



**BISER** | Bałtycki Instytut Spraw Europejskich i Regionalnych  
Baltic Institute for Regional and European Concern

**“Solidarity as a new dimension in Baltic Sea regional cooperation”  
14<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea NGO Network Forum  
10-11 June 2016, European Solidarity Centre, Gdańsk, Poland.**

**Dear Guests of the 14<sup>th</sup> BS NGO Network Forum,**

We'd like to personally welcome each of you to the 14th Baltic Sea NGO Network Forum in Gdańsk, Poland. It's an exciting time for the BS NGO Network as we continue for the last 15 years to serve as a meeting point and networking event for the NGOs around the Baltic Sea, remaining always adaptable and highly motivated to work further towards better and closer Baltic cooperation.

During the Forum we will discuss recent developments in the Baltic Sea regional cooperation, we will share our experiences, success stories and exchange information. As the representatives of the NGO's, we will prepare important recommendations for our sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation, and we will continue to meet and bring inspired people together in forums like this, to strengthen the civil society cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

This year we're meeting in the European Solidarity Centre, the state-of-the-art cultural institution that honours our greatest civic success—the victorious Solidarity movement. It is a museum that commemorates the revolution of Solidarity and the fall of communism in Europe, but it is also an educational, research and academic centre. Last but not least, it is a public meeting space for citizens who feel responsible for the development of democracy: a place where solidarity and citizenship are put into practice. It also inspired us with the main theme of this year's Forum - “Solidarity as a new dimension in Baltic Sea regional cooperation”, since we all agree we need solidarity on every level of our regional cooperation, especially in the times of transformation.

We'd like to thank each of you for attending our Forum and bringing your expertise to our gathering. You, as an organization leaders, representatives of the NGOs, have the vision, the knowledge, the wherewithal and the experience to help us pave our way into the future. Throughout this conference, we ask you to stay engaged and help us shape the future of the Baltic Sea NGO Network. Our personal respect and thanks goes out to all of you.

**14th Baltic Sea NGO Forum Organizing Committee**

**Strategic Partners :**



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## Introduction to thematic sessions

### I. Culture and Social Innovation

Recent conclusions of the Council of the European Union recognized cultural heritage as a "resource for a sustainable Europe" and highlighted that "participatory governance of cultural heritage offers opportunities to foster democratic participation, sustainability and social cohesion and to face the social, political and demographic challenges" in Europe (Council of the EU (2014): Conclusions on cultural heritage as a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe and on participatory governance of cultural heritage).

Even though, the creative and cultural industries contribute to 4,2% of Europe's GDP, this contribution of culture to economic growth and social cohesion is underestimated, thus it requires special attention of all the European states, including the Baltic sea region countries. The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Policy Area Culture has since its establishment in 2013 also become one of the central points for cultural cooperation in the region and continues to offer great support to the cultural initiatives. PA Culture, run jointly by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland and the Ministry of Justice, Cultural and European Affairs of Land Schleswig-Holstein (Germany), focuses on promoting and visualizing BSR culture and creative industries, on preserving and showcasing its cultural heritage and on improving and facilitating cultural cooperation. It is highlighted not only in the EUSBSR, but also in number of regional strategic documents on culture, that the cooperation in culture requires the bottom-up cooperation and interdisciplinary collaboration to boost culture and innovation in the region. The bottom-up approach is perceived as essential to any type of cooperation in our region, and calls for greater involvement of civic sector and NGOs.

During the 9th Ministers of Culture of the Baltic Sea Region Meeting in Gdansk in September 2015 Mr. Jan Lundin, the Director General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat, said that „cultural cooperation is an excellent way to establish regional identity, through the establishment of a strong common creative sector and continued collaboration on the project level”. Even though recent years brought positive developments in the framework of cultural cooperation in the region, still there are some obstacles and challenges, especially related to the engagement and cooperation with the NGO sector when strengthening the cooperation networks and intensifying the information exchange.

Here, in the Baltic Sea Region we must strengthen the existing cultural networks and make sure that the representatives of the civic sector are present in all of them and work jointly towards providing better cultural services. Cooperation with NGO's can help to develop the cultural institutions into hubs of social innovation, where it's possible to combine traditional cultural services with new, innovative methods and tools. Representatives of the civic sector are often experienced and engaged in work with different types of target groups: youth, seniors, minorities or migrants and thus could help the BSR states culture ministries and Baltic cultural institutions open themselves for the new audiences.

