

Baltic Science Network (BSN) Learning Experiences

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A.6.2. BSN Learning Experiences

The learning experiences are based on

- Perspectives from the BNS partners
(interviews and SWOT surveys 2018)
- The voice of universities
(BUP surveys and workshops 2016-2018)

2. Perspectives from the partners processes and multistakeholder partnership

The BSN project process

Forming – Storming – orientation and hesitation:

- A new road for international macroregional BSR cooperation opened at national science ministries
- Multistakeholder partnership created confusion
- Overview of the different research systems in the BSR was not available

Norming-Performing – cohesion and solutions

- Multistakeholder partnership mostly considered important.
- Better understanding of research policy related issues due to project.
- Concrete actions and continuity were stressed

2. Perspectives from the partners - windows of opportunities -

Scientific excellence and internationalization

- The BSN project is very well in line with the strategies to create excellence and a critical mass in different scientific areas.
- Identify common research challenges and missions, which could be widened to the whole macro-region.
- Redirect strands existing mobility programmes specifically to Baltic Sea Region, or look for fresh funding.

2. Perspectives from the partners - windows of opportunities -

Funding programmes

- Introduce a COST action in the three selected areas, Life Sciences, Welfare State, and Photon and Neutron Science.
- Develop a network of seed money facilities could diversify and increase the efficiency of the funding opportunities.

2. Perspectives from the partners - windows of opportunities -

Infrastructure

- Safeguard the international use of middle and small sized infrastructures in the BSR.
- Introduce a forum for BSR level strategic discussions on i.e. new infrastructures

2. Perspectives from the partners - windows of opportunities -

Policy level cooperation

- Continue the joint work for an increased visibility of the BSR in the EU.
- Introduce Science as a new Horizontal Action in the EUSBSR.
- Involve more BSR science ministries in the BSN through concrete projects

2. Perspectives from the partners - institutional learning-

Two main messages

1. New routines, new contacts for the institution
2. The multistakeholder partnership

3. THE VOICE OF UNIVERSITIES

- Recommendations from the BUP network -

1. Focus on the most pressing societal and research challenges, and with the involvement of as many BSR countries as possible. Increase the exchange of students within these scientific areas.
2. Focus on networking in academic training at MSc and PhD levels. Young researchers, participating in summer schools, workshops and conferences will recognize good laboratories with good equipment and establish contacts early in their careers.
3. Harmonize the mobility opportunities and diversify mobility tools in the Baltic Sea region.

3. BUP recommendations, cont.

4. The Baltic Sea Region definitely needs strong internal and external promotion programs.
5. Secure a good national level of basic research funding and secure an excellent higher education.
6. Bridge the gaps between EU and non-EU countries, and so increase the potential of research within the BSR.

4. Lessons learned - Key messages

1. Do's and don'ts for transnational strategy development

- + Continue the strong support for the need to reduce the innovation gap within the BSR
- + Support and encourage the scientific excellence in the BSR (IR and critical mass for solving common challenges).
- + Build on the good track record of the BSN analysis of various research cooperation aspects and mobility trends.
- Avoid the impression of not having the BSR as a priority region.
- National differences in the organization of research and research cooperation need to be bridged.
- Reflect and find new ways to involve ministries

4. Lessons learned - Key messages

2. Do's and don'ts for transnational funding/incentive schemes

- + More and diverse mobility programs among BSR researchers lead to more exchange and more value added for research for the region.
- + The BSN creates a good example for other regions.
- + Successfully implemented mobility tools can create a stronger network of researchers in the BSR. This creates a spill-over effect for common research projects, publications, share of the infrastructure, etc.
- Avoid the problem of the "common pot", the processes will need time.
- Do not avoid the benefits of involving the relevant stakeholders in the processes.
- By concentrating on only some research topics or infrastructures a large part of the scientific community is left out.

4. Lessons learned - Key messages

3. Do's and don'ts for joint political action/representation of common interest.

- + Continue the BSN work to give research cooperation in the BSR a joint voice
- + Continue the work for the improvement of the BSR visibility as an excellent research science region.
- + Finding and representing the common interest for the BSR will boost cooperation among the partners. More and different opportunities for international cooperation for a more visible region.
- The BSN may fail to achieve some of its goals if promotion of the BSN's goals are not included in the national positions of the BSR countries.
- Overcome the many different interests in the BSR countries.

4. Lessons learned - Good examples

1. Foster and encourage more research cooperation

- BSN, the involvement of stakeholders
- BONUS, MAX etc.

2. Create better framework conditions (mobility, funding, network etc)

- BSN mobility tools
- BONUS, Nordforsk, Seed money tools

3. Make the region visible

- BSN policy papers
- Common voice
- BONUS

Thank you!