

Baltic Sea Youth Declaration

LAST UPDATED AT: BALTIC SEA YOUTH CAMP 2019



**BALTIC SEA
YOUTH CAMP**

HOTEL ORLE GDANSK 8-11 JUNE 2019



UBC
UNION
OF THE BALTIC
COUNTRIES



Preamble:

This Youth Declaration is an outcome of a long process that is brought alive by youth representatives from Euroregion Baltic (ERB), the Union of Baltic Cities and the Baltic Sea State Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC).

The Declaration represents the views and opinions of the participants of the Baltic Sea Youth Camp that took place in Gdansk from the 8-11th of June 2019. The views, recommendations and opinions were written keeping the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in mind and can be executed and supported by every stakeholder in the Baltic Sea Area.

The youth declaration has other relevant documents attached that were written by youth and express their opinion. The goal of this document is it to give the youth a voice.

This declaration and the other documents can also be found at:

<https://www.balticyouthcamp.org/>

To the reader,

At the Baltic Sea Youth Camp an extraordinary amount of young people came together with eager and commitment to change the world, starting with the Baltic Sea Region. The networks that were built, the ideas that were created and the output are all beyond expectations.

The youth has worked hard throughout the days to ensure this outcome and has presented their views afterwards of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Annual Forum (EUSBSR), the Kaliningrad Partner Regions meeting and other events afterwards. After the camp, many youths continued to work on the projects to ensure the Baltic Sea Region will be a prosper and sustainable area for everyone to live a healthy life.

The youth strongly expressed that they want the youth camp to take part again, which could be organized by implementing the “One Youth platform in the Baltic Sea Region” concept that is also enclosed, and we believe that the results call for this as well.

We look back with great pride and emotion to the days at the camp, as the number of great ideas and strong opinions expressed during those days were above any of our expectations and hope for support for repeating this event.

Best Regards,

Agnes Lusti and Martin Rümmelein

Youth members of the BSSSC board. Editors of this Document.

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Summary

By Aline Mayr and Johanna Brücker

Baltic Sea Youth Camp – Nothing about us, without us!

We, the participants of the Baltic Sea Youth Camp, young people from all over the Baltic Sea Region worked hard to develop new ideas and projects for the region, back to back with the 10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Gdansk. Together we discussed the current issues and those of tomorrow concerning the Baltic Sea Region. We discussed and formulated demands for policy-makers and developed projects to tackle the challenges.

The Baltic Sea Youth Camp was initiated by Martin Rümmelein, a youth representative board member of the BSSSC. The vision was to create a camp which will work on a common youth declaration with the contributions of young people from different regional organizations and living in the region. This declaration will combine all the existing youth declarations that haven't been taken serious for too long. The voice of the youth who inherits the decisions of today is louder than ever before in the Baltic Sea Region.

To sustain our effort and ensure youth participation in the future we call for the inclusion of the **Baltic Sea Youth Camp in future EUSBSR Annual Forum budgets**.

Furthermore, we demand a **single youth platform located at the CBSS** to connect young people virtually and physically and interact to implement our ideas in the future. The aim is to enhance cooperation between different Baltic Sea organizations and to give a real voice to the youth.

Therefore, we are proud to present the main projects we have developed throughout our meeting:

1. The youth of the Baltic Sea region envisions a **Baltic Sea Music and Culture Festival** (Baltic Crocodile Festival). The festival shall be intergenerational, inclusive for everyone and gender-equal, as well as free and outdoors. The festival shall happen in different countries every year and be related to a youth event in the specific area. Connecting people, creating visibility and making cultural awareness fun, in a sustainable way. A festival for everyone, organized by and for the youth.
2. To achieve our goals, we see education as one main facilitator. To address the very young in our region we imagine a **book for children** promoting the SDGs that is designed by artists from the region. Find more information about the project on the Facebook page: 'Baltic Sea Belongs to Kids'.
3. We envision a **university on a ship crossing the Baltic Sea**. Focusing on SDG 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water) and 15 (life on land), the university will ensure research-oriented, interdisciplinary and intercultural learning. The results shall be discussed with the societies, where the ship docks to transfer the

gained knowledge and outcomes and to take the considerations of the societies into account.

