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NSC-BSC cooperation 2007-2008

Introduction

The NSC- BSC cooperation has grown in importance during the last couple of years. This year we have joined together for common General assemblies in the Region of Midtjylland, Denmark.

This paper is a short summary of the activities that have been taken place during this past year. It is based upon previous reports submitted to the NSC Ex com, minutes and information provided by the BSC general secretary.

General analysis

It seems like most of the working groups in the NSC have an ongoing cooperation with their Baltic partners and are making good use of each others networks and competence. A high light during the past year was the joint conference between NSC sustainable working group and the BSC energy working group taking place in middle of April 2008. The theme was "[Regional actions for sustainable buildings](#)" and the conference was attended by almost 50 participants.

The BSC and NSC transport groups have also worked together in the project Inter Baltic. Within other groups such as the marine group, the cooperation NSC-BSC has not yet started.

Both the BSC and the NSC have followed the Aquamarina group and the group working with the future of the CAP.

Many of the groups in NSC and BSC also cooperate together with the CPMR Intercom groups such as the NSC Innovation/education group and the NSC Cultural and Tourism group have a cooperation with the CPMR TNRIS group(led by Stockholm County council) and the Intercom group on Sustainable tourism(led by Region Västra Götaland). Within the NSC there is also cooperation between working groups.

From the BSC agenda

In February a meeting took place between all Baltic Sea region organizations where they discussed common issues. The outcome was among other things a large consensus about a joint energy and climate platform for the whole of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

Since there are many BSC organizations working in the BSC this was first step to see if it is possible to work together on certain issues.



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The different BSC groups discussed the following priorities for a joint cooperation:

- Analysis of the current Energy and Climate situation in the BSR
- Addressing concerns and considerations of the regional level on Energy and Climate issues to the high political level
- Raising awareness among the inhabitants of the BSR
- Further involvement of a broader range of actors (representatives of business, science, NGOs) working with Energy and Climate-related issues and obtaining financial support to implement joint activities
- A broader involvement of Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Russia.

The participants agreed on the following further steps:

- Amend and further elaborate the concept paper for the Joint Energy and Climate Platform
- Identify joint activities. The BSR organisations were asked to submit their priorities (3 to 4) to the BSSSC.
- Continue with information/knowledge exchange and dissemination
- BDF will issue a BDF Magazine in early Summer 2008. The publication will be about energy and will include semi-academic analyses, interesting articles and good examples from the BSR. .
- The platform agreed that a Tripple Helix approach is needed and the industry should be involved.
- The organisations agreed that the upcoming **BDF Summit** (Copenhagen-Malmö, 30 November - 2 December) would serve as the common platform to present the challenges of regional cooperation in the field.

Future

In the joint meeting in Göteborg in April the NSC-BSC decided that the long term future cooperation should continue, this year's priorities discussing issues such as the future budget of the EU, territorial cohesion and adaptation to climate change. Both commissions will continue to share information and possibly having joint resolutions.

The EU is presently drafting an EU strategy for the whole Baltic Sea region. It should be ready for amendments during June 2009 and discussed during the Swedish presidency in the EU during the fall of 2009. This field is currently widely discussed in Sweden and elsewhere and is seen as a great possibility for regional and local involvement.

This could be an area of future cooperation between the NSC and BSC.