



NEWSLETTER

++++ June 2012 +++++

NEWS

Report on the fifth period

The overall project report on the fifth period (1 December 2011 – 31 May 2012) is to be drawn up by 1 September 2012 for review and accounting by the Joint Technical Secretariat. For this we need documents from all partners and First Level Controlling reports until the end of July. For partners, who generally cannot provide information missing from the project report, no subsidies can be paid. We therefore urgently request partners to submit reports and documents on time. The Secretariat of the Hanseatic Parliament has sent the relevant documents and information to all project partners.

Content-wise, we were able to achieve in milestone 5 all planned activities, outputs and results. Even additional activities have been carried out, such as

- ✓ Additional Business Forum in May 2012 in Vilnius
- ✓ Additional Business Forum in May 2012 in Gdansk
- ✓ Additional energy seminar in January in Warsaw
- ✓ Additional large conference "Waste and Wastewater Management" in March in Minsk
- ✓ Additional workshop "Project work" in March in Gdansk
- ✓ Additional presentations of project results at third-party events.

Report and statement on the fourth period

Compiling reports on the fourth period (1 June 2011 – 30 November 2011) was rather tough for many countries as well. The entire report was to be submitted for review and accounting by 1 March 2012. As of 20 February we, however, only got the First Level Controlling report out of 15 partners. We had therefore, once again request an extension of the deadline by the Joint Technical Secretariat. These extreme time shifts delay the disbursement of funds, leading to a drastic increase in the pre-financing costs in particular for the Lead Partner and make financial management of the project extremely difficult. Thus, the report for QUICK could be drawn up for the Joint Technical Secretariat only by 2 April 2012.

In the meantime, some questions could be clarified. The disbursement of funds is expected by mid-July 2012.

Budget reallocations within Quick Project

The much-needed budget reallocations within Quick Project have been agreed upon by all partners and submitted in early April 2012 to the Joint Technical Secretariat for approval. The internal audits are completed and the monitoring committee will have a decision on it by the end of June. Immediately after receiving the decision, we shall send the new budget to all partners and to each partner the approved budget-planning

- ✓ of their own budgets broken down by work packages and budget lines
- ✓ of the shared costs broken down by work packages and budget lines
- ✓ of the total budget broken down by work packages and budget lines

Hanseatic Conference 2012

On 14 - 16 May 2012 we have successfully held the seventh Hanseatic Conference in Hamburg, this year dedicated to innovation promotion and innovative strategies in regional policy around the "Mare Balticum". A total of 159 people attended from all Baltic Sea countries. The full version of the presentations and the results of the working groups were compiled in a book, which will be released in November 2012.

We have issued a press release to the Hanseatic Conference, which is reproduced below. We would be grateful if the project partners shared this statement in their respective regions with the general public and media through their own publications.





PRESS-RELEASE FOR THE HANSEATIC CONFERENCE

Innovation and innovative strategies in regional policy around the "Mare Balticum"

The Hanseatic Parliament brings together 45 industrial, commercial and trade chambers from all Baltic countries, representing the total of 450,000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs). These companies have great growth potential – for example, innovation and productivity in the countries to the north of the Baltic Sea is significantly higher than in their southern neighbors. According to estimates of the Hanseatic Parliament, should effective innovative development of SMEs be supported this would result in creation of at least one additional job with every second business by 2016, an increase by a total of 250,000 jobs.

250,000 additional jobs in SMEs

To take advantage of these great opportunities to develop and support innovative approaches to regional policy, the Hanseatic Parliament and the Baltic Sea Academy organize the seventh international Hanseatic Conference in Hamburg on May 14-16, 2012. The three-day conference shall see participation of entrepreneurs, scientists and representatives from chambers of commerce, politicians and public administration officials from all Baltic countries.

The Baltic Sea Academy unites 15 universities from 9 Baltic countries with dedication to specific knowledge and technology transfer and research and development for small and medium enterprises. In performing these tasks the universities are working closely with the chambers of the Hanseatic Parliament, so as to ensure broadest coverage of SMEs from all countries and regions.

Centre of Competence

The two organizations are now planning creation of Centres of Competence, which will provide Baltic-wide support to innovations in small and medium enterprises. The first three Centres of Competence shall deal with "energy efficiency", "climate and environmental protection" and "human resources and organizational development", for in these areas lie the greatest growth opportunities, as well as resources for the SME sector of the Baltic.

Participants of the three-day Hanseatic Conference, who will be received by Hamburg's second mayor, Dr. Dorothee Stapelfeldt at the City Hall, are expected to exchange experiences and jointly

develop specific policies, strategies and measures for promotion of innovations for SMEs, for development of Centres of Competence as well as for innovative regional policy.

Politics and science have to turn to SMEs

Stimulation of the few clusters of high-tech development is an important part of innovation policy, however, the latter is not limited only to it. Specific measures to support innovation for small and medium-sized enterprises must be especially intensively developed and implemented. This requires user- and demand-driven innovations and broader support policies that intensively take into account, for example, social and organizational innovations, development of corresponding technologies and new products, new organizational forms and employee involvement in innovation processes and transfer of technology.

