

Euroregion Baltic
 Executive Board Meeting
 12th December 2011
 On-line: Webex



Title Final Minutes

Submitted by SDD, International Permanent Secretariat

Summary / Note This document provides final minutes of the ERB Executive Board on-line meeting which took place on 12th December 2011.

Requested action Signing

Participants: ERB Executive Board

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| Ms Alla Ivanova | ERB President, Minister-Head of Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region |
| Mr Roland Gustbée | ERB Vice-President, Chair of the Board of Regional Council of södra Småland |
| Mr Åke Nilsson | Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Executive Committee of Regional Council in Kalmar County |
| Mr Grzegorz Nowaczyk | Member of ERB Board, Chair of the Association of Polish Communes ERB |
| Mr Per Ole Petersen | Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm |
| Ms Anna Wasilewska | Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board of Warmińsko-Mazurskie |

Participants: ERB Youth Board

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| Mr Irmantas Sujeta | Chair of ERB Youth Board, Klaipeda Region |
| Mr Oliver Rosengren | Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council of södra Småland |

Participants: ERB Secretariats

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| Mr Niels Ch. Andersen | ERB Regional Secretariat, Regional Municipality of Bornholm |
| Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański | Head of ERB International Permanent Secretariat |
| Ms Yana Eremeeva | ERB Regional Secretariat, Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region |
| Ms Mariana Gomez Johannesson | ERB Regional Secretariat, Regional Council of södra Småland |
| Mr Sebastian Magier | ERB International Permanent Secretariat |
| Ms Agata Nazar | Association of Polish Communes ERB, ERB Regional Secretariat |
| Mr Peter Ratcovich | ERB Regional Secretariat, Region Blekinge |
| Ms Joanna Woźniak | ERB Regional Secretariat, Pomorskie Marshal's Office |
| Ms Krystyna Wróblewska | Director of International Cooperation Department, Pomorskie Marshal's Office |
| Ms Wioletta Sokół | Director of International Cooperation Department, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office |
| Mr Piotr Zwolak | ERB Regional Secretariat, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office |

1. **Opening and welcome**

Ms Alla Ivanova, ERB President welcomed the participants and opened the on-line meeting of the ERB Executive Board.

2. **Euroregion Baltic 2012-2013**

Mr Roland Gustbée, ERB Vice-President, gave a presentation on the results of his visits to the ERB member organisations concerning the next programming period 2014-2020, ERB Youth Board, business-to-business project and other issues raised by representatives of the member organisations. Next, Mr Gustbée presented the framework of the ERB Action Plan 2012-2013 including a list of specific questions to be answered by the Executive Board (see attachment: ERB_AP_2012_2013_20111212.ppt).

A discussion ensued during which the participants gave the views and opinions on the information presented by Mr Roland Gustbée.

Ms Alla Ivanova informed the Executive Board that EBR could in its work make use of two additional instruments: i.e. the Lithuania-Poland-Russia ENPI Cross-border Co-operation Programme (as a source of funding for the implementation of the Youth Board and/or B2B projects) and SEBA (Programme of modernisation of the South Eastern Baltic Area) implemented by the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Mr Per Ole Petersen, Member of ERB Executive Board stressed the importance of tackling labour market challenges in the ERB area. Mr Niels Chresten Andersen pointed out that ERB should consider all geographically relevant cross-border cooperation instruments and proposed that these include South Baltic, Lithuania-Poland-Russia, and Lithuania – Poland programmes.

Mr Per Ole Petersen and Mr Grzegorz Nowaczyk inquired about the financial consequences related to the introduction of a permanent coordination structure for the Youth, as proposed in the framework of the Action Plan, indicating internal procedures within the member organisations can be complicated and time consuming. Mr Gustbée explained that in his estimates such a structure should cost less than a half of the current joint budget.

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen said Bornholm remains of the earlier presented opinion that the Youth Board should be supported through the European Voluntary Service. Referring to a new youth project, he agreed it should be related to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Action Plan, and possible inclusion of the ERB Youth Board in it. He then asked Mr Peter Ratcovich about further involvement of Blekinge in the preparation of a youth project.

Mr Peter Ratcovich explained Blekinge is working on a regional youth project and that the ERB Youth Board is welcome to participate in it but such participation would have to be financed through e.g. Youth In Action Programme. He also said Blekinge remains in contact with the Priority Area Coordinator dealing with Priority Area 12.

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański said IPS has very limited information about Blekinge's dialogue with the PAC and no knowledge of what seems to be the obstacles in including the ERB Youth Board in the EUSBSR Action Plan. He repeated a proposal to ask the ERB Executive Board for political support and invite its members into the process.

The Executive Board approved the framework of the ERB Action Plan 2012-2013 and requested the International Permanent Secretariat to prepare a detailed draft Action Plan 2012-2013 by 19th December 2011, so that it could be submitted to ERB member regions for internal discussions before the end of the year.

Concerning the dates of ERB Executive Board meetings, the participants agreed that the first meeting of the Board should still be held on 9-10th February 2012 in Växjö, Sweden. The second meeting of the Executive Board and Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders is scheduled for 13th June 2012 on Bornholm. Finally, the third meeting will be held in Klaipeda, Lithuania between 22-26th October 2012.

The Executive Board also agreed that a meeting of business organisations will be held in February with the aim of continuing the preparation of a B2B project. Its location (Växjö or Gdańsk) will be defined in the Action Plan.

3. **Other Information**

Information was presented about possible cooperation between the ERB Youth Board and the Four Corner Youth Assembly. Mr Irmantas Sujeta is in contact with the coordinator from Rugen discussing the organisation of the first meeting between the two organisations.

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański informed that Euroregion Baltic was invited to be part of the cooperation agreement with the Committee of the Regions alongside three other organisations: Baltic 7 Islands, BSSSC and Union of the Baltic Cities. The cooperation will among others enable ERB to be in regular contact with the CoR, dialogue with the European Commission and the Associations of Regional and Local Authorities, participation in joint work concerning the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and Northern Dimension. More information and the text of the agreement will be soon forwarded by email.

The ERB Executive Board took note of the information, welcoming and supporting these initiatives.

4. **Closing**

Ms Alla Ivanova, ERB President, closed the online meeting of the ERB Executive Board.

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Alla Ivanova
President of Euroregion Baltic

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Roland Gustbée
Vice-President of Euroregion Baltic