

Report

Involvement of associated organisations from Kaliningrad
in cross-border cooperation projects funded under the South Baltic
Programme 2007-2013

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Contents

Introduction: Kaliningrad and the South Baltic Programme	3
Hardwoods are Good.....	5
BalticMuseums 2.0 and BalticMuseums 2.0 Plus	5
Art Line	6
Generation BALT.....	7
MOMENT.....	8
ECODUMP	9
MARRIAGE	10
Case study findings	11
Benefits of cooperation	11
Challenges to cooperation.....	12
Contacts.....	14

Introduction: Kaliningrad and the South Baltic Programme

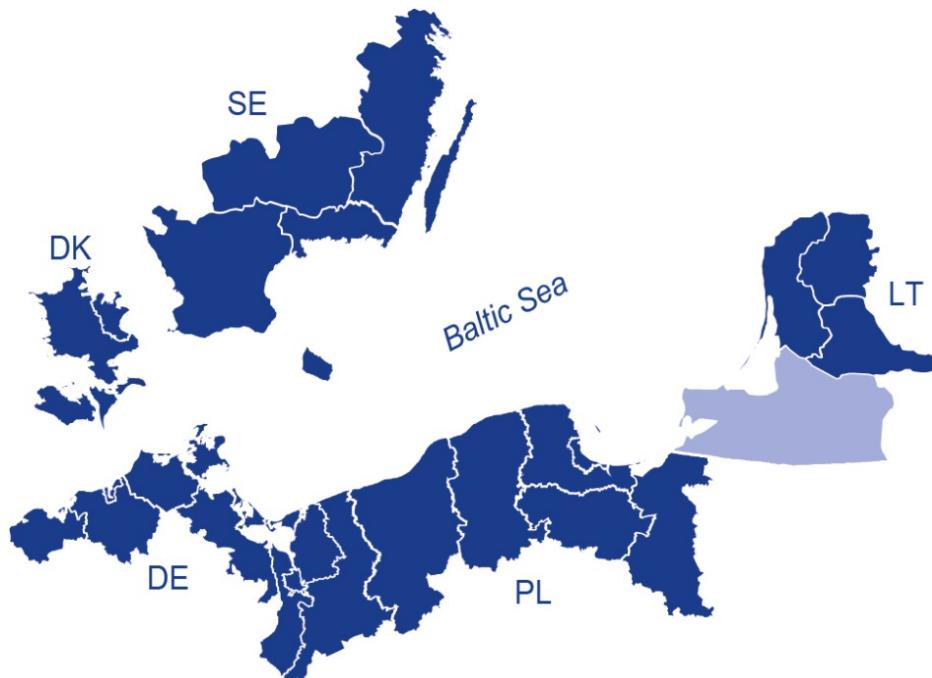


Figure 1: The eligible area of the South Baltic Cross-border Co-operation Programme.

The co-operation area of the South Baltic Programme includes regions of Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland and Lithuania (see Figure 1). Although the co-operation area excludes the Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation (hereafter referred to as 'Kalininograd'), Russian actors can still participate in projects as Associated Organisations.

An Associated Organisation is an entity that claims no refund from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) because it is either a for-profit organisation or is located outside the eligible area. Therefore, it must contribute its own resources towards all project-related expenditures. Alternatively, project partners can cover the costs of Associated Organisations from their eligible project budget. Chapter 4.3 of the 2007-2013 Programme Manual states: "The most welcome Associated Organisations in the South Baltic Programme are SMEs and entities from Kaliningrad."

As outlined in the South Baltic Operational Programme that was approved by the European Commission in December 2007, the ERDF may finance expenditure incurred in implementing operations or parts of operations on the territory of countries outside the EU up to a limit of 10% of the amount of its contribution to the operational programme. Specifically, such operations must be deemed to be "for the benefit of the regions of the Community."

The South Baltic Programme may also complement the activities of the Lithuania-Poland-Russia Cross-border Co-operation Programme that was initiated within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) framework. The Operational Programme states that the Programme: "may complement these activities by encouraging co-operation with the Kaliningrad region, under the condition set out in the ERDF regulation that these undertakings will be for the benefit of the EU regions. However, direct support from ERDF for the partners from outside the EU is not allowed within the South Baltic programme."

