



B7 BALTIC ISLANDS NETWORK

“The Future of Our Islands”

Youth Report

from the

B7 Youth Camp 2006

in Drewoldke

on the Island of Rügen

signed by

Hiiumaa, Estonia

Saaremaa, Estonia

Rügen, Germany

Gotland, Sweden

Öland, Sweden (represented by our guests of Kalmar)

B7 Islands Network Youth Camp Co-operation of the largest 7 islands in the Baltic Sea

The B7 network is organized to serve the interests of our islanders, lobbying to achieve the goals and visions of our people. We work together, learning through our exchanges of experiences and ideas to build a stronger support base for the development of our islands. The opinions and views of the youth of our islands is something that is of great value to us. We believe that our youngsters shape the future of our islands so it is important to include them in these important exchanges as well. The youth camp that we have organized for our youngsters provides a forum for them to share their ideas and work together to find solutions to similar problems each island may have. The successful youth camp has also provided a meeting place for our youngsters to make new friends and practice speaking of our islands and our communities.

After a week of workshops and discussions our youngsters have brought forth many important topics that affect the future of all our islands. Having the time to brainstorm together has been incredibly beneficial to the youngsters who participated. There are many similarities and differences between the problems that exist on each island but there was one topic that all of the youngsters believed to be the most important. This is the issue of jobs on the islands, both now and in the future. Our youngsters were most concerned about the future of the job markets on the islands. They are concerned that without good paid jobs for all of the inhabitants many people will be forced to leave the island to find jobs elsewhere. The youngsters would like for there to be jobs that are attractive and fair paid like there are on the mainland. Currently it is easier to find a high paid job on the mainland so people are more willing to move away from their families in order to receive higher pay. Our youngsters would like the governments on each island to make it easier for companies to move their factories and offices to the islands to create more jobs here. They would also like to develop the tourism on each island to help generate more jobs for the locals living on the island.

We believe that the combined efforts of our youngsters, the B7 network and the politicians from each island can produce positive changes for the future of our islands. It is important to take the time to reflect and discuss the issues that exist in order to construct positive solutions.

We have attached in the following pages the individual thoughts and results from each island.

The Results of Rügen

During the final discussion we found out, that the main problems of the seven islands are a bit different.

For Rügen the main challenge are attractive and good paid jobs. These jobs and professions will follow after a higher education at universities or at special high schools for economic and technical subjects. These studies will take place on mainland and our island too. Also there should be more chances for youngsters in crafts or trade on the island, so they would stay here.

On Rügen we have got enough schools and kindergartens but the groups are too big and our education system is not as good as it should be.

Spare time offers are enough but students aren't good enough informed.

All in all Rügen should be much more attractive for the other B7-Islanders and also for its own young inhabitants.

But many young people want to travel. That's why the councils of the Islands should work together more efficiently, so the youth could travel and could learn new customs, habits and traditions also of the B7-Islands. And they could meet friends they met before on such a camp. But B7-Camps aren't only for travelling; they are also very good for the communications between us youth. We can improve our English and we will learn to be more tolerant.

Our proposal is a permanent institutional youth board for us with employees not older than 25 to 30 years, who understand our problems. The Four-Corners-Network has got a youth parliament and I propose the same for the B7-Islands.

Conclusion:

Our final conclusion is that we need more communication, cooperation and the now existing egoistic interests should be abolished.

Isle of Rügen

What are we thinking about students exchange?

Our little group of students of classes 9 and 11 has collected their opinions and attitudes towards the issue: student's exchange.

An exchange has a plenty of advantages, e.g. improving your English, get to know new people, learning something about another culture. But it has also a few disadvantages. One of the disadvantages is that you after many days in another land have homesickness. All in all its a very interesting thing and because of that I recommended it to all pupils.

Daniel, 14

I think a students exchange between the B7 islands would be very amazing and we could learn a lot. But also I suggest there are no possibilities at the time. But we should try such an exchange. Perhaps we could have one week at our schools where we could be a host or go to a host family. To my mind this week should be at the same time at the schools because not everyone can all languages. So it could be the whole week in English. If such a week would exist, the students could meet each other and could have a view into the cultures, traditions and languages of the different countries. Perhaps we could understand each other better.

