

Euroregion Baltic
 Executive Board Meeting
 Bright Park Bornholm
 Nexö, Bornholm
 14th June 2012



Title Final Minutes
Submitted by SDD, International Permanent Secretariat
Summary / Note This document provides final minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place in Nexö, Bornholm on 14th June 2012.
Requested action Signing

ERB Executive Board

Mr Roland Gustbée ERB President, Chair of the Board of Regional Council of södra Småland
 Mr Wiesław Byczkowski Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Pomorskie Region
 Ms Monica Haider Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council of södra Småland
 Ms Akko Karlsson Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Kalmar County
 Mr Martin Sten Jörgensen Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
 Mr Per Ole Petersen ERB Vice-President, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm

ERB Youth Board

Mr Oliver Rosengren Chair of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council of södra Småland
 Mr Hmida Benatallah Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council in Kalmar County
 Mr Karl Holst Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council in Kalmar County
 Mr Rasmus Hounisen Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
 Mr Mathias Juhl Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
 Mr Mateusz Kryżba Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
 Mr Marcin Popiela Member of ERB Youth Board, Pomorskie Region
 Ms Henrieta Serrate Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council of södra Småland

ERB Secretariats & Guests

Mr Niels Ch. Andersen ERB Secretariat, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
 Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański Head of ERB International Permanent Secretariat
 Ms Carolina Gunnarsson ERB Water Core Group, Regional Council in Kalmar County
 Ms Therese Magnusson ERB Secretariat, Regional Council of södra Småland
 Mr Jan Martinsson Regional Council in Kalmar County
 Mr Radek Matczak Director of Department of Regional and Spatial Development, Pomorskie Marshal's Office
 Ms Joana Pinheiro Nätverket SIP, södra Småland
 Mr Johnny Winther-Holbech Job Center Bornholm
 Ms Joanna Woźniak ERB Secretariat, Pomorskie Marshal's Office
 Ms Krystyna Wróblewska Director of International Cooperation Department, Pomorskie Marshal's Office
 Mr Piotr Zwolak ERB Secretariat, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office

08.30
08.35

1. Welcome

The host of the meeting, Vice-President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Per Ole Petersen welcomed the participants of the meeting.

08.35
08.40

2. Opening

President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Roland Gustbée opened the meeting.

08.40
08.40

3. Adoption of the agenda

Euroregion Baltic President, Mr Roland Gustbée presented the agenda.

ERB Executive Board members approved the agenda and appointed ERB President and Vice-President to co-sign the minutes.

08.40
08.45

4. Adoption of the minutes of the previous ERB Board meetings

ERB IPS submitted the minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place in Möckelnäs Herrgård on 10th February 2012.

ERB Executive Board members approved the minutes which were signed by ERB President. ERB Board member, Ms Alla Ivanova was not present and the minutes will be posted to her for signing.

08.45
09.30

5. Presentation

Pomorskie Region is in the process of drafting its new regional development strategy. Mr Radek Matczak made a presentation of the new strategy as part of its international consultation process (see attachment: Board_PomorskieStrategy_Presentation.pdf).

He asked the ERB Board to send in written comments and proposals regarding the Strategy's international aspect and possible cooperation areas whose exemplary list is as follows:

- stronger internationalisation of universities and tighter education links,
- common research programmes,
- support for promising cross-border / transnational structures,
- common and efficient management of labour force flows,
- creating South Baltic offer and image in the area of tourism and culture,
- full integration of TEN-t and development of external accessibility hubs,
- better coordination of energy markets and energy systems,
- better environment and risk management.

ERB Executive Board members complimented Pomorskie on their work on the new strategy and were positive to the invitation to be part of the strategy consultation process. IPS was asked to distribute the presentation among the regions who will then attempt to offer their view on possible cooperation areas.

09.30
10.10

6. **ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan** **ERB As Tool To Tackle Common Challenges**

09.30
10.00

- 6.1 → Action: addressing labour market challenges (cross reference to ERB As A Political Tool → Internal Action: reinforcing stakeholder approach through continuous dialogue and information exchange)

Euroregion Baltic President, Mr Roland Gustbée opened a discussion in order to gather first comments after the Forum and share ideas on how ERB should follow up on the Forum.

A discussion followed during which the learning aspect of the Forum was highlighted giving the opportunity to find out more about key platforms and projects within the areas of labour market and youth unemployment. Ideas were shared:

- that a dialogue should be initiated with main stakeholders and decision makers in the areas of labour market and youth unemployment,
- that politicians dealing with the issues in the regions should be invited to the next ERB Board meeting,
- that ERB should also look beyond its geographical scope for good solutions implemented in e.g. Great Britain and Finland.

Danish delegation presented a formal proposal for Euroregion Baltic:

1. to be a facilitator, involving relevant politicians and specialists directly involved in labour market issues and inviting them to the first ERB Board meeting in 2013,
2. to establish a labour market task force to help ERB act as a facilitator and hold the meeting,
3. to ask the task force to prepare the terms of reference for its work which will promptly prepare concrete proposals to the ERB Board (including applying for an observer status at Baltic Sea Labour Forum, considering an EURES status, looking for closer relations with Young Enterprise Network, elaborating a concrete project proposal to combat youth unemployment by means of education and internship, and submitting it to the South Baltic CBC Programme).

Danish delegation offered to prepare the Terms of Reference by the end of August.

Chair of ERB Youth Board, Mr Oliver Rosengren said ERB Youth Board will appoint their representative to the new task force.

Head of IPS, Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański asked the ERB Executive Board to close two of the current ERB task forces: one dealing with a joint project (its work could be strictly related to the new task force on labour market) and the other preparing Forum of ERB Stakeholders (task dealt with by all the ERB secretariats in fact).

ERB Executive Board members agreed that Euroregion Baltic should apply for the observer status at the Baltic Sea Labour Forum and attend their annual event in the autumn this year. They also decided to establish a new ERB task force on labour market issues and close two existing ones: on ERB Forum and on a joint project. ERB Executive Board asked the ERB Secretariat on Bornholm to prepare draft Terms of Reference for the new task force in good time for the IPS to edit it and send it out by the