



**10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy of Baltic Sea Region
12-13th of June, 2019
Gdańsk, Poland**

SUMMARY REPORT

**Seminar: *Recognising potential - easing the way for migrants*
Time: Thursday, 13 June 2019, 13:15 - 14:45**

The seminar focused on exchange of good practice for smoothening integration of refugees and migrants into education, labour market and society. It aimed to foster a closer collaboration between the four macro-regional strategies on all levels of governance, supporting an emerging joint flagship on integration. A first panel gave examples of transnational cooperation in three macro regions of EU.

Robert Moosbrugger presented the project PlurAlps aiming to develop and promote a welcoming culture and improve knowledge and awareness regarding the integration of all types of migrants in the Alpine area. The project carried out pilots on social and labour market inclusion of migrants. Experiences will be gathered in a toolbox which will be made available for replication across Europe by other municipalities. <http://www.alpine-space.eu/pluralps>

Sanja Cukut Krilić presented the project Danube Region Information Platform for Economic Integration of Migrants (DRIM) aiming to enhance capacities of public institutions for enabling migrants' economic integration in countries of the Danube Region. A concrete output is an info tool DANUBE COMPASS, available for 8 countries and in 19 languages. <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/drim> and <http://hr.danubecompass.org/>

Matti Mäkelä presented the “Knowledge Platform on Newly Arrived Refugees and Migrants” within PA Education of the EUSBSR gathering a multi-skilled, cross-sectoral, transnational team representing different governance levels - experts, policy makers, public authorities, organizations, research institutions, private sector actors and social partners. They develop new methods, cooperation initiatives and policy recommendations in a process of co-creation. <https://skl.se/tjanster/englishpages/activities/schooltowork.11353.html>

The panellists reflected that EU Member states face similar problems that can be a foundation for cooperation. A strong message from the panel was that in times when local/national funding for integration measures is being cut in some member states there is a need for EU funding to counterbalance decreasing national funding.

The second panel provided different perspectives on integration of migrants from civil society, local and regional level, pan-baltic level and EU-level.



Karolina Stubinska reflected on their work as a civil society organisation involved in integration measures on local level and the challenges associated with their work due to the lack of an integration policy at national level. She also gave an overview of the situation in Poland which has 1,7 million migrants from Ukraine (90% of all migrants in Poland). <http://cwii.org.pl/> (in Polish)

Katarina Carlzén described the Partnership Skåne which is a multi-level governance partnership for integration where Region Skåne, municipalities, local, regional, and national partners cooperate. <http://www.partnerskapskane.se> (Swedish) and <http://partnerskapskane.se/ps/?c=material> (some material in English)

Reinhard Damm described the so called One Stop Shop for migrants in Hamburg who seek integration to labour market (WIR: Work and Integration for Refugees). He also described the Training Facilitation by Dual Training (School and practical experience). <https://hibb.hamburg.de/englisch/> and <https://www.hamburg.de/wir/>

Pehr Granfalk related that in City of Solna 30 percent are not born in Sweden and told that they consider it a key to involve the business in integration initiatives. As a member of the European Committee of the Regions Pehr Granfalk described the “Cities and Regions for Integration initiative” which provides a political platform for European mayors and regional leaders to showcase positive examples of integration of migrants and refugees. <https://www.solna.se> (In Swedish) and <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/Pages/cities-and-regions-for-integration.aspx>

Bodo Bahr referred to the work done within the Working Group on Migration & Integration of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC). Bodo Bahr mentioned that the group has agreed on political recommendation as a result of its work. He urged participants at the seminar to ask their national parliamentarians on the implementation of these recommendations. <https://www.bspc.net/working-groups/working-group-migration-integration-2017-2019/>

Sabine Hahn introduced the concept of a joint flagship. At a meeting of the social policy areas of macro regional strategies in Bratislava 2018 they decided to plan a cross-cutting flagship on integration of migrants and refugees. It was encouraged by DG Employment and the managing authority of the European Social Fund (ESF) indicated that the initiative is in line with funding. Sabine Hahn told that a flagship across EU macro regional strategies can complement existing networks and initiatives by offering a strategic framework to link and make better use of scarce resources. The aim of the flagship will be to develop methods and tools to smoothen integration into education, labour market and society. They will start with a European Forum on Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Hamburg on 24 and 25 October 2019. Sabine Hahn invited panellists and participants at the seminar to participate at the forum in October.

[Register here by 31 July!](#) If you have any questions, contact Policy Area Coordinator, Mrs. Sabine Hahn at sabine.hahn@hibb.hamburg.de, until 31 July 2019.