



## NEWSLETTER

++++ September 2012 +++++

### NEWS

#### Annual General Meeting and Conference in November 2012 in Brussels

The accommodation capacity in Brussels is expensive and scarce. We have found three affordable hotels with central location and booked rooms there. **Bookings are already to be made through the partner.**

**A** FIRST EUROFLAT HOTEL, Boulevard Charlemagne 50, 1000 Brussels - BELGIUM Tel: +32 2 286 79 73 Fax: +32 2 230 36 83 E-mail: sales@firsteuroflathotel.be

Booking CODE: HANSE1311 until 19.09.2012

**B** Sandton Hotel Leopold Exploitatie BVBA  
Rue du Luxembourg 35, B-1050 Brussels,  
Tel: +32 2 511 18 28, fax: +32 2 514 19 39  
e-mail: reservations@hotel-leopold.be  
Code: Hanse-Parlament until 08.10.2012

**C** Four Points by Sheraton Brussels, Rue Paul Spaak 15, 1000 Brussels, Belgium, Tel: +32 2 224 39 29 Fax: +3222243001  
constance.croissant@starwoodhotels.com  
Code: Hanse-Parlament

Please book with one of these hotels before the deadline. To help you plan your stay we have the following agendas for the events to take place in Brussels.

#### For Members of working groups:

14.11.2012 09.00: QUICK control Group WP 1  
14.11.2012 14.00: IGA control group  
14.11.2012 14.00: Work session of "Innovations cluster" Project

#### For all participants:

14.11.2012 19.00: "Regional Policy" event at the Hanse-Office with buffet  
15.11.2012 09.00: Joint Transfer Conference "CSR and IGA Project"  
15.11.2012 12.30: Visit to EU Parliament  
15.11.2012 15.00: Parallel meetings of the members of Hanseatic Parliament and Baltic Sea Academy  
15.11.2012 19.00: Dinner  
11.16.2012 09.00: General Meeting of the QUICK Project  
End: 16.11.2012 at 16.00 clock

#### EU funding for the fourth period

The review of the QUICK Project fourth period reports for 01.06. - 30.11.2011 are completed, there were no objections. The funds are disbursed

now, so that the settlements and payments for each partner can be made now.

#### Report for the fifth period

For the fifth period (December 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012) the project report must be submitted by September 1, 2012 for consideration and settlement to the Joint Technical Secretariat. Unfortunately First Level Controlling with the justification has not taken place in Poland since the end of June 2012, the financial means for the Controlling are raised in the Ministry. The Joint Technical Secretariat in Rostock made an effort to find a solution. And the process of audit in Poland was started in the middle of August 2012.

Therefore the report for the fifth period of the QUICK Project (01.12.2011 - 31.05.2012) will have to be prepared and submitted without all Polish Partners. The reports of the 5<sup>th</sup> period for the Polish partners will be resumed then in the statement for the 6<sup>th</sup> period.

We will be very glad to inform you when further information is available to us.

#### Budget reallocations in the Quick Project

Budget reallocations urgently required in the QUICK Project were agreed with all the partners and submitted to the Joint Technical Secretariat at the beginning of April 2012 for approval. The internal checks are completed and at the end of June 2012 the Monitoring Committee has also given its approval. Hence the budget reallocations are approved in the form in which they were requested and are already provided to all the partners. Therefore the new budget which is submitted to every partner is valid retroactively, namely:

- ✓ the own budget subdivided according to Work Packages and Budget lines
- ✓ the shared costs subdivided according to Work Packages and Budget lines
- ✓ the Budget total subdivided according to Work Packages and Budget lines

#### Strategy Program "Regional Policy"

A strategy program „Innovations in the Regional Policy“ shall be developed and published in the QUICK Project. A draft program which was discussed and decided by the QUICK workgroup WP7 "Strategies" during the meeting on August 28, 2012 is available at the moment. In this draft the following summary of objectives and strategies precedes the detailed concept.



## **1. Summary: Objectives and Strategies for Regional Policy in the Baltic Sea Region**

Within the QUICK Project (Qualification, Innovation, Cooperation and Key business for SMEs in the Baltic Sea Region) objectives and strategies for the innovative regional policy in the Baltic Sea Region which are described in detail in Chapter 7 were developed.

### **Cooperation and Integration**

An intense cooperation between the countries and areas of the Baltic Sea Region is mandatory. The existing cooperation must be consolidated and intensified further. Cooperations which have effect on the growth processes from below are the source for innovations, they strengthen the competitive ability and create critical minimum sizes for the markets and also big infrastructures.

### **Regional competition and financial compensation**

Cooperation means not the waiver of competition between the regions; it contains rather a consolidation of strong points for the achievement of optimal development for the individual locations and for the regions as a whole. A financial compensation between the financially stronger and financially weaker regions is in the interest of both the giving and the taking lands and regions.

