



Adapting to Climate Change - Case Studies from the Baltic Sea Region  
Session 2: From Science to Politics



# Adaptation Needs? Adaptive Capacities? Answers from the INTERREG Project BalticClimate



**BalticClimate**



Baltic Sea Region  
Programme 2007-2013

Part-financed by the European Union  
(European Regional Development Fund)

**ARL**

ACADEMY  
FOR SPATIAL RESEARCH  
AND PLANNING

LEIBNIZ FORUM FOR SPATIAL SCIENCES

# Structure of the Presentation

1. Introduction to the project BalticClimate
2. Vulnerability assessment framework and experience from its application
3. Outlook on the BalticClimate Toolkit

# 1. Introduction to the Project BalticClimate

“Baltic Challenges and Chances  
for local and regional development  
generated by Climate Change”

# Main Objectives

- To make the climate change phenomenon understood as a challenge as well as a chance for overall and sustainable development in all Baltic Sea Region (BSR) countries
- To enable BSR municipalities, local and regional stakeholders to deal with the issue of climate change – mitigation as well as adaptation (!) – in a cooperative, integrated and sustainable way

## Partner Structure

23 Project Partners from

Estonia (EE)

Finland (FI)

Germany (DE)

Lithuania (LT)

Latvia (LV)

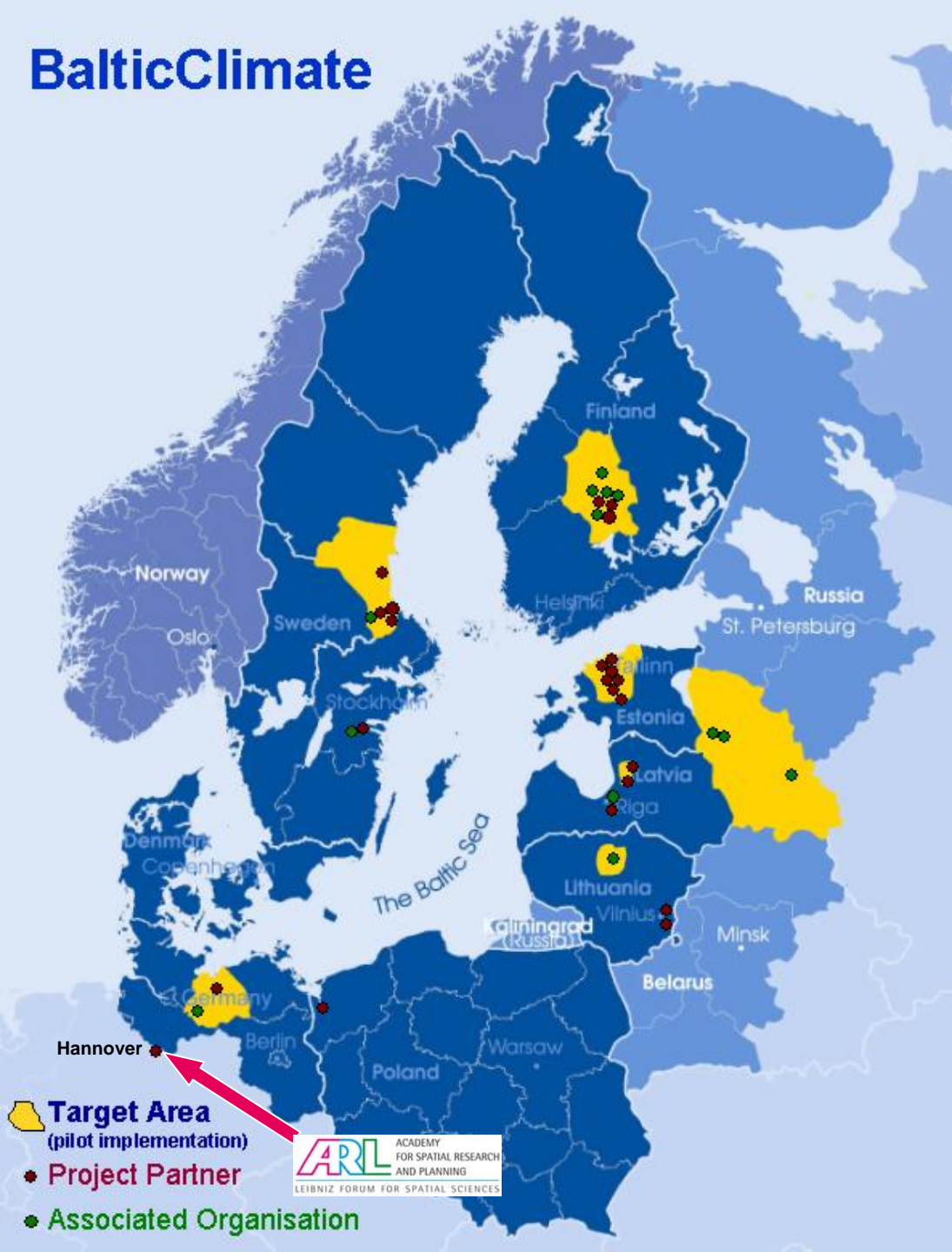
Poland (PL)

Sweden (SE)

