

**EG Chairs and ITAs  
Seventeenth Meeting  
Berlin, Germany  
7 February 2014**



Northern Dimension  
Partnership in Public Health  
and Social Well-being  
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<b>Reference</b>	EG Chairs and ITAs 17/3/Info 2
<b>Title</b>	Public consultation: draft Operational Programme and draft Environmental Report for the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat
<b>Summary / Note</b>	-
<b>Requested action</b>	For information

**From:** "Bohland, Patricia" <[Patricia.Bohland@eu.baltic.net](mailto:Patricia.Bohland@eu.baltic.net)>

**Date:** Friday, 31 January 2014 14:26

**Subject:** Public consultation: comment the draft Operational Programme and the Draft Environmental Report for the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020

Dear Sir or Madam,

As member of the Reference Group we would like to invite you to participate in the public consultation process on the draft Operational Programme and the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 which is launched today.

The new Programme has been under preparation since early 2012. During the entire process we have applied a participatory approach to assure that the Programme meets the actual needs for transnational cooperation in the region. The current public consultation is part of this process, as well.

The aim of the public consultation is to identify potential gaps or inconsistencies in the documents based on the expertise and views of stakeholders and potential target groups. However, due to the advanced state of programme development, fundamental changes in the Programme's strategic focus and set-up are unlikely. Please take this into consideration in your comments and focus mainly on qualitative improvements within the given structure of funding priorities.

The current public consultation is organised as a parallel consultation process for

- a) the **Draft Operational Programme** and
- b) the related **Draft Environmental Report**.

Your comments to either of the two documents are welcome **until Friday, 28 March 2014** (*due to national legislation Lithuanian institutions can exceptionally provide their comments until Friday, 11 April*). We kindly encourage earlier responses that would provide more time to the programming bodies for appraisal and follow-up. All of your comments need to be provided in English language and have to specify clearly the commenting organisation.

To find more information on the public consultation, the Draft Operational Programme or the Draft Environmental Report and to **download the PDF commenting forms** please see: <http://eu.baltic.net>

Please submit the filled PDF commenting forms by email to [consultation@eu.baltic.net](mailto:consultation@eu.baltic.net).

Based on the comments received the final version of the Operational Programme will be developed. Submission of the Programme to the EU Commission is currently envisaged for mid-2014. An approval by the EU Commission is expected in the last quarter of 2014.

Thank you in advance for your contribution!

Kind regards,

Patricia Bohland

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<http://eu.baltic.net>

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2\_Public\_consultation\_draft\_OP\_and\_Environmental\_Report\_for\_BSR\_2014-2020.doc