

Baltic Sea Region Youth Tour

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Description:

We are proposing a **Baltic Sea Region Youth Tour** which will bring together participants from the Baltic Sea region for a three-week tour of selected countries to participate in workshops and activities which teach participants about environmental challenges in the region, what local communities are doing to counteract climate change, and what proposals can be implemented to further combat climate change in the Baltic Sea region. In addition to raising awareness for shared environmental challenges around the Baltic Sea, the Youth Tour will generate cooperation among youth from the Baltic Sea countries and strengthen youth involvement in the environmental advocacy and policy making process around the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Sea Region Youth Tour will include the following activities:

- Meeting with local authorities
- Learning how environmental policies are implemented in different regions
- Learning the practices of youth involvement and cross-regional interactions, projects discussing the impact of climate change in the region
- Understanding the reasons for environmental pollution
- Raising awareness how regional water pollution impacts the whole Baltic Sea
- Creating a dialogue of changes and solutions to mitigate the pollution in the region
- Participating in workshops and meetings with local NGOs
- Creating a brochure (Reflection and Recommendation Memo) which will serve as prepositions to the governments, national organizations and other institutions at a local level.



1.1 Key Challenges:

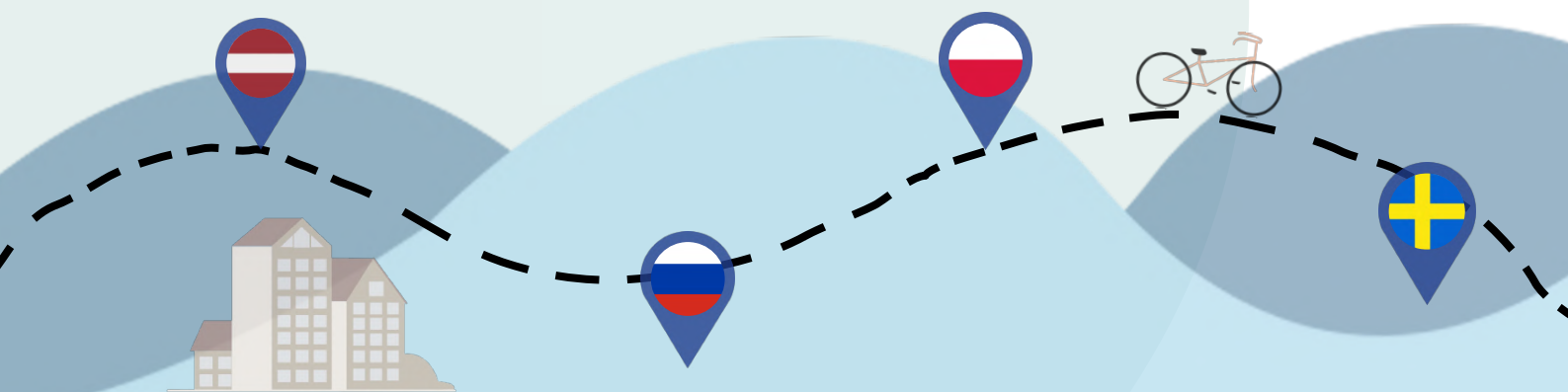
There are three challenges which our project seeks to address. First, our project addresses the significant environmental challenges facing the Baltic Sea region, in particular modest local environmental outcomes. Second, our project addresses the shortage of cooperation among countries in the region to improve their shared challenges. Third, our project aims to address the shortage of youth involvement in decision-making processes throughout the Baltic Sea region.

1.2 Project Objectives:

Our project has three objectives:

- Raise Awareness for Environmental Challenges in the Baltic Sea region.
- Increase the understanding of environmental challenges among youth.
- Propose solutions to high-level policymakers.