### **Equal living conditions and functional division of labour**

Equality can only refer to several few basic conditions and shall correspond to the specific character of individual regions and to different needs of the population. It is necessary to develop a coordinated division of labour between the locations and regions in order to achieve optimal additions with the strengthening of particular regions and of the whole Baltic Sea Region at the same time.

### **Individual cultures and regional self esteem**

Preservation and strengthening of specific regional cultures are of vital importance for the development of the region. A unified culture is nonsense; it does harm to people and nature and it is equally harmful for the economy. Diversity encourages creativity and therefore innovations. Regional compensation of self esteem and also the development of tolerance, respect of specific cultures and the appreciation of diversity are required urgently.

### **Endogenous potentials and smart specialization**

It is necessary to invest constantly in the development of region specific strong points. Growth is possible in all the types of regions. By promotion of potentials which are typical for the regions also rural areas can grow and prevent outflow of people so that agricultural regions must not mean downturn.

The smaller the distance from cities the greater the growth in rural areas. That is why the cooperation between agricultural regions and agglomerations and also good traffic connection and intensive networking are so important.

### **Regional economic cycles and intensive stock development**

Any strengthening of regional economic cycles must have priority. The consequent development of stock of local enterprises promises economic success and at the same time it is the most effective instrument for new settlements and should have absolute priority in the economic promotion. Excellent qualified dependent labour force, entrepreneurial thinking and know-how, individual initiative, creativity and interest in innovations are the most important endogenous potential of a region. To a certain extent education is the key to the successful development of all endogenous potentials and for the promotion of stock.

### **Small and medium-sized enterprises and networks**

Small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of economy and society, they strengthen the regional development permanently and create additional workplaces. The encouragement of the middle class must therefore have the highest priority. The chambers should be developed, embraced and strengthened as central funding agencies of medium-sized businesses. At the same time the chambers must also ensure uninterrupted supply through branch offices, local contact persons and cooperation.

### **Innovations and knowledge partnerships**

Effective innovation strategies in the Baltic Sea Region must expand the region-specific strong points, encourage spatial cooperation of strong points and use cultural differences as the creativity potential. The cooperation between institutions of higher education and universities and also medium-sized enterprises must be greatly improved and expanded in all areas. At the same time the chambers can undertake mediation functions and ensure the supply of rural regions. For the Baltic Sea Region six fields appeared with outstanding growth opportunities for which the Excellence driven Center of Competence should be developed.

### **Decentralization and independence**

As the expression of new cultures regionalization and decentralization evolve increasingly. Neighborhoods and coherent economic and living environments become increasingly important. The strengthening of regional and local cycles reduces costs, enables new growth and promotes the direct



social interaction. Any support of decentralization and independence is required.

### Concept of centers and infrastructure

Public and private services offers must be strengthened in rural areas. Small facilities must compulsorily be not more expensive than big concentrations. The Economics of Scale shifts downward and also in the whole infrastructure field with the introduction of modern technologies, cooperative use, intensive networking and also personal and organizational development small, decentralized entities will become increasingly cost-effective and important. Establishing and maintaining a good transport infrastructure guarantees the development of all the centers and regions to a certain degree.

After the consulting and decision-making by the QUICK work group the complete strategy program is revised and published as a book. The concept should be presented on 14.11.2012 during an evening event and also on the next day it should be discussed with the politicians in the European Parliament.

### FUTURE DATES AND WORKS OF QUICK

**28.09.2012** Meeting of the work group WP 2 „Communication + Information“ in Pori/Finland. The invitation thereto has been made; provided that it has not happened yet, we ask for registration.

**28. and 29.09.2012** Business Forum „Energy and Environment“ and also initiation of international contacts between enterprises in Pori/Finland. The invitation thereto has been made; provided that it has not happened yet, we ask for registration. **We also ask to point this out to interested enterprises. The documents for this purpose have already been sent.**

**14.11.2012 from 09.00** Meeting of the work group WP 1 „Steering“ in Brussels

**14. from 19.00 – 16.11.2012 before 16.00** General meeting and final conference of the QUICK Project in Brussels.

**For the QUICK Project the realization and the results should be summarized and published in a book** which will be presented at the General meeting and final conference in Brussels on 16.11.2012. We would like to include brief comments of the partners, for example: What was the most important thing for you? How was the cooperation? What results are interesting to you? Etc. **Please send us Your very brief comments (maximum one sentence) with a photo.**

### Personal changes in the Secretariat

**Lucyna Döding** has been working with great commitment in the secretariat of the Hanseatic Parliament continuously since 2005 und has done for us really very, very much. At the moment Lucyna is expecting a baby! Of course we are very happy about it, but she will be greatly missed. From 15.08.2012 began the maternity leave for Mrs. Döding. After the birth of the child in November she will have a parental leave for a year, so we have to abandon the cooperation with Mrs. Döding till December 31, 2013. It is very difficult for us. You have our best wishes, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts and we will be glad to see you again.



