



B7 Baltic Islands Network & Saaremaa Chairmanship 2008

Anu Vares

Saaremaa County Government

Adviser to County Governor

Chair of the B7 Board 2008

Themes in 2008



- Regional policy and status of islands
- Development strategies and future of islands in the Baltic Sea region
- EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region
- Maritime policy
- Implementation of the B7 strategy

January 2008, Riga



- B7 Board meeting.
- Meetings with the representatives of
 - the Latvian CBSS Presidency,
 - State Regional Development Agency of Latvia ,
 - the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 Joint Technical Secretariat.
- Meeting with Mr Jaak Jõerüüt, Estonian Ambassador to Latvia.

April 2008, Brussels



- B7 Board and Steering Committee meetings.
- Meetings with the representatives of
 - the Baltic Europe Intergroup of the European Parliament,
 - the DG for Regional Policy (Mr Dirk Ahner, Director-General),
 - the DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.
- Meeting with Mr Raul Mälk, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Estonia to the EU.

May 2008, Saaremaa



- B7 Board and Steering committee meetings.
- Conference “How to link socio-economic development and environmental protection?”
- Seminar on the B7 energy project “TransPlan” (Transparent Energy Planning and Implementation).

July 2008, Saaremaa



- B7 Youth Camp at Tehumardi.
- 4 islands (Gotland, Hiiumaa, Rügen, Saaremaa), 54 participants.
- In connection to theme days (environment, culture, history) many activities, group works and excursions were organised.

August 2008, Kuressaare



- Introduction of the B7 at Kuressaare Maritime Days.
- B7 had its own information tent where brochures about the Baltic Sea Islands and leaflets about the B7 were distributed and questions about the islands and the B7 co-operation answered.

August 2008, Kärdla



- Cafeteria Day.
- 15 cafeterias were opened, including Gotland Cafeteria, where youngsters from Gotland Youth Centre offered traditional saffron pancakes.

August 2008, Öland



- B7 Games.
- 6 islands, about 300 participants.
- Competitions in athletics, football and beach volleyball.

October 2008, Tallinn



- B7 Board and Steering Committee meetings.
- Meetings with
 - Mr Siim Kiisler, the Minister for Regional Affairs of Estonia,
 - the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
 - Members of the Association of Islands of the Parliament of Estonia.

December 2008, Kuressaare



- B7 Board, Steering Committee and Work Group meetings.
- B7 Annual Conference "Future of islands in the Baltic Sea region".
- Handover of Chairmanship: the B7 Chairmanship in 2009 will be held by Öland.

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region



- The B7 position paper on the Strategy.
- Participation in formulating a joint position paper with the Baltic Sea Organisations (BSSSC, Euroregion Baltic, Baltic Development Forum, Union of Baltic Cities, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission).

Projects



- Energy project “TransPlan” (Transparent Energy Planning and Implementation).
- Maritime safety project “Baltic Master II” (starts in 2009).
- Tourism project (in preparation).



Thank you!

