

1. Speakers

- Vassilen Iotzov, Communication and Capitalisation Officer, **Interreg South Baltic Programme**
- Rolf Wännström, Head of Secretariat of the **Interreg Botnia-Atlantica Programme**
- Linda Talve, Communication Manager, **Interreg Central Baltic Programme**
- Kirsti Mijnhijmer, Programme Manager for Information & Communication, **Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme**
- Laura Supjeva, Project Officer, **Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme**
- Björn Grönholm, **Union of Baltic Cities**
- Dr Andreas Schubert, **city of Rostock**
- Krzysztof Perycz-Szczepański, **city of Gdansk**

2. Main findings

On 29 October 2015, five Interreg Programmes joined forces in an effort to raise awareness about the new funding opportunities for the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020 among the UBC stakeholders. The session took place between 10:00 and 12:30 and gathered around 50 stakeholders. Vassilen Iotzov underlined the role of cooperation for the EU's Cohesion Policy 2014-2020, with EUR 10 bn out of 325 bn being allocated to the objective of European Territorial Cooperation. As explained, the strategic objectives for the new Interreg generation are "thematic concentration", "result orientation" and "partnership". By streamlining the available funding on selected priorities which are key for a region's development, thematic concentration shall strengthen Interreg's contribution to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the strategic objective of the EU2020 Strategy. Consequently, Interreg programmes and thus each funded project partnership need to precisely define what they want to achieve and how the envisaged results and impacts shall be reached in practice. In this context, emphasis shall be given to the principles of partnership, multi-level governance and simplification, designed to ensure the involvement of relevant stakeholders while streamlining the management duties for programmes and beneficiaries.

The Programme representatives introduced the 5 programmes following a recurring pattern:

- programme rationale;
- geographical coverage;
- available budget;
- supported themes;
- upcoming calls for proposals.

Botnia-Atlantica Programme

The programme's main focus is on strengthening the research and innovation system by improving cross-border competence centres. Another priority is to protect the environment and increase the use of the natural and cultural heritage in a sustainable way. This includes development of the world heritage sites in the archipelago of the Bothnian Bay. The programme also supports increased competitiveness of SMEs through cooperation across borders. In addition, it contributes to improve the East-West transport corridor that links Norway, Sweden and Finland through the programme area. The programme:

- covers the regions Nordland (NO), Västerbotten, Västernorrland, Nordanstigs kommun (SE); Mellersta Österbotten, Österbotten, Södra Österbotten (FI);
- has a total budget of 61,284,055 EUR
- supports projects in the fields of innovation, business, environment and transport;
- plans the next calls for proposals between 11th January and 5th February 2016; 14th and 31st March 2016 as well as 1st and 30th September 2016.

Interreg Central Baltic Programme

The programme's main focus is on enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs and promoting entrepreneurship, promoting the sustainable use of common resources (supporting sustainable tourism, reducing pollution of the Baltic Sea, improving urban environment) and improving transport flows of people and goods. In addition, the programme also supports cross-border vocational education and training schemes, and strengthens disadvantaged communities (through small-scale people-to-people projects). The programme:

- covers the regions Estonia, LÄNSI-SUOMI, Helsinki-Uusimaa, Etelä-Suomi, ÅLAND (NUTS 1), Latvia, Östra Sverige, Östra Mellansverige, Småland med öarna, Norra Mellansverige;
- has a budget of 160,276,623 EUR;
- supports projects in the fields of competitive economy, sustainable use of common resources transport as well as Skilled and socially inclusive region;
- plans the next calls for proposals between 2nd January and 27th February 2017.

Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme

The Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 supports integrated territorial development and cooperation for a more innovative, better accessible and sustainable Baltic Sea region. Partners from countries around the Baltic Sea work together in transnational projects on common key challenges and opportunities. The Programme:

- covers the EU Member States: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany (the States (Länder) of Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein and Niedersachsen (only NUTS II area Lüneburg region)), Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden;
- involves as partner countries Belarus, Norway and Russia (St. Petersburg, Arkhangelsk Oblast, Vologda Oblast, Kaliningrad Oblast, Republic of Karelia, Komi Republic, Leningrad Oblast, Murmansk Oblast, Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug, Novgorod Oblast and Pskov Oblast);
- has a budget of 278.6 m EUR;
- supports projects in the fields of innovation, natural resources, sustainable transport as well as the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region;
- plans the next calls for proposals between 1st March – 1st June 2016

Northern Periphery and Arctic 2014-2020 Programme

The programme forms a cooperation between 9 programme partner countries; the Member States of Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom (Scotland and Northern Ireland) in cooperation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. This means that the programme area encompasses the Euro-

Arctic zone, parts of the Atlantic zone and parts of the Barents region, neighbouring on Canada in the West and Russia in the East. Despite geographical differences, the large programme area shares a number of common features, such as low population density, low accessibility, low economic diversity, abundant natural resources, and high impact of climate change. This unique combination of features results in joint challenges and joint opportunities that can best be overcome and realised by transnational cooperation. The programme:

- covers the regions Pohjois- ja Itä-Suomi, Mellersta Norrland, Övre Norrland, Highlands and Islands;
- has a budget of 157,272,848.00 EUR;
- supports projects in the fields of innovation, entrepreneurship, renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as cultural and natural heritage;
- plans the next calls for proposals between 1st May to 30th September 2016.

Interreg South Baltic Programme

Serving the Regional Policy objective of European Territorial Cooperation, the Interreg South Baltic Programme aims at unlocking South Baltic's potential for blue and green growth through cross-border cooperation between local and regional actors from Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. Building on the maritime character of the Programme, "blue growth" addresses the economic potential of the Baltic Sea for growth and jobs across the shores of the South Baltic. At the same time, "green growth" underlines the need to pursue the path of economic growth in balance with the environment, in particular by utilising South Baltic's rich natural and cultural heritage in a sustainable and preserving manner. The Programme:

- covers the regions Bornholm and Zealand, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Klaipeda, Taurage and Telsiai, Pomorskie, Zachodniopomorskie and Warminsko-Mazurskie, Kalmar, Blekinge, Kronoberg and Skane;
- has a budget of 78 M EUR ERDF;
- supports projects in the fields of SME innovation and internationalisation, tourism, green technologies, sustainable transport, HR capacity and cooperation capacity;
- plans the next calls for proposals between 9th May to 17th June 2016.

Good practice examples

In addition to the programme snapshots, Dr Andreas Schubert (city of Rostock), Krzysztof Perycz-Szczepański (city of Gdansk) and Björn Grönholm, Union of Baltic Cities introduced good practices as to how projects echo the programme demands for result orientation.

Björn Grönholm introduced the vision of the project Baltic Urban Lab that was recently approved by the Central Baltic Programme. The project seeks to facilitate good practice exchange among urban planners across borders and streamline efforts and ambitions with regard to brownfield regeneration.

As Krzysztof Perycz-Szczepański explained, the cycling culture in Gdansk benefitted significantly from the South Baltic project abc.multimodal. Within this project, the city has installed 5 counters on cycling paths. Following the project and the positive implications of available data for cycling policy, the city has invested in 20 additional counters distributed all over the city. Thanks to study visits to Copenhagen within

abc.multimodal, the city of Gdansk has, furthermore, introduced traffic measures, known in Gdansk as the Copenhagen turns (indirect left turns for cyclists). Along with this measure, the city imported another traffic reorganisational measure from Denmark. In one of the streets that connects the university campus with one of the most populous districts in Gdansk, one of the lanes was closed for motorised traffic and was dedicated to cyclists only. This street became known as the first cycling friendly street in Poland. These solutions were adopted to Polish legal regulations as a standard for Polish cities.

Dr Andreas Schubert introduced the first of its kind in Europe cross-border real-time multimodal information system that fetches and integrates data from several transport modes (road, rail, ferry) on both sides of the Baltic Sea between Germany and Denmark. The system accompanies passengers with useful information throughout a multi-leg multimodal journey between Germany and Denmark.