It is crucial to understand, that the integration of cultural heritage into sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region is a top priority and a demand of the XXI century, and this is not only role of culture itself, but also for urban and rural development, tourism, education, creative industries and others. Moreover, the key role of social and inclusive innovation must be highlighted. At one hand, we see the growing importance of social innovation in the agenda of all recent Baltic gatherings and in number of Baltic-related policies, on the other – too often social innovators and entrepreneurs remain isolated and

encounter difficulties to find support or partners, also within the NGO sector. One of the reason is that their solutions are not always fully understood by the larger audience or they do not easily translate into larger-scale BSR projects. It is our duty to share the best practices of social innovation within the Baltic sea countries and help the social innovators and social entrepreneurs inspire similar projects elsewhere.

We must encourage cooperation across borders and build capacities of those change makers. We shall also raise awareness of the economic potential of cultural ventures - we have some of the best examples in the Baltic region, we should emphasize them and promote them. One of the best examples of the innovation programme for creatives and entrepreneurs is the BalticLab programme run jointly by the Council of the Baltic Sea States & the Swedish Institute. Balticlab gives the participants a combination of an entrepreneurial and creative perspective and encourages them to see the potential for innovation in the region. With start-up entrepreneurs working together with the creative industries on joint projects and business ideas, both sides gain a new skillset, which they can also implement in their everyday work beyond the Balticlab framework (BalticLab website). One of the aims of this session is to discuss the possibilities of establishing similar networks within the Baltic sea region. Another objective is to talk on how can NGOs benefit from the BalticLab outcomes and how can we engage civic sector further in these type of activities?

Discussion on culture and social innovation during the 14th Baltic Sea NGO Network Forum is another voice in greater Baltic discussion among other regional partners like: Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture, Policy Area Culture of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Nordic Council of Ministers, Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation or Union of Baltic Cities. It is even more important, since this is the contribution and voice of the non-governmental organizations from 11 countries around the Baltic Sea.

In the thematic session we would like to seek for solutions on how can we help to reinvent and modernise policies of the existing cultural centre's and institutions in the region? It is necessary to discuss on how can we develop their roles as centres of culture considering new challenges for the region like migration or political tensions within the region. What is the new role of cultural institutions in advocating for mutual dialogue and intercultural understanding? Representatives of Baltic NGOs can contribute presenting examples of social and economic benefits of cultural investments in their respective countries, which could help the participants, but also the policymakers, to elaborate comprehensive guidelines for the common understanding of crucial role of culture as a contributor to the sustainable growth of the Baltic Sea Region.

Please see below details of the **Culture and Social Innovation** thematic session:

|   |
|---|
| <b>Session 1: Culture and Social Innovation</b>                       |
| <b>“Meaning of the culture for the cooperative urban development”</b> |
| Jekaterina Lavrinec, „Laimikis.lt”, Lithuania                         |

The aim of this key-note speech is to present the **Culture and Social Innovation** thematic session in the light of the outcomes and recommendations of the Baltic Sea Cultural Gathering in Gdańsk which took place in September 2015 under the Polish Presidency to the Council of the Baltic Sea States. The speech will concentrate at: Culture - Sustainable Development (including social inclusion and participatory aspect of urban/rural development) - Regional Network - Heritage - Social Economy. The attention will be also draw to the strategic documents of Unesco and Urban Agenda, where the meaning of the culture for the cooperative urban development topic is one of the priorities.

**Culture and Social Innovation - panel discussion** (Conference Hall)

**Moderator: Boris Kuznetsov, Director, Centre for International and Regional Policy, St. Petersburg**

**Panelists:**

- Magdalena Zakrzewska-Duda, The Baltic Sea Cultural Centre in Gdansk, Poland
- Peter Wołkowi ski, URBACT Network Expert
- Rex O. Schade, AWE, Association for World Education, Denmark

This panel discussion tackles culture as a driving force for sustainable development and economic growth for the region of Baltic Sea, its potential should be integrated into region's development agenda, properly used - it has an enormous positive social impact for the citizens and the entire region's future.

Innovations which meet the major social challenges of the modern society: social inclusion of the vulnerable groups of society/people with special needs/migrants/risk groups; ageing population; unemployment; extremism and segregation

Culture - connecting people: as a factor of stability and better understanding among different nationalities, social groups and ages

Cross-sectorial holistic approach is essential: shared knowledge and experience from different competences, sectors and fields – to generate the innovative models and approaches by common efforts.

Culture and Social Innovation seen from AWE International and Denmark

- A representation task in UN, United Nations and NGO connected to ECOSOC: The 'new' UN Development Goals, the SDGs in all their challenging aspects.
  - the Status and follow up of member states and NGO's, implementation process and the Concept note of the 66. NGO DPI conference in Seoul,
  - The new links between SDG and Human Rights! 'climate change needs politics' and policy! - Challenges not only to 4100 NGO's World Wide!
- The good examples and experiences:
  - our own actions with the Millennium Development Goals, the MDG Educational road campaign 2010 – 2013, connecting to the NGO in UN (DPI and ECOSOC) in 2014 and now, 2016. (Global Citizenship Education, concepts & UNESCO Edu. model).
  - Eco-net. dk One ecological network among several (running 21 year now) and RCE.
  - 'The Future Factory' Svendborg. DK, business entrepreneurs
- How could cultural theories and social inclusion be perceived, understood, conceived after 2000 and in 2016! One step back to 1999, and two steps ahead or three!
  - practical 'reflection process' then and now 2016 in Gdansk!

