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**9th Climate Roundtable: Meeting minutes**

**Date:** 16th November 2018, 10.00 – 17.30

**Venue:** Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, 25 Peldu str., Riga, Latvia

**Participants**

**National representatives:**

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| ***Denmark*** |  |
| Rikke Nan Valdemarsen | Central Denmark region (Region Midtjylland) |
| ***Estonia*** |  |
| Maie Kiisel | Centre for Applied Social Sciences, University of Tartu |
| ***Latvia*** |  |
| Ilze Pruse | Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development |
| Elina Baltroka | Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development |
| Inese Pomere-Bramane | Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development |
| Līga Pakalna | Baltic Environmental Forum - Latvia |
| Madara Zvirgzdina | Ministry of Economics |
| ***Lithuania*** |  |
| Judita Liukaityle-Kukuiene | Ministry of Environment |
| ***Norway*** |  |
| Ida Gildestad | Norwegian Environment Agency |
| ***Poland*** |  |
| Marcin Gradzki | Ministry for Environment |
| ***Sweden*** |  |
| Jacob von Oelreich | Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) |

**International organizations**

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| --- | --- |
| Björn Grönholm | UBC Sustainable Cities Commission |
| Madis Tilga | Nordic Council of Ministers |
| Richard Sjölund | CPMR Baltic Sea Commission |

**CBSS Secretariat**

Krista Kampus Head Baltic 2030 Unit

Valdur Lahtvee Policy Officer Baltic 2030 Unit

Maria Pospelova Intern Baltic 2030 Unit

**Welcome and introduction of the aim and the agenda of the meeting**

**The CBSS, Valdur Lahtvee:**

* Welcomed the national representatives and the members of international organizations to the 9th Climate Roundtable meeting.
* Introduced the work of the CBSS and the Baltic 2030 Unit regarding implementation of the 2030 Agenda and coordination of the EUSBSR HA Climate.
* Stressed that the objective of the 9th Climate Roundtable meeting is to communicate and exchange best practices, good examples and experiences in achieving common goal on sustainable region and keeping the global warming within 1.5oC.
* Welcomed Ilze Pruse, Director of Climate Change Department in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Republic of Latvia, and congratulated Latvia on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary.

**Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia, Ilze Pruse:**

* Welcomed the attendees on behalf of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Republic of Latvia.
* Highlighted the importance of the Climate Dialogue platform as a source of ideas and contacts to build partnership around CCA.
* Underlined the importance of regional stakeholders’ engagement.
* Encouraged the participants to be actively involved into the discussion on CCA.

**The CBSS, Valdur Lahtvee:**

* Introduces the agenda of the RT meeting 
* Underlined the importance to share experiences on what have already been done National level and on rising capacity of Local Governments to tackle climate change, to identify obstacles that needed to be addressed by coming Climate Roundtables
* Agenda is approved by all participants

**Agenda Item 1. Development of National Climate Change Agenda**

**MEPRD of Latvia, Ilze Pruse:**

* Presented an overview of the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS) development that included information about:
  + Meteorological analysis on current situation in relation to climate change (annual mean temperature has increased by 0.7oC; precipitation rates have increased; coastal retreats have become evident; vegetation season lasted longer etc.);
  + Interactive Climate Change Analysis Tool that has been developed, available online to the public;
  + Risk and Vulnerability Assessment that has been performed to identify climate change related risks (e.g. infrastructure damage, native biodiversity loss etc.) and measures;
  + Environmental Policy Guidelines for 2014-2020 that served as foundation for NCCAS (e.g. monitoring system, system for preparation for weather events etc.);
* Presented the NCCAS structure and content:
  + The Strategy was developed by the Ministry and expert working groups;
  + The purpose of the Strategy is to reduce vulnerability of the society and nature from climate change related risks giving attention to human life, economy, infrastructure and buildings, values of nature and cultural history, knowledge and information (e.g. public awareness);
  + The Strategy is yet to be reviewed and approved.
* Introduced Climate Change Adaptation Monitoring System that serves to monitor the impact of CC on national economy, assess sectoral vulnerability and adaptability and promote development of adaptation measures, and consists of CC monitoring and CCA monitoring.
* Highlighted the challenges in relation to CCA in Latvia, e.g. the need to update national warning system, improve coastal erosion assessment, ensure active participation of insurance companies etc.
* Welcomed suggestions and questions. 

