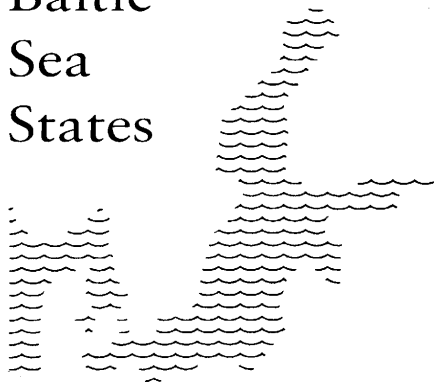


Baltic
Sea
States



Working Group on
Heritage Co-operation

**SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING
THE COMMON CULTURAL HERITAGE
IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION**

**Final Report, agreed upon in Gdansk,
May 27-29, 1999**

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INTRODUCTION

Mandate

The Working Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States finds its mandate in three different documents:

1. The Presidency Declaration of the Baltic Sea States Summit in Visby on May 3-4, 1996:

Efforts should be co-ordinated with a view to identifying, maintaining, preserving and developing the most valuable historic and cultural environments in the Region. A strategic plan should be elaborated for the exchange of information and for practical and financial support.

2. The Declaration of Ministers of Culture, meeting in Lübeck on September 21-23, 1997:

The Ministers agreed that special attention should be given to cultural heritage, which is an important part of the environment and an important factor for economic and social development.

At the invitation of Sweden, a special working group will be established by the end of this year.

It shall present its work and its results at the next conference of the Ministers of Culture of the Baltic Sea states for consideration.

3. Invitation letter from the Swedish Minister of Culture:

The purpose of the working group is to prepare a report on possible actions for safeguarding and developing the common cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea region.

Scope and definition of the task

In identifying our common cultural heritage the basic questions have been; “What unites us, what is common, what is characteristic for the Baltic Sea region?” Thus we have looked for the regional cultural patterns which are manifest in landscapes, settlements, buildings, archaeological remains, ships, artefacts, and traditions, whether material or spiritual.

In developing strategies for the future we have asked ourselves which impetus could this heritage bring into the future development and on the other hand which are the main threats to it. Thus we have discussed along the lines which the opportunities and the challenges are.

A report and a proposal for a framework statement

The group has developed its discussions in two different documents; this report and - as a separate document - a proposal for a framework statement which could be considered for adoption by the Ministers of Culture at their meeting in Gdansk September 21 - 22, 1999. The aim of this proposal is to serve as a basis for future co-operation and joint actions.

This report contains as a background in its first part an outline on the current situation. In the second part we present our discussions on possible action plans. These action plans are defined out of two angles. One concentrates on crosscutting perspectives; the other is based on thematic viewpoints.

The actions presented are:

Crosscutting perspectives:

- Awareness of our common heritage
- Heritage as a promoter for regional and local development
- Information systems
- Documentation
- Skills, education and training

Thematic areas:

- Underwater Heritage
- Coastal culture and maritime heritage
- Materials of the region
- Sustainable wooden urban areas
- Sustainable cultural tourism

Ministerial support for future work

For all the action plans presented we foresee future work which will need supervision and support of different kinds on the ministerial level, at least in a first stage.

In one particular area we see the possibility to join forces as protective bodies around the Baltic Sea. That concerns our underwater heritage in the national as well as the international zones of the Baltic, Sea where we by developing a common legal instrument for protection, could claim

- the Baltic Sea a safe area for underwater heritage

For the others, one could identify several action plans where special attention and support is needed to create workable common arenas together with authorities and organisations outside the traditional cultural heritage sphere.

The need for a co-ordinating body

In the initial phase we see a basic need for a co-ordinating body to guide and foster the actions we have proposed. This body should be given the mandate to report back to the ministers at their next meeting about progress made and about the more detailed and elaborated actions, which have possibly been developed. This idea has been strongly supported and Lithuania and Latvia have already invited to follow-up meetings in the autumn of 1999.

As a resource for this future work we have compiled existing information in our countries on the following topics:

- Legislation, policies and organisations
- Documentation

- Post-graduate and professional training and education

A main difficulty in exchanging information though lies with our different languages. To really achieve an efficient and extended co-operation, special funding for translation is needed.

Meetings

The working group has met and worked together five times:

Stockholm April 14-16, 1998

Stockholm August 6-8, 1998

Helsinki November 5-7, 1998

Tallinn February 11-13, 1999

Riga April 26-28, 1999

Gdansk May 27-29, 1999

Participants

The following specialists have participated in the Working group and given valuable contributions to the report:

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GERMANY:

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RUSSIA:

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SWEDEN:

Ms Christina von Arbin, National Heritage Board. Chairman of the Working Group
Mr Ulf Bertilsson, National Heritage Board

Secretariat:

Ms Birgitta Hoberg, National Heritage Board
Mr Björn Peck, National Heritage Board

I. CURRENT SITUATION

The Baltic Sea region today

Fast and profound change characterises our region today. The southeastern side of the Baltic Sea, earlier under communist systems, is today several autonomous states, all of them developing democratic systems. In the south, Germany forms one united nation after more than four decades of separation between East and West Germany.

Economically several eastern states struggle to get in balance in order to join the EU community in not too far a future. In the meanwhile different supporting financial programmes are applicable for joint actions within the EU-system as well as on national level in the neighbouring Nordic states.

The rapid privatisation combined with lack of legislation on land use and physical planning leads to difficulties in the process of developing infrastructure and the built environment. The establishing of market economies suffers from great troubles.

Great problems lie ahead when it comes to environmental issues as industrialisation has led to heavy pollution of both land, water and air - something which to a great extent also influences the Baltic Sea itself.

On the other hand the Baltic Sea region has a great potential for prosperity and development in which heritage plays a key role. The economic importance of heritage is evident in for example cultural tourism, for economic growth and the creation of new jobs. Investments in cultural heritage have shown to be labour intensive, attract considerable co-financing and provide synergetic effects also outside the heritage sector.

The regional identity, based on language and history, architecture and building traditions, regional materials, artefacts, music, dance and art are all great potentials where culture can play a key role not only for sustainable development but also for mutual understanding among people and peace and stability in the region.

