



10th Baltic Sea Science Congress, 15 – 19 June 2015

Press release, 19 June 2015

Baltic Sea requires valid scientific knowledge for its future

Although the Baltic Sea is one of the best studied seas in the world an urgent need to produce valid and thoroughly tested knowledge and expertise is still present.

During five days of the 10th Baltic Sea Science Congress more than 260 participants have reported and discussed findings, problems and solutions related to the ecosystem functioning of the Baltic Sea. Already at the opening keynote lecture by Professor Hans von Storch of Helmholtz Research Centre, Germany a necessity for carefully tested knowledge was presented if we want to have a successful management and protection of the Baltic Sea. We have to admit that proper information and valid expertise cannot be based on vague and quickly driven assumptions.

The most productive ways of getting the knowledge were revealed at BONUS Young Scientist Club event where Hugh Kearns of Flinders University, Australia lead a workshop titled “*Seven secrets of extremely successful researchers*”. More than 25% of 10th BSSC participants were master and doctoral students or early stage researchers for whom the workshop gave valuable guidance for combining research work and personal life.

A Policy Day which was introduced at the 10th BSSC for the first time and organized in close cooperation with BONUS revealed further the need for scientifically valid answers to ensure sustainable delivery of ecosystem services from the sea. It is clear that enough relevant national and international governance mechanisms through Regional Sea Convention – Helsinki Convention and EU Directives are in place now to endorse a well-managed Baltic Sea. Still, a coordinated implementation of these mechanisms best on contemporary valid science is lacking.

Another first-timer of the Baltic Sea Science Congresses – a technology transfer workshop organized by Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research, Germany - could be one of instruments for producing valid science. Needs of marine research and their linkage to technological developments provided by business world were discussed at the workshop in order to identify gaps and find ways for

improvements. Three marine equipment production companies - Hydrobios, SubCtech and engage AG - introduced their recently constructed products.

Thus the Blue Growth agenda of European Union for enhanced use of marine resources and marine ecosystem services for economic growth in European and also Baltic Seas can increase welfare but only if implemented in a wise and sustainable way.

The Baltic Sea Science Congress is the largest scientific meeting in the Baltic Sea region, organized biannually in a country bordering the Baltic Sea. Latvia was hosting the Congress for the first time and it was an official event of Latvian Presidency of the Council of European Union.



Latvian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union

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