**Questions:**

**NCM** asked a question regarding the rhetoric behind both mitigation and adaptation strategies in Latvia.

**Ilse** replied that they would like to portray these two concepts in a positive way, so mitigation provides opportunities related to low carbon development and adaptation provides cities’ protection.

**NCM** followed up with the question whether there is a willingness from the business sector to look for new solutions or if they want to continue with business-as-usual to safeguard their interests?

**Ilse** replied that the approach varied depending on the sector, some, like forestry, are very aware of climate change and engaged in climate solutions when others expect CCA policy to bring them additional costs and problems. The tactics was to communicate the message that CCA is in everyone’s interest, and it’s doing nothing that will bring losses greater than costs spent on adaptation. Also linked to investments. The situation is gradually improving.

**NCM** asked whether financial sector is also engaged, since if they factor in climate impact in their loans, that would be a very strong signal to the market.

**Ilse** replied that financial sector is not that concerned about CC yet, however insurance sector is getting more engaged. The Ministry expects things to change very rapidly because of the new greening finance package and other initiatives that will change the way financial sector operates.

**NEA, Ida** asked whether those few municipalities that already have NCCAS developed them in response to certain events?

**Ilse** replied that usually it is the case, although some municipalities do not start developing policies because they do not attribute such events to CC.

**Ministry of Environment, Poland** askedwhether there are some legal obligations to consider climate issues, adaptation and mitigation in EIA due to the strategic projects?

**Ilse** replied that there were amendments implemented to EIA to make that even more visible and operational.

**Ministry of Environment, Poland** askedwhether there is a database with information from private companies on losses from climate change?

**Ilse** replied that they have information only from the public sector. There are plans to create a coding system that would allow to translate wordings into more understandable messages, which relates to losses and costs. And to do that a database of losses is required.

**SMHI, Jakob** asked whether there are concrete examples on how forestry sector in Latvia adapts to CC?

**Ilse** replied that the work on that is going in several fields. One is related to improving the tree species resilience to CC by deliberately mixing the properties and factoring in CC when selecting new species to plant. Another is related to forest management regarding the measurements on how close trees are planted, infrastructure and irrigation systems. Forestry sector’s strategy is for 100-year period, and they have modelled CC for their own needs. It’s about state forestry company that owns half of the Latvia’s forests, private forest owners might not be as advanced. State company also works a lot on carbon sequestration and conducting a research on how the highest amount of carbon can be captured in the shortest period.

**The CBSS, Valdur** asked how involved sectoral ministries are in mainstreaming climate?

**Ilse** replied that the work to make sure that the sectoral ministries consider climate in their policies has been going for several years. With the Ministry of Agriculture such collaboration started 5 years ago, and they are more advanced than others in relation to CCA. The Ministry of Economics and the Ministry of Transport were convinced of CC not such a long time ago and now they are actively contributing into NCCAS and improving their own policies. There is a progress in Latvia in sectoral ministries involvement into climate issues.

**The CBSS, Valdur** asked a question related to climate proofing the European Structural Funds, and whether there is a collaboration with the Ministry of Finance to allocate the ESF within the NCCAS?

**Ilse** replied that the ESF are very important source of financing to achieve CC policy objectives. The negotiation process among the Ministries is being maintained in favor of keeping the threshold on CC related expenses, and there is a discussion about the synergies regarding what is needed both for sectors and CC policies to make sure they are aligned.

**The CBSS, Krista** asked a question related to implementing Paris Climate Agreement and NDCs. To what extent CCA is part of Latvian NDC?

**Ilse** replied that Latvian NDC is a part of the EU NDC which is focused on mitigation.

**The CBSS, Valdur** asked whether Latvia is meeting the requirements for the countries to develop integrated climate and energy plans.

**Ilse** replied that this work is being done in cooperation with the Ministry of Economics and all the sectoral Ministries, as well. Ministry of Environments is responsible for the part dealing with climate change mitigation and has finalized new GHG projections on which climate and energy plan is based. Draft has not been finalized yet, since new government is not yet formed.

**The CBSS, Valdur** asked whether climate adaptation and mitigation synergies are rooted in the work of the Ministry.

**Ilse** replied that there is a separate budget program for CCA and CCM. So far mitigation has been prioritized; however, when assessing the project, adaptation aspect is now included to be considered.