The Baltic Sea as a "Sea of Peace" is a political vision with strong support in all the states in the Baltic Sea region. The Heads of Government have also laid out guiding aims and principles for achieving such a goal. Democracy, social security, economical growth and stability as well as a sustainable environment are indispensable tools in building a region based on peace, mutual respect and understanding. In this process our common history and the heritage it has produced are fundamental in fostering cultural identity and understanding of our neighbours and ourselves.

Trends

Cultural Heritage a topical factor in development

In the whole world, including our region, the last decades have seen an overwhelming change in economical structures. The industrial society basically relying on local materials, skills and energy sources has gradually been outdated. Whole regions and communities have found themselves in decline with severe difficulties in finding and developing new jobs. At the same time trends towards globalisation and a worldwide

exchange of information restructure the possible arena for action on all levels. The European level is today often as important as the local is.

In these situation questions on identity and its role in a prosperous development has gained force. Several examples show that local communities and individuals who have managed to turn negative trends and establish new impetus in their society very often have had a strong belief in their own cultural heritage as a vehicle to use in this process. This goes for both the individual feeling of belonging and pride and the mere market oriented attitudes versus a use of the heritage as an active component in a developing strategy for new outcomes concerning e.g. attractiveness for new establishments, tourism, reuse of buildings for new purposes, production of traditional materials and skills etc.

It is believed that this is a strong trend in a recovering process, where the focus is also on the cultural heritage as a component in a Baltic Sea identity, could play a crucial role.

A widened concept demands interaction of tangible and intangible components

The notion of Architectural Heritage was brought to the fore by the Council of Europe in the seventies as a reaction to the harsh encroachments in existing towns and cities which took place in most western European countries during the 50-ties and 60-ties. What World War II had not destroyed was during this period severely damaged in the modernisation of the building stock and through massive investments in infrastructure and trade. In Granada 1985 the protection and enhancement of the Architectural Heritage was confirmed through the launching and signing of a common Council of Europe convention.

Since then the European Society's concern about the cultural heritage has successively grown from a mere identification with the physical fabric such as buildings and archaeological remains to the complex entirety of both the tangible and the intangible. What is nowadays at stake is not only the building but also man in his use of it, not only artefacts but also common traditions and patterns of life, not only the construction itself but also the content involved such as industrial processes as well as ways of living and using these constructions.

These notions and attitudes are gaining ground in all our countries and the actions we propose are all of them based on and related to them.

Heritage - an indispensable part of the sustainable society

In society at large there is an increasing awareness of environmental aspects and the necessity for sustainable strategies for development. In this connection cultural heritage is a fundamental and indispensable component. The sustainability of society is linked both to continuity in ideas and time and to the proper use of materials and methods for upkeep and maintenance of the built and cultivated environment.

In fact the know-how gained within the cultural heritage sector has out of sustainability perspective proved most relevant not only when it comes to the maintenance of the Heritage itself but also concerning the existing building stock at large as well as in modern production. This indicates a demand for prudence and long term perspectives, which fosters a possible market for traditional materials, skills and methods.

Cultural Tourism a growing competitive market with great potential for a common Baltic Sea strategy

In the tourism sector one has noted that the largest group of visitors usually come from neighbouring areas. It is also recognised that a region with several common links historically and geographically could attract long distance visitors in a more coherent way than single objects without other supporting attractions.

Meeting neighbouring countrymen is a way of getting to know also more about ones own country. With the aim to foster democracy and mutual understanding between our countries the tourism sector seems to constitute a workable and attractive tool.

Tourism is one of the fastest growing markets worldwide and the competition is intense. Recognising which factors could be competitive for our region, its common history and heritage together with the Sea itself must be most relevant. It thus seems to be a market where joint efforts are advisable and even needed.

Cultural tourism is out of these perspectives a main trend in today's society; a trend containing important strategic possibilities where local efforts together with international regional initiatives could generate synergistic effects of importance for a positive economic development.

Information technology - a key vehicle

Modern technology has profoundly changed the flow of information. It is a well-known fact that society today is rapidly changing into what sometimes is called the information society.

This trend of course is not particular for just our region, but the possibilities these new communication systems imply could be of utmost importance if used in a strategic way. The possibility to support one another with easily accessible information, the possibilities to develop common knowledge through net-working and the prospects of joint research and educational activities are obvious not at least in the cultural heritage sector where so much of our know-how and knowledge is of common interest.

The coastal areas and the Baltic Sea itself - the core of a Baltic Sea identity

The coastal cultural landscape as well as the maritime heritage itself on sea and under sea level is by us judged as a main component for a Baltic Sea identity. This means trade and traffic as well as traditions and building techniques. It means the use of land over centuries and the flow of material in and between countries. It means the Baltic Sea region as a geographically identified and wellknown area locally as well as by distant regions. The notion of a sea almost totally surrounded by land and thus constituting a cultural region in the same way as the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Opportunities and challenges

With the background knowledge of the situation of today and its foremost trends, we have identified the most obvious opportunities and the threats - seen as challenges - where actions are crucial for a positive development of the cultural heritage in our region. In short they could be listed as follows:

Opportunities

- Heritage as a fundament for the Good Society in the future
- Holistic view of heritage and landscape as a prosperous strategy in regional and physical planning
- Sustainable use of heritage and cultural landscape as a key issue for development
- Heritage as an active ingredient in employment policies
- Cultural tourism as a main Baltic Sea area strategy for tourism development
- Closer co-operation on national and international level as a tool for development
- Joint planning and networking in education, training and research as means to increase and spread know-how and knowledge in an economically positive way

Challenges

- Lack of awareness and knowledge
- Unequal and rapidly changing economies
- Infrastructure changes
- Vanishing crafts
- Pollution and neglect of traditional buildings
- Inadequate conditions for museum collections
- Ignorant use of modern materials
- Ignorant development of cultural tourism
- Illicit export and threats to movables
- Biased history resulting in negative attitudes to heritage

II POSSIBLE ACTIONS

INTRODUCTION

The working group has discussed and investigated a variety of themes and areas of great importance for the common heritage in the Baltic Sea area. We have also analysed the threats to our cultural heritage and the opportunity heritage constitutes to people at large, both for their cultural identity and the opportunities it gives for the prosperity and development of our societies.

