



## **Maritime Working Group**

8 March 2017

### **Stockholm County Council**

#### **List of participants:**

**Perho Tiina, Chairman of the CPMR BSC Maritime Working Group**, Regional Council of South West Finland

**Bouveng Harry, Vice-Chairman of the CPMR BSC Maritime Working Group**, Stockholm County Council

**Bjering Åsa**, Executive Secretary, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

**Lindman Matts**, Senior Advisor, Stockholm County Council

**Nilsson Jonas**, Senior Advisor, Region Gotland

**Partanen Petteri**, Senior Advisor, Regional Council of South West Finland

**Schubert David**, Senior Advisor, Stockholm County Council

**Tamminen Janne**, Liaison Manager, Regional Council of Helsinki-Uusimaa

#### **Guest Speakers:**

**Baltic Eye – Stockholm University**

**Hanna Sjölund** [Click here](#) to download the presentation.

Before the meeting started, Ms Sjölund from Stockholm University presented the work that they are doing at Baltic Eye. Baltic Eye is part of the Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre. Through Baltic Eye, researchers and communicators collaborate to develop and disseminate knowledge that contributes to a healthier Baltic Sea. Baltic Eye seeks to promote scientifically-based decisions aimed at improving the Baltic Sea environment.

The aim for the Baltic Eye team is to:

- Gather, analyse and synthesise scientific knowledge about the Baltic Sea ecosystem and make it relevant to society;
- Supply accurate, relevant and intelligible knowledge bases before important political decisions about the Baltic Sea environment;
- Keep a continuing dialogue with decision-makers.

After Ms Sjölund had made her presentation there was a discussion in the group on how we could benefit from the work that Baltic Eye is doing and which other universities or research groups around the Baltic Sea they cooperated with.

## Formal Meeting

**Ms Tiina Perho**, Chair of the Maritime Affairs Working Group of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, opened the meeting and handed over the floor to Mr Harry Bouveng, host of the meeting and the new Vice-Chairman of the Working Group.

**Mr Bouveng** welcomed the working group to Stockholm and gave a presentation on the regional development of Stockholm County Council and relevant issues related to the field of work that the CPMR BSC Maritime Working Group covers. The presentation is available on the BSC website ([click here](#)).

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without changes and as can be found below.

### 2. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting in May 16th, Turku

The Minutes were approved.

### 3. The CPMR's main maritime priorities

Presentation by **Ms Åsa Bjerling**:

- On 10 March 2017, the CPMR Political Bureau will meet in Malta. There is a Maritime Policy Position to be adopted during the meeting. The minutes are now available on request from the CPMR secretariat. The position was adopted and is also available on the website ([click here](#));
- The CPMR Secretariat asks the Member Regions to back this position at national level via a letter or phone call to the Minister/Ministries in charge of negotiating the Maltese declaration on maritime issues that will be adopted on 20 April;
- The CPMR Secretariat is planning a follow-up to the Blue invest conference that was hosted during 2016. The date is not set but it will most probably be in September and will focus on the future of the Juncker plan and maritime investments. There will be a questionnaire sent out to the Regions prior to the conference to gather input about support to access to finance in the regions;
- MSP. Lucas Bosser discussed last week with MSP experts from Baltic countries in the EC MSP Expert Group that we just joined. They say that we cannot enter as full partners in the partnership that they developed in answer to DG Mare's Call on MSP in the Baltic but that we can build a soft connection to the project by inviting the Working Group to discuss the results of the project for instance;
- Åsa Bjerling informed participants about the SEARICA intergroup in the European Parliament. The CPMR functions as a secretariat for the Intergroup and Member Regions and Geographical Commissions are invited to put forward suggestions on what to focus the meetings on.

### 4. Main priority of the Maritime Working Group – Blue Growth

The Sustainable Blue Growth Agenda for the Baltic Sea Region, adopted by the European Commission in 2014, highlights the extraordinary potential for developing the maritime economy in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

A hotbed for innovation and competitiveness, the BSR also features a strong tradition of transnational cooperation for working with and for a healthy Baltic Sea. In order to harness these unique characteristics, the Commission is now taking the development of the Baltic Blue Growth Agenda one step further.