**Culture and Social Innovation: Workshop 1** (Room no.5)

**Creative entrepreneurship**

**Moderator: Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło, Baltic Institute for Regional and European Concern, Poland**

The main aim of the **Creative entrepreneurship** workshop is to use the recommendations and good practices from the key-note speech introduction and thematic panel session and to discuss further the role of the creative entrepreneurs in providing the sustainable economic growth for our region. John Howkins said, that creative entrepreneurs are people who “use creativity to unlock the wealth that lies within themselves’ rather than external capital”. Based on this we can discuss three critical skills-sets for the creative entrepreneurs:

- ✓ Creativity (generating new ideas, evaluating them effectively, taking action to turn them into new products and services);
- ✓ Collaboration (connecting and working with partners, other NGOs, business etc.);
- ✓ Entrepreneurship (identifying the opportunities on the market and using your business skills to turn the idea into products and turning these into profits).

**Culture and Social Innovation: Workshop 2** (Room no.4)

**Culture and sustainable development (including participatory development of BSR cities)**

**Moderator:** Marina Mikhailova, Russia

The main aim of the **Culture and sustainable development (including participatory development of BSR cities)** workshop is to discuss more detailed the recommendations and good practices from the key-note speech introduction and thematic panel session on Culture and Social Innovation in context of cultural dimension of sustainable development. The economic, political, and social dimensions of development have all been acknowledged and, to a greater or lesser extent, understood by the international community. In contrast, the cultural dimension of development is still too often misunderstood or undervalued, or seen as an optional extra to be added when the hard work of ‘real’ development is done.

In Agenda21 for Culture is highlighted that: “we all need to learn about the past of our city, so that we can “own” it and propel this identity and local knowledge into the future. Local cultures allow citizens to gain ownership of the city, and to meet and learn from one another – in short, culture is a means through which citizens feel they belong to their city. In particular, a culturally sensitive and gendered approach can empower marginalized individuals and communities to participate in cultural and political life”. Some of the questions for the workshop include: how to create a new culturally sensitive urban development model in the Baltic Sea Region? How can the NGOs contribute to the development of culturally sensitive cities?

## II. Civic sector and social problems – self-independent youth

INTRODUCTION – Ph. D. Maria Rogaczewska

1. Building the local youth policy in a social context;
2. Informal education in process of social inclusion; also the role of NGO in this process;
3. Economic independence of youth – group and individual way for students and not only...

### Thematic Panel Discussion – Youth Self-Dependence:

- a. Foster care – family based foster care, institutional care, and other forms of social care for young people deprived of parental support; we may also take into consideration homelessness among young people.
  - a.i. essential systematic/legal/political circumstances which either support or restrict young people in the process of becoming self-dependent:
    - a.i.1. practical ways / methods of their utilization / implementation
    - a.i.2. recommended change proposals
  - a.ii. essential social circumstances in the process of gaining independence:
    - a.ii.1. practical ways / methods of their utilization / implementation
    - a.ii.2. recommended change proposals
  - a.iii. essential economic circumstances in the process of gaining independence:
    - a.iii.1. practical ways/methods of their utilization / implementation
    - a.iii.2. recommended change proposals
- b. Young people with disability – what should be regarded as the maximum age of a „young” person, when we take into account her/his disability? We will not be speaking more in detail about any individual disabilities (unless we demonstrate a specific example). Therefore, let us consider disabilities in general and focus on physical, mental, intellectual and sensory difficulties. We will discuss them in the context of:
  - essential systematic/legal/political circumstances which either support or restrict young people in the process of becoming self-dependent:
    - practical ways / methods of their utilization / implementation
    - recommended change proposals
  - essential social circumstances in the process of gaining independence:
    - practical ways / methods of their utilization / implementation
    - recommended change proposals
  - essential economic circumstances in the process of gaining independence:
    - practical ways/methods of their utilization / implementation
    - recommended change proposals

**Workshops** – based on recommendations and good practices presented in the Introduction and Thematic Panel Discussion but if you have any other suggestions – they are more than welcome!

1. Foster care – self-organization for youth self-dependence: a. b. c.
2. Young people with disabilities – priorities towards independence: a. b. c.

