



## NEWSLETTER

++++ NOVEMBER 2010 +++++

### NEWS

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#### Reporting QUICK project for the first period

The reporting in the QUICK Project for the first period caused several difficulties. The First Level Controlling was very complicated in a few countries. For example, First Level Control could not be completed before 1 October 2010 for 8 Polish partners, and therefore, it could not be included in the first report.

The report for the first period had to be submitted on 1 September 2010 at the latest. The Joint Technical Secretariat, however, granted an extension of the deadline by 1 month. Therefore, we submitted the first QUICK Report on 1 October 2010. In the meantime, we answered individual questions from the Joint Technical Secretariat. Another complication occurred then, since we did not receive any permission for the Project from the Belarusian Ministries. We hope that accounting will be ready by the end of December.

As soon as we receive the statement and the funds are transferred, we will notify all the Partners about the shared costs for the first period, prepare statements for individual partners and transfer the allocated funding to the benefit of the Partners.

#### Reporting for the second period

We assume that after the experiences of the first period further reports shall ensue much faster and smoother. The second period finished already on 30 November 2010, because at the beginning of 2011 the second report needs to be prepared and submitted. We already sent the necessary documentation to the Partners, such as e.g. minutes of the working meeting, shared costs, results of the first statements.

#### Hanseatic Conference "Educational Policy Strategies today and tomorrow around Mare Balticum"

The fifth Hanseatic Conference took place between 21 and 23 October 2010 in Hamburg. About 120 persons from 11 Baltic States participated in it. All speeches and results of this important conference are documented in a book which will be published in March 2011. A strategic concept "Educational Policy

in the Baltic Sea Region" was developed on the basis of the conference results.



Photo: Hanseatic Conference "Educational Policy Strategies today and tomorrow around Mare Balticum" on 21 - 23 October 2010 in Hamburg

Within the framework of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy, QUICK is the flagship project for the educational policy part. The results of the conference, which from December 2010 should be the subject of further debates on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy, can be summarised as follows:

The Baltic Sea Region is regarded as the most innovative area of Europe and from the economic point of view it is a very strong region, which has not exhausted its potential. The INTERGROUP of the European Parliament deems this area a region with the future and international standing, a powerful, productive, efficient and profitable pillar of the EU with a connecting identity. At the same time, sweeping developments which can strongly limit the dynamics of the Baltic Sea Region are also looming and they require strengthened involvement especially in the field of educational policy.

#### *Rapid decrease in the Acquisition Potential*

In the coming 20 years the number of labour force in other Baltic Sea States with the exception of Sweden will oscillate between 5% - 18%. In the future a strong decrease in manpower will pose significant challenge for the Baltic Sea Region. The existing and worsening shortage of enterprises and specialised workers will inhibit the dynamics of growth. Ensuring trainees with good



qualifications and innovations is a question of survival for the SME sector in the Baltic Sea Region.

**Educational Policy Strategies**

- Increased immigration is required in the Baltic Sea Region and an attractive educational offer is here a decisive factor. First and foremost, however, it is necessary to use the domestic potential much better. Educational policy has to ensure that a proportion of young people without secondary school qualification, as well as young people who do not qualify for education will be decreased.
- Considerable opportunities of the Baltic Sea Region can only be used with high level of innovation and excellent qualifications. The requirements of enterprises concerning trainees are high and still increasing. Personal and social competences are equally important as factual knowledge. In most Baltic Sea States the growing number of school graduates is lower than the required competences.



Photo: Hanseatic Conference "Educational Policy Strategies today and tomorrow around Mare Balticum" on 21 - 23 October 2010 in Hamburg

**Priority of Early Childhood Education and Individualised Learning**

- The over-intellectualised education ideal has to be contrasted with education which supports equally all tendencies and all spiritual, musical and manual skills. School education seems to be leading to levelling down. An even stronger individualised tuition with personal learning objectives is imperative.
- Early childhood education has to be extended according to the example of some fewer Baltic

Sea States. It includes a sufficient number of kindergartens and obligatory, one-year pre-schools with the best and best remunerated teachers.

- School structures perform a subordinate role; also a segmented schooling system with highest permeability can bring good accomplishments. Long-term common learning is not a requirement for good school education, but it facilitates the transfer of personal and social competences and supports sustainable integration. Successes in most Baltic Sea States are rather an evidence for possibly longest common learning.

