



B7 Baltic Islands Network B7 Saaremaa Chairmanship 2008

Saaremaa County Government
93819 Kuressaare, Saaremaa, Estonia
Tel: +372 45 20 524
Mobile: +372 52 36 376
E-mail: B7@saare.ee

www.b7.org

Draft Minutes: B7 Board meeting

Date: 15 January 2008

Venue: Riga, Latvia, [Reval Hotel Latvija](#), 55 Elizabetes Street, Riga, LV-1010.

Time & duration: Agenda items §10 §11, §12 taken in the morning 09.00-12.00, together with Philipp Schwartz.
Main agenda 13.00-16.00

Participants:

Island	Name	Participated
Bornholm	Henrik Eybye Nielsen (HEN)	Yes
Gotland	Ulla Pettersson (UP)	Yes
Hiiumaa	Reet Kokovkin (RK)	Yes
Rügen	Christoph Löwen (CL)	Yes
Saaremaa	Anu Vares (AV)	Yes
Öland	Jörgen Samuelsson (JS)	No
Åland	Susanne Andersson (SA)	Yes
B7 Secretariat	Kaira Kivi (KK)	Yes
B7 Facilitator	David Hunt (DH)	Yes
Guest speaker	Philipp Schwartz (PS)	Yes. Participated in the morning session

§1. Minutes of previous meeting: (Saaremaa Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: To approve the minutes from Board meeting on Bornholm 5 December 2007.

Minutes of the previous Board meeting distributed by DH at the meeting

Decision: Minutes of Board meeting on Bornholm approved.

§2. Approval of Agenda: (Saaremaa Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: To add additions to the agenda and to approve the agenda for the meeting.

Decision: Agenda approved.

§3. Saaremaa Chairmanship: (Saaremaa Chairmanship)

Purpose of agenda item: Update on changes to the Chairmanship team and programme.

3.1. Chairmanship Team:

Purpose of agenda item: Inform the islands of the team that will be the Saaremaa Chairmanship, provide some background and introduce the person who will run the B7 Secretariat to the Board.

Position	Name	E-mail:	Tel:	Mobile:
B7 President	Toomas Kasemaa	toomas@saare.ee	+372 45 20 500	+372 50 52 306
B7 Chairperson	Anu Vares	Anu.Vares@saare.ee	+372 45 20 507	+372 51 20 951
Secretariat	Kaira Kivi	B7@saare.ee	+372 45 20 524	+372 52 36 376
WG PtP	Inga Teär	inga@saare.ee	+372 45 20 528	+372 51 20 943
WGE	Mika Männik	mika@saare.ee	+372 45 20 510	+372 53 337 194
Secretariat tel:	+372 45 20 524			
Secretariat E-mail:	B7@saare.ee			

Kaira Kivi, who is appointed to run the B7 Saaremaa Secretariat from January 2008 will send out a short CV annexed to the minutes.

Decision: Orientation accepted

3.2. Chairmanship Programme:

Purpose of agenda item: Update on preparations etc of meetings and events.

In planning to meet with EU Commissioners, MEPs, Commissions officials etc, the B7 is normally required to produce background positions, reports, newsletters etc to provide background material for the people the B7 wants to meet. The B7 also has to be able to describe its political or technical interest and content for a meeting. Board members need to be able to brief their SC members in order that B7 is prepared to ask relevant questions and give relevant input.

AV gave an update of the Chairmanship programme for 2008.

Jan 14-16, Riga: Board meeting

Besides the meeting with the Latvian presidency of the CBSS and the visit to the INTERREG Office in Riga visits to the Estonian Embassy in Riga and State Regional Development Agency of Latvia were added to the programme.

Apr 01-03, Brussels: SC & Board meeting

Themes: Proposed EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region EU regional policy towards islands, Energy, Maritime follow-up (status of the MGP)

Draft outline programme:

Monday 31 March		Arrivals Individual meetings Dinner at Restaurant ...
Tuesday 01 April	09.00 - 12.00	Board meeting (at the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU) & Informal SC meeting (venue tbc)
	12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
	13.00 – 16.30	Meeting with Commissioner Hübner & DG Regio (tbc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU's Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region • EU's Island policies Meeting EU Parliament Regional Development Committee (tbc)
	19.00	Dinner at Restaurant ...
Wednesday 02 April	09.00 – 12.00	Meeting with Maritime Task Force (tbc) Follow up Commissions proposal for the EU Maritime Policy. (Please note they will repeat the Commissioner's question: "What will the B7 do?") Meetings with MEPs (please suggest)
	12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
	13.00 – 16.30	Steering Committee meeting (at the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU) The representative of the CPMR Islands Commission invited to attend the SC meeting (tbc)
	19.00	Dinner at Restaurant ...
Thursday 03 April		Individual meetings Departures

Main issues from Saaremaa: EU regional policy towards the islands, follow up of maritime issues (status of the EU Maritime policy). AV proposed to leave energy issues out from the Brussels programme, because the B7 should not focus on too many themes during one event.