**Moderators and Panelists:** Alina Fegler – Kotkiewicz, Maya Rusakova, Maria Korysteleva,  
Andrzej K siak, Piotr Purol, Olaf Meldgaard, Marek Olechnowicz,

### III. Migration processes in Europe

Recently whole Europe, including our Baltic Sea Region, is experiencing the consequences of the recent movement of refugees escaping from war from countries like Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan, but also from northern parts of Africa. European solidarity and cooperation must be strengthened on a joint basis in the face of migrant crises.

In each country represented at the 14th Baltic Sea NGO Network Forum NGOs have been taking care of the refugees along with the government authorities, local governments and human organizations. They provide aid in form of food and water, they organize shelters for the refugees, they co-ordinate healthcare, education and provide psychological help and services to the refugees. NGOs are crucial part of the system, which has developed recently in every BSR country helping the refugees. In resolution adopted by the Union of the Baltic Cities “Refugees - a challenge and a chance for the Cities of the Baltic Sea Region” during the conference in Rostock in March 2016, the UBC members calls after solidarity between EU countries and states that the UBC cities take the massive immigration not only as a challenge but also as a chance for further development – all inhabitants contribute to the local well-being. During this thematic session we wish to raise the voice of the NGOs contributing to the process of helping the migrants and enabling them to integrate in our societies.

Please see below details of the **Migration processes in Europe** thematic session:

#### Session 3: Migration processes in Europe

##### “Role of the civic sector in light of migration”

Sari Kanervo, Coordinator for migration in Turku, Finland

Dmitry Cherneyko, City of St. Petersburg, chairman of Employment and Labour Committee, Russia

#### Role of the civic sector in light of migration

For the wide public last autumn was eye-opening, when more than a million persons crossed into Europe in 2015. Germany received the highest number of asylum applications, but the largest increase in the numbers were recorded in Finland – 32 476 persons arrived as an Asylum seeker, which was over nine times more than a year before.

Although asylum seekers have been in the hub of the debate of migration, the migration is much more diverse. Some leave their home country voluntary because of love or work, some go to study in other country or some are forced to leave home because of the war, persecution or natural disaster. And because the migrants are so diverse, their needs are very various. Different kind of services and activities are needed for all age groups, both sexes and even by different personal backgrounds; illiterate one needs more guidance than person with higher educations.

Despite moving reason new environment and habits demand a lot of effort from migrant - to learn a new language, culture and the way of living. Integration into new society is a hard and long lasting process for the migrant and most of them feel sometimes blue and homesick. Nobody can survive of it alone.

In light of migration the role of the civic sector can be significant and diverse like migration itself. As a flexible operator civic sector can go deeper and fill the holes of the migrant services produced by public sector. The aims of NGO varies a lot, so they all can have their own important and special input in the question of migration – one can furnish the apartment for the newcomer, the second can teach language and culture, the third can arrange the concert of own music for people to meet and relief a little bit of the longing of home country, the fourth can give guidance in own language, the fifth might invite newcomers for football... The possibilities are numerous.

The goal of integration is naturally that one day newcomer will be the active and working member of the society. The way to the target might be long and rocky for many and some might stray from the trail.

All individual volunteers, different kind of NGOs and other organizations can have their own important role in the question of migration – and by cooperation with the authoritative we might be able to make an unbroken chain for the migrant and make the whole society more colorful, diverse and tolerant to each and every one of us.

#### 10.00 – 11.00 - Thematic session 3 - panel discussions (1 h)

| Thematic session 3 – panel discussion  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Moderator: Piotr Olech- Gdansk Municipality</b></p> <p>The role of the civil sector including non-governmental organizations in the development and implementation of migration policies</p> | <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maria Pamuła – UNHCR</li> <li>• Sari Kanervo, Coordinator for migration, Turku, Finland</li> <li>• Dmitry Cherneyko, City of St. Peterburg</li> <li>• Anita Ivane, Civic Alliance-Latvia</li> </ul> |

The role of civil sector together and cooperation with non-governmental organizations is fundamental as it should take into account a wide range of issues, such as: policy-making, monitoring, social services, cooperation, contracting, volunteering, funding, anti-discrimination. Engaging the civil society is also essential. The important matter is leadership in the process of building the migrants' inclusion policy – are NGOs or possibly local authorities more adequate for the action? Another question that arises is the way of working out the policy on different levels – will the method on local level differ from the national one?

The participants of the workshop will be invited to discuss the issues below:

- cross-sectoral and inter-disciplinary approach and cooperation in the process of development and implementation of integration policies both on central and local levels,
- key elements of successful cooperation in the field of migration management and diversity management,
- main challenges and how to address them,
- exchange of good practices.