4. Young people should be given **more advice for mental health**. Volunteers shall visit schools and talk to youngsters in a safe space. This could help to reduce the stress in schools and create a better environment for youngsters to grow up.
5. Young people all over the Baltic Sea region are struggling to make their career choices. We suggest creating a **deliberated career choice platform** to help students and young professionals to find an ideal career for their talents and to create a more prosper economy.
6. Digitalization is one of the major challenges of the time. To communicate information clearer and to lower the threshold of participation, we envision the development of an **inter-regional online application**. The basic information about organisations active in the region and their projects should be transparent.
7. The Baltic Sea Region should work for a more **green and healthy forest**. The wood consumption should be balanced through a better forest education, support of youth initiatives and the ban of clear cuts.
8. The Baltic Sea includes 7 of the 10 large marine dead zones in the world and we see pollution as one of the key issues of the region. **Cooperation and communication of the different stakeholders** is needed in a more specific and effective way to preserve and restore the health of the sea.
9. The Baltic Sea Region shall **produce the least amount of waste in the world**. Therefore, we demand concrete measures regarding tap water, maritime transport, education and green choices.
10. In this regard, we also plan **to reduce plastic** in our everyday life. We envision a common pant system, the prohibition of plastic and common regulations on usage of plastic, as well as the promotion of alternatives.

Our proposals are based on the SDGs and combine the ideas of more than 100 participants in the Baltic Sea Youth Camp. They are feasible and realistic to be implemented.

We will continue to work on our projects. And we will make sure the Baltic Sea Region will be a prosper and sustainable area for everyone to live a healthy life.

More information on the outcomes of the Baltic Sea Youth Camp can be found on our website: balticyouthcamp.org

Instagram: @balticyouthcamp

Facebook: Baltic Youth Camp

and Twitter: @BalticYouthCamp

Health

Youths mental health

Problems:

Statistics show that students today are the most stressed in history are scared of their future and lack self-confidence.

Vision:

We believe that we need empowered students because the suicide rates are at an unacceptable level. Students should be able to archive personal growth. We strongly believe that Obligatory "Support" classes once a week for the students at all schools can result in empowered students, lower suicide rates, and personal growth.

Commitments:

We commit to helping to recruit volunteers. Talk to our principals at school about implementing these classes. We will also promote the idea via social media and talk to stakeholders.

Recommendations:

We Recommend making the support-class an obligatory class 1 hour a week in all schools, start to recruit volunteers. Start to seek support on this subject for support from and engage with politicians, NGOs & Ministries.

Environment

The Baltic Sea

Problem:

The Baltic Sea has seven of the world's ten largest marine dead zones – areas where the sea's oxygen has been used up. At worst the dead zones covered 25% of the Baltic Sea.

Vision:

To conserve and restore the health of the Baltic sea.

Therefore, we share responsibility for the Baltic sea, strive to live in harmony with nature, and must work to minimize the human-made effects of climate change and restore the biodiversity of the Baltic Sea. We want the BSR to be the region that produces the least amount of waste (both material and emissions) in the whole world, also considering the emissions and waste that is produced in other countries due to our consumption. The Baltic Sea Region has to be the **greenest** region in the world.

Commitments:

We commit to reduce, reuse, recycle and repair! what we use.

Organize both local and regional campaigns, clean-ups and discussions in order to increase awareness of the poor state of the Baltic Sea biodiversity.

Individually participate in events related to the biodiversity of the Baltic Sea.

Recommendations:

We recommend setting concrete measures and action-plan via cooperation and communication with stakeholders. We recommend developing an EU level regulation in order to control the number of excess nutrients originating particularly from agricultural activities, as well as from nitrogen emissions from transportation which cause eutrophication.

We recommend organizing think-tanks in close cooperation with the scientific community to develop a plan of action dedicated fight against alien species in the Baltic Sea.

We recommend developing a strategy for governments to involve all social groups, also young people, in projects related to the restoration of biodiversity.

We recommend involving different stakeholders starting from NGO's to international governments and the scientific community.

We recommend by following the 5 R's in all public and municipal decision-making and activities (refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, rot). An important part is not using single-use items.

We recommend by implementing and broadening national recycling systems - implementing the deposit-refund system (such as 'pant') in all of the BSR countries and introducing it to other materials, and by implementing organic waste management.

We recommend by raising awareness and providing education on environmental topics and on how private actors, non-governmental organizations, and inhabitants can produce less waste.

We recommend by ensuring a sustainable maritime transport industry that does not pollute the sea, by using policy examples from other successful strategies.

We recommend considering the environmental impact of every decision.

