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## Information on the development of the EUSBSR Flagship Baltic Sea Labour Forum and the ESF funded Project “Baltic Sea Labour Forum for Sustainable Working Life”<sup>1</sup> for the period 08.2019 - 05.2020

- In the framework of the annual Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, **the High-Level Meeting of the CBSS Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs** took place on **26 August 2019 in Oslo**. The meeting was organised as a continuation and follow-up to the successful meeting of the ministers and high-ranking representatives of the labour ministries of the CBSS which took place in Berlin in 2017. High Representatives of the Ministries of Labour were invited to take a stand on the issues defined in the Berlin Declaration as of common concern and interest for cooperation and exchange of experiences, focusing on the future work, demographic challenges and a sustainable inclusive labour market in the Baltic Sea Region.
- **The Annual Round Table of the BSLF**, dedicated to “Future work and provisions of Lifelong Learning systems in the context of an ageing labour force” initially scheduled to take place in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 26-27 March 2020, has been postponed to the late autumn of 2020, due to the pandemic of Covid-19.
- **The Annual Meeting of the CBSS Coordination Group on Labour and Employment** initially planned to take place on 26 March 2020, back-to-back to the BSLF RT in St. Petersburg, and dedicated to reporting on the progress of the **ESF funded Project “BSLF for Sustainable Working Life”** by the project team was postponed. **The new preliminary scheduled date is 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2020**, in the format of video conference.
- **BSR, Policy Area Education:** the BSLF Flagship leader took part in the process of the revision of the EUSBSR Action Plan, the part dedicated to Policy Area Education. Meetings of the Flagship Leaders and PA Education Coordinating Group scheduled for the 23-24 March 2020 in Brussels, were held in digital format. Information on the Flagship BSLF was delivered at this meeting. Another digital meeting for the five flagship leaders took place on 11 May 2020. The agenda included status reports on the flagships and the initiatives across all four EU macro-regional strategies regarding adaptation to post Covid-19 times, including thematic seminars and workshops.

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<sup>1</sup> A more extensive progress report for the BSLF-SWL is also attached

- In 2018, the BSLF as a platform for dialogue among social partners initiated the **project “Baltic Sea Labour Forum for Sustainable Working Life (BSLF-SWL)**, focusing on demographic change and aiming at improvement of the working live conditions for the ageing labour force. Thanks to the activities of this Project, the BSLF has been strengthened through higher involvement of employer’ organisations from the BSR and academia. Moreover, additional funding from Swedish Institute has made possible the participation from Belarussian and NW Russian representatives. The Project’s partnership consists of Entrefox (Turku University of Applied Science, University of Helsinki and Finnish Institute of Occupational Health), State Employment Agency of Latvia and the Polish Confederation Lewiatan. BSLF members have also been invited to join the Project activities. Currently, among the TWG members, nearly all CBSS Members states are represented. **The Project’s implementation phase started 2019.** The following activities have been accomplished during this reporting period:

- **Meetings** with thematic working group (TWG) leaders and Transnational Cooperation Agreement partners
- **Recruitment of the members** to the TWGs on **N1 Age Management and Working Conditions and N2 Job opportunities and Entrepreneurship**. The initially planned third TWG on Research has been integrated to N1 and N2. The support from representatives from academia is a valuable contribution during the discussions and the work of the both TWGs.
- The kick-off **Event on Project orientation**, for the project implementors, where useful information related to the project implementation was provided (ESF Horizontal Principles, EU Social Pillar, EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region, Policy Area Education, Co-creation as approach in the teamwork).
- **Establishment of a digital platform (Teams and SharePoint)** for the TWG members for their work and permanent exchanges in between the meetings
- The TWG meetings scheduled for April 2020, have been carried out as digital workshops due to Covid-19.
- Currently the TWG leaders, TWG members supported by the project manager are working on the first **policy briefs** to be delivered to the members of the CBSS Coordination Group on Labour and Employment / Reference Group to ESF Project ath end of May/beginning of June 2020. These will form the basis for further discussion during then video meeting of the Group preliminary scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2020.