



HANSE-PARLAMENT

Hanse-Parlament e.V.  
Rissener Landstraße 193  
D-22559 Hamburg

# HANSE NEWS

Tel.: +49 40 8224 470  
Fax: +49 40 8224 4722  
info@hanse-parlament.de

**++++ AUGUST 2007 +++++**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DATES

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### **Working groups in St. Petersburg**

The last meeting of Transfer and Advisory Group II "Education" will be held on 3 and 4 September 2007 in St. Petersburg.

A parallel workshop involving our 5 partners from Russia and Belarus will take place, also in St. Petersburg.

### **Company management and company start-up courses**

On 13 and 14 September 2007, we will be conducting a company management course in conjunction with Olsztyn Chamber of Crafts. A limited number of places will be available for representatives of other chambers (particularly from Poland) wishing to stage this course themselves at a later date.

On 24 and 25 September 2007, we will be offering a company start-up course in cooperation with the Belarus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Minsk Department. This course also provides limited scope for chamber employees (particularly from Russia and Belarus) to attend and use the event as a train the trainer programme.

On 18 and 19 October 2007, we will be working with the St. Petersburg Chamber of Crafts to put on a company management course in the city. A warm welcome is extended to partners of the Tacis Project to use this seminar as a train the trainer programme.

### **Matchmaking event for SME's in Schwerin**

On 11 and 12 October 2007, the Schwerin Chamber of Crafts is planning a matchmaking event for companies from all countries within the Baltic Region interested in cross-border cooperation and activities. Further information and invitations are available from the Schwerin Chamber of Crafts. All members and project partners are requested to draw attention to this important event and to collect addresses of interested companies and information on the nature of cooperation sought. The last meeting

of Working Group V is scheduled to take place in Schwerin to coincide with the matchmaking event. Invitations will be sent out in good time by the Secretariat.

### **Important date: please reserve it in your diaries!**

From 8 to 10 November 2007, the Annual General Meeting and the General Meeting of the BSME Project will take place in Vilnius. Invitations and documentation will, of course, be dispatched in good time. We would ask you to reserve this important date in your diaries.

### **Dates and events staged by third parties**

- An opening event for the new INTERREG North Sea Programme will be held in Hanover on 5 September 2007.

- BSSSC – a cooperation organisation based in the Baltic Region – invites participation in a meeting to be held in Turku, Finland, on 13 and 14 September 2007.

- On 27 and 28 September 2007, the INTERREG Secretariat will be staging an event in Riga for the Baltic Programme.

- The major annual conference of the Baltic Development Group will take place in Tallinn from 4 to 6 November 2007.

- On 23 and 24 November 2007, the first World Culture Congress will take place in Dresden. The Hanseatic Parliament is involved in the preparations.

Anyone interested in these events is asked to contact the Secretariat to obtain further information.

## NEWS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATIONS FROM THE B-SME PROJECT

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### **Book to accompany the Hanseatic Conference 2006**

The book to accompany our Conference held in November 2006 on the theme of "Multidimensional worlds of work" has now been published and already sent out to our partners. If you require any extra copies, please contact the Secretariat.



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### **Hanseatic Conference 2007**

Around 120 people (academic researchers, entrepreneurs, representatives of the chambers and associations, representatives of local government, multipliers and other experts) attended the conference, which took place in Hamburg from 14 to 16 June 2007. This international conference featured an interdisciplinary group of participants and proved very successful, the written questionnaires proving extremely positive.

Work is now ongoing on the book to accompany this conference, and this will be published in November 2007.

Individual papers given and a comprehensive evaluation of the working groups and discussion results ("Innovation is tradition") are available online at [www.hanse-parlament.eu](http://www.hanse-parlament.eu).

### **Mobility Project**

The Hanseatic Parliament is a partner in a mobility support project instigated by the German Confederation of Crafts and Trades. Our task is to produce 2 television programmes. A meeting took place in Brussels on 18 and 19 June 2007, and the final workshop has been planned to take place in Vilnius on 6 and 7 November 2007 as part of the events surrounding our Members' Meeting.

### **Meeting of the Steering Group**

The Steering Group of our BSME Project has already held a meeting on 3 July in Hamburg to make interim decisions on the project development and to prepare for the Members' Meeting and Annual General Meeting in Vilnius.

### **Budget reallocations**

In accordance with consultations which took place at the last Annual General Meeting, we submitted an application for a reallocation of the budget for our B-SME Project. The overall budget will remain the same. To adapt it to actual cost developments, however, the aim is to make adjustments between the types of expenditure, work packages and project partners. This process also took into account the fact that Project Partner No. 29, the Polish-Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Markets, not a member of the Hanseatic Parliament, has been forced to declare itself bankrupt. We are expecting our budget reallocation to be approved by the end of August 2007.