Forestry

Problems:

We identify Deforestation as a result of inappropriate management and illegal cutting – f.ex. Poland is still trying to clear Biatowieza forest. We see a biodiversity loss (Conservation of 60% of species and 77% of habits is threatened). Climate change has an impact on invasive species, diseases, and forest fires. We see a lack of green spaces in urban areas and see harmful transportation of humans and goods.

Vision:

Our vision is a Green and healthy forest for everyone through a balance between wood consumption and replanting.

Commitment:

We commit to Positive social activism like Youth Forest Camps such as “Youth for Youth”.

Recommendations:

We recommend supporting Youth interactivities and to ban clear cuts.

We recommend a recycling system and “Forest Education” for everyone. We recommend improving the working conditions in the forestry sector unencouraged the use of nature-friendly technologies in forestry sector.

Consumer behaviour

Problems:

We see overuse of plastic in everyday life. Especially in cases of packaging, plastic is difficult to avoid. The single-use of items made of plastic. Especially cutlery, straws, and plastic bags are areas in need of new regulations. Consumers often encounter a lack of information about alternatives. Although there might be people willing to change their consumption behaviour, they might not be aware of ways to avoid the use of plastic in everyday life.

Vision:

We envision a deposit system for bottles and plastic bags and the promotion of other alternatives and the create regulations of using plastic.

Commitment:

We commit to rethinking our consumption behaviour, to change our use of plastic and try to encourage others to do the same. We want to only use cotton bags and change from plastic to glass bottles.

Recommendation:

We recommend buying cotton bags and have glass bottles for multiple uses! We recommend the adoption of a deposit system for bottles and optional for plastic bags would improve the recycling of mentioned items greatly. Some European countries already adopted those systems, but in our opinion, there is a long way to go in many countries.

We recommend promoting alternatives to plastic items. We would like politicians to consider an information campaign. We recommend higher taxes introduced on plastic bags in all shops.

Our most ambitious wish for the future is something that might sound familiar to participants from EU member countries. We would like to have national laws reconsider the use of plastic in packaging and in single-use items. We think, that it is up to modern and sustainable legislation to deal with one of the biggest challenges of our time: keeping the oceans clean and try the best to encourage responsible use of limited resources.

Book of SDGs for children

Problem:

We see that people have small, or no knowledge about the SDGs, which makes it harder to achieve them.

Vision:

A book for children about the SDGs filled with designs done by artists from the region. A book that will learn children about the SDGs from early on, and to affect them to make the environmental decisions.

Commitment:

We commit sharing further information about the project on the Facebook page: 'Baltic Sea Belongs to Kids.'

Recommendations:

We recommend investing in this project with time and resources.

Youth participation

Cultural exchange

Problems:

According to the latest Eurobarometer on youth (2018) Youth participation in cultural organizations in the BSR is decreasing, a trend contrary to the EU development.

Vision:

We envision a gender-inclusive and inter-generational festival for Youth to interact and exchange culture. The festival shall happen in different countries every year and be related to a youth event in a specific area. This to connect people, create visibility and to make cultural awareness fun, in a sustainable way. A festival for everyone, organized by the youth.

Commitment:

Therefore, we will bring together young people from all over the BSR creating the Crocodile Festival, offering workshops on all dimensions of the diverse Baltic Sea regional culture.

Recommendations:

A festival is seen as the best measure for youth organizations to involve youth in their activities.

Solving Information in-transparency for the Youth

Problems:

We can see many local efforts and actions. Single efforts are futile since synergies across borders cannot be leveraged. Fractured resources regarding information ranging from I.e. , labour job prospects, skill development and “best case examples” lead to people only seeing bits and pieces of the whole picture.

Vision:

We, the youth, have the means to solve problems and connect existing solutions among all states sharing the Baltic Sea region. We communicate and cooperate without being hindered by physical borders or limitations of local communities. A better-connected youth can abolish invisible boundaries and foster individual and communal growth. To create the future, we desire starting now; we need to consolidate our efforts effectively.

Commitment:

We intend to work closely with local authorities, promote and circulate the spirit in our local communities.

We dedicate our time and resources to co-designing a common platform and contribute to ensure its longevity and sustainability.

Recommendation:

We recommend to facilitate our commitments and tackle the problems internationally by implementing a digital platform. A transcendent connection and source of information can rid the problem of information in-transparency in the Baltic Sea region. A common platform can fertilize a continuous dialogue and engagement of the youth.

