

Report 2 on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States
Given by the Monitoring Group
Agreed upon by the Monitoring Group in Tallinn, Estonia 6-7 August 2001.

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Annex 1:

Progress report from the Working Group on Building Preservation and Maintenance in Practise.

Annex 2:

Progress report from the Working Group on Under Water Heritage

Annex 3:

Progress report from the Working Group on Coastal Culture and Maritime Heritage

Annex 4:

Progress report from the Working Group on Sustainable Historic Towns

1. *Executive summary*

Mandate

The Cultural Heritage co-operation in the Baltic Sea States initiated by the Ministers of Culture has been going on for four years. The mandates were given in the Lübeck declaration 21-23 September 1997 and in the Declaration of Gdansk. 20-21 September 1999.

The basis for the work carried out 1999-2001 has been the report presented at the Gdansk meeting, *Safeguarding and Developing the Common Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea Region*.

Organisation of the work

Responsible for the work program has been a Monitoring group with representation from all the Baltic Sea countries. The work has been executed through four Working groups which have developed their ideas and work programmes out of the themes presented in the above mentioned report.

The following areas have been covered:

- **Building preservation and maintenance in practise**, led by Sweden and Latvia
- **Under water Heritage**, led by Denmark
- **Coastal Culture and Maritime Heritage**, led by Norway and Poland
- **Sustainable Historic towns**, led by Finland and Estonia

Results /Milestones

The Monitoring group deems the past two-year period to be a promising starting point for future co-operation and exchange of knowledge and experiences in the Baltic Sea region. The development of themes and working-methods has been in focus and in almost all our countries joint actions involving gradually growing circles of people have taken place. In quite a limited time span a fair amount of activities have taken place and some concrete products have been accomplished.

Actions already underway in one country have been used as starting points for the programs of the Working groups. National and transitional initiatives have been joined together in a Baltic Sea Perspective.

The main outcome of the work is opening up of networking and joint cross border activities involving experts, state officials, craftsmen, restorers and museum employees just to mention some of the categories.

Main achievements so far:

- Nearly 100 experts have participated and exchanged experience
- 7 specified networks have been established
- 15 seminars, meetings and workshops have been held

Main products so far:

- A poster exhibition on lighthouses
- An outline for a draft Declaration on the Underwater Cultural Heritage of the Baltic Sea
- A WEB site containing networks, reports etc. is established under the umbrella of CBSS

Long term results:

- Four working programmes have been developed covering the areas mentioned above. The working plans have a perspective of 2-5 years. They include engagements along the following lines: developing of strategy, dissemination of knowledge and exchange of expertise. Channels aiming at distribution of traditional materials and technical skills have also been created as the basis for a sustainable development of the Region. The intensity of the work and actual outcome during the period 1999-2001 differs among the groups. All of them have as far as now can be judged reached interesting results of importance both for the Nations themselves and for the Baltic Sea region as a whole. A longer time span is though needed to fully achieve their goals.

Reflections on the working processes

This report expresses a need to further develop the initiatives that are ongoing and must be seen in a long-term perspective. It also expresses a wish to find forms for a continued co-operation, using the networks and the initiatives taken.

The engagement in all the countries is evident. The wish to create a framework for co-operation is illustrated by the fact that all countries have given high priority to taking an active part in the Monitoring work. The meetings have made it possible to exchange ideas and experiences. The networks created have been used as focal points for joint activities. They have also had spin off effects by way of informal contacts, projects and initiatives on multilateral as well as bilateral level.

We have though experienced difficulties in uneven financial possibilities in the different countries for experts in the field to take part in working groups and seminars. Furthermore, no funding has been allocated to projects and initiatives suggested by the Working groups. Funding from multilateral bodies like the Nordic Council of Ministers and the European Union is made difficult by the fact that they do not cover the whole region as such and because support is made contingent upon own financial means.

Ways and means to create a financial platform for a coming period is thus a crucial question that has to be discussed on the Ministerial level.

Continued mandate?

The Monitoring group sees the need for another two years mandate for the Monitoring group as well as for the four Working groups. The aim of which would be to consolidate the ongoing work and find forms for a continuous flow of information in the heritage sector despite organisational forms. If the Ministers of Culture may wish to so decide, the Monitoring group will present its final report at the meeting of the Ministers of Culture in 2003.

2. Introduction and background

A Working group on cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea states was set up in late 1997 on mandates that were given in mainly three different documents:

- 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".

- 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 Ministers of Culture of the Baltic Sea states for consideration".

- 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".

The secretariat was set up in January 1998 at the National Heritage Board in Sweden.

