SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area

Specific Support Action

INCO-CT-510408

Boosting Baltic FP6

Boosting 4 ACC NCPs and their customers to advanced partnership, entrepreneurship and competitiveness for FP6 participation through expanded area of action by networking, training and coaching

FINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

Period covered:	01.06.2004 to 31.01.2007
Date of preparation:	12.03.2007
Start date of project:	01.06.2004
Duration:	32 months
Project coordinators name:	Mr. Frank Graage
Project coordinator organisation name:	STC
Revision	0

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1. Publishable executive summary

Introduction

The project Boosting Baltic FP6 ran for 32 months from June 2004 to January 2007.

Boosting Baltic FP6 constituted an integrated set of networking, training and coaching measures and worked parallel on two target groups: The primary target group was the 4 project partner NCPs, located in four new members states and, as a show-case model for sufficient technology transfer, the local Life Science research communities in the same four new member states: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The project included knowledge formation and dissemination activities.

The NCP competence lift and expanded area of action was reached through networking of the partners with the following aims: Best Practice exchange, in-depth analysis for the optimization of NCP tasks, training workshops on specific FP6 and FP 7 issues and EU application knowledge and coached set-up of national NCP events in the new member states. This advanced their area of action and promoted advanced partnerships and competitiveness.

The Life Science community competence lift and expanded area of action was achieved through FP6 and FP7 information seminars and hands-on supervised workshops to identify and motivate potential collaboration for joint activities. The Life science community was introduced to a regional expert panel and to ScanBalt competences; this accelerated the linkage to specialists in all relevant fields in the ScanBalt life science community.

Informational activities such as competence mapping, an electronic guide to EU proposal writing, publications and a partner search guide has backed both target groups´ need for new knowledge on local and regional capabilities.

Boosting Baltic FP6 based on the close cooperation of ScanBalt, Steinbeis Technology Transfer, Vinnova (former *Swedish EU R&D Council*) and the national contact points and partners in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, facilitating mutual exchange and learning processes.

Boosting Baltic FP6 has been linked directly to several ScanBalt activities.

The total budget for the project amounted to about € 880.000,00.
About 60 % was spent for personal cost, about 10 % for travels (at least 100 trips) and 8% for marketing and events.

Results

The project Boosting Baltic achieved all planned deliverables and milestones. The most prominent are described below:

A series of 16 workshops and seminars was executed with in total more then 650 participants focusing on knowledge transfer and preparation for FP 6 and FP 7. The workshops have been a direct learning experience for all involved, with supervised hands-on work in small groups.

WP 2 and 3 resulted in more than a dozen proposals for the last FP 6 calls, 4 of these were funded under FP6-LifeScienceHealth:

- EPIVAC, Development of multi-step improved epidermis-specific vaccine candidate against HIV1/AIDS
- NORMOLIFE, Development of new therapeutic substances and strategies for treatment of pain in patients with advanced stages of cancer.
- HIV ResInh, Preparation and identification of new HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitors targeted against HIV strains resistant to anti-HIV/AIDS drugs."
- SENECA, From cellular senescence and cell death to cancer and ageing

