

Participation Day in Gdańsk!

Tuesday, 11 June 2019

INVITATION

Dear friends of the Baltic Sea Region,

Successful collaboration between organizations and people in the Baltic Sea Region requires broadest possible mobilization and participation of stakeholders in all respective countries. European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) requires a strong bottom-up participation and a sense of "ownership" by various stakeholders. This applies to both policy shaping and practical implementation. The participation of citizens and organizations at all governance levels, across sectors and across all borders is a prerequisite for positive development of cooperation within the EU and an important part of the EU's cohesion policy.

Like previous years, even this year's Participation Day is arranged in connection with the Annual Forum. The Participation Day is an important opportunity for new stakeholders to get in touch with the cooperation within the EU and to meet colleagues who already have experience of EU cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. Participation Day is a kind of marketplace where stakeholders can present their ideas, get feedback and guidance from the policy community enabling new stakeholders to participate in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Our aim is to reduce the step into the Strategy, making our guiding principle with multi-level governance and cross-sectorial cooperation a reality.

We invite representatives of EUSBSR stakeholders, such as local and regional authorities, civil society organisations, academia, business and media, to the Participation Day in Gdansk.

This year's Participation Day focuses on four thematic areas
(Below you can read more about these thematic areas):

- **Innovations for a circular and socially coherent economy**
- **Urban mobility - smart and sustainable**
- **Antimicrobial resistance and pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea Region environment**
- **Competence supply**

The organisers will do their best to ensure that as many different organisations/networks as possible can attend and present their proposals and views.

You are therefore also invited to present in advance short, concise and concrete project proposals, concepts or ideas about the themes of the Participation Day.

The organisers will confirm the acceptance of participants and select the most promising proposals to be presented in the Gdańsk Participation Day by **3 May 2019**.

[Please click here to register for the Participation Day 2019 and to give any suggestions](#)

[Please click here to register for Annual Forum 2019](#)

If you have any questions or comments don't hesitate to contact us!

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Participation Day 2019

Description of thematic areas

1. Innovations for a circular and socially coherent economy

Challenge-driven innovation addresses challenges that cut across academic disciplines, regional and national boundaries, and even industrial sectors. Examples of such challenges include climate change, eutrophication, plastic marine litter and related hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea, and population ageing which put pressure on both welfare states and the long-term economic dynamism of the Baltic Sea region. No single academic discipline, institution, business sector or policy level can alone bring about the innovations to meet these challenges, making it critical for stakeholders from different sectors and different levels of government to work together. There may not be a ready market for a solution that emerges from a challenge-driven innovation, but a market may need to be created which will also require public sector intervention and policy coordination (on local, regional and national levels). In recent years, regions and cities with their stakeholders have been among the most active stakeholders in BSR innovation cooperation, and transnational challenge-based innovations- and joint smart specialization focus area related projects are also strongly represented in the current PA INNO project portfolio (e.g. on circular economy, blue growth, and health). Building on this strong background and experience and leveraging and scaling up the successes and best practices, we have a strategic opportunity to create stronger innovation ecosystems, and to tackle common BSR challenges by developing shared solutions and related new pan-Baltic value chains.

2. Urban mobility - smart and sustainable

A large majority of European citizens live in an urban environment, with over 60 % living in urban areas of over 10 000 inhabitants. They live their daily lives in the same space, and for their mobility share the same infrastructure. Urban mobility accounts for 40 % of all CO₂ emissions of road transport and up to 70 % of other pollutants from transport. European cities increasingly face problems caused by transport and traffic. The question of how to enhance mobility while at the same time reducing congestion, accidents and pollution is a common challenge to all major cities in Europe. Congestion in the EU is often located in and around urban areas and costs nearly EUR 100 billion, or 1 % of the EU's GDP, annually. Cities themselves are usually in the best position to find the right responses to these challenges, taking their specific circumstances into account. Efficient and effective urban transport can significantly contribute to achieving objectives in a wide range of policy domains for which the EU has an established competence. The success of policies and policy objectives that have been agreed at EU level, for example on the efficiency of the EU transport system, socio-economic objectives, energy dependency, or climate change, partly depends on actions taken by national, regional and local authorities. Mobility in urban areas is also an important facilitator for growth and employment and for sustainable development in the EU areas.

3. Antimicrobial resistance and pharmaceuticals in the BSR environment

Pharmaceutical residues in the Baltic Sea are causing concern as the full impact for the marine environment is still unknown.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) due to the inappropriate use of antibiotics in humans, animals and agriculture and inefficient hygienic routines in the health care sector is a global health problem that has an increasing impact on public health worldwide. Antimicrobial resistant bacteria are found in surface waters, soils, animal and human waste streams, and foods of plant origin and the environment is increasingly acknowledged as a contributor to the further development and spread of AMR in humans and animals. To meet this growing challenge, strong evidence is required to better inform decision making in this area. Within the BSR, the situation across Member States with regards to AMR varies greatly. This includes patterns of antimicrobial use, occurrence of resistance, and the extent to which effective national policies to deal with AMR have been implemented.

Emphasis needs to be put on multi-sectoral coordination strengthening the surveillance of antibiotic consumption and resistance; promoting strategies for the prudent use of antibiotics and effective infection prevention and control. There is a need for closing knowledge gaps on pharmaceutical pollution and its impact in the environment. To reduce emissions, measures are needed on both national and regional level.

Together we can make the BSR a best practice region for handling pharmaceuticals pollution and AMR in the environment.

4. Competence supply in changing labour market

Sustainable working life understood as the importance of creating a long-term sustainable working life where people's potential is developed throughout the entire working life. Experiences from "The EU Thematic year of Age for solidarity between generations" shows the importance of structured transfer of skills from elderly to younger in the workplace. The results of the activities in the theme year points to the value of openness to realize the potential of mutual knowledge transfer, as it brings value to both affected people and the workplace. The goal of the elderly in working life is expressed both directly and indirectly through goals of a long and sustainable working life, for example in terms of the importance of the opportunity for lifelong learning.