



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**Cross-border Co-operation
in the South Baltic:
A European Perspective**

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A Word to the Wise

**"Great discoveries and
improvements invariably involve
the co-operation of many minds"**

Alexander Graham Bell



Another Word to ~~the Wise~~

**"Co-operation is 1% inspiration
and 99% perspiration"**

**Moray Gilland
(with apologies to Thomas
Edison)**



Co-operation Policy

today

- More important than ever before
 - More funding than ever before
 - More advanced content than ever before
 - More advanced implementation than ever before
 - More responsibility than ever before
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The South Baltic Programme in the Baltic

- Geographically significant eligible area
 - Increased emphasis on co-ordination with neighbouring programmes
 - Importance of integrating into the wider Baltic Sea dimension
 - Key contributor for wider plans - Baltic Sea Strategy
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The South Baltic Programme in the

- Need to demonstrate the relevance of South Baltic co-operation
 - Need to demonstrate the relevance of maritime co-operation
 - Focus on Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas
 - Need to think forward on the future of co-operation
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The South Baltic

Programme in the world context

- Globalisation inevitably linked to the Lisbon agenda
 - Supplementary to existing national and regional efforts
 - Opportunities to look beyond our own borders
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South Baltic Challenges

- Framework: a new type of cross-border co-operation
 - Partnership: a new mix of partners, at programme and project level
 - Results: the need for high quality, high visibility results
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South Baltic

Analysis:

- Programme is targeted and focussed
 - Lisbon and Gothenburg are clear priorities
 - Programme partnership is well developed and functions positively
 - Managing authority is experienced and efficient
 - Implementation is on schedule
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Positives



South Baltic

Analysis:

- Potential project content less clear - halfway to transnational co-operation?
 - 5 country cross-border programme is unique
 - Maritime dimension offers additional challenge
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Uncertainties



Conclusions

- South Baltic programme brings together traditionally peripheral regions and makes them central
 - Programme offers the potential to make a genuine difference
 - Work required should not be underestimated
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