



Societal Security in the Baltic Sea Region: Challenges and Solutions *Baltic Leadership Program Alumni Outreach Event*

CONCEPT PAPER

In 2017, the CBSS Civil Protection Network (CPN) adopted the Joint Position on Enhancing Cooperation in Civil Protection Area that defined eight priority areas. The Latvian Presidency in the CBSS Civil Protection Network will ensure the advancement in implementation of at least three the strategic actions, including building *a common societal security culture*. Building a common societal security culture is not possible without involvement of high level decision makers and like-minded professionals. Owing to the Baltic Leadership Program these experts are identified, trained and involved in several initiatives. Now the time has come to take the next step, activate the network, and use their untapped potential, knowledge and skills more intensively to make regional prosperity sustainable.

The Baltic Leadership Programme (BLP) in Civil Security as a strategic instrument empowers future decision-makers in the civil security field to challenge conventional approaches to emergency and crisis management, thus promoting comprehensive regional mechanisms and achieving the objectives of the Policy Area Secure (PA Secure) within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). There is wide spread support across the Baltic Sea Region to create the BLP Alumni Network and give them opportunity to meet and share their experiences, for instance on the topic of **societal security challenges and solutions in the Baltic Sea Region**.

Researchers, policy makers and practitioners have pointed out that there are some gaps in understanding when it comes to a **common societal security culture**. Societal security as such is a quite complex issue that becomes even more complicated when we try to apply it across the region to ensure coherence of the security arrangements. The Baltic Sea Region includes countries with a wide range of cultural backgrounds, historical experiences, as well as education systems and all of this affects the perception of risks. Perception of risks can also be shaped through education, awareness raising and to some extent through international experiences. The State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia, as responsible for leading the Civil Protection Network, is keen to highlight and advance all these topics during the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in 2018 – 2019.

On 26 – 27 November 2018 the State Fire and Rescue Service, in cooperation with the CBSS Secretariat, the Swedish Institute, EUSBSR Policy Area Secure and Riga Stradiņš University, will host the conference ‘Societal Security in the Baltic Sea Region: Challenges and Solutions’. For the first time, this event will incorporate BLP Alumni as well as other stakeholders in civil protection.

The conference will strive to give participants new insights and knowledge regarding the current state of a common societal security culture in the Baltic Sea Region and how perception of risks influences the understanding of societal security. The foreseen **outcome of the conference** is the outline of different practical approaches and setting of milestones to foster common societal security culture in the region. By the end of the Latvian CBSS Presidency, these milestones will be incorporated into the Action Plan on Enhancing Cooperation in the EUSBSR Policy Area Secure as orientation points for – building a common societal security culture.



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The Conference Programme will consist of **four blocks**: The Keynote Speaker on the topic of a common societal security culture, two panel discussions, followed by two interactive workshops and a closing session. The keynote speech will set the stage and address the main challenges related to societal security in the Baltic Sea Region. It will be followed by two panel discussions focusing on education and awareness raising at the regional level mainly from a theoretical approach. After the theory part, the participants will switch to practice and brainstorming during two simultaneous interactive workshops. Finally, the closing session will summarize all solutions, ideas and recommendations from the workshops.

The Conference will bring together the BLP Alumni, civil protection and law enforcement experts and academia. In addition, students of Latvian universities will have the opportunity to join the conference as active listeners.

The chosen location, – Riga Stradiņš University, has all necessary equipment and facilities to encourage fruitful discussions and networking opportunities for participants who attend the conference.



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Draft Agenda

Monday, 26 November 2018

All day Arrival of participants and transfer to the hotel
20.00-22.00 Mingling at the hotel restaurant

Tuesday, 27 November 2018

9.00-10.00 Registration in Riga Stradiņš University
10.00-10.20 Welcome address and opening remarks
10.20-11.00 Lecture: Common societal security: where do we stand in terms of ‘common’?
11.00-12.30 Panel discussions
- **Education:** societal security culture as a part of educational system
- **Regional awareness raising campaign:** approaches, examples and ideas
12.30-14.00 Buffet lunch
14.00-16.00 Workshops
- **Education:** different approaches, one aim - coordinated, systematic and comprehensive system
- **Regional awareness raising campaign:** best ways to reach community and measure results
16.00-16.30 Coffee break
16.30-17.00 Closing session and closing remarks
17.00 Transfer to hotel
19.30 Transfer to dinner venue
20.00-22.00 Dinner
22.00 Transfer to hotel

Wednesday, 28 November 2018

All day Transfer to airport