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

**Seminar: Connecting the voice of youth for sustainable future of the Baltic Sea Region**

**Time:** Tuesday, 14 June, 10:45 to 12:15 hours, Stresemann-Saal

Discussions initiated in the panel “Nothing about us without us” continued in the panel “Connecting the voice of youth for sustainable future of the Baltic Sea Region”. Invited speakers were representatives of European and macro-regional youth organizations, who brought the concrete experience of young decision-makers on the table.

The panel was co-organised by the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Baltic University Programme (BUP). Students of the BUP elaborated the content of the panel and moderated the session, focusing discussions on *how* to involve youth in the achievement of a sustainable Baltic Sea Region. All panelists shared a clear and direct message: “Young people have an opinion on everything”, meaning that there is no political discussion where youth cannot or should not be involved. For a sustainable future of the BSR decision-making must involve different groups of society, and young people want to be part of this process. Youth organisations are also increasing awareness on 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and believe that some goals are especially important in the region, for example education, better access to employment opportunities, climate action, the protection of the sea, development of better infrastructure, health and equality.

Several organisations are already working and actively engage young people, and many of them participated in the panel: the Young European Leadership and the European Youth Parliament from the European level; BSSSC working group on Youth Policy from the sub-regional level of the BSR; the Baltic University Programme from the academic perspective, as well as national councils and UBC Youthful Cities commission from the cities. These organisations involve committed youngsters and connect them with the institutions, for example by developing policy recommendations. However, panelists complained a general lack of adequate frameworks that support participation of young people in decision-making, especially at local level.

Young people ask to provide the possibility for youth organisations in the BSR to meet and share experience, and to increase their capacity of influencing political decisions in light of a sustainable future for all.