The PhD project on “The Cross-Border Economy of the Cistercian Monasteries of Doberan, Løgum and Pelplin” focuses on the development in medieval times as much as on the development of the monastic estates after the Reformation. Its core questions are on the importance of the Cistercian monasteries for their individual economic surroundings as well as for the wider economic boundaries in the Southern Baltic Sea Region. By analysing three individual monasteries from different political and geographical backgrounds the unifying Cistercian model can be discussed. It can also be argued that the networking of the Cistercians – independent from political borders – did have influence on the cultural and economic relations of the Baltic Sea region in general and that their existence or vanishing therefore had impact on the whole system.