

Maritime Education Program in Gdańsk

The international contest

HOW DO WE SEE THE BALTIC SEA.

Different perspectives, one goal



IDEA

Maritime Education Program contest was launched in 2011. Since 2013 the theme of each edition refers to an annual issue of United Nations' World Water Day. Due to the Polish presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, in 2016 we would like to invite students from Baltic countries to participate in the contest. This international model will aim to develop in following years.

Today's youngsters will be mainly responsible for bringing to life a long-term development strategy for the region. Therefore, it is crucial to involve teenagers and above all, to listen to their opinion on the values on which a common image of the Baltic Sea region should be build.

RECIPIENTS

The contest is addressed to students from Baltic Sea region at age 13-18 years. Participants will work independently under the supervision of a teacher.



PRINCIPLES

The main aim of the contest is to initiate a dialogue and exchange of experiences between teenage residents of the Baltic Sea region.

Participants will be asked to create an infographics showing the strengths of the countries they live in, in the aspects of: culture, transport, economy, natural environment, sports, tourism, social policy and education.

Infographics can be prepared in paper or digital version and sent by traditional mail or by filling form on the website.

Their works will serve as inspiration and a base of knowledge for future actions taken in favour of sustainable development of the Baltic Sea region.

Competition will be conducted in English.



WINNERS

Each country taking part in the contest will have a guaranteed place in the final 10:

POLAND – 2, LITHUANIA – 1, LATIVIA- 1, ESTONIA – 1, RUSSIA – 1, FINLAND – 1, SWEDEN – 1, DENMARK – 1, GERMANY – 1.

SUMMER CRUISE

Winners of the contest will take part in the summer cruise along the Baltic Sea coast. Two cruises will be organized (5 participants in each).

Schedule:

23.07 - 29.07

31.07 - 06.08

Start and finish in Gdańsk. The organizer does not cover travel costs (to and from Gdańsk to hometown).

Basic plan – one pit-stop in Hel – visiting the Institute of Oceanography in the Faculty of Oceanography and Geography at the University of Gdańsk.



The number of pit-stops can be increased, providing additional financial support.

INTEGRATION



Winners of the contest will take part in the summer cruise along the Baltic Sea coast. Through this experience they will gain a common perspective on the region and also, as an effect of this meeting, they will all together prepare another work collecting various viewpoints. The work will be presented in Partner cities in cooperation with contests Partners during autumn and winter time. It will show youngsters overlook on the Baltic Sea region, as well as promote the initiative for the next years.

COOPERATION

Having experience in reaching schools throughout Poland, implementers would like to base on proven system of cooperation.

Partner cities

The first step is to gain partnerships of Baltic cities, then through the departments responsible for education implementers obtain the access to schools from the partner cities. Contact via associations such as: Union of the Baltic Cities, Baltic Sail, Hanseatic League.

The **basic version** does not require financial involvement.

Each city interested in participation will receive a set of materials such as: description of the contest, an invitation for schools, contest rules and poster.

Expanded cooperation involving pit-stops in partner cities requires a financial contribution – 2 500 €.

Substantive partners

The aim of the contest is not only to gather opinions of young inhabitants of the region but also to transfer knowledge contained in the EU Strategy for Baltic Countries. In cooperation with the authorities in fields such as: culture, sustainable transport, economy, natural environment, sports, tourism, social policy and education, the educational materials would be prepared. The implementers have an experience in creating education content for young recipients.

Other partners

To enrich the summer cruise the idea is to plan a few pit-stops during which the winners will explore selected cities to get the picture of the common heritage of the region. This aspect of the contest might require additional financial support.

EXPERIENCE

The Maritime Education Program in Gdansk was launched in 2010 by the Gdansk Foundation at the request of the President of the City of Gdansk. The project was initiated by Mateusz Kusznierevicz, a World and Olympic Champion in sailing, and an Ambassador of the City of Gdansk for Maritime Affairs. As part of the Program, all 1-year students (around 3500 participants each year) of Gdansk gymnasiums go on educational cruises around the Gdansk Bay. During that time they learn the basics of sailing, study history, geography and biology, and get to know their city from an off-shore perspective. The aims of the Maritime Education Program include youth activation as well as popularization of maritime traditions and the rich heritage of the city among young inhabitants of Gdansk. Since 2010 the project has involved over 18000 students. The program is organized under the honorary auspices of the Ministry of Sport and Tourism, and the Ministry of National Education.

Since 2011 the Program includes a Nationwide Environmental Competition. In 2015 it was entitled: “The World in 100 Years” and was organized as part of the Polish celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. The aim for 2016 is to implement the international competition and to initiate a dialogue and exchange of experiences between teenage residents of the Baltic Sea region.

Implementers:

- City of Gdańsk, Gdańsk Foundation, Navigare Foundation

Partners:

- National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk
- Historical Museum of the City of Gdańsk
- Maritime Office in Gdynia
- Marine Station of the Institute of Oceanography of the University of Gdańsk
- Municipal Police Headquarters in Gdańsk

SCHEDULE DRAFT

I-II 2016 – preparing educational and promotional materials

III 2016 – launching the competition

III-V 2016 – promoting the international competition

VI 2016 – closing the competition

VII-VIII 2016 – starting of summer cruise along the coast of Baltic Sea for the winners

IX-XI 2016 – presenting works prepared by winners in Partner cities and institutions

from XI 2016 – further development of the initiative

The final schedule will depend on the final format, range of the project and of the financial possibilities.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Raising awareness of the key challenges that Baltic Sea region will be facing in the following years among young people.
- Initiating dialogue between young people from Baltic Sea region.
- Gathered opinions of youth, presented by the infographics will serve as the database for future cooperation.
- Sharing experiences during the summer cruise will lead to the future partnerships for sustainable development.
- The contest's website will be also a source of knowledge for young people about the South Baltic region strategies and current topics in international relations.
- Each year the winners of the competition will become teenage ambassadors of sustainable development of the region.