



## **Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation**

### **Guidance paper for BSSSC Youth Network**

Date: 24.2.2021

#### Background

The BSSSC has for many years had a working group for youth policy with one youth coordinator taking the lead in this group and representing the youth at the BSSSC Board meetings. The youth coordinator has coordinated the BSSSC youth network and helped to organise youth events every year. In 2020, in response to the new challenges but also opportunities both in the European Union and the Baltic Sea Region relating to the youth policies and demand for stronger youth involvement in all the spheres of life, the BSSSC Board has taken the decision to even stronger empower and enable the youth in the Baltic Sea Region. Therefore, the BSSSC adopts guidelines for the establishment of the BSSSC Youth Network to ensure stronger regional youth activities and assure the seamless information flow and cooperation between regions upon youth-oriented activities, opportunities and projects.

#### Guidance paper for the BSSSC Youth Network

- BSSSC Youth Network (in this document referred to as “the Network”) consists of youth representatives (1 – 3 persons) of all BSR regions;
- Recommended age of youth network participants should be 16 – 25 years;
- BSSSC Youth Network is coordinated and led by the BSSSC Youth Coordinator with support from the BSSSC Regional Youth Contact Persons and the BSSSC Secretariat;
- The youth leaders of the Network are the two Youth Board Members elected by the youth for a two-year period in transparent elections according to the Rules of Procedure for the BSSSC Youth Coordinator;
- The BSSSC Board Members are welcome to suggest initiatives and ideas to the Youth Network. They are welcome to engage and provide information to the BSSSC Youth Network in their areas of expertise and/or help provide experts in the needed areas;
- The Network meets at least twice a year before the Spring Youth Event and Autumn Youth Event followed by the BSSSC Annual Conference to prepare the mentioned events. The Network should also meet to prepare for the youth event related to the EUSBSR Annual Forum and other events to which they are invited in order to provide input;

- Network Members have priority when registering for the BSSSC Events;
- More frequent working meetings are recommended and welcome. The organisation of events is to be animated and led by the BSSSC Youth Coordinator in cooperation with the Regional Youth Contact Persons (if available) and support from the BSSSC Secretariat;
- The BSSSC Youth Network should initiate – in cooperation with the BSSSC Board, Youth Board, Secretariat and Youth Coordinator – online workshops and activities concerning the youth interests, BSSSC policy areas and other Baltic policies including Sustainable Development Goals, blue, green and circular economy, EU Youth policies etc. The BSSSC Youth Coordinator will be involved in the formulation of a list of important subjects to work on for the following year;
- Youth Network members can also be invited to take part in activities of other Baltic Sea Region institutions, networks and organisations such as Euroregion Baltic, Union of the Baltic Cities, Council of the Baltic Sea States, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference and other bodies involved in the implementation of the EUSBSR and BSR affairs;
- Youth Network participants will be encouraged to get involved in the cooperation within the Baltic Sea Youth Platform;
- The Youth Network participants are the core group of regional hubs. They help organise the hubs' meeting and identify issues to be covered during those meetings;
- The Youth Network participants are motivated to run their own projects. **The BSSSC Board Members support the idea of youth projects and will assist the BSSSC Youth Coordinator, BSSSC Youth Board members and the Secretariat in finding the best possible solutions for the projects to be realised. The BSSSC Secretariat together with the Youth Coordinator will support the Youth Network by helping them to apply for funding (for instance via Erasmus plus) by finding legal hosting entities;**
- The main communication channel of the Network is the email list administered by the BSSSC Youth Coordinator and used by the BSSSC Network. The supporting channels are the BSSSC Youth Network webpage on [bsssc.com](https://bsssc.com), the social media groups and other supportive applications/webpages like WhatsApp, ACTER and others to be chosen by the Youth Network;