### Thematic session 3: Workshop 2

Role of local communities in hosting and integrating the immigrants – local communities, including neighbors, school, employee community as the reference group creating the conditions for integration

**Moderators:** Ewa Patyk, Przemysław Kluz, – Gdansk Foundation of Social Innovation

During the workshop the moderators will focus on reaching out to local community leaders as an opening and starting point of successful migrants' integration with local community. The main goal is to give consideration to important factors that foster mutual goodwill on the line "migrant – hosting community." Especially in the informal sphere, beyond legal conditions and documents. The workshop will base on "real life situations" and study cases. The participants of the workshop will get some inspiration from Community Center (*Dom S siedzki*) experiences related to everyday work and cooperation on regular basis with migrants in Orunia district of Gda sk.

### Thematic session 3: Workshop 3

Immigrants integration process – multidimensional process depending on the openness of society and readiness of the migrants

**Moderator:** Iwona Prusko, Barbara Ciach – Immigrants Support Centre "Feeria" Social-Artistic Association

Immigrants' integration process is an extremely multidimensional process that involves not only the actions taken to integrate migrants but also changing the attitude of inhabitants of a new hosting country. The openness and willingness of society plays a significant role. The workshop will focus on the possible methods, approaches, motivations of people to get (and stay) involved, with the dilemmas and conclusions appearing in undertaking actions. On the other hand the moderators will invite participants to discussion on the challenging topic of readiness and involvement of immigrants themselves.

### Additional input

#### Presentation of the INTERREG SouthBaltic Programme – introduction

**This brief introduction is addressed especially to the NGO sector, designed to give participants strategic advice on possibilities to develop a good and sustainable Southbaltic programme project.**

Jakub Fedorowicz, Project Officer, Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014 – 2020

The Interreg South Baltic Programme is a funding instrument for cooperation of maritime regions from Denmark Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. The Programme, among representatives of the other sectors, is addressing NGOs which would like to increase their cooperation capacities with other organisations across borders, start joint initiatives that translate the cultural heritage into sustainable tourism destinations, educate and enable people and organisations to benefit from the maritime economy while preserving the environment.

## Speakers:

**Mr Boris Kuznetsov** - Director, Center for International and Regional Policy, think-tank based in St.Petersburg

Professional background:

1987-1999 – lecturer at School of History and School of International Relation (St.Petersburg State University)

1999-2006 – Executive director, Center for Integration Research and Projects

2006 till present – Director, Center for International and Regional Policy

2011 till present – Member of Russian – Polish Commission on Dialogue and Reconciliation

**Mr Rex O. Schade**, Association for World Education, Denmark

Teacher in International Politics and Education at Ryslinge Højskole, DK for 35 years, 1974-2009. Inventor and project manager of 'World Class Projects' and 'EU Teams Projects', (1996 -2009) in NGO management programme. Tutor at 'EU Grundtvig action prg. 'TEACH' (European Citizenship) 2004-07 as a consultant for the 'Association of Danish Folkehøjskoler'(FFD). Holds a master in Citizenship Education from Århus University. Since 2007 volunteer working board member of Association for World Education, AWE and vice chair of the Danish Chapter of AWE. Since 2013 elected representative to United Nations 'NGO Branch' of ECOSOC and DPI. For two years now coordinator of a UN information platform „AWE Educators cross Borders”.

**Ms Magdalena Zakrzewska-Duda**, The Baltic Sea Cultural Centre, Poland

Head of International Relations Department since 2010. In the years 2004-2009 Assistant Manager of ARS BALTICA Secretariat responsible for PR and Communication. Since 2012 River//Cities network Information Desk Co-ordinator and website editor.; active member of Culture Action Europe. Leader or co-leader of many international and local projects e.g. Open Culture Spa – Sopot 2011 (to mark Polish presidency in the EU), Space around us (since 2012), Wind Energy in the BSR2 – (2011-2013 - art consultant), Rivers of Opportunities (March 2014), Baltic House LAB 2015.

**Mrs Magda Leszczyna – Rzucidło**, Baltic Institute for Regional and European Concern BISER, Poland

Member of CC BS NGO Network and 14<sup>th</sup> NSNGON Forum Coordinator. Ph.D in Political Science with thesis on Baltic Sea Region political and economic cooperation and macroregional policy. President of BISER, Polish NGO active in fields of social entrepreneurship, sustainable development and promotion of civic engagement in the society in the Baltic Sea Region. Assistant Prof. in the Higher School of Social Communication, lecturer at the University of Gdańsk.

**Mr. Jan Lundin**, Director General of the CBSS Secretariat

Jan Lundin is a Swedish national and a career diplomat. Before taking over the role of Director General of the CBSS Secretariat, he was Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Sweden to Germany. He has also served in Vilnius/ Lithuania, Moscow/ Russia and Belgrade/ Serbia and has also worked in Stockholm on matters related to regional cooperation in both South Eastern Europe and the Baltic Sea Region.