Forging cross-border connections and relationships are particularly valuable when it comes to maritime and environmental issues that are transnational in scope and require the collaboration of many actors. Universities, artistic institutions, organisations, museums, churches and political and legislative bodies from Kaliningrad participated as associated organisations in 12 projects during the 2007-2013 funding period, which equates to just over 17% of the total projects carried out during that time (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Projects and respective Associated Organisations for the 2007-2013 Programme.

Project	Associated Organisation
Hardwoods are Good	Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University
BalticMuseums 2.0/BalticMuseums 2.0 PLUS	Museum of the World Ocean
Generation BALT	Baltic Fishing Fleet State Academy of the Kaliningrad State Technical University
MOMENT	Kaliningrad Regional Duma
Art Line	Baltic Branch of the National Centre for Contemporary Arts
MARRIAGE	Ministry of Municipal Development
INTERFACE	Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University
ECODUMP	Atlantic Branch of the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of Russian Academy of Sciences
The South Baltic Area – Violence Free Zone	Blagosemya
SB VALOR	Kaliningrad Innovative-Technological Centre
RECREate	Catholic Church of St. Adalbert
ARTWEI	Atlantic Branch of the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of Russian Academy of Sciences

The projects listed above focused on issues ranging from tourism and transport to environmental and cultural heritage and labour and skills development. The Associated Organisations from Kaliningrad contributed to these projects in both soft and tangible capacities. This report provides an overview of the nature of the cooperation between project partners and Russian Associated Organisations using 7 project case studies from the 2007-2013 period.

Hardwoods are Good

The Hardwoods are Good project aimed to boost the economic viability of broadleaf forests and subsequently increase the profitability of the hardwood market. It brought together stakeholders from the South Baltic Region by developing the co-operation forest network (COOPFOR) for the forestry sector.

The contribution made by the Associated Organisation, the Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University, was threefold:

- Event hosting: arranged a workshop in Kaliningrad in May 2011 focusing on the hardwood sector
- Research: the conditions of functioning of the forest harvesting sector in the forestry of the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation
- Participation: took part in project activities and workshops

"From the other project partners' view, the workshop in Kaliningrad was the most valuable Russian contribution to the project. It raised awareness of the often bad circumstances for entrepreneurs in the wood industry, i.e. poor working conditions and security thinking, legislations for timber cutting and related problems."

Gunilla Oleskog, Hardwoods are Good project leader and Ola Runfors, Hardwoods are Good information officer



BalticMuseums 2.0 and BalticMuseums 2.0 Plus

The BalticMuseums 2.0 project and its follow-up BalticMuseums 2.0 Plus aimed to establish a network between oceanographic museums in the South Baltic region, thereby strengthening intercultural dialogue, promoting mutual understanding and creating a common identity based upon a shared maritime history and heritage. The projects successfully launched a multilingual online platform and eGuide for their consortium of oceanographic museums.

The Museum of the World Ocean (MWO) in Kaliningrad contributed to the project as an Associated Organisation in the following capacities:

- **Online content:** contributed content to the project's online platform balticmuseums.net

- **Translation:** provided Russian translations for both the online platform and the adjacent kids' website kids.balticmuseums.net
- **Input:** provided recommendations and advice during the project's development
- **Marketing and promotion:** disseminated the project by distributing flyers and posters, publishing articles and providing reports to media, including radio and television
- **Event hosting:** hosted project meetings



"MWO has supported the BalticMuseums projects right from the beginning in 2009 as an Associated Organisation. They have continuously participated in various cross-border project meetings in order to contribute to the international exchange of experiences. By regular meeting, strong working contacts have been set up, in particular with neighbouring museums in Gdynia, Poland and Klaipeda, Lithuania. The contribution of the MWO in meetings was especially valuable since Russian travelers represent an interesting visitor group in the South Baltic Region and thus a target market for touristic attractions [...] All partners appreciated to be able to gain insights from the Russian market."

Susanne Marx, BalticMuseums Project information officer

Art Line

The Art Line project established a joint platform for art activities in the South Baltic area, including both digital and physical events such as exhibitions. The project promoted collaboration between artists from different South Baltic countries.

