



DEVELOP YOUR ISLANDS!

Environmental, entrepreneurial and social opportunities exist

- Berndt Festin
Chairman of the Board
The Nordic Council of Ministers Archipelago Cooperation



One of the most successful projects in the INTERREG history of the Central Baltic archipelago is "Taste of the Archipelago" (Skärgårdssmak). It already started in 1996 during the INTERREG II A period. The project had a vision to realise: "Make the archipelago as well-known as the Alps as a region." The idea was to develop the competence and innovation ability of actors in the tourism branch – particularly restaurants, farms, stores and handicrafts artisans. A total of 150 companies from the Baltic archipelagos of Finland, Åland and Sweden participated in the project over two INTERREG periods. They succeeded in their aims to take the tastes and experiences of the archipelago to even higher levels. People in the surrounding countries became curious about this phenomenon and the numbers of visitors increased – together with the companies' net sales.

How was it possible to reach and work with so many inhabitants and grassroots organisations in the Baltic archipelagos? I think the answer is that an organisation already existed there which was used to cooperate with them. The Nordic Council of Ministers Archipelago Cooperation had existed since 1978. This small organization had, through the years, managed a lot of

Continued on page 2...

In this issue

- 3 Latest Programme news
- 4 First Showcase Conference coming up
- 5 What is the Baltic Sea Strategy for?
- 6 Is the sun equally bright in all our countries?
- 8 3 new cross-border projects introduced
- 11 Behind the scenes - Enterprise Estonia
- 12 Calendar of events



Photo: Magnus Wegler





projects and networks involving the people of the archipelago. The financial resources were then of course much smaller than those of INTERREG, but the organization had the experience and know-how to take the role not only as inventor but also as lead partner in this fast-growing project.

The priorities of the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A programme 2007-2013 and its Archipelago and Islands Sub-programme have been chosen with a special purpose: to further support the development of the islands in three ways – environmentally, entrepreneurially and socially. The focus is wider and more flexible than during the previous periods. The programme area is much larger, making the chances of finding suitable project partners easier. But since areas where Swedish is not the official language have also been included, it has

also become more difficult. To communicate, you have to write and speak in English, at least when meeting the partners from other countries and writing the application.

All the practicalities imply a need for a Lead Partner with the stamina and perseverance to manage both project steering and accounting matters. The Nordic Council of Ministers Archipelago Cooperation is an example, but there are also others: high schools and universities, folk colleges, foundations, tourist organizations, regional councils, municipalities, etc. Only one of the partners in a project needs to be actually situated in the archipelago area, but the project must specifically benefit the archipelagos and islands.

If you have an idea of a new project fitting the rules and priorities of the Archipelago and Islands Sub-programme, please don't hesitate to contact the Joint Technical Secretariat to discuss the possibilities to realise it. The people working there are keen to help you and provide advice on how to find suitable partners!

Photo: Magnus Wegler

Curiosity gives life to cross-border co-operation

The Oxford English Dictionary describes curiosity as "a strong desire to know or learn something" and as "an unusual or interesting object or fact". Cross-border co-operation – isn't it all about a strong desire to know and learn something, to try to find unusual and interesting solutions to problems and challenges? Meaning, isn't cross-border co-operation a lot about curiosity?

Definitely! And we've already seen a lot of it during the two first calls of our Programme. Naturally, some projects have been built upon existing contacts and cooperation experiences from the previous funding period. This might apply mainly for the Southern Finland-Estonia and the Archipelago and Islands Sub-programmes. However, many partnerships are focusing on "traditional" bilateral co-operation in the Central Baltic Programme as well – though the Central Baltic Programme offers co-operation opportunities beyond this. Feel free to be curious and potentially enlarge Central Baltic partnerships beyond bilateral cooperation to more Central Baltic countries.

Curiosity is something to be expected also from us, who represent the structures implementing and managing the Programme. Our aim is to share some of our curiosity with you in this newsletter, which presents some of our projects that focus on an economically competitive and innovative region, views on the cooperation in the Archipelago region, an article on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and a whole lot more. Enjoy reading!