**Mr Guðmundur Árni Stefánsson**, Committee of Senior Officials, Ambassador of Iceland

**Mrs Jekaterina Lavrinec**, Laimikis.lt; Co-founder & curator.

PhD, is a Vilnius-based urban researcher and curator of community art projects. She is a co-founder of the urban games and research platform "Laimikis.lt" (NGO), which develops and implements scenarios of the revitalization of abandoned public spaces and neglected neighborhoods. As an assoc.prof. in at the Faculty of Creative Industries at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University she teaches courses in Urban Studies and curates the annual week of creative interventions in public spaces "priARTink". In her practice she implements participatory arts-based research approach



and focuses on the issues of urban solidarities and cooperation, usability and regeneration of public spaces. The interconnection between urban design and user experience in public spaces is one of the topics she has been working since 2009 both as a researcher, curator and artist.

**Mrs Darja Akhutina**, General Director, Association for Cooperation with Baltic Sea countries NORDEN, St. Petersburg, Member of Coordinating Committee, Russian Platform Chairperson, Baltic Sea NGO Network and Forum. Main field of activity: development of international relationships between Northwestern Russia, Nordic and other Baltic Sea countries in the field of people-to-people co-operation and civil society development; focused on culture and education, social inclusion and youth. Experience in leading and coordinating international projects; establishment Networks and contact making at all levels of people-to-people co-operation. Organization of international events; preparation of meetings, negotiations and study and visit programs. Expertize on fundraising and NGOs granting.

**Mrs Maria Rogaczewska**, Warsaw University Centre for Social Challenges  
a Ph.D. in Sociology, graduate of MBA studies in the French Institute of Management, scholarly assistant at the Social Studies Institute of Warsaw University, co-founder of the 2012 Social Project, currently co-head of the Warsaw University Centre for Social Challenges. She designed, implemented and evaluated multiple research projects in the area of local development, participation, local partnerships, promotion of sport and health, and sociology of young people. She co-created a number of initiatives (e.g. Civic Congress in Poland, 2012 Social Project, eCo-Solving, Pracademia), a member of the Wi Laboratory Team and of the editorial board of *Wi* quarterly.

**Mr Peter Wołkowski**,

**Ms Sari Kanervo**, Coordinator for migration in Turku, Finland

**Mr Dmitry Cherneyko**, City of St. Petersburg, chairman of Employment and Labour Committee, Russia  
In 1981 he graduated from the Faculty of Economics of Leningrad State University. Since 2000 Dmitry Cherneyko is a Doctor of Economic Sciences. In April 1991 he was appointed Chairman of Labour and Employment Committee of Leningrad City Council. He was head of the St. Petersburg Department of Federal State Employment service to 2005. He taught at St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance, St. Petersburg Marine Technical University, St. Petersburg State University. In 2005 Dmitry Cherneyko was elected Deputy Chairman of the Federation of Labour Unions of St. Petersburg and Leningrad region. Worked as a rector of the St. Petersburg Institute of additional professional education «Atomprom», held head positions in the Rosenergoatom Concern, Atomenergoprom, NPF «Atomgarant». Chairman of Labor and Employment Committee of St. Petersburg since January 2012.

**Mr Jakub Fedorowicz**, Project Officer, Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014 – 2020

He has been involved in European funding over the last thirteen years working for public institutions and the voluntary and community sector organizations, also assisting with the implementation of the regional, national and international European programmes in the North East of England. He's been working with the Interreg Southbaltic Programme as a Project Officer and Contact Point Network Coordinator and he's responsible for the Priority No. 5: Cooperation capacity.

**Mrs Anita Ivane**, Civic Alliance-Latvia

Anita Ivane represents association "Civic Alliance – Latvia", which is a leader in NGO advocacy field in Latvia. The goal of the association „Civic Alliance - Latvia”(CAL) is to strengthen civil society in Latvia by providing support to common interests of NGOs and creating a favorable environment for associations and foundations to function. Anita Ivane give consultations Latvian NGO's about the organization's constitution, paperwork and funding. Also Anita Ivane participates in various civic activities to strengthen the NGO sector in Latvia.

**Mrs Renate Lukianska**, Social Innovation Centre, Latvia

Innovation expert with over 10 years' experience in international sales and marketing in Baltic states. Knowledge of innovation Renate has gained in international companies, as well as a theoretical base at RTU MBA program "Entrepreneurship and Innovation" and defended her PhD thesis in Economics by researching individual innovation and creative capacity as strategic resource in enterprise growth. Since 2009, Renate has begun to be active in the non-governmental sector. Renate takes active lecturing work and advises individuals on voluntary bases regarding social initiatives. Currently Renate is active in social entrepreneurship, co working, social innovation areas.



