



Discussion programme at the 2009 Baltic Development Forum

OCTOBER 2009

During this year's BDF Summit the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has the ambition to create a meeting point for thematic informal discussions that are of high relevance but yet may not find their appropriate format during the official programme of the summit. A common thread running through these nine sessions described below is the practical implementation of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. We are particularly concerned about creating the conditions for broad participation throughout the region so as to make the EU strategy everyone's strategy.

You are warmly welcome to drop by the Sida exhibition in the middle of the Victoria Hall any time and join in the talks throughout the Summit. We hope that our discussions can be mutually beneficial and contribute to making the most out of everyone's attendance at the BDF Summit 2009.

Monday 5 October

08.30-09.00

How can Swedish authorities help realise the EU Strategy?

Invited representatives from the Sida Baltic Sea Unit, Swedish Institute, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, Centre for Baltic and East European Studies talk about their potential contributions to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and their hopes for the Summit."

11.40-12.00

What about the visions?

A handful of distinguished guests are invited to talk about the visions that have been underpinning the work with the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Among the invitees can be mentioned Uffe Ellemann-Jensen and Hans Brask.

13.45-14.00

Intercultural management training and the EU Strategy?

Graduates from the management programme sponsored by the Swedish Institute gather for a short discussion on the potential of intercultural management training in the implementation of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy.

14.00-14.30

Financing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Mk. I

This is the first of two discussions on financing the implementation of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. In this first discussion focus is on gaining a common view on financing the strategy. Guests will include national contacts for territorial and structural funds from the countries bordering the Baltic Sea.

15.30-16.00

Broadening participation in the EU Strategy?

During this discussion on obtaining broad participation in the implementation of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy we explore ideas on how we can get the business community, civil society and government structures at all levels and in all BSR countries active in the implementation process. How can bottom-up networking and project generation be facilitated throughout the region?

Tuesday 6 October

09.45-10.00

The role of academia in promoting the EU Strategy?

We discuss how academia in general and perhaps cooperation within the social sciences in particular may promote a deeper sense of belongingness in this macro region and thus indirectly to something we may term a regional identity? Among the confirmed speakers we find Dr. Christian Ketels.

11.00-11.30

Thinking regionally in the Baltic Sea Region?

An informal thematic talk on the role of attitudes, identity and intensified cross-border relations in the Baltic Sea Region; the overarching question posed is how do we reach a state where thinking and acting "regionally" is the rule rather than the exception?

11.30-12.30

Financing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Mk. II

This is the second of two discussions on financing the implementation of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. In this second session focus is on practical steps to make project finance accessible. Guests will include national contacts for territorial and structural funds from the countries bordering the Baltic Sea.

13.45-14.30

The role of the regions?

Welcome to an informal thematic talk where we explore the role of the regions and regional initiatives in implementing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Among the invitees we find representatives from local and regional authorities and their organisations

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) through the Government's Letter of Appropriation 2009 was tasked to "facilitate the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region". As part of this agenda Sida's Baltic Sea Unit has actively sought to promote fruitful discussions about the forthcoming strategy and its implementation. In 2008, for example, the Baltic Sea Unit, in cooperation with Södertörn University College and Baltic Development Forum, organised a two-day international conference on the theme of the Future of the Baltic Sea Region during that year's Almedalen politicians' week in Visby. In 2009 the Baltic Sea Unit has sought to promote general awareness of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region through meetings and the production of the magazine "From a Baltic Point of View: Opinions on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region" (included in the BDF conference bags) and the film with the same name (shown in both Sida's and BDF's booths).

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