The working group gave its first report *Safeguarding and Developing the Common Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea Region* to the Ministers of Culture in the Baltic Sea States at their meeting in Gdansk, Poland, 20-21 September 1999.

The Ministers of Culture may recall that the Gdansk report proposed ten possible actions presented as either cross cutting perspectives or thematic areas. They were

Cross cutting perspectives

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

Themes or thematic areas

- Underwater heritage
- Coastal culture and maritime heritage
- Traditional materials and methods as a part of a sustainable development of the region
- Sustainable wooden urban areas
- Sustainable cultural tourism

3. Mandate

The mandate for a Monitoring Group was given by the Ministers of Culture of the Baltic Sea States at their fourth Conference in Gdansk on the 20 and 21 September 1999.

The original Working group was thus by the Ministers of Culture transformed into a Monitoring group.

----“The Ministers took note of the report from the working group on Cultural Heritage and agreed that further attention should be given to cultural heritage and that cultural heritage as an essential part of the environment should be seen in a broader cultural context and be included in cultural co-operation in general. As a basis for future work in this field the Ministers adopted the set of Framework Statements as appended to the Report from the Working Group.

The Ministers agreed on further development along the lines presented within the plan for safeguarding and developing common cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea region under the guidance of a monitoring group, which should report back to the Ministers at their fifth meeting”-----

4. Definition of the task and organisation of the work

The Monitoring Group refers to its first report, SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING THE COMMON CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION, approved by the Ministers of Culture at their meeting in Gdansk, Poland, September 1999.

The new formation into a Monitoring group has changed the role and we see our tasks to

- Inaugurate concrete actions according to proposals in the report “Safeguarding and developing the Common Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea Region”
- Follow the development of actions taken in member countries in a monitoring way
- Act as framework body and fosterer of results
- Report to the Ministers of Culture, at fist hand, at their meeting in Copenhagen 18-19 September 2001.

5. Four Working groups

The Monitoring Group has analysed the ten areas of interest for future action presented in that report and decided at its first meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania 27-28 January 2000, to limit the first set of work to four working groups. They correspond to the so-called Thematic Areas in the first report but in addition also all cross cutting perspectives have been included in each of the themes. That is to say that the four working groups cover all actions proposed in the first Gdansk report. These are:

- **Building Preservation and Maintenance in Practise**, chaired by Sweden in co-operation with Latvia
- **Under Water Heritage**, chaired by Denmark
- **Coastal Culture and Maritime Heritage**, chaired by Norway in co-operation with Poland
- **Sustainable Historic Towns**, chaired by Finland in co-operation with Estonia

All groups have worked according to a mandate from the Monitoring group to pay special attention to the questions on

- Awareness, that is to see to that heritage aspects are widely spread to the public at large
- Cultural tourism, that is to say to analyse in which way the area covered by the working group concerned is important for cultural tourism purposes

Aside those general mandates each group has got its specific mandate related to its working area. All groups have in a series of meetings defined their short and long term work and produced work programmes, of which details are available in their respective progress reports, available as annexes 1-4.

The working process has differed from group to group depending on their aims and goals. The Group concerned with Building maintenance and practise has taken existing projects as a starting point for an enlarged participation. Target groups have been chosen from specialists working on building sites involving craftsmen and professionals of all kinds in joint activities. The group on Coastal culture has focused on an exhibition on lighthouses as a concrete first step.

The group concerned with the Underwater Heritage has so far concentrated on an outline to legal instrument for protection while the group on Sustainable Historic Towns have paved the way for a long term action plan developing strategies for urban conservation plans.

The work has been characterised by good will and spirit but the Monitoring group is reluctant concerning the financing of the activities as these questions budgetwise on National level have had a special budget only in few cases.

We would like to underline the difficulty to fill the Working groups with specialists from all countries.

The Monitoring group did on the other hand not expect all countries to participate in all Working groups. According to priorities on national level and taking into consideration national capacity, there was an agreement that each country should participate at least in two of the Working Groups.

6. Milestones and long term perspectives

The Monitoring group could, due to practical difficulties, start its work in January 2000. After that the working groups were established which means that the Working groups in time for the report to the Ministers of Culture has worked a bit more than one year.

Taking into consideration the short working time, the Monitoring group would like to express its satisfaction with the results, listed below. They are Milestones in the continuing cultural heritage co-operation in the Baltic Sea area.

The Monitoring group has aside its monitoring task towards the working groups created one important milestone, a WEB-site for the Cultural Heritage Co-operation in the Baltic Sea States ready to be presented to the Ministers of Culture at their meeting in Copenhagen 18-19 September 2001.

