

**Summary report**



**8th Strategy Forum of the EUSBSR in Berlin 13 – 14 June**

**Seminar: The Connected Society – a Transformation to the Baltic Smart Cities**

**Time:** Tuesday, 13 June, 15:15 to 16:45 hours, Willy-Brandt-Saal

Due to economic and technological changes driven by globalization and integration processes, cities in the BSR face the challenge of combining competitiveness and sustainable urban development. ICT development is revolutionary changing transport and other infrastructure systems, as well as land use and management of buildings in the BSR cities and regions.

To meet public policy objectives under on-going urbanization and growing share of resource consumption and emissions, cities need to change and develop by improving urban life through more sustainable integrated solutions. In other words: our cities need to become 'smart cities'. Circular and efficient use of resources includes innovative interaction between cities and the surrounding countryside, therefore helping the BSR regions to become more sustainable and resilient.

Seminar brought an oversight about “Smart cities” concept in different perspectives and ongoing initiatives around the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and sought the commonly shared values and specificities within the region. It was noted that the BSR cities, rather small ones comparing to global scene, are involved in globalization processes thus facing a strong competition on investment, labor attraction and tourism.

Being “smart” requires best knowledge about the city, inhabitants and processes, as well as well-founded cooperation among public and private sectors and academia. Smart solutions cannot be designed as “one fits for all” – still place-based innovative approaches and adaptations will play the role within the smart cities concept.

The seminar was organized by VASAB – a spatial planning cooperation around the Baltic Sea Region in close cooperation with URBEGO – Urban Professionals Platform and the BOVERKET - National Board of Housing, Building and Planning in Sweden. VASAB acts also as Horizontal Action “Spatial Planning” coordinator within the EUSBSR.

