

## QUESTIONNAIRE

# THE BALTIC SEA REGION PROGRAMME

As you maybe know, the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions) is organising a Seminar which will be held in Valencia the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 regarding territorial cooperation in its internal and external dimensions. The purpose is to show the involvement of regions as actors for a global convergence.

To prepare this meeting, the CPMR is leading a survey as far as the external side of territorial cooperation is concerned. We are trying to draw up an initial inventory of ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument) programmes to get an insight of the issues at stake regarding this instrument.

We are especially working on the Sea Basin programmes including the “Baltic Sea Region” programme (which has an ENPI cross border component). But we are also interested in other cross border cooperation (CBC) initiatives underway in the Baltic area and including “Neighbourhood and Partnership” countries.

We have gathered formal information in a first stage and from now on we would like gain some elements about the actual involvement of regional actors and organisations, especially belonging to the CPMR.

To this end, it would be very useful if you could answer some questions concerning your involvement in ENPI CBC programmes:

### **Questions for discussion:**

- Is the Neighbourhood policy a priority of the region?
- If so, how does it affect in the regional policies? How does it appear in the development plan of your Region?
- Did you send applications for the different calls for proposals of the Baltic Sea programme?
- If so, on which priorities were they focused?
- If not, why?
- Have you cooperation projects with Belarusian Partners?
- What are the main difficulties to work with Belarusian Partners? And the added value?
- What is your opinion about the involvement of the regional level in the monitoring of the programme?
- Are you involved in “land border programmes” of the ENPI cross border cooperation?
- Which other information can you give about your involvement in external territorial cooperation? How are you involved with your eastern partners “outside” ENPI programmes? Do you have some extra funds from EU, your State, and your own budget? What are the priorities you develop within these partnerships?
- What is your opinion about the Baltic Sea Region programme and how do you think it could be improved? (Concerning the rules of procedure, the partners involved, the priorities, the monitoring...)
- According to you, could the INTERREG& ENPI programme related to the EU Baltic Sea Strategy? Why?

Summary of the interviews with the Baltic Sea Commission member regions (17.02.2010)

OSTROBOTHNIA (Finland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any project with Belarusian partners.</li> <li>- Explanation: it is more natural to cooperate with northern and western countries (“Atlantic programme”) = European territorial cooperation.</li> <li>- Involved in the Baltic Sea programme but in the INTERREG side.</li> <li>- Some cooperation with Belarusian universities but it’s a marginal part.</li> <li>- Ambition to involve Russia in the next programming.</li> </ul>
OULU REGION (Finland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oulu manages the ENPI Karelia programme.</li> <li>- Russia is rather important cooperation partner.</li> <li>- Programmes enable stability of the cooperation.</li> <li>- Baltic Sea Region: have send 2 applications (rejected) on priority 4 (logistical project).</li> <li>- No cooperation with Belarus.</li> <li>- External territorial cooperation: Barents regional council = area for discussion, involved national and regional levels + operational projects.</li> <li>- Improvement of the programme: reduce the lack of geographical balance (south-oriented).</li> <li>- Links with Baltic Sea Strategy: opportunity but south-oriented whereas many challenges are north-oriented, importance to take also the Northern Dimension into account;</li> </ul>
HIIMUMAA (Estonia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Neighbourhood and Partnership Policy is not really a priority.</li> <li>- No applications sent.</li> <li>- Cooperation with Russia: programme about economical and environmental issues (land border programme Estonia – Latvia– Russia.)</li> <li>- Previous period: several cooperation programmes with Russia.</li> <li>- Concerning the projects implementation, the cooperation works well, but there is the problem of corruption.</li> <li>- Added value: good personal connections and different ways to work on common challenges.</li> <li>- Hiiuma is not involved in the JMC of the BSR.</li> <li>- Involvement in the “Baltic Islands Networks” which an area for reflexion about common challenges.</li> <li>- Improvement: management of the programme, which rules are currently too complicated: it is actually too hard for Estonian applicants to submit projects and it could lead to the failure of the programme.</li> <li>- No Estonian partner wants to be a lead partner.</li> </ul>

Appendix 10 - 35§ Prel. result questionnaire on BSR Programme

GOTLAND (Sweden)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Neighbourhood policy is not a priority of the region.</li> <li>- interest for the Baltic Sea Strategy where the regional and local levels have to be taken more into account</li> <li>- The presence of Russia in the Strategy seems essential.</li> <li>- County council has cooperation projects with Belarus but there is any cooperation at the municipal level.</li> <li>- Lot of cooperation with other islands in the Baltic Sea.</li> <li>- BSR: very complicated administratively = some applicants are never fulfilled for this reason, rules for participating (For instance, Gotland wanted to participate but couldn't because of its belonging in 2 geographical areas.)</li> <li>- Links between programmes and EU strategy could be great</li> </ul>
KLAIPEDA (Lithuania)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The neighbourhood policy at the moment is governed by Ministry of Interior who prepares the National Regional Development Strategy. Only few responsibilities are delegated to the county's administration and it is not clear if it remains after the administrative reform we are passing at the moment.</i></li> <li>- <i>We have the items in the development plan of our region and we focus on the regional policies but we follow recommendations of the Ministry of Interior.</i></li> <li>- <i>Did you send applications for the different calls for proposals of the Baltic Sea programme? - No.</i></li> <li>- <i>At the moment we are passing the administrative reform and can only predict that participation in the cross border programmes would be delegated to the regional councils, so we hope for the best.</i></li> <li>- <i>Klaipeda region has no cooperation projects with Belarusian partners.</i></li> <li>- <i>We are involved in "land border programmes" - we participate in Lithuania - Poland - Russia cross border programme.</i></li> <li>- <i>Klaipeda region also participates in Lithuania - Latvia cross border programme, South Baltic cross border programme, Baltic Sea Region Programme. We also had several international projects financed by Nordic council, and Lithuanian -Georgian project financed by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Of Lithuania.. And we also organise some contacts and some projects with Kaliningrad and Ukraine based on interregional cooperation agreements.</i></li> <li>- <i>There are important and good quality projects running under the Program. As far as we know competition between applicants is very hard, but that's not bad for quality assurance.</i></li> <li>- <i>INTERREG&amp; ENPI Programmes usually contribute to implementation of Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies. On our opinion Baltic Sea strategy should be treated equally and receive respective support for its implementation, as far as there's no other means of funding foreseen for the BSS.</i></li> </ul>