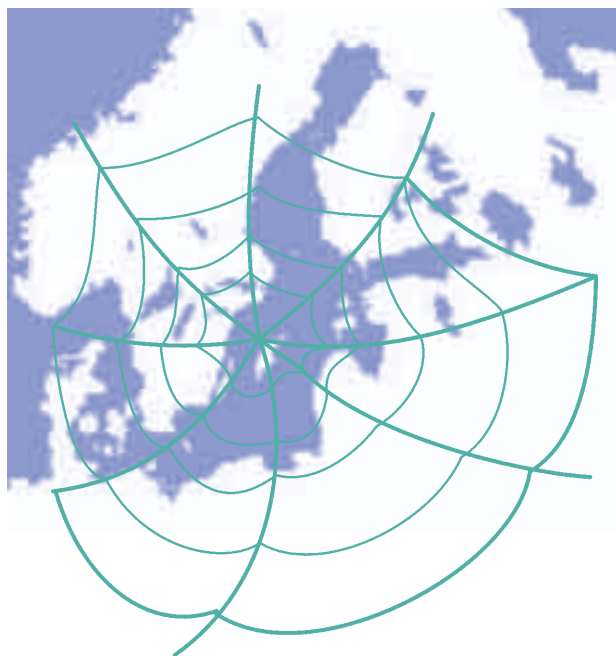


International Conference

The Baltic Sea as an Escape Route



November 16th - November 18th, 2001

Evangelische Akademie Nordelbien/
Protestant Academy Nordelbien

Bad Segeberg, Germany



Refugee Council
Schleswig-
Holstein c.a.

Flüchtlingsrat
Schleswig-
Holstein e.V.

Organizers

Address of organizer:

Flüchtlingsrat Schleswig-Holstein e.V.
Oldenburger Str. 25, D-24143 Kiel,
T. ++49-(0)431-735 000, Fax: ++49-(0)431-736 077
e-mail: baltic.net@frsh.de,
home-page: www.baltic-refugee.net

Co-organizers:



Refugee Council
Schleswig-
Holstein c.a.
(executive)



Refugee Council
Mecklenburg-
Vorpommern c.a.



Heinrich-Böll-
Foundation
Schleswig-
Holstein



Commissioner for
refugees, political asylum
and immigration matters
of the Schleswig-Holstein
provincial parliament

contra

Pilot-Project Against Illegal
Trafficking of Women,
Schleswig-Holstein



Central Advice Centre
for Foreigners in
Schleswig-Holstein c.a.
(ZBBS)

PRO ASYL



EVANGELISCHE
AKADEMIE
NORDELBIE
Bad Segeberg



Alliance of
Development Initiatives,
Schleswig-Holstein c.a.
(BEI)

International partner:



Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented
Migrants, Belgium

Supported by



UNHCR

European
Council on
Refugees and
Exiles

In co-operation with the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation in Berlin and its foundations in the German states Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Rheinland-Pfalz, Brandenburg and Schleswig-Holstein.

Funded by Pro Asyl; the Commissioner for Refugees, Political Asylum and Immigration Matters of Schleswig-Holstein; the Ministry of Justice, Women, Youth and Family Affairs, Schleswig-Holstein through contra – Pilot-Project Against Trafficking of Women.

Beyond National Borders

As a result of national tightening and European harmonizing of the law on asylum and the rights of refugees, **the German Eastern national border as well as the Eastern borders of the E.U.-candidates are being closed.**

Consequently the refugees are forced more and more to make use of commercial flight helpers or to enter the country on dangerous routes. **One of these routes is the Baltic Sea.** Due to this, refugee families are being separated regularly during the flight. Refugee assistance groups are increasingly urged to search for lost relatives beyond national borders.

State security institutions from the countries of the Baltic Sea area **subsume the refugee problem within their jurisdiction under the key terms of "organised crime" and "illegal immigration"**. The border protection structures of the countries in question have been connected and are developing a more and more effective co-operation strategy.

On the other hand the NGOs assisting refugees in the Baltic Sea perceive refugees as human beings seeking shelter. The network and co-operation between these organisations isn't well developed yet. The Conference aims to stimulate such a networking and will bring together persons from Germany, the Nordic Countries, Poland, the Baltic States and Russia who are involved in refugee aid on a voluntary or professional basis. The aim is to facilitate an exchange on practical support of refugees, on current developments regarding the political, legal and social situation of refugees, on future perspectives of migration work and self-help organizations in the Baltic Sea region. Concrete agreements concerning further co-operation should be one result of the conference.