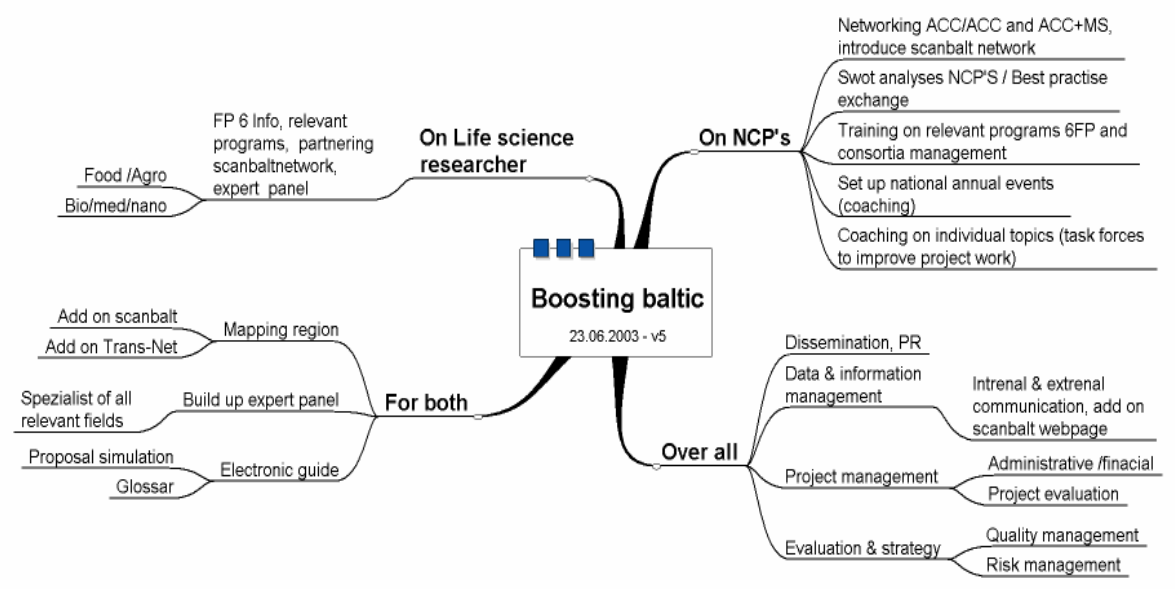
WP 5 events facilitated participation in FP 7, which hasn't officially started that time (Autumn 2006). The expert panel has added immense value to the project by participating at the regional seminars and workshops.

A ScanBalt partner search guide was compiled in WP 1 and WP6 and launched publicly, the ScanBalt Yellow Pages. The database includes more than 3500 profiles from life science community of the region, is searchable on more than 50 parametere within 5 areas. See www.scanbalt.org/yellowpages for more.

An Electronic guide to FP7 for beginners has been launched as part of WP6. The Electronic Guide aims to help newcomers from Life Science community to participate successfully in Framework Programme projects.
www.scanbalt.org/guidefp7

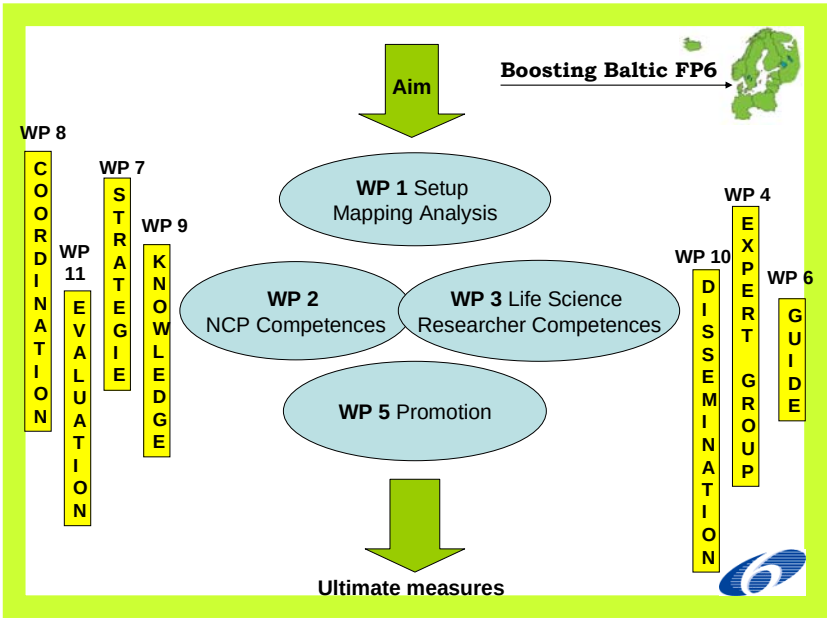
Project roadmap

The project roadmap shows the actions for the main target groups and the overall project measures.



