



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

Press release, 11 June 2015

Riga is never finally ready; Baltic Sea is never finally explored

Almost 300 scientists from all Baltic Sea countries will gather in Riga next week to discuss the latest findings in the Baltic Sea research – the tenth time in 20 years.

Started as truly academic event in 1996 the Baltic Sea Science Congress has joined three research communities of Baltic Sea biologists, oceanographers and geologists to interact and communicate on most topical problems of our common sea. The most important subjects of a momentum have been reflected in the themes of invited keynote speakers and this Congress is not an exception – climate change over the Baltic will be discussed by Professor Hans von Storch of Helmholtz Research Centre, Germany, and Dr. Volker Mohrholz of Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research, Germany will describe the impact of large saline water inflow from the North Sea. Detection of patterns of marine biodiversity across Europe will be the theme of Professor Herman Hummel's of Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research talk and Dr. Henn Ojaveer of University of Tartu, Estonia will report on detection of threats for biodiversity – non-indigenous species. A lot of attention has been paid to the second largest gulf in the Baltic Sea - Gulf of Finland – in 2014 in the frame of tri-lateral cooperation between Estonia, Finland and Russia, and Professor Kai Myrberg of Finnish Environment Institute will present research results of this effort.

Since 2009 the atmosphere of the Baltic Sea Science Congresses has been spiced up by participation of BONUS – joint Baltic Sea research and development programme and special sessions for early stage researchers have become a tradition. Experts in the field reveal know-how, hints and tips for thriving career in science, this year Hugh Kearns of Flinders University, Australia will lead a workshop titled "*Seven secrets of extremely successful researchers*" on 15 June, the first day of the Congress.

In close cooperation with BONUS on its third day, the 10th Baltic Sea Science Congress will convene for the first time a dedicated policy day. The policy day session, encompassed under the broad conference theme of 'Viable ecosystem for a sustainable society' sets out to identify the research needs and bottlenecks that are in the way of the most desirable development of sustainable *blue economy* in region, as well as other European regional seas. The world-renowned

keynote speakers Professor Rudolf de Groot of Wageningen University, The Netherlands will discuss region's prosperity and embedding marine goods and services to societal action, and Professor Mike Elliott of University of Hull, UK will consider best cross-border and-sector governance model.

Riga – the city of 10th BSSC – should never be ready, otherwise it will disappear under water, as an old fairy-tale says. The Baltic Sea should never be stopped to explore, otherwise people on its coasts will suffer. The closing keynote talk at the 10th BSSC is by Prof. Tarmo Soomere, President of Estonian Academy of Sciences – how close is the linkage between society, scientists and the Baltic Sea itself.

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 is hosting the Congress for the first time and it is an official event of Latvian Presidency of the Council of European Union.



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of the Council of the
European Union

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