We have recognised the Baltic Sea itself, as the focus of our common heritage, expressed in similar artefacts, archaeological remains, building traditions and regional building materials and methods. On these grounds we selected themes that we believe are of crucial importance for all our countries.

In the work we have found it fruitful to discuss the possible fields of actions from two perspectives. One is the crosscutting perspective, which is applicable to the cultural heritage field at large in our region and where we through co-operation could develop a common knowledge and at the same time gain both experience and effectiveness of importance for our work on national level. These actions are:

- Awareness of our common heritage.
- Heritage as a promoter for regional and local development.
- Information systems.
- Documentation.
- Skills education and training.

The other perspective is the thematic one. From the specific regional pattern we have identified the following areas:

- Underwater heritage.
- Coastal culture and maritime heritage.
- Materials of the region.
- Sustainable wooden urban areas.
- Sustainable cultural tourism.

The working group has also identified several themes, which concern our region, but also other countries and which are recognised and discussed in existing international organisations. These have not been subjects of action by the working group. Nevertheless, they must be kept in mind and, where appropriate, be supported where already work is going on on international and national level.

These themes are:

- Illicit export and import.
- Military heritage.
- Industrial heritage.
- Modern movement architecture.
- Research programmes.
- Archives and libraries.

CROSS CUTTING PERSPECTIVES:

Awareness of our common heritage

Background and justification

The prospects of raising awareness of the common cultural heritage of the Baltic Sea States are better than ever before. After more than 50 years of cut off relations and difficulties to maintain traditional historical contacts we now enter a new era. Awareness of the cultural heritage and history of the region is our common asset for promoting a Baltic Sea region identity. An identity which the citizens of the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea – the cradle of our common heritage – will be proud to be part of. As a consequence, the demand for making the heritage accessible to the citizens is a task of high priority.

We believe that raising awareness is a fundamental factor for a new and positive common identity recognising regional variation, and that there is a need for a number of key-actions within the different cultural heritage sectors to attain that.

We believe that the following topics could serve as themes for awareness-raising campaigns among people at large:

- The archaeological heritage - characterised by its small scale, organic interplay with the landscape, discreteness of form and vulnerability due to the climatic conditions of Northern Europe and lacking much of the monumentality of the cultures of Southern Europe.
- The Vikings - probably the most intensely investigated and well-known prehistoric phenomenon among people at large in Scandinavia, the conditions on the eastern part of the Baltic region, so far, have been very little touched upon. The importance of the area witnessed by numerous runic inscriptions, archaeological finds and other sources in Scandinavia, the need for intensified research and spreading of knowledge is topical.
The inherent potential for culture tourism must be attended to.
- The Medieval heritage including churches, the significant number of profane buildings, the Teutonic Order, the Cities of the Hansa and their strong connection with trade and shipping.
- The military heritage resulting from conflicts and warfare, manifested in numerous castles and fortifications built over the centuries, give an interesting picture of the historic development in the area.
- Vernacular furniture, rural landscapes, folklore, traditions and folk songs constitute important aspects of our common cultural heritage where especially the immaterial aspects and intangible heritage are vulnerable and easily ignored.

The basic questions are: "What unites us, what is common, which are the differences and which are the course of events or cultural patterns that are manifest in our heritage - whether landscapes, settlements, buildings, monuments, ships, artefacts or traditions."

Aims

A basic prerequisite is to build on, and to further develop; existing networks between research institutions and museums. The research program of the Centre for Baltic Sea Studies in Visby might serve as a model. The programme focuses on Baltic Sea region history and identity where research is executed in projects built on networking between research institutions in the different countries.

We foresee the following activities:

- Television programs produced by national companies in co-operation i.e. a series focusing on our common identity seen from the perspective of the countries East of the Baltic Sea.
- Exhibitions, travelling as well as stationary, opening simultaneously, accompanied by guidebooks and thematic information.
- Information campaigns designed for, and directed towards schools and people at large. The numerous associations of local history should be invited to participate in such campaigns.
- Archives represent priceless sources of information of our common heritage. Much information, especially about the small Baltic States, is located in the neighbouring countries. A special campaign to spread that information and knowledge to a wider range of citizens in the Baltic region should be started.

Proposal

We believe that a possible solution could be a program committee, given the task to promote and co-ordinate activities started by responsible national bodies.

Associated actions

Council of Europe campaign: *Europe - a Common Heritage*.

Possible responsible and co-acting bodies

Ars Baltica, Nordic Council of Ministers, National Heritage Boards, museums, television companies.

Heritage as a promoter for local and regional development

Background and justification

Experience in our countries has shown that there is a close link between identity, entrepreneurship, and use of local resources and development. Cultural heritage has thus often in a creative way served as a key vehicle both ideologically and practically in successful local strategies for development.

It is also noted that local democracy could be positively fostered through active participation in actions that enhance common values as a source for development initiatives.

A main area where these effects have successfully been brought to the fore is in the field of qualified building preservation aimed at future use of the architectural heritage - seldom for cultural activities. This way of establishing regional and local cores for

identification and pride has raised local employment and regained knowledge in traditional building techniques. At the same time its effects could be seen in a long time perspective as it fosters and develops increased attractiveness to the area of concern for establishments in trade, industry, tourism etc.

- Today when the perspective of sustainability grows all the more obvious, there is an awakened consciousness also about the need for recalling traditional knowledge in building techniques where also recycling and regular maintenance is fundamental. In a society, which aims at quality of life, the training of skilled craftsmen not only creates able workers but also fosters confident individuals.

The basis for such initiatives is on one hand a structured knowledge about the values and technical status of the older buildingstock in the area - something, which is very often lacking on an operative scale. On the other hand a structured plan has to be developed for training, education and employment as well as for the future use of the buildings. In a joint Swedish – Polish example (the Olsztyn project), these needs have been met by the establishing of co-ordinating networks, where the interests of private owners, entrepreneurs and trade unions could be combined with the ambitions of society, trying to preserve heritage and establishing good prospects for future development. Similar experience can be drawn from co-operation between Denmark and Estonia, developing and implementing a modified version of the Danish *SAVE*-system for evaluation of architectural values in the environment. The networking, which actions of this kind has supported, often also shows a creative potential of its own, leading to different synergistic effects.

