

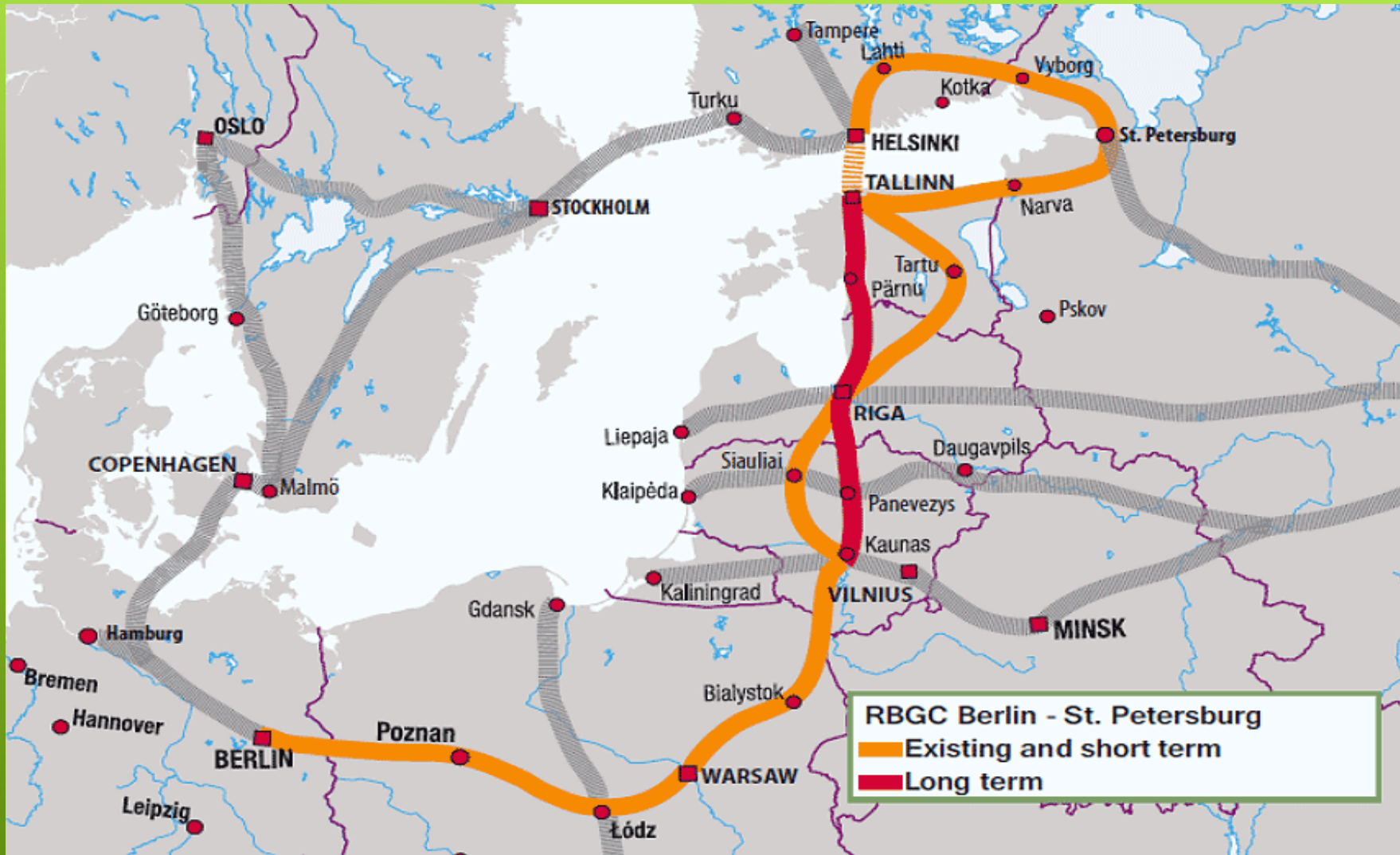
RAIL BALTIC

A CROSS-BORDER EXAMPLE OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE
PROJECT WITH SIDE-EFFECTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

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EUROSAI WGEA meeting in Tirana, 18.10.2017



