



Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of B7

Baltic Islands Network

B7 Hiiumaa Chairmanship 2014
Hiiumaa County Government, Leigri v. 5
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www.b7.org

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CHARTER of the Baltic Islands Network

Approved by Steering Committee: 24.05.2014

ARTICLE 1: NAME of ORGANISATION

Full name: Baltic Islands Network

Short-forms: B7

ARTICLE 2: VISION, AIMS, STRATEGY

2.1. VISION:

The long-term vision for the islands is:

“Baltic Islands Network will, by exchange of experience, lobby and projects, facilitate for the islands in order to make a difference and to make the island life more attractive and sustainable.”

- Baltic Islands Network is about people.
- And how to connect people.
- Islanders from Baltic islands and from four different countries
- Including three different languages.
- And addressing common challenges.

2.2. AIMS: The aims and objectives of the B7 are:

- Improving by learning from each other:
- B7-Benchmarking.
- One benchmarking topic each year presented by the chairing island.
- Reporting and summary at the annual conference.
- Youth-Exchange-Activities.
- “Building for the future”.
- Acting together - seeking ways and financing.
- Lobbying.
- Co-operation in projects.

The aims and objectives of the B7 can be adapted by the approval of the Steering Committee as a result of updating the B7 Strategy.

2.3. STRATEGY:

- The strategy of the B7 is updated at the request of the B7 Steering Committee.
- The B7 Strategy normally covers a period of 7 years.



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- The purpose of a B7 Strategy is to give the co-operation direction and create the framework for the future work of the B7.

2.4. Islands of the Baltic Islands Network: Gotland (Sweden), Hiiumaa (Estonia), Rügen (Germany), Saaremaa (Estonia), Åland (Finland) and Öland (Sweden).

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

3.1. B7 – PRINCIPLES of MEMBERSHIP

- Each member is a Baltic Sea island.
- Membership of the B7 is decided by the Steering Committee
- The B7 is a partnership of equals.
- Each island believes that the B7 can better serve the interests of its islanders and achieve more as a co-operation than alone.
- Each island contributes to the B7 budget based on population size. The B7 Steering Committee agrees the membership fee to be paid by each member island and any special conditions at the annual conference.
- Each member agrees to work towards fulfilling the visions and achieving the objectives of the B7.

3.2. BENEFITS and OPPORTUNITIES of the NETWORK:

An organization that can lobby to promote island issues at the national and international level.

- A co-operation to exchange experiences and ideas.
- An organization that works at the political, public official and grass roots level
- A co-operation to develop interregional programs and projects.
- A co-operation with an extensive network.
- An Annual Conference that brings together in meetings and plenary sessions the islands' politicians, public officials and members to debate policies, exchange experience and promote the interests of the islands and their citizens.

3.3. EXPECTATIONS FROM MEMBERS

- Island representatives appointed to work with the B7 are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on their island and the B7.



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- Each island is expected to appoint representatives to the various bodies of the B7 and work with the agreed projects, events, seminars and other activities entered into by the B7, in order to fulfil the vision and achieve the objectives of the B7.

ARTICLE 4: LEGAL STATUS

- This Charter governs the operations of the B7.
- The Charter can be modified by the approval of the B7 Steering Committee.
- The B7 is not registered as a legal entity.
- A member island can, as required, and with the agreement of the B7 Steering Committee, appoint one of the member islands to represent it in a legal capacity.
- Differences in understanding and interpretation of the B7 Charter and Annexes can be decided by a majority vote of the B7 Board or referred to the B7 Steering Committee for a decision.

ARTICLE 5: ORGANISATION

5.1. The B7 has two decision making bodies:

- B7 Steering Committee
- B7 Board

These two bodies are supported by

- Annual Conference
- Chairmanship
- Secretariat
- Workgroups
- Focus Groups, if needed

5.2. The duties and responsibilities of the B7 Steering Committee, B7 Board and the Annual Conference are laid out in the following paragraphs.

