

**Partnership Annual Conference (PAC)
Seventh Conference
Copenhagen, Denmark
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Title	NDPHS participation in and contribution to the 1 st Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
Submitted by	Secretariat
Summary / Note	-
Requested action	For information

1. Introduction

On 14-15 October 2010, the 1st Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) took place in Tallinn, Estonia. The aim of the Forum was to provide an opportunity for approximately 500 stakeholders (among them those involved in the implementation of the EUSBSR) to examine what has been achieved so far and to consider the way forward.

The Plenary opening session on the first day of the Forum was followed by five parallel workshops: (i) "I pillar -To make the Baltic Sea Region an environmentally sustainable place;" (ii) "II pillar – To make the Baltic Sea Region a prosperous place;" (iii) "III pillar – To make the Baltic Sea Region an accessible and attractive place;" (iv) "IV pillar – To make the Baltic Sea Region a safe and secure place;" (v) "Horizontal issues."

On the second day the discussions took place in five parallel thematic groups: (i) "Knowledge management;" (ii) "Maritime policy;" (iii) "Promoting contacts between partners in the whole Baltic Sea Region;" (iv) "Green growth;" (v) "Inclusion of private sector." The Forum concluded with a plenary discussion.

2. NDPHS' contribution to the Forum

The NDPHS Secretariat took part in the Forum and made the following contributions:

- **Workshop III: To make the Baltic Sea Region an accessible and attractive place**

During the workshop the coordinators of priority areas 10-12 of the EUSBSR Action Plan were invited to report on the progress within their respective areas. The NDPHS Secretariat made a presentation on the progress in the implementation of the EUSBSR health actions within the priority area 12 "To maintain and reinforce attractiveness of the Baltic Sea Region in particular through education, tourism and health."¹ Further, the Head of the Secretariat participated in the panel discussion, where he presented additional information on the NDPHS activities in the field of health and social well-being.

¹ Cf. ppt presentation available at:
[http://www.ndphs.org/?doc,PAC_12_3_\(health\)_presentation_by_NDPHS_\(14_10_2010\).ppt](http://www.ndphs.org/?doc,PAC_12_3_(health)_presentation_by_NDPHS_(14_10_2010).ppt) .

- **Thematic discussion III: Promoting contacts between partners in the whole Baltic Sea Region**

The aim of the discussion was to address the challenge of promoting contacts between partners in the whole Baltic Sea Region and to share experiences in cooperation with different stakeholders, including non-EU countries. The Head of the Secretariat participated in the panel discussion, where he presented the example of pragmatic and successful collaboration between the EU and non-EU countries within the NDPHS framework. Further, while recalling the character of the Northern Dimension policy, he stressed the importance of ensuring the vision of “the Baltic Sea Region without dividing lines” also in the context of the EUSBSR. The presentations followed with an open discussion, where Russia’s support and constructive approach towards collaboration within the NDPHS was commanded several times. The abovementioned plea to ensure that there would be no new dividing lines created in the Baltic Sea region became one of the main conclusions of this thematic discussion, which was also reflected in the concluding remarks during the plenary discussion.

- **Promotion of the NDPHS project concepts**

The participants of the Forum were invited to present concrete project ideas related to the 15 priority areas of the EUSBSR, with an aim to attract the attention of the donors and project partners. An opportunity was provided to display, on large boards, project ideas, partner requests or specific funding needs. Six project concepts developed for the NDPHS Seminar on project development and funding, and submitted to the Secretariat in time before the Forum, were also presented during the event.

3. Conclusions

The event provided an opportunity for the NDPHS to inform about its achievements during the thematic workshops and discussions. Importantly, the success of the NDPHS was highlighted also by other stakeholders and in the concluding remarks of the plenary session, which is a clear sign of the constantly increasing role and visibility of the NDPHS in the region. The effective representation of the NDPHS at the Forum further contributed to the visibility and recognition of the Partnership.