Council of the Baltic Sea States

- Overall political forum for regional inter-governmental cooperation in the BSR
- Members: the 11 states of the Baltic Sea Region (incl. Russia, Norway and Iceland), the European Commission
- Steered by the BSR Ministries of Foreign Affairs
- 10 Observer states
- www.cbss.org
Homogenous region with long cooperation tradition and high level of networking

CBSS, Nordic Council of Ministers, Arctic Council
BSSSC (sub-regions), UBC (cities)
VASAB (spatial development), HELCOM (marine protection)
BASREC (energy), BDF (business)
BSR Stars (innovation)
BSR Climate Change Dialogue Platform
Baltic Waste Management Council
BSR Network on Sustainable Cities and Villages
Characteristics

- Joint strategic objectives & priorities
- A number of instruments financing the cooperation
Common challenges and trends

• East-west divide in economic development.
• Diverse pattern of both growing and shrinking regions.
• State of the Baltic Sea
Common challenges and trends

- High education and innovation performance level
- Highly innovative ‘hotspots’
- High share of renewable energy production and consumption.
Established 20 years ago, in 1991

107 member cities in 10 countries

Forerunner capitals:
Berlin and Copenhagen amongst of world top 10 smart cities (Boyd Cohen)

Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oslo, Helsinki, Berlin among top ten European Green Cities (Siemens Green City Index)
A lot is going on...

CITY OF UUSIKAUPUNKI, FINLAND

- Clustering research and education and developing intellectual and cultural hub in Espoo and Jyväskylä
- Developing e-services, e-municipality, e-participation and e-mobility in Tartu, Aarhus, Karlskrona, Pori, Vilnius and Gdynia
- Developing Electric Carpool for public use in Kalmar and free public transport in Tallinn
- The circular economy, eco-efficiency and climate smart development in Malmö and Tampere
- Digital Civil participation in Kiel
- Etc...
Discovered challenges... 

...on the way to smarter and more sustainable cities 

- The majority of the BSR cities are small and medium size - different challenges than the global metropolises. 
- Lack of **experience and awareness** on smart solutions 
- Lack of **competence** and capacity in advancing governance and procurement 
- Insufficient best practice **transfer and testing possibilities** 
- Lack of **regional coordination framework**
Turning the smallness into smartness

1. **An advantage of small cities: Flexibility** in trying and using smart approaches.

2. Small cities could be a **laboratories** for new solutions and tools, that can be exported regionally and internationally.

3. **Multi-stakeholder** partnerships: exchange between city and private sector experts.

4. **Cooperation**: Good framework for experience exchange.

More dynamic and systematic approach needed!
Eden of Sweden or Germany or Italy

Green growth starts with concrete actions in local authorities
Baltic Sea Region Urban Forum for Smart Cities (BUF): Concept

- Concept Paper 2014
- Contributes to the 2030 Agenda for SD - Goal 11 „Sustainable Cities and Communities“

The aim is to help the BSR cities to **move up the ranking in smart/sustainable indexes**.

- To form a broad **network** with participation of cities from the Baltic Sea Region
- To encourage **practical** and **bottom-up** processes based on the **actual needs** of cities and citizens.
Baltic Sea Region Urban Forum for Smart Cities

Builds on 6 characteristics of a Smart City Model*:

1. Economy (Competitiveness)
2. Governance (Participation)
3. Environment (Natural resources)
4. Mobility (Transport and ICT)
5. Smart Living (Quality of life)
6. People (Social and Human Capital)

*Model developed by 2007-2008 Vienna University of Technology project. It resulted in the report “Smart cities. Ranking of European medium-sized cities”.
Baltic Sea Region Urban Forum for Smart Cities: how it works?

The Concept presents three major points of departure providing an understanding of where Forum falls in the wider context:

1. the smart city landscape
2. the Baltic Sea Region context
3. the EU policy framework
Baltic Sea Region Urban Forum for Smart Cities: how it works?

- COMMUNICATION PLATFORM
- MARKET PLACE
- COMPETENCE AND ASSISTANCE NETWORK
- KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND MENTORING CENTER

A new approach to the smart city movement by placing a worldwide trends into a regional context
- Fosters a deeper understanding of the smart city practices
- Presents BSR as the most innovative region in the world
- Connects and networks with both global and EU level stakeholders and initiatives
Identified areas

- Energy
- ICT
- Mobility
- Water and waste management
Partners

• 3 main stakeholder groups

I Pilot Cities: Tartu (Estonia), Turku (Finland), Malmö (Sweden), Kiel (Germany), Hamburg (Germany), Riga (Latvia), Kaunas (Lithuania) Baltic Environmental Forum Germany, II Enterprises interested in providing smart solutions for the cities

Positium LBS OÜ (Estonia)

Siemens (Finland)

III International organisations, research: Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), Institute of Baltic Studies, Vienna University of Technology
Planned actions

I. **Mapping** common challenges, development needs and innovation potential

II **City profiling** & vision-building

III **Smart City Early Dialogue** development

**RESULTS**

- Increased innovation capacity → **smarter sustainable public services and governance**
- Strengthened dialogue btw different sector at a city and macro-regional level → **co-creating smart scalable solutions**
- Extended **stakeholder network for region-wide synergies**

Funding application & preparations 2015/2016
Thank you!

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