In December 2007 the European Council invited the Commission to present an EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region at the latest by June 2009. This strategy should inter alia help to address the urgent environmental challenges related to the Baltic Sea. This is something the B7 could ask about from the Commissioner Hübner. Another issue to be brought up could be Cohesion policy after 2013 – although this is considered too early for B7.

AV confirmed that contacts have been established with the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU and they are willing to help us with scheduling the meeting with the Commissioner and also allow the B7 to use the meeting room at the Representation for the B7 Steering Committee and Board meetings.

AV proposed that the B7 should organise a meeting in the European Parliament with the members of the Regional Development Committee (Tunne Kelam from Estonia is a member of this committee, AV will contact him.) RK suggested to contact also Henry Lax from the Baltic Europe Intergroup of the European Parliament.

DH: It is now quite difficult to organise large meetings with MEPs. Therefore B7 politicians should be divided into groups to meet the MEPs (easier to find a venue or cater etc). The MEPs will want detailed background information and the B7 materials in advance in order to have concrete discussions. They are less interested in getting to know you meetings. They want input on policy issues.

Proposals to Brussels meetings:

UP: The B7 has to prepare for the meetings in Brussels (position papers etc).

SA: Politicians need time to discuss issues by themselves before the official meetings in Brussels.

RK: EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region is important for the B7. We need to keep an eye on the procedure.

Who is writing that? Island issues must be definitely in the strategy.

HEN: Regarding the EU Maritime Policy, the B7 should contact Jean-Didier Hache from the CPMR Islands Commission and ask for information about the Island Task Force. The B7 should not schedule too many meetings in Brussels, the B7 politicians should be given an opportunity to discuss policy with the MEPs as well as to have internal discussions. Most of the meetings should be organised at one place, to make it easier logistically.

Decision:

- **Outline programme to be included in the minutes**
- **DH will contact Maritime Task Force.**
- **Chairmanship and Facilitator to co-ordinate preparation materials for meetings**

May 26-27, Saaremaa: SC & Board

Theme: How to link socio-economic development and environmental protection

Follow up to Gotland Initiative, meeting with BSOs and Estonian Minister of the Environment

There have been some discussions in October 2007 with the CBSS Secretariat about the event and one of the themes to be added in the programme could be "How to prevent and cope with oil spills in the Baltic Sea Region?" (not decided yet).

Jorgen Jespersen from the B7 WGE has asked for the opportunity to present the TransPlan project status report at the conference. As he is retiring in June this will be the last opportunity to address the B7.

Draft outline programme:

Monday 26 May	09.00	Arrive with morning flight from Tallinn (or direct flight from Stockholm to Kuressaare at 11:55 on 25 May)
	10.00 – 12.00	Board meeting & Informal SC meeting
	12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
	13.00 – 16.30	
	19.00	Dinner at Restaurant ...
Tuesday 27 May	09.00 – 12.00	
	12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
	13.00 – 16.30	
		Depart evening flight to Tallinn (direct flight from Kuressaare to Stockholm at 11:20 on 27 and 29 May)
Wednesday 28 May		Depart morning flight to Tallinn

Decision: Orientation accepted

Aug 01-03, Saaremaa:

B7 Days (in connection to Kuressaare Maritime Days)

AV reported that no feedback has been received from the B7 Islands about the interest to send their musicians/dance groups and/or tourism people to Saaremaa.

HEN raised a question about financing the event.

RK suggested to consider the Nordic Cultural Fund and asked Inga Teär to contact Nordic Council of Ministries.

See for more info in §6 below sent by DH 21 Jan 2008

Decision:

- **All Board members to ask from the local institutions, organizations will there be any interest in developing the idea further (cultural entertainment from islands etc) or just to create a B7 tent where all islands can provide marketing materials about their islands.**
- **Information to be sent to Saaremaa Secretariat as soon as possible.**

Aug 06-09, Öland: B7 Games

Öland advise that they have the following financing for the B7 Games:

SEK 150,000 from B7

SEK 100,000 from Morbylanga and Borgholm Municipalities

SEK 250,000 Öland Bankers Association.