**Agenda item 2. Tour de Table**

**CASS (Maie Kiisel):**

* Shared that Estonia is facing the same impacts form CC, and political focus in the country is the same as in Latvia. Also mentioned that climate strategy is aimed at extreme weather events, and not enough attention is paid on the CO2 emissions reduction;
* At CASS the focus is innovative approach where research and practice are combined in several projects:
  + Energy reduction: money saved from the reduction of CO2 emissions are used to build nationwide charging network for electric vehicles;
  + Forestry: artificially manipulated rain; research on carbon storage from clear-cuts;
  + Energy production: PV, biofuels etc.
* Shared a sociologist’s perspective on CC: focus on human behavior and the need to use more complex approach when trying to change it (scientific awareness rising is short-term); the need for more regulations on products and services etc.

**The CBSS (Valdur):**

* Noted that heat waves that occurred past summer has shown the negative impact on human health, and frequent forest fires proved the need of updating the firefighting capacity, however government is still focused on mitigation rather than adaptation in current ESIF;
* In the area of climate policies there is an issue about the energy supply, since we depend on oil; economic sector wants to invest in the oil production, so carbon footprint is still the same.

**The CBSS (Krista):**

* As coordinators of the EUSBSR HA Climate: involved in preparation of EEA technical paper “Adaptation policies and knowledge based in transnational regions in Europe” that will be published in December. Paper provides overview on several EU macro-regions and how they work with adaptation issues, and refers to the need for cross-border cooperation.
* The Baltic Sea Strategy Action Plan is under revision, asked for opinions whether there is a need to change activities under HA Climate shifting the focus to CCA and in which areas, if yes. Underlined the importance to focus on cooperation and information exchange to see the priorities and state of adaptation in different countries.

**Ministry of Environment, Lithuania (Judita):**

* **Ministry of Environment** is responsible for CCA in Lithuania, currently there is National Plan for Energy and Climate that includes a big part for CCA, to be updated for 2030;
* The CC Strategy that combines mitigation and adaptation is being updated. A lot of work is being done in connection to civil protection and implementation of Sendai Framework, e,g . CCA plans in the cities. It is planned to finance CCA in public spaces next year, under discussion for now.

**NCM (Madis):**

* Climate is mainstreamed in NCM through the work of working groups and committees operating in ten thematical Councils of the organization;
* NCM is involved in many projects, initiatives and networks that contribute to climate goals and SDGs, e.g. ‘White Paper on Nordic Sustainable Cities’ report, ‘Nordic Solution to Global Challenges’ initiative (6 Flagship projects, e.g. Energy Solutions);
* NCM coordinates EUSBSR’s PA Bioeconomy.

**Ministry of Economics (Madara):**

* Ministry of Economics pays a lot of attention to activities related to CC, e.g. improving energy efficiency by increasing the share of renewable energy;
* There is an ongoing discussion with Ministry of Transport on how to change the transport system to reduce CO2 emissions;
* National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 is being developed in cooperation with Ministry of Environmental Protection;
* Coordinates energy projects as a part of EUSBSR’s HA Climate.

**Baltic Environmental Forum (Līga):**

* BEF represents NGOs from Germany, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania that work on environmental protection projects;
* In relation to CC issues, have several projects dealing with energy efficiency, CCA and sustainable mobility.

**NCM (Maja):**

* NCM in Latvia focuses their work on links between CC issues and circular economy; CC and energy, e.g. Nordic Energy Research to launch a project aimed to increase research capacity when it comes to energy storage and renewable energy;
* Works on CCA and CCM in the cities looking at how middle-size cities can respond to changes, how SMART cities are defined in the region, and increasing cooperation with municipalities;
* Digitalization is an overarching topic. NCM investigates how digitalization can help to respond to CC, and some digital solutions have been identified, e.g. the use of 5G technology when fighting forest fires etc.

