

# BRIDGES FROM ELBLŲG ACROSS THE BALTIC SEA

**During a meeting in Elbl'g in October 1997, cooperation between Region Blekinge in Sweden and Elbl'g Voivodeship was committed.**

An agreement for cooperation was signed already in 1990. The cooperation has had different forms, like exchange of municipal governments representatives, sportsmen, youth, Local Agenda 21 and cultural exchange.

## **Blekinge Days in Elbl'g**

Region Blekinge is interested in cooperation in many fields, among others assistance in ecological track construction with picturesque tower around Drużno Lake (water birds sanctuary of 1500 ha area), and in construction of standard closed water circle in one of Elbl'g Voivodeship Communes. Blekinge will also assist when creating Euroregion Jantar (Amber), connected with INTERREG IIC and tourism.

Next year Region Blekinge Days will be organised in Elbl'g Voivodeship, and Elbl'g Voivodeship Days will be organised in Blekinge in order to better acquaint inhabitants from the South of Sweden with

inhabitants from the Elbl'g Region.

## **Business cooperation between Liepāja and Elbl'g**

Businessmen from Liepāja have negotiated with partners from Elbl'g on cooperation, commodity exchange and establishment of joint venture companies in the following fields: dairy industry, food-agrarian industry, leather industry, clothing industry and trade. In the end of October some businessmen from Elbl'g visited Liepāja in order to

continue the negotiations, recognize market and partners possibilities as well as to conclude the first agreements.

## **Border Crossing at Vistula Sandbar**

The Authorities of the City of Baltijsk have made efforts concerning Border Crossing opening in the neighbourhood of Piaski, near Krynica Morska, assigned to tourists, cyclists and mini-buses. After leaving the Russian part of Vistula Sandbar by shorted detachments, about 22 km of seaside beaches are waiting for management.



*New bridges are rising.*

# BALTIC RING OF GDYNIA

**Gdynia is closely connected with the Baltic Sea. It is even said that this town grew up from the sea and dreams. The Baltic Sea has always been noticed in Gdynia as the main reason for creation of ties between Gdynia and other Baltic cities.**

Currently Gdynia cooperates in the Baltic Sea region in several fields. The city is a member of such Baltic organisations as Union of the Baltic Cities, Baltic Tourism Cooperation and Baltic Ports Organisation. The city is also involved in

many projects, in which it often plays a role of initiator and coordinator.

## **Project examples**

- creation of The Amber Motorway Towns' Association - a part of the Trans European Motorway (TEM) from Gdynia/Gdańsk to Athens and its connection with TEM - Scandinavia through the Baltic Sea. Gdynia and Karlskrona have established the Union of TEM Cities as a coordinating body to advance the work on building the TEM

- the "Baltic Bridge" programme as a result of very intensive cooperation between Gdynia and Karlskrona within tourist, economic and social contacts aimed at strengthening and development of the ferry connection linking the cities as well as both North and Central Europe

- cooperation with south-east Sweden, Kaliningrad Region, Latvia, Lithuania and north-east Poland to set up the Euroregion as a common platform for developing our integration in the Baltic region.



*In order to complete the "Baltic Ring" of sister cities, Gdynia is looking for new partnership from Latvia and Estonia.*

Gdynia actively cooperates with its sister cities in almost every state in the Baltic Sea region (Aalborg, Karlskrona, Kaliningrad, Kiel, Klaipėda and Kotka). The cooperation is of both bilateral and multilateral character. The goal is to close a so called "Baltic Ring" of sister cities. In order to do this the city is looking for new partners in Latvia and Estonia, which are the two missing countries in the ring. Interested cities from Latvia and Estonia are welcome contact the Foreign Relations Division for more information.

Further information:

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## HELSINKI CENTERS IN ST. PETERSBURG AND TALLINN

**The Baltic Sea Region is a natural cooperation area for the City of Helsinki and an integral part of its international strategy. Of cities around the Baltic Rim, closest to Helsinki in geographical terms are Tallinn and St Petersburg. In both of these cities Helsinki has recently opened Helsinki Centers.**

In St Petersburg the official opening of the Center was held in June this year, but the Center has been operating for a couple of years already. Its main functions are to facilitate business contacts between SMEs and to give information and marketing services to Finnish and Russian SMEs. In the same building is also located the office of the City of Stockholm and Helsinki is looking

forward to developing joint EU funded projects with partners from the three cities.

In Tallinn, activities are just about to start in the newly renovated Helsinki House. In the same building will be located the City of Helsinki's Tallinn project, the Finnish school, Finnish Tourism Development Agency and the Small Enterprise Development Project with the aim of furthering cooperation between Tallinn and Helsinki based SMEs.

Further information:

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### **Baltic Sea Region Development and Urban Management Conference in December**

This Baltic Sea conference takes place in Helsinki on 11-12 December 1997. The event brings together all regions around the Baltic Sea to discuss topics such as trade and industry, spatial planning, tourism and energy and environmental issues. The Conference is arranged by the City of Helsinki and Helsinki Region together with some other Nordic regions.

Further information:

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*The City of Helsinki has recently opened Helsinki Centres in Tallinn (on the picture) and in St. Petersburg.*