**New Ways in Vocational Education**

- The attractiveness of vocational education has decreased significantly in all Baltic Sea States and in some countries it reached 10 - 15% of school graduates who pass through vocational education, which is an alarmingly low number. Vocational education in Germany is still regarded as an exemplary one. However, here also the attractiveness and involvement have decreased significantly.
- The introduction of uniform access requirements of vocational education in the Baltic Sea Region, which are determined according to professions, is desirable. Specific ways of vocational education with full sustainability have to be created for young people with learning disability. Second chances have to be enabled and supported for these persons.
- Vocational education is connected too strongly with other fields of education and leads quickly to bottlenecks. Full permeability within vocational education, as well as between vocational education and college education with fluent transitions and allowance possibilities is urgently required. It includes also the Baltic Sea eligibility to studies with final apprenticeship examination or skilled worker diploma according to some Baltic Sea States.

**Increasing Attractiveness of Vocational Education**

- This leads to an increasing competition for qualified young people between SMEs, larger enterprises, universities / colleges and administrations. Moreover there is a risk that small and medium-sized enterprises which provide about 70% of all jobs in the Baltic Sea Region are forced back to losers and at a new level.
- Young people avoid vocational education and prefer studies. However most courses of stud-



ies are so theoretical and so weakly concerned with practical issues of the SME sector that despite high number of students no sufficient number of trainees for entrepreneurs and skilled employees cannot be obtained. Dual courses of studies which link vocational education or occupation with studies would have to be established on a wide basis.

- Stays abroad during vocational education and occupation support the increasingly more important international skills and experiences, as well as personal and social competences at the same time. The Baltic non-bureaucratic recognition of vocational education and further education diplomas will be postulated by all Baltic Sea States, so far fails in the first place due to barriers and reservations in Germany.

**Education as a Location and Investment Policy**

- What is more, decreasing transport and communication costs increase the mobility of production factors. Enterprises wander to attractive locations with high potential of skilled workers and labour force to locations with attractive educational offer and diverse labour market. The location-related competition for (highly) qualified labour forces is significantly more intensive. A Baltic Sea Region agreed educational policy has to be anchored in the EU Baltic Sea strategy and ensure that this competition takes place not only in the Baltic Sea Region, through excellent educational offers the competitiveness of the whole Baltic Sea Region against other regions is strengthened and multiplies the available advantages.
- Politics, as well as the economy of the Baltic Sea Region have to acknowledge that investments in human capital yield the best interest today but also in the future.

**Further events**

**Working Meeting and Two Final Workshops**

On 23 and 24 August 2010 a meeting of the QUICK Working Group WP 5+6 "Qualification + Cooperation" took place in Gdansk and during this meeting in particular further works, conducting 'Train the Trainer' Seminars and Business Forums, as well as content-related shape of three energy and environmental courses of studies were prepared.

At the same time the final workshops to our two projects "Doing business international" and "Dual vocational training" took place in Gdańsk. Both projects could be completed successfully. Meanwhile, final reports and project statements were prepared.



Photo: Final Workshop to the Project "Doing business international" on 23 September 2010 in Gdansk

**Meeting of the Working Group "Strategies"**

The QUICK Working Group WP 7 "Strategies" met on 9 September 2010 in Bydgoszcz and discussed particularly intensively the draft of a strategic concept "Economics Policy". After the revision the concept was also discussed in the steering group and approved unanimously. Subsequently, the concept was sent to all the Partners according to the arrangements made at the last General Meeting in Minsk, so that they could express their opinion in writing. The strategic document should be published in January 2011.



Photo: Meeting of Working Group 3 "Clustering + Networking" on 20 - 21 September 2010 in Lund

**Meeting of Working Group 3 "Clustering + Networking"**

The QUICK Working Group WP 3 met on 20 and 21 September 2010 in Lund. The content-related configurations of the economic analyses, as well as the analyses of the 3 QUICK innovation clusters were discussed and conducting works were arranged with the Partners. Moreover, the first major project proposal of the Baltic Sea Academy was prepared, which will be made possible in spring 2011.



### **QUICK Steering Group**

Prior to the Hanseatic Conference there was a meeting of the QUICK Steering Group in Hamburg. The group dealt with the Strategic Concept of "Economics Policy", as well as intensively with the procedure and all the results of the Controls and the reports for the first period. Moreover, organisational questions were answered and works were prepared.