The promotion of research and development by the state and the related tasks performed by colleges and universities must be more intensively and consistently focused on medium-sized businesses. The SMEs are the backbone of the economy and by far its strongest sector accounting for 99% of all enterprises and about 70% of all jobs, which, however, is so far neglected in the innovation policy.

International financial crisis threatens cooperation

Intensive cooperation between countries, regions, companies and people of the Baltic Sea area is a must. There is no other alternative. The existing cooperation must be further consolidated and strengthened. The individual sub-regions of the large "Baltic Sea" economic area must cooperate in accordance with their specific strengths and develop integrated solutions that optimally promote both the sub-region and the total area. The regional policy aimed at homogeneity, that seeks to have in its own region what some other completely differently-structured neighboring regions have, leads to destructive competition with no winner. The aim is to defend and develop the region's strengths and cultures, promote mutual learning and cross-regional cooperation to achieve a high level of spatial identity with the Baltic region and its individual regions.

National and regional revenue sharing

However, exacerbated by the financial crisis, the so extremely important collaboration in the Baltic region is under threat. On the part of northern and western Baltic Sea countries the increasingly significant payments and capital transfers from the EU to the benefit of the new EU countries are



severely criticized, as the finances were badly needed in their respective countries. According to the Hanseatic Parliament, these short-sighted policies endanger cooperation and weaken the entire Baltic region. On that issue Dr. Jürgen Hogeforster, Chairman of the Hanseatic Parliament, stated the following: "Financial equalization between financially stronger and less wealthy regions is the right way to go. This is in the interest of both the donor and the recipient countries and regions. "

The complete results of the Hanseatic Conference will be published in a book to appear in the publication series of the Baltic Sea Academy. On its basis the Hanseatic Parliament will develop the political strategy "Innovation in Regional Policy for the Baltic Sea Region" that will be presented in November this year in Brussels.



Hanseatic Conference 2012 in Hamburg

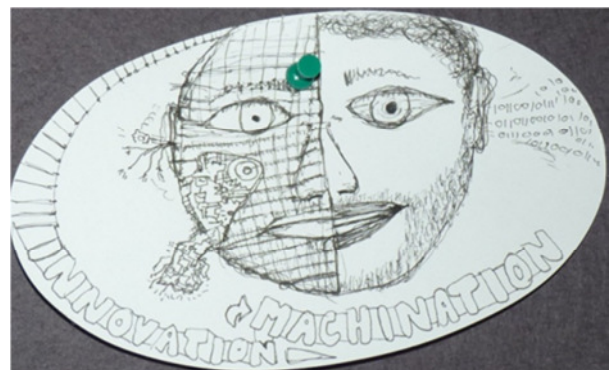
Expect specific invitations for all these events. Please reserve the dates and inform interested companies.

EXTERNAL EVENTS

2012 Annual Meeting of our associated member "Initiative" will be held on **12 - 14.10 in Erfurt**. Interested partners can register at www.initiative-europa.eu.

19.-21.09.2012 in Gdańsk

International Conference "Quality and its Applications" will be organised by University of Gdańsk and Gdańsk University of Technology. More information: <http://www.qualitygdansk.eu/>



Inspiration of a participant of the Hanseatic Conference 2012

FUTURE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

27. and 28.08.2012 WP4 "Research + Development" Working Group Meeting in Berlin

27. and 28.08.2012 WP 7 "Strategies" Working Group Meeting in Berlin

28.09.2012 WP2 "Communication & information" Working Group meeting in Pori / Finland

28. and 29.09.2012 business forum "Energy and Environment" as well as international network building between companies in Pori / Finland. **We would ask you to indicate interested companies already at this point.**

14.11.2012 WP 1 "Steering" Working Group Meeting in Brussels

14. - 16.11.2012 General Assembly and Closing Conference for QUICK project in Brussels.

NEW PROJECTS AKQUISITION

Innovation SMEs

The Joint Technical Secretariat Rostock wants to implement activities on SME cluster initiative, analyzed in the framework of relevant projects, making project results available to SMEs and implying development of proposals for future funding policy. The Hanseatic Parliament has been commissioned to carry out this research, the initial workshop will be held on 14.11.2012 in Brussels.

Protection and promotion of women's rights, and women's social and economic empowerment

With partners from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine we have submitted a Concept note for a project. Unfortunately we have not been short-listed, and we have no substantiation on that.



HANSE-PARLAMENT



Knowledge Partnership

With five partners and five small and medium-sized companies we are to submit a project proposal in Brussels by 28 June 2012. We will keep you informed about further developments.

Curricula Vocational Training

The EU has announced an assistance program on this topic; project proposals must be submitted by mid-August 2012. Partners interested in development of curricula for Vocational Training, please send the Secretariat a short message and we will send you further information. Based on the expression of interest from partners we shall see whether to come forward with a proposal.

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