Öland has planned the event with a budget of SEK 650,000. They are looking for sponsors for the balance.

AV asked if it was possible for Islands to get financial support for the travel costs.

DH: How the money will be used is up to the organisers on Öland. Information on B7 Games should be available from the WG PTP members as they have participated in the preparation.

See on financing for WG PTP events §6 below sent by DH 21 Jan 2008

Decision: Orientation accepted

Oct 20-22, Tallinn: SC & Board

Meetings in the Ministry of the Interior (new concept of regional administration in Estonia), Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications (public tenders and development of maritime infrastructure)

No progress to report.

DH pointed out that input for the meetings should come from the B7 strategy and other documents the B7 has created.

RK suggested to organise a meeting in the European Union Secretariat, a subunit of the State Chancellery of Estonia, to prove that besides national level the work on EU issues is being done at regional level. A meeting should be organised also with members of the European Union Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu (Estonian Parliament).

AV thanked RK for her suggestions.

Dec 02-04, Saaremaa: SC & Board & WGs

Annual Conference

Theme: Future of Islands in the Baltic Sea Region.

AV requested that all B7 Islands are expected to present their development strategy at the Annual Conference.

Decision: Orientation accepted

§4. Accounts 2007 and Accounts 2008: (Facilitator)

Purpose of agenda item: Update status of 2007 accounts and budget 2008

DH: There is no update to the accounts presented in December. Final Accounts should be available by the middle of March to be presented at the April SC meeting for approval.

It was noted that the SEK depreciated by 2.5% in 2007. As the membership fee has in the past been invoiced in SEK, this represents a reduction in fees for most islands and a reduction in available funding for B7 activities.

Decision: Orientation accepted

§5. Projects under implementation:

Purpose of agenda item: Receive status report on the implementation of the projects

5.1. TransPlan Energy Project

DH noted that there are delays with getting input from Saaremaa.

AV said that there have been some problems, but these are solved by now and the first results of the project should be presented (as requested by Jorgen Jespersen) at the conference in Saaremaa at the end of May.

§6. Applications for project funding:

Purpose of agenda item: The Board has the authority to award up to SEK 40,000 for implementing internal B7 projects or supporting the development of applications for EU funding. Annexed to the minutes are the project applications sent out by WG PiP. A minimum of 4 islands are required to participate in a B7 project in order to receive funding.

Note on financing for WG PtP events sent by DH 21 Jan 2008

B7 Budget Items for WG PtP

ITEM	SEK	Responsible	NOTES
WG PtP Basic carried forward from 2007	0		
Award to develop a Youth Project application	40.000	WG PtP	Awarded December 2007
WG PtP Basic 2008	50.000	WG PtP	Approved as part of B7 2008 budget
Youth & Culture Project	80.000	WG PtP & Chairmanship	Approved as part of B7 2008 budget
B7 Games on Öland 2008	50.000	Öland & WG PtP	Approved and paid as part of B7 2007 budget
B7 Games on Öland 2008	100.000	Öland & WG PtP	Approved as part of 2008 budget
B7 Day 2008: Project PtP_1 _2008	55.000	Not yet awarded	Awaiting clarification. See minutes Board meeting 080115
Youth Conference 2008, Hiiumaa: PtP_2 _2008	25.000	Not yet awarded	Awaiting clarification. See minutes Board meeting 080115

NOTES:

1. Awarded to develop a Youth Project: Money awarded to develop a major project that could include PtP youth activities for the next 3 years. Project Leader Arne Grau-Amner.
2. WG PtP Basic can be used for travel, accommodation or in whatever manner the WG decides provide that the expenses can be justified under normal municipal accounting rules.
3. Youth and Culture project: During the last 3-4 years activities under this budget item have been developed and implemented by the WG PtP and the Chairmanship. At the B7 Board meeting in Riga, there was no clarity on what plans there are to utilise this funding.
4. The Board were advised by Henrik Eybye Nielsen that they could get feedback from the WG PtP meeting on 6-8 February in Tallinn.
5. B7 Games on Öland: Preparations were begun in 2007. I understand that Öland in addition to the financing from B7 has obtained co-financing of SEK 100,000 from the Municipalities of Morbylanga and Borgholm, plus SEK 250,000 in sponsorship from the Banking Association on Öland. Öland has planned for a budget of SEK 650,000. They believe they can carry out the B7 Games for SEK 500,000 but are seeking additional sponsorship for extra activities.