Christine, 14

I suppose an exchange is connected with an economy of every country. So I find it difficult to find any possibilities for an exchange. We can't find a lot on all islands. That's why exchange aren't easy-going. So my opinion for a good and long exchange is clear: Before doing exchanges every island must be clear and sure on their own region to come far and farer to other regions.

Anna, 14

I think an exchange between the Baltic Sea islands would be very impressive. It is a great chance for connection and progress not only for the country but also for us. Getting to know the area, tradition and culture would be an experience we shouldn't miss. Perhaps we should meet once a year exactly for the same time like this week and afterwards we go to another country.

Steffi, 15

The student exchange is a good chance to get to know different people from other countries and with this making new friends. It's a good chance to improve your English and to learn having conversations with other people. By exchanging you can get to know the different cultures and countryside of the Baltic Sea islands.

Lisa, 15

I think making an exchange would be a good chance for making new friends. Of course we can also improve our English by speaking with other pupils in this lingua franca. But I guess it is also funny to hear them speak to each other in their mother tongue. You can also discover the landscape if you're interested in it. Such an exchange can also bring you nearer – the different cultures of the countries. So all in all I think it would be a great project if it could be supported.

Lisa, 14

I suppose the students exchange between the B7-islands is a good chance to make new friends. You also get the chance to improve your English and to get to know something about the different cultures and customs of this islands. There you learn to discuss and to have conversations with the other students about the advantages and disadvantages of living on an island. So you see it is a good possibility to exchange opinions and thoughts.

Ute, 14

I think the student exchange is a very good chance to improve your English. Of course you can get to know a lot of new people. But it should be for one year and not only for one week or something like this. If you make an exchange you can get know your limits. So all in all it's an interesting possibility for getting to know the different cultures and the languages.

Josi, 14

I think the student exchange is a fantastic chance to get to know each other. You can enjoy a new landscape, a new country, discovering new traditions and a new culture. Also the food will be different to our country. Additionally it's funny to listen to the different languages of people from different countries. So all in all travelling into a new experience and improving your English.

Jenny, 15

To my mind an exchange is a fabulous idea. We could learn a lot about the different school systems. It would be interesting to talk to pupils from other countries. Of course I would like to take part in such a project. So all in all I would enjoy such an exchange. I hope the government will go on supporting it.

Leila, 14

D. Günther J. Kelm Ute Saathoff
Jennifer Brudella J.K. → Lisa-Ge. Krüger
T. Fabel St. Knapp L. Müller
 Fuha Fest
Lena Cordt C. Kue.
C.S. K. Leila Schmidt
 Zipp

The Results of Gotland:

We believe that it is very important to think about the future of our island and how the problems of today will affect us in the future. After all of the discussions that we have had, we have decided that the most important issues for Gotland are jobs for all of the people that live on the island, more reasonably priced housing, and better transportation both locally and to the mainland.

We think it is important as youngsters to have the opportunity to move away from the island at some point to develop as individuals and learn more about ourselves when we are growing up. The most important point to us is that we will be able to come back to our island, find good jobs, have affordable housing, and reasonable living costs.

In the following three pages we have examined some of the most important questions and answers that the youngsters on Gotland have.

Michelle Miller
Anton
Jasica Jönsson
Emma Tägt
Kathalie Högumal
Alexander Karlsson
Maja Kristiansson
Emilia Stenman
Kattis Wacum
Johan Andersson
Alexander Lehtberg
Jakob Malmqvist
Tom Svandsson
Dennis Mårtensson

Hampus Larsson
Fredrik Johansson
Matthias Sandgren
Larise Sjoberg
Sara Pettersson
Peruella Hellqvist
Tim Pettersson
Frida Malmros
Moa Rydsson
Johanna Andersson

"Future of our Islands" - B7 2006- Gotland

It is important to think about the future of our islands and what it means to us as teenagers to live there. What is going to happen when we grow up? Where will be able to work? Where will be able to live? Will we be able to get proper education on the island?

