



norden

Nordic Council of Ministers

Nordic and Nordic-Baltic committees of senior officials

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### **New mobility programmes to strengthen Nordic-Baltic co-operation**

Dear members of the committees of senior officials,

I am happy to inform you that new joint Nordic-Baltic mobility programmes in the fields of public administration, business and industry and culture have been launched by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

An annual budget of approximately DKK 15 million (corresponding to EUR 2 million) has been allocated to the programmes, which are open to Nordic and Baltic participants. The programmes are financed by the Nordic and Baltic countries on an equal footing based on the relative size of the economies of the countries. The new joint programmes build on the experience from the already existing Nordic-Baltic programmes on education NordPlus (<http://www.nordplusonline.org/>) that were launched in 2007, as well as experiences from previous Nordic-Baltic exchange and mobility programmes.

The programmes will underpin the political co-operation between the eight countries and aim at contributing to promote a strong Baltic Sea Region.

**The Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme for Public Administration** gives financial support to civil servants and other staff in the public sector to carry out study visits, internships, training or network activities. It aims to promote and strengthen cooperation, exchange of knowledge and networks between public administration on all administrative levels and to promote more efficient working methods for the public sector. Some DKK 2 million have been allocated to the programme for 2009. It runs from 2009 until 2013 and is administered by the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Estonia. More information on the programme guidelines and application procedure can be found at [www.norden.ee](http://www.norden.ee).

The programme offers all Nordic and Baltic line ministries a possibility within the NB8 cooperation to participate in the programme also by earmarking additional funding for prioritized areas. I would thus encourage all Nordic-Baltic committees of senior officials to consider this option to further strengthen the existing cooperation.

**The Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme for Business and Industry** gives financial support to different stakeholders in the fields of business and industry to carry out study visits, internships, training or network activities. It aims to strengthen co-operation and to promote economic co-operation, entrepreneurship, regional cluster co-operation and innovation opportunities. Some DKK 2 million have been allocated to the programme for 2009. It runs from 2009 until 2013 and is administered by the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia. More information on the programme guidelines and application procedure can be found at [www.norden.lv](http://www.norden.lv).

**The Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme for Culture**

The Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme for Culture supports long- and short-term network building, artists' residencies and mobility for professional art and culture practitioners in all artistic fields. The artistic goal is to create a platform for an innovative, dynamic Nordic-Baltic art and culture life. Some DKK 11 million have been allocated to the programme for 2009. It runs from 2009 until 2011 and is administered by the Nordic Culture Point in Finland. More information on the programme guidelines and application procedure can be found at [www.kknord.org](http://www.kknord.org).

I am glad for the support the different line ministries and committees of senior officials already have given to these programmes. We would further appreciate your help in distributing the information on these programmes to potential applicant groups in the Nordic-Baltic region. If you or your staff have questions related to the programmes or to the information materials, please contact adviser Mia Rahunen ([mira@norden.org](mailto:mira@norden.org), +4533960261) or senior adviser Ane Kofod Petersen ([akp@norden.org](mailto:akp@norden.org), +4533960254) from the Secretariat.

I believe that with the launch of these new programmes we will enter into a new phase of Nordic-Baltic cooperation with even more intensified contacts between the Nordic and Baltic countries, thereby also effectively implementing the new guidelines for the Nordic Council of Ministers' cooperation with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania 2009-2013.

Best regards,



Halldór Ásgrímsson  
Secretary General  
Nordic Council of Ministers