6.1. B7 Day Project (application distributed)

The Board has the authority to award up to SEK 40,000, but the application was for SEK 55,000. The Board supports the B7 Day project idea, but a more detailed budget and information about other sources of financing is expected as well as feedback from all Islands about their readiness to participate.

Decision:

- Amount is above SEK 40,000, therefore Board does not have the authority to award above this amount.
- Need to clarify what specifically funding is sought from B7 for.
- Clarification required in whether this is part of the SEK 80,000 awarded for a Youth event(s) in the budget.

6.2. Youth Conference 2008 (application distributed), Hiiumaa.

RK: Good experience from the Bornholm event (B7 Youth Conference 2007). The issue must be carried on: how to bring the young people back to the island? Participants are expected from all counties of Estonia and municipalities of Hiiumaa, besides that relevant organisations will be invited. The event will last 2 days and international approach could be a great advantage for the conference. Not many delegates can be invited from the B7 Islands. The workgroups can be organised in English, but not the conference itself. For the B7 participants private translation can be organized. The conference will be financed by Hiiumaa County

Government, co-financing is expected from the Estonian Gambling Fund. The Nordic Council of Ministers does not support the youth activities any longer, that is why the money is asked from the B7.

Decision:

- **WG PtP requested to advise who and from which islands, other than Hiiumaa, will participate in the project.**
- **If information provided from the WG PtP meeting in Tallinn 06-07 February, then Chairmanship will ask for approval by e-mail.**

§7. B7 Website.

Purpose of agenda item: Update on the changes made to the website and a short introduction on how to use and update the site.

The system is based on the Joomla CMS open source software and open source add-ins. Google Gmail and calendar system plus Picasa photo albums are also used. The majority of the pictures on the "old site" are very small (measured in pixels and of such poor quality that it would be good to try to obtain some of the originals.

The Board members are requested to review the site and come with proposals on what is needed to improve the site. At present there is no members area. Bjarne Kristiansen proposed that all documents are freely available. Agendas and minutes from previous meetings still needed to be put on the site.

DH:

- Not all old links have yet re-established, but they will.
- Board members requested to check contact details for their island.
- Information on individual B7 islands still being developed.
- Pointed out that funding must be provided for a group of B7 members (e.g. Martina from WG PtP who has worked actively with the website in the past) to be trained to work with the site and to upload information from previous Chairmanships.

Decision:

- **It was proposed and accepted that DH covers the responsibility for the website.**
- **Every Board member ensures that each island contributes to the content.**
- **Islands to provide names of people for training.**

(NOTE: no award of money. A proposal will be sent when it is ascertained who is interested in training to work with the website. Money required to cover travel, accommodation and trainer costs)

§8. Declaration from AC

Purpose of agenda item: To decide how to follow up the declaration agreed at the Annual Conference.

RK: Estonian County Governors will meet on Hiiumaa within the next 3 months. The issue can be brought up there as well.

Decision: Declaration to be sent to the twin towns/regions of the B7 Islands. A support letter to the declaration is expected from them. After that the B7 Islands will send the declaration and the support letters to their national governments and/or parliaments.

§9. Any Other Business:

Purpose of agenda item: Add agenda items and information not included in the final agenda.

EGTC

Estonia – in process, but deadlines still unknown.

Sweden – January 2009 at the earliest.

Finland – no information, Susanne will have a look and come back with the update.

Germany – federal state responsibility, in progress.

Denmark – no news on the process since the government re-elected, expected to be enacted early 2008.

Transport subsidies:

UP: If we could show that the problem is wider than only Gotland, it would have more influence. Ulla will keep the islands (at least Saaremaa updated).

Letter received from Rügen by Bornholm and Saaremaa

(Translations of the letter in English distributed at the meeting)

Rügen is asking for the opinion about the plan (by the Danish enterprise Dong Energy) to erect a hard coal power plant in Lubmin.

Rügen refers to the B7 position on the Maritime Green Paper. Bornholm raises the question: How should we act? As the B7 or as single islands via our national governments?

CR: Special interest in support by Bornholm as the company who is planning the erection of the power plant is Danish.

Decision: Board members to discuss with their politicians, Henrik Eybye Nielsen will follow up from Bornholm.