Philipp Schwartz
Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat



PROGRAMME NEWS

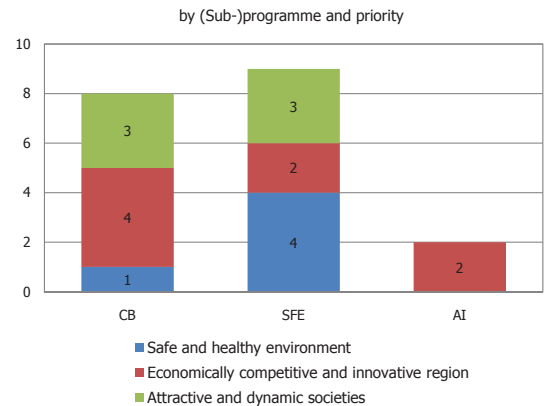
19 first-call projects are now running!

All 19 projects approved during the first call (closed on September 18, 2008) have signed their subsidy contracts and are in full speed with their implementation. The division between (Sub-)programmes and priorities can be seen in the graph on the right.

More information on the running projects, e.g. summaries of all projects, the budget figures, partners etc., can be found on the Programme website at www.centralbaltic.eu under "Projects".

CB	Central Baltic Programme
SFE	Southern Finland - Estonia Sub-programme
AI	Archipelago and Islands Sub-programme

Approved projects / first call

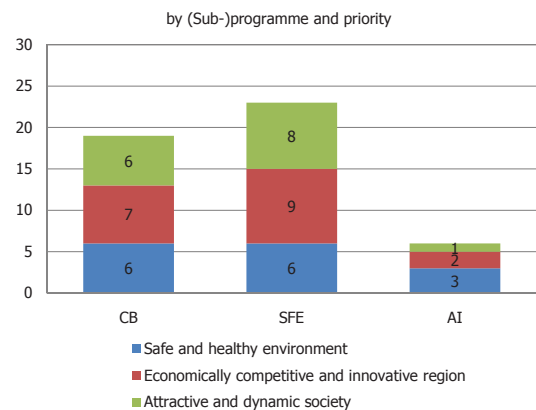


48 project applications received during the second call!

The applications received in the second call (closed on April 15, 2009) seek 35.8 MEUR of ERDF funding from the Programme. The average budget for a single project is 948,000 EUR of which the ERDF funding applied for is on average 745,000 EUR. The decisions on the funded projects will be taken by the Steering Committees of the (Sub-)programmes during the summer and published on the Programme's website.

More statistics on the second-call applications can be downloaded from the website www.centralbaltic.eu under "Documents".

Received applications / second call



Over 80 million euros still available!

The Programme is thirsty for new project applications again during autumn 2009! **The third call for project applications will be open from September 15 to October 15.** Before the second call funding decisions are taken, over 80 MEUR remain in the Programme. The Joint Technical Secretariat welcomes everyone with a project idea to be in touch to see if some of this money could be used for a good purpose in the Programme area!



JTS regional visits in the Programme countries

The Joint Technical Secretariat has been touring in the Programme area since November 2008 to increase awareness of the available funding in the 52 participating regions of the whole Programme area. The node organisations of regional development (including, amongst others, regional councils, universities, environmental organisations, municipalities etc.) have been very pleased at being approached with the possibility to offer their own views and ideas on how their region can be better reached and drawn in by the Programme. Also, the JTS has been happy about the possibility to discuss regional issues with local people round the Programme area.

SHOWCASE CONFERENCE 2009

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
SEPTEMBER 15

The Central Baltic region is characterized by its long history of cooperation in many fields. This has both created close relationships and contributed to a common cultural heritage, which can be seen as a natural starting point for a variety of projects. But what about the future? How will this be visible in the years and decades to come?

On September 15, the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013 will arrange its first Showcase Conference in Stockholm. The conference is to provide a platform to show the progress of the Programme achieved so far but also to discuss various issues in the Central Baltic region.

The aim of Showcase Conference 2009 is to be a forum for reflection, guidance and encouragement for working together in the Central Baltic region. The focus of the conference is on project ideas and the future. A range of issues from creativity and hope to project implementation will be discussed.