Aims

- We see a need to increase and spread the sharing of good experiences in the field of heritage preservation as a tool for regional and local development.
- We see a connection between networks for development ventures and networks supporting training of crafts and production and distribution of traditional materials.
- We see the possibility to open up a Baltic Sea region exchange of knowledge and information as well as to concrete joint ventures.

Proposal

We propose co-ordinated actions developing and combining existing national networks in the Baltic Sea area for the promotion of cultural heritage as a factor in local and regional development – possibly through a common clearing house for exchange of information and initiation of joint ventures.

Associated actions

- Activities within the suggested actions concerning "Skills, education and training," and "Traditional materials and methods".
- Ongoing projects as the networks concerning materials and training which are developing in Sweden, the joint project on regional development carried out in the Halland region in Sweden and the Olsztyn region in Poland, the bilateral project between Sweden and Estonia concerning some major projects in Tallinn and others which are successively advancing.

- The Finnish campaign “It’s time for wood” 1996 – 2000 has created many kinds of activities such as research programmes, traditional production of tar etc.
- Within the EU program *Raphael* Scandinavian restoration and information centres have had seminars discussing conservation issues.
- Internet sites for reuse of old building material have been created in Sweden and Finland.

Possible responsible bodies

National and regional co-ordinators in each state.

Skills, education and training.

Background and justification

The lack of experienced professionals in a broader sense, skilled enough for taking care of buildings and movables/artefacts of cultural value, is a problem that exists more or less in all the countries around the Baltic Sea. However the different countries are in different stages of building that capacity.

Aims

- We have identified the problem that there is a lack of specialist knowledge covering the conservation of the Cultural Heritage at all levels.
- There is a need for postgraduate education and training for architects, engineers, art historians and underwater archaeologists, but also for vocational training of different kinds of craftsmen participating in the building process as the training those categories have today, normally concerns new constructions.
- There is also a need to educate conservators, especially in the eastern part of our region.

Our aim is therefore to rapidly create networks between training centres and teachers at such centres and further consider how training for restorers/conservators and craftsmen can be organised taking into account the existing training facilities and co-operation between our countries.

Proposal

We believe that a working group is needed to develop knowledge on the actual situation in both vocational and academic education to formulate further strategies.

Associated actions

- Network of training centres
- Promote the establishment of conservation centres in each country
- Co-operation through exchange of knowledge, workshops and seminars.
- Network of teachers in existing training centres
- Common courses for conservators
- Common courses for craftsmen

Planned and ongoing events

- ICCROM provides annual courses, in themes like Integrated Urban Conservation, Modern Movement Training Courses, Wood Conservation etc. The latter is held in Norway in co-operation with Norwegian authorities.
- A Nordic programme under Danish leadership and with co-financing by EU develops materials and skills.
- Denmark provides training of conservators from countries without own capacity in this field.
- Several countries are building up training for craftsmen in conservation
- Common post-graduate courses have been organised in the fields of industrial heritages and historical landscapes.
- A world heritage study camp focusing on the Baltic Sea region was held in Suomenlinna, Finland in 1998 and as one result a web site project has been developed during 1998 and 1999.
- Under Norwegian leadership and as part of the *Leonardo* EU programme a project on harmonising the training on craftiness is running
- A database is built up in the Nordic countries to provide information on craftsmen with skills on restoration of boats and ships.
- A Nordic network for ship preservation has been established.
- A joint program between Sweden and Poland, the *Olsztyn Project*, combines conservation, training and labour market development.
- An ongoing joint project between Estonia and Sweden combines conservation and training.
- Annual conservation camps and workshops are organised in Estonia, Latvia and the Nordic countries with participation from all the Baltic Sea countries. The organiser is Svenska Byggnadsvårdsföreningen.
- Network organised by the Nordic Union of Conservators, now also including the Baltic Sea states

Information systems

Background and justification

For the exchange of data and free flow of information on cultural heritage between the Baltic Sea States, a basic prerequisite is the existence of an infrastructure carrying this information including technical equipment, databases and applications specially designed for this purpose. The lack of such facilities constitutes one of the major obstacles to a successful development of co-operation in this field of cultural heritage management and the dissemination of information to schools, researchers and the public at large.

Networks especially designed for culture information have been or, are soon going to be, set up in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. However, these networks are designed for culture information in general in connection with libraries and archives and not for culture heritage information in particular. The situation in Germany and the rest of the Baltic countries is different. Networks specially designed for cultural information have not yet been decided on or created.

In the countries of the former Eastern block the main reasons are lack of technical equipment such as computers and of information systems and infrastructure.

Regardless of the expansion of the Internet, this obstacle will remain for quite many years.

Another difficulty is constituted by the fact that the access to basic knowledge about cultural heritage varies a lot among the different countries. Although fundamental structures and bodies have existed a long time, general surveying and systematic collecting of information has not been possible until recently in e.g. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Aims

We have identified an immediate need of a system for exchange of experience and information in cultural heritage matters. The realisation of such a system includes utilisation of existing structures and institutions, such as e.g. the *HEREIN* network European heritage or the web-site *Ballad* of the Swedish Baltic Institute, for technical and practical support. Furthermore, there is an equally immediate need for technical equipment and related basic technology, such as computers, software etc. in the heritage sector of the former Eastern block.

Proposal

As a consequence of the present situation, it is essential to elaborate a strategic plan for the exchange of data and the free flow of information on cultural heritage among the Baltic Sea States. We believe that this includes the development and use of IT-based networks and systems.

We propose that the Ministers of Culture support:

- **the creation and development of an IT-based infrastructure for heritage information including all the basic functions and tools that makes it possible. A series of decisions are needed in order to promote a more positive development.**
- **a pilot study in the form of seminars analysing the present situation, focussing on structure and access to technical equipment, resulting in guidelines for a long-term strategy.**
- **the creation and establishment of a network for culture heritage information among the Baltic Sea countries taking into account already existing systems in neighbouring countries.**

Regardless the time-perspective for building such an infrastructure - 3-5 years - it must be considered a fundamental step for the exchange of information within our sector. The Working Group emphasises the need of a system for sharing and exchanging information in several areas. A system, which has to meet with various demands including facilities as:

- Databases of inventories, excavations and artefacts.
- Networks and linking between museums, archives and research institutes on international, national and local level for experts.
- Webb-sites for the general public.
- Links to culture tourist organisations i.e. *BTC*, and web-sites like *Ballad* and the European information network on cultural heritage policies and others.

