

Baltic Sea Region Partnership Platform for Gender & Economic Growth



Winnet Center of Excellence

Seed finance project January 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013 coordinated by Winnet Sweden



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Winnet Centre of Excellence and an Innovative Test bed in the Baltic Sea Region

The seed finance project highlights the importance of the connection between Winnet8 results and the EU's growth strategy 2020, including its flagship initiatives and the need to develop a Flagship project in BSR as a test bed and role model for all EU 27 member states acknowledging gender equality as a driving force for growth, such as the Innovation Union, and outlines suggested policy improvements for the Cohesion Policy 2014–2020. The seed finance project will be coordinated by Sweden and implemented with partner organizations in Poland – Szczecin University and the International Forum of Women, an association of women in science and business.

Baltic Sea Region Partnership Platform and Winnet Centre of Excellence

Baltic Sea Region Partnership Platform for cooperation is proposed, encompassing the collection of gender segregated statistics, comparative interregional analysis, research, advanced training and an exchange of good practices and methods through a Winnet Centre of Excellence to be tested in the Baltic Sea Region Strategy and Action Plans. This will lead to the development of: a Flagship initiative project in BSR.

Objective

Establish a Quadruple Helix Partnership Platform to Develop a Flagship initiative project in Baltic Sea Region, on Gender and Innovation, Entrepreneurship and ICT for Growth!

Aim

- To Develop a Quadruple Helix Partnership for Gender and Economic Growth in the Baltic Sea Region Strategy and Action Plan 2014–2020.
- To Establish a Winnet Centre of Excellence, in the Baltic Sea Region for research and policy in Gender, and Innovation, Entrepreneurship and ICT for Growth.
- To develop a Flagship Initiative project in the Baltic Sea Region on Gender- Innovation- Entrepreneurship and ICT for Growth for 2014–2020, based on the Interreg IVC Capitalisation project Winnet8 results.

Activities

- **January 2013** – Establish a steering committee to lead the project, including PAC leaders and meetings for Framework and content decisions.
- **January, February 2013** assigns of a project leader, administration and economical support, meeting with PAC leaders for framework and content decisions.
- **January, February 2013** Communication strategy and Dissemination plan.
- **February – May 2013** develop a Train the Trainer programme for: How to run a Women Resource Centre successfully, in co-operation with Winnet Europe organization.
- **March – April 2013** a two days dialogue seminar in Szczecin, Poland with invited 1–2 representatives from the Baltic Sea Region states for Framework and content discussions and decisions.
- **April 2013** A two days Winnet Centre of Excellence dialogue seminar in Stockholm, Sweden, to establish a Winnet Centre of Excellence in Baltic Sea Region.
- **January – September 2013** Participation in different BSR meetings and seminars arranged under 2013.
- **June – July 2013** A two days round table conference in Warsaw or Szczecin, Poland, Participants from Sweden and Poland + invited representatives from the Baltic Sea States, including PAC leaders for innovation, entrepreneurship and ICT.
- **August 2013** A final round table conference in Warsaw, Poland, to present the Flagship initiative Project.
- **August – September 2013**, Finalising a Flagship initiative project.

Expected results

Baltic Sea Region Quadruple Helix Partnership Platform

The Partnership Platform should secure co-operation among various actor's supporting gender equality as a driving force for economic development. Women Resource Centres will be an important actor (as doers) in the process of Regional Development and Growth in the Baltic Sea Region. The BSR partnership platform will focus on policy and actions to increase women's participation in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and ICT in the BSR States, 2014–2020.

Winnet Centre of Excellence for the Baltic Sea Region

The Centre will gather a critical mass of high-level interactive researchers as well as practitioners. Combining several interdisciplinary approaches, its strategic research agenda will be to increase understanding of the emergence, organisation and results of WRCs and thus inform the future design of policy measures for regional growth. The Network of Gender Researchers gathering members of leading academic centers and institutions from BSR countries will play an important role in identifying new issues, generating new research and preparing policy recommendations.

