

BSSSC

Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation

BALTEX SSG Meeting, Helsinki, 13 January



BALTIC SEA STATES SUBREGIONAL CO-OPERATION

BSSSC – THE NETWORK



- Open political network of regional authorities
- More than 100 participating regions from the 10 BSR countries
- Under the umbrella of CBSS
- Founded in 1993
- Open for other BSR organisations to join (new)

BSSSC – THE MISSION



- Main Goals
 - Strong and competitive Baltic Sea Region
 - Security and Democracy
- Objectives
 - Cooperation among regions around the Baltic Sea
 - Representation of regional interests to national, european and international organisations

BSSSC – THE STRUCTURE



- Board
 - Decision making body of BSSSC
 - Two representatives of each country
- Chairman
 - Represents BSSSC
 - Nominated for a two years period by the board
- Secretariat
- Brussels Antenna
- Thematic ad-hoc Working Groups

BSSSC – Cooperation partners outside BSR



- Membership in the Assembly of European Regions (AER)
- Cooperation-agreement with the Committee of the Regions (CoR)
- Permanent working relationship with the European Baltic Intergroup of the European Parliament

BSSSC 2009– 2010: KEY AREAS

Focal Points of the Hamburg Chairmanship

- 1. Science and Education**
- 2. Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Strategy of the EU**
- 3. Maritime Policy**
- 4. Climate Change and Sustainable Development**
- 5. Youth**
- 6. Better use of EU Programmes for projects in the BSR**
- 7. Public Health and Quality of Life**
- 8. Cooperation with Russia**
- 9. Transport and Infrastructure**



Climate Change and Sustainable Development I

- Establishment of Baltic Sea Region Joint Platform on Energy and Climate
- Members: Baltic Sea States Sub regional Cooperation (BSSSC), Baltic Development Forum (BDF), Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), Baltic Islands Network B7, Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions – Baltic Sea Commission (CPMR BSC), Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), Nordic Council (NC)
- Focus I: Promote sub-regions as important actors in the discussion on Sustainable Energy and Climate Change
- Focus II: Common Energy and Climate strategy for BSR



Climate Change and Sustainable Development II

- Issues: Greater security of energy supply, better use of energy capabilities, greater energy efficiency, more integrated and competitive energy markets, lower CO2 emission, more renewable energy
- Actions: Support of sound energy and climate-related initiatives in the BSR, Promotion of best practise examples, Cooperation by regularly advising each other on ongoing Energy and Climate-related activities
- Cooperation with HELCOM and Baltic 21



Climate Change and Sustainable Development III - Prospects for activities

- Climate change and environmental issues remain high on the European agenda.
- BSSSC aims to participate in the global debate on climate-related issues, to promote mutual cooperation and exchanges on best practices and solutions
- Regions can and must participate in ensuring a sustainable development. Therefore the *BSSSC annual conference in October 2009 hosted by the region Sealand / Denmark will give input* into the *UN Climate Change Conference* in Copenhagen stressing the regional position
- Close interaction between political decision makers, such as BSSSC, and climate researchers is mandatory
- BALTEX is seen as a prominent candidate for future cooperation



Discussion

- Questions?
- Brain Storming: Potential links between BALTEX and BSSSC

