

Draft Program

A Connected Region – Migration and Integration as Challenge for Societies in the Baltic Sea region

28th / 29th April 2019
Riga

Migration is both a challenge and chance for development to the countries of the Baltic Sea region. This is first of all because of the multifaceted aspects merged in the topic ranging from humanitarian to working migration. Although the baseline is quite different in the countries around the Baltic Sea all need to cope with similar developments. Maybe apart from urban powerhouses' communities face increasingly difficulties filling job vacancies. At the same time, these municipalities lack resources to increase their attractiveness and are often regardless expected to absorb newcomers. Is there a chance to learn from each other and turn the challenges into a win-win situation? If so, what is needed and how can be safeguarded that support within the society is not lost?

This conference brings together experts and policy makers of the Baltic Sea region to discuss possibilities and limitations to a progressive solution on both the challenge of inner-regional migration and need for development.

Contact and registration: **Artis Dobulis**, artis.dobulis@fes-baltic.lv

Sunday, 28th April

19:00 **Welcome and Dinner**
 Neiburgs Restaurant, Old Town Riga, Jauniela 25/27

Monday, 29th April

The Conference will take place at Hotel Grand Poet in Riga, Raiņa bulvāris 5/6

09:00 Registration and welcome of participants
 Bodo Bahr, secretary general BSPC, and **Peer Krumrey**, FES Baltic

09:30 Opening session:
 Session 1: *Migration in the region: Appearance and Characteristics*

Input:
Dr. Inta Mieriņa, director of the Centre of Diaspora and Migration Research, Latvia

Comments by:
Johannes Schrapf, Member of Parliament, Germany
N.N. (Poland/Baltic States)

Joint Discussion

- 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:15 Session 2: *The Challenge of Integration on the ground: A municipality perspective*
- Input:
- Per-Arne Andersson** (tbc)
Head of department for education and labour market, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Sweden
- Marta Siciarek**
Former President of the Gdansk Immigrant Support Centre, Poland
- Comments by:
2-3 Participants
- 12:30 Lunch Break
- 13:30 Session 3: open discussion – Is it possible to turn a challenge into an opportunity?
- Policy Suggestion: *To combine integration and investments on a local level*
- Prof. Dr. Gesine Schwan**,
co-founder and president of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform,
Germany
- Open discussion:
The need for cooperation – is there common ground the Baltic Sea Network
Closing remarks
- 15:30 Informal exchange of ideas at the cup of coffee
- 16:30 End of conference