From September 1, 2012 we have Mrs. **Wioletta Giergielewicz** with us. She was born in Poland, she was raised there, visited school there and also studied economics and international relations in Poland. She has Polish nationality, she has spent several years in England and now lives in Hamburg. Mrs. Giergielewicz possesses several years professional experience, together with the Polish native language she speaks English and German fluently, and also a little Russian. We are glad to cooperate with her and would like to welcome Wioletta Giergielewicz. Contact: Tel.: + 49 40 82 24 47 13 Fax: + 49 82 24 47 22 Mail: [wgiergielewicz@hanse-parlament.eu](mailto:wgiergielewicz@hanse-parlament.eu)

### EXTERNAL CONFERENCES

Life science forum [Life Sciences Baltics 2012](#) (presenting Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian life scienc-





es potential), on **September 12-14**, Vilnius, Lithuania. More information [www.lsb2012.com](http://www.lsb2012.com).

The National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the EU together with Enterprise Europe Network in Poland organizes the International FP7 Brokerage Event: *Mat&Nano Brokerage Day* in Warsaw, Poland, at The Warsaw University of Technology, pl. Politechniki 1 on **18 September 2012**. <http://conferences.kpk.gov.pl/Default.aspx?id=21>.

Conference "Quality and Its Applications" on **19-21 September 2012** in Danzig. More information [www.qualitygdansk.eu](http://www.qualitygdansk.eu)

Baltic Sea Region Programme Conference 2012 in Norway, **19-20 Sept 2012**. At the Programme Conference in Lilleström (Oslo Region), we will see what difference transnational cooperation can make when successful projects continue working as thematic clusters (energy, innovation, transport and water). We will also look into the future of the European Territorial Cooperation 2014-2020.

**19.-21.09.2012** in Gdańsk: International Conference "Quality and its Applications" will be organized by University of Gdańsk and Gdańsk University of Technology. More information: <http://www.qualitygdansk.eu/>

„Territoriale Zusammenarbeit in Europa – wie geht es weiter?“ on **September 25, 2012** in Berlin. Organizer: Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs. More information [www.interreg.de](http://www.interreg.de).

„East Link: the Way to Knowledge Economy“ **OCTOBER 1-2<sup>nd</sup>** in Kleipeda. More information [www.east-link.eu](http://www.east-link.eu)

Intelligent Educational Systems and Technology-enhanced Learning held in Riga on **October 10<sup>th</sup>**. More information [www.scientific-conference2012.rtu.lv/node/267](http://www.scientific-conference2012.rtu.lv/node/267)

Annual meeting 2012 of our sponsoring member Initiative e. V. takes place from **12. – 14.10. in Erfurt**. Interested partners can register at: [www.initiative-europa.eu](http://www.initiative-europa.eu).

## ACQUISITION OF NEW PROJECTS

### Knowledge Partnership

With five partners and five small and medium-sized enterprises we have submitted a project application in the program "Knowledge Partnerships" in Brussels on June 28, 2012. We will inform you about further progress.

### Skill Alliance and Curricula Vocational Training

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of August with the participation of eight partners we have provided a project application "Skill Alliance Energy saving and sustainable Construction in Baltic Sea Region" in Brussels. Within this framework the professional education and further education must be developed and realized. We will inform you about further progress.

### INTERESTING + IMPORTANT NEW WEBSITES

#### [www.eubizz.net](http://www.eubizz.net)

The service portfolio offered by the European Business Support Network is available online at [www.eubizz.net](http://www.eubizz.net). The website operates as a business development platform for small and medium sized enterprises as well as for business development organizations. The self assessment test for example, can be conducted online by companies who want to benchmark their supply chain competencies, but it can also be used by business support organizations in workshops or during consultations. Detailed information can be found in our last INNOVATION NEWSLETTER.

#### [www.limas-eup.eu](http://www.limas-eup.eu)

The EU funded LiMaS Project has developed a new web-based tool to facilitate ECO innovation in SMEs. The innovative aspect of this project is that users (SMEs) will be able to manage different environmental topics (for example: Life Cycle Assessment, Ecodesign, legislative requirements, Environmental Product Declarations, quantification of most significant environmental aspects, etc.) using a common approach and without being an environmental expert. The clear environmental results to be obtained and the associated information about Best Available Technologies (BAT) and Eco-design Guidelines will support the eco-innovation of their products and processes, and help companies to be more competitive. The target group is SMEs that manufacture Energy-using Products (EuP) and/or Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) and components.

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