



“Building and supporting transborder cooperation to secure independent, sovereign, and democratic nations”

*The world has plenty of Think Tanks. What it desperately needs is more Do Tanks.****

PURPOSE

The countries of the Baltic-Black-Caspian region are of geostrategic importance to the international community. The U.S., Europe, Canada and Japan, among others, are increasing their focus on this politically-complex region which links Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

The Baltic-Black-Caspian Sea Initiative (BBCSI) is comprised of a network of NGOs in the Baltic Black Caspian region, U.S. and Canada that has been working in the region for nearly 20 years.

GOAL

The goal of the Baltic-Black-Caspian Sea Initiative is to secure U.S., EU, Canadian and Japanese support and active commitment for a comprehensive regional program, one that builds on the work done in various regional programs, such as GUAM, the International Center for Black Sea Studies, and the newly formed EU’s Eastern Partnership Program. Well-focused external resources supporting an integrated, comprehensive action-oriented program will yield measurable progress on many critical issues.



The Pylyp Orlyk Institute For Democracy (POID), an NGO established in Ukraine in 1990, will serve as the initial Secretariat for the network of NGO’s of the BBCSI in the region.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

- Energy Security
- Economic and Trade Development
- Conflict Prevention and Resolution
- Democratic Leadership Development
- Crisis Management
- Freedom of the Press and Information

This program recognizes that many of the issues facing these nations cross borders, requiring regional solutions and the engagement of civil society.

This program will attack problems comprehensively – not at “the margins” – with a sense of urgency, a sense of competitiveness and a sense of accomplishment among countries across the breadth of the region. Critical mass activities encourage behavior change and allow for realizable, visible results on a “faster track” basis.

The magnitude of the problems facing these nations requires a comprehensive action-oriented program, one that will mobilize the region’s internal capacities. The creation of action networks will include problem-solvers from government, academia, civil society, the commercial sector, and regional and international stakeholders for analyzing problems and implementing solutions.

This program depends on “critical mass” to effect significant change. The best opportunity for building “critical mass” is at the municipal government level, where civil society and government can be intimately engaged in problem-solving and in utilizing “best practices.” This will be supported by a public education component.

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