

## BALLERINA - Quo Vadis?

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## Purpose & structure

- What is BALLERINA?
- History and background
- The way forward

## What is BALLERINA?

BALLERINA 

[www.baltic-region.net](http://www.baltic-region.net)

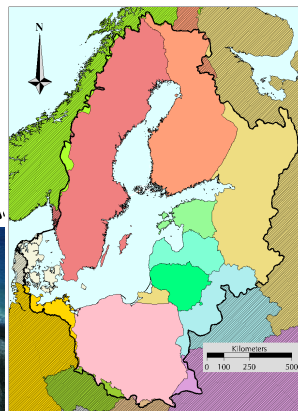
- An acronym
- A transboundary information initiative
- A Special Interest Network
- A ‘top-level’ Internet web site offering information resources and services

## What is BALLERINA?

BALLERINA 

[www.baltic-region.net](http://www.baltic-region.net)

- An acronym
  - BALtic Sea Region on-  
Line  
Environmental  
Information  
Resources for  
INternet  
Access



## What is BALLERINA?

BALLERINA 

[www.baltic-region.net](http://www.baltic-region.net)

- A transboundary information initiative
- Overall aim
  - to contribute to the sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region environment, by improving the availability and accessibility of relevant information on the Internet for decision-making at all levels.

## What is BALLERINA?

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- Objectives
  - To bring more substantive and relevant information on environment and sustainable development from and about the Baltic Sea Region to the Internet
  - To make it easier to find information by offering a user-friendly and comprehensive 'top-level' Baltic Sea Region web site -- the BALLERINA web site.
  - To develop a voluntary personal and institutional network of partners working towards the overall aim of BALLERINA.

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### ■ As a phenomenon: A Special Interest Network

A Special Interest Network (SIN) is a group of people and/or institutions who collaborate to provide comprehensive information about a particular subject by means of various information activities on the Internet

(Green 1994, 1995; Langaas 1998)

## What is BALLERINA?


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### ■ BALLERINA network organisation

- Lead parties (UNEP/GRID-Arendal & Stockholm Marine Research Centre)
- Advisory Board
- Partners
- Funding sources (1996 - 1998); UNEP, EEA, World Bank, MoE Norway, MoE Sweden, Swedish EPA

# What is BALLERINA?

BALLERINA 

www.baltic-region.net

- Capacity Building activities



BALTIC SEA REGION ON-LINE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR INTERNET ACCESS

www.baltic-region.net

**BALLERINA** is the place to go when you seek information on the Baltic Sea Region, have information to provide, or wish to communicate with others in the region. **BALLERINA** is a virtual meeting place, providing an opportunity for persons and institutions to find like-minded in the region.



**BALLERINA** is the result of a co-operative effort to provide comprehensive information about issues on environment, natural resources and sustainable development relating to this transboundary region.

**Welcome to your environmental gateway to the Baltic Sea Region.**

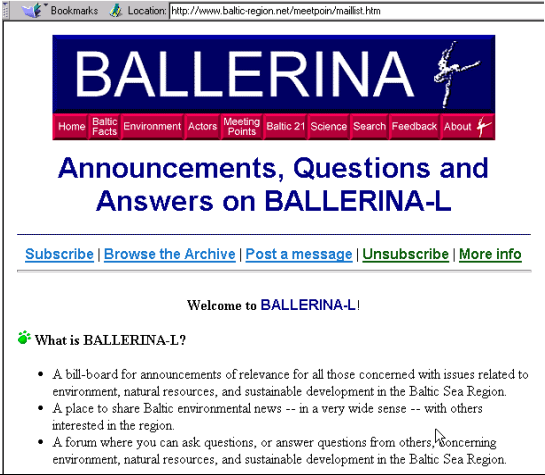
<b>Baltic Facts</b>	- Facts about the 14 <b>countries</b> in the Baltic Sea Region. - Facts about the <b>Baltic Sea and its basins</b> .
<b>Environment</b>	- National and international <b>State-of-the-Environment Reports</b> . - <b>Environmental issues</b> in the region: Acidification, Air pollution, Agriculture, Climate change, Energy, Biodiversity, Eutrophication, Forests, Fish, Fresh water, Spatial planning, Toxic substances, Transport, Waste.
<b>Meeting Points</b>	- A regional <b>calendar</b> for 1997 and 1998. - Coming up: <b>Mailing list</b> for announcements and interactive communication.
<b>Actors</b>	Who is doing what - why and how - in the Baltic Sea Region. <b>Organizations, agencies, networks, agreements, conventions, action plans</b> .
<b>Baltic 21</b>	A special web site about the ongoing work to develop a <b>regional Agenda 21</b> for the Baltic Sea Region.
<b>Science</b>	International <b>science</b> and R&D programmes. Activities in <b>education</b> . News from business and industry on <b>clean technology and new solutions</b> .
<b>Search</b>	- The <b>BALLERINA search engine</b> to search the site. - Information about major <b>changes</b> and updates on the site.
<b>Feedback</b>	- Is BALLERINA user-friendly? Relevant? Terrible? <b>Tell us!</b> - Also: <b>Propose more links</b> and information resources to be included.
<b>About</b> 	Information for the BALLERINA network partners, and for anyone who wants to know <b>more about the BALLERINA initiative and network</b> .

## What is BALLERINA?

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www.baltic-region.net

- Mailing list & announcement forum




The screenshot shows the website interface for ballerina.net. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, Baltic Facts, Environment, Actors, Meeting Points, Baltic 21, Science, Search, Feedback, and About. Below the menu is the main heading "Announcements, Questions and Answers on BALLERINA-L". There are links for "Subscribe", "Browse the Archive", "Post a message", "Unsubscribe", and "More info". A "Welcome to BALLERINA-L!" message is followed by a section titled "What is BALLERINA-L?" with three bullet points describing the site's purpose as a forum for environmental issues in the Baltic Sea Region.

## What is BALLERINA?

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www.baltic-region.net

- Multiple site search facility



The screenshot shows the website interface for ballerina.rec.org. It features a search facility with a text input field for keywords, a dropdown menu for "Find pages with" (set to "all"), and a dropdown for "return" (set to "10" results). Below the search area, there is a list of search results, including "BALLERINA (4/30/98 - 35616)".

## History and background

BALLERINA 

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- The BALLERINA initiative was proposed as a regional response to chapter 40 of Agenda 21, Information for Decision-making
- Concept idea first proposed 1995 with the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN, [www.great-lakes.net](http://www.great-lakes.net)) as model
- Proposal discussed June 96 at Workshop in Stockholm

## History and background

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- BALLERINA web site launched ultimo April 1997
- The First Annual BALLERINA Meeting, Riga, Latvia, May 1997
- The Second Annual BALLERINA Meeting, Rovaniemi, Finland, June 1998

## History and background

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### ■ Justification

- Limited Baltic region environmental information on Internet
- Difficult to find this on-line information
- The Internet - an eco-regional environmental information sharing, networking and decision support tool with great potential

## The way forward

BALLERINA 

[www.baltic-region.net](http://www.baltic-region.net)

### ■ Main challenges

- Fund raising
- Mobilising the forces in the personal & institutional network
- Improving the usability and services on the BALLERINA server