Amongst the speakers are Susanne Rittedal Söderblom from Drivhuset AB and Daniel Sköld from Euroolutions. The event will be moderated by Per Lagerström from the Council for the Stockholm-Mälars Region. Additionally, a panel discussion will offer reflections from the project as well as Programme level together with external views and ideas.

More information can be found at:
www.centralbaltic.eu

Can we see a clear line between the wishes of the youngsters and the projects?

How should we then meet the challenges to come?

Is there one tool better than others in developing a project?

Are all ideas good ideas?

How did the projects approved in 2008 affect the region by the year 2020?

How do Emma, 15, and Johan, 12, see their future in the Central Baltic region? What are their hopes and visions?

Registration opens in June and the last day for registration is on August 25!

We hope to see all of you in the conference!



WHAT IS THE EU BALTIC SEA STRATEGY ALL ABOUT?



• Anders Lindholm
European Commission DG Regio

If we want to deepen European cooperation, we must strengthen cooperation within Europe's macro-regions. In many policy areas, the single member state is too small, but the entire union is too big to reach the desired results. If you look at environment for instance, without macro-region cooperation you'll never effectively reduce marine pollution or put the proper flood protection in place.

We can then develop comprehensive strategies for macro regions, setting out:

- which topics to address
- which objectives to be reached
- the methods and tools available to fulfil ambitions
- the governance system to be put in place in order to monitor and implement the strategy.

This way we can use the macro-regions as building blocks for a Europe that is more sustainable, better performing and more connected.

The EU Baltic Sea Strategy

The pilot area for this new macro regional approach is the Baltic Sea Region. This is a logical choice given the long tradition of fruitful co-operation that exists in the area. Given the environmental problems, it was also an urgent request. However, the Baltic Sea Region has always been ready to meet challenges and exploit opportunities together.

Even so, the work can be improved, and this is the primary objective of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea

Area. All the commitment and modes of co-operation that exist in the region must be channelled so that all potential can be effectively utilised.

Implementation of the strategy

The Commission is not proposing additional funding or other resources at this time. However, some specific actions and projects will require financial support.

Member states, regions and organisations are asked to volunteer and take responsibility as lead partners for particular priority areas and flagship projects. When assuming leadership for a proposed priority area or Flagship project, this includes making sure that the necessary financial decisions are taken. Programming authorities can review the allocation criteria and facilitate the selection of projects aligned with the strategy.

This also means that all programs active in the area, such as the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme, must find their own role in implementing the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. Programmes should be proactive in identifying which areas in the strategy are relevant for them, and discuss the implementation with the Commission and appointed lead partners.

Conclusions

The EU Baltic Sea Strategy is marking the beginning of a new way of working and thinking about cooperation. Macro regions provide the EU with an innovative policy instrument. It can serve to achieve common EU objectives, based on shared territorial challenges.



DOES THE SUN SHINE EQUALLY IN ALL CENTRAL BALTIC COUNTRIES?

QUESTIONS

1. Capital city / A popular summer city
2. Popular tourist attractions
3. Midsummer celebration
4. Traditional Midsummer celebration food
5. Bathing traditions
6. Typical summer sports
7. Popular icecreams
8. Some summer festivals

See the main summer celebrations and attractions in the Central Baltic!

ESTONIA

1. Tallinn / Pärnu
2. Aside from visiting historic Tallinn Old Town, the summer capital Pärnu as well as the islands (Saaremaa, Hiiumaa and others) provide wonderful sandy beaches and enjoyable nature.
3. Jaanipäev is widely celebrated in Estonia, and the celebrations that accompany Jaaniõhtu are the largest and most important of the year. The best-known Jaanik (Midsummer) ritual is the lighting of the bonfire and the leaping over it. On Jaaniõhtu, Estonians all around the country gather with their families or at larger events to celebrate this important day with singing and dancing, as Estonians have done for centuries.
4. Home-made cheese, cottage cheese food, beer.
5. Sauna is essential part of the family and friends gatherings and celebrations. Sauna drink is beer and jumping to the nearby lake/pond is a part of the tradition.
6. Cycling, swimming, rollerskating, jogging, canoeing.
7. Väike Tom, Koorejäätis and Regatt
8. Song Festival in Tallinn (every 4th year, also in 2009); Õllesummer (Beer Summer), July (Tallinn); Saarema Opera Days, July (Saarema); Viljandi Folk Festival, July (Viljandi)



