



Charter of the B7 Baltic Islands Network

ARTICLE 1: NAME of ORGANISATION

Full name: B7 Baltic Islands Network

Short-forms: B7

ARTICLE 2: AIM

Baltic Islands Cooperation is about people and how to connect people. Islanders from Baltic islands shall cooperate and exchange knowledge and experience, shall meet and learn from each other through common projects, such as

- the B7 Games and
- the B7 Art/Culture projects.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

PRINCIPLES of MEMBERSHIP

- Each member is a Baltic Sea island or a Baltic Sea coastal region.
- The B7 is a partnership of equals.
- Each member contributes to the B7 budget with a membership fee amounting to 1,000 EUR per year.
- Each member is represented in the B7 Steering Committee and Coordination Group.
- B7 Membership is decided by the Steering Committee.

BENEFITS and OPPORTUNITIES of the COOPERATION:

- A co-operation that works at grass roots level.
- A co-operation to exchange experiences and ideas.
- A co-operation to develop interregional programmes and projects.
- A co-operation with an extensive network.
- A co-operation with the ability to formulate joint political positions
- A Biannual Conference that brings together in meetings and plenary sessions the islands' politicians, civil servants and NGO representatives to exchange experience and promote the interests of the islands and their citizens.



ARTICLE 4: LEGAL STATUS

- This charter governs the operations of the B7.
- The B7 is not registered as a legal entity.
- Differences in understanding and interpretation of the charter can be decided by a majority vote of the Coordination Group or the Steering Committee at their common meetings.

ARTICLE 5: ORGANISATION

The B7 has two bodies:

- Steering Committee
- Coordination Group

The biannual conference is the main meeting of the organisation.

The biannual conference

- Shall convene all the members of the B7 to review the past two years and agree the plans for the coming years.
- Consists of a common Steering Committee and Coordination Group meeting for discussion and decision-making about the organisations political activities, projects and budget for the coming two years.

The **STEERING COMMITTEE** is the political body of the B7 and provides the framework and direction of the Baltic Islands Network.

The Steering Committee:

- Consists of one politician from each of the members.
- Develops and approves the guidelines for the Coordination Group.
- Ensures a civil servant is appointed from each member region to participate as a member of the Coordination Group.
- Meets at the yearly meetings and every second year in the chairing region for the Biannual conference.
- The representative of the region holding the biannual rotating chairmanship chairs meetings.
- Members approve the biannual programme and budget of the B7 at the biannual conference.
- Decisions will be taken with simple majority by the represented islands.

The **COORDINATION GROUP** manages the work of the B7.

The Coordination Group:

- Consists of civil servants from each of the member region.
- Meets as agreed in their work programme.
- The representative of the region holding the biannual rotating chairmanship chairs meetings.



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- The Coordination Group plans, leads, organises, monitors, controls, manages the budget and evaluates the work of the B7.
- Reports on the B7 activities at the biannual conference, including an executive summary and statement of accounts, and at the B7 website.
- Ensures representatives from their regions are appointed to implement the projects within the agreed budget.
- Decisions will be taken with simple majority by the represented regions.

The **CHAIRMANSHIP**

- One of the member regions holds the chairmanship of the organisation.
- The chairmanship rotates every two years and follows the B7 Games in the below order:
 - » 2015 + 2016 Saaremaa
 - » 2017 + 2018 Rügen
 - » 2019 + 2020 Hiiumaa
 - » 2021 + 2022 Gotland
 - » 2023 + 2024 Åland
- The representatives of the chairing region chair the meetings and take care that
 - » meetings – physical, online or phone meetings - take place;
 - » projects are prepared;
 - » projects take place;
 - » information about projects are published on the website;
 - » the organisation's means are spent according to the budget.

ARTICLE 6: FINANCE

- The budget and accounting practice is based on the B7 Baltic Islands Network not having a legal status, thus being a voluntary agreement, based on common interests.
- The operations of the B7 are financed by the available means and the annual membership fee.
- The membership fee of each member amounts to 1,000 EUR per year.
- The Biannual Conference approves the budget.
- The budget can be changed only by a decision of the Steering Committee.
- The compensation for the islands being in charge of the website and the accounting will be decided in the budget.
- The B7 cannot take on debt.
- No overspend of budget lines.



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- Unforeseen expenses that would lead to a budget overspend require a decision about the payment from the Steering Committee.
- A group of auditors shall be elected – one B7 politician and two civil servants. The auditors may not represent the islands holding the chairmanship or the accounts.
- Accounting documents not written in English should be accompanied by a translation.
- In the event that the B7 is terminated, any money remaining after all commitments are paid is to be divided between the islands in equal proportions.

ARTICLE 7: RULES AND GUIDELINES

- The Annex *Guidelines for the B7 Budget and Projects* must be set out by the Coordination Group and approved by the Steering Committee.
- The B7 Charter is to be made available on the B7 website in the public area and the Annexes to B7 Charter in the “Members Area”.

Approved by Steering Committee:

Kuressaare, 28 August 2015