**SMHI (Jakob):**

* Represents Swedish National Knowledge Centre for Climate Change Adaptation;
* Update on CCA in Sweden:
  + Policy - the first NCCAS was presented by government in 2018, aimed to strengthen long-term CCA measures, and identify division of responsibilities between different authorities and agencies; contains guiding principles for CCA work, such as the principle of long-term perspective, co-dependence of adaptation and mitigation approaches to CC, precautionary principle etc.;
  + Legislation - new regulations for municipalities to consider climate risks in building and planning activities (starting from August); new land development regulation that allows municipalities to demand a special permit to change the ground;
* SHMI instructions has been changed. New Expert Council on CCA (8 members, 1 chair) to which the Knowledge Centre serves as the Secretariat; to deliver reports on CCA every 5 years; responsible for the outline of CCA policies priorities, monitoring and evaluation (start in January 2019);
* New government regulation on CCA considering other agencies. SHMI to monitor other agencies on the planning and reporting CCA, assist with developing of action plans and summarize reports (start in January 2019);
* Swedish National Board of Housing Building and Planning to coordinate the work on CCA in built environment (from June 2018);
* The CCA conference took place in Norrköping (October 2018) where around 200 participants met to discuss different topics on CCA, e.g. forestry resilience.

**NEA (Ida):**

* Section for Adaptation and Local Measures of the Climate Department at the NEA coordinates work on CCA in Norway both in public and private sectors, as well as within the NEA itself;
* Norway has NCCAS (2013); new Central Government Planning Guidelines on Adaptation issued in September; official report on storm water management is being developed; work on monitoring and indicator systems, there are indicators regarding biodiversity, adaptation doesn’t have indicators because it’s based on self-reporting; work on transboundary climate risks and what consequences can be expected from CC in other countries that improved dialogue with private industries;
* Informed about the conference in 2 weeks on CCA, where municipalities are invited; civil protection and physical measures against CC will be discussed.

**Ministry for Environment, Poland (Marcin):**

* Informed that this RT meeting is the last one for Marcin since he is changing the job, Poland will continue to be represented at the RT meetings;
* CCA in Poland: NCCAS was adopted in 2013, now there is ongoing work on monitoring its progress and evaluation of the Strategy which to be carried out by the end of the year, the results will contribute into new NCCAS or action plan; National Environmental Policy 2030 is being developed, will be implemented in line with NCCAS but will cover the gap between the old and the new Strategies; several projects, e.g. knowledge-based project, adaptation of the forestry etc.
* 44MPA project is prioritized.

**UBC (Björn):**

* UBC is a city network with 85 cities from the BSR, most cities are middle-sized or small;
* Changes in decision-making bodies due to the elections imposed the need to educate new decision-makers. Generation shift across local authorities. Increased attention towards environment and sustainable development. At the same time there is a lack of understanding about cooperation in the BSR;
* Speaking of CCA, focus on vocabulary and rhetoric. Increasing number of cities working on climate actions but not talking about climate. After the PA, the rush of focus and ambitions on energy efficiency and economic goal. There a little difference between bigger and smaller municipalities, the difference in capacity is decreasing;
* UBC SCC coordinates Sustainable Development Action Programme 2016-2021, to start planning for 2022-2027;
* Riga is one of the most active cities (17 project proposals in themes of smart digitalization, urban mobility, energy efficiency etc.). Nordic countries need to be more active.

*12:00 Lunch Break*

**CPMR (Richard):**

* CPMR BSC is covering regions within the EU, Africa etc.;
* BSC Energy Working Group (set up 4 years ago), Österbotten region in Finland. Most of the work focused in creating projects with renewable energy. October 2017, project LARS (Learning Among Regions on Smart Specialization), website: <https://www.lars-project.eu/>. Partners in Lithuania, Latvia, Germany, Sweden and Norway.
* BSC Energy Working Group mandate has been extended. According to the present work plan, to cover climate change and sustainable development that closely linked to energy issues. CPMR can be viewed as Europe’s biggest lobby organization, to convey messages from the BSR to the big organizations.
* LARS partners work with: circular economy for electronic and electric house devices (Germany); innovative products (Finland); biogas consumption effects (Lithuania); biocoal and biochar (Sweden); flexible manufacture systems for wood, food, metal and other industries (Lithuania); advanced production methods (Latvia); energy technology production systems (Finland); wood construction (Norway) etc.
* 1 February 2019, Finland – seminar on circular economy (‘Future of Europe’ conference);

**CDR (Rikke):**

* Denmark has no NCCAS; there are CCA plans on municipal level; a lot of activities on CCA among the trade organizations;
* Aim is to create political awareness both on national and European levels; mapped out the holes in the legislation to be communicated to Brussels.