Photo: Toomas Tuul

Estonians celebrating Jaanipäev by dancing in traditional costumes

FINLAND

1. Helsinki / Naantali
2. In Helsinki, the Fortress of Suomenlinna and the Linnanmäki amusement park. Elsewhere in the country, the archipelago in the southwest or the lake district in Finland's central east region.
3. Midsummer (juhannus) is traditionally spent in the countryside at summer cabins, where barbecue meals are prepared and the sauna is warm until the late hours of the night. Birch branches are used for decoration. Close to midnight, large bonfires are lit on the sea and lakeshores.
4. Anything from the barbecue, accompanied by new potatoes and pickled herring
5. The sauna is used all year round in cities and in the countryside, and a swim in either the lake or the sea is a beloved treat.
6. Kyykkä and mölkky are fun summer games in which wooden logs are thrown to knock down other wooden logs. Sailing, hiking, kayaking and other outdoor activities are also very popular.
7. Puffet, Pingviini-tuutti, Salmiakki ice creams
8. Ruisrock, July (Turku); Ankkarock, August (Vantaa); Flow Festival, August (Helsinki); Down by the Laituri, July-August (Turku)



Finns like to shop in the markets especially during summer and a cup of coffee in the sun is always nice.



LATVIA

1. Rīga / Jūrmala
2. In addition to Riga, visiting the Venta River waterfall (Ventas rumba) near Kuldīga is definitely worth it, which is possibly the widest waterfall in Europe. The waterfall is only about one metre high, but approximately 250 metres wide. When the water level is low, you can walk across the top of the falls.
3. Midsummer (Jāņi) is widely celebrated around Latvia. The most colorful Midsummer traditions are the ligo-songs, folk songs with a characteristic refrain "līgo, līgo". The celebrations cannot be imagined without Jāņi-fires, which are lit before sunset on the hilltops.
4. For the Midsummer celebration, the hostess makes cheese, but the master brews beer. All celebrants are treated with them.
5. The sauna is called pirts in Latvian. Latvians are enthusiastic sauna bathers. Both wet saunas and dry saunas are equally popular. A beer after sauna is considered refreshing and relaxing. In winter, the habit of ice swimming is connected with the sauna tradition.
6. Orienteering. Extreme sport enthusiasts like to try flying in a vertical wind tunnel called Aerodium.
7. Pols, Tio, Rūjienas
8. Rigas Ritmi, June-July (Riga); Medieval Festival, June (Cēsis); Opera Music Festival, July (Sigulda); Sea festival, July (Ventspils)



Photo: Imants Urtans, The Latvian Institute

Flying in the Aerodium



"Midsummer rose" blooms around Midsummer in all Central Baltic countries

SWEDEN

1. Stockholm / Visby, located on the island Gotland, is full of tourists in summer.
2. Among other things, the Skansen outdoor museum and the Gröna Lund amusement park, which are both located in Stockholm.
3. Midsummer (midsommar) is one of the most important days in the Swedish calendar. It is spent with friends and families, often in the countryside. Flowers are an important feature at Midsummer. A May pole (majstång) is raised in all parts of Sweden. The May pole is decorated with leaves and flowers, and people sing and dance around it.
4. A typical Midsummer menu includes various kinds of pickled herring, boiled new potatoes with fresh dill, sour cream and raw red onion. Fresh Swedish strawberries are an important feature for dessert. The traditional beverage is a cold beer and schnapps, preferably spiced.
5. In Sweden the sauna is called bastu. It isn't as popular as in Finland, for instance. A sauna bath is found mostly in countryside houses or in public swimming halls. In summer, the lakeside or seaside beaches and cliffs fill with folks wanting to enjoy the sun and water.
6. Sailing is popular in the areas close to the sea. Another typical summer activity is "kubb" where wooden blocks are knocked down by throwing wooden sticks at them.
7. Daimstrut, Sandwich, 88, Piggelin
8. Stockholm Jazz Festival, July (Stockholm); Stockholm Pride, July (Stockholm); Norrtälje Bluesfest, July (Norrtälje); Uppsala Reggae Festival, August (Uppsala)

