



Meeting of the EUSBSR Policy Area Culture Steering Group Online, 25th January 2021

Minutes

by Alisa Woronow / Ars Baltica

Time: 14:00-16:20

Participants:

Rafał Jewdokimow - Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, PA Culture coordinator

Stefan Musiolik - Ministry of Justice, European Affairs and Consumer Protection, PA Culture coordinator

Agnieszka Grunwald – Deputy Director, Department of International Relations, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, PA Culture coordinator

Anja Uhlenbrok - Ministry of Justice, European Affairs and Consumer Protection, PA Culture coordinator

Kaarina Williams - Ministry of Justice, European Affairs and Consumer Protection, PA Culture coordinator

Zuzanna Przytkowska – Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, PA Culture coordinator

Alisa Woronow – Ars Baltica

Aline Mayr – Council of the Baltic Sea States

Annika Söderlund – Nordic co-operation, Dep. of Culture and Resources

Christoffer Lärkner – Ministry of Culture, Sweden

Dace Resele – Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture

Heili Jõe – Ministry of Culture, Estonia

Jakob Goeser – Ars Baltica

Laura Okdaldere – Ministry of Culture, Latvia

Marcus Hagemann - Ars Baltica

Milda Vakarinaite – Ministry of Culture, Lithuania

Søren Krogh – Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces

Tarja Hautamäki – Regional Council of Ostrobothnia

I. Short introduction of participants and confirmation of the agenda

- Opening by PA Culture coordinators
- Welcome words by Agnieszka Grunwald
- Introduction round

II. A brief review to the last events of the PA: workshop on microfunding in October and workshop on wooden heritage in November (Anja Uhlenbrok and Rafał Jewdokimow)

- Workshop "Umbrella funding for small- and micro-scale cultural initiatives in the BSR took place online on 2nd October and was moderated by Agata Etmanowicz
- The workshop gathered around 20 participants, challenges such as the organization of a funding instrument that minimizes the bureaucratic burden for communities in cultural cooperation were addressed
- The participants agreed that the new Interreg programme period could provide possibilities for small projects. PA Culture will support this development in the further programming process and promote to cultural actors the use of opportunities

- The 11th PA Culture Workshop on the preservation of cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea Region took place online on 19th November and gathered 9 panelists as well as 40 participants
- The workshop covered three main topics:
 1. Protection and restoration of wooden buildings as well as entire town districts and villages
 2. Sustainable tourism paradigm, regional identity, knowledge of traditional architecture and visibility of wooden heritage
 3. Local practices, institutional approaches and policies
- The participants developed common positions and recommendations, which include that there is a need for expanded education, promotion and advocacy regarding the value of wooden architecture heritage protection

- Dace Resele informed about the online workshop "The Art of Staying Healthy – Can Culture Improve our Wellbeing?" that took place as a cooperation between the NDPHS as Coordinator of the EUSBSR PA Health, the NDPC on behalf of PA Culture and the Arts Promotion Centre Finland

III. The revised EUSBSR Action Plan: what's new with regards to the work of the Steering Group and how do we deal with it (Anja Uhlenbrok)

- Action Plan is shorter and more user friendly, emerging global challenges such as climate change, pandemics or demographic changes are included
- The actions for PA Culture were reduced from four to three:
 1. Promoting the BSR cultural and creative industries, encouraging creative entrepreneurship
 2. Promoting BSR Culture and European values, using culture for sustainable development
 3. Preserving the BSR's cultural heritage, strengthening regional identity
- The Action Plan was adopted by the NC group in the end of June and has to be finally confirmed by the European Commission

- The Steering Groups (SG) are composed by representatives of EUSBSR MS key authorities
- New instrument of presidency, chairing the Steering Group meetings, should rotate on annual basis: PAC suggest to follow National Coordinators Group (NCG) presidency, which is rotating every July (7/2020-6/2021 Germany, 7/2021-6/2022 Lithuania)
- National Coordinators Group (NCG) will provide guidance of Rules of Procedure, announced for March
- Work plans have to be drafted by PACs, confirmed by the Steering Group and submitted to the NCG as well as an annual report on the achievements
- The next Steering Group meeting will take place when the Action Plan is finally confirmed and guidance material of the NC group is provided (approximately end of April)

IV. Introduction of the newest developments in the “Baltic Sea Cultural Cities and Regions” project (Kaarina Williams)

- The project aims to complement other networks and titles to cities and regions
- BSCCR proposes more collaborative, inclusive, affordable and sustainable model for small and medium-sized cities and regions and addresses especially the younger generation as well as excluded parts of society
- The next steps of the project are to propose a detailed selection criteria and process and identify budgetary expectations for potential candidates and costs for maintaining the entire system
- Kaarina Williams asks the participants to share information about the project within their networks

V. Newest developments in programming of Interreg BSR with regards to funding of PA Culture activities (Kaarina Williams)

- The Joint Programming Committee Meetings (JPC) on draft Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021-2028 and financial allocations are planned for February-May 2021
- JPC Meeting on 16-17 June is planned for final approval of programme document and start of national approval procedure
- The first application round to be launched before the end of 2021 if timeplan can be pursued as planned
- The current status is the result of PA Culture's negotiations, as initially there was little room for cultural activities
- There will be no Seed Money funding available within the Baltic Sea Region funding, but a special small project funding tool
- Since the process is still ongoing, there is an opportunity to lobby for more cultural activities

VI. Forthcoming events of PA Culture (Anja Uhlenbrok and Rafał Jewdokimow)

- Strategic Project Development Workshop about funding possibilities 2021-2027 in the field of cultural projects is planned for the week 7-11 June as hybrid event if legally possible
- The aim of the workshop is to inform potential projects about the new funding instruments through information input by national contact points or secretariats of the relevant funding programmes

- The “12th PA Culture Workshop on Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) in the Baltic Sea Region in pandemic times” is planned for April or May 2021 in a hybrid form in Szczecin
- The workshop aims to identify the impact of coronavirus lockdown on CCI
- The outcomes could be a comparison of the situation of CCI in Baltic Sea region countries
- Rafał Jewdokimow asks the participants to identify interesting tendencies in their country and CCI stakeholders, enterprises or actors, which might be interesting to take part in the workshop.

VII. AOB

The week of Macroregional Strategies in March provides workshops for PAs on March 4, where the Commission introduces the opportunities offered by the forthcoming funding programs for MRS actions. Steering Groups are invited, invitation will be sent by DG Regio.

