

Baltic Sea Region needs more powerful researcher mobility

Researcher mobility is crucial for circulation of skills and ideas. It improves e.g. quality and impact of research, exploitation of research results and career opportunity of researchers. Baltic Science Network (BSN), attaches a particular attention to low and unbalanced researcher mobility in the Baltic Sea Region. Therefore, BSN proposes three new mobility tools to increase the mobility in the macro-region.

Researchers' mobility faces several challenges and obstacles in Baltic Sea Region.

Countries or research institutions do not have a special focus on the macro-region as a whole. They do not have many tools either to increase mobility of their own researchers or to attract foreign talents. Researchers themselves do not consider the Baltic Sea Region as a priority region, either. In addition, differences in research instrumentation and infrastructure create asymmetric mobility patterns in the macro-region.

Challenges can be solved with effective mobility tools.

BSN analysed challenges and obstacles for mobility in the macro-region. Based on excellence, transparency and continuity, BSN created three different mobility tools, all designed flexible in regard to the availability of funding.

- **Summer Schools for Large Infrastructures** widens the user pool of the large-scale research infrastructures located in the macro-region. The tool opens the expensive, sophisticated infrastructures also to those researchers, whose home country does not offer large infrastructure.
- **Research internships** give doctoral students a possibility to host master/bachelor students in their research projects for an internship period. The tool fosters management skills, personal ties between nationalities and interest for research cooperation.
- **Short-term PhD visits** (1–3 months) help to achieve the research objectives of the individual PhD students. The tool strengthens organisational skills, confidence and interest in international cooperation.

Key messages

- Many challenges hinder mobility of young researchers in the Baltic Sea Region.
- The mobility flows in the Baltic Sea Region are not balanced.
- The existing mobility tools do not resolve the challenges.
- Universities in the Baltic Sea Region call for short term mobility options for Master and PhD students.
- Baltic Science Network presents three proposals for mobility tools to be established in the Baltic Sea Region.
- Baltic Science Network has applied for Interreg Extension Stage to pilot the Research Internships initiative in *BSN Powerhouse* project.
- If granted, *BSN Powerhouse* project can establish the administration for the Research Internships – grants are collected from stakeholders in the BSR

Baltic Science Network

Baltic Science Network (BSN) consists of ministries, funders and universities in the Baltic Sea Region. BSN is a multi-stakeholder network that has a broad expertise to study possible challenges and obstacles witnessed in the cooperation in the macro-region. BSN proposes new solutions to improve researcher mobility and research cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