The contribution made by the Baltic Branch of the National Centre for Contemporary Arts (BB NCCA) as an Associated Organisation in the Art Line project can be summarised as follows:

- **Participation:** approximately 10 artists developed and exhibited their artworks in the following exhibitions: Art & Apparatus; Workshop in Nida; IKOF in Kalmar; Baltic Sounds Good; Space Matters; Telling the Baltic; and Digital art now? Artists included: Danil Akimov, Oleg Blyablyas, Anton Zabrodin, Konstantin Traschenkov, Alexey Trotsak and Katerina Cherevko.
- **Event hosting:** ran workshops in Kaliningrad
- **Marketing:** arranged media coverage for exhibitions in Kaliningrad
- **Personnel:** provided expert lecturers in art and technology; exhibition and seminar organisers; curators Yulia Bardun, Oleg Blyablyas, Elena Tsvetaeva, Katerina Cherevko and Zinaida Shershun.

"The Baltic region naturally falls into our priorities as far as our cooperation strategy is concerned. As the Baltic Branch of the National Centre for Contemporary Arts, which has 7 branches throughout the whole of Russia, we aim to integrate Russian artists and curators into regional professional networks as well as to support exchange between professionals and institutions within the contemporary arts field. Some of the Art Line components, such as Telling the Baltic, have been very interesting in terms of content and very much in line with our thematic priorities. We felt that we can both benefit from and contribute to this cooperation."

Yulia Bardun, BB NCCA Kaliningrad

Generation BALT

The Generation BALT project sought to address the problem of a lack of qualified personnel in South Baltic maritime industries by harmonising maritime higher education curricula with the needs of the maritime sector. The Baltic Fishing Fleet State Academy of the Kaliningrad State Technical University (BFFSA) was the Associated Organisation in this project. Project leader Jan Fidler described the BFFSA as being "actively involved in all Generation BALT project activities."

The role of the BFFSA was multi-faceted and included the following tasks:

- **Participation:** internal meetings; 13 students in the Training Programme
- **Research:** contribution to the Foresight of the South Baltic Maritime Labour Market 2017 study
- **Translation** of publications into Russian
- **Planning** the Generation BALT Training Programme
- **Event hosting:** hosted students and provided expert lectures during a summer school event in Kaliningrad
- **Networking:** found partners for the Generation BALT Maritime Alliance

According to Dr. Pavel Kovalishin from BFFSA, the appeal of participating in Generation BALT was its focus on the South Baltic, maritime education, and inter-university collaboration in the field of linking higher education institutions and the labour market, issues that he believed to be relevant to the Kaliningrad region.

"We have made valuable contacts with the South Baltic universities, scientists and experts. The contacts are still relevant to carry out extra project activities, future projects and have mutually beneficial dialogue."

Dr. Pavel Kovalishin, BFFSA

Participants in the Generation BALT Training Programme also considered the experience to be highly valuable:



"Participating in the Generation BALT Study Programme was a real benefit for me. Through the Programme I got in contact with other students from European countries, which inspired me a lot. This programme gave me new insights into marine matters, and an idea of interesting working fields, especially abroad. Further, I really could improve my English knowledge, as all courses and the communication with other participants was in English."

"Now I'm working in a distribution company as logistics manager. After a few months, I was hired as Deputy of Head of Transport Department of our company. I passed the selection for this position over others due to the recommendations of my Academy, where it was known that I acted as an international student in Generation BALT."

Anna Kurilenko, Generation BALT training programme participant

MOMENT

The Modern Water Management (MOMENT) project and its extension MOMENT UP, developed under Euroregion Baltic, used modern water management methods to reduce the discharge of nutrients and hazardous substance to the Baltic Sea, which was classified by the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan as a key issue requiring action. The project defined and trialled a new stakeholder involvement model for river basin management known as a 'Water Users Partnership' (WUP), which was applied in the fields of land use, sewage treatment, stormwater management and information/communication. The model was based on a bottom-up approach that aimed to involve local landowners in collaboration. With 350 active WUP members, 7 WUPs were established in participating regions of Sweden, Poland, Lithuania and Kaliningrad. The specific project in Kaliningrad was known as MOMENT-Pri, after the Primorskaya River.

Two representatives from the Associated Organisation, Kaliningrad Regional Duma, were involved in this project: Marina Orgeeva (Head of Kaliningrad Regional Duma) and Alexander Nikulin (Head of Committee for Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Kaliningrad Regional Duma). In addition, the Department of Water Affairs of Kaliningrad Regional Government, research institutions such as the Atlantic Branch of the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of Russian Academy of Sciences (ABIORAS), and the Institute of Spatial Planning, Development and Foreign Relations provided assistance to the project.