- What are the Positives and Negatives of living on an island for youngsters?
 - Positives: There is a lot to do, like sports and nature. You get to know a lot of people because it is a smaller community. Nice to avoid the big busy cities. Fairly easy to get around the area.
 - Negatives: There is no central meeting place for youths on the island. There are not enough jobs for youths. There are no jobs for people that do not have an education. We must take a boat to get to the mainland. Can be very boring when it is not tourist season because everything disappears.

- How is the education system on your island? Is the quality of the schools the same as on the mainland? Is it necessary to move to the mainland if you want to continue your education? Is there anything that can be done to improve the schools on the island so you don't have to move to the mainland?
 - We need to have better teachers and more teachers on the island but the schools do not have enough money to do this. Maybe try younger teachers that have more energy and fresh ideas, not as many that are about to retire. At the moment there are a lot of teachers that are of bad quality. We need teachers that have knowledge of more subjects like Spanish.
 - We need to build and develop more schools on the island with more variety of subjects to study and more classes to choose from. We would like to have special sports schools.
 - It is important especially for gymnasium and university levels to have more choices in subjects to study so that youngsters do not need to move off the island to study.
 - We would like to have to option to study in other municipalities even if the subject was offered on Gotland. It would be nice if there would be a budget for us to try studying and living in another place.

- How is the local public transportation on your island? Are there enough buses? Do they run often and at the times you need? Is there another type of transportation that could be used besides buses? Do buses go to all of the places that you need? What does it cost to get around the island? Do you have an idea of how it could be easier or better for youngsters to travel around the island?
 - We need more buses that run at night time and on weekends. This is very important because there is no way for youngsters to get home if they have been out with friends or at a party. Having good transportation in the evenings and on weekends would also help lower the amount of people who drink and drive.
 - We need better local transportation in all of the small towns like Klinte, Slite, and Fårösund, and also in the north and the south of Gotland.

- We think it is too expensive to try to build another system like trolleys or subways for such a small population. Instead it is better to increase the bus lines and time schedules.
 - We need bus route to be a little more varied and not only on the main roads.
 - It is important to have good local transportation so that the people can take advantage of everything that we have on the island.
 - We are very happy with our busiga kort- it gives us the opportunity to travel around the island. It would be nice if we could have it during the summer also to get to our summer jobs.
- How is the transportation to the mainland from your island? Do you travel by ferry or do you have a bridge? Do the ferries travel to the mainland at all of the times that you need? What does it cost to travel to the mainland? Is there anything that can be done to make it easier or cheaper to travel to the mainland?
 - It is very expensive for youngsters (120 kr to take the boat and 200 kr to fly). We need cheaper tickets for students.
 - We need to have more boat tours so that we can get to the mainland more often.
 - We would like to have a tunnel that goes under the water to the mainland so it would be quicker and cheaper.
 - We would like there to be more ferry routes, maybe direct into Stockholms harbour or to Vastervik. Ferries to Finland, Estonia, and Latvia would also be good so we don't have to travel to the mainland first.
 - As a youngster we travel often to the mainland for sports competitions, for shopping, and to see concerts. We need an easier and cheaper way of getting there because sometimes with sports we need to be there at least once a month and we can afford to pay for the tickets.
- What do you like to do in your free time on the island? Do you have all of the activities and facilities that you would like to use? Is there something you like to do on the mainland that you do not have on the island? Do you think it is possible to meet other youngsters from around the island to do fun things in your free time? What could make it better?
 - We like to go to Youth Centres, play sports, go bowling, go to the movies, have coffee with friends and fix cars.
 - We would like to have an Adventure swimming hall, culture family activities centre, big sports arena or hall. It would also be nice to have more coffee places that are cheaper for youngsters to meet and have coffee with friends.
 - We would like more stores and a bigger movie theatre, it would be nice to have more variety on the island and also would create more jobs.
 - There is a much larger variety of things to do on the mainland if you compare to Gotland. We would also like to have more music, concerts, and conferences available to us on the island.
 - We think our youth centres are very important for us on the island. They give us a place to hang out, things to do, and a place to meet new friends. We would like to have more money to help develop our youth centres more and have more activities.

