

Mange af de traditionelle konkurrenceindikatorer bekræfter Østersøregionens ledende position, men regionens generelle stilling i den globale økonomi fortsætter med langsomt at erodere. "Det nye normale" er en lavere velstandsvækst, og det politiske klima ser ikke gunstig ud for nye ambitiøse samarbejdsinitiativer i regionen, skriver Baltic Development Forum i State of the Region Report 2015: "The Top of Europe – Striving for Direction in a Complex Environment".

Komplekse udfordringer i økonomien falder sammen med en vanskelig politisk situation med spændinger i regionen mellem Vesten og Rusland på grund af Ukraine, men også vanskelige indenrigspolitiske situationer for regeringerne i de nordiske lande begrænser regeringernes evner og vilje til nye ambitiøse indsatser ligesom den nye flygtningesituation har skabt uenighed mellem f.eks. Danmark og Sverige.

Rapporten bemærker også en manglende synlig lyst til at udnytte de eksisterende samarbejdsstrukturer som en platform for iværksættelse af nye fælles ambitiøse initiativer.

"Political leaders across the region seem content with the on-going activities of the established regional structures, where the government bureaucracies are operating under the broad political directions given in the past. With the difficult political situation that many governments face nationally it is probably not a surprise that there are few new initiatives at the level of the region".

Men, fortsætter rapporten, jo længere det regionale samarbejde sættes på autopilot, desto flere muligheder mistes der for at udnytte fordelene ved flere ambitiøse fælles handlinger.

"An important challenge is that many of the current organisational structures underpinning collaboration have been created in a context quite different from the one the region is facing now. This does not make the old organisations obsolete but it creates a need to redefine their role in line with the new realities. And this is a task that requires political leadership; it cannot be delegated or left to the organisations themselves.

Over time there is a danger that with a lack of political leadership the structures for regional collaboration themselves are going to be weakened and lose relevance. This is an outcome that

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the Baltic Sea Region could ill afford”.

[Hele rapporten kan læses her.](#)