The consortium of Russian institutions contributed to the project in three main capacities:

- **Consulting**
- **Fieldwork:** conducted scientific work
- **Networking:** assisted in the establishment of the Primorskaya River Water Users Partnership

Project leader Tobias Facchini stated that ABIORAS "had a significant role in the project contributing to the involvement of a Russian pilot area". According to Russian partners, the project had a significant impact in Kaliningrad.

"For the Russian side the MOMENT project opened possibilities to implement the best practices and solutions as well as be a part of the joint process and – what is more important for residents – to understand the aim of all the measures happening around. It was very clear after the MOMENT project that all the investment decisions are likely to be made on the regional level but they will never be efficient if the "ground level" doesn't understand the value of clear water and the every-man-role in the creation of sustainable environments."

Ivan Kesoretskikh , Institute of Spatial Planning, Development and Foreign Relations



"For the first time, it became clear to us how to connect peoples' needs with the local governance. As we have both scientists and local officials engaged in discussions within our Water Users Partnership, it became easy to find solutions for the problems that have been existing in this area for decades."

Alexander Fomin, Resident of Divnoe settlement

ECODUMP

The ECODUMP project planned to establish proper management of existing sediment dumping sites and to develop new ecosystem-based principles for the location of the new sites. The project analysed and assessed the current state of existing dumping sites, preparation of monitoring and control programme of dumping sites and preparation of guidelines for the location of new dumping sites. Environmental investigations and modeling of sedimentary patterns were other activities performed by the project.

Five people from Associated Organisation ABIORAS were involved in the project: Boris Chubarenko, Victoria Topchaya, Vladimir Chechko, Andrey Sokolov and Dmitriy Dikiy.

ABIORAS provided the following contributions to the ECODUMP project:

- **Participation** in project meetings, including organisation of a meeting in Kaliningrad
- **Research:** produced a report on dumping in the Kaliningrad region
- **Fieldwork:** modelled the sediment behavior in the Kaliningrad region by selecting different types and places of sediments to be dumped at sea

"Russian modelers had a particular task to do - modeling the sediment behavior in the Kaliningrad oblast by selecting different types and places of sediments to be dumped at the sea. The testing results were an important contribution while preparing the dumping site selection strategy and also for the developed guidelines."

Nerijus Blažauskas, ECODUMP Project Leader

Victoria Topchaya from ABIORAS notes that the reason for participation in the ECODUMP project was due to the common environmental issue of sediment dumping in the Baltic Sea area.

"We are convinced that all issues within the south-eastern Baltic Sea should be solved with the joint effort of three partners. To make the process sustainable for the whole strip of the southeast Baltic sandy coasts (Poland – Kaliningrad – Lithuania) is important as this is the unique and common resource which very much depends on and is sensitive to the measures and principles applied in all countries."

Victoria Topchaya, ABIORAS

MARRIAGE

The MARRIAGE project initiated cooperation and exchange in the field of water tourism marketing and marina management/operation, with the overall aim to increase incomes from water tourism in the participating regions. It developed the 'South Coast Baltic' brand which was promoted throughout the region to attract boaters to sail along the southern part of the Baltic coastline and organised sailing events such as the 'South Coast Baltic Boating Rally' in July 2014, where 40 sailors on 12 boats sailed from Gdansk via Kaliningrad to Klaipeda. The aim of this boating rally was in particular to combat the view that Russian visa applications and border procedures are big hurdle for boaters.

The Ministry of Regional Development of Kaliningrad was the Associated Organisation in the MARRIAGE project and was involved in the following activities:

- **Event organisation:** was responsible for the organisation of the Kaliningrad stage of the boating rally, including excursions and cultural activities.
- **Content and marketing:** contributed to promotion material

"Kalininograd is essential to the MARRIAGE project, as the project concept simply doesn't work without Kaliningrad; you have to have good marinas all the way along the South Baltic coastline. The involvement of Kaliningrad also means that boaters can break up the long journey from Gdansk to Klaipeda. They can travel from Gdansk to Kaliningrad in 1 day and then from Kaliningrad to Klaipeda in 1 day, rather than spending 2 days with an overnight at sea. We had a very reliable, transparent and clear cooperation with our Kaliningrad partners. Due to funding they were unable to participate in all activities but in those activities that they took part in, they participated on an equal footing with other project partners."

