

## Baltic Leadership Programme: A boost for projects in clean shipping



*Participants of the Baltic Leadership Programme in Clean Shipping developed their strategic project development skills.*

*Photo: Ditte Folke Henriksen*

The maritime sector of the Baltic Sea Region is facing significant challenges to become greener and cleaner as new environmental regulations are entering into force in the coming years. Converting to cleaner technology and practices can be difficult for a sector, which is financially challenged these years. At the same time, the conversion to cleaner shipping can be a business opportunity for manufacturers of maritime equipment and service providers in our region.

This forms the background for the considerable interest to participate in the Baltic Leadership Programme in Clean Shipping. The programme was seen as an opportunity to gather maritime stakeholders from all relevant parts of the sector and from the entire region to collectively develop their skills within project creation, management and leadership and to form a strong network of future decision makers, who can work together to make the Baltic Sea region a model region for clean shipping.

The programme had room for 26 participants and participants were selected not only on the merits of their personal career, but also on the ability of their respective organisations to contribute to the advancement of clean shipping in the Baltic Sea Region and on their current or possible future ability to contribute to the aims of the EUSBSR. The selected participants included representatives of e.g. the maritime equipment industry, ship owners, ports, NGO's, public authorities and academia and all Baltic Sea region countries were represented in the group.

The Baltic Leadership Programme consists of two modules. The first took place in Malmö, Sweden in September

2014 and the second one in Brussels in October 2014. During the first module participants primarily strived to develop their strategic project development skills. Further, they were also given skills to overcome cultural barriers that many face when implementing transnational projects. Two study visits to front-runner actors with the aim to provide inspiration for new projects were conducted to the Port of Trelleborg and to engine producer MAN Diesel and Turbo in Copenhagen.

The participants left the course with a toolbox of instruments to create projects providing environmental solutions for the maritime sector. The second module of the course focused on the skills to lead an ongoing project and ensure the required financing. The tools and the knowledge gained were highly appreciated; however, according to several participants it was the strong network formed during the Baltic Leadership Programme which is considered most valuable.

The Danish Maritime Authority is convinced that the Baltic Leadership Programme will boost the interest of project makers to propose initiatives in the field of clean shipping. "The timing of the initiative is well-chosen, as new initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of shipping are required, and as funding for such seems to be within reach. Several funding programmes appear to prioritize cleaner and greener maritime transport in the period 2014-2020." •

***The strong network formed is considered the most valuable***

**FACTBOX**

*The Baltic Leadership Programme on Clean Shipping is a two-week training course in leadership and project management, developed and financed by the Swedish Institute and organised jointly with the Danish Maritime Authority in its capacity as EUSBSR Priority Area Coordinator for Clean Shipping.*

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

*The Baltic Leadership Programme is conducted in cooperation with selected actors involved in the EUSBSR.*

*<https://eng.si.se/> -> Areas of operation -> Exchange and development programmes -> Baltic Leadership Programme*

*Priority Area on Clean Shipping:  
<http://pa-ship.dma.dk>*

*The participants of the Baltic Leadership Programme in Clean Shipping on a windy visit to the port of Trelleborg. This port aims to become the most climate-smart port in the Baltic and has taken part in several cross-border projects. Photo: Ditte Folke Henriksen*