ÅLAND

1. Mariehamn / All the municipalities on the islands are very much "summer cities".
2. The Åland Archipelago with its 6,500 islands is definitely the main tourist attraction, but the City of Mariehamn, Kastelholm medieval castle and the Pommern, a four-masted ship, are other examples of popular sites.
3. Midsummer is a festival that the people of Åland celebrate joyfully, preferably outdoors, with friends and family. The girls make wreaths of meadow flowers to wear on their heads. Get-together dinners and the raising of the village's own typical Midsummer pole (majstång) are also part of the traditional Midsummer celebrations.
4. Traditional foods for Midsummer are e.g. pickled fish and new potatoes combined with well-chilled schnapps, smoked and pickled salmon, crisp bread or black bread, and followed by tasty strawberry cake for dessert.
5. The sauna is always present in Finnish as well as Åland culture. As the sea is a very prominent element everywhere in Åland, swimming in the sea is common all over.
6. All sorts of water sports as well as hiking and biking.
7. Ice cream scoops in a waffle bought at an ice cream kiosk
8. Rockoff, July (Mariehamn); Island in the Sun, August (Jurmo, Brändö); Åland Jazz Festival, August (Mariehamn); Åland Sea Days, July (Mariehamn)



In Åland and Swedish Midsummer traditions the Midsummer pole is a prominent feature.

GEOISLANDS



Fostering geotourism on Central Baltic islands

The GEOISLANDS project draws its initial base from a previous INTERREG IIIA project where the Estonian-Finnish project raised awareness about the geology of the region. With the wider geography of the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme compared to the previous INTERREG IIIA programme, it was decided to put the islands in focus, change the partners from Finns to Swedes, and target local entrepreneurs instead of teachers, explains Project coordinator Heikki Bauert from the Lead Partner Geoguide Baltoscandia in Tallinn, Estonia.

The Central Baltic islands are considered to cover mainly Gotland, Åland islands, Saaremaa and Hiiumaa. While there has been vivid cooperation between the islands in the past and some nature tourism approaches have been seen, hardly any attention has been given to the geotourism potential and development of these areas.

The GEOISLANDS project aims at creating a solid base for cross-border geotourism development and promotion by doing nature tourism marketing research as well as producing materials for promoting geotourism activities in the geologically interesting Central Baltic islands with their unique landscapes. The project will contribute to the enhancement

of the island societies by offering their tourism sector a new approach that can be used to strengthen the economy of the islands in general.

The project will produce illustrated books, travel guides and educational video films to be used in the promotion of geotourism activities. A survey report on nature tourism marketing experiences in the Nordic countries will also be published, followed up by a training seminar to disseminate the findings of the survey to island-based tourism actors of the area. Exhibitions will be erected in Estonia and Sweden to promote the Central Baltic geotourism destinations to a wider audience.

The produced materials will be introduced to the public in conclusive exhibitions in Tallinn and Uppsala in 2011 as well as on the islands during spring 2012. Possible continuation activities could include, for example, cross-border geotourism routes developed by local tourism experts on exploring meteorite craters, fossils and sedimentary rocks in addition to the diverse coastal landscapes of the Baltic Sea.

Currently, the project is establishing its working structures with coordinators in Tallinn and Uppsala. Heikki Bauert is proud to say that the authors of the first book are already selected, the first video shoots are going to start on the Estonian islands during May 2009 and a road show is planned for the early summer 2009 on the islands to grow awareness about the project.

For the future applicants, Bauert would like to mention that the partner organisations and the people involved in the project partnership are crucial to the project implementation. Therefore, choose your partners carefully! With the right project team, the handling of project tasks should be a breeze. He also acknowledges the great help for project management from explicit and concise Programme manuals.



The soccer field-sized Kaali, the main meteorite crater on Saaremaa.