The Winnet Centre of Excellence for the Baltic Sea Region will aim to interlink researchers experienced in WRC involvement and to compile empirical data from WRC projects which have been funded by different EU programmes. This data will provide an overview of existing research and include research carried out in the Baltic Sea Region.

The researchers in the Winnet Centre of Excellence for the Baltic Sea Region will:

- Participate in regional Quadruple Helix groups .
- Design a model for collecting comparable data among the Baltic Sea Region countries involved in the project.
- Analyse characteristics of WRCs in different Baltic Sea EU Member States.
- Analyse the results from activities within the project
- Evaluate upon selected good practices, methods and policy measures in the light of state-of-the art research in the Baltic Sea Region.

It is essential to capitalise on the Network of Gender Researchers, WRC practitioners and regional-level policymakers in order to keep the momentum going

in the Baltic Sea region. The international researchers and practitioners will share ideas and knowledge on key issues in frontier areas of Gender, Economy, Innovation and Growth.

Furthermore the Winnet Centre of Excellence for the Baltic Sea Region will have an important role in disseminating and mainstreaming research results to a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, civil servants, representatives of non-profit organisations, business leaders and other researchers; all the actors in the Quadruple Helix. Joint identification of relevant research issues, applications for R&D projects, and joint strategies for influencing policies and practices will optimise the WRCs' impact on the Baltic Sea Region innovation system and policy programmes, strategies and action plans.

A Flagship initiative project in the BSR Action Plan 2014–2020

A Flagship Initiative project in Baltic Sea Region on Gender- Innovation-Entrepreneurship and ICT for Growth, 2014–2020 will be the final result of the seed finance project.

Expected effects

Through the expected result of an established BSR partnership platform there will be an active partnership focus on Gender-Innovation-Entrepreneurship and ICT in BSR states, where women`s participation will be secured through Women Resource Centres as an actor in co-operation within the partnership as civil society actors. Methods and knowledge will be used and lay the ground for BSR strategy and action plan.

Start of and closing date

The Seed finance project starts in January 1, 2013 and close in September 30, 2013.

Background

This Seed money project is built on the results of a Baltic Sea Region Conference, 2010 in Stockholm, Sweden and a Interreg IVC Capitalisation project, Winnet8, (2011–2012) funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the framework of INTERREG IVC, please see, www.winnet8.eu

Winnet8 originated from a collaborative platform in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR), a Nordic Conference in 2007 focused on building up an infrastructure of Women Resource Centres in the Region and the results of previous interregional and regional Women Resources Centers initiatives, WRCs, in the Nordic countries, Baltic States, Poland and Germany. This Baltic Sea Region, BSR platform has been further strengthened by the collaboration with partners representing the north, east, south and west zones of the EU. At an annual forum for EU's Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Estonia 2010, Winnet Sweden (the Federation for WRCs in Sweden) highlighted the importance of a multilevel approach to fully unleash the potential of a gender perspective in the Strategy. Winnet Sweden expressed its intent to take a leading role in a "gender

flagship initiative" aimed at strengthening multilevel governance, sustainable growth and WRC networks in the Baltic Sea Region. Successful implementation of the Strategy can only be achieved through a close cooperation between different political levels, business and industry, universities and R&D institutes, and civil society in a Quadruple Helix partnership.

A FLAGSHIP to build a prosperous, attractive, sustainable and safe Baltic Sea Region, measures must be launched to develop a society where both women and men have the same opportunities to control their own lives. A society in which women and men have the same opportunities to: contribute to regional development and growth; participate on equal terms in a less gender-segregated labour market; start, run and develop businesses; participate in clusters, innovation systems and so on. As the EU's Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region moves on to an action-oriented phase, it is important to launch gender equality measures to secure women's and men's involvement and to ensure that the actions benefit both women and men. Policy recommendations are not enough to bring about change; "doers" such as WRCs are needed, as well as a strong political commitment to gender equality actions.

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