Programme

Friday, 16th November 2001

Arrival until 18.00 h

18.30 h **Dinner**

19.45 h **Opening and introduction** by the organizers; technical information

20.15 h **Europe – quo vadis? – European Asylum and Migration Policies as a Framework of the Development in the Baltic-Sea Region and Eastern Europe** – panel-discussion.
Speakers: Dr. Christian Klos, European Commission, Brussels (inquired); NN, ECRE, Brussels (inquired), Pieter Muller, PICUM, Amsterdam

from ca.
21.30 h **Information Market:** possibility for the participating organisations to present their leaflets and information

Excursion:

Germany as a Country of Destination for Refugees

Participants of the conference coming from abroad will have the opportunity to participate in an excursion during Friday the 16th of November giving information on the situation of asylum seekers in Germany. You are asked to make an extra application. It could be useful to arrive on Thursday the 15th.

Saturday, 17th November 2001

8.00 h **Breakfast**

9.00 to 10.30 h **Refugees in the Baltic States**
The work of the NGOs and the governmental policy on refugees in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.
Speaker: Lyra Vysockiene, UNHCR Lithuania, Vilnius.
Podium with representatives of organizations concerned with refugees from the Baltic States.

11.00 to 12.45 h **Refugees in Poland, Kaliningrad and St.Petersburg**
Speakers: W. Trojan, UNHCR Poland, Olga Osipova, Russian Lawyers' Committee in Defence of Human Rights, Anatoly Shabunin, Caritas Kaliningrad; Discussion with representatives of NGOs from the concerned countries.

13.00 to 15.00 h **Lunch**

15.00 to 16.30 h **Refugees in the Nordic Countries**
The work of the NGOs and the governmental policy on refugees in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland.
Speaker: Fabrice Liebaut, Danish Refugee Council, Copenhagen. Podium with representatives of refugee councils and other NGOs concerned with refugees from the Nordic Countries

16.45 to 18.15 h **Refugee Women**
The Situation of Female Refugees, Gabriela Lünsmann, lawyer, Hamburg
Illegal Trafficking of Women, Claudia Langholz, *contra* Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel

18.30 h **Dinner**

19.30 to 21.00 h **Cooperation of Security Forces in the Baltic Sea Region concerning Flight, Migration and Trafficking**
Mr. Ziercke, Police Department of the Ministry of Interior, Schleswig-Holstein;
"Baltic Sea Task Force" – the Polish Point of View: Mayor Chmurczinski, Polish Embassy, Berlin (inquired); discussion

from ca.
21.00 h **The 10th Jubilee of the Refugee Council Schleswig-Holstein** – party with speeches, buffet, music

Sunday, 18th November 2001

8.00 h **Breakfast**

9.00 to 10.00 h **Harbour – an Eye of a Needle – Flight as a Stowaway on Trading Ships and Boat-People in the Baltic Sea Area**, by AG "Blinde Passagiere/Stowaways", Hamburg, and Refugee Council Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schwerin.

10.15 to 12.15 h **Working-groups**

1. Workshop on Strategies of Organizing Refugee Self-Help and Lobbying for Refugees and Migrants. Martin Link, Refugee Council Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel; N.N., The Voice (inquired)

2. Illegal Trafficking of Women. Claudia Langholz, *contra* Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel; La Strada, Warsaw

3. Female Refugees. Arfasse Gamada, Heinrich Böll-Foundation, Berlin

4. Unaccompanied Minors. Margret Best, Refugee Council Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel; Kay Seligmann, Woge e.V., Hamburg; Wojciech Trojan, UNHCR, Warsaw

5. The Harmonizing of Asylum Law in the EU and its consequences on the Development of Asylum Legislation in the Candidate Countries: Access to the Asylum Procedure, Family Reunification, Integration Programmes. Karl Kopp, Pro Asyl, Frankfurt; Helmut Frenz, Commissioner on Migration Matters of the Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel; Karolina Lindholm, UNHCR liaison-officer Baltic States, Riga

6. Border-Management, Deportation, Detention and Criminalization of Refugee Aid. Dominique John, FFM – Institute of Research on Flight and Migration, Berlin

7. Living Illegally in the East & the West – Support for Migrants Without a Legal Status. Pieter Muller, PICUM, Amsterdam; Marianne Volund, Asylum Group Copenhagen (inquired)
The working groups will be presented in the beginning of the conference.

12.30 to 13.30 h **Lunch**

13.30 to 14.30 h **Evaluation of the Working-Groups Adoption of a Conference-Resolution**

14.45 to 16.00 h **Appointments for Co-operation**
• address-guide for refugees in the Baltic Sea region
• mailing-list and e-group Baltic-Net

Press conference

16.30 h **End of the conference**