**Mr Marek Olechnowicz**, Founder and Chairman of "Give A Hand" Association, founder of Third Sector Academy. President of Pomeranian NGO Council. Expert on social inclusion, particularly: disabilities and foster care. Expert on field of supporting and standardisation NGO.

**Mr Piotr Olech**, deputy director for social integration, Department for Social Development, Gdańsk City Hall

**Mrs Alina Fegler- Kotkiewicz**, Regional Youth Centre, EDUQ Association, Poland  
President of the EDUQ Association, eurodesk consultant and english teacher. Adviser to the center of non-governmental organizations and specialist in the center of non- governmental organizations. Specialist of Social Economy.

**Mrs Maya Rusakova**, Senior scientific associate at institute of sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Director of NGO "Stellit". Associate professor of department of applied sociology of St. Petersburg State University. Head of the Civic Commission for control of respect for rights of orphans and children left without parental care under Children's Ombudsman.

**Mrs Marina Mikhailova**, has been working as a director in Regional charity NGO "Arkhangelsk Centre of social technologies "Garant" over 10 years, and in the course of this period she has been leading small and large-scale projects and programs aimed at development of new methods and technologies to improve the social sphere of Arkhangelsk region; to build up an inter-sectoral cooperation and partnerships of NGOs, local authorities and business in the local community, initiating new approaches to meeting social challenges in the Russian society.

**Mr Ole Meldgaard**, Head of international activities, Kofoeds School; Denmark. Senior consultant at Kofoed's School in Copenhagen. Ole has for 30 years worked with excluded groups. He is a member of several networks, associations and councils, among them The council for the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

**Mr Andrzej K siak**, Expert on social inclusion at „Give A Hand” Association. Research interests: labour pedagogy, social pedagogy, music therapy, learning disabilities, self-dependence among disabled young and adults, theology and religious studies. Working with people with learning disabilities for over 20 years (in Poland, Italy and the UK) developing, co-ordinating, promoting, participating in various projects and implementing diverse programmes, activities and services. Andrzej has recently been running group music sessions for children and adults with learning disabilities and has successfully introduced new musical activities based on music therapy techniques. He has also been involved as a co-ordinator in pastoral care for people with learning difficulties within Brothers of Charity Services in England.

**Mr Piotr Purol**, Expert on social inclusion at Third Sector Academy and „Give A Hand” Association. Research interests: labour pedagogy, social pedagogy, learning disabilities, self-dependence among young and adults, theology and religious studies. Working with young people at schools, orphanages and other youth centres for over 20 years (in Poland and the UK) developing, co-ordinating, promoting, participating in various projects and implementing diverse programmes, activities and services.

**Mrs Maria Korysteleva**, Creative Bureau "ArtTerra" involvement through culture; Russia

**Mrs Maria Pamuła**, Assistant Protection Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

**Mrs Janina Owczarek** – International Organization for Migration (IOM), Coordinator of National Platform of Cooperation for Integration in Poland

**Mrs Ewa Patyk**, Gdansk Foundation of Social Innovation, Poland

**Mr Przemysław Kluz**, Gdansk Foundation of Social Innovation, Poland

**Mrs Iwona Prusko**, Immigrants Support Centre, "Feeria" Social-Artistic Association, Poland

**Mrs Barbara Ciach**, Immigrants Support Centre, "Feeria" Social-Artistic Association, Poland



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## Polish CBSS presidency priorities:



SUSTAINABILITY, CREATIVITY, SAFETY.

SYNERGY IN DIVERSITY

During its presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States Poland focuses on areas of cooperation, which are in line with the three long-term CBSS priorities agreed in June 2014: Regional Identity, Sustainable & Prosperous Region, Safe & Secure Region. Poland aims to make more comprehensive use of the potential of the CBSS. Furthermore the objective is to launch a discussions on a more coherent cooperation between the existing institutions and formats in Northern Europe, while assuring harmony with the adopted programmes of the CBSS. From July 2015 to June 2016 Poland leads the work of the National Coordinators of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. We undertake specific measures to achieve maximum synergy between formats in the Baltic Sea Region.

### SUSTAINABILITY

Under the CBSS long-term priority *Sustainable & Prosperous Region*, Poland will implement the following:

#### NEW AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

The first objective is to adopt a new agenda for sustainable development for the Baltic Sea Region post 2015. Secondly, the continuation of activities connected to climate change adaptation, in order to minimise economic and social risks caused by the expected impacts of climate change in the region. The sustainable development agenda for the Baltic Sea Region will follow as a regional expression of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A key element in implementing this priority, is also strengthening the integrated approach to maritime issues, including the transport system in the region. To allow a more effective management of the region, collaboration with



HELCOM will be enhanced. Representatives of HELCOM and HELCOM-VASAB Joint Working Group on Maritime Spatial Planning will be invited to the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP) meetings when appropriate.

