



Baltic University Programme Students' declaration

We, the students of the Baltic University Programme, represented by students participating in the 4th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, are deeply concerned about the problems the region is facing and ready to take part in the process of creating its future sustainable development.

We consider that the most crucial problems in the Baltic Sea Region are the following:

1. Chronic political disagreements between non-EU and EU nations, ideologies and governance. Existing different development levels among countries of the BSR are blocking progressive environmental cooperation and management.
2. A big amount of projects, strategies and decisions are not followed by concrete actions which demonstrate tangible and progressive results.
3. The unclear accountabilities of roles and responsibilities of multi-level governance system.
4. Contradictory policy goals – the conflict between profitability and sustainability policies.
5. Lack of institutional tools to properly implement environmental management at the local level.
6. The level of ecological awareness among the citizens and industries of the BSR is not high enough to achieve the sustainable development goals.

We believe that the BSR can become a model of an effective cooperation among nations and institutions to reach the goals of sustainable development. By increasing the number of projects supporting local economic development, NGO activities and technology transfer and knowledge exchange we can achieve sustainable innovations throughout the BSR.

Universities are important institutions responsible for educating specialists of different majors and faculties that are associated with sustainable development. Only by exchanging the experiences and providing more practical work concerning environmental studies, universities can actively contribute to effective implementation of sustainable development objectives.

We, therefore, agreed on the actions that should be taken:

1. Create awareness through mandatory sustainable development in different levels of education.
2. Make sustainable projects profitable by encouraging cooperation between universities and companies and subsidizing eco-friendly businesses.
3. Support local agricultural production as a way of creating sustainable development locally.
4. Reinforce international experience exchange within economical sectors to share knowledge, technologies and practices of sustainability.
5. Strengthen the current networks of students of the BSR in order to connect the different nations, ideologies and cultures.

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