Associated actions

Short term:

- Examine the possibilities for a pilot-study and an application for a project within the *Culture 2000* program of the European Commission already in 1999. Survey the situation regarding IT-facilities available for cultural heritage.
- Propose actions to raise the technical level to a minimum-standard level.
- *SAVE*.

Long term:

- Gradually establishing the different functions of the information infrastructure.
- Clearing-house for exchange of information and experience.
- Service provider/help desk for problems/questions connected with databases etc.

Existing and planned events

- A series of pilot seminars on information systems starting in Latvia and Estonia in the autumn of 1999 (depending on the outcome of the application to *Culture 2000*).
- A meeting on questions related to information systems with the Swedish Baltic Institute in Karlskrona in June 1999.

Possible financing

- The *Culture 2000* programme of the European Commission.
- The funds for regional development of the Baltic Sea region and cross-border *Cupertino* in the framework of the Structural funds e.g. *Interreg* and other funding mechanisms (*Phare, Tacis*) of the EU.
- National co-financing.

Administration/responsible bodies

- Swedish National Heritage Board and corresponding national bodies.
- The Swedish Baltic Institute in Karlskrona.
- National institutions in the participating countries

Documentation

Background and justification

Documentation is essential both for protecting our cultural heritage and for using it as a valuable resource in the sustainable caretaking of our heritage. Without sufficient knowledge, no planning process can result in appropriate actions, nor can the desired effects be achieved.

Basic documentation of the physical heritage can be carried out in many ways, depending on the material involved. For ancient monuments it can comprise extensive fieldwork in order to localise and describe the objects. For buildings, industrial heritage and artefacts, usually a written description and photo-documentation is

made. The methods obviously may differ due to the objects, but in the end they aim at describing *where* and *what*.

The work of the expert group has shown that documentation standards vary greatly between the Baltic Sea states, both in regard to aims and overall efforts. In many cases it strongly points at a need for improved documentation in the future, both for protecting the cultural heritage and for taking advantage of its economic potential and at the same time insuring its sustainability. The lack of funding for such documentation is apparent.

Aims

- In a time where our cultural heritage is constantly threatened by exploitation we find it crucial that the usually very limited resources are directed into the most important areas.

In this process we see important advantages for all our countries in analysing our heritage documentation in a Baltic Sea perspective. The many similarities in cultural background can serve as a valuable tool in an analysis, enabling us to compare documentation results and standards, judging its validity and implications for future efforts needed.

- Our different experiences can and must be used to improve methods in documentation.

By doing so we can contribute to a more modern and scientifically correct documentation process and a better use and protection of our cultural heritage.

Proposal

We propose the formation of a working group composed by heritage experts from our countries. Their task would be to co-ordinate workshops and seminars concerning strategic documentation on items such as ancient monuments, buildings, museum objects, marine archaeology and the agrarian landscape. The result should be a comparative analyses of the documentation situation, the future needs and possibilities.

Planned and ongoing events

- Conference on marine archaeology in the Baltic Sea region (St Petersburg)
- Co-operation among Nordic countries on classification and documentation systems for cultural heritage.
- Annual meeting between Finland and Estonia - presentation of the archaeological fieldwork done during the year.

Possible responsible bodies

Administrative bodies in each country should preferably be on national level.

THEMES OR THEMATIC AREAS

Underwater heritage

Background and justification

The maritime heritage is truly an international heritage. It represents the exchange of goods, ideas and culture around the Baltic Sea as well as the link between the region and the rest of the world.

The Baltic Sea has been navigated as long as humanity has been present, and for thousands of years the sea has claimed its toll of men and boats. Unlike other areas, the low salinity of the Baltic Sea creates very good conservation conditions. The absence of shipworms and large areas of oxygen-free bottom layers has kept the organic material intact. This has made the Baltic Sea one of the world's richest areas for shipwrecks.

Another important aspect is that parts of the Baltic Sea was dry land during Palaeolithic and Mesolithic times and was then inhabited. Many remains of these habitations are preserved in the sediments of the seabed in the southwestern part of Baltic Sea. These underwater settlement sites are unique in an international context. They represent a specific Baltic heritage which has rich evidence of the Mesolithic culture shedding new light on this period of human culture.

Obviously these scientific treasures calls for a strong protection. Today though, most Baltic Sea states have very narrow protective maritime zones for cultural heritage. Only Denmark has declared a 24 nautical miles zone in accordance with Article 303 in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Outside these zones large areas of the Baltic Sea are accessible to divers – archaeologists as well as looters – which calls for concerted actions to protect the underwater heritage.

Aims

The underwater heritage of the Baltic Sea represents remains from the first appearance of man in the area to present day. It is an international heritage that represents the exchange of goods ideas and culture around the Baltic Sea as well as being the link between the region and the rest of the world. The conservation conditions of the remains are extremely good. Low salinity, absence of shipworms and a large portion of oxygen-free bottom layers keep organic material intact.

- To increase the awareness of the unique cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea we think that the potential of this heritage should be enlightened as a common Baltic Sea heritage.
- To protect the Baltic Sea underwater heritage - independent of its geographic position - a regional agreement should be developed in accordance with the aims of the global initiatives of *UNESCO* and the UN convention on Law of the Sea.
- underwater heritage in the Baltic Sea should be legally protected.

Proposal

We propose that a working group be set up to study the implications and possible content of a regional agreement to protect underwater cultural heritage in the Baltic

Sea. This includes the prohibition of nationals and ships flying the flag of Baltic Sea states to interfere with historic wrecks and archaeological structures.

