



NEWSLETTER

NEWS

++++ March 2011 +++++

Schwerin Chamber of Commerce, which is also a QUICK Partner.

Settlement of the QUICK Project for the First Period

Reporting concerning the QUICK Project for the first period is completed. The EU subsidies which are attributable to funding of individual Partners have been paid.

If first level controlling for individual Partners cannot be completed till September 2010, these reports shall be included in the settlement for the second period.

Report for the Second Period

Also for the second period (1 June – 30 November 2010) first level controlling in individual countries is rather difficult. On the submission deadline of the entire project report to the Joint Technical Secretariat (28 February 2011) we still had no reports from four of our Partners for the first period and from 16 Partners for the second period. Therefore, we had to re-apply for a deadline extension, which was also granted. Our new submission deadline for the complete report is now the end of March 2011.

We cordially ask all the Partners to urge their first level controllers to submit the verified partner reports as soon as possible. In particular, it is necessary for us to obtain the four missing partner reports for the first period until 10 March 2011.

Confirmation of Belarus is Available

Another hurdle has now been successfully overcome. A contribution confirmation of the country government was required for the participation of Belarus in the QUICK Project. We applied for it immediately in October 2009. Particularly the Brest Department of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry was very committed to obtain the required signatures from various ministries. The official confirmation is available since the end of February 2011.

Partner Changes in the QUICK Project

Two changes of Partners have occurred within the QUICK Project. Partner 4 - Chamber of Crafts of Mecklenburg-East Pomerania had to withdraw for internal reasons. The tasks and the budget of this partner have been additionally assumed by the

Partner 39 - Minsk regards the QUICK Project as very important and declares its further support for this project, however, is not able to participate in the Project as a Partner. The tasks and the budget of this Partner shall be assumed in May 2011 by the new Member of the Hanseatic Parliament - the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

We have requested an approval of this change of Partners; a confirmation of the Joint Technical Secretariat is not available yet.

EVENTS WITHIN THE QUICK PROJECT

Meeting of the Baltic Sea Academy

On 10 January 2011 a General Meeting of the Baltic Sea Academy took place. The subsequent workshop was devoted to enterprise consultations concerning the promotion of innovations which should be carried out by the Hanseatic Academy of Management in Słupsk (see below). In addition, proposals of new projects have been developed intensively and these proposals should be submitted in 2011.



Photo: Meeting of the Baltic Sea Academy on 10 January 2011 in Hamburg

Meeting of the Working Group Qualification and Cooperation

On 7 February 2011 a meeting of the Working Group for Work Package 5 and 6 took place in Oslo, which was attended by about 50 people. Works within these two packages run very smoothly and are well advanced in comparison with the original schedule. The already achieved



results were rated quite positively in Oslo and measures and contents were agreed upon for further works. Particularly intense were the works concerning increasing attractiveness of vocational training and the recruitment of urgently needed trainees for crafts and SMEs. In this context the Career Navigator was presented, which provides help and support to students who need to make a decision concerning their future career. It was decided that a separate project needs to be developed for the implementation of the Career Navigator in the Baltic Sea Region (see below).

Final Workshop - ERIP Project

On 11 February in Oslo also the final workshop concerning the project "European Regions for Innovative Productivity (ERIP)" took place. This project, which was conducted in the North Sea Region, runs very successfully. As regards lean management, increasing innovations with significant cost reductions could be achieved for small and medium-sized enterprises. The Hanseatic Parliament is a Project Partner and has transferred its most important results to the Baltic Sea Region.



Photo: Our conference hotel in Holmenkollen in Oslo

Harry Bjerheng: a Reliable Guide into a Good Future

Harry Bjerheng - our Partner in Oslo - excellently organised both meetings and provided an unforgettable experience to all the participants. The tour and the dinner at the new opera in Oslo was particularly magnificent. Very good results could be achieved owing to such a warm hospitality during the two days in Oslo.



Photo: Our active future designer - Harry Bjerheng

NEW PROJECTS

Career Navigator

During the meeting in Oslo a decision was made to apply for a new project concerning the application for financing of the Career Navigator in the countries of the Baltic Sea Region. This electronic information system based on competences can contribute to providing urgently needed trainees to small and medium-sized enterprises in the Baltic Sea Region. A project proposal from the Baltic Sea Academy and six project partners was submitted timely on 28 February 2011 to the National Agency of Germany within the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme.

Corporate Social Responsibility

President Saar from the Łódź Chamber of Crafts suggested at the General Meeting of the Hanseatic Parliament in May 2009 in Minsk that the Hanseatic Parliament should address the major task of Corporate Social Responsibility in crafts and SMEs. Two new project proposals emerged from this suggestion.

The Hanseatic Parliament along with 6 Partners submitted a project proposal entitled "Further vocational training Corporate Social Responsibility for SMEs" to the National Agency of Germany within the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme.

The Łódź Chamber of Crafts, together with the Hanseatic Parliament and 5 other Partners submitted a project proposal entitled "Social responsibility within the framework of SME flexicurity" to the National Agency of Poland within the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme.