We encourage to push for a use of the platform through youth organizations, social movements, and educational institutions.

Deliberate career choice - future success for an individual and a country.

Problems:

High school and bachelor years are considered critical for adolescents.

Failure by students to make the right choice may lead to unhappiness and disapproval by society.

Most students apply for tertiary education without knowledge of what they want to pursue.

Multiple studies have revealed that high school and bachelor years are considered critical for adolescents (Amoah et al., 2015:57; Rowland, 2004:1; Maluwa-Banda, 1998:294), because they are a transitional period from school to work. Failure by students to make the right choices may lead to unhappiness and disapproval by society (Maluwa-Banda, 1998:294).

Most students pass this stage without having chosen their careers because they are confused and apply for tertiary education without knowledge of what they want to pursue (Manuel & Asuquo, 2009:135). According to Eurostat, European countries spend on average 5% of their GDP on education. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate among young adults is 14.9%. Moreover, statistics show that, on average, 40% of adults work outside their field of education. Governmental budget is spent, but to what extent is this spending efficient in a long-term perspective?

Vision:

We envision educational workshops, Improvement of career guidance and counseling for secondary- and higher-education students to support healthy career choice, engage youth in education and drive economic growth through clearly set goals and efficient use of governmental budgets.

Commitment:

We commit to telling younger generation about their studies at universities.

We commit to telling younger generation about their studies at universities.

We commit to sharing own professional experience.

Recommendations:

We recommend implementing open days at technology parks, Shadowing days where secondary school students would be able to follow a professional working in their field of interest, Workshops of professionals in career guidance and education at high schools. We recommend entrepreneurs as lecturers, encouraging the application of knowledge in business and industries, Internships as a part of higher education. Increased practical work both at secondary and higher education institutions.

Appendix

Appendix 1 Concept Paper, One Baltic Sea youth Platform

Concept paper

One Youth platform in the Baltic Sea Region

This concept is the outcome of a meeting of the Baltic Youth 2030 on May 6th and 7th 2019 in Gdansk, Poland. At the meeting young participants, coming from various Baltic Sea Organizations discussed how they would like to change the structure of transnational youth work in the Baltic Sea Region.

Summary:

The concept paper "One Youth Platform for the Baltic Sea Region" recommends the implementation of a single platform for youth engagement in the Baltic Sea Region, both virtual and physical.

This should be located at the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat in Stockholm, Sweden and should be equipped with adequate resources. The platform will give the youth a real voice and facilitate cooperation between different Baltic Sea organizations.

Why do we need a one youth platform for the Baltic Sea region?

Youth on a Baltic Sea level in the Baltic Sea Region has many different facades and is existing on many different levels. We think that this is one of the significant strengths but there are also many weaknesses that are coming along with this, especially if the youth work does not have one common platform where coordination, facilitation, and cooperation can be addressed, and best practices can be exchanged, this makes the voice of the youth heard.

The aim is to make the Baltic Sea Region a sustainable and prosperous region for youth engagement on a transnational as well as a national level. The momentum is now, and right now it is possible to overcome the fragmentation of youth work and other existing difficulties!

What should be the operating agenda?

The Baltic Sea Youth Platform should bring different Baltic Sea Organizations that work with youth together, virtually through a digital platform as well as physically. Both are used to update other organizations and stakeholders on projects, on how to find new cooperation's, to have meetings and to work on common projects and more.

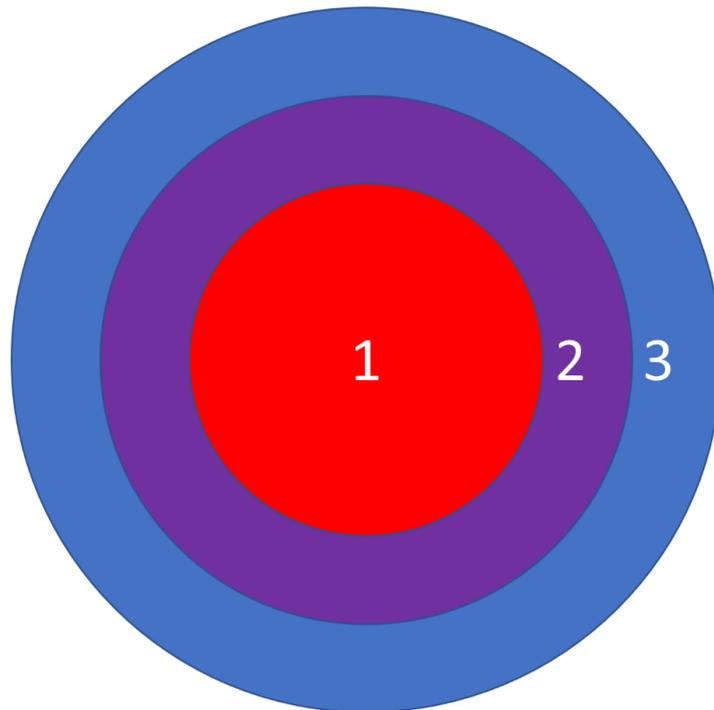
The digital Platform could consist of different channels regarding different topics and should be based on an already existing platform, e.g., Microsoft Teams, Slack or Trello. This digital platform should be moderated by one responsible.