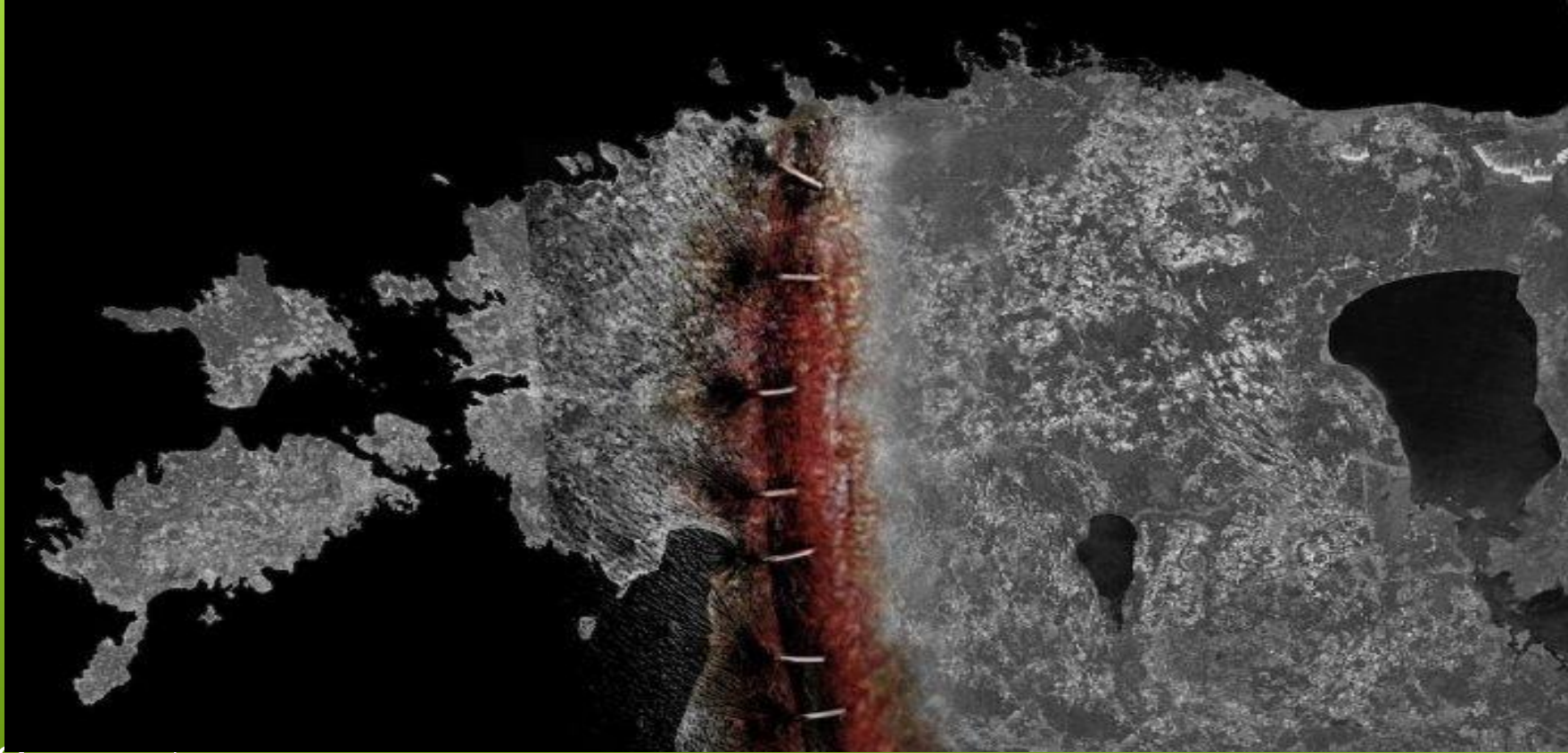
Rail baltic is part of the european union so-called TENT network.

Project is under time-pressure, as EU funds are available only for a limited time.



Proponents:

- RB will connect Baltic countries better with the rest of Europe;
- RB will allow modern and fast train-connection for people;
- RB will bring additional money into our economies;
- RB will significantly reduce GHG emissions of transporting goods.



Opponents:

RB will not help local communities with better connections;

RB will bring financial loss and profit-estimates are flawed, it will be a burden for the state budget;

RB will divert money away from the rest of railway-network;

RB will cut Estonia into half and have huge impacts on environment.



Main environmental concerns:

Protective walls will disturb the movement of people and wild animals;

Loss of biodiversity (forests, wetlands, habitats) and a corresponding threat to NATURA-Network;

Construction will require large amounts of building material and opening of new quarries.



WHAT CAN THE SAIs DO?

- The SAIs of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have concluded an agreement for co-operation on keeping an eye on the Project;
- The SAI of Estonia has audited the procedure of preparing for the Project so far. Main conclusions pointed out the information the decision makers are still lacking and the legality of the procedures.
- The option for a co-operative audit is still open and possible scopes are being discussed.
- Environmental auditors in the SAI of Estonia are keeping an eye on the developments with the environmental impact assessment.

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THANK YOU!