

**PRESS RELEASE 9 Dec 2008**

## **SEMINAR: MARINE SCIENCE CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL SEAS STRATEGIES**

9 December 2008, 14:00–18:00, Hotel Silken Berlaymont, 11–19 Boulevard Charlemagne, 1000 Brussels

### **Scientific contributions to policy making in maritime issues**

The main idea of the seminar titled “Marine Science Contribution to Regional Seas Strategies” is to demonstrate how science can contribute to and support the environmental, social and economic targets set in regional strategy documents. The seminar takes a broad perspective on the topic and gives concrete examples on successful linkages between science and policy.

The seminar is directed to people dealing with marine, maritime, regional and research issues in the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Committee of Regions as well as research and regional interest organizations.

The seminar is organized by BONUS ERA-NET (BONUS for Baltic Sea Science – Network of Funding Agencies) and European Commission DG Research, DG Environment and DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

### **Background – Marine and maritime policies**

Through the adoption of the European Maritime Policy and Marine Environment Strategy Directive, the European Community has addressed the economic, environmental, social and governance challenges of its seas and oceans.

Marine environments, societies and economies in the surrounding states form an interactive holistic entity, where human activities on land and sea cannot be separated from their impacts on the marine environment. The Community has started to adopt a new approach in order to create integrated transnational strategies that will make economies and societies surrounding the regional seas prosper, while simultaneously taking better care of the common marine resources and environment. The first regional cross-sectoral EU strategy is being developed for the Baltic Sea area.

In this light the major issues are if there is enough scientific understanding about the multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral interactions in order to support effective policy and decision making, and how marine science can contribute to the regional seas strategies.

### **Presentations – A broad institutional and geographical perspective**

Speakers from the European Parliament and the European Commission, marine research institutions and EC funded projects, related to the Baltic, Black, Mediterranean and North Seas, will address several crucial questions as regards the potential of science in supporting regional seas strategies, such as:

- What is the role of regional policy making in Europe?
- What is marine spatial planning and why is it so important?
- How can research bring closer the marine strategies of the EU and its neighbouring countries?
- What kind of specific tools could be developed to support sustainable development in the regional seas?
- How are the EU maritime policies implemented at regional level?

## **CONTACT**

Ms. Kaisa Kononen, PhD  
Executive Director  
Baltic Organisations Network for Funding Science EEIG  
Tel. +358 40 58 111 89  
Email: [kaisa.kononen@bonuseeig.fi](mailto:kaisa.kononen@bonuseeig.fi)  
<http://www.bonusportal.org>

## **ANNEX**

Programme of the seminar