**Tour de Table conclusion:**

**The CBSS:**

* everyone is encouraged to share any news and events to be distributed in the networks;
* HA Climate website <http://haclimate.eu/> has been elaborated and is operational, where stakeholders can share info on what is happening in the countries, the state of implementation of NCCAS, share examples of good projects in municipalities on adaptation and resilience.

**Agenda item 3. Local Governments role in adapting and rising resilience to CC**

**SMHI (Jakob):**

* **CCA in Sweden and the role of municipalities.**
* In Sweden local municipalities and authorities are responsible for physical planning within their geographical boundaries in both land and water (290 legislation bodies). National and regional bodies have only advisory role. Municipalities have two main tools: comprehensive planning and detailed development planning (e.g. buildings or districts);
* Changes to Planning and Building Act (PBL): municipalities are legally obliged to describe climate risks in their plans, and actions to avoid such risks (e.g. coastal erosion and landslides); municipalities have to demand permits to change the ground to ensure its permeability;
* CCA on the coastal zone: city districts are often located by the sea, but climate risks such as coastal erosion and rising sea level are disregarded. Long-term perspective has to be considered. Examples:
  + Helsingborg (storms, water levels have risen – worked on CCA planning, CCA Strategy Map);
  + Kristanstad (city is located below sea level, physical barriers to avoid floods were build);
  + Ystad (suffers from coastal erosion, retreated 200 meters inland – different solutions, soft solutions like beach nourishment with sand);
  + Vellinge (expensive housing area on the peninsula, most exposed to storms - plan to build a barrier till 2065, long-term perspective is lacking, politicians are not willing to acknowledge the problem);
  + Göteborg (plan to build a barrier across the river to protect from rising water levels, many solutions are discussed).
* CCA in general: Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL) and Swedish Insurance (Svensk försäkring) have ranked municipalities in terms of CCA. Such collaboration between IVL and SF is a good example of showcasing the activities within municipalities, how some work better than others. Highest ranked municipalities:
  + Uppsala (proactive CCA work in terms of flood prevention; CCA is integrated in the comprehensive planning and water programme; focus on green spaces and city landscape; willingness to cooperate with the County Administrative Board);
  + Lomma (located on the seashore; integration of CCA thinking in the planning; developed the map of the city identifying places in danger of flooding, which is shared with the public; looked at the watershed and cooperate with other municipality on the water line);
  + Stockholm (planning, coordination and investment; mapping of locations under severe flooding risks; work on slowing water flows; shared with population);
* Swedish National Knowledge Centre for CCA: what are the needs and barriers to respond to CC? The need for knowledge sharing and capacity building. In smaller municipalities could be problems with that due to the lack of resources. Developed the Manual for CCA (Klimatanpassning) to support municipalities in initiating CCA work through practical steps (0 - Motivation; 1 - Establishment; 2 - Analysis; 3 - Prioritization; 4 - Implementation; 5 - Follow Up);
* Examples of regional CCA cooperation: regional coastal cooperation in South and South-West of Sweden (Regional Kustsamverkan) looks into how to address challenges faced by municipalities, the first time such work is cross sectoral between different levels and agencies; Delegation for Göta älv launched by Swedish Geotechnical Institute and representatives from the municipalities of the river valley – allows municipalities to apply and finance practical geotechnical measures to improve soil stability and reduces risks of landslides and erosion; to be launched EU LIFE COAST ADAPT – focus on ecosystem approach to CCA in shorelines in South of Sweden, will implement softer measures (like the Dutch Sand Engine);
* There is substantial cooperation between different government levels, key barriers are the need for knowledge and capacity building, division of responsibilities between governments and agencies, financing of CCA measures at local levels, long-term thinking beyond 2100.

**Questions:**

1. **The CBSS (Valdur)** asked the question regarding the ranking of municipalities in Sweden and what aspects were considered.

**SMHI:** They look at planning strategies and cooperation with other agencies/municipalities. They do not do the ranking every year, but they expected to continue.

1. **Ministry of Economics (Madara)** asked the question regarding the soft measures. Added that **i**n Latvia the sand is blown in the creating a lot of problems for the government.

**SMHI:** Instead of replenishing sand every year, they put it there once and leave it there. The sand taken from the sea, creates the issue of mines in the sea. Debated among different agencies.

1. **Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (Elina)** asked whether Building and Planning Act is a national level document? Are there any other examples of how to influence municipalities?