The process, which started in September 2016 and is planned to run for 10 months, follows a step-by-step approach with various formats of involving and reaching out to stakeholders:

1. Desk research will provide an initial overview of existing actors, projects and initiatives to identify the most important development trends and action gaps in each of the chosen opportunity areas;
2. Surveys will be carried out to verify and complement the desk research. The surveys will be open to all stakeholders;
3. Interviews will be held with selected stakeholders to gain more in-depth insight on priorities and possible actors;
4. Scoping papers will be developed for each of the four opportunity areas to capture the results of the three previous steps and identify the most important development fields that have the biggest potential for sustainable growth;
5. Four interactive discussion workshops will be held to discuss and agree on the identified entrepreneurial opportunities, industry challenges and to explore the necessary transformative steps and structures in order to finalise the strategic transformation maps for each of the chosen opportunity areas;
6. The implementation strategy will be published, outlining possible activities, projects and interventions for the above-mentioned areas.

CPMR Baltic Sea Commission carried out a mapping of Blue Growth Value Chains together with ten regions in the Baltic Sea Region, prior to September. The results of this work have been fed into the DG Mare process of developing a Blue Growth Agenda for the Baltic Sea. In addition, the BSC Secretariat has distributed a survey on the Shipping Industry, which is the only survey that has been sent out so far in the process. For more information, download the information leaflet by [clicking here](#).

On 9 November, the CPMR BSC Maritime Working Group arranged a seminar in cooperation with DG Mare on the topic of Accelerating Cooperation for Strategic Growth. Read more about the seminar here:

<http://www.strategyforum2016.eu/programme/seminars/accelerating-strategic-cooperation-for-sustainable-blue-growth-33676151>

The results of the process described above will be launched during the next EUSBSR Annual Forum that CPMR Baltic Sea Commission is co-organising with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Germany.

### **Clean Tech and relation with MA-Network**

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) is one of four macro-regional strategies within the EU. A central principle behind the macro regional strategies is to avoid creating new EU funds and related structures, but rather ensure a strategic alignment of funding. In line with this approach, a network of managing authorities of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the Baltic Sea Region was established on 19 May 2016.

This network – known in short as the MA-network – will work on aligning ERDF structural fund programmes in order to initiate project collaboration supporting the implementation of the EUSBSR, based on the specific needs of the participating regions. Policy Area Innovation and regional smart specialisation strategies are in focus for the initial try-outs with this new approach to funding transnational collaboration. The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission is supporting the pilot process with ensuring regional participation in the process.

More concretely, the MA-network has agreed upon the theme of clean-tech for a first pilot.

This means that the regions participating in this first pilot all have a clear clean-tech focus in their smart specialisation strategies. The objective of the pilot project is to develop 1 – 3 collaboration proposals relating to this theme. The proposals are expected to include an outline of objectives, activities, envisaged partnership structure and expected results. Following these initial preparations, the MA-network will launch a call at the next annual forum of the EUSBSR, allowing for additional interested regions to join these collaboration proposals.

A few key dates to watch out for:

30 March: Meeting between regional actors with clean-tech focus, Stockholm;

2–3 May: Workshop to develop proposals for project collaborations, Copenhagen;

13-14 June: Launch of call through MA-network at the EUSBSR Annual Forum in Berlin.

### **Update from the Smart Blue Regions Project**

Mr Petteri Partanen from the Regional Council of South West Finland gave an update on the Smart Blue Regions Project.

Smart Blue Regions seeks to enhance blue growth opportunities based on increased capacity of Baltic Sea Regions to implement Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). Six Baltic Regions from six European countries are collaborating in the framework of the Smart Blue Regions project.

Currently the project is collecting information about most effective blue growth implementation measures (both financial and non-financial). At the same time partners are mapping cooperation opportunities and key players from the participating regions and beyond. The aim is to build new transnational project initiatives based on expressed needs. Interim results of both of these activities will be presented in the next partner meeting in Malmö, at the end of April 2017.

Furthermore, the Smart Blue Regions project is in dialogue with the MA-network about the possibilities to pilot transnational cooperation financed through national ERDF funds by using Article 70. Currently the pilot call on cleantech is on-going and the project works towards launching a pilot call on blue growth in autumn 2017.

## **5. Sustainable Development Goals and the BSR**

Ms Åsa Bjerling informed the Maritime Working Group of the discussions that the Executive Committee had in January earlier this year. A working paper from the secretariat had been sent out earlier.

