



Biosphere for Baltic – exchange event #1

Welcome to Kristianstads Vattenrike Biosphere Reserve 13th – 15th of May for Biosphere for Baltics first international exchange event!

We are very glad that you want to join the project and we are inspired by the positive feedback we've received! We look forward to seeing you, to stimulating meetings and to a fruitful dialogue.

The aim of Biosphere for Baltic is to facilitate learning and disseminate good practices from biosphere reserves in the Baltic Sea region, within and beyond the network of biosphere reserves. Also, to highlight the contribution of biosphere reserves to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda. However, the two international events, of which our meeting in Kristianstad is the first, will focus on sharing experiences and the added value that comes with exchange of knowledge and collaboration.

Below you will find information about the event in Kristianstad, how you and your biosphere reserve can contribute, as well as practical information regarding travel and accommodation.

Two themes

We have chosen to focus the project around two themes: Source to Sea and Learning and Ocean Literacy. Both themes are of great importance to sustainable development in the Baltic Sea and for the implementation of [SDG 14 – Life below water](#). The themes are also broad, in the sense that they cover many topics and can be interpreted widely.

[Source to sea](#) is highly relevant for the Baltic Sea, with its dynamic interface between land and ocean. Human activities upstream; on land and along rivers, affect the ecosystem downstream; in the coastal zone and the marine environment, with several associated environmental challenges, e.g. plastic pollution, water quality, eutrophication etc.

[Ocean literacy](#) is defined as “an understanding of the ocean's influence on you and your influence on the ocean” and [learning](#) is key to increased ocean literacy among people and in the society. Learning has also always been fundamental to the work in the biosphere reserves and is a part of their success stories. The biosphere reserves in the Baltic Sea region raise awareness and educate people on a daily basis – by connecting people to nature and by stimulating new knowledge development as well as education for sustainable development.

Share your story!

The solutions to the global challenges addressed in the 2030 Agenda and by the SDGs are mainly local. Biosphere reserves are places where local communities are included in finding solutions to sustainability challenges, and therefore interesting as strategic areas to learn from when implementing the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. With Biosphere for Baltic, we want to explore and highlight how the work of the Baltic Sea biosphere reserves contribute to local sustainable development work in practice, and more specifically to the implementation of SDG 14 – Life below water.

We would like you to contribute by sharing your story, i.e. experiences and results from a project or initiative within your biosphere reserve that connects to one of the projects themes. The stories will be highlighted as case studies during our international exchange events and we will ask you to present your story either in Kristianstad, or at the second event in the Archipelago Sea biosphere reserve this fall.

When choosing a project or initiative, please remember that the themes can be interpreted widely and that projects can be either ongoing or finished. Or, perhaps there is a project that is about to start within your biosphere reserve? Choose a project or initiative that emphasizes the unique role and contribution of the biosphere reserve and where participation in Biosphere for Baltic will provide additional value.

Also, remember that submitting a project or initiative is not a prerequisite for participating in Kristianstad. You already contribute to the project by joining and by taking an active part in the exchange events. However, your stories and our joint exchange of experiences is core to the project and we hope that each biosphere reserve share a story.

We look forward to a short description of a project or initiative that you would like to share (approximately one page) by April 18th. We will let you know which event we would like you to present at by April 20th, and also provide more detailed information regarding the presentations.

Draft agenda for the event at Kristianstads Vattenrike

Sunday, May 13 th	Evening	Arrival and welcome dinner
Monday, May 14 th	Morning	Workshop / presentation of stories
	Afternoon	Excursion
	Evening	Dinner
Tuesday, May 15 th	Morning	Workshop / presentation of stories
	Lunch	Joint lunch before departure

Practicalities

Travel

All travel arrangements will be handled by Lena Anderberg at Big Travel in Kristianstad. We will provide her with initial information about the projects participants for her to start travel planning. She will then contact you directly with any queries and final travel details and documents.

To get her started we would like the following information from you:

- Name of participant/s (as written in the passport)
- Where you travel from
- Mobile number
- E-mail address

Please provide this to Anna as soon as possible, or by April 13th at latest.

Ground transportation, e.g. a bus to and from the airport, is sometimes easier to arrange locally. If you have such additional expenses, make sure to keep the receipts and we will reimburse the cost.

Accommodation

In Kristianstad, we will stay at Hotel Duxiana where single rooms have been reserved for us. Duxiana is situated in the city centre, close to the central station and within walking distance to Vattenriket.

www.kristianstad.hotelduxiana.com/en

Timeline

Some dates to keep in mind are listed below. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions or would like more information.

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|------------------------|--|
| April 13 th | Last day to provide participant information for travel arrangements, see above. Send to anna.sarnblad@smkc.se |
| April 18 th | Last day to submit a short description of your project or initiative. |
| April 20 th | We will provide additional information regarding presentations and let you know at which event to present. |
| April 27 th | We will provide an updated and more detailed agenda for the event in Kristianstad. |
| May 13 th | Arrival Kristianstad. |

Participating Biosphere Reserves

Below you find a list of participants from respective biosphere reserve. The list will be updated continuously.

Sweden	Kristianstads Vattenrike	Carina Wettemark
		Sam Peterson
	Nere Dalälven River Landscape	Cristina Ericson Turstam
		Henrik Thomke
Blekinge Archipelago		
Finland	Archipelago Sea	Anna Moa Westerlund-Rönnerberg
		Pia Prost
Denmark	Møn	Annette Tenberg
		Søren Sørensen
Estonia	West Estonian Archipelago	Lia Rosenberg
Latvia	North Vidzeme	Laura Taube
Poland	Slowinski	Grzegorz Kupczak
		Michalina Zblewska-Kupczak
Germany	Southeast Rügen	

We look forward to seeing you in Kristianstad!

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