

## NORBA

Nordic-Baltic Dialogues on Transnational Perspectives in Spatial Planning

**ESPON / NORBA final conference**

**„Territorial cohesion in Europe and in the BSR“**

**30-31 August 2012**

**Baltic Beach Hotel, Jurmala, Latvia**

### **BACKGROUND AND SCOPE**

Territorial cohesion has become a core policy-making agenda in governance and strategic planning practice in the EU, and thus also in Nordic and Baltic countries. The ESPON programme has examined and evaluated this multi-faceted concept and the challenges facing its feasibility and promotion. This ESPON NORBA conference in Jurmala (Latvia) builds upon this evidence basis, contributing to capitalisation of ESPON territorial findings in a macro-regional context. The conference provides a transnational arena and forum for policy-makers and researchers to discuss and reflect on current territorial development trends, opportunities and insights recognized in different regions and various contexts. Main sessions and topics of the conference are:

- Territorial cohesion in the Baltic Sea Region
- ESPON findings on key regional challenges – demography, urban regions, rural areas
- Territorial governance

The NORBA project is one of the Transnational Networking Activities in the framework of ESPON 2013 Programme ([www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)). Project partners from Finland, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden utilize ESPON results and evidence in transnational dialogue on territorial cohesion and spatial planning. The conference in Jurmala is the fourth and final one of the NORBA events (see <http://www.rha.is/norba> ). The NORBA project members are pleased to invite policy-makers and researchers in Nordic and Baltic countries to this conference, in the historical seaside resort of Jurmala on 30–31 August 2012.

### **REGISTRATION AND FURTHER INFORMATION**

Conference participation – free. Registration deadline July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012, registration link as follows

<http://ejuz.lv/k231f>

Practical Information is available and updated at <http://www.rha.is/norba/forsida/>

Location: Latvia, Jurmala, Baltic Beach Hotel, 23/25 Juras Street – 25 km from Riga, 15 km from Riga Airport RIX (taxi 10–15 LVL, €13–18).

Hotel reservation: [booking@balticbeach.lv](mailto:booking@balticbeach.lv) or by calling +371 67771490, code NORB, prices 42–85 LVL (€60–121), deadline July 30, 2012.

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

#### Programme

Dr Antti Roose, ESPON Contact Point Estonia, Department of Geography, University of Tartu, [antti.roose@ut.ee](mailto:antti.roose@ut.ee), +372 7376841

#### Organisation

Zane Lescinska, ESPON Contact Point Latvia, State Regional Development Agency Elizabetes Street 19, Riga, LV-1010, Latvia, [zane.lescinska@vraa.gov.lv](mailto:zane.lescinska@vraa.gov.lv), +371 67079025



## Programme Draft

Ver 30 May 2012

### Thursday 30 August 2012

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10:00 – 12:30 Registration, Check-in

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch, Coffee and Tea

#### 12:30 – 14:15 Opening plenary session

Chair: *Heikki Eskelinen*

Welcome by a Representative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia

*John Bachtler* (European Policies Research Centre, Glasgow) (tbc)

*Piera Petruzzi* (ESPON CU), “A Decade of territorial evidence”

Discussion

14:15 – 14:45 Coffee and Tea

#### 14:45 – 16:15 Policy dialogue session: Territorial cohesion in BSR

Chair: *Grétar Pór Eyþórsson*

*Sverker Lindblad* (Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, Sweden)

*Katarzyna Wojnar* (EUROREG, ESPON ECP Poland), “Evidence-based multi-level strategic planning in practice”

Discussion

#### 16:30-17:30 Panel session on ESPON capitalisation and policy response

Chair: *Antti Roose*

Panelists: plenary speakers + representatives of national/regional policymakers

18.30 Guided tour in Jurmala

20:00 Conference dinner

### Friday 31 August 2012

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#### 9:00 – 11:00 Evidence session on key regional challenges\*

Chair: *Mats Johansson*

##### Demography

*Phil Rees* (Univ. of Leeds)

Discussant: *Daniel Rauhut*

\*Joint session

##### Urban regions

*FOCI* (tbc)

Discussant:

*Andis Kublačovs*

##### Rural development

*Petri Kahila* (Nordregio)

Discussant:

*Hild-Marte BjørnSEN*

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee and Tea

#### 11:30 – 13:00 Governance session: Nordic-Baltic practices and experiences\*

Chair: *Zane Lescinska*

##### Specific territories

Panel workshop  
on regional and national cases

##### Territorial cooperation

*Matti Fritsch* (UEF)

Discussant:

*Daniel Galland* (U.Aalborg)

##### Conclusions, closing remarks

Beyond NORBA

*Olaf Foss* (NIBR)

\*Joint session

13:00 - Lunch

