

BSSSC Innovation Transfer Working Group Minutes

Date: 26 January 2022

Online meeting

14:00 – 15:30 CET

Present:

Latvia: Ms Inese Suija-Markova (Vice-Chairman of the Vidzeme Planning Region Development Council), Ms Laila Gercane (Head of Development / Projects Department, Vidzeme Planning Region), Ms Marta Riekstiņa (BSSSC Youth Contact Person in Vidzeme Region)

Germany: Mr Marko Butcha (Expert in Ministry of Finance and European Affairs), Mr Jens Unruh (Head of Department, Economic Development Agency Brandenburg), Mr Ronald Lieske (Director of the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat, Interreg Baltic Sea Region), Ms Marta Ślęzak-Warszycka (Team Leader in Interreg Baltic Sea Region Project's Unit)

Norway: Mr Ola Erik Rostad (The Chief Executive Officer, Tretorget AS)

Poland: Ms Monika Schneider (Communication Officer, BSSSC Secretariat), Ms Karolina Harasimowicz (Communication Officer, Westpomeranian Region), Mr Wiesław Urban (Professor in Białystok University of Technology), Mr Robert Girejko (Expert in Białystok University of Technology)

Finland: Ms Sonja Palhus (Manager of International Affairs, Regional Council of Southwest Finland)

Estonia: Ms Svea Uusen (Business Development Consultant, Pärnu County Development Centre)

Netherlands: Mr Ad Faasse (Innovation Transfer Expert)

1. Opening of the BSSSC Innovation Transfer Working Group

Ms Inese Suija-Markova, Vice-Chairman of the Vidzeme Planning Region Development Council

1.1. Opening the meeting

Ms Inese Suija-Markova welcomed the participants of this years' first BSSSC Innovation Transfer Working Group and introduced them with the agenda and objective of the group. Afterwards, a short introduction round amongst the participants took place.

2. Innovation transfer from Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme's point of view

Mr Ronald Lieske, Director of the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat in Interreg Baltic Sea Region, and Marta Ślęzak-Warszycka, Team Leader in Interreg Baltic Sea Region Project's Unit.

Mr Lieske and Ms Ślęzak-Warszycka introduced the Innovation transfer from Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme's point of view, including what's expected from the regions and how regional politicians and administrations can assist the Programme in achieving its ambitions.

The presentation (*attached in the e-mail*) consisted of:

- Programme in a nutshell;
- Project types;
- Topics for cooperation;
- Innovation societies in the spotlight;
- Calls for application;
- Support;
- Upcoming webinars

With the emphasis on public authorities as the main policy actors in the regions.

3. Open Talk session (Q&A)

3.1. **Mr Ad Faasse asked** about the ecological situation which isn't listed amongst the important aspects regarding the Baltic Sea.

Ms Marta Ślęzak-Warszycka: Our focus is clearly on green aspect when we are looking at the projects contributing to Ultra Smart cities, so this is exactly the characteristic of the program. It's clear that the focus is on green transition in priorities two and three.

3.2. **Mr Ad Faasse asked** about bringing together older and newer generations and behavioural shift. "It is the wisdom of the elder people and the curiosity younger people that make the change. I missed that vision."

Ms Marta Ślęzak-Warszycka: We are looking into awareness rising. Our further events will work as awareness raising activities as it's become clear for us that we need to build consensus across generations by holistic approach.

3.3. **Mr Marko Butcha asked:** Do you work together with the policy learning platforms of Interreg Europe?

Mr Ronald Lieske: Our platforms are based on our programme area – it's a focus on Baltic Sea cooperation and they do involve projects from other funding sources. We have other research projects, like Horizon etc. Whenever we are starting the platforms, we are also looking for a direct contact in the specific secretariats and support tools.

3.4. **Ms Laila Gercāne:** What if there won't be a positive result to the upcoming experimental project processes?

Ms Marta Ślęzak-Warszycka: There are two aspects – firstly, we are trying to incorporate the element of testing of the solutions immediately into the structure of the core project. Secondly – the pilots are made to see if the solutions work so if certain aspects of the solution aren't functional, our programme is very flexible on changing the approaches and trying out new ways. We are looking for solutions that have already reached some level of maturity and have been analysed but we're also open-minded to new concepts.

3.5. **Mr Ad Faasse: What could we as applicants learn from the previous policy period? What could be modified in the future?**

Mr Ronald Lieske: We were basing all of our advancement of the programme on our past experience and the projects we've been monitoring. Currently we expect much more mature partnership for the core projects so that they'd really know the needs of their target groups. We're looking forward to much more involvement from the implementers.

4. Presentation of the annual work plan of the Innovation Transfer Group, planning future meetings

Ms Laila Gercane provided the agenda for the next meetings:

No	2022	Date	Meeting	Topic
1st	January	26.01. 2022	Innovation Transfer Group	Innovation and Role of Regions in New Programming Period of Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme . Discussion. Planning brainstorm.
2nd	March	02.03.2022	Innovation Transfer Group	Learning from nature. Nature systems/innovation systems. tbc.
3rd	April	27.04.2022	Innovation Transfer Group	tbc.
4th	May	25.05.2022	Innovation Transfer Group	tbc.
5th	August	24.08.2022	Innovation Transfer Group	Annual conference and Resolution
	October	06.10.2022	BSSSC Board and Annual Conference	tbc.
6th	October	26.10.2022	Innovation Transfer Group	tbc.
7th	November	30.11.2022	Innovation Transfer Group	Next year's planning

The participants were invited to give their answer to a question “Which subjects do you find important to actualise during our meetings?” (<https://www.menti.com/253s2y4dmg>) and gave their opinion on certain experts whose opinions would be valuable in relation of the provided topics.

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 5624 5128

Please list subjects you find important to actualise during our meetings



5. End of the meeting

As there were no further comments, Ms Suija-Markova thanked everybody gathered online for fruitful discussions and closed the meeting.