Energy Efficiency in Russia

The "Delegation of the European Union to Russia" has launched a new program to which an information meeting took place in St. Petersburg on 16 February 2011. The Hanseatic Parliament together with its Russian Members will develop a project proposal to the priority entitled "Pilot actions to improve energy efficiency in buildings, enterprises or public utilities." The decision-making procedure in this programme consists of two stages: The initial application needs to be submitted by 10 March 2011. If it is rated positively, a detailed proposal needs to be submitted in summer 2011.

QUICK: Innovative SMEs by Gender and Age

The last call for the INTERREG Baltic Sea Programme is open till 31 March 2011. Since the QUICK Project has become the flagship project within the framework of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy, we would like to use the opportunity and submit an application for a new project. It should deal with the issue of how to achieve greater participation of women and the elderly and thus connect it with achieving an increase in innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises. This approach will help us counteract the deficit of expert workers in the Baltic Sea Region while enhancing competitiveness of crafts and small and medium-sized enterprises.

It is envisaged that such a project should be carried out with 12 – 15 Partners; the initial expressions of interest should be already available. Since the project proposal needs to be submitted till 31 March 2011, we would like to ask other members of the Hanseatic Parliament and the Baltic Sea Academy to provide a prompt response if they would like to participate as Partners.

Future Funds

We have prepared a draft project for the development of a future fund to secure the financing of investments in energy efficiency and the safe use of renewable energies as well as open fields of operation for crafts and small and medium-sized enterprises. The draft was intensively discussed and positively assessed at the Meeting of the Baltic Sea Academy in January 2011. An appropriate EU Programme (Intelligent Energy Europe - IEE) allows for the application probably in May 2011. Members who are interested in such a project are asked to send an appropriate message to the Secretariat.

Research and Development for SMEs

An application for funding within the framework of the 7th Research Framework Programme of the EU is prepared under the auspices of the University of Lund. These conceptual proposals were also presented during the Meeting of the Baltic Sea Academy in January 2011 and a decision to apply was made. An application for financing needs to be submitted till December 2011. If other Members of the Hanseatic Parliament or the Baltic Sea Academy are interested, we would like to ask them to send an appropriate message.

STRENGTHENING THE SECRETARIAT

The vast amount of the existing project tasks and the development of new project proposals caused the common Secretariat of the Hanseatic Parliament and the Baltic Sea Academy to go outside its borders. Since 1 January 2011 the Secretariat is strengthened with Ms Kerstin Kötschau.



Photo: Kerstin Kötschau during an evening stroll during the meeting in Oslo

Ms Kötschau studied economic and social sciences of agriculture and completes currently her doctoral dissertation entitled "Impact of land reform policies on rural poverty of the CIS States: Comparison of Georgia and Moldova." Ms Kötschau has good project experience, worked abroad (i.a. in Russia, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova), and speaks German, English and Russian. Most recently she was a product manager for the Academy of German Cooperatives and at the moment she processes our various projects and deals with the acquisition of new projects.



VERY IMPORTANT! Survey Concerning the Needs and Support for Innovation

Our common objective is to promote innovation and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises. In order to perform these tasks in the most targeted and effective way, we need to know the needs and the conditions of enterprises. Individual Partners have therefore proposed a corresponding survey of enterprises which, however, can only be implemented with your support.

The survey was discussed intensively at the Meeting of the Baltic Sea Academy in January 2011 and classified as particularly important. It allows for a diagnosis and development of effective tools and fruitful cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises and colleges/universities in the Baltic Sea Region.

The survey will be conducted and evaluated by the Hanseatic Academy of Management in Słupsk. Obviously, you will obtain the results.

The Hanseatic Academy will send you a link for filling in the electronic questionnaire. We would like to ask you to send the link to this questionnaire to all enterprises within your field of activity and stress the importance of the survey as well as the resultant improved support for enterprises.

We rely on a possibly highest number of responses. Therefore, we would be grateful if you could send the link of the questionnaire to your enterprises and partners (www.quick-bsa.eu) or print the questionnaire out and

- a) send it to companies along with a covering letter.
- b) ask enterprises or their employees to respond at gatherings, meetings, training courses, etc.

Please send the completed questionnaires to the Hanseatic Academy of Management in Słupsk.

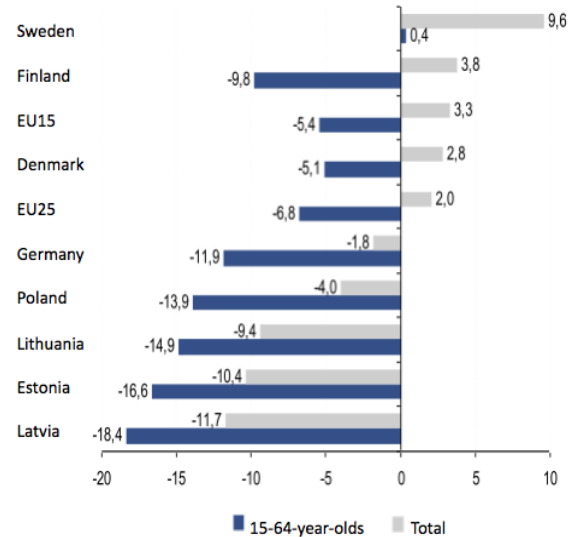
The questionnaire is available in all languages and can be completed in about 10 minutes.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

MORE RESULTS OF THE QUICK PROJECT

Economic Policies

The strategic concept "Objectives and strategies for the development of crafts and SMEs in the Baltic Sea Region" is ready and will be printed as a book in the German, English and Polish version. You will receive a sufficient number of published copies.