Participants of the project will produce a Reflection and Recommendation Memo, which will include the lessons learned from the trip, the environmental challenges they identified during their discussions with local stakeholders, and recommendations for how to improve environmental outcomes in the region. These Memos will be distributed to policymakers and local leaders in participating countries, to increase awareness of the environmental challenges in the Baltic Sea Region, and to propose solutions to high-level policymakers. In addition, participants can adapt these Memos into presentations which they can give in their local communities, to further amplify the learning and proposals from the exchange.



1.3 Project Indicators

Participants in the Baltic Sea Youth Tour will create the Reflection Memo which will include recommendations and will be produced at the end of the Tour.

In addition, we will measure the number of respondents reached through the program, including the number of participants, social- and mass-media interactions, and meetings/engagements with high-level policymakers. Further, this Tour will try to continue cooperating with the local and national authorities for the creation of policies related to environmental challenges in the Baltic Sea region.

Concept of Activity

2.1 Topics & Methodological approach

The broad topic is environmental challenges in the Baltic Sea region. For this reason, the respective experts on environmental research and policies in the Baltic Sea region will cover multiple aspects of environmental challenges. To illustrate:

The need to transport commodities and to travel by sea have relatively increased in the recent decades and the maritime sectors continuously maintain and control maritime traffic in this region. Hence, transport by sea may influence the maritime environment through its activity, but the elimination of the activity as a whole will not be 'sustainable' for the region when maritime transport may be culturally relevant. Nonetheless, additional adjustments could be made through the interdisciplinary use of research and logistics (e.g., Ferrybox project, flow-through system implementations on board the vessels to collect data on acidification and plankton consistencies of the water pumped to cool the vessel's machinery) to help analyse and interpret the collected data for future.



2.2 Participants

The Youth Tour will include 20 selected participants in the ages of 18-26 from the following countries: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Germany. If legally and logistical possible, we will make the age range 16-26.

The Participants will be selected through an Interest Form published by the CBSS online. Therefore, the Participants will describe their motivation and experience in the chosen area, and they will be asked to describe an individual learning question that they will try to find an answer or solution during the Tour. Further communication will therefore be through the CBSS and Youth Leaders.

2.3 Seminar staff

The Project will be run by CBSS together with Youth Leaders who are selected by CBSS to help run the project. The organizing team will work together with local organizations (e.g., universities, local authorities, NGOs) in the Baltic Sea region to put together the workshops, events, and activities for the participants. To illustrate: As mentioned in section 2.1, the case studies of Ferrybox and flow-through system projects could be used for the events organised during the Tour, and the events could therefore include organizations who operate with the cargo logistics and to whom the collected data could be beneficial for the creation of the company's sustainability policies.

2.3 Venue & Target date

There is no specific venue for the entire tour itself. To clarify, the Tour will be held each Summer for three weeks, rotating between different countries in the region and available locations will be booked for meeting, events, and workshops. For instance, in Year 1, the Baltic Sea Tour would spend one week in Latvia, one week in Finland, and one week in Russia. Following the in-person Tour, participants work on their Reflection and Proposal Memo, with these being due one month after the completion of the Tour.

Further, it is the hope of the Tour organizers to have meetings with the national institutions responsible for the sustainability policies and research. Whether it be at the highest level in a State, the actual discussions will be beneficial for the Memo's design.



2.5 Budget & other assistance required from

The project will receive funding and assistance from three sources:

1. Funding from CBSS.
2. Assistance from local organizations in the participating countries to obtain venues for the activities, housing for participants, and food for the participants.
3. Additional Grants from other organizations operating in the region, including national governments, the European Union, and other multilateral organizations.

There will also be a dialogue with local authorities, as well as with media organizations operating in the region to create publicity for the event.

2.6 Applicants' own contribution / Third party contribution

Applicants will be expected to actively participate in the Tour and to continue their engagement with the organization until the Reflection and Proposal Memo has been submitted. For this reason, a contract will be signed between the parties of this Tour to both protect the Intellectual and Authorship Rights of the Participants, and the Organizers' interest is to protect the Participants' and Seminar Staff's personal data.

