

NORBA

Nordic-Baltic Dialogues on Transnational Perspectives in Spatial Planning

ESPON / NORBA final conference

„Territorial cohesion in Europe and in the BSR“

August 30-31, 2012

Baltic Beach Hotel, Jūrmala, Latvia

BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

Territorial cohesion has become a core policy-making agenda in governance and strategic planning practice in the EU, and thus also in Nordic and Baltic countries. The ESPON programme has examined and evaluated this multi-faceted concept and the challenges facing its feasibility and promotion. This ESPON NORBA conference in Jūrmala (Latvia) builds upon this evidence basis, contributing to capitalisation of ESPON territorial findings in a macro-regional context. The conference provides a transnational arena and forum for policy-makers and researchers to discuss and reflect on current territorial development trends, opportunities and insights recognized in different regions and various contexts. Main sessions and topics of the conference are:

- Territorial cohesion in the Baltic Sea Region
- ESPON findings on key regional challenges – demography, urban regions, rural areas
- Territorial governance

The NORBA project is one of the Transnational Networking Activities in the framework of ESPON 2013 Programme (www.espon.eu). Project partners from Finland, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden utilize ESPON results and evidence in transnational dialogue on territorial cohesion and spatial planning. The conference in Jūrmala is the fourth and the final NORBA project event (see <http://www.rha.is/norba>). The NORBA project members are pleased to invite policy-makers and researchers from Nordic and Baltic countries to this conference, which will take place in the historical seaside resort of Jūrmala on August 30–31, 2012.

REGISTRATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Conference participation – free. Registration deadline July 30, 2012, registration link <http://ejuz.lv/k231f>

Practical Information is available and updated at <http://www.rha.is/norba/forsida/>

Location: Latvia, Jūrmala, Baltic Beach Hotel, 23/25 Jūras Street – 25 km from Rīga, 15 km from Rīga Airport RIX (taxi 10–15 LVL, €13–18).

Hotel reservation: booking@balticbeach.lv or by calling +371 67771490, code NORB, prices 42–85 LVL (€60–121), deadline July 30, 2012.

CONTACT DETAILS

Programme

Dr Antti Roose, ESPON Contact Point Estonia, Department of Geography, University of Tartu, antti.roose@ut.ee, +372 7376841

Organisation

Zane Leščinska, ESPON Contact Point Latvia, State Regional Development Agency, Elizabetes Street 19, Riga, LV-1010, Latvia, zane.lescinska@vraa.gov.lv, +371 67079025



Programme Draft

Ver August 16, 2012

Thursday, August 30, 2012

10:00 – 12:30 *Registration, Check-in*

11:30 – 12:30 *Lunch, Coffee and Tea*

12:30 – 14:15 **Opening plenary session**

Chair: *Heikki Eskelinen*

Solvita Zvidriņa Welcome by the Director of the State Regional Development Agency of Latvia

John Bachtler (European Policies Research Centre, Glasgow, UK)

Raivis Bremšmits (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia), Trends and implications of territorial cohesion in Latvia

Piera Petruzzi (ESPON CU), A Decade of territorial evidence

Discussion

14:15 – 14:45 *Coffee and Tea*

14:45 – 16:15 **Policy dialogue session: Territorial cohesion in BSR**

Chair: *Grétar Þór Eyþórsson*

Sverker Lindblad (Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, Sweden), Territorial Cohesion from the Swedish perspective

Katarzyna Wojnar (EUROREG, ESPON ECP, Poland), Evidence-based multi-level strategic planning in practice

Garri Raagmaa (University of Tartu, Estonia), The Baltic higher educational institutions for territorial cohesion

16:30-17:30 **Panel session on ESPON capitalisation and policy response**

Chair: *Antti Roose*

Panelists: plenary speakers and representatives of national/regional policymakers

Sverker Lindblad (SE), Garri Raagmaa (EE), Katarzyna Wojnar (PL), Alda Nikodemusa (LV), Odd Godal (NO), Reinhard Reynisson (IS) etc.

18.30 *Guided tour in Jūrmala*

20:00 *Conference dinner*

Friday, August 31, 2012

9:00 – 11:00 **Evidence session: key regional challenges**

Chair: *Mats Johansson*

Demography

Phil Rees (Univ. of Leeds, UK)

Discussant: *Daniel Rauhut*

Urban regions

Maciej Smetkowski (EUROREG, PL)

Discussant: *Gatis Pāvils*

Rural development

Petri Kahila (Nordregio, SE)

Discussant: *Hild-Marte Bjørnsen*

11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee and Tea*

11:30 – 13:00 **Governance session: Nordic-Baltic practices and experiences**

Chair: *Zane Leščinska*

Governance

Lisa Van Well (Nordregio, SE)

Discussant: *Grétar Þór Eyþórsson*

Territorial cooperation

Sarolta Nemeth (UEF, FI)

Discussant: *Daniel Galland*

Conclusions, closing remarks

Beyond NORBA

Olaf Foss (NIBR, NO)

13:00 - *Lunch and departure*