Physically the youth platform should bring the youth together at least three times of the year, with two meetings consisting out of the inner Layer (*See more under Structure*) while one will invite all Layers for a big annual conference which could be attached to one of the mayor happenings, e. g. the EUSBSR Annual Conference. This meeting should be used to gather different positions from all organizations and put them into one "living" document, as well as a significant platform that encourages more cooperation.

The Platform should also be a link between the Youth and the CBSS Mission. It should make the voice of the youth heard and enable easy interaction between both sides. The platform should also publish the youth positions and keep a website up to date.

Structure

As one of the most frequently asked questions is which organizations to organize where and when, we came up with a three layer approach. Each of the layers represents a different type of organization.



The first (inner) layer, labelled with a "1", stands for all the different transnational Baltic Sea Organizations such as ERB Youth, BSSSC Youth, ReGeneration 2030, Baltic University Programme, the UBC Youthful Cities Commission etc.

The second layer includes the National Youth Councils organisations. And the third layer includes all organizations that have an interest in Baltic Sea Cooperation but are not Baltic Sea organizations, such as all different NGOs.

Resources

We believe that implementing such needs a long-term commitment to the youth also will need resources. It would be best if this would be based directly in the CBSS office in Stockholm and equipped with one coordinator and a budget to organize the meetings mentioned earlier. The financing should be occurring through a budget rise of the CBSS and by the member states or an allocation towards this new platform. The above-mentioned structure should not be financed through a project founding as this might not be able to guarantee long term financing, therefore we see a readjustment of the CBSS budget as the best possible solution.

Recommendations for implementation

We recommend the creation of a position "BSR Youth Coordinator" - as soon as possible. We would also like the CBSS to facilitate in Spring 2020 one or two further planning workshops where the youth is asked more detailed questions, of how they want the platform to act in the future.

Appendix 2 BSSSC Youth Declaration Häme 2018

BSSSC Youth Spring Meeting 2018

18th-20th April, Hämeenlinna, Tavastia (Häme) region, Finland



Youth Declaration

To the reader,

This declaration was written in line with the wishes of the youth that were expressed during our BSSSC Youth meeting in Finland in April 2018.

Present at the meeting were youth from all over the Baltic Sea region, notably Norway, Germany, Poland, Estonia, Russia and Finland. The different regions from these countries were Tavastia, Schleswig-Holstein, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, West Pomerania, Buskerud, Telemark, Tallinn and Saint Petersburg.

We look back with great pride and emotion to the days in Finland, as the amount of great ideas and strong opinions expressed during those days were above any of our expectations.

Not to mention the extensive amount of pronunciation of Finnish street signs.

We wish all the participants the best of luck for the future and hope that whoever decides to read this wishes to act upon the challenges and solutions the youth themselves expressed.

From your kaverit,

Timo and Martin

Youth members of the BSSSC board

In this document you will find:

1. Challenges, positive things and solutions related to the smart future
2. Challenges and solutions for creating green cities
3. Challenges and ideas regarding silver and youth
4. Challenges and ideas regarding the digitalization of the Baltic region
5. Challenges and ideas regarding an active youth involvement
6. Feedback from the youth and suggestions for future youth events

On the issue of a Smart Future

Closely connected to the other issue of green cities, the smart future presents itself with several technological and ethical challenges, as well as fantastic opportunities for enhancing life in the Baltic Sea region. To better tackle the issue, the youth attempted to identify **key challenges**, which were as follows:

- Less jobs in, for example, traditional energy sectors or transportation
- Ethical codes for autonomous vehicles
- Increased susceptibility to hackers
- Less self-sufficiency as the need for specialization increases
- Harder to protect personal data from transnational companies

