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## MOSS: COMMON EUROPEAN UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE – CHALLENGES FOR CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### “What is MoSS? – An Introduction”

*Sallamaria Tikkanen*

*MoSS Project Leader, Curator*

*Maritime Museum of Finland*

MoSS (Monitoring, Safeguarding and Visualizing North-European Shipwreck Sites) is a three year shipwreck research project funded by the European Community Culture 2000 Programme. The project opens an underwater window to four significant European shipwrecks in the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Finland. It is organised by six European countries: the UK, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

MoSS aims to monitor, safeguard and visualise shipwreck sites. By monitoring the condition of wrecks the project will develop and improve methods used for monitoring the physical and environmental conditions of the shipwrecks. Safeguarding includes outlining and developing models to protect the sites so that the needs of different public groups are taken into account. Visualising will include showing the underwater MoSS wrecks using different visual mediums; photographs, graphics, videos, 3D models, animation and full size replicas.

In addition to these three main themes, the project also includes fieldwork at the wreck sites, desk research, a multi-lingual internet site, publications – both popular and scientific – posters, leaflets, reports, papers, meetings and seminars. Information will be disseminated not only to experts in the field, but also to the general public. An aim is to awaken European peoples' interest in our common underwater cultural heritage and engage the general public's participation in the protection of this heritage.

The project's four shipwrecks are all of European significance and are located in the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Finland. They date from the 13th century to the 19th century and are good examples of maritime history relating to the many local and international dimensions of European culture. The wrecks are situated in different types of underwater environments: inland sea, brackish waters in both the south and north of the Baltic and fresh water. These environments provide diverse information for both the physical and environmental variables of the wreck sites.

The coordinator of the MoSS project is the Maritime Museum of Finland. The co-organizers are the Mary Rose Archaeological Services Ltd. (UK), the Netherlands Institute for Ship- and Underwater Archaeology (The Netherlands), the Centre for Maritime Archaeology (Denmark), the Archaeological State Museum of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Germany), and Södertörns högskola, University college (Sweden).

Further details: [www.mossproject.com](http://www.mossproject.com)

## THE BUCH PROGRAMME AND THE RUTILUS PROJECT

*Per Lejoneke and Björn Varenius*

*The Swedish Maritime Museum*

The Rutilus project is the first part of a five-year programme called BUCH – Baltic Underwater Culture Heritage. It aims to reduce the destruction of underwater heritage caused by man in the Baltic Sea and the programme includes all of the Baltic shoreline countries for networking and developing strategies.

Rutilus is a two-year project to determine the present threats to cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea: fisheries, water pollution, exploitation, shipping, sports diving and looting. The programme will then present strategies for dealing with these threats. It will look at preservation, legislation, ambitions, common interests and be related to cultural tourism and schools. The aim is to reduce the threats, increase public benefits and sustainable usage.

The project is concerned primarily with wrecks, and prehistoric underwater settlements. In the last few decades, insufficient knowledge and interest in underwater cultural heritage from both the authorities and the public has increased the destruction of these environments to such an extent that it is now a cause for great concern. The main threats are environmental pollution, fisheries, sports divers and exploitation. The ongoing destruction has no national boundaries; therefore it demands a common active engagement from all nations in the coastal area of the Baltic Sea.

Today work on underwater cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea varies from state to state and the majority of work is carried out as a national affair. The work is

done with extremely limited resources, often by a small group as the responsible authority, concerned with only a specific subject.

The solution is to increase the experienced value of preserved cultural heritage, by changing attitudes and raising the awareness of both the public and the authorities. By presenting underwater cultural heritage in a broader social perspective and defining a wider group of interested parties, the experienced value of underwater cultural heritage can be increased. An increased value results in an increase in support from the public and local authorities to protect and preserve this valuable cultural heritage.

The project will generate a common framework for use and preservation. The result will then be tested against other interested marine parties with international connections. Thereafter every national representative will carry out the same procedure at a national level. The project in this application concerns the first two years of the overall project and its purpose is to:

- Check the conditions for a developed cultural heritage cooperation.
- Establish the purpose and aim of the project with important interested parties at both national and international levels.
- Define and establish a common platform for responsible authorities around the Baltic Sea and develop a common quality concept for a lasting use and preservation of marine cultural heritage environments.
- Develop a tool for education.

