



NEWSLETTER

++++ JULY 2010 +++++

NEWS

New Board and new members of the Hanseatic Parliament

The following institutions were unanimously accepted as the new members of the Hanseatic Parliament during this year's General Meeting in Minsk on 6 May 2010:

- 1) The Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
- 2) The Mogilev Department of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
- 3) The Chamber of Craftsmen and Entrepreneurs in Kielce,
- 4) The Chamber of Crafts and Small and Medium Business in Katowice.

At present the association of the Hanseatic Parliament includes 46 ordinary members from 12 countries, who jointly represent 450,000 small and medium-sized enterprises.

Moreover, the General Meeting unanimously elected the new Board for the next three-year legislative period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2013:

- President: Dr. Jürgen Hogeforster,
- Vice-President: Dariusz Gobis, director of the Pomeranian Chamber of Crafts for SMEs in Gdańsk,
- Vice-President: Vaclovas Kontrauskas, president of the Vilnius Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts.



General Meeting of the Hanseatic Parliament in Minsk on 6 May 2010

First Level Controlling

As we informed you already, in the QUICK project all the partners' own expenses – especially personnel and travel expenses – have to be verified by a control authority from the mother country. Only project partners from Germany and Belarus can be controlled by the first level controlling authority of the Lead Partner in Hamburg.

This procedure is very time-consuming and causes additional administrative burden, but unfortunately it is necessary. In the first fiscal period from 17 September 2009 to 31 May 2010 it can lead to significant delays and a postponed date of payment of co-financing.

The whole documentation concerning the reporting to the first period has to be submitted to the Joint Secretariat by 1 September 2010 at the latest. Since the Lead Partner has to process all data of the project partners and the whole project requires an external audit, it is extremely important to send the documentation of the project partners to the Lead Partner as soon as possible.

Amendment to the Partnership Agreement

The signed Partnership Agreement was designed according to the assumption that only central audit will be conducted during the project implementation. Since at present it is necessary to conduct first level control in particular countries, it needs to be reflected in the Partnership Agreement. However, in order to enable 40 partners to implement the new procedure in the easiest possible way, in agreement with the Joint Secretariat, we will distinguish two types of expenses:

- a) direct own expenses of the partners, especially personnel expenses and travel expenses.
- b) indirect expenses encompassing all other types of expenses managed centrally.

Owing to this fact, the Lead Partner will bear the biggest part of pre-financing expenses and will unburden the project partners in this way.

After finishing the reporting to the first period on the basis of the gathered experience, we will submit to you a written proposal of an amendment to the Partnership Agreement.



News from the QUICK project

The new first level controlling additionally preoccupied the Secretariat of the Hanseatic Parliament, made the working processes more complicated, and caused significant administrative burden. In spite of this fact, from the date of the General Meeting in Minsk, the content-related works were continued and the project partners took part in a series of important meetings including the following ones:

- participation in the conference on the Baltic Sea labour market in Vilnius on 11 May 2010;
- participation in the CBSS Conference in Klaipeda from 11 to 12 May 2010;
- participation in the Lithuanian-German Forum in Klaipeda from 13 to 14 May 2010;
- presentation of the project and an exchange of experience with the delegation from Ukraine on 18 May 2010;
- participation in the BSR Strategy Kick off meeting "Economy" in Copenhagen on 20 May 2010;
- participation in the Baltic Development Forum Summit 2010 in Vilnius on 1 and 2 June 2010;
- participation in the INNOREG Conference in Riga from 17 to 18 June 2010;
- participation in the conference in Brussels: **the QUICK project was acknowledged as the flagship project within the Baltic Sea Region Strategy** in the field of Education. This is an excellent opportunity to promote the interests of SME directly on the political level.
- participation in the Council of the Baltic Sea States event in Hamburg 24 June 2010;
- Organisational and technical preparations to the Hanseatic Conference "Strategies of the educational policy around the Mare Balticum today and tomorrow", which will take place between 21 and 23 October 2010 in Hamburg are conducted at full speed; a program encompassing the participation of international lecturers of the highest status has already been developed; invitations will be sent in August.
- According to the arrangements adopted at the General Meeting in Minsk, it was possible to develop a proposal of the concept of the Economy strategy which will be the subject matter of the meeting of the Working Group 7 "Strategies". It will then be sent to all partners with a request to assume a position in writing.
- Proposals from the project partners have been collected in order to develop economic analyses and analyses concerning clusters. All tasks are to be implemented by the partners. A significant number of these tasks has been arranged already; some bilateral arrangements have not been made yet.
- Works concerning three new seminars on energie and environmental protection have been initiated and the transfer of five existing courses has