### **2 Television Broadcasts**

In connection with the Hanseatic Conference, 2 television broadcasts were implemented in October 2010:

- a) In Hamburg a 45-minute broadcast on the educational policy in the Baltic Sea Region, with the participation of the Hamburg Minister of Education, Mrs Christa Goetsch, Board Member of the National Investment Bank of Schleswig-Holstein, Mr. Klaus Rave, PhD. and the Director of the Chamber of Crafts in Gdańsk, Mr. Dariusz Gobis.
- b) With the initiative of the Chamber of Crafts in Gdańsk, a Polish television crew participated in the Hanseatic Conference and broadcast a show on the Polish television.

The second **QUICK Business Forum** took place on 19 and 20 November 2010 in Wrocław. Over 70 persons from Belarus, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Russia participated in this event. In the first part of the event modern forms of work and new construction technologies were presented and discussed. The second part was devoted to forging international business contacts between companies. In this case, the interested companies were lead together, taking into consideration their specific requests for cooperation, and had the opportunity to have the first bilateral talks.

The Business Forum was assessed very positively by the participants. However, the participation of companies could have been more intense. The Working Group WP 5+6 will be dealing with this issue in the case of preparations for the next business forums.

On 19 November 2010 in Wrocław the **QUICK Working Group WP 2 "Communication + Information"** met and analysed the previous activities, as well as prepared further PR works.

The first **QUICK 'Train the Trainer' Seminar** was held on 22 and 23 November 2010 in Międzywódzie near Szczecin. With over 20 persons from different Baltic Sea States the participation was very good.

17 persons – mostly representatives of craft businesses – participated in the practical implementation of the **QUICK Energy Seminar "Renewable En-**

**ergy and Energy Efficiency"**, which also took place on 23 and 24 November in Międzywódzie. After this test meeting, the concept will be sent with all the learning materials to all the Partners who can then offer the Seminar continuously to enterprises and employees.



Photo: "Matchmaking" of potential business partners at the Business Forum on 19 November 2010 in Wrocław

## **IMPORTANT TIPS**

### **Future Dates and Works**

Some time ago the Secretariat presented you a meeting schedule for the whole year 2011. The most important dates for the first 6 months of 2011 are presented below:

7 February 2011: Meeting of Working Group 5+6 "Qualification + Cooperation" in Oslo

8 February 2011: Final Workshop of the ERIP Project in Oslo

10 March 2011: Meeting of Working Group WP 2 "Communication + Information" in Riga

10-11 March 2011: Second 'Train the Trainer' Seminar in Riga

23-24 March 2011: Test Energy Seminar 2 "Solar energy – techniques and applications" in Tallinn

14 April 2011: Meeting of Working Group WP 7 "Strategies" in Vilnius

14 April 2011: Meeting of Working Group WP 4 „Research + Development" in Vilnius

15-16 April 2011: Business-Forum "Personal and Organisational Development" in Vilnius

11 May 2011: Meeting of Working Group WP 3 "Networking + Clustering" in Hamburg



11 May 2011: Meeting of the Steering Group in Hamburg

11-13 May 2011: Hanseatic Conference "Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection" in Hamburg

Proposals of changes, requests, etc., concerning scheduling for the second half of 2011 should be directed to the Secretariat. In spring 2011 you will receive a revised plan for the period of 1 June - 31 December 2011.

### **Baltic Sea Academy**

The German Ministry for Education and Research entrusted the Baltic Sea Academy with a small project. Within this framework a survey of small and medium-sized enterprises should be conducted in the entire Baltic Sea Region, concerning the demand for innovations in SMEs. ***At the beginning of January 2011 a general meeting of the Baltic Sea Academy will take place in Hamburg, to which the invitations shall be sent separately.*** The meeting will concern this task, as well as further works of the Baltic Sea Academy.

For this project works, as well as for the preparation of project proposals of the Baltic Sea Academy the Secretariat will receive on 2 January 2011 a personal support with Mrs Kerstin Kötschau, who will be introduced in the next Newsletter.



We wish you and your families a very beautiful Christmas time and all the best in the New Year. We thank you for a pleasant and fruitful cooperation and look forward to the further work in our joint projects.

Your Secretariat of the Hanseatic Parliament



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