Associated actions

- Legal protection of all underwater heritage through a regional agreement forbidding nationals and ships to interfere with historic wrecks in all parts of the Baltic Sea.
- Sharing information from historic sources on wrecks in the Baltic Sea. This will enable the authorities to identify wrecks.
- Training courses in marine archaeology with participants from all Baltic Sea countries.
- Travelling exhibitions on underwater heritage.
- Exchange of practitioners.
- Project: "Baltic Navigation". Identifying Baltic Sea boat types and their uses and their implication on society around the Baltic Sea.
- Create map of the Baltic Sea with protection zones (territorial waters – Danish protection zone).
- Network: List of institutions with underwater heritage capacity. Description of their special fields of excellence.
- Estimates of historic wrecks in the Baltic Sea.

Planned and ongoing events

- UNESCO has an ongoing work to try to develop a convention on Underwater Archaeology (1999)

Possible responsible bodies

Coastal culture and maritime heritage

Background and justification

The Baltic Sea has throughout history connected the people around it. It has been the main traffic artery in the region and an important economic base through trade, fishing, and in the coastal region agriculture and industry. For these reasons coastal culture in our countries still show important similarities, essential for understanding our common identity and history.

The coastal culture is however threatened, not only by the crisis in the traditional coastal industries, but also by the pressure of recreational activity. The coastal areas are probably the most rapidly changing environments today. Still its cultural environment is a neglected topic, both in national preservation policies and in national and international coastal and sectional policies.

A special problem exists in the coastal areas of the former Soviet Republics. Traditional trades like fishing and shipping were for different reasons prohibited and the cultural continuity was broken. It is vital that intense attempts are made to bridge this 50-year break by actions documenting the tangible and intangible heritage still existing in the area.

The care of buildings, boats, artefacts and landscapes largely depend on the existence of a resident population. As the traditional trades lose their importance or

profitability, a sustainable use of the resources calls for partly new economic strategies. Often tourism is mentioned as an important source of income, but it must be treated with caution in order not to threaten the natural and cultural values that it benefits from. Nor must the environmental aspects be forgotten, as polluted water and air pose serious threats in parts of the region.

It is important to realise that heritage specialists can not preserve the coastal culture only. A positive development is for its future dependant on an active co-operation between all the organisations, authorities and ministries dealing with coastal areas in different ways and where physical planning, claim of land, development pressure etc. are important tasks to consider.

Aims

- We find it essential that coastal culture is made more visible, and that it is further protected and developed in all of its diversity by identifying and describing the common assets, problems and potential.
- As depopulation poses a serious threat to long term heritage protection, we stress the importance of strategic co-operation between authorities and others in order to facilitate a sustainable use of the region, including a diversified economy and partly traditional trades.
- Another important field is documentation and information on the cultural values in the region in order to promote development and increase understanding and awareness of its importance. This work can also generate economic contributions through cultural tourism and foster a responsible approach to development and necessary changes.

Proposal

- **The coastal culture and its development are for its future dependent on intersectorial co-operation and interaction. We therefore propose a deepened co-operation between authorities concerned in these matters.**
- **We would like to draw the attention to the strategies for sustainable use of coastal areas, now being elaborated at the Nordic Council Ministers, which can serve as an inspiration for regional planning and future work in the whole Baltic Sea region.**
- **Special attention should be given to documentation and presentation of coastal culture in terms of research and exhibitions.**

Associated actions

- A research project and exhibition on the Baltic's importance as a commercial area during the last 1000 years.
- Documentation of traditional boats in the Nordic and Baltic region.
- Support and broaden the Estonian - Norwegian lighthouse project.

Planned and ongoing events

- The trade and boat documentation projects commence with research conferences with a broad range of researchers from the Baltic Sea region, including

universities, museums and other relevant professional institutions. Thereafter a project organisation is established, working out ideas, timetable and budgets etc. The final results are to be presented as publications and travelling exhibitions shown in the countries involved.

- The lighthouse project has already started in Norway and Estonia. On their initiative an invitation to other interested countries should be sent out and the participants should plan the further work.
- The boat documentation project already initiated by Sweden.

Possible responsible bodies

Administrative bodies should be museums and universities in the countries involved.

Traditional materials and methods as a part of a sustainable development of the region

Background and justification

In times of rapid change heritage is often at stake. Several of the threats now facing the natural environment in the Baltic Sea region are also threatening the cultural environment. Large-scale infrastructure development projects, air-pollution, non-traditional materials etc. all affect the cultural as well as the natural environment.

The Baltic Sea area and its built environment is characterised by the natural resources of the region, such as wood, limestone, lime mortar and granite. These traditional materials were together with other traditional materials used in restoration and new buildings until the World War II, when new building materials came on the market.

Since at least twenty years the Nordic countries have struggled to regain and restore the knowledge about traditional building materials and techniques and created a market for it, when restoring old buildings. Other countries in our region still lack or need to improve the situation on traditional building material, to ensure that our common heritage in the Baltic Sea Area can be preserved with correct materials and methods, which are cheap, sustainable and easy to maintain. To that end there is also a need to fight the introduction of non-traditional materials on the market.

We have also taken note on the work started some twenty years ago on air pollution on heritage caused by acid rain and other factors. We recall the recommendations in this field worked out by the Council of Europe. We also see the connection between materials of the region and skills to deal with them.

Aims

- We see a need for codes of ethics for conservation and conservation methods.
- We foresee a sustainable development and an adaptation to re-cycling in our region by using traditional materials.
- We see the need on regional co-operation and networks to improve the situation for the traditional materials in the region.
- We believe that a sustainable upkeep is dependent on the use of traditional materials.

- We see the need for information and education that counters the misuse of modern materials which today are launched by a rapidly growing market in parts of the region.
- We deem this field of action closely linked to education in the field, and to training of skilled crafts.

Proposal

- **We propose intensified work by the National Heritage Boards in the Baltic Sea region to develop the network for material producers and material banks with the aim to ensure accessibility to traditional materials of the region for conservation needs.**
- **The work should also include information to building sector professionals, people at large and owners of cultural property.**

Associated actions

- Mapping of accessibility to traditional materials.
- Develop local production of traditional materials such as brick, lime mortar, paint etc.
- Ensure the access and create a market for traditional materials in all countries.
- Create network between research institutions, training institutions, craftsmen, local producers and producers in all countries of the Baltic Sea area.
- Training of craftsmen.
- Seminars for actors and professionals in the building sector.
- Conserve and retain knowledge about traditional materials and how they are produced.
- Information to the public at large about the need to use traditional materials in historic buildings, through for instance exhibitions and other information tools such as internet, instructive films and so on.