The foundations for the next step will be the knowledge acquired of each country's conditions for co-operation, a functioning platform and an established network of important interested parties. This implies the establishment of a number of test environments for use and preservation around the Baltic Sea. The final results from these will be the basis for a common public quality concept for a lasting use and preservation of maritime cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea.

## ARS BALTICA

*Lidia Makowska*

*The Baltic Sea Culture Centre Gdańsk*

ARS BALTICA is one of the oldest pioneering Baltic networks. It was first established in 1988 as a forum to stimulate and encourage cultural cooperation, dialogue and exchange between the countries around the Baltic Sea. It gives priority to art, culture and cultural history. Its goal is to implement common projects, which in terms of structure and concept are more than the traditional form of bilateral cultural exchange. The

organisation also helps these projects to join existing networks of individuals and organisations.

Projects and themes assigned the Ars Baltica logo include the following: literature, theatre, modern dance, visual arts, cultural heritage, music. The arrangement of international Dance, Theatre, Short Film, Music and Young Composer Festivals have all resulted from the networks, along with theatre workshops. Long term projects include artists in residence, a contemporary Arts magazine, Network Baltic – a network between artists and curators. By being awarded the logo projects receive a guarantee of prestige and legitimacy as multi-cultural, littoral projects. In 2000 cultural heritage was included through the Baltic Sea Region Identity Workshop. This was a series of seminars for students dealing with Baltic Sea Identity.

Further details <http://www.ars-baltica.net>

## COOPERATION OF THE SEVEN BIG ISLANDS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

*Marcus Lindholm*

*Åland Board of Antiquities*

An Interreg IIIb project. The leading partners are the three islands of Åland, Gotland and Bornholm. "Islands in History" the medieval islands in the Baltic Sea. By increasing the networks between the seven participating islands, the vision is to encourage greater understanding of the islands during the Middle Ages. The aim is to increase activities on the islands for tourists and visitors, and to educate the staff of participating institutions. The activities will include medieval markets, performances and pilgrimages.

## UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

*Marlena Chybowska*

*Commission on Culture*

*City of Szczecin, Poland*

The Union of Baltic Cities is a voluntary organisation established in 1991 and comprises of 103 member cities from the ten countries that border the Baltic Sea. The purpose of the Union is to foster the exchange of information and ideas between member cities at both economic and social levels through mutual projects. The organisation is funded by membership fees, and projects are funded by individuals who source their own funding from local municipalities and the European union.

The Commission on Culture, located in Szczecin, was established in 1993 and is one of ten commissions. UBC Commission on Culture aims to enrich the cultural life of the citizens living in the area of the Baltic Sea. It fosters contacts and develops joint cultural projects. Cultural collaboration is a perfect tool for sharing knowledge of the history and cultural backgrounds of the different Baltic countries and for creating mutual understanding. The promotion of contemporary art and artists, as well as of the historical and cultural traditions in ten different Baltic countries helps to breakdown the barriers that exist between nations, cities and ordinary people.

The commission also provides and disseminates information on cultural activity in the Region. It works from an action plan prepared every two years by the steering committee with representatives from the following: Szczecin, Poland; Visby, Sweden; Espoo, Finland; Bergen, Norway and Tartu, Estonia. The commission itself produces international working sessions that focus on different cultural topics and help to establish international networks among individuals and cultural organisations.

In its early years, the commission coordinated the UBC Art and Culture Festival. This is an annual event devoted to folk art, music and handicrafts and contemporary visual arts. The international working sessions have led to the production of the UBC Catalogue of Cultural Institutions that provides a listing of galleries, theatres, museums, and culture houses and associations in UBC cities. These sessions have also looked at the proposed development of a UBC Library Network and a Choir Music Forum accompanying the International Choir Festival and art and cultural education in Baltic countries. In 2003 the session is aimed at helping museums, galleries and artist-run spaces to share information about innovative forms of social communication.