Developing Conference Centres - exchange of experience

Gotland opened its 1500 seat Conference Centre and Åland's conference Centre is under construction.

Hiiumaa and Bornholm are in the process of considering whether to develop their own Conference Centres.

RK: tries to find money to send the representatives from local municipalities of Hiiumaa over to Gotland and Åland.

HEN will be the contact person on Bornholm.

Decision: HEN and RK to follow up

Transport project

Rügen is interested in Jylland case.

Annexes:

	Agenda Item	Topic	Notes
1	§1	Minutes from Board Meeting 05.12.07	
2		Notes from events meetings	
3	§3.2	BEI Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	Background to Brussels event
3	§3.2	B7 Position on BEI Strategy	Background to Brussels event
4	§3.2	Speech Sweden Minister for EU Affairs	Need for Baltic Sea Region Strategy
5		Presentation Philipp Schwartz	Central Baltic Programme
6		Document and Presentation Ralf Spade	
7		Letter from Kerstin Kassner, Rügen	Letter + translation to English

Agenda Items from the morning session

The B7 Saaremaa Chairmanship organised that Philipp Schwartz, previously from the CBSS and now working with the Central Baltic Programme (PS is Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007 – 2013), presented the new programme and gave his thoughts on B7 project proposals. One particular issue was how the B7 could work across the Central and South Baltic Programmes.

§10. Introduction to the Central Baltic Programme. (Philipp Schwartz)

Purpose of agenda item: To introduce the B7 Board to the opportunities of the Central Baltic Programme

PS gave a presentation of the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013.

Points emphasised:

- 1) This is totally new cross-boarder programme! Try to forget about the previous ones and do not compare them with the new programme.
- 2) New corporate image for the programme is in use.
- 3) The programme has three priorities: a) safe and healthy environment, b) economically competitive and innovative region, c) attractive and dynamics societies.
- 4) No more talk, clear action plans are needed.
- 5) Cross-boarder co-operation aspects must be clearly stated in the project applications.
- 6) Total cost for the programme is about 102-103 mEUR, but 96 mEUR goes directly into programme (the rest is fixed office costs). How the administrative office works? Monitoring Committee is overall accepting the general documents, 3 steering committees evaluating the projects, secretariat opens the calls. (No changes in already submitted projects are any longer possible. Earlier consultancy is OF COURSE allowed.)

Assessment of project applications will take place in two parts:

- Technical assessment (all documents added) – up to 21 days.
- Quality assessment (experts from other sub-programmes are involved, evaluations from sub-programmes point of view) – up to 30 days.

Ranking list from the secretariat to the steering committee who make the final decision. Secretariat informs the applicants (manual says that it can take up to ca 80 days max).

Steering committee members are from national and regional level, several social partners are involved. Possible conflict of interests: it is a question of procedures. There will be a clause written about that: for example steering committee members cannot be in the monitoring committee etc. Monitoring committee must confirm: general procedures, budget (inc technical secretariat), action plan. Firstly the member states must agree on eligibility rules, then they can approve the programme manual.

7) In each participating country there will be people hosted or offices helping with programme. In Estonia for example there will be 2 people in Enterprise Estonia (directions are coming from Turku headquarter). If there is an interest in programme manuals in local language, the issue must be risen on governmental level by the next meeting in Helsinki at the latest (then the issue can be written in the budget).

SHORT OVERVIEW TO PS ABOUT THE IDEAS IN PROCESS BY the B7 ISLANDS:

B7 islands as individual islands:

UP & SU: No definite idea yet to be presented.

RK: Hiiumaa bears in mind cultural projects (Swedish origin of small island) and co-operation with Gotland and Åland. Lighthouse projects, coastal landscapes. Conference centres, small harbours, environmental and energy projects (Suuremõisa manor house – what is the best development idea for the building).

CL: Rügen would like to develop the Art project "Challenging Landscapes" – but finances will be sought from the Baltic Sea Region Programme.

HEN: Bornholm is interested in a co-operation project about the development of conference centres.

AV: No definite ideas in Saaremaa yet, but tourism is one of the possible themes to work on.

B7 ideas for projects:

- 1) To bring together as many events as possible into one project by the WG PtP. Meeting in Tallinn in February must clarify the ideas. HEN pointed out two main activities: the B7 youth conference and youth camp (South Baltic and Central Baltic programme, we must try to link them together, but 2 applications have to be submitted anyway.) PS: consider the reality if you get money only from one programme...
- 2) Challenging Landscapes – Rügen. (Project to be submitted to the Baltic Sea Region Programme.)
- 3) Tourism (Central and South Baltic, or Baltic Sea Region Programme). Joint branding and marketing abroad.
- 4) Baltic Master 2 – Baltic Sea Region Programme.