Planned and ongoing events

- Finland and Norway have research and development programs for wood.
- Norway has an international wood training course in co-operation with *ICCROM* every second year.
- Research on lime and mortar is continuously going on in the Nordic countries.
- A project on degradation of stone has been started by Norddeutsche Zentrum für Materialkunde von Kulturgut e.V. (ZMK) in Niedersächsischen Landesamt für Denkmalpflege.
- Seminars and workshops with training activities have been held 1998 in Rakvere, Estonia and Archangelsk, Russia.
- Sweden has created an exhibition on Methods and Materials used in the Maintenance of Buildings of Cultural Values.
- A joint restoration and workshop project between Estonia and Sweden is going on in Kalamaja, Tallinn, 1999.
- Research and traditional production of tar has started in Northern Finland and Norway.
- Denmark has a project on deterioration of granite rune stones.

Possible responsible bodies

Sustainable wooden urban areas

Background and justification

Wooden towns and wooden urban areas as part of larger towns, and wooden villages are significant features in the Common Baltic Heritage. Many of the most important and large areas of that heritage are located on the eastern side of the Baltic Sea. The situation for these areas today, is decay and degradation. The future for these areas is at risk because of lack of understanding and appreciation of them, and of the lack of knowledge of how to maintain them and lack of protective means or planning systems.

Aims

We have identified the wooden urban structures as an important part of our common heritage in the Baltic Sea area. An action plan for their preservation comprises a conglomerate of programmes with a span of duties both on national and local level. We therefore as a starting point would like to highlight the efforts made so far in Estonia and Finland to identify the wooden heritage and urge the ministers to develop common actions to support the work already started.

We believe that the following themes are the most important;

- Creation of legal instruments and conservation policies and programmes to ensure the preservation and protection of wooden urban areas on national, regional and local level.
- Promote development of fire protection built upon the experience developed in the Nordic countries and especially Norway.
- Create awareness among inhabitants in wooden urban areas and among people at large of the values of their environment and houses through television, films, exhibitions and other media.
- Describe the technical advantages of the wooden fabric and its long lasting quality.
- A specialist network already exists in our region but needs to be further developed. The complexity of actions must also be further studied.
- Create regional and local centres for the general public.
- Create regional and local information centres and networks between them.

Proposal

A lot of good initiatives have already been taken concerning networks, seminars, training and information which need further support, development and co-ordination. We therefore propose that the efforts already made, should be co-ordinated by a body or working group.

Associated actions

- Promote wooden urban areas as a unique type of urban fabric, so typical for the Baltic Sea region.
- Promote awareness and understanding of wooden urban areas, both as heritage and as great potentials for modern living.

- Promote and improve methods of planning and building, taking into account co-operation and examples already existing; such as the work on Sustainable Historic Cities that has been worked out by the Nordic World Heritage Office in co-operation with several of the countries in our region.
- Create a network on international, national and local level on experts in physical planning, building sector and conservation agencies.
- Guidelines for preservation of the cultural values both for experts and owners.
- Promote and take initiative to the creation of a Baltic Sea wooden town tourist route.
- Promote inventories , documentation and evaluation of Wooden urban areas especially in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia.
- Promote Wooden towns in the Baltic Sea area as places for cultural tourism.
- Disseminate the knowledge of fire protection gained by Norway.

Planned and ongoing events

The conference in Trondheim November 1997 reopened the discussion on the “Nordic Wooden Town project” from 1972. It was followed by a seminar in Stockholm April 1998, the conference “Historic Towns - A Heritage for the Future in Stockholm”, September 1998 and “Sustainable Historic Cities - A North Eastern European Approach”, December 1998 (Nordic World Heritage Office). The activities continue as follows:

- Conference in Tallinn, September 1999 on “heritage preservation in the light of legislation, planning and subsidies”. Exhibition of Wooden Towns of Estonia.
- Architectural competition for the renovation of a wooden dwelling house, Estonia, first quarter of 1999.
- Opening of the information centre in Kalamaja, Tallinn in the year 2000.
- Conference in Finland, year 2000 on “Modern structures in historic urban fabric; continuation and renewal”.
- Conference in Riga on historic town centres in year 2001.
- Estonia tries out the Danish *SAVE* system.
- Sweden has translated guidelines on maintenance of different kinds of materials and policy documents on restoration ethics to Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian languages.

Possible responsible bodies

Sustainable cultural tourism

Background and justification

Cultural tourism is a major area for development and prosperity of the Baltic Sea region. The importance of cultural tourism for economic growth and for the creation of new jobs is widely recognised. Investments in cultural heritage have shown to be labour-intensive, attract considerable co-financing and provide synergetic effects even outside the heritage sector.

The World Tourism Organisation (WTO) has in their prognosis declared that by year 2020 tourism here will have increased more than in other areas in Europe and then especially cultural tourism.

It is difficult to estimate the significance of tourism. It is though recognised that progress in the development of tourism in the Baltic Sea states increase the possibilities for the development of democracy in the region. It is also a mean for economic development. Tourism also is an important source for foreign exchange and an opportunity to create new jobs. In addition tourism promotes understanding between nations and people-to-people contacts around the Baltic Sea.

Aims

Sustainable cultural tourism, with a guaranteed authenticity, is a major area for development and prosperity with a view of social and economic progress in the Baltic Sea region. Heritage of all kinds plays a key role to attract tourists. Every country in our region has a varied heritage to present and our countries together contain themes that can attract tourism to the whole region. We believe that the Baltic Sea itself and the maritime heritage in that sense, is of outstanding importance.

We have come to the conclusion that

- The Baltic Sea countries have monuments and environments that separately or together form heritage themes of great potential for tourism in the region.
- Site interpretation for monuments and infrastructure for tourists needs further development.
- It is obvious that the cultural tourism has to be given a sustainable and authentic profile in order to being able to compete with beautiful beaches and sunny weather.
- Heritage and tourism experts representing different skills, both of vital importance to develop tourism, need to meet and bring together their respective knowledge for a fruitful development of tourism. An action plan for sustainable cultural tourism should be developed in cross border and cross-sectorial co-operation to have a good outcome.