Other ongoing projects include:

MARE ARTICUM – the Baltic contemporary visual arts magazine and the Baltic Biennial of Contemporary Art. The purpose of the magazine, established in 1996, is to initiate joint discussion and establish a promotional tool for the under-developed artistic movement in the Baltic. MARE ARTICUM is a forum for artistic exchange in the Baltic region and coordinates the Baltic Biennial of Contemporary Art. In 2001 the biennial entitled “The Fatal Attraction of Civilisation” explored the effects of commercialism and consumerism on society.

In 2003 the biennial entitled “Extra Strong – Super Light” will be held in Szczecin. It will look at the ways political changes have reshaped social relationships and intimate interaction between couples and families in the post – Soviet era.

In 2004 the commission is undertaking a project to coincide with the inclusion of a number of Baltic countries into the European Union. “A Strand of

Baltic Pearls” will be a history of cities in the Region and detail its rich and diverse cultural heritage in a series of essays on the roles played by key cities throughout history. The target of this project is to examine the history and heritage of the Baltic Sea through the prism of the cities that ring it; the pearls and peoples which demonstrate its charms, its beauty and unique maritime cultural heritage.

Further details: [www.ubc.net](http://www.ubc.net)

## THE ASSOCIATION OF CASTLES AND MUSEUMS AROUND THE BALTIC SEA

*Bengt Kylsberg*

*Curator – Skokloster Castle, Sweden*

In 1967 the Swedish state began the restoration of Skokloster, a 17th century castle containing many Baltic objects. The builder of the castle sailed in the Baltic and his father originated from Estonia.

The idea for the Association of Castles and Museums around the Baltic Sea originated at Malbork Castle, Poland in 1990. The aim was to establish a network for teaching and learning amongst colleagues from similar castles and museum collections. On the 21st July 1991 the Association was founded at Malbork Castle. It incorporated nine countries around the Baltic Sea, excluding Norway and ten regions including Kaliningrad. Each country has chosen different castles or museums to participate and has created a network for the discussion of mutual affairs. The general assembly meets annually and a member is chosen from each country to be a representative on the Board, which is held at alternate locations. In 1994 the Association published the first tourist book in the region, “Castles Around the Baltic Sea”. A second book, concerning the mutual art history of the region and the main objects presented in different museums, is currently under production.

The Association also concentrates on restoration, ethics, paintings, marketing and sponsorship. It has been very fruitful to have connections and networks established between the member countries. Membership is based on fees. The book received backing from a Danish sponsor and posters are sold to raise funds. A website facilitates the spread of the organisation through the different countries. There are currently 48 museums and castles belonging to the Association and the website links to all of their home pages.

Further details: [www.baltic-castles.org](http://www.baltic-castles.org)

## INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE PLATFORM

*Marianne Lehtimäki*

*National Board of Antiquities, Finland*

The National Board of Antiquities in Finland initiated the project, which is financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The Secretariat is located at the National Board of Antiquities.

Nordic-Baltic Industrial Heritage Platform 2000-2002 has been a three-year cooperation project with a focus on training, networking and research. The participating countries were Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden. The overall objective of the project was to enhance the knowledge, safeguarding, care and appropriate use of industrial heritage. This was carried out by:

- organizing international multidisciplinary training courses and seminars where methodological tools were discussed and developed for safekeeping of the industrial heritage
- initiating networks and exchange of professional expertise in the Baltic-Nordic axis
- promoting the visibility of and the work for industrial heritage in the participating countries, especially in the Baltic countries
- disseminating information about industrial heritage through books and publications

The project was a direct continuation of the Nordic-Baltic conference Industrial Heritage in the Nordic and Baltic Countries – A Seminar on Cooperation in Strategies, Research and Training held in Helsinki on 1-3 October 1999.

As yet there has been no clear decision as to how this work should continue and there is a meeting in November in Denmark.

### **Additional Information**

The Internet pages summarising and presenting the experiences of the project will stay alive as part of the website of the National Board of Antiquities in Finland with the address:

[www.nba.fi/MONUMENT/IHP](http://www.nba.fi/MONUMENT/IHP)

[www.ihp.lt](http://www.ihp.lt) also continues its life as a Lithuanian version.