been prepared. These concepts will be discussed during the next meeting of the working group in Gdansk.

- The procedure of the business forums and the enterprises profiles for the matchmaking have been developed. The concepts of the "Train the Trainer" seminars have been prepared. Both issues will be discussed during the next meeting of the working group in Gdansk.
- A survey for all project partners regarding the business and investment plans and the R&D solutions for SMEs is in progress. Please provide your response in time so that we could conclude agreements with the partners concerning the implementation and financing.



Meeting of Working Group 2 "Communication + Information" on 23 March 2010 in Lublin



General Meeting of the QUICK project in Minsk on 7 May 2010

Promotion of international mobility

An important task of the Hanseatic Parliament and the Baltic Sea Academy is supporting international mobility of students, vocational students and specialists. Within the last few months we managed to direct many students to enterprises within the whole region of the Baltic Sea.



HANSE-PARLAMENT



At present we also have five companies in Finland which are very interested in accepting foreign trainees. If there are students in your institution/organisation who are looking for a training place abroad, please inform us about this fact. We will send you more detailed information directly.

IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Logo and information on co-financing

According to the regulations of the BSR programme and the recommendations of Working Group 2 "Communication + Information" we would like to ask all project partners to necessarily include the following logos and information concerning co-financing in all activities, correspondence, etc. in connection with the QUICK Project:



Part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund and European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument)

Additionally, we would like to encourage you to use the logos of the QUICK Project, the Hanseatic Parliament and the Baltic Sea Academy:



These logos are also included in the enclosed Word document, which enables their copying.

We will inform you about other proposals developed by Working Group 2 "Communication + Information" in subsequent newsletters.

Upcoming meetings and events

Attached to this newsletter you will find:

- The schedule for QUICK-Project meetings in the second half of 2010. Please pre-book these dates and note them in your calendars.
- The schedule of QUICK-Project meetings for the whole 2011. Most of these dates and venues of events have not been agreed upon with the relevant partners. **We would like to ask the relevant partners to check and inform us whether they agree to these venues and events, as well as about the changes that they would like to see.**

Events organized by other institutions

August 27, 2010: 25th anniversary celebration of the Center for Energy, Water and Environmental Technologies of the Hamburg Chamber of Crafts, with diverse lectures on topics of energy-saving and environmental protection, exhibitions, guided tours in the center, discussions and consultations (more information on www.zewumobil.de)

September 8-11, 2010: 15th International Food Industry Fair "Riga Food 2010" in Riga

September 9, 2010: MariMatch 2010 International Brokerage Event for the Maritime Sector at the SMM Fair in Hamburg

September 30 - October 2, 2010: 15th International Fair of the Aukstaitija Region and also, at the same time, the 5th International Investment Forum organised by Panevezys Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts (for more information please call +370 45 466905)

October 13-14, 2010: Idea Cafe Project at the BSSSC Annual Conference in Riga

October 14-17, 2010: 6th international exhibition for power industry, energy efficiency and environmental technologies in Riga

October 18-19, 2010: IX Annual Forum of Strategic Planning Leaders in Saint-Petersburg (for more information please visit www.forumstrategov.ru or call + 7 812 3631260)

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