

## **The 6th Annual Forum for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Jurmala, Lettland 15-16 June 2015**

The theme of the conference "[Achieving e-Quality by Connecting the Region](#)" (Equality through regional digital cooperation) took its point of departure in the Latvian program for the presidency of EU and focused first of all on how the digitalization of the society's different functions changes and facilitates the life of those living in the region. The Swedish Crown princess Viktoria attended the conference and gave a highly appreciated speech urging increased actions and responsibility.

The Nordic Council of Minister's strategy for the Baltic Sea Region cooperation has been developed in line with EU's strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The NMS's most important focus area regarding the Baltic Sea region cooperation, has until now and still is related to bioeconomy, innovation and culture.

The NMS's stand at the conference had the main theme "Bioeconomy", and here the new website <http://www.bsrbioeconomy.net/> was launched on a large screen with a touch function. The interactive map on the website, where you by clicking on a country are given information about the country's participation at the workshop and the project, became very popular.

FJLS was also invited to several back-to-back meetings with among others PA (Priority area), neighbors, InterReg and BSR Star.

During the conference the new revised "Action Plan" for EUSBSR (EU's strategy for the Baltic Sea Region) was published; <http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/communication/news/590704-updated-eusbsr-action-plan>. One of the notable changes in the new "Action Plan" is that NCM secretariat's cooperation with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) regarding "HA for sustainable development and bioeconomy" is now ending and the bioeconomy transitions into a cooperation with PA Agri to create a new "PA Bioeconomy – Agriculture, forestry and fishery". NCM secretariat is looking forward to this new cooperation and a very successful start-up meeting with the new partners was held during the conference.

From the FJLS team Geir Oddsson, Torfi Johannesson and Susanna Widstrand participated.