- How are the newspapers, TV channels, phone systems, and internet on the island? Are the communication systems well developed? Do you have access to all the news and media that the mainland has? Is there anything that you feel the island is missing?
 - Sometimes we have bad mobile phone coverage on many parts of the island. Most of the other media systems are ok.
 - We would like broadband to be available over all of Gotland.
 - We think there should be better advertising for things that are available for youngsters for example the radio station "Just Radio" many people don't know about it.
 - We think that communications between people on the island is not very good.

- How are the living conditions on the island? Are there enough houses and apartments? Especially for youngsters that would like to move away from home, is it possible to rent your own apartment on the island? Are the prices affordable for youngsters to live on their own?
 - There are not enough apartments available on the island. There is nothing to rent that is in an acceptable price range. Most of the housing is built for the rich people.
 - Many youths are forced to live at home for much longer then they would want because they can not afford to live alone.
 - There are no special apartments for youngsters or students which are very much needed.
 - We think it is bad that you can only get a living stipend for an apartment if you want to study more than 10 km from your house.

- Is there a budget from the government to support youth activities on your island? What kind of activities or centres do you think should be funded by the government? What could we do with money from the government to support youth activities?
 - It is very important to have youth centres as a meeting place for youngsters and a place for them to go for support and help if needed. We would like to have more money from the government to support our youth centres.
 - With the money from the government we could make it easier to build more youth activities, they could make it easier for companies to start on Gotland. For example bowling, movie theatres, laser dome, mini golf, skate halls

- Do youngsters on your island have a chance to meet each other and do activities together? Do you think that this is important to have centres or activities where youngsters from the whole island can meet and interact?
 - We think that it is very important that the youth centres on the island work together so that we get a chance to meet youths from other parts of the island. We have some activities now where we work together or have competitions together, but it would be better with more.
 - There are many things that we can do on the island together with many people.

- If you were a politician on your island what would you like to do to make it better for youngsters?
 - Relay the messages that we send to all politicians on the island and in Sweden.
 - Try to create more jobs for the people and lower communal taxes. We think that politicians can think a little wider when it comes to what the youth needs.
 - Put a little more thought into the budget for planning for youth activities. Try to spend more time with the youth of Gotland to get an idea of what they want and need.
 - Build more apartments. Allow more companies to sell items on the Gotlands market so that it could keep the prices down and create more jobs, as long as it wouldn't cost the people of Gotland more to move them here or have higher prices. Build more activities centres.
 - Create more summer jobs to youngsters and have better help at the unemployment office. Help create more internship places for youngsters to work.

- Is it important to have the youth meetings like we are having now? What do you think we can learn or gain from having these discussions about our islands? Do you think we can make a difference in the politics of our islands when we share our ideas with them?
 - We think these meetings are extremely important. The youngsters from all of the B7 countries really enjoy meeting each other at the B7 camp. It is really fun to meet new people and make new friends and see how they live their lives. We like to have a chance to talk about our problems about living on an island with others who maybe have the same problems. It is nice to be able to work together to see if we can find solutions to these problems. These meetings are also very important because the politicians will see how hard we are working to find solutions so maybe they will feel more pressure to take action to help.

The Results of Öland/Kalmar

Our situation on Öland is as follows; we have good connection with the mainland, thanks to the bridge to Kalmar. bus transportation between Öland and Kalmar give people the opportunity to live on the island but work and study on the mainland. Beside agriculture, tourism is the most increasing job opportunity. Youngsters find many schools and free time activities and so the situation all and all is not so bad. But...

Suggestions:

Transportations

- Busses back and forth to mainland and on the island itself right now only go at rush hours - we need an increased timetable and perhaps also smaller busses to go to smaller places.
- An all-year-round ferry between Öland and the mainland is necessary.