**SMHI:** The Act is a national legislation that requires municipalities to implement CCA in their local planning.

1. **NEA (Ida)** asked what IPCC emission scenario was considered?

**SMHI:** Sweden has not chosen one scenario. The National Strategy suggests to consider the whole range of scenarios including the worst one.

**NEA (Ida):**

* The main motivation for incentives to increase resilience in municipalities comes from the past experiences, e.g. extreme weather events challenging for many sectors and industries; the need is not to adapt to future climate but to current conditions, which is more a reactive adaptation and not proactive (especially in small municipalities);
* Political framework: White Paper on CCA (2013) that explains what kind of challenges the society is facing, and how the government is addressing those challenges; developed national targets for CCA; several White Papers related to CC (e.g. biodiversity, civil protection etc.); the Climate Act came to force in January 2018, includes reporting requirements for CCA;
* In Norway CCA will require different approaches depending on the regional contexts, measures should be based on local needs; complicated to develop National Guidelines on CCA for 422 municipalities with drastic differences in weather conditions;
* The County Governor provides a links between the state and municipalities. There are 16 County Governors in Norway who translate national policy and contribute into its implementation on the local level through guiding municipalities in their local work, and in the position to raise formal objection when municipal plans to not take CCA into account (based on knowledge); several County Governors help to develop national adaptation;
* Municipalities have overall responsibilities on social development, planning, provision of services. Municipalities are not required to have CCA plans, CCA should be day-to-day responsibility in municipalities’ work in different sectors that is imposed through legislation and guidelines;
* Legislation: Planning and Building Act is the most important tool when it comes to CCA, it is sector neutral and takes into account different sectoral interests; EIA framework includes CCA aspects; Civil Protection Act includes emergency preparedness; all municipalities are to deliver risks and vulnerability analysis, including effects of CC;
* Central Government Planning Guidelines (2018) cover the areas of climate, energy and CCA. CGPG to specify expectations for municipal planning: assessment of effects CC will have on long-term goals and strategies; clear division between commissions related to land use, to the society as a whole and municipality as organization; stresses the need for coordination of cooperation between different government levels; clarifies expectations and responsibilities regarding knowledge; suggests to use nature-based solutions; explains that planning should be based on worst/best case scenario projections;
* General information on CCA: [www.klimatilpasning](http://www.klimatilpasning);
* Challenges: lack of resources, especially in smaller municipalities, in terms of knowledge, competence, finance, time; challenge to use climate data for regional profiling; cost of adapting is not known, need projects on that; CCA compete for attention with other local government tasks; hard to engage politicians in CCA work; complicated to coordinate work on CCA (in terms of cooperation between sectors) and outreach (people do not know about the NEA work). 

**Questions:**

1. **SMHI asked** the question regarding knowledge and how municipalities can work with it.

**NEA replied that** there will be second guidelines that will be more practical, however information and knowledge should come from regional and national authorities.

**Poland, Marcin:**

* Project 44MPA: development of adaptation plans for municipalities in 44 Polish cities with different geographical/political contexts – to identify vulnerabilities to CC and develop actions on a local level (in 44 cities that cover 30% of Poland) and raise awareness to CCA through educational campaigns, and initiating dialogue between society and government; urban area is one the most vulnerable areas as underlined by Polish NCCAS;
  + Process: analysis of existing strategic and planning documents, data to avoid overlapping; identification of exposures and urgent problems; assess climate impacts etc.
  + Cooperation: interdisciplinary team of actors and experts in each city to work with contractor teams in each city; public consultations and workshops on different levels of project development;
  + Benefits: economic (e.g. reduced costs of the damages, secure future investments etc.), governance (water management, resilience of the country etc.), stakeholders’ engagement;
  + Now focus is on implementation since country is facing CC impacts now, e.g. floods, droughts;
* Local incentives to increase resilience: development of the guidelines for urban adaptation plan; funding for projects from regional funds (e.g. rainwater management from EU National funds); up-to-date knowledge base and institutional/political support from the ministries; economic benefits from ‘lessons learned’ (1 euro in adaptation = 4 euros spend on repairing);
* Legislation: in Poland there are no obligations on CCA for municipalities, except that CCA Urban Plan is needed to apply for water management from EU National Fund;
* Activities: depend on the city since some municipalities were not familiar with CCA concept or impacts of CC; in the framework of 44MPA, cites will have new units working for CCA; ADAPTCITY project that maps risks for the cities;
* Cooperation between municipalities: in the framework of 44MPA, networking and exchange of experience to facilitate implementation of the measures; municipalities receive political and institutional support (on national and regional levels);
* Challenges: political cycles (local government changes every 4 years when CCA requires long-term solutions); lack of finance resources; lack of knowledge; competing points of view between experts and local authorities. 

