

EU Baltic Sea Strategy

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As the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg together with its Swedish partner "Norden Association" is responsible for the priority area "Education, Research and Employability" of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy.

The focus is on the following objectives:

- to combat high youth unemployment in many countries by means of practical training according to the demand on the labour market concerned,
- to effectively coordinate and implement transnational activities in the sector of tertiary education in the area of science and research,
- to enable and facilitate lifelong learning for workers in a constantly changing labour market,
- to promote new jobs through new business start-ups and thus to ensure innovation processes in economy.
- to effectively integrate newly arrived refugees into the education and labor market of the member states

With the Action Plan 2015 developed by Hamburg and Sweden all partner countries have laid down identical objectives for the strategy, which were approved of the EU Commission. In order to achieve the desired objectives numerous flagships (with again may individual projects) were launched involving various Baltic Sea countries:

- "From School to Work"
- "Baltic Training Programmes"
- "Baltic University Programmes"
- "The Baltic Sea Labour Forum"
- "The Baltic Science Network"

For more information please visit [http:// groupspaces.com/eusbsr-education/](http://groupspaces.com/eusbsr-education/)

There are regular meetings in Sweden and Germany in order to involve representatives of the responsible authorities, ministries and institutions.

The partial projects belonging to the umbrella project "EU Baltic Sea Strategy" are financially supported by the funds of EU Regional Policy, the European Neighbourhood Policy and by the European Investment Bank.

Moreover, so-called "EU-Seed Money" can be applied for. This means initial funds amounting to approximately 40,000 Euros to facilitate the preparation of a project that contributes to the implementation of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy. Following the one-year preparatory of "Seed Money Phase" further amounts may be applied for by means of other EU funding programmes, such as

“The INTERREG Programme for the Baltic Sea Region” (<http://www.interreg-baltic.eu/home.html>),
“Horizon2020” or “ERASMUS”.