Population Change: Projections 2006 – 2030

Educational Policies

The strategic concept "Agenda 2020: Educational policy objectives and strategies for the BSR" is available as a draft. The Working Group "Strategies" will conduct discussions in April 2011 and the results will be sent subsequently to all Partners and Members. The issue will also be discussed and decisions will be made in November 2011 in Warsaw.

Documentation of the Hanseatic Conference 2010

The results of the round-table working sessions of the Hanseatic Conference 2010 have been fully evaluated. They lead to improved results and prove the success of our 5th Hanseatic Conference in Hamburg. In the meantime, the long versions of presentations were made available, edited and evaluated by the Technical University of Gdansk in terms of their scientific character. The next step is the design and printing of the book. Publication is planned for April 2011.

Further Vocational Training Courses

Energy course 1 "Renewable energies and energy efficiency" is ready and has been tested successfully in practice in Miedzywodzie. The documents for the implementation of curricula, etc. are now transferred to all Partners.

Also the existing course of study "Cost management for SMEs" has been revised and completed so that the transfer to all Partners could ensue.

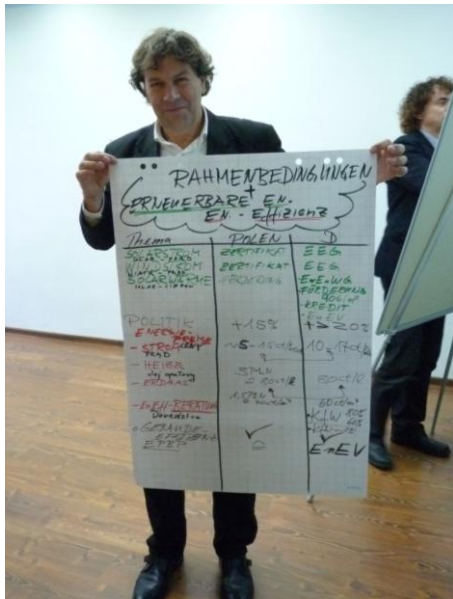


Photo: Energy Seminar I in Miedzywodziu

Plans and Research for SMEs

The tasks for the preparation of business and investment plans as well as research and development for SMEs have been distributed and coordinated with other partners. The first results of the Hamburg Vocational Academy and University 21 are already available. Please inform us immediately if any questions arise during the execution of the works.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Future Events and Activities

10 March 2011 at 9:00 a.m. - Meeting of the Working Group "Communication + Information" in Riga

10 and 11 March 2011 - Training Seminar "Service for SMEs" in Riga, which is attended with 30 applications.

23 and 24 March 2011 - Seminar "Solar Energy - Techniques and Applications" in Tallinn. The very high number of 60 applications demonstrates great interest and extraordinary importance of this development for SMEs.

14 April 2011 - Meeting of the Working Group "Research + Development" in Vilnius. Separate invitations to this meeting will be sent.

14 April 2011 - Meeting of the Working Group "Strategies" in Vilnius. Separate invitations to this meeting will be sent.

15 and 16 April 2011 The 3rd Business Forum in Vilnius. You may have already received and invitation and we would be grateful if you could

send it to your member enterprises. We hope to have an intensive participation of SMEs so that international economic relations of SMEs could be established.

11 May 2011 Meeting of the Steering Group in Hamburg. Separate invitations to this meeting will be sent.

11 May 2011 Meeting of the Working Group "Networking + Clustering" in Hamburg. Separate invitations to this meeting will be sent.

11 to 13 May 2011 the 6th Hanseatic Conference "Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection around the Mare Balticum" in Hamburg. The program is completed and again promises a very interesting Hanseatic Conference. The programme and the invitations will be sent in the middle of March. You may invite interested persons from politics, administration and the media.

More Interesting and Important Notes

9 to 12 March 2011 AMBERIF Amber Fair in Gdansk.

13 April 2011 "13th International Diversified Fair Brest - Commonwealth 2011" as well as Investment Forum in Brest. Applications should be submitted to the Economic Department, Tel. +375 162 23 41 96 or 23 4621 or 23 86 07. Detailed information is available at www.brest-region.by.

The Chamber of Lublin suggests that all Partners should use the funding from the European Social Fund in cooperation with the Polish Partners within the framework of bilateral projects. From 2011 there is a tranche i.a. for the issues of innovation which requires cooperation with international partners.

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