Jens Masuch, MARRIAGE project manager

Case study findings

- In general, all project partners and Associated Organisations were willing to discuss their cooperation and provide feedback.
- Responses were overwhelmingly positive and both sides considered the cooperation to have been valuable and meaningful.
- With the exception of the MOMENT project, all project partners compared the level of involvement of Associated Organisations from Kaliningrad to that of ordinary project partners.
- There were challenges in the cooperation from both the project leadership side and the Associated Organisation side for several projects. However, this does not appear to have had a negative impact upon the desire for future cooperation between Kaliningrad and other South Baltic countries.
- There is, in general, added value in involving Associated Organisations from Kaliningrad for both project partners and the Associated Organisations themselves.

Benefits of cooperation

The following were mentioned by project partners as benefits of cooperating with Associated Organisations from Kaliningrad:

- insights were gained into Russian markets, industries and research society;
- international experience was exchanged;
- working contacts were established;
- target market for touristic attractions was increased;
- contributions were made to the sustainability of common environmental resources;
- positive relations were built between countries and attitudes towards one another were influenced;
- the specific skills of Russian experts could be utilised.

Representatives of Russian Associated Organisations mentioned the following benefits stemming from their involvement in South Baltic projects:

- possibilities to implement best practice and solutions were opened up;
- they were able to be a part of the cooperation process;
- regional identities, histories and societies were explored together;
- opportunities for Russian students, including broadening of outlook, increase in self-confidence and English language skills, were increased;
- issues and challenges relevant to the Kaliningrad region were addressed;
- valuable contacts and mutually beneficial dialogue was established with universities, scientists and experts in the South Baltic region;
- a contribution was made to solving common environmental problems;
- better knowledge and understanding of neighbours and of the regional cultural and institutional landscape was achieved.



"The added value of including Kaliningrad in the Hardwoods are Good project was the possibility to gain an insight into the Russian wood industry and society. Additionally, all activities involving Russia and building personal relations between countries probably influenced people's attitudes towards each other."



Gunilla Oleskog, Hardwoods are Good project leader
and Ola Runfors, Hardwoods are Good information officer

"Even taking into account that Russian participants can't be a full member of the projects we still see a big interest in being associated partners. Of course to be a full member partner (with funding) opens up much more possibilities, but this is not the main aim, much more is to be a part of the process."

Ivan Kesoretskikh, Institute of Spatial Planning, Development and Foreign Relations

Challenges to cooperation

Of all the project partners and Associated Organisations contacted, only three outlined significant challenges to their cooperation. These challenges were faced by both project partners and by

Associated Organisations. For the project leaders of the Hardwoods are Good project, the main challenge lay in increased work for them to involve the Associated Organisation:



"We must admit that it was quite difficult to work with the Russian partner. It was tricky to find the right persons having relevant competence in the hardwood sector, low quality reports were produced and they had a low working efficiency. Everything took a long time and the result was often not what we expected. People suddenly disappeared from the project or did not attend meetings as they should have done. Every time without any credible reason. When they did attend the meetings they had often no opinions or the mandate to represent the organisation. All this together caused a lot of work to administrate and involve the university."



**Gunilla Oleskog, Hardwoods are Good project leader
and Ola Runfors, Hardwoods are Good information officer**

For the MARRIAGE and Art Line projects, the main challenge was the Associated Organisation status that prevented Kaliningrad partners from participating to the same extent as project partners:

"The main challenge was that Kaliningrad was not able to participate in all the activities. The Kaliningrad partners were there from the very beginning and we had a Polish partner who covered their costs. The challenge is convincing other partners to pay for Russia. But when this partner dropped out, the other partners had to cover the costs. Lack of funding meant that Kaliningrad could not participate in all activities, for example the training of marina operators. This is something we would like to be able to include them in for the next phase of the project."

Jens Masuch, MARRIAGE project manager

"While it is easy to involve artists in cooperation, for us it is more difficult to develop long-term institutional cooperation. EU financial instruments rarely allow for full-fledged involvement of Russian partners. Thus, additional funding has to be raised if we want to be seriously involved in the project. It is difficult to match various financial sources in terms of deadlines, costs, reporting, etc."

Yulia Bardun, BB NCCA Kaliningrad

Contacts

Below are the contact persons that provided information for this report. For further information or clarification about the statements contained in this report, they can be contacted using the details provided below

Project	Project partner	Associated Organisation
Hardwoods are Good	Ola Runfors/Gunilla Oleskog ola.runfors@skogsstyrelsen.se gunilla.oleskog@skogsstyrelsen.se	N/A
BalticMuseums 2.0 / BalticMuseums 2.0 Plus	Susanne Marx info@emaerix.com	N/A
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