top of digital
Europe

ICT Think Tank
for the Baltic Sea Region

Approach

- use applied, transparent, and fact-driven research and analysis from top experts in the field

- deliver analysis and policy recommendations through reports, white papers, and articles

- facilitate dialogue through conferences, seminars, and round table discussions

The Baltic Sea Region holds a unique position but needs initiatives like this where public and private sectors join forces to explore complementarities and opportunities across the borders."

Jørgen Abild Andersen,
Chair of Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policy, OECD

Mission

- identify key issues and develop solutions related to ICT as a growth driver and the digital economy

- strengthen competitiveness through innovative cross-border actions

- influence regional, national, and European decision and policy makers

- be agenda-setting by creating and stimulating a dynamic discussion on growth through ICT thereby influencing the regulatory framework

- adapt BSR experiences and competences to other parts of Europe and the world, and facilitate exchange of ideas and inspiration

" *The Nordic region continues to be the trendsetter and the pioneer in what will be the future economy. We saw it already in the 1980s when the Nordic countries were the first to develop their mobile networks. Today, when we look at the use of information and communication technology in governments as well as businesses, we can see that the Nordic countries are still the trendsetters, more than any other region of Europe."*

Toomas Hendrik Ilves,
President of Estonia

" *ICT is one of the future key growth drivers in the region. We need to focus on jobs and growth in our cooperation and the ICT sector is crucial to all of us. We need to work hard to keep our digital and ICT leadership in Europe and in the world. With Top of Digital Europe we hope to inspire regional cooperation."*

Lene Espersen,
Chairman of Baltic Development Forum

Top of Digital Europe is a neutral, non-profit think tank that promotes the Baltic Sea Region as a leader in the ICT sector. Top of Digital Europe facilitates dialogue on how this role can be strengthened and provides concrete recommendations as to how this role can be pursued and how to further fuel the digital economy.

Top of Digital Europe was established in 2014 on the initiative of BDF and Microsoft and launched – supported by Siemens - at the BDF Summit in Turku, June 2014. The think tank is independent, transparent, and has regional focus and legitimacy.

The ICT sector is a key driver for growth and competitiveness. The countries in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) have established themselves as front runners in many aspects of the ICT sector and over the last decade have succeeded in attracting huge foreign direct investments in this competitive sector. The BSR is still among the world leading ICT regions with high level competences, talents, start-ups, and track record. However, as we are entering a new era with new challenges and tougher global competition, how can the BSR maintain and further develop its leading role?

There is a need to focus on joint business-society opportunities and take action on key areas within the digital economy to continue to be internationally competitive and further growth potential.

Publications

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Launched at the 16th Baltic Development Forum Summit, the first Top of Digital Europe report "Searching for the Micro-Multinationals" explores growth barriers and opportunities of SMEs in the ICT sector and the challenges they face on taking next steps to export.

The next report will focus on ICT skills and whether the educational system is in tune with the needs of the ICT industry for future growth.

Prospective topics to be taken up:

- Talent attraction and retention
- Big Data as a cross-border growth driver for web-entrepreneurs
- How to develop business opportunities with Open Data
- Cross-border e-government services for business and citizens

Searching
for the micro
multinationals

A PwC report on behalf of
Microsoft and Baltic Development Forum

2014

Jan Åkerblom, Patrik Dreber, Magnus Rolgo et al.
2014-06-20

PwC

Microsoft

Baltic Development Forum

Join
Top of Digital Europe

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Companies, organisations, investment agencies, authorities and other public and private actors with an interest in the digital economy can join Top of Digital Europe as co-founders, sponsors, partners or stakeholders.

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The Nordic/Baltic region is one of the world's leading ICT powerhouses. The last decade Microsoft has invested more deeply in the this region than in any other part of the world because we invest where we find great people and technology. However, the region is also facing some challenges. I am convinced that "Top of Digital Europe" will be a source of inspiration to overcome the challenges together."

Nanna-Louise Wildfang Linde,
Assistant General Counsel, Microsoft,
Northern Europe

Top of Digital Europe was launched at the 16th Baltic Development Forum Summit in Turku, Finland, 3-4 June 2014. Top of Digital Europe is part of Baltic Development Forum (BDF) that has for years been driving ICT policy discussions in the Baltic Sea Region.

www.bdforum.org