The address of the site is: <http://balticheritage.raa.se>

The WEB not only describes the work carried out on heritage by mandate from the Ministers of Culture, but links itself up to other WEB-sites of interest for heritage preservation in the Baltic Sea States through CBSS.

Working group: Building Preservation and Maintenance in Practise

Aims and goals

- The establishing of codes of ethics for conservation and restoration
- The survival of traditional crafts and skills
- The supply of traditional building materials
- Use the heritage as a promoter for regional development

Organisation of the work

The Group has taken existing projects as a starting point for an enlarged participation. Target groups have been chosen from specialists working on building sites involving craftsmen and professionals of all kinds in joint activities.

Milestones and results 2000-2001

- Preliminary work programme 2001-2003
- Film 15 minutes in English “Kalamaja – possibilities of a wooden town”
- Workshops and training for craftsmen:
 1. Timber work and carpentry
 2. Workshop on lime and lime paint
- Seminar for architectural historians, engineers, restorers and architects: Methods on investigation, research and analysis in connection with the preparing of a restoration project
- Study tour for personnel in regional information centres for building preservation in the Baltic Sea area.

Ongoing work and long term perspective:

- To secure the supply and use of traditional building materials:
 1. Creation of a network among tar producers and a report on the production and use of tar as a restoration material
 2. Production and supply of window glass and creation of a network on experts on glass in the Baltic Sea region
 3. Production and use of building lime. The work is to collect and translate reports and manuals on the subject into the National languages in the Baltic Sea region.

Working group: Under Water Heritage

Organisation of the work

This Working group has as a first stage concentrated on an outline for a Declaration for the protection of the Under Water Heritage in the Baltic Sea.

Results and milestones 2000-2001:

- An outline for a Declaration on the Underwater Cultural Heritage of the Baltic Sea,

Aims and goals in a long term perspective

- To enhance the protection of the Underwater Heritage
- To raise awareness about the values of the Underwater heritage
- Create a network of Museums and a data base dealing with Underwater heritage in the Baltic Sea
- Promote research and training among marine archaeologists
- Promote the establishment of a Wreck trail

Working Group: Coastal Culture and Maritime Heritage

Aims and goals

- To describe challenges and opportunities within the field of coastal culture and maritime heritage
- To give status of ongoing activities in each country
- Suggest, promote and start projects and actions for co-operation

Organisation of the work

The Working group has concentrated on establishing a network for the long-term work.

Milestones and results

- Four Working group meetings held
- Report on challenges and opportunities in each country, presented at the Monitoring group meeting in Stockholm 26-27 January 2001
- Poster exhibition “Lighthouses”. To be presented at the Ministers of Culture meeting in Copenhagen 18-19 September 2001. The project includes brochure and an internet version.

- The Conference “Coastal Culture and Maritime Heritage” will be held in Gdansk, Poland 2002.

Long term perspective:

- Actions and activities as of the outcome of the Gdansk conference.

Working group: Sustainable Historic Towns

Aims and goals

- The working group aims at developing good models for sustainable conservation planning by organizing workshops, seminars and exchanging experiences between national, and local authorities and societies as well as researches in the field of urban planning.

Results and Milestones

- Work programme 2000-2003. A project secretary has been specially employed for this task (2001) by the National Board of Antiquities/Finland.
- First Workshop “Identity as a Cultural Resource – Small Historic Towns Facing Development and Change” Tallinn 5-6 May, 2001. Financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- Report of the Workshop will contain presentation on the situation on national level concerning urban heritage protection and the case-studies in pilot towns (Kuressare, Forssa, Hjo and Ribe)

Long term perspective

- Multidisciplinary seminar (2002). Application for financing has been sent to the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- Electronic publications and printed reports in the Series of the Nordic Council of Ministers (Tema Nord)
- Homepage with linking to pilot towns and CBSS
- Preparation of an Interreg III b-project dealing with conservation practices in local administration and town planning.

7. Initiatives and work carried out by others

In the report given to the Ministers in Gdansk there was an information about themes like Illicit exports and import, military heritage, industrial heritage, modern movement architecture, research programmes and archives and libraries. All these themes are taken care of by International organisations or dealt with by other expertise than heritage specialists. In our work these themes have emerged again. We therefore decided to open up for these themes in our WEB as fruitful information to the visitors. See <http://balticheritage.raa.se>

8. Opportunities and Problems in fulfilling the tasks

Organisation and Working methods

The work that has been accomplished has been elaborated by specialists in different fields, with mandate from the Monitoring group. That organisation of the work has been very fruitful; the Monitoring group, consisting of high level officials in the heritage preservation and museum area have in their respective countries a superior overview of the actual situation and needs when heritage preservation is concerned. They are also in the capacity to select the professionals of all kinds to equip the Working groups with persons capable of developing the various fields chosen for the Baltic Sea Heritage co-operation.

