

BREAD AND FISH

A COMMUNICATION PROJECT IN ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

SOMMERUNIVERSITÄT
RATZEBURG E.V.

We would like to introduce you to "Bread and Fish", a communication project for the whole of the Baltic Sea Region.

This first information handout is intended for interested parties and potential project partners from the academic world, the churches, business communities, and the media and non-government organisations. We are pleased to welcome all partners who wish to join us in developing the project Bread and Fish. This is also an invitation to the Ratzeburg International Summer University "Bread and Fish I" from 1st to 7th August 2005 in Ratzeburg near Lübeck. Further information is available from the contact address below

CURRENT PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

The Baltic Sea and the countries along its coastline are eco-systems, unique in the world. For a long time

it was possible to use them in such a way as to secure the survival of the people in large areas of Europe yet not endanger the continued existence of the eco-systems. Grain from the southern Baltic Sea countries was just as important a trading commodity as herrings from Bornholm and Schonen, and corn from the south was exchanged for iron ore from the north. Fish from the Baltic Sea was one of the most important daily foods in large parts of Europe.

In spite of all the conflicts in the Baltic Sea Region - maritime trade was not allowed to be interrupted. Today the countries bordering on the Baltic Sea are at peace with one another. But what is happening to the sea in their midst?

Over fishing, over-fertilisation, discharges of harmful substances from industry and traffic as well as tourism are putting more and more pressure on the Baltic Sea habitat. Our usage of the sea and the adjoining land is out of balance with stress limits for the maritime environment and its coastlines. Several reports document how little the aims already formulated by the national and European law-makers for the protection of the Baltic Sea have been implemented. All the countries of the Baltic Sea Region

must work closely together in order to save "their" sea.

In this project, the words "Bread" and "Fish" stand for agriculture and fisheries. These two branches of the economy are interdependent and historically account for the prosperity of many Baltic Sea Countries. But if worked too intensively they threaten the survival of the sea. The protection of the Baltic Sea is therefore an important task for all the people in the Baltic Sea Region. The development of this region can only have a future, if the integrity of the Baltic Sea is preserved by way of "strong sustainability"

DEVELOPMENT HISTORY AND THE AIMS OF "BREAD AND FISH"

The idea for "Bread and Fish" was born in early summer 2003 at the symposium, "The Baltic Sea – A Common Heritage and a Common Responsibility", to which the ecumenical patriarchy of Constantinople had invited. It has several aims.

- ▶ To create a common ethos towards sustainability in the countries of the Baltic Sea Region.
- ▶ To better understand the conflict between ecology and economy that affects both agriculture and fisheries.
- ▶ To give new momentum to the development of model projects in the fishing industry, agriculture and other closely connected branches of the economy.
- ▶ To encourage encounters and the exchange of ideas between farmers and fishermen and women about common problems and mutual responsibility for the protection of the Baltic Sea.
- ▶ To implement "Bread and Fish Festivals" to reinforce communication and as an innovative form of event in many towns and cities in the Baltic Sea Region.
- ▶ To work on a model of "strong sustainability" to include the environmental ethical positions of churches of all denominations in the Baltic Sea Region.

AN INNOVATIVE FORM OF EVENT AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CHURCHES.

The project title “Bread and Fish” is a reminder of biblical stories in which these symbols play a central role. For example the miracle of the loaves and fishes can also be interpreted as a story about sharing. It has to do with shortage and abundance and how to deal with both material and spiritual resources.

From 2009 at the latest, so-called “Bread and Fish Festivals” will take up this parable. “Bread and Fish Markets” will be held in front of the large cathedrals around the Baltic Sea. In creative ways, attracting the attention of the general public, bread and fish will be offered for sale that have been produced under conditions that take sustainability seriously. Each market should be part of a programme that includes cultural and political events and special services. Discussions, performances, fishing boat trips, exhibitions and much more will work towards the protection of the Baltic Sea.

The churches of the Baltic Sea Region will send out invitations to the “Bread and Fish Festivals”

in close cooperation with local partners from the academic and business communities, political parties, the administration and non-government organisations. They will be supported by professional, internationally-coordinated and well-substantiated factual information and public relations work, and will make their logistics especially rooms and meeting places available for the events.

