

Gdańsk 5.3.2015

Attn. Member Cities of Union of the Baltic Cities

Dear Sir or Madam,

Regional Information and Support Centre for NGOs (RISC NGO) received accreditation from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is officially appointed to organize 2016 Baltic Sea NGOs Forum during the Polish presidency in Council of Baltic Sea States. BS Ngo Forum is an even held every year in different Baltic state to enable NGOs from the Baltic Sea Region states meet and discuss their actions and future cooperation. BS NGO Forum is organized by Focal Points in each Baltic Sea state.

Polish Focal Point represented by RISC NGO in the person of PhD Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło would like to draw your attention to possible cooperation between NGOs from member cities of UBC. When organizing BS NGO Forum 2016 we would like to invite representatives of civic movements to Gdańsk and simultaneously establish contacts, that would allow them to form consortiums when applying for EU grants such as: BSR Programme, South Baltic Programme and many others.

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is fundamental document adopted by the European Council in 2009. Main aim of this Strategy is multilevel cooperation: on governmental, regional and local level, bringing together various stakeholders: academia, research institutes, regional authorities, operational programmes and business. It is especially underlined in one of the Strategy's goals: *Connect the Region p. 2.3 Connecting People in the Region.*

We believe, that particular value of the Strategy is expressed in mobilizing and bringing into cooperation wide range of actors and institutions, including non-governmental organizations, according to the multilevel governance rules.

One of the themes for our BS NGO Forum 2016 we would like to expose is: youth entrepreneurship and social economy. Encouraging youth into thinking about their career path as early as possible should be one of the targets of innovative NGOs. One of our ideas is to propose renewal of youth cooperative activities in schools.

We kindly request you to inform us about the NGOs or other institutions that might be interested in youth entrepreneurship and social economy in Baltic cities. Our goal is to propose them possibilities of composing Baltic NGO net that enables them exchange experiences and best practices on social economy and youth entrepreneurship, as well as composing partnerships for projects aimed at using innovative techniques of simulation for social entrepreneurship.

Please direct your correspondence to:

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