The following documents outline in detail the duties of the Chairmanship and Secretariat, plus the budget and accounting practices of the B7 and are to be drawn up, maintained and kept updated by the B7 Board:

- "B7 Chairmanship and Secretariat - Annex to B7 Charter"
- "B7 Workgroup - Annex to B7 Charter"
- "B7 Budget and Accounting Practice - Annex to B7 Charter"



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The B7 Charter is to be made available on the B7 website in the public area and the Annexes to the B7 Charter made available on the B7 Website in the “Members Area”.

5.2. B7 STEERING COMMITTEE

The B7 Steering Committee is the political body of the B7 and provides the framework and direction of the B7 Co-operation.

The Steering Committee:

- Consists of one politician from each of the member islands.
- Meets at least twice per year as agreed in the annual programme.
- The representative of the island holding the annual rotating chairmanship chairs meetings.
- Members review and approve the B7 Strategy, policies, annual programme and annual budget of the B7.
- Can delegate responsibilities to the B7 Board. Develops and approves the guidelines for the Board
- Members lobby for the islands in areas of common interest.
- Ensure a civil servant at executive level is appointed from each island to participate as a member of the B7 Board.
- Representation from four islands is needed to make a quorum.
- The B7 Steering Committee can decide on the B7 flag, logo, hymn and other symbols of the B7

5.3. B7 BOARD

The Board is the management body of the B7 and manages the work within the framework of the Strategy to ensure the effective operation of the B7.

The B7 Board:

- Consists of senior civil servants from each of the member islands.
- Meets as agreed in the annual program.
- The representative of the island holding the annual rotating chairmanship chairs meetings.
- Board manages – plans, leads, organizes, monitors, controls, and evaluates - the work of the B7 with representatives from each member islands.
- Reports on the activities of the B7 to the Steering Committee on a twice a year, including an executive summary and statement of accounts.



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- Ensures representatives from their islands are appointed to work in the other B7 bodies and work to implement the Strategy and annual programs of the within the agreed budget.
- Develops and approves the guidelines for the Chairmanship and Secretariat, Workgroups, Webmaster and other bodies or representatives of the B7.
- Representation from four islands is needed to make a quorum.

5.4. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference is the focal point of the B7 year. The purpose of the Annual Conference is to convene all the members of the B7 once a year to review the past year and agree the plans for the coming year within the framework of a Strategy. The Annual Conference consists of, as a minimum, a Steering Committee meeting, Board Meeting and open plenary sessions for debate and discussion.

Details relating to the organization and content of the Annual Conference are to be set out in the document "B7 Chairmanship and Secretariat - Annex to B7 Charter".

ARTICLE 6: FINANCE

The operations of the B7 are financed by an annual membership fee, which is based on the population of the island. As the example: The membership fees in 2014 amount to: Gotland 11,000 €; Rügen 11,000 €; Öland 7,000 €; Åland islands 7,000 €; Saaremaa 7,000 €; Hiiumaa 3,000 €.

- At the Annual Conference of the B7, the Steering Committee must approve the annual membership fee for each island.
- At the Annual Conference of the B7, the Steering Committee must approve the annual budget, which cannot be more than the total of the annual membership fee.
- Guideline for the B7 budget must be set out by the B7 Board and approved by the B7 Steering Committee.
- The B7 Steering Committee must approve changes to the budget.
- The B7 cannot take on debt.
- In the event that the B7 is terminated, any money remaining after all commitments are paid, is to be divided between the islands in proportion to the last membership fees paid by each member island.

ARTICLE 7: CO-OPERATION with other ORGANISATIONS

Islands of the B7 Co-operation Network: Bornholm (Denmark), Gotland (Sweden), Hiiumaa (Estonia), Rügen (Germany), Saaremaa (Estonia), Åland (Finland) and Öland (Sweden).



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- The B7, within its financial and personnel resources, works with other international organizations to promote the common interests of the B7 islands.
- The Steering Committee of the B7 decides which organizations the B7 co-operates with on a formal basis (CBSS, BSSSC, CPMR, UBC.....)
- The member islands of the B7, while representing their own islands can represent the B7 and present policies, documents, positions etc. as agreed with the Board.