



## The Baltic Sea Science Congress- BONUS Forum policy day, 17 June 2015

As an high-profile EU Council's Latvian Presidency event and the leading conference on the Baltic Sea research, the 10th Baltic Sea Science Congress (BSSC) will convene on 15-19 June in Riga. On its third day, the BSSC will join forces with the fifth BONUS Forum\* and jointly continue a string of high profile Latvian presidency hosted science-policy interactions commenced earlier the same week during the sixth EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region's (EUSBSR) Annual Forum in Jurmala on 15 and 16 June.

The joint BSSC and BONUS Forum policy day sets out to define a common understanding of the links between research and innovation, regional prosperity and sustainability in the long term, all under one of the Congress's seven themes, the 'Viable ecosystem for a sustainable society'. The broad objective of the policy day will be to identify the research needs and bottlenecks of the academy-policy-industry interface processes to ensure most desirable development of sustainable blue economy in the Baltic Sea and wider context of the European regional seas.

The conveners of the BSSC and BONUS Forum policy day will invite participants from the EUSBSR Annual Forum, i.e. influential policy experts and representatives of industries supporting 'blue economy', to discuss with the Baltic Sea scientists two key topics to which the policy day seeks answers to 1) **In a quest to embed marine goods and services to societal action in support of region's prosperity**: How can we evaluate and embed marine ecosystem services to the practices and management action of society so that it truly supports blue growth and region's prosperity?, and 2) **In a search of the best cross-border and -sector governance model**: What would the best model look like that emerges from the Baltic Sea experience and that ensures the best possible cross-border and cross-sector governance and ecosystem based management practices, not only to be used in the Baltic Sea region, but to act also as a model in other European regional seas?

Both of these themes will be kicked off by compelling presentations from world renowned scholars who will introduce the topics, and be followed by two short presentations on both topic areas. Inquiringly engaging facilitation of the panel discussions between invited policy experts, industry and scientists, as well as the policy day audience at large, will set the scene for a draft Policy Day Declaration encompassing at the end of the day the most desirable next steps in jointly developing sustainable blue economy in the Baltic Sea region, - in a way that can also act as a model in wider context of the European regional seas.

### The policy day 17 June 2015 programme:

Moderators: *Pauli Merriman*, Programme Director WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme, and *Markku Ollikainen*, Professor of Environmental and Resource Economics, University of Helsinki

9.00 – 09.05 Opening words (moderator(s) introduced)

09.05-09.45 **In a quest to embed marine goods and services to societal action**

**in support of region's prosperity**, keynote by *Rudolf de Groot*, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

- 09.45-10.00 Baltic Coastal System Analysis and Status Evaluation (BACOSA). *Maïke Piepho and Hendrik Schubert.*
- 10.00-10.15 Integration Challenges in MSP and the concept of an ecosystem approach. *Holger Janßen, Stephen Jay, Thomas Klenke and Michael Gilek.*
- 10.15-11.05 Facilitated panel discussion, audience questions & conclusions (speakers in the session, *Evija Smiete, Peter Crawley*)  
*coffee*
- 11.35-12.15 **In a search of the best cross-border and -sector governance model**, keynote by **Mike Elliott**, University of Hull, UK
- 12.15-12.30 Water Protection in the Baltic Sea and the Chesapeake Bay: Institutions, Policies and Efficiency. *Antti Iho, Marc Ribaud and Kari Hyytiäinen.*
- 12.30- 12.45 Toward a sustainable spatial island ecosystem of island archipelago in Zadar, Croatia. *Zrinka Mendas.*
- 12.45-13.35 Facilitated panel discussion, audience questions & conclusions (speakers of the session, *Peter Crawley, Kaisa Kononen, Eeva-Liisa Poutanen, Gerald Schernewski*)
- 13.35-13.40 The emerging policy day declaration, next steps outlined (to be delivered at the end of BSSC on 19 June), *Andris Andrusaitis.*

*The Baltic Sea Science Congress is the biggest conference in the field of Baltic Sea science and will be co-organised by the Baltic Marine Biologists, the Baltic Marine Geologists, the Conference of Baltic Oceanographers, the Estuarine Coastal Sciences Association and BONUS, the joint Baltic Sea research and development programme. The themes of the congress have been set around the broader discussion on the issues of the coasts and the regional seas that will be in the core of the congress titled "Science and innovation for future of the Baltic and the European regional seas".*

*The joint BSSC and BONUS Forum policy day is supported by BONUS, the joint Baltic Sea research and development programme. The EU's Seventh Programme for research, technological development and demonstration has kindly provided support towards accommodation and travel of the keynote speakers.*

*For further information on the Baltic Sea Science Congress and registrations, visit [www.bssc2015.lv/](http://www.bssc2015.lv/)*

\*BONUS Forum events, organised annually or biennially, form key stakeholder platform for BONUS to interact, carry out consultations and share developments and results of the BONUS funded projects with policymakers. Given that stakeholder involvement is one of the key priorities of the BONUS programme, the Forums' aim is to bring together representatives of ministries across all relevant sectoral borders of the nine Baltic Sea coastal countries – environment, transport, agriculture, forestry and science – who deal with matters related to Baltic Sea system research, development and governance.