GEOISLANDS - Fostering geotourism on Central Baltic islands

(Sub-)programme: Central Baltic Programme
Priority: Economically competitive and innovative region
Direction of support: Supporting innovation and improving competitiveness
Project duration: January 2009 - December 2011 (3 years)

Approved budget: 880 647 euros
Approved ERDF: 707 880 euros

Lead partner: NGO GEOGUIDE BALTOSCANDIA, Tallinn, Estonia
Partners: Uppsala University, Department of Earth Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden
More information: www.centralbalticgeotourism.eu



STOCA



Study of cargo flows in the Gulf of Finland in emergency situations

Built on an existing partnership from previous INTERREG IIIA cooperation in the field of maritime logistics, the STOCA project takes on the task to build an emergency plan for the Finnish and Estonian authorities and business actors. The preparations for the new project with the Estonian partners already started in 2007 and there was a lot of anxiety before the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme finally had its first call, admits Project Manager Juha Heijari from Kotka Maritime Research Centre, the lead partner of STOCA.

More than three quarters of the transport in the Baltic Sea region takes place at sea. In addition to their own import and export, Finnish and Estonian ports handle a major share of the Russian transit traffic. Finnish ports have mainly concentrated on container import to Russia, Estonian ports carry a major share of the oil export from Russia. No study exists on how the very large maritime volumes could be handled if the operational environment were to radically change, e.g. if one or more ports or sea routes were closed down due to an economic crisis or an environmental hazard.

The STOCA project analyses various options for the region, in order to be prepared in the event an emergency situation occurred and the usual transport flows could not function normally. The plan will include an analysis on the capacity and potential for alternative routing in Finland and Estonia as well as estimations on the changes in traffic pattern and size of vessels.

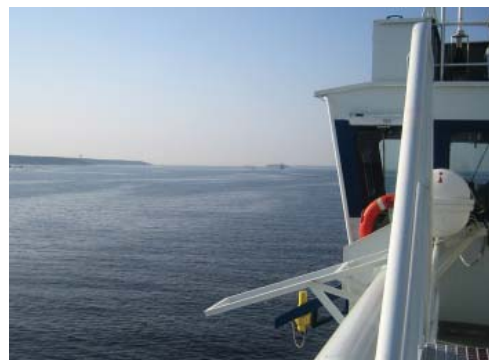
The project activities consist for a large part of data gathering from Finnish and Estonian ports as well as from literature,

interviews, database surveys and expert workshops. In order to create a simulation model, running different scenarios and analyzing various consequences will be the main method.

Ultimately, the project will provide a cargo simulation model for the authorities and business actors, together with suggestions on the strategies required and investment actions to be taken while preparing for a potential malfunction in the normal cargo flows of the Central Baltic area.

Currently, the project is gathering data for the simulations from Estonian and Finnish harbours. Completion of the task is anticipated in August 2009. After that, the data will be compiled with material from other sources (e.g., environmental impacts) and the scenario testing can continue. The outcome of the project is already looked forward to, and there have already been requests for the stimulation model and overall results from the STOCA project, Juha Heijari states.

It is important to take time and plan the project carefully, Heijari continues. The best way to build a project is from a genuine need for results.



STOCA - Study of cargo flows in the Gulf of Finland in emergency situations

(Sub-)programme: Southern Finland - Estonia Sub-programme
Priority: Economically competitive and innovative region
Direction of support: Creating and supporting innovative and competitive environments
Project duration: January 2009 - December 2010 (2 years)
Approved budget: 865 170 euros
Approved ERDF: 666 822 euros

Lead partner: Kotka Maritime Research Association, Kotka, Finland
Partners: University of Turku, Turku, Finland
 Lappeenranta University of Technology, Northern Dimension Research Centre, Lappeenranta, Finland
 Estonian Maritime Academy, Tallinn, Estonia
 Lappeenranta University of Technology, Kouvola Research Unit, Kouvola, Finland

More information: www.merikotka.fi/uk/STOCA.php





INTO PRACTISE

Central Baltic innovation tools for practise

The vast partnership of the INTO PRACTISE project with 11 partners from the four Central Baltic countries was built during 2007-2008 partly based on former partnerships of preceding cooperation and partly on new acquaintances. Project Coordinator Jukka Hakala from Porvoo International Services tells that the field of cooperation is new for the established partner composition.