Work packages

The project was divided in 11 work packages (WP). All WPs were timely completed, all milestones and all deliverables fulfilled. WP focus and results are described below.



WP1 Set-up

The main goals were the design of a shared project agenda, competence mapping and benchmark, SWOT analysis and hosting of the Kick-off meeting.

WP1 produced an impressive amount of mapping results and it was decided to launch 2 "Fact files" on life science education and one on clinical competences. The information from these 2 databases have now been merged into the ScanBalt Yellow Pages.

WP2 NCP Competences
WP2 focused on NCP Competences, creating network among NCPs and exchange of experience and best practise. 3 workshops were hosted (one more than planned for) in Tallinn, Estonia, Warsaw, Poland and close to Stockholm, Sweden..

The **first workshop** had a clear focus on proposal evaluation and involved four experienced evaluators, from the partners in the new member states. The "proposal evaluation workshop" generated a promising start for an "expert evaluator network" to be used as an assisting tool for the Baltic NCPs in their future work. The SWOT analysis was presented and discussed

The **second workshop** covered the best practice guide and guidelines; a workshop on peer-review of SSA proposals. The proposals were adapted to the 4th call under life sciences or the food and safety in FP6. The proposals were consequently evaluated by the expert panel and the consortium. This "proposal evaluation workshop" will be a help for NCPs to guide their researchers in FP6/7 proposal writing. One of the proposals was submitted by a Polish coordinator and was funded under the FP6-2005-LIFESCIHEALTH-6 call.

The **third workshop** was training for the NCPs in evaluation of 2 STREP proposals from Priority 1 submitted in the 1st Call and the 4th Call. Working in groups the aim was to prepare an evaluation summary report that was discussed and compared to the original ESRs from the proposals.

The final "**Best practice guide**" is the result of intense work and cooperation between all project participants and other work packages, especially WP3 and WP6.

WP3 Life Science Researchers´ Competences
The main objective of WP3 was to upgrade the Life Science researcher communities in the, then, 4 new member states by hosting a number of workshops and to introduce the ScanBalt network as a critical mass. The expert panel advised at the workshops. WP3 developed a training-workshop set up that ensured a direct learning experience. A total of 3 workshops were hosted (one more than planned for), 2 in Warsaw, Poland and 1 in Jelgava, Latvia. About 70 scientists participated in the hands on training workshops. More than a dozen proposals were submitted as a result of the 3 workshop, and 4 of these were granted funding from EC. Two of the workshops focused on biotechnology/medicine/nanotechnology and one on food/agro. All workshops included participants from SMEs.

WP4 Expert Panel

The objective of WP4 was to set up an Expert panel on FP6, entrepreneurship, cutting edge life science, tech transfer and knowledge transfer topics. During the first 4 months Boosting Baltic set up its own Expert Panel that participated at the 6 WP 2 and WP 3 workshops and seminars. They contributed with knowledge about FP6 life science projects, entrepreneurship, high level life science research or technology transfer. The expert panel proved to have a remarkable insight that they generously shared to the Boosting partners– a very valuable input for now and a good network for future activities.

WP5 Promotion

The 4 NCP were coordinating, planning and each hosting a national event. The events focused on FP6/7 information for first-time proposers from the life science community.

WP 5 builds on results from WP3 events, the WP2 SWOT analysis and best practice report as well as the WP4 expert panel report.

Although initially 4 national events have been planned, Boosting Baltic FP6 consortium has organised 10 national events: one event per Lithuania and Latvia, 2 events in Estonia, and 6 events in Poland.