Another important element will be the cooperation with respect to diversified energy sources and energy efficiency. The effective coexistence of various energy systems, the building of smart infrastructure, increased interconnectivity and a well-integrated energy market are of key importance for assuring energy security and supply. Energy efficiency is seen as a tool of low emission energy policy, as well as a factor stimulating economic growth, thus being an indispensable element of sustainable regional development.

A significant pillar of sustainable development is cooperation in the field of science, research and innovation. In this respect Poland will seek to internationalise Baltic science cooperation by striving to establish a joint research and innovation strategy for the region; effective use of regional structures and the existing research priorities and programmes as well as support for mobility are at the heart of the Polish priorities for the presidency.

The implementation of this priority will also be supported by actions within the tourism sector, including measures aimed at setting up a Centre of Baltic Tourism, assuring a collaborative tourism sector.

## CREATIVITY

Under the CBSS long-term priority *Regional Identity*, Poland will implement the following:

### CULTURE AS A DRIVING FORCE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION

#### CREATIVITY + COOPERATION = DEVELOPMENT

The objective to promote the culture of the Baltic Sea Region will be implemented through interdisciplinary projects which draw on the experience of all countries. Emphasis will be placed on enhancing the impact of activities of the existing and new cooperation networks of key cultural organisations and institutions. To be able to increase cohesion in the region, a harmonisation of the different regional formats is foreseen, with initiatives to strengthen the cooperation network and information exchange. Activities raising awareness of the economic potential of cultural ventures in different decision making milieus (including tourism) will be of key importance for the implementation of the priority. Part of these activities will facilitate and strengthen cooperation between local governments and communities.



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## SAFETY

Under the CBSS long term priority *Safe & Secure Region*, Poland will implement the following:

### CIVIL PROTECTION IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

To implement the priority, measures will be launched aimed at enhancing the regional response and interoperability of civil protection services – by way of effective application of civil protection mechanisms in the region, as well as improving cooperation to combat the consequences of disasters. Poland recognises the need of reviewing the availability of resources in the region, which are vital in the event of potential major hazards that people and the environment may face.

Enhancing measures aimed at improving nuclear safety and radiological protection in the region, will be one of the top priorities. These actions will include: preparing the establishment of a macro-regional environmental monitoring system (exchange of radiological data); cooperation between spectrometry measurement laboratories; further strengthening of collaboration between radiation protection authorities and law enforcement agencies, with emphasis on the safe transport of hazardous materials and border control of carried goods.

It is important to strengthen cooperation around the safety of children. The priority will be to make progress in the implementation of measures leading to de-institutionalisation of foster custody, improving the status of foster families and ensuring fair adoption procedures.

### **14th Baltic Sea NGO Forum Organizing Committee**

Mrs Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło

Mrs Antonina Papli ska

Mr Jerzy Boczo

Mr Mariusz Kowalik

Mr Marek Olechnowicz



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## 14th Baltic Sea NGO Forum Partners:

Partnerzy STRATEGICZNI Forum:



POMORSKIE  
VOIVODESHIP



GDANSK  
city of freedom



Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Poland



European  
solidarity  
centre



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## Baltic Institute for Regional and European Concern BISER

Baltic Institute for Regional and European Concern BISER (Bałtycki Instytut Spraw Europejskich i Regionalnych) has been established in 2001 as an organization clustering the representatives of science, public sector and business parts willing to co-operate in the field of European integration, sustainable development and strengthening cooperation links within the Baltic Sea Region.

BISER works in a close cooperation at local level, with the Gdansk University, Gdansk Technical University and other academic representatives, local authorities and the NGO sector focused on development of the local community. BISER is active in fields of social entrepreneurship, sustainable development and promotion of civic engagement in the society in the Baltic Sea Region.

The BISER team members (20 people) present vast and relevant academic records and project experience that will be used during the realization of the project. Since 2016 BISER representative was appointed as an expert in EU Strategy For the Baltic Sea Region Horizontal Action "Capacity" working-group, where she represents Baltic Sea NGO's.

In Feb 2016 our project "BSR youth social entrepreneurship development" received Seed Money Facility founding, where we act as the Lead Partner. Thus we prepare academic research on social entrepreneurship in Poland and BSR, educational methods and initiatives for social entrepreneurship, and we collect the best practices of social enterprises. We also carry public consultations with local stakeholders active in the field.

We are looking for partners from the Baltic Sea region countries interested in joint project applications and co-operation in field of: social economy and social entrepreneurship, youth and education.

Please contact us via our website [www.biser.org.pl](http://www.biser.org.pl) or at [biser@biser.org.pl](mailto:biser@biser.org.pl)