The Monitoring group would therefore like to underline the amount of results that has been achieved in the short time of period available.

Financing

The costs for work carried out by the Monitoring group, both costs for time given to the project and travelling costs and other expenses has fully been covered by the National Heritage Boards or their similarities and Ministries in the Baltic Sea States. The cost for the Secretariat, located in the National Heritage Board in Sweden has also been born by that institution.

All countries have contributed according to their capacity.

Although the Baltic Sea co-operation is a prior task for all institutions involved, the costs have been a heavy burden to carry aside all other priorities on national level.

That fact has been especially evident in the case of Russian Federation that hardly has been able to participate in our work.

Even more evident is the need for money in the four working groups, which involves a lot more colleagues and specialists from the different heritage fields.

There are different resources for financing international cultural heritage co-operation in the Baltic Sea region, e.g. bilateral agreements. There is no special financing program, which covers all the countries around the Baltic Sea. The grants of the Nordic Council of Ministers can not be used in Poland and Germany. The various programs within the European Union system do cover the region but the aims of the programmes (Culture 2000 or Interreg, Tacis and Phare), the rules and time schedules for applications are difficult to co-ordinate within one common project.

The Sustainable Historic Towns group has however got grants from the Nordic Council of Ministers

Language problems

We have a diversity of languages around the Baltic Sea, which in itself forms a part of our Heritage. However every language is in principle not understandable in the neighbouring country. We have therefore chosen English as co-operation language.

The Working groups have however faced language problems of many kinds. When for example non-academics are involved like in arts and craft it is evident that seminars and discussions held must be translated into the mother tongue concerned.

This is also evident for information and publications aimed at both professionals and people at large.

9. Conclusions

This report and the reports of the Working groups perform a long list of results or milestones in the Baltic Sea Heritage Co-operation created in a very short time.

Among those we would like to mention that almost 100 specialists have met and exchanged experiences, seven networks of different kinds have been established and 15 seminars and workshops have been held.

Depending on the character of the work started in the Working groups, some go to an end already in 2003, which is foreseen for the work within the Working group on Sustainable Historic Towns, while other started processes need to be currently worked on in the future such as networks of various kinds of benefit for the Heritage in the Baltic Sea region.

The challenge for the future is to find the stable already existing bodies in our countries that can take over and further maintain and develop the results of our co-operation.

The Monitoring group sees it therefore as important to

- help finalise some of the stated projects
- find out whether the work so far, reveals other areas of importance to work on.
- secure that the ongoing work finds stable forms for a continuous co-operation, using and developing the networks and results obtained.

The Monitoring group estimates that there is a need of two more years to stabilise the co-operation. The Monitoring group therefore asks the Ministers of Culture for a continued mandate until 2003, both for the Monitoring group and the four Working groups. If the Ministers so decide, the final report will be given to the Ministers of Culture at their meeting in 2003.

10. Meetings

The Monitoring group met five times:

- In Vilnius, Lithuania, 27-28 January 2000, after an invitation of the Minister of Culture
- In Copenhagen, Denmark, 3-4 September 2000, after an invitation of the Minister of Culture and the Minister of Environment
- In Stockholm, Sweden, 26-28 January 2001, after an invitation by the National Heritage Board in Sweden.
- In Oslo, Norway 12-15 May 2001, after an invitation by the National Museum Authority and the Norwegian National Heritage Board in Norway.
- Tallinn 6-7 August 2001, after an invitation by the National Heritage Board in Estonia.

11. Participants

The members appointed from the Baltic Sea countries to work in the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States are:

Mr Erik Johansen, Denmark

Ms Henriette Uggerly, Denmark

Ms Anneli Randla, Estonia

Ms Maire Mattinen, Finland

Ms Helena Edgren, Finland

Mr Eckart Hannmann, Germany

Mr Juris Dambis, Latvia

Mr Janis Asaris, Latvia

Mr Alfredas Jomantas, Lithuania

Mr Algimantas Degutis, Lithuania

Ms Randi Ertesvåg, Norway

Mr Johan Kristian Meyer, Norway

Mr Marcin Gawlicki, Poland

Mr Jerzy Litwin, Poland

Ms Olga Golovanova, Russian Federation

Ms Irina A. Markina, Russian Federation

Ms Christina von Arbin, Sweden, Chairperson

Ms Birgitta Hoberg, Sweden, Secretary