Lithuania: Vilnius, 14 September 2006 – 47 participants.
Latvia: Riga, 19 October 2006 – 54 participants.
Estonia: Tartu, 23 September 2006 – 21 participants;
Tallinn, 28 November 2006 – 50 participants.
Poland: Poznan, 9 June 2006 – 50 participants;
Krakow, 14 September 2006 – 69 participants;
Gdansk, 27 September 2006 – 64 participants;
Lodz, 20 October 2006 – 100 participants;
Warsaw, 16 November 2006 – 85 participants;
Warsaw, 8-10 January 2007 – 23 participants

In total 562 life sciences community members have been addressed during the series of the national events in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

LIC, IPPT/PAN, SPIE, ARCHIMEDES covered topics according to the local life science communities needs:

- Information about FP7;
- Short presentation about Boosting Baltic FP6 and ScanBalt;
- Practical aspects of project implementation under Framework Programme;
- Evaluation process of the project proposals;
- Introducing experience of researchers, experts from successful proposals, IP/NoE coordinators;
- Presentation of Electronic guide (WP6).

IP and NoE coordinators were a target group as speakers for the events. Every partner listed NoE and IP projects coordinated in their region. The

coordinators were invited to share their regional expertises with national events participants.

WP6 Guide
WP 6 set out to produce an electronic guide to FP proposals and a ScanBalt partnering search guide. The electronic guide was extended to guide beginners to FP7 and it is now publicly available. The ScanBalt partnering search guide was launched at ScanBalt forum 2006 as ScanBalt yellow pages and is also publicly available.
www.scanbalt.org/guideFP7
www.scanbalt.org/yellowpages

WP7 Strategy
WP 7 was set up to handle quality management and risk management. The project management team met approximately every 3 months. Quality management and risk management have been dealt with through a number of action oriented meetings involving all partners.

WP8 Project Coordination
Project management ensured an efficient working structure. The project management team consisted of Steinbeis and ScanBalt. Consortium management have been relatively simple, the partner group is small and the number of people involved limited. A close cooperation between partners were established and kept by phone, e-mail and regular meetings. In terms of the financial administration and controlling of the budget, we created at the very beginning simple overview sheets for all partners including cost type, work package relation, self contribution and EU contribution. Additionally to the official reporting period we added a 6 month internal reporting to ensure efficient follow up on work package and budgets.

WP9 Knowledge management
WP9 consisted of two main 2 parts, a general fixed part presenting a "Project Management Tool Box" and a project specific flexible part, with a task force that was ensuring continuous learning and progress in weak areas. Coaching and evaluation ensured that all project partners at the end of the project are ready to take EU project managers responsibilities.

The project management tool box was developed and implemented over the full source of the project.
Task force meetings were hosted for 6 out of the 11 work packages, solving issues ranging from communication, knowledge management, dissemination and database development and adjustments.

WP10 Dissemination
WP10 focused on information and dissemination, public as well and project internal. Boosting published:
7 Press releases, 9 Articles in different newspapers, 2 radio interviews, 3 workshops at ScanBalt forum, poster at the conference "Communicating European Research CER 2005", about 30 short presentations at other conferences. Approximately 2000 copies of the 6 different flyers and

postcards were handed out. On the web we had a total of 9.000 visitors and 10.000 page impressions to Boosting Baltic webpage. The electronic guide had 394 visits and 447 page impressions from September 2006 to January 2007. The ScanBalt yellow pages including the search guide on the ScanBalt web had from its launch in September 2006 to January 2007 2.733 visits and 19.470 page impressions.

WP 11 Evaluation
This WP dealt with evaluation of achieved results, the organisation and future demands. It worked on perspectives and "what´s next" for this network, the establishment of a strategy for a ScanBalt NCP network and produced the final report including financial closing and recommendation to the Commission
Together with WP8 (project management) WP 11 fulfilled all EU related demands to project finalization. A final workshop in January was used to prepare all reportings and discuss future collaborations.

2. Dissemination of knowledge

Dissemination has been an integral part of the project. A Boosting Baltic project homepage was set up immediately at www.scanbalt.org/boosting, including a project extranet for partner's internal use. In September 2006 the electronic guide and partners search guide was launched at the ScanBalt web. All results were disseminated through news stories, flyers, workshops and presentations (see WP 10 description on page 8-9 for more details)

3. Publishable results

Not relevant for our project – our publishable results are not scientific.