



BSR TRANSPORT CLUSTER

Cluster output 4.3:

Dialogue with the European Commission on possible application of the recommended schemes in the framework of the EU cohesion and transport policies (at external events, see Output 3)

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Dialogue with the European Commission

The Transport Cluster output 4.1 was presented to the European Commission on several occasions, which are summarised below. The output concludes with a summary of the findings from the dialogue.

Transport cluster meeting and conference “Greening transport - Blueprints from the Baltic Sea Region” June 4 in Brussels

The Output 4.1 was briefly presented in the transport cluster meeting on June 4 in Brussels. The Output had been available on the project website (transportcluster.eu) for some time, and the participants had an opportunity to familiarize themselves with it and provide feedback also during the drafting process.

TEN-T days 2013

During the TEN-T days, the Output 4.1 was distributed to exhibition guests during the first days on an ad hoc basis. In the in camera discussion between the Transport Cluster and Ms. Gudrun Schulze (DG MOVE), the output was handed directly to Ms. Schulze. She referred to a session in the TEN-T days’ agenda on innovative financing instruments.

The O4.1 report was left at the entrance to the main conference room for the TEN-T days for distribution in 50 copies at the start of the session on innovative financing October 18.



Tapani Stipa

@TapaniStipa

@ten_tdays_eu Baltic best practice in infrastructure finance - pick a copy at grand hall entrance #transportcluster_eu

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11:20 PM - 17 Oct 13 📍 from Tallinn, Harjumaa

Following a notification of the availability of the report on Twitter, the copies disappeared before the financing session was over, to the most relevant audience to be imagined. The main message from the financing sessions at the TEN-T days was the coherence with the Transport Cluster output 4.1. There are good practices that have been deployed in the



Baltic Sea Region. With the new instruments and financing possibilities in the Connecting Europe Facility, the Baltic Sea Region needs to be awake and

EU SBSR Annual Forum

Mr. Esa Kokkonen gave a presentation in the project village during the PA SHIP session, building partly on the information in the O4.1 report.

Summary of dialogue findings

During the dialogue with the European Commission, a clear synergy emerged between the best practices in transport finance in the Baltic Sea Region, as encapsulated in the Transport Cluster Output 4.1, and the interests of the Commission, in particular the forthcoming Connecting Europe Facility.

The development of the transport infrastructure in the Baltic Sea Region is not hindered by the availability of financing. This has been made clear by the financing sector. There is excess amount of loan and equity finance available, and under CEF, also grants to cohesion countries.

However, there is a lack of bankable projects, i.e. projects which would be able to pay back the loans and provide a return to the equity invested in them. Here a proactive approach by e.g. the Baltic Sea Region Programme could play a role: to develop a pipeline of bankable investment projects to feed the main investment mechanisms of the BSR, e.g. NIB, EIB, pension funds and where applicable, project bond supported SPVs.