

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). 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 30th, 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 or by calling +371 67771490, code NORB, prices 42–85 LVL (€60–121), deadline July 30, 2012.

CONTACT DETAILS

Programme

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Organisation

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Programme Draft

Ver 30 May 2012

Thursday 30 August 2012

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 Eypórssson*

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

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