of FP9 to make the potential of the science region BSR more visible in Brussels, Luxembourg, BSN aims to build the cooperation between supporting the implementation of the European Research Area (ERA). This document is based on current reflections among partners and stakeholders and findings of BSN working paper on research cooperation, researchers mobility and widening participation in the BSN. BSN wishes to highlight 3 areas, research mobility in the BSR, but has been identified as challenges to widen research cooperation and of the same time are considered relevant for all of the EU on each.

The areas of this paper do not necessarily correspond to, but complete with, national policies.

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If you are interested in this topic, we invite you to contact us via email: info@baltic-science.eu



4. BSN as Enabler

BSN as Enabler



Putting the BSN-finding into practise: The BSN- Powerhouse-Project

Project Partners

PP 1	DE 	Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg - Ministry of Science, Research and Equalities
PP 2	EE 	Ministry of Education and Research of Republic of Estonia
PP 3	LT 	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania
PP 4	LV 	Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia
PP 5	PL 	University of Gdansk
PP 6	FI 	University of Turku
PP 7	SE 	The International Permanent Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States
PP 8	FI 	Abo Akademi University
PP 9	DE 	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
PP 10	RU 	St. Petersburg State University of Economics (UNECON)
PP 11	LT 	The State Studies Foundation
PP 12	RU 	Saint-Petersburg Electrotechnical University "LETI"

Associate Organisations

AO 1	NO 	NordForsk
AO 2	PL 	Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland
AO 3	FI 	BONUS - Baltic Organisations' Network for Funding Science EEIG
AO 4	other	Baltic Sea Region UniversityNetwork
AO 5	DE 	Ministry of Education, Science and Cultur of the Land Mecklenburg- Hither Pomerania
AO 6	DE 	Ministry of Education, Science and Cultural Affairs, Land of Schleswig- Holstein
AO 7	SE 	Swedish Research Council
AO 8	LT 	Government Strategic Analysis Center (STRATA)
AO 9	SE 	Region Skane
AO 10	DE 	DESY
AO 11	DE 	European X-RayFree-Electron Laser Facility (European XFEL)
AO 12	SE 	MAXIVLaboratory
AO 13	EE 	Archimedes Foundation
AO 14	EE 	Estonian Research Council