In today's globalising world the competitiveness and co-operation demand has increased, and the actors can no longer survive without united efforts with other actors and sectors of society. The principles of the European social model encouraging work for all, social equality and a safe environment can be maintained by investing in a high level of education, applications of science and technology in addition to establishing strategic networks to facilitate cooperation.

The aim of the INTO PRACTISE project is to establish a permanent Central Baltic Innovation Network of partners that share similar challenges in strengthening their competitiveness. The aim is to enable knowledge transfer between companies and education institutions to reach the best possible innovation capacity of individuals and organisations. This innovativeness is preferably to be implemented in the organisation as well as in the content of the education provided in the institutions involved.

The project will produce an analysis of the good practices used in companies related to competitive advantage by doing

interviews at companies in all the participating regions. The results of the analysis will be introduced to companies and educational institutions belonging to the network in nine seminars.

Besides creating the network that will also continue to function after the project with contact persons in all the participating regions, an electronic publication will be published on the analysis results, and practical study materials will be made available for various educational institutions, be they vocational education institutions, colleges or universities.

The project had its opening seminar in April 2009 in Porvoo, Finland, with external specialist speeches as well as an internal planning meeting including all project partners. The next steps will include working with a consultant in planning the structure for the company interviews. The interviews will be conducted after summer, and Jukka Hakala expects the analysis results to be ready by the end of 2009.

When dealing with cooperation partners from other countries, it is important to always make sure that everyone shares the same understanding of where the project is going. It is sometimes a challenge in the international setting, Hakala says, and points out that it is highly advisable to use the Joint Technical Secretariat's assistance from the early phase of the project preparation onwards.

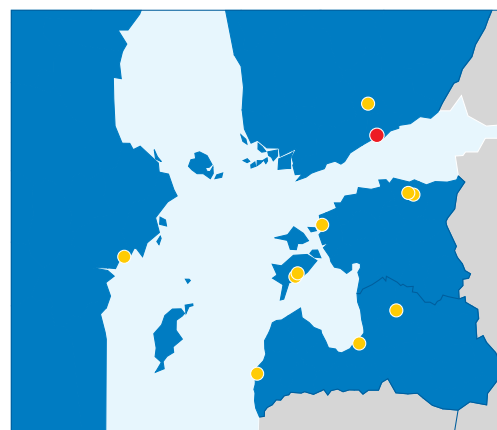
INTO PRACTISE - Central Baltic innovation tools for practise

(Sub-)programme: Central Baltic Programme
Priority: Economically competitive and innovative region
Direction of support: Supporting innovation and improving competitiveness
Project duration: January 2009 - December 2011 (3 years)

Approved budget: 880 647 euros
Approved ERDF: 707 880 euros

Lead partner: Porvoo International Services, Porvoo, Finland
Partners: Lahti region Educational Consortium, Salpaus Further Education, Lahti Finland
 Nyköpings Gymnasium, Nyköping, Sweden
 Tallinn University Haapsalu College, Haapsalu, Estonia
 Kuressaare College of Tallinn University of Technology, Kuressaare, Estonia
 Kuressaare regional Training Centre, Kuressaare, Estonia
 Lääne-Viru School of Applied Sciences, Vinni vald, Mödriku, Estonia
 Rakvere Vocational School, Rakvere Estonia
 Vidzeme University College, Valmiera, Latvia
 School of Business administration Turība, Rīga, Latvia
 Riga technical University Liepāja branch, Liepāja, Latvia

More information: www.pkol.net (>Porvoo International Services >



Previously presented:
1/5: REGIONAL COUNCIL OF SOUTHWEST FINLAND

2/5: ENTERPRISE ESTONIA

Looking for synergy



• Tarmo Leppoja
Member of the Board of Enterprise Estonia

Enterprise Estonia is one of the largest institutions of the national support system for entrepreneurship and regional development in Estonia, providing financial assistance, advisory services, cooperation opportunities and training.