Tourism

- An airport on the northern part of the island would make it so much easier for foreigners to come to Öland.
- Use the nature of Öland even more and in a "soft" way.
- Build better paths for bikers and hikers.
- Build an adventure park about and on the "allvar" of Öland
- Find ways to prolong the tourist season
- Build spa resorts so that people can come during low season time, too.

Young people

- Establish more job opportunities, for instant craftsmen, service jobs and perhaps also high-tech industry.
- Increased tourism generates more jobs.
- To get the young people to return to the island we suggest a tax reducing for young families and a reducing of the day care fee.

How to improve free time activities for youngsters on Öland

- More money to sports clubs so that they can offer more different types of sport, for instant dancing and professional swimming.
- More youth clubs with longer opening times and activities for youngsters under eighteen.
- Culture schools with programs of art and music. And the opportunity to borrow an instrument for free. Locations for young bands to practise.
- More busses to lower prices.
- Discos, festival, cinemas for youngsters under eighteen.

Ölands Conclusion:

It is important for young people to leave the island for some time, for study or work, but still be able to return and settle down on the island. Therefore we think that the main issues for the politicians are to increase the job opportunities and transportations.

Monika Stenqvist

Sara Johansson

Angelica Frosth Hertzberg

Sandra Nilsson

Ingrid Johansson

Annie Appelst

Daniel Gunnarsson

David Åkesson

Oliver

Katrina Eriksson

Melissa Vasquez

Christina Looth

Ida Hertzman

Annika Ljungar

Danica Ljungström

Beatrice Klingvall

WHY IS B7 YOUTH CAMP IMPORTANT?

Annely Veevo, Kärdla Town Government

B7 youth camp has justified its existence in a short practice. Youth are waiting forthcoming year to go again to the camp. Among youth of Hiiumaa the B7 camp is very popular. It is not wonder because the camp has several dimensions, what give to the camp versatile meaning:

POLITICAL DIMENSION

- Youth are the potential politicians in our islands;
- Youth have a knowledge that they have joint cares;
- Youth understand they are not alone with their cares;
- Youth get a position to solve together these problems;
- Youth get a grasp that they belong to the same/unitary cultural space (European Union);
- If we do not let youth today to operate practically, it may happen that soon they do not want to do anything.

CULTURAL DIMENSION

- Very important are different workshops/Fields in the camp, where youth can exert their knowledge and skills;
- During the workshops youth get new knowledge and skills;
- Develops youth English skills;
- Develops youth communication skills;
- Youth get to know
 - a) their own islands culture (before the camp youth prepare a programme about their island);
 - b) other islands culture (youth see a programme of other islands);
 - c) during excursions information about the island who is arranging the camp (before the camps Hiiumaa meetings are held where youth can self research information about arranging island)
- camps give to youth practical experiences.

ECONOMICAL DIMENSION

- Arranging the camp gives to specific area (island) a possibility to get money (gives to people extra work and bonus – using different services);
- Youth are potential tourists, who will visit this island again and then probably with their parents;

INTEGRATION

- Trough the co-activity integration takes place, what is the main objective by the policy of European Union;
- Xenophobia decreases;
- Tolerance to human being increases;
- Youth learn to consider with other cultures and understand other people;
- In the camp can participate many youth and hereby is the integration extensive (to the Hiiumaa group belong youth usually over all the island);
- Youth get new friends.

INFORMATION

Thanks to youngsters who are participated in youth camps is imparted to schoolmates, friends and families information about B7 activities (otherwise perhaps common citizens do not know anything about this organisation - *this opinion belongs to one parent*)

CONSISTENCY

Camps have taken place:

2004 Rügen

2005 Gotland

2006 Rügen (because Åland refused)

Youth camp is one event among B7 events what has a consistency. The consistency gives stability to B7 members and participants and exhibits viability to outside, too. For that it is important to have a support from politicians. Then it is possible to involve many youth to B7 activities. Youth are our Future! If they do not feel themselves as a member of B7, youth will depart and we have them not any more by B7.