**CDR:**

* Central Denmark Region consists of 19 municipalities (out of 98). No authority to secure planning across municipalities, no coordination across authorities and different interests;
* Coast2Coast Climate Challenge project initiated to help with common challenges across municipalities;
* Legislation: CCA plans were developed in 98 municipalities in 2014, after floodings in 2011;
* Process: mapping using Housing and Building Register; implementation through water supply finance system; possible to apply for 100% financing, and municipalities pay for hardware and utilities;
* Attention is on the dialogue across governance borders to create joint maps; scenario with increased precipitation (till 2100), considering coastal challenges;
* Governance: synergies and co-creation;
* Objective: better mutual planning, efficient taking care of water related challenges –multifunctional solutions, e.g. climate road Hedensted (permeable asphalt where precipitation is used to heat kindergarten);
* Challenges in sustainable agriculture (wheat or rice), need to be prepared for floodings;
* Business opportunities, e.g. pump manufacturers cooperation with insurance companies, remote sensing as a tool (Copernicus programme);
* AquaGlobe, Klimatorium. 

*Coffe Break*

**Agenda item 4. Needs of the local governments for capacity building on adapting to climate change**

**UBC, Björn:**

* There are a lot of challenges related to CC; rhetoric has changed a lot since 2015, everyone joined the discussion on CC; in cities, many take on the CC activities, and others follow as well; Nordic municipalities have an opportunity to do more in terms of CC due to legislation, mandates etc.;
* In the BSR capacity building is important, but tradition of cooperation is usually forgotten or underestimated;
* The size of municipalities matter in terms of capacity and resources; however, the BSR has the ability to cooperate on many levels, from international to national and then to local authorities;
* CC work in cities, according to survey on successful drivers of CC work, comes down to: support in form of legislations/regulations/guidelines; funding; knowledge base to increase capacity and resources; but also willingness to act including personal desire and belief – and the PA is one of the examples;
* Stagnation in CC work could be caused by the money issue, the need to reorganize the funding system to seek for complex and long-term solutions, so that decision-makers understand the importance; generation shift that is happening is positive, young people take on decision-making roles and they have a clear vision for the future; organizations like UBC should have a clear goal, as well, and provide facilitation support not training;
* UBC’s vision and goals: Sustainability Action Programme 2016-2021; focus on activities with climate-smart Baltic cities; CC is viewed as cross-sectoral issue, included in city planning, buildings, water management, infrastructure etc.;
* There is still a lack of awareness and knowledge on CC, prejudices block actions, e.g. weather events are not connected to CC, responsibility is not recognized etc. Though situation is changing in City Councils;
* UBC tools: Resolution on Climate Change adopted at UBC General Conference in 2007, influenced municipalities to take action on CC; in 2016-2017 discussion on how to convince mayors who are skeptical of CC, survey showed: the need to develop business models/plans for CC work (cost-related), and the need to develop global benchmark to understand the situation in the cities of the BSR compared to the cities in other regions of the world – to provide arguments for discussion in the City Councils; in 2017 UBC adopted Resolution on Sustainable Development Goals; benchmark reporting among UBC member cities, communication on CC is possible even without the state support; new Memorandum of Understanding 2019-2021; cooperation between the BSR and Canada/the USA is discussed;
* UBC project work in three main areas that have implications on CC: water management, urban mobility, smart urban planning and energy efficiency; CASCADE – new projects that looks at CC and civil security on macro-regional level;
* Challenges: mainstreaming mandate; strengthening knowledge; providing policy support from the state; developing and maintaining networks with ideas, benchmarks, peers, projects; improved cooperation.

1. **University of Tartu (Maie):** people in charge might not know about CC, and since officials informed on many different things, it might be difficult for them to take actions on CC. It’s facilitation and cooperation aspect that should be improved rather than awareness rising. Putting information on the website is not enough to get attention from the municipalities.

**UBC:** Through our projects we are trying to communicate solutions, we have more than 100 meetings per year. We facilitate discussion at the meetings, through examples people discuss CC issues.