However, we also found the bright side of a smart future, looking into some **positive things** which this future might bring:

- Even more connected to the outside world
- More communication = more exchanging of knowledge = easier to create solutions
- AI and technology increase efficiency and thereby drive prices down
- May give human workers better working conditions
- Easier to become an entrepreneur, also for youth

Our **message** to politicians reading this became the following solutions and pleas:

- Strongly protect the personal data of the population by law
- Include youth throughout complete political processes to save money and create better solutions
- Promote cultural and educational exchange through more exchange years in school
- Great care concerning implementation of AI, regardless of its use
- Strive for furthering of already existing green cities, for example Co2-free airplanes
- Attempt to further implement a circular economy
- Integrate the smart future on all levels: government, education, private sector etc.
- Listen to youth when they wish to say something

On the issue of Green Cities

The youth identified several problems when it comes to the current state of Baltic cities, in regard to actually becoming green cities. We trust that some of these already you're your attention, but we wish to emphasize them once more. Amongst **the problems** that the youth identified were:

- Overconsumption
- Not enough recycling (carelessness)
- Absence of bicycle paths
- Traffic jams and too much traffic in general
- Pollution of the sea shores
- Polluting factories too close to the cities

Attempting to tackle these issues and discussing together led to a variety of **options for solving one or several of these issues**, such as:

- Easy and available recycling options in public spaces
- A common bottle deposit system for the Baltic Sea region
- Public stations for clean water and filling of water bottles
- Widespread use of solar or clean energy in general
- As many bicycle paths as there are roads, or more
- Urban gardens, for example on top or on the side of buildings
- Always striving to make the greener choice the cheaper one
- Free public transportation (if test runs show positive results on car travel)
- Street lights with motion sensors for energy saving
- Public book places (for swapping books for free)
- Investing in and supporting local producers to reduce pollution through transport
- Spreading awareness on climate issues among children and youth

In addition to this, the youth clearly stated that green cities are only achievable through cooperation between the local government, the private sector (that invents the solutions!) and civil society. Only through the joint effort of all people are green cities possible.

On the issue regarding the exchange between silver and youth

Different age groups often have different ideas about the future of society. We think that it is important to have a positive dialogue between old and young. Some of the **challenges** that we identified where:

- Lack of communication
- Use of different methods of communication
- Prejudices about the other age groups
- Different values
- Power indifferences are enormous
- Use of different language

To solve these challenges the youth had brought variety of **ideas**:

- An App should be established to empower the youth to communicate with governments
- Communication should be put in place by creating shared committees with silver and youth together
- The constructive dialogue between the young and old generation should be increased by establishing new methods for a constructive dialogue

On the issue of digitalization of the Baltic region

Digitalization will be one of the biggest revolutions in the history human beings. Therefore, we identified some future **challenges** that are most relevant for us as youth.

- What is on the internet once will stay there for ever
- Algorithms are not driven by values
- Technical development should serve the people on not the other way around
- Power gets concentrated at viewer people
- Not everyone is empowered to take part in the process of digitalization

To solve these challenges the youth had brought variety of **ideas**:

- Constitutions should be strengthened to compete with smart algorithms
- A charter of values for algorithms should be established
- The competition laws should be strengthened by giving the Commissioner for competition more rights, allowing him/her to split up companies that get to powerful through their Data
- Free courses should empower everyone to take part in the digitalization process

The youth also sees **positive** effect through digitalization:

- Digitalization can help us to establish a smart power grid with CO2 Neutral energy
- digital tools can make our education system better
- Communication and participation can be made easier due to better accessibility of tools through the internet

On the issue of active youth involvement

Youth involvement can help to get revolutionary ideas and good feedback to shape the future in a better way. It also helps to save costs in the future and to have active and experienced politicians in the future. Therefore, the youth identified these **Challenges**:

- Involvement is often connected to expenses
- It's hard to get the youth engaged
- Often there is no real power given to the youth
- Not everyone feels empowered to take part

To face the challenges we have the following **recommendations**:

- youth councils should be mandatory around the Baltic Sea
- youth councils should have the right to propose directly to their local and regional government in committees
- engagement in youth councils should be promoted in all areas of community's
- the involvement should start as early as possible -
- all costs should be covered by the governments

Appendix 3 BSSSC Youth Declaration Kaliningrad 2019

BSSSC Youth Spring Meeting 2018

12th-14th April, Kaliningrad, Russia



Youth Declaration

To the reader,

This declaration was written in line with the wishes of the youth that were expressed during our BSSSC Youth meeting in Russia in April 2019.

