



See the introductory Balticlab video here:
www.vimeo.com/balticlab/welcome

18 February, Stockholm

Balticlab 2.0 boosts regional development through mentorship and collaborations between creatives and entrepreneurs

Balticlab is an effort by the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Swedish Institute (SI) to create a network of interdisciplinary talent in the Baltic Sea Region, who collectively link the region, as well as act as future front runners and innovators in their respective fields.

“Finding talent in our communities is a key issue for the future of our region and to SI’s work in Europe and the Middle East and North Africa. The partnership of Balticlab is to become yet another important facet of our work in talent recognition”, says SI’s Director-General Annika Rembe. Emphasis on investing support for creativity in the region is also given by the CBSS Director-General Jan Lundin, who stresses the importance of the role the two organisations are taking: **“Two leaders in macro-regional cooperation are placing emphasis on the future – young emerging talents that will ultimately decide on what our region will become.”**

The CBSS and the SI launched **Balticlab 2.0: Project Development Programme** on 7 February, 2014, in Riga. The programme, currently running for the second year, gathers 38 creative professionals and entrepreneurs from Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden to different locations around the Baltic Sea for three intensive interdisciplinary project-building modules. The Project Development Programme is designed for young emerging talents in creative industries and project startups in the Baltic Sea Region, providing them with the necessary perspectives, knowledge and tools for personal development, as well as the creation of innovative projects benefiting the region as a whole. The three interlinked modules of the programme take place in Riga in February, Tallinn in March and Warsaw in May. The 38 participants have self-selected themselves into 8 project groups, in which they will be developing projects linked to their own interests in a regional context. Throughout the spring the groups will be provided with workshop facilities, mentors and inspirational talks from leading regional experts in their respective fields of interest.

Find more information at www.balticlab-online.eu.

Mirjam Külm, Council of the Baltic Sea States
mirjam.kulm@cbss.org
www.cbss.org

Mikael Olsson, Swedish Institute
mikael.olsson@si.se
www.si.se

Balticlab is a flagship project of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) under Horizontal Action Neighbours. The CBSS is an overall political forum for regional inter-governmental cooperation, which seeks to further regional integration through prosperity, regional identity, civil protection and sustainable development. The SI is a public agency that promotes interest and confidence in Sweden around the world. SI seeks to establish cooperation and lasting relations with other countries through strategic communication and exchange in the fields of culture, education, science and business.