



# Clusters, their initiatives and development trends in Baltic Sea region countries

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Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia  
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# Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia

## About Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia

- The Nordic Council of Ministers is an international organization for governmental cooperation among the five Nordic countries: Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden
- The Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia, founded in 1991, has a central role in facilitating and implementing Nordic cooperation with Latvia. The office is collaborating with national and regional institutions, NGOs and Nordic diplomatic representations, carrying out projects in various fields, including Nordic and EU projects and joint Nordic-Baltic projects

## About Maija Kale

- Adviser on Sustainability, Innovation and Research since 2016
- Areas of work: energy, energy security, bioeconomy, circular economy, innovation, cluster collaboration, SME internationalization, smart cities





# Norden's Support for Clusters in Latvia

- BSR Stars Innovation Express
- Fostering Nordic-Baltic Innovation for Sustainability in the Russian speaking market (Central Asia)

# BSR Innovation Express

## Goals:

- Increase SMEs involvement and information flow of transnational collaboration in the Nordic-Baltic region;
- Increase SMEs and clusters organizations capacity;
- Promote international clusterization in the Nordic-Baltic region;
- Increase number of prepared feasibility studies or piloting prior to RDI projects (or in preparation for EU application).



**BSR STARS**  
Innovation in the Baltic Sea Region

# BSR Innovation Express

## Status:

- 2 projects supported
  - ICT cluster
    - Latvian IT Cluster (LITC) and Fiber Optic Valley (FOV) has cooperation background in other projects and consortiums. In this project both clusters unites their strengths and knowledges to help their member companies to enter CIS markets and promote ICT technologies that help to insure sustainable development of such industries as transport, smart cities, agriculture and others. Astana EXPO2017 is considered as a platform for networking and promotion events. This Expo objective is green energy that perfectly fits project scope.
  - Food and packaging cluster (Vidzeme region)
    - To develop and implement new projects and products (incl. new packaging solutions) within the food sector and help SME's to internationalize their activities through cluster initiatives in Denmark and Latvia. Support business partnerships in Baltic Sea Region and rest of EU.



**BSR STARS**  
Innovation in the Baltic Sea Region

# Fostering Nordic-Baltic Innovation for Sustainability in the Russian speaking market (Central Asia)

- Needs for city sustainability in Central Asia
  - Waste management, water treatment, energy efficiency, other
- Developing the concept of Nordic Built Cities
  - Nordic Innovation - <http://nordicbuiltcities.org/>
- Trying to find Nordisk-Baltisk nytte
  - Nordic scale of city solutions
  - Baltic solutions + Russian language

# Project Activities

## 2017

- 1 workshop in Riga & B2B meetings
  - Increased awareness of Central Asia city sustainability issues
  - Financial instrument identification for innovation project implementation in partnership to Central Asia partners
  - Nordic Baltic clusters & SMEs matchmaking
- 3 workshops in Central Asia
  - Kazakhstan – 3-7 July, 2017
  - Uzbekistan – Sep-Oct, 2017
  - Kyrgyzstan - Sep-Oct, 2017

## 2018

- 1 conference in Riga
  - Aiming to improve knowledge, demonstrate good experience, and increase ideation level to CA participants: e.g. water management companies, waste management companies, alternative energy companies, city councils etc.

# Project Activities

B2B matchmaking event: 20 April, Riga

- Innovation Norway, Gateway Baltic
- Ministry of Economics
- Cleantech Latvia & Smart Cities Cluster Latvia
- 70 participants, 7 countries (3 Baltic, 4 Nordic)
  - 12 from Norway, 2 from Finland, 1 from Denmark, 1 from Sweden
  - 12 from Estonia and Lithuania
  - 9 from Central Asian countries





# Clusters, their initiatives and development trends in Nordic countries



Collaboration and innovation across sectors are complicated and entail numerous challenges.

Publication available: <http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1065456&dswid=6536>

# Clusters, their initiatives and development trends in Nordic countries

- **From technology park to biorefinery cluster**
  - SP Processum launched in 2003 as a technology park, but has since evolved into a cluster host for development, upscaling, and commercialization of biorefinery processes
  - The cluster plays an important role in the development of products in areas such as organic chemistry, biofuels, and other biotechnologies. Products and projects also include textiles produced from wood fibres, green chemicals, biofuels, animal feed, enzymes, and gelling agents. SP Processum also hosts the regional growth initiative and hub for forest biorefinery development with the approach that **anything made out of oil can be also be made of wood**

# Clusters, their initiatives and development trends in Nordic countries

- **A cluster that connects the dots**
  - Paper Province **represents the entire value chain** and associated services as member companies range from multinational corporations to local suppliers. Paper Province is able to support participating companies and inventors with knowledge and capital on their way from concept through pilot testing to commercial deployment
  - The region hosts more than 200 companies linked to the pulp and paper industry that stand to benefit by exploiting each other's waste streams. Examples include mills delivering their waste heat to surrounding neighbourhoods, a company producing soil improvement products from mill waste, and an open test bed enabling companies to develop and scale up technologies to refine lignin to climate-friendly fuels, chemicals, and materials

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- **Regional industrial symbiosis**

- The Kemi-Tornio region in northern Finland has established an **Arctic industry and circular economy cluster to enhance industrial symbiosis and strengthen the development of a holistic bioeconomy in the region**. Via extensive analysis of the by-products and residue streams from companies in the region, value-added products are now being produced by combining and rethinking several by-product and residue streams. Examples include silvicultural thinning practices, bioenergy from forest residues with the possibility for future for largescale biofuel production, as well as two plants that enable recovery of metals from slags from the steel and ferrochrome production in the region
- The initiative focuses on creating new value chains and viable business cases based on the 1.7 million tonnes of by-products and residues annually

# Upcoming cluster related events

- LAMPA, 1 July 14:00-15:30, Stage DOTS

Case name	Who	Country
Ecosystem of the Arctic industry and Kemi–Tornio regions innovation platform	Digipolis / Poikela	Finland
Regions and cities for a circular economy – Innovative waste management	The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities/ Stig Bang-Andersen Policy Advisor	Norway
Region Midtjylland	The Department of Regional Development in Central Denmark Region/ Anne Mette Sørensen Langvad	Denmark
Vidzeme planning region	Latvian High Added Value and Healthy Food Cluster leader/ Rocans	Latvia

- BSR Stars Innovation Express (Stuttgart 21-22 Sep)

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