NBA as the responsible co-ordinator of the project will produce a publication where the experiences in training and networking, that have seen light in the Nordic-Baltic co-operation during the three project years, will be gathered. The writers will be teachers, lecturers and participants of the IHP courses and seminars. The book will be published in 2004.

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## SUSTAINABLE HISTORIC TOWNS – URBAN HERITAGE AS AN ASSET OF DEVELOPMENT

*Marianne Lehtimäki*

*National Board of Antiquities, Finland*

The working group “Sustainable Historic Towns” initiated the project **Sustainable Historic Towns – Urban Heritage as an Asset of Development**, which was approved as a BSR Interreg IIIB project 2003-05. In terms of the Interreg II B-programme, the priorities and measures of the project are enhancing good management of cultural and natural heritage and of natural resources. The main objectives are development and promotion of natural and cultural heritage as an asset for regional development, fostering an increased public awareness of limited resources and development of spatial planning methods as tools for sustainable use of limited resources.

The project strengthens national, regional and local efforts to identify and enhance urban heritage as a local resource and an asset of identity. By researching environment and data, developing inventories and analyses, the work can be further developed to a common strategy, balanced management and good practice for sustainable development in historic towns.

The project consists of three working-packages. The working-package **Strategic Guidelines** focuses on uniting urban heritage conservation with development plans and regional policies. Activities involve all the members of the working group Sustainable Historic Towns. The co-operation, implementation and dissemination of the results are transnational. The project network participates in the **BSR 1st Heritage Forum, Gdańsk 2003**, promoting cultural heritage co-operation. Further project networks will co-arrange the **2nd Heritage Forum 2005** for dissemination of the results of the project.

The working package **Professional Tools** creates a platform for authorities, researchers and professionals to exchange and compare management and conceptual experiences. It collects and analyses good methods for integrated conservation and urban sustainable development also including regional and local conservation policies in BSR. Further it promotes EIA and SEA-methods and stimulates resource thinking of the management of urban heritage. The working package organises together with WP1 an **Expert Seminar in April 2004 in Druskininkai, Lithuania**, in order to discuss these issues.

The working package **Improvement of Management Tools** deals with integrating the urban heritage policies with the planning and management of urban spatial development as part of regional and local capacity building. WP3 includes 8 pilot towns (2 in EU countries, 2 in Norway and 4 in PHARE countries) in different types of municipalities in BSR. They represent different management problems, and will test innovative tools of management, cross-sector co-operation and local involvement.

The local outcomes are, besides local operative plans and instructions well anchored to regional activities and assets, improved competence, capacity and better integrated resources for sustainable heritage management and development. The activities will create cross-level networks, several reports and exhibitions and one Information Centre for Repairs and Maintenance. National outcomes are advanced tools for sustainable urban planning and urban heritage management. Transnational outcomes are, beside meetings and seminars; guidelines on good methods for urban conservation policies and a joint proposal for research programmes.

The project budget is 1 027000 EUROS, where financing from Interreg III B-programme covers half, and main national funding comes from Norway, Finland and Sweden. These countries also have national activities in pilot towns. Denmark and Germany will take part in the international networking, as well as the members of the working group Sustainable Historic Towns in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. These countries, except Estonia who uses national funding, will apply for the PHARE financing for their national activities. The indicated sum for the PHARE-projects is 542000 EUROS.

#### INTERNATIONAL PROJECT MILESTONES:

##### 2003

- The 1st Heritage Forum in Gdańsk 3.-5. 4., incl. international “kick-off” seminar of the project
- Project website opened in autumn
- Preparation of PHARE-projects
- Pilot town meeting in Forssa 28.-29. 9.

##### 2004

- Spring: expert Seminar in Lithuania 22.-25. 4.
- Launching of PHARE-projects
- Pilot town meetings in Mosjöen in spring and in Ystad in autumn

##### 2005

- Pilot town meeting in Röros in spring
- 2nd Heritage Forum, including dissemination of the results
- Conclusive Seminar in Latvia
- Final summary report “Guidelines on good methods for urban conservation”

For further information contact:

The National Board of Antiquities, Finland

[www.nba.fi/INTERNAT/project/SuHiTo\\_eng.htm](http://www.nba.fi/INTERNAT/project/SuHiTo_eng.htm)

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