DH gave a short presentation of the refreshed B7 homepage where links are provided to the programmes that the B7 has interest in.

PS suggested to change the map under projects: either to make it more general or in more details.

BALTIC SEA REGION PROGRAMME 2007-2013:

Link to <http://eu.baltic.net>, where there is a very clear information about the priorities, handouts provided by DH. Main points from the meeting at the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 Joint Technical Secretariat (Elizabetes Street 19) Ms Ieva Kalnina (Head of Riga Office) and Vineta Griekere (Project Manager) Mon 14 Jan.

- 4 main priorities: a) fostering innovations; b) internal and external accessibility; c) BS as a common resource; d) attractive and competitive cities and regions.
- The programme manual is not yet approved, hope to get the approval at the Rostock meeting taking place on 14-15 February.
- There will be 3 seminars to provide more detailed information about the programme held in the beginning of April in Copenhagen and Riga (dates not yet confirmed) + end of March St. Petersburg (date not yet confirmed)
- By October-November 2008 the decisions are made which projects will be funded – contracting may take up to 3 months (the implementation can start immediately once positive answer has come or wait for contracting).
- A written partnership agreement must be agreed at the latest by the end of first reporting programme.
- Tourism projects are not so much in favour, or if, then there must be a strong political level support & strong innovative element involved (on BS benefits). For example: Medical Valley in South Sweden or re-usage of old military areas like Paldiski, etc.
- No more talks (like strategies), but direct investment projects are preferred. In application there must be clearly understandable is that a strategic project (for example 5 years, first 3 years on preparing & acting, 2 last ones for direct investments) or regular project (39 months). All the parts must be written into project.
- External expertise and meeting costs will be covered only if the project is approved.

SOUTH BALTIC PROGRAMME:

Link from the B7 homepage

BRANDING B7 FROM TOURISM POINT OF VIEW (project proposal that was handed out at the meeting in Copenhagen in October).

DH: Baltic Sea region in general is not well-known destination and could be promoted better.

RK: To promote the individual islands separately but as one at the same time.

PS: The tourism project draft is not good, be more concrete in writing the project.

No more strategies or network building, but more action is needed.

For example concentrate ON COMMON MARKETING (suggested by UP), but think how to present the idea.

Asking feedback (research and statistics) could be a part of marketing, do not put the main focus on that.

(Conflict as competitors -> cooperation in joint branding and collaboration as a project idea.)

For example: work package 1 is about developing a brand (what the components), work package 2 is about marketing that.

RK: What about the project management? Should it be a work package 3 written into project?

Plan suggested by DH:

24 January: Review of the draft project proposal and feedback about ideas what is needed to be done from each island's point of view. Contact person to be appointed for the project (contact details to be sent to AV).

End of February: (**Mid-February – Åland and Gotland cannot meet mid February**) Meeting for the tourism group contact persons (work on the project outline) in Tallinn. Costs to be paid by the B7

Baltic Development Forum could be included (common Baltic Sea region branding is in progress). Expertise should be asked from institutions like VisitDenmark, Enterprise Estonia. PS: Emphasize the special region aspect (Central Baltic aspect and south Baltic aspect). Otherwise there will be questions not maybe at the secretariat level but definitely at the steering committee level. There is a reason for creating different Baltis Sea rgion programmes, so do concentrate on that! Is it a cross-border or transnational project?

Decision: Orientation accepted.

Questions-answers:

HEN: How to work across the different programmes?

PS: Parallel calls to provide at least the same time frame can be a solution.

RK: Åland is building a conference centre, using the Gotland experience. Hiiumaa has the same plan, can that be funded from this programme?

PS: Partly it can. The programme manual is not approved yet, so it is difficult to say how big this part can be. For islands it is important to get the investment projects (get real money). Keep in mind that you need to find the aspects where the cross-border aspect comes out, where that is for example in Hiiumaa conference centre project. Marketing the project / conference centres together in different places together mentioning that there is a difference between the Åland and Hiiumaa conference centre?

RK: Problem with auditors. Time frame to get the money can take up to 6 months.

PS: They try to get the period in new programme shorter + all expertise cost will be covered since the day the application is submitted.

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