Pursuant to the accession of Estonia into the European Union, Enterprise Estonia became one implementing unit of the structural funds of the European Union in Estonia. Most of the grants and programmes are co-financed from the structural funds.

The new financing period of the European structural funds of 2007-2013 means considerably larger volumes for Enterprise Estonia. Enterprise Estonia applies more than 830 million out of the total of more than 3.4 billion euros of structural assistance for Estonia.

There are many support programmes in the sector of regional development, e.g. the investment support for the improvement of the local public services, programme for local initiative, etc. The Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013 is one of the largest amongst them. This is not only because of the 102 million euro budget but also because it incorporates all our target groups. Whilst other regional programmes are

mainly for NGOs and local governments, the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme enables support to be given to good ideas from many different kinds of organisations; including, with certain restrictions, the Estonian private sector.

In Enterprise Estonia, we are convinced that territorial cooperation programmes are unique and special. Problems or good ideas do not stop at state borders. National frontiers can be an obstacle but also an enormous challenge where different cultures, approaches and ideas make up great opportunities. I consider it really effective to host the Programme's office at Enterprise Estonia. Having several years' experience behind me in the implementation of various support programmes, I believe we have enough competence to contribute to the achievement of good results in the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme. At the same time, we are gaining knowledge and learning cooperation in a large international effort – an ideal input to improve other activities using the valuable experience we have obtained from the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme.

The Joint Technical Secretariat of the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme is divided into five office locations (Turku, Mariehamn, Tallinn, Riga and Stockholm). Each office is hosted by a local organisation. Enterprise Estonia is the host organization of the JTS Sub-secretariat Tallinn.



Photo: Ain Avik / Tallinn City Tourist Office & Convention Bureau



Photo: Port of Tallinn / Tallinn City Tourist Office & Convention Bureau



- ▶ 3rd AI Steering Committee meeting in Estonia, **June 16-17, 2009**
3rd SFE Steering Committee meeting in Finland, **August 25-26, 2009**
3rd CB Steering Committee meeting in Åland, **September 1-2, 2009**
- ▶ 3rd Call for applications opens on **September 15, 2009**
- ▶ Project Development seminars for 3rd-Call applicants will be organised in all participating countries **during September 2009**
- ▶ First Showcase Conference of the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013 in Stockholm, Sweden, **September 15, 2009**
- ▶ Lead Partner seminar for 2nd-Call approved projects in Tallinn, Estonia and Stockholm, Sweden, **October 2009**
- ▶ 3rd Call for proposals closes on **October 15, 2009**
- ▶ Communication seminar for 1st- and 2nd-Call approved projects in Riga, Latvia, **November 2009**
- ▶ 4th Monitoring Committee meeting in Latvia, **November 25, 2009**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ www.centralbaltic.eu!

Almost 25.000 visits have already been paid to the Programme's new website launched in February. On the site you'll find all the latest information, facts on the running projects, various documents, an event calendar, contact details of the secretariat and much more. You can also subscribe to the Programme's email list online to always be among the first to receive the news from the Programme!

CENTRAL BALTIC INTERREG IV A PROGRAMME IN A NUTSHELL

The Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013 is an EU funding programme aiming at co-operation across the borders of Estonia, Finland (incl. Åland), Sweden and Latvia. The Programme gives funding to projects dealing with environment, competitiveness and innovation as well as the attractiveness of the societies.

Aiming at cross-border co-operation in the Central Baltic Sea region, the funded projects are to have partners from at least two of the participating countries. The duration of the projects is normally 2-3 years and the approximate average budget around 1 million euros. The potential partners include local and regional authorities, state organisations and organisations established for general interest needs as well as NGOs and for Southern Finland – Estonia co-operation private enterprises with certain restrictions. For more detailed definitions see the Programme Manual available on the Programme's website.

More information about the Programme and applying for funding can be found at www.centralbaltic.eu as well as by contacting the Joint Technical Secretariat with its offices in Turku, Mariehamn, Tallinn, Riga and Stockholm. Contact information can be found on the website.