### **Relaunch of our Internet presence**

The Hanseatic Parliament Internet presence, [www.hanse-parlament.eu](http://www.hanse-parlament.eu), has undergone a re-design and now also contains/will contain a presentation of the individual members in German, English and Polish for those members who have returned the forms. Each member/project partner will receive log-in details for the members' section by e-mail shortly.

The website also has a video in English and Polish showing the aims, tasks and work of the Hanseatic Parliament. This video is available for use by all members for presentation purposes. Six further videos contain television appearances by the Hanseatic Parliament in various languages (German, Polish or Russian). The new Internet presence also includes photos taken and papers given at our various events.

### **Cross-border use of inter-company training capacities**

The Hanseatic Parliament Website, [www.hanse-parlament.eu](http://www.hanse-parlament.eu), now contains a "educational capacities" rubric. This enables members to:

- present their own inter-company training capacities;
- upload their provision or search separately for "initial vocational training" and "advanced and continuing vocational training".

The aim of this small-scale exchange system is to enable training centres to achieve greater levels of capacity utilisation and to present their free capacities whilst also satisfying the existing demand for training capacities and promoting cooperative forms of use. In line with the urgent request expressed by members, we hope that this opportunity will enjoy extensive use. We will send you your personal access data in the course of the next few weeks.

### **Recognition of vocational qualifications**

As part of the "Baltic Education" Project, we are developing a system for the mutual recognition of vocational qualifications in the Baltic Region which operates along the same lines as EU objectives (ECVET). The model will initially be developed for 4 countries (Germany, Finland, Lithuania and Poland), using the occupation of painter as an example. A qualifications framework has been drawn up for the Baltic Region, and modularisations and assessment procedures featuring credit points have been developed for the occupation of painter. These will now be agreed between the four countries. Further information is available online at [www.baltic-education.eu](http://www.baltic-education.eu).



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Transfer and Advisory Group II will consult on the results at its meeting in St. Petersburg on 3 and 4 September 2007 and will prepare the most important decisions for presentation at the Annual General Meeting in Vilnius on 8 and 9 November 2007. The subsequent intention is to roll out the model to encompass all occupations and all countries within the Baltic Region.

### **FURTHER CONTACTS AND ACQUISITIONS**

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#### **INTERREG Conferences Baltic Programme**

The new Baltic Programme for 2007 – 2013 was presented in Hamburg on 10 and 11 May 2007. The Secretariat took part, being represented with two information stands and also presenting our new QUICK Project.

A further conference took place in Warsaw on 10 July, where our interests were superbly represented by Marta Jankowska from the Lublin Chamber of Crafts.

#### **Baltic Sea branding**

Between 21 and 23 May, we participated in a congress on the development of Baltic Sea branding. We need to realise this important plan within the scope of our next craft trades and SME project.

#### **North-East corridor and supplier industry**

The aim is to develop a North-East corridor, stretching from England via the Netherlands, Poland and Scandinavia all the way to St. Petersburg. The idea is for small and medium-sized supplier companies located within this corridor to receive extensive support in order to retain or attract as many orders as possible for the region from major companies. A further project preparation meeting was held in Groningen on 2 July 2007. The next meeting is scheduled for Hamburg on 2 October 2007.

#### **Innovation support for small and medium-sized companies**

The Hanseatic Parliament has received a request from a British economic development organisation to become involved in a planned innovation support project. An initial meeting was held in Brussels on 4 July 2007.

#### **Workforce requirements and mobility in SME's**

The Hanseatic Parliament is joining 22 members in participating in an EU call for proposals under the title of "Innovative measures for mobility of SME workforce in the BSR". The aim is to use an investigation of workforce requirements as a basis for the development of innovative instruments to meet demand. A parallel objective in this area is to draw up a future EU funding concept for small and medium-sized companies for the EU Commission. A decision is expected in December 2007.

### **BILATERAL COOPERATION**

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The development of extensive bilateral cooperation between individual members of the Hanseatic Parliament is a source of particular pleasure. Here are brief details of a few recent examples.

- The Schwerin Chamber of Crafts has launched a successful cooperation with the Pori Vocational Training Centre. Exchanges of lecturers have taken place, and delegation visits have been made to explore further opportunities. The aim now is to set up joint projects.

- Joint project work has also been initiated between Norway and Poland. Specific projects are in the pipeline between the Chambers of Crafts in Trondheim and Lublin and between the Norwegian Federation of Craft Enterprises and the Opole Chamber of Crafts.

- The Small Business Chamber Warsaw and Kaliningrad Chamber of Crafts have marked out areas for cooperation; The Small Business Chamber Warsaw is also sounding out cooperation opportunities with the Belarus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Minsk Department.

A number of other members are also preparing specific cooperation projects. Bilateral or trilateral cooperation of this nature strengthens the cohesion within the framework of the Hanseatic Parliament and promotes the competitiveness of craft trades and the SME sector in the Baltic Region.



The work of the Hanseatic Parliament is part-financed by the European Union (INTERREG III B).