



Baltic Development Forum 2008

With the overall goal to promote economic growth, development and a new wave of integration of the Baltic Sea Region, BDF will in 2008 give special focus to the following areas:

1. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

The development of the European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is the most important and concrete step forward for the Region since the EU-enlargement in 2004. BDF will play an active role in formulating and channelling the Region's own policy contribution to the EU Strategy.

2. Energy Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region

Through enhanced regional cooperation and coordination BDF will strive to give input and momentum to the creation of a regional energy policy and impetus to the establishment of an integrated energy sector in the Baltic Sea Region. A report on the elements necessary to improve regional energy co-operation will be elaborated under the auspices of BDF.

3. Labour Market Demands for Talents

The Region is presently performing well economically but a vital component in further strengthening the economies is to attract, develop and retain the best and the brightest. BDF will continue to focus on these areas with selected partners and members also by analysing whether regional solutions could be found.

4. Increased geographical co-operation with Poland and Russia.

In order to strengthen the geographical differentiation of our activities and to underline the key role played by Poland in the Baltic Sea Region co-operation, a seminar is planned by BDF in co-operation with the think tank Demos/Europa. It is also our ambition to organize a BDF event in Russia in the course of the year.

State of the Region Report 2008

The State of the Region Report, which has obtained widespread recognition throughout the Baltic Sea Region and in the European Union, will continue to be the backbone of BDF's analytical work. An editorial committee is setting the priorities on the topics chosen in the report.

10th BDF Summit

The Summit 2008 will mark the 10th anniversary of BDF. It will be celebrated in the cities of Copenhagen and Malmö 30 November – 2 December 2008.

Besides the main areas of focus, BDF will also continue to pay attention to a number of areas, i.e. by participating in events/meetings related in particular to the following topics:

- Financial Market Integration
- Baltic Metropolises Network
- Branding
- Tourism Co-operation