16 Associated Organisations  
including from Russia (RU)

7 Target Areas

DE, EE, FI, LV, LT, RU, SE



Hannover

 **Target Area**  
(pilot implementation)

 **Project Partner**

 **Associated Organisation**



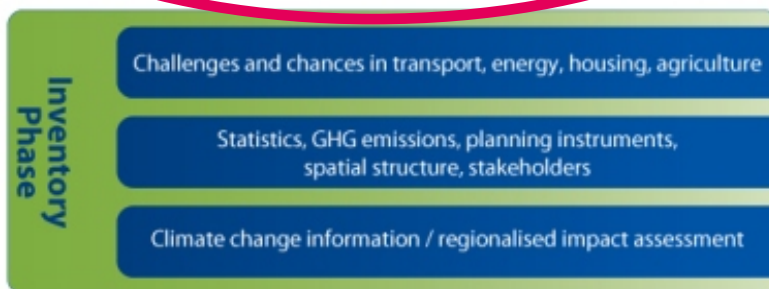
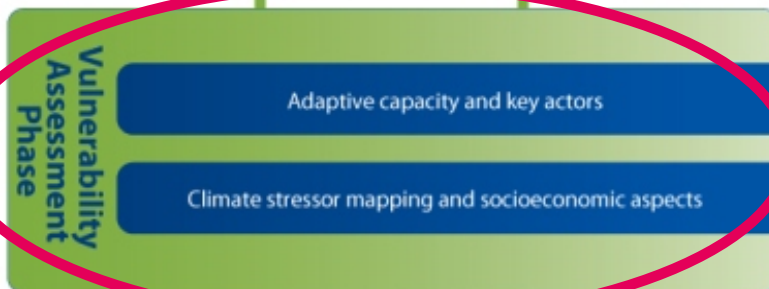
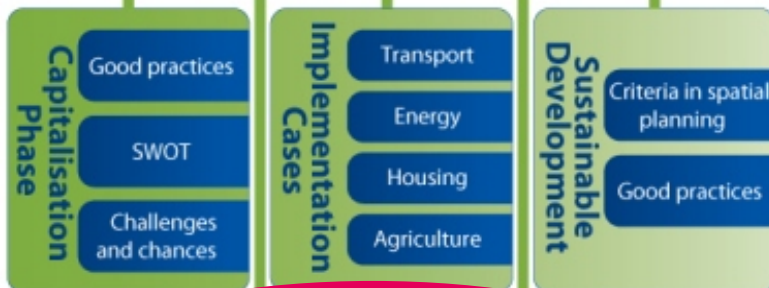
# Key Facts



- Part of a flagship project of the EU Strategy for the BSR
- Frame: Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013, Priority 4 „Attractive and competitive cities and regions“
  - Duration: 25.10.2008-24.01.2012 (42 months)
  - Budget € 4,220,720 incl. ERDF co-financing € 3,336,510
  - Website: [www.balticclimate.org](http://www.balticclimate.org)

Enabling municipalities and local / regional stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region to deal with climate change

**BalticClimate TOOLKIT**  
for the target groups  
Spatial Planners – Policy Makers – Business



Objective of BalticClimate

Central Output

Elements and Milestones of the project approach



## 2. Vulnerability Assessment Framework and Experience from Its Application



# Development and Application

- Vulnerability assessment (VA) framework was developed by the Centre for Climate Science and Policy Research (CSPR, Sweden) to work as a supporting material
- 8 VA exercises were introduced on transnational project seminars and partly pre-tested in group works
- Project Partners together with local and regional stakeholders in the mainly rural BalticClimate target areas implemented VA exercises (freedom of choice)



# Experience II

- Focus on sectoral topics like transport, energy, housing or agriculture makes first VA less difficult
- Regionalised climate change scenarios as well as sectoral climate change impact studies (at least on supra-regional/national level) needed as basic information to support local/regional analyses of adaptation needs
- Local/regional networks important to form adaptive capacities (bottom-up approach)
- Concrete action plans take time!
- Differentiating between mitigation and adaptation is important and eligible in science but in practice mitigation activities in place can also help to raise the awareness of adaptation

# 3. Outlook on the BalticClimate Toolkit

# Characteristics

- Central project output generalised from a couple of activities implemented locally and regionally
- Process-oriented pathfinder
- Target groups: policy makers, spatial planners, business people (SME)
- Web-based
- Multilingual
- Transferable and easy to apply for free

Search

- Policy makers
  - Introduction
  - Recognizing the problem
  - Getting into action
- Spatial planners
  - Introduction
  - Inventory analysis
  - Vulnerability assessment
    - Preparing the process
    - Exposure and sensitivity
    - Response action
  - Planning and climate change
- Business
  - Introduction
  - Challenges and chances for business
  - SWOT analysis tool

The Toolkit > Spatial planners > Vulnerability assessment > Preparing the process

## Preparing the process

This section goes over the practical details of the local assessment of challenges and chances generated by climate change. By working with the exposure and sensitivity and response action parts, you will improve your knowledge, particularly about the wider context in which to evaluate and interpret the potential challenges and chances resulting from climate change.

The Vulnerability Assessment process consists of two parts spanning seven vulnerability related exercises. Each exercise provides a platform for conducting an in-depth analysis of the most critical issues involved in an assessment of challenges and chances generated by climate change. Before you start with the exercises, it is important that you clearly define what your specific focus is and who will run the assessment process, i.e., who will be responsible for planning, inviting, conducting, documenting, and disseminating the results from the

- Preparing the process
  - What is your specific focus?
- Exposure and sensitivity
  - Steps of the Vulnerability Assessment process
- Response action
  - Evaluation of the exercises

What is your spec  
Steps of the Vulnerability Assessment process  
Evaluation of the exercises

General information

Specified information for target groups

# Ready for Application in BSR within 2011

BalticClimate team hopes that the toolkit will contribute

- to identify adaptation needs and to built up adaptive capacities in further parts of the BSR and, moreover,
- to understand climate change as a challenge as well as a chance for overall and sustainable development.



**Thank you for your attention!**

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BSSSC / BALTEX Conference, Hamburg, May 31st 2011, Sebastian Ebert / ARL