



Baltic Sea NGO Forum 2018 – Strengthen NGO participation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Registration to the 16th Baltic Sea NGO Forum in Uppsala, Sweden, on 17-18 May is now open!

Does your organisation want to share their insights and gain new knowledge on how to strengthen the role and influence of civil society in policy-making?

Join us in Uppsala on the 17-18 of May!

[Register here.](#)

As a participant you will get an opportunity to:

- Together with other NGOs, shape the future of **knowledge** sharing and capacity building for NGOs in the Baltic Sea Region,
- Create new **connections** and strengthen your **network** for cross-border and transnational cooperation,
- **Communicate** and **develop your ideas** on NGO participation and policy-making.

The discussions at the Forum will be based on your organisation's experiences and challenges in influencing policy-making in the Baltic Sea Region. Therefore, we hope that you will share your experience on these subjects during the Baltic Sea NGO Forums thematic workshops.

The themes in 2018 are:

- Education and Employability,
- Sustainable development,
- Youth,
- Capacity Building for transnational cooperation,
- Human Rights.



During each workshop we will use a creative platform for generating and development ideas together. The ideas will then be ranked and selected by the group. Selected ideas will fund the basis for the official statement of the Forum and answering the question on how we can strengthen NGO participation in Baltic Sea cooperation.

Draft agenda and further information on the Forum will follow.

Webinars

Use the opportunity to engage in thematic meetings prior to the Forum. Each thematic workshop will be prepared by an electronic meeting on the internet, a webinar. In which participants will be able to share best practices or work plans on participation in policy-making with other NGOs.

The purpose of the webinars is to start a dialog to gain common knowledge in each policy theme and to create a common understanding on how to influence and benefit from an enhanced participation of NGOs in different cooperation structures in the Baltic Sea Region.

In order to be able to maximize the opportunities for group discussions and networking at the Baltic Sea NGO Forum and during the webinars, we kindly request that you make a few preparations prior to the events.

First of all, we kindly request that you read the enclosed pre-readings for the webinars that you want to attend. The pre-readings that we suggest that you read will be enclosed to the invitation to each webinar. Secondly, we hope you will be able to share some best practices and findings from your organization/country on these themes during the webinars.

The preparation process consists of 4 steps:

- 1:** When the invitation along with the discussion paper arrives, we want you to start to **discuss** the policy theme in your organisation.
- 2:** Then you **engage** in the webinar.
- 3:** After that you **report back** to your organisation.



4: and then you bring your **colleagues' feedback** on the discussions with you to the Forum in May and continue the discussions in the thematic workshops.

How do you join?

The national focal points of the Baltic Sea NGO Network will distribute the invitation to the webinars. If you do not receive an invitation, we ask you to contact the Swedish Focal Point at therese.mithander@norden.se and we send you the information that you need to enrol.

The Baltic Sea NGO Network is a cooperative body of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the Baltic Sea Region. The network is open to all organisations with an interest in Baltic Sea Cooperation. The purpose of the network is to support and strengthen civil society in the Baltic Sea Region by bringing together NGOs from different countries.

11 countries are members of the network and each country has a national focal point that is the coordinator of the registration of participants to the Forum.