



## ***Cohesion in the Baltic Sea Area!***

***Fresh ideas for successful rural and urban growth***

***Date: 30 May 2017, 15:00 – 18:30***

***Venue: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Office***

***Moderator: MEP Jan Olbrycht***

This is a great year for discussing EU policy. The European Commission is busy working on new proposals for the period 2021-2027, while Brussels is teeming with debate on the new policy, in everything from rural and urban development to financial instruments to cohesion. Cohesion policy is an indispensable tool for regional development - what should it look like in the future?

The informal Baltic Sea Group – a group of 50 Brussels based regional offices from the Baltic Sea Area – invites you to Rural and Urban Cohesion. Cohesion Policy matters - a seminar where you can engage with the European Parliament, the European Commission, regions and cities. We discuss what works (and what needs to change!) in Cohesion policy. Learn what makes successful projects around the Baltic Sea tick.

So, please join us for an afternoon filled to the brim with fresh ideas, thought-provoking debates and discussions with colleagues new and old on the future of Cohesion policy. See you in Brussels!

## 15:00 – 15:45 an investment policy for regions implemented by regions

- Cohesion policy is the investment policy in Europe! How can it be more effective?
- What about Indicators?
- What about the EFSI?

Welcome by the moderator

- Keynote: Morray Gilland, HoU, DG Regio, European Commission
- Keynote: Tamara Krawchenko, Economist/Policy Analyst, OECD

## 15:45 – 16:30 Panel 1: highlighting added value to the citizens

**#bestpractices#cohesionpolicyworks#focusonresults#betterspending#€oninnovation**

- How does Cohesion Policy affect the citizens' perception and identification with the EU?
  - How is communicating Cohesion Policy a challenge?
  - How can regions better communicate Cohesion Policy and its results?
  - How can regions engage citizens in EU issues and improve communication with other levels of governance?
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- Speaker 1 Patrizio Fiorilli, Cabinet of Commissioner Crețu - Communication Advisor
  - Speaker 2 Irén Lejegren, Regional Development Board Chair in Region Örebro County
  - Speaker 3 Anne Sormunen, Manager of International Affairs at the Regional Council of Central Ostrobothnia
  - Q&A

## 16h30- 17h00 Coffee break

## 17:00 – 17:45 Panel 2: facilitating innovation

**#flexibility#smartspecialisation#makelifeeasier#thematicconcentration#exante**

- How to simplify cohesion policy?
  - How can EU funding / financing better support cooperation between European regions that are not in the same immediate geography?
  - How can regional funding / financing encourage investment in other regions?
  - Can there be a Europe-wide Smart Specialization strategy in the future?
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- Speaker 1 Monika Jönsson, Strategic Advisor on Business and Innovation, Region Dalarna
  - Speaker 2 Krzysztof Kasprzyk, DG Regio Better Implementation Unit (DDG.02)
  - Speaker 3 Niclas Forsling, Nordic Council of Ministers, PAC Inno EUSBSR & BSR Stars
  - Q&A

## 17:45 – 18:30 Panel 3: Territorial Dimension of Cohesion Policy

#territorialapproach#BalticSeaStrategy#Interreg##creatingsynergies

- What role does the territorial cooperation play in the Baltic Sea area? Should there be more or less in the future?
- What are obstacles to territorial cooperation in the Baltic Sea area? How to overcome them?
- What role does and should the EU, the nations and the regions play and with what main objectives for this cooperation on different levels between different stakeholders?
  - Speaker 1 Peter Hedman, Cleaner Growth, Region Västerbotten
  - Speaker 2 Nicolas Brookes, Policy Director, Conference for Peripheral Maritime Regions
  - Speaker 3 Sebastian Magier, Head of International Secretariat Euroregion Baltic
  - Q&A

## 18:30 Baltic Reception