Present at the meeting were youth from all over the Baltic Sea region, notably Russia, Germany, Norway, Poland, Estonia, and Lithuania.

We look back with great pride and emotion to the days in Russia, as the number of great ideas and strong opinions expressed during those days was above any of our expectations.

We wish all of the participants the best of luck for the future and hope that whoever decides to read this wishes to act upon the challenges and solutions the youth themselves expressed.

The elements in this declaration will be brought by BSSSC representatives to the Baltic Sea Youth Camp in Gdansk. There they will become part of a shared Baltic Sea Youth declaration. A declaration which is meant to represent the youth's opinion on many topics in the Baltic Sea Region.

Best Regards

Agnes Lusti and Martin Rümmelein

Youth board members of the BSSSC board

In this document you will find:

1. Challenges and ideas regarding Sustainability
2. Challenges and ideas regarding education
3. Challenges and ideas regarding Multiculturalism

SUSTAINABILITY

The BSSSC youth commits to the Sustainable development Goals of the United Nations. With regard to sustainability the youth took three key points that it wants to emphasize on:

- We recommend to all Baltic states to establish a recycling system for bottles. This can already be found in numerous countries around the Baltic sea but should be expanded to more. This is closely linked to SDG 12.
- We recommend that the Baltic states take action to make youth finish school and establish systems/programs for those who struggle to get through school. This is closely linked to SDG 4.
- We recommend the Baltic states make investments in education and green solutions to reduce unemployment among youth and promote innovation.

EDUCATION

The BSSSC youth sees education as a crucial part of life and a key to everyone's future. Therefore, we designed the following proposals and statements:

- We recommend that Summer camps will not only improve the level of education but will also enable youth to exchange ideas and domestic values.
- We see that teacher exchanges are beneficial for both teachers and students due to the fact that they will learn about other education systems.
- We recommend organizing Eco-camps for kids to teach children about ecological problems, how to recycle and to protect nature.
- We demand equal rights for all residents of the Baltic Sea region regardless of their region for admission to Scholarships.

MULTICULTURALISM

The BSSSC youth encourages multiculturalism. Therefore

- We encourage multiculturalism
- We want to create more youth events in the Baltic Sea region, such as sports events, art, touristic roads, and music festivals.
- We want to encourage multiculturalism by spreading awareness of our common culture and history as well as our uniqueness.
- We want to work to preserve free internet and media for all.

More recommendations and positions can be found in the youth declaration from Spring 2018

Appendix 4 ERB Youth Strategy

Appendix 5 UBC



MANIFESTO

We, the youth of the Nordic and Baltic Sea regions, believe that more has to be done to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, our generation wants to do its part in moving closer to the new sustainable society that we need.

We do this by creating the movement ReGeneration 2030. It is formed, led and organised by youth from a range of different organisations cooperating across borders to reach common goals. We believe in creating opportunities for youth to impact today's and tomorrow's decision-making for sustainable development. Our annual Summit held on the Åland islands mobilises youth efforts and builds excitement, engagement and relationships around the SDGs.

Our society is threatening life on Earth by exploiting natural resources as if they were infinite. The Nordic and Baltic Sea countries are largely co-responsible for the transition to socially and environmentally responsible consumption and production.

Therefore, we call upon all actors within governance, business, education, research and civil society to promote and implement sustainable consumption and production behaviours.

Our Vision

Make sustainable consumption and production the new norm in the Nordic and Baltic Sea regions.

We commit to

1. setting good examples for practicing a sustainable lifestyle, including:

- responsible, trend-resistant consumption and disposal
- using sharing economy services
- inspiring friends, family and other people around us

2. promoting the exchange of good practices and creating an education system which uses practical tools to pass on the knowledge about sustainable development.

3. building and maintaining partnerships with stakeholders to realise our vision.

Adopted in Mariehamn 20 August 2018

We demand

- to be present in every decision-making process on all levels of society with practical influence in promoting 2030 Agenda!
- easy, appealing and affordable ways to help us make sustainable choices!
- incentives to accelerate and integrate sustainable practices on all levels of society!
- transparency of production chains!
- that companies, civil and political stakeholders work together to create a society based on circular economy!