1. **The CBSS (Krista):** UBC is doing a lot if useful projects, projects that elaborate toolboxes for water management, or how to elaborate adaptation plans for the city etc. Outcomes might be useful for countries. We need to try to capitalize and share the outcomes of the projects by informing national institutions and organizations that work with CCA policies. They can learn from examples, and then capitalize them and use them in their national work. Maybe HA Climate website could become a functioning platform to share experiences and information. It is important because some countries are not aware that their municipalities participate in the projects, and there are useful outcomes out there.
2. **The CBSS (Valdur):** The mapping of the state-of-the-play on CCA in the local governments have been compiled as an overview paper. Encourage those who did not provide an input, to do so by the mid-December.
3. **The CBSS (Krista):** Besides of providing an input on the overview, but also elaborate documents mapping the needs and challenges of each country, description of adaptation actions etc., that could be used as a contribution to the revised action plan to be submitted in the EU Commission.

**Agenda item 5. Stocktaking of the HA Climate Flagship Projects**

* **The CBSS (Valdur)** introduced the CBSS and its work with the EUSBSR through HA Neighbors, PA Secure, HA Climate. Underlined cooperation with other regions (Mediterranean, EA etc.)
* **Projects:** 
  + **iWater**: completed; looked at the integrated approaches to storm water management; benefited promoting green factor tool; toolbox is being used after the project has ended not only by participating institutions; pilot solutions helped to generate understanding among municipalities and society; created employment opportunities, as well; <http://www.integratedstormwater.eu/>
  + **BioBIGG**: bioeconomy in the South Baltic Area; involves small region enterprises, deals with waste management in agricultural production (biomass to replace fossil fuels); in partnership with universities and research institutions; also looks at innovative food products and bioenergy from biomass materials; <https://biobigg.ruc.dk/>
  + **EFFECT4Building**: PA Energy took over; presents package of different energy measures for buildings; includes toolbox; partnership covers the BSR; <http://www.effect4buildings.se>
  + **SUMBA**: looks at sustainable urban mobility and commuting; in the process of seeking the flagship status; <http://sumba.eu/> 

**BEF (Liga):** project focuses on sustainable mobility as the number of commuters is increasing; investigates how to decrease the use of private cars and provide easier ways to commute; through transport modelling and data management; plan to develop commuting masterplan for RigaCity agglomeration area;

**UBC (Björn):** UBC has the project Cities. Multimodal that is similar to SUMBA, suggestion to discuss the partnership;   
**BEF (Liga):** we have communicated, they are mainly focusing on cities and SUMBA covers suburbs too; synergies are possible; after having SUMBA results from 1 year work, communication will be continued;

**UBC (Björn):** could be successful cooperation in internal transportation and suburbs; complementary;

* **CASCADE:** HA Climate and PA Secure to ensure the policy recommendation and policy dialogue; looking for guidelines for the climate risk assessment which is expected to be the final product of the project;
* **Interreg BSR** projects calls are open; focus on research and innovation, smart specialization, marine litter management, management of marine space, climate change adaptation and mitigation; deadline 31 January;  
  **- CAMS Platform** (Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Synergies): focus on synergies in energy efficiency projects, to make sure that all the outcomes and benefits of the projects are of use – aimed to make societies more resilient; contributes to development of preventing measures, climate proofing etc.; seeks for partners to improve outreach for dissemination (possibly EFFECT4Buildings, UBC, PA Energy, BEF etc.), lead party should be from Interreg.

**Agenda item 6. Coming events/actions:**

* Greener Agriculture for Sustainable Sea (GRASS) Conference, 13-14 December in Minsk, Belarus; organized together with Ministry of Agriculture of Belarus, Coalition Clean Baltic, WWF; focus on green agriculture and marine environment, climate, SDGs;
* Conference Baltic Pathways towards Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Development, spring 2019 (tbc);
* Conference on Green Public Procurement, spring 2019 (tbc);
* 10th Roundtable Climate Meeting, Denmark (tbc); plan to look at integrated climate and energy plans;
* International Seminar on the Circular Economy and Energy, 1 February 2019 in Lahti, Finland.

THE CBSS EGSD is in the process on updating the mandate. Among proposed points for action is to establish special climate expert group. To be decided by the Ministries.

Chair thanks the Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development of Latvia for support in arranging the meeting.

End of the meeting.