

Regional Cooperation in Baltic Sea Region under current conditions



Arne Grove

Euroregion Baltic

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The new context for cooperation within the BSR

- A strategic inflection point in the relations between Russia and Europe was passed during the period autumn 2013 - summer 2014
- After August 2014, not business as usual in relations between Russia and EU as well as between individual EU countries and Russia.
- The context for cooperation was changed!
- We are all affected, but regions of Euroregion Baltic are in a unique position!
- Local regional cooperation survived! A unique window of opportunities!

What's the purpose of cooperation with Russia?

- Russia is our biggest neighbour!
- Huge potential for economic, cultural and scientific cooperation!
- Build trust, prevent/reduce conflicts!
- A scenario without attempts to improve cooperation is not attractive!

Kaliningrad – affected by the changed conditions

- Political and economic climate changed.
- Regional government supports international cooperation, with focus on regional cooperation
 - ENPI
 - Euroregion Baltic
- Investment climate
 - The general uncertainty for foreign investors in Russia also influence Kaliningrad, more than sanctions.
 - Reduced demand, due to a sinking Russian economy influence existing as well as potential new local business
 - For Kaliningrad region the uncertain future for business after end of law on Special Economic Zone by 30 April 2016.
- Investment plans
 - Agriculture – positive development in primary production as well as processing and logistics infrastructure
 - Challenges with public infrastructure – WWTP, Airport.
 - Tourism/FIFA World Cup 2018 – construction activities delayed, but in progress?
- Opportunities in current circumstances
 - Environment, agriculture and food processing
 - Energy efficiency, entrepreneurship and 3-helix cooperation
 - Tourism
 - Culture and creative industries
 - Social and Health care

Possible activities for ERB

- Objectives:
 - Keep and develop contacts
 - Develop mutual knowledge and trust between partners
 - Demonstrate value of regional cooperation in new context
- Principles and areas of priority to be agreed with all stakeholders.
- Possible areas:
 1. Health and social sector
 2. Entrepreneurship and tourism
 3. Environment & agriculture
- Next steps: project definition, identification of partners, **find funding**

Thank you for your
attention!

Arne Grove,

arne@agrove.dk , www.agrove.dk , +4523673874