



*Think-tank and network for business
and politics in the Baltic Sea Region.*

*Facilitate public-private dialogue to
advance innovation, sustainable growth
and competitiveness*



top of digital
Europe

ICT Think Tank
for the Baltic Sea Region

- independent, non-profit initiative
- promote BSR as a leader in digital economy
- analysis and ideas for policy makers & business
- facilitate cross-border dialogue and public-private initiatives
- inspire transnational digital collaboration



Test bed conference Copenhagen 2014



- Lack of access to testbeds and a clear testbed definition
- Testing challenges faced by SMEs are similar to those of big companies
- Public sector can play a role as facilitator
- Cross-border collaboration could benefit SME's and testbeds in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR)
- We need more regional collaboration. But lack of knowledge across borders makes it difficult. A common network platform uniting testbeds in the BSR could be useful. Explore the cross border potential!

Organised by BDF & Danish Business Authority

BSR complementarities



The BSR countries are digital frontrunners.

They make up a joint market with high digital maturity but also significant variations in technology adaption and use
= an ideal arena for transnational testing

By linking testbed platforms between countries (or cities), companies could be invited to test their services around the region

(State of the Digital Region, Top of Digital Europe)

Sharing Test and Demonstration Infrastructures in the BSR

Mapping, workshop and discussion paper 2017

EU Interreg BSR project **BSR STARS S3:**
Innovation and smart specialization in bio-circular and
digital economy in the BSR

Partners from Finland, Sweden, Lithuania, Norway, Denmark,
Nordic Council of Ministers



Infrastructures – digital economy

Finland

VTT Technical Research Center of Finland

5G Test Network Finland (5GTNF)

HILLA VTT Technical Research Center of Finland

Traffic Lab

Tampere University of Technology

Sweden

RISE

Swerea (part of RISE)

Denmark

GTS Advanced Technology Group (7 RTOs)

Norway

The Research Council of Norway

SINTEF

SIVA

Lithuania

Kaunas IT Open Access Business Lab

Financing test services

Innovation checks/vouchers to encourage innovation in SMEs:

- Innovation Vouchers in Lithuania
- Innovation Vouchers in Finland
- InnoBooster in Denmark
- Innovation Checks in Sweden
- Katapult in Norway
- Innovation Voucher scheme in Estonia
- Latvia will soon announce one

Opportunities for cooperation:

- Synergies in provision of test opportunities and services
- Exploit complementary areas of test excellence
- The “How-To” deliver test services to SMEs (push)
- Encouraging SMEs to making use of test services (pull)
- Connecting the dots (do we have all the dots?)
- Facilitate mobility of SMEs across borders
- National and European policy aspects

How do we share?

Attracting SMEs
- nationally

Attracting SMEs
- transnationally

Pioneer initiatives in BSR

What is needed?

Encourage a coordinated and efficient utilisation of test beds across borders

Build partnerships and networks of competences in specific digital technologies around testbeds (regional development agencies, science parks, incubators, companies, universities etc)

Better knowledge about testbeds available and which ones are particular relevant for SMEs in a region

Increase understanding of how to access testbeds, and how public sector may assist companies and testbeds in finding each other

Lack of knowledge and incentives among SME's:

- How to access transnational test facilities?
- How to fund without transnational vouchers? Pilot voucher

Lack of incentives among RTO's to collaborate across borders:

- How to share, without losing competitive advantages?
- How to make sure to get something in return?

How to provide the incentives? How to make the cake bigger?

Extend opportunities for SME's and RTO's

Support development of a transnational digital innovation system

“I think it is a very interesting idea to explore opportunities for networking better our facilities and expertise with a view to point companies towards testbed infrastructures across the border when a RTO cannot itself satisfy companies specialized need for technology, test and demonstration services.”
(Ernst H. Kristiansen, Vice President for Research, SINTEF).

“... There is a huge need to further invest in test- and demonstration facilities and the capabilities to operate them. Especially SMEs are limited in their search scope – both technologically and geographically – and international cooperation between knowledge providers such as RTOs is of increasing importance.”
(Lars Fremerey, development manager, GTS Denmark).

“The Baltic Sea Region shares a number of values and ambitions at the level of society that are rather unique globally... For example, in few other places in the world does public procurement drive innovation to the same extend as in the Baltic Sea Region. Sharing experiences to understand and learn how to e.g. further benefit from public procurement to drive innovation in the digital economy – while at the same time provide improved public services to citizens and companies – could be an obvious starting point for further cooperation” (Olof Sandberg, Chief Strategist, RISE).