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## BALTIC SEA LABOUR FORUM

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Working together  
through Social  
Dialogue

## 7. Hanseatic Conference

14. Mai 2012, Hamburg, Chamber of Crafts

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# Labour Markets in the Baltic Sea Region



■ The Baltic Sea Region (BSR) is a highly heterogeneous area in economic, environmental and cultural terms

■ 8 Member States bordering the Baltic Sea are inhabited by 147 million people, corresponding to 29% of the EU's population.

■ The BSR countries generate around 30% of the EU's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).



# Labour Markets in the Baltic Sea Region



■ Labour market integration is getting more and more important for the region.

- Free movement of workers
- Youth unemployment
- Ageing populations and pressures on pension systems,
- Unemployment,
- Shortages of labour supply
- Risks of poverty and social exclusion

**BUT** labour markets in the region differ among others in terms of labour law and regulations, labour market institutions, welfare policies, pension policies, the role of social partners and lastly active and passive labour market policies



# Background: Project BSLN



ForumSD<sup>BSR</sup>



- 22 partners in 8 countries
- 2,7 million Euros, part-financed by the BSR programme
- Motivation: High mobility rate in the BSR, missing structures and solutions, tripartite approach
- Results: Permanent network, studies to migrants working conditions, pilot projects to social dialogue, concept cross border competence centre in the German-Polish border region

With financial support from the European Union



# Establishment of Baltic Sea Labour



**Forum members are trade union confederations, employer organisations and governmental / political institutions in the BSR**

- The activities and topics are agreed in a tripartite Steering Committee
- A forum secretariat will be established in the CBSS Secretariat
- Establishment and first round table at the BSLN final conference on 15 November 2011, 2<sup>nd</sup> round table in October 2012



## Aims of the forum

- The core aim is the promotion of social dialogue and tripartite structures and cooperation as a crucial element of sustainable economic growth, labour markets and social development in the Baltic Sea Region
- Inclusion of forum as flagship in the EUSBSR as goal
- Main activity: Annual thematic round table – tripartite, Steering Committee meetings for political decisions, Additional cross border round tables if needed
- Networking, exchange of information
- In the long term: Expert meetings of selected topics, Working groups, conferences

# Topics 2012 - 2013



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- Mobility of labour (labour conditions)
  - *Working conditions*
  - *Cross border mobility*
  
- Youth unemployment



# Network building and membership

- The memorandum of understanding was signed after the 1<sup>st</sup> round table meeting already by representatives of 21 institutions
  - ▶ CBSS and BSPC Secretariats
  - ▶ 15 Trade union confederations, including two Russian confederations
  - ▶ 4 employers organisations
- More members have expressed their interest in participation – signatures at the 2<sup>nd</sup> round table in October 2012
- Experts and observers will be invited to the round tables







## Contact

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... to continue Social Dialogue in the  
Baltic Sea Region based on the  
**results of BSLN!**

[www.cbss.org/bslf](http://www.cbss.org/bslf)