Region Norrbotten, the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and EuroRegion Baltic has send in a project application to the Swedish Institute. The project aims at building awareness and capacity among Regional Authorities in the Baltic2030 process.

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission is a member of the CBSS Expert Group on Baltic2030. This place is currently filled by the Executive Secretary but if any region wishes to participate they are welcome and encouraged to do so.

## **6. 2017-2018 Work Plan for the Maritime Working Group**

A draft Work Plan had been sent out to the participants prior to the meeting. The Secretariat together with South West Finland addressed the main priorities suggested.

The participants at the meeting agreed that Sustainable Blue Growth should continue to be a priority of the working group and that more action should be decided once the Blue Growth Implementation Agenda has been launched.

The Interreg Platform for Sustainable Blue Growth that was discussed should also be a priority, (see more information here: <http://www.interreg-baltic.eu/news-detail/news/towards-project-clustering-in-blue-growth-workshop-impressions.html>)

Also, the MA Network and possible openings for Blue Growth themes should be monitored by the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission Secretariat and communicated with the Maritime Working Group Members.

Region Stockholm highlighted that they were especially interested in Sustainable Tourism and a good dialogue with the harbours.

It was decided to have a first discussion between the officers from the regions and tourism bodies on the possible action to take on Sustainable Tourism. This meeting was held 20 April in a digital form. This should be incorporated in the draft of the Work Plan.

The Working Group decided that the Secretariat and South West Finland should finalise a first draft of the Working Plan prior the next Executive Committee Meeting in April.

## **7. HELCOM**

Mr Janne Tamminen from Regional Council of Helsinki-Uusimaa had attended the high-level meeting of HELCOM the previous week. He gave a short report.

The European Union has the chairmanship until June 2018. The next Ministerial Meeting will be held on 6 March (tbc) 2018.

One of the most important decisions made in the meeting was the updating of the Baltic Sea Action Plan by the initiative of the Finnish delegation, supported by Germany. The meeting stressed the importance of taking concrete steps to the renewal of BSAP.

The Swedish representative stressed the importance of reducing marine litter. Helcom has been in the frontline in identifying the origins of micro-plastics. Germany reminded participants that marine litter is mostly land-based, e.g. 60% of litter in rivers come from tyres. Estonia raised the issue of eutrophication and vegetation. The EU mentioned the problems with fishing nets and the increasing underwater noise.

The high-level representatives of the Baltic Sea countries and EU discussed a common approach to reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Baltic Sea region. HELCOM members decided to coordinate the regional implementation of ocean-related SDGs in the Baltic Sea using the HELCOM platform.

Other issues discussed in the meeting included sustainable fisheries (codfish and salmon have the biggest problems) and maritime spatial planning. The new Correspondence Group HELCOM CG PHARMA was established.

The Meeting also decided to prolong the term of Executive Secretary Monika Stankiewicz until 31 July 2019.

The participants were invited to attend the 18th Baltic Sea Day in St Petersburg and the EUSBSR Annual Forum in Berlin.

The Working Group decided to propose to the Executive Committee that Helsinki-Uusimaa should be the *Rapporteur* from the CPMR BSC in HELCOM meetings.

#### **8. Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – Berlin 13-14 June**

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission is co-organising the next Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. It will be held in Berlin, and the day before (12 June) is the General Assembly of CPMR Baltic Sea Commission. The programme for the EUSBSR Annual Forum holds several workshops on Maritime Issues. The registration will be open mid-April.

#### **9. European Maritime Days – Poole, 18-19 May**

The CPMR Baltic Sea Commission is not planning any activities during this year's European Maritime Days. The CPMR North Sea and Atlantic Arc Commissions are.

#### **10. Next meeting for the Maritime Working Group (including overview of the whole year)**

The Working Group decided to have a brainstorming meeting by internet on 20 March with a focus on Sustainable Tourism.

The next physical meeting was decided to be held 9.00–12.00 in Berlin on 12 June. The Secretariat will confirm the venue.

#### **11. Additional issues**

No additional issues were raised.

#### **12. Closing speech**

Ms Tiina Perho thanked the participants for good discussions and especially Stockholm County Council and Harry Bouveng for hosting the meeting.

The participants stayed for lunch in Stockholm County Council.