

## Connecting Baltics through Sports:

**5 Teams, 5 Countries, 4 Legs: the Nord Stream Race starts on the 26th of August for the 6th time – 1,000 nautical miles across the Baltic Sea.**

*The Nord Stream Race takes sailors from five nations in eleven days from Kiel via Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsinki to Saint Petersburg. In addition to the sporting competition, the contact between the 50 predominantly young sailors is in the foreground.*

Hamburg, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 - The sixth edition of the Nord Stream Race takes four stages from west to east across the Baltic Sea. Start is in Kiel (Germany), via stations in Denmark, Sweden and Finland it goes to the destination port Saint Petersburg. "Just as we have connected yacht clubs from five different countries with the planning of the boat race course, we want to create a great sense of belonging among the 50 participating sailors", says initiator Vladimir Lubomirov of the organiser St. Petersburg Yacht Club. "With this international yacht race, we want to promote the exchange between the Baltic sailors and show how diverse and great the sailing reef is."

From a historical point of view, the whole of the Baltic Sea region was closely interwoven between the 12th and 17th centuries at the latest. The interests of the merchants were often stronger than the political objectives of the individual countries and had an influence not only on the economic but also on the cultural and social life of the individual countries. Were the well-known shipping and trade routes severely restricted by the World War and the following Cold War in the last century, the entire economic area of the Baltic Sea, with its nine neighboring states, has experienced an upswing since the beginning of the 1990s.

## The Baltic Sea connects millions of sailors and water sportsmen

In addition to professional navigation and numerous ferries, tens of thousands of sailors also use the area between the Skagerrak, the Finnish Sea Bus, and New Bay for extensive sailing and regattas. The numbers are impressive: at the German Sailing Federation more than 1,300 sailing clubs with over 190,000 active sailors are registered, in the much smaller neighboring country Denmark the sailing association has a proud 257 clubs with about 50,000 members. In Sweden, with its more than 3,000 kilometers of coastline, around 1.5 million people spend their leisure time on a boat. In neighboring Finland, with its many thousands of islands and lakes, there are about 750,000 boats estimated - spread over almost 5.3 million inhabitants. The Baltic Sea is one of the most attractive water sports, with many ports, clubs and ships in the individual countries showing how many active water sportsmen there are. Nord Stream AG, the operator of the over 1,200-kilometer-long gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea, extends its support for the established regatta in this and the coming year to promote the exchange between the sailors in the Baltic Sea region.

[www.nord-stream-race.com/eng](http://www.nord-stream-race.com/eng)

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