With the help of the media the “Bread and Fish Festivals” will develop into firmly established cultural events radiating out from the large ports and Hanseatic cities around the Baltic Sea.

SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2005: “BREAD AND FISH”

The communication project “Bread and Fish” will be launched with three public Summer Universities and further workshops. The target group are all those interested in the protection of the sea and the sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.

The first of these Summer Universities will be held from 1st to 7th August 2005 in Ratzeburg near Lübeck.

The main focus this year will be on the subject of fishing. Aspects of the subject will be considered from a cultural and historical, economic, political and ecological point of view in lectures, group work, and panel discussions, as well as in short devotional services, in celebrations and, last but not least, in artistic activities. The programme has been put together so that it stands in its own right even without the framework of Bread and Fish.

The Ratzeburg Summer University has developed a conference model of its own. that enables existential and emotional access to the subject. In their contributions the speakers relate to the central concepts of responsibility, justice, humility, love, wonder, recognition and blessing. This enables the specific logic of the expert contributions from each discipline to be overcome in a communicative way. Personal opinions should be articulated, which is essential for the trans-disciplinary discourse we are seeking. Besides providing the scientific and academic basis for the several year project “Bread and Fish”, and working on its further conceptual development, the Summer University 2005 should serve to form networks, to agree on the next steps and to

plan the workshops that should follow. For this purpose a joint declaration will be drawn up and adopted.

ON THE COSTS AND FINANCING OF THE PROJECT

The entire project “Bread and Fish” requires comprehensive preparation at many levels for it to be successfully realised in the Baltic Sea states and churches.

For this reason, from 2006 financial assistance will be applied for from the EU. The application will be prepared in 2005.

DURATION OF THE PROJECT “BREAD AND FISH”

Preparatory phase (venue is always Ratzeburg)

Summer University 2005:
Main focus: fishing

Summer University 2006:
Main focus: agriculture

Summer University 2007:
Consolidation of the issues of the Summer Universities 2005/2006, as well as a

focus on environmental communication (possibly in connection with an international Children's Summer University on the subject of "Bread and Fish".

Summer 2008:

Fishing boat tours and touring exhibitions in preparation for the following years.

From 2009:

Running annual, internationally-coordinated "Bread and Fish Festivals" in a growing number of Baltic Sea towns and cities.

CO-OPERATION PARTNERS

a) Churches

▶ Theobalt

(Network Theology in the Baltic States, www.theobalt.org), Visby/Gotland, has official contact to church disseminators of all denominations in the Baltic Sea Region.

▶ Northelbian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lübeck

There are good prospects for support from more churches in the Baltic Region and this will be continually developed further.

b) Universities

Academic consultancy and participation in the project group:

▶ Greifswald University

(Prof Dr Konrad Ott, Dr Frank Döring, Iris Laforet)

In the fields of Environmental Philosophy and Economy, and Fisheries

▶ Hamburg University

(Prof Dr Hans-Jürgen Koch),
Research centre for Environmental Law
(Prof Dr Wolfgang Grünberg),
Section: Church and town

▶ Hannover University

(Prof Dr Hansjörg Küster)
in the field of Ecology and History of the Environment

▶ Lueneburg University

(Prof Dr Gerd Michelsen, Dr Maik Adomßent)
In the field of Environment Communication

▶ Trondheim University

(Prof Dr Sigurd Bergmann),
Research centre for Environment, Citizenship and Religion

Contacts to further universities and institutes in the Baltic Sea Region are in preparation.

c) Business and professional associations, companies

Contacts are being made, especially through the Chambers of Industry and Commerce in the Baltic Sea Region.

d) Non-government organisations

Contacts have been made and co-operation agreements have been drawn up or are in the process of being negotiated with: Children of the Baltic, Coalition Clean Baltic, Greenpeace, Levende Hav (DK), Baltic Sea Youth Conference, WWF.

e) Government and Administrative Offices

The following have expressed interest or their intention to cooperate:

▶ Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

▶ Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Vilm Island

▶ Schleswig-Holstein Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Agriculture;

▶ Schleswig-Holstein Office for Nature and the Environment.

Further contacts, including international ones, are being made

to state and European offices responsible for the protection of the Baltic Sea.

AGENCY IN CHARGE, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROJECT

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