

## **Final Announcement**

### **BSR INTERREG III B PARTNER SEARCH FORUM**

**In Vilnius, Lithuania 23 – 24 May 2005**

***This information is providing you with the Final Draft Programme, the Registration Form and all practical details for being able to register as participant at the Forum.***

***A special opportunity for participants from the Russia and Belarus has been offered by the organiser in order to support to cover their travel costs for a number of participants from each of these countries (See further details below).***

The Baltic Sea Region's INTERREG III B Joint Secretariat in close co-operation with the Ministry of Interior of Lithuania invites interested project owners to meet potential partners and collect information on funding options for project ideas that seek for EU financial contribution for the transnational cooperation in the BSR.

The Partner Search Forum in Vilnius aims at fostering and supporting preparation of joint projects on themes that are of high relevance of the BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme (Programme) in its fourth year of implementation.

#### ***Focus of the Forum***

The focus of the two-day event will be on project presentation and discussions in parallel *project development sessions*, related to the missing themes of the following BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme priorities and measures:

#### ***Priority 2 Promotion of territorial structures supporting sustainable BSR development***

- ◇ Measure 2.1.: ***Promoting balanced polycentric settlement structures***
- ◇ Measure 2.2.: ***Creating sustainable communication links for improved spatial integration (transport and communication)***
- ◇ Measure 2.3.: ***Enhancing good management of cultural and natural heritage and of natural resources***

#### ***Priority 3.: Transnational and bilateral institution and capacity building. In the Baltic Sea Region***

- ◇ Measure 3.1. ***Promotion of transnational institution and capacity building***
- ◇ Measure 3.2. ***Bilateral maritime cooperation across the Baltic Sea***

The detailed description of the above listed measures inclusive of missing themes can be found at the Programme's website at [www.bsrinterreg.net/projects/ downloads/SCTF Recommendations.zip](http://www.bsrinterreg.net/projects/downloads/SCTF_Recommendations.zip).

The particular emphasis of the Forum will also be placed on enhancement of joint initiatives that promote east – west integration and, in particular, involvement of eligible regions of Belarus and Russia in the BSR cooperation.

In addition to the practical advice on project application conditions, thematic expert contributions will be delivered on experience on methods/approaches in spatial planning and regional development policy design and implementation in the BSR along

respective priorities and measures.

For further information see the attached Final Draft Programme.

### **Project ideas**

Projects matching the focus of the Forum are invited to present the progress of the preparation. To facilitate the project presentation and the partner search activities, it is important that participants present and update their project ideas by using the interactive BSR INTERREG III B "Project Idea" database. Based on project ideas interactively submitted to the Joint Secretariat **before the 17 of May**, a *Project Idea Catalogue* will be produced for dissemination among participants.

To add or update your project idea please go to the **interactive** "Project Idea" database at [www.bsrinterreg.net/projects.html](http://www.bsrinterreg.net/projects.html) in "Project Ideas" section and follow the "Add idea" in the left navigation bar. If you have any further questions please contact: Vineta Griekere at the Joint Secretariat ([vineta.griekere@bsrinterreg.net](mailto:vineta.griekere@bsrinterreg.net)).

### **Individual project Consultations**

The participants of the Forum could register for the Individual project Consultations with the Joint Secretariat. The Consultation will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> of May 14.30 – 18.00. The participants could register for the Consultations during the Forum.

### **Practical information**

The PSF will take place in Vilnius, on 23 and 24 of May 2005. The event will be held in the 'Naujas Vilnius' hotel ([http://www.hotelnv.lt/index.php?set\\_lang\\_id=en](http://www.hotelnv.lt/index.php?set_lang_id=en))

Attached please find the practical information on how to find the conference venue. The travel and hotel arrangements have to be organised by participants themselves.

There are rooms booked for participants at the following hotels that are in close vicinity of the conference venue:

1. hotel "Ecotel Vilnius": <http://www.ecotel.lt/en>  
the reference no. 12361

2. hotel "Congress" [http://www.congress.lt/default\\_en.php](http://www.congress.lt/default_en.php)  
under the name "BSR INTERREG III B partner search forum"  
Please arrange accommodation directly with the hotel.

### **Conference fee and travel/accommodation cost**

Participation in the conference is free of charge. The PSF organisers will cover catering costs and all technical arrangements on the spot in Vilnius.

Travel and accommodation costs for representatives of the *Member States and Norway* are not reimbursed by the organisers.

For participants from eligible regions in Belarus and Russia costs for travel and accommodation will be covered.

On behalf of the organisers,

Wiktor Szydarowski and Vineta Griekere  
BSR INTERREG III B Joint Secretariat