



Strengthening *Via Baltica Nordica*
Macro-Region through
Transnational Cooperation
for Regional Innovation
Promotion



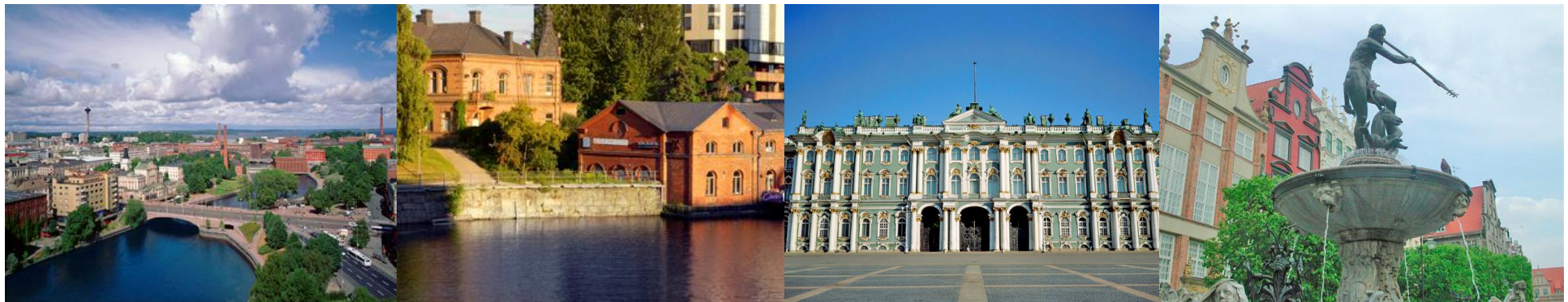
SUOMEN ITÄMERI-INSTITUUTTI
THE BALTIC INSTITUTE OF FINLAND



The Role of Innovation in Regional Development Riga, 25 October 2007

VBN InnoReg
Strengthening *Via Baltica Nordica* Macro-Region through Transnational
Cooperation for Regional Innovation Promotion

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**PROJECT PART-FINANCED
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Content of presentation

- Introduction of the Baltic Institute of Finland
- Introduction of VBN InnoReg
- Background and focus
- Project partnership
- Project activities
- Pilot activities
- Final Seminar





THE BALTIC INSTITUTE OF FINLAND

The Baltic Institute of Finland (BIF)

- Is an independent network organization established 1994 (maintained by a foundation owned by the City of Tampere, Finland)
- Contributes to the development of the Baltic Sea cooperation by promoting multinational cooperation and joint projects
- Themes represented in BIF project portfolio:
 - innovation cooperation
 - information society development and ICT
 - environmental management and technology
 - business development and export promotion
 - cultural cooperation
- **Further information: www.baltic.org**





VBN InnoReg - Background and focus

- Project utilizes the cooperation and network between regions in the **Via Baltica Nordica** zone, which was created during the previous BSR Interreg IIC/IIIB –projects:
 - Via Baltica Spatial Development Zone (1998-2000)
 - Via Baltica Nordica Development Zone (2002-2005)
- *VBN InnoReg Focus:*

Improvement of economic development and competitiveness of the VBN macro-region by strengthening Regional Innovation Systems (RIS)





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Project partnership



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- **Lead Partner:**
the Baltic Institute of Finland
- **17 Project Partners** from
10 regions in 7 countries:
 - regional authorities
 - universities
 - technology centres
- Budget EUR 1,1 Million,
EU funding EUR 675 000
- Project duration 2 years
(2006-2007)





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1+17 project partners



- The Baltic Institute of Finland (Lead Partner)
- University of Umeå (Sweden)
- Council of Tampere Region (Finland)
- Council of Häme Region (Finland)
- Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia (Finland)
- Seinäjoki Technology Centre Ltd. (Finland)
- Hermia Business Development Ltd. (Finland)
- Tartu Science Park Foundation (Estonia)
- Tartu City Government (Estonia)
- **Latvian Technological Center** (Latvia)
- **State Regional Development Agency** (Latvia)
- Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania)
- Technopolis (Lithuania)
- Podlaskie Voivodeship Marshal's Office (Poland)
- University of Bialystok (Poland)
- Regional Planning Council Havelland-Fläming (Germany)
- Innovation- and Trendcenter Bentwisch (Germany)
- ZAB – Brandenburg Economic Development Board (Germany)





Project activities (1)

1) Developing VBN Joint Approach to Innovation Promotion

- **VBN Joint Approach to Innovation Promotion** will be developed through analysing RISs in partner regions
- **Planned results:**
 - Better understanding of the structure of regional innovation systems and their main elements on the VBN zone
 - Improved knowledge on possibilities for regional and transnational collaboration in the future
 - Comparable innovation performance indicators for each region
- Published in **Final Seminar in Kaunas 7 November 2007!**





Project activities (2)

2) Capacity Building for RIS Actors

- Regional training events, seminars and study tours are organized to ensure **involvement and capacity building of all key innovation system actors** including SMEs
- **Planned results:** capacities of key innovation actors on the VBN zone are improved and VBN innovation networks on the regional and transnational level are strengthened





Project activities (3)

3) Piloting Innovation Framework Actions and Exchanging Experiences

- **New innovation promotion tools and concepts are developed and piloted** by project partners and shared with interested actors in the Baltic Sea Region and in the European Union
- **Planned results:** improved knowledge of the RIS actors in the VBN zone and the EU on innovative tools, concepts and good practices in developing the RIS





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Pilot activities



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Pilots concern:

- Innovative enterprises, networking and technology transfer
 - Innovation Promoting Session (IPS) for local SMEs (Finland)
 - Teams of Success / ITC working group: connecting geographic information systems with economic targets (Germany)
 - Promoting innovation in SMEs in rural areas (Germany)
 - Evaluating supporting tools for RIS (Sweden)
 - Developing a concept of Inter-university Research Centre (Poland)
- Innovative financing instruments and start up support
 - Hermia Ventures Ltd. – pre-seed and seed fund (Finland)
 - Potential deal flow for Tartu Regional Pre-Seed Capital Fund - Study (Estonia)
 - IbM – Innovationen brauchen Mut (Technology Coaching Service for start-ups) - Evaluation (Germany)
- Entrepreneurial culture development
 - Creation of Innovation Spirit among Young Generation (Latvia) - Competition of creative works for Latvian schoolchildren





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Final Seminar

Final Seminar takes place in Kaunas, Lithuania
on 7 November 2007

We warmly welcome all interested parties in the Baltic Sea Region and European Union to participate in the event!

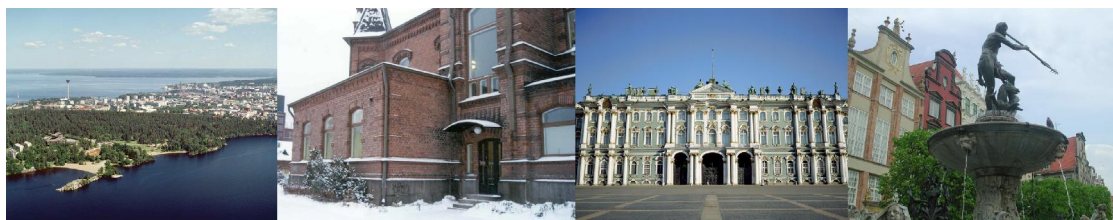
More information on VBN InnoReg and Final Seminar:
<http://www.baltic.org/vbn/>





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