Proposal

We are aware of the fact that cultural tourism is a field that involves many sectors. We therefore see a need for the development of cross-sectorial strategies for a sustainable cultural tourism in our region. The complexity of questions, the great number of agencies and specialists necessary for a fruitful result makes us believe that a working group should be set up, composed by heritage and tourism experts.

We believe that the Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (BTC) could be the body with the competence to develop a project of this kind if necessary funding is available.

The subjects for such a work would be

- The mapping of heritage potentials.
- Mapping of lacks in tourism infrastructure and accessibility to sites.
- Present an action plan.
- How much can we exploit?

The action plan for sustainable cultural tourism in the Baltic Sea region should be presented for the Ministers of Culture after a period of 2 years.

Associated actions

Several actions with a Baltic Sea profile have such a dignity that they need the development of trans-national co-operation such as

- The Maritime Heritage such as boats, lighthouses and fishing villages for tourism around the Baltic Sea.
- Wreck trails in the Baltic Sea.
- Sailing vessels and small boats in the Baltic Sea.
- Vikings around the Baltic Sea.
- Hanseatic Routes.
- The amber route and the use of amber.
- Wooden towns and other wooden heritage.
- Castles and fortresses.
- Archaeological sites.
- World Heritage

Planned and ongoing events

- Basic documents, such as charters and recommendations on sustainable cultural tourism are under consideration by the Council of Europe, *UNESCO* and *ICOMOS*.
- Pilot project on tourism development of the German-Polish border. (*Interreg IIC*)
- The Council of Europe has an ongoing program on Cultural Routes
- The Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (*BTC*) has started work and marketing on different cultural tourism themes such as for instance the Amber Route and the Viking Routes. (*BTC* is a non-profit member association with the aims of promoting the national and sustainable development within and to the Baltic Sea region.)
- *BTC* has brought together 40 regions together in an *INTERREG IIC* project. However that includes only EU countries leaving Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia outside.
- *BTC* has one conference a year in one of the countries in the Baltic Sea area.
- Norway and Estonia co-operate on documentation on lighthouses and their possible use for tourism purposes.
- Germany has ethic rules for sustainable cultural tourism.
- The Latvian Government has a Consultative Tourism Board where the Ministry of Culture is represented.

Financing

A project like this could be financed as an *INTERREG* project.

Possible responsible bodies

OBSERVATIONS ON ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST WHICH COULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN OTHER WAYS.

ILLCIT EXPORT AND IMPORT is an international problem, which has spread to our region after the change in political situation. Those of our countries which have already had great losses of cultural goods by wars now have severe problems with theft of protected cultural goods in for instance churches and museums as well as with illicit export of vernacular furniture. All these incidents are threats to the movable heritage.

In this field we have taken note that all our countries have taken legislative measures to meet this problem. Many have signed the *UNESCO* Convention on Illicit Export and Import and taken note of the work done by the *UNESCO*, *ICOM*, Council of Europe and *UNIDROIT* and the legislation existing within the EU.

We believe that illicit export can be avoided to a large extent by a closer co-operation between other sectors in the society, such as customs, police and *INTERPOL*. Campaigning on ethics among people at large and antique dealers, about the importance to be aware of the problem another way of handling the problem. All our countries are active in this field to improve the situation. As the problem has a wider scope than the Baltic Sea region, we suggest that further development and co-operation should be sought on European and global level.

MILITARY HERITAGE in our region has been accumulated throughout the centuries. It is a heritage that is both national and a heritage that has been created by other nations. The now emptied military heritage, especially that dating from recent times of the Soviet period, is waiting for alternative uses where it could constitute a positive development resource both at national and local level.

The Nordic countries have both on national level and together with their neighbouring countries had discussions in this field and also taken national decisions on similar grounds. Both museums, shopping centres and other types of alternative use have been discussed and realised.

We believe that the experiences already made in the Nordic countries could be shared in a discussion and a co-operation with the other countries in the Baltic Sea

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE is a similar field to the military heritage, where large industrial buildings and areas in all our countries have been emptied. Like military heritage they represent economic values as buildings but also an important part of our countries heritage. The industrial heritage has since twenty years been the interest of the international non-governmental organisation *TICCIH* (The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage) and its many committees on national level. We believe that the international discussion is taken well care of by this organisation. We also draw the attention to the campaign starting in Sweden 1999, which could be of help and inspiration to other countries in the Baltic Sea. The "Swedish Industrial Heritage Campaign" is also given a European dimension, and is a contribution to the Council of Europe's campaign "Europe, a Common Heritage".

MODERN MOVEMENT ARCHITECTURE, to the largest extent dating from the time after World War II, has now reached the age where big renovations and modernisation are necessary. At the same time the modern movement buildings dating from the thirties and the forties, being a large portion of the environment in towns and their neighbourhoods, has aged into heritage. Since ten years this heritage has been on the agenda in an international non-governmental organisation called *DOCOMOMO* (Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement) with national committees in most of our countries. That organisation has highlighted the most important parts of that heritage all over the world.

We believe that the work already going on by *DOCOMOMO* is a good support and an international arena for exchange of experience.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES. We underline the importance of all research work carried out by museums and other institutions and by universities and scientists in all our countries.

We therefore underline the importance of co-operation between universities and the need for networks among scientists to find partners in their important research work. We would like to mention the university colleges in Visby and Södertörn in Sweden and the Baltic Institute on Bornholm who have specialised in research programmes on heritage in the Baltic Sea region and so far have been very successful.

Financing research programmes on heritage in the Baltic Sea would be an interesting way of joining capacities and knowledge, a way which would be promoted both nationally and internationally, although we have deemed it being to complex a topic to concentrate on for our working group at this stage.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES are institutions with material of the greatest importance for the understanding and development of our common cultural heritage. These institutions have various legal instruments, documentation systems and networks in different countries. The working group has not had the capacity to integrate a descriptions and proposals for these sectors. We however see a strong need for further development and closer co-operation between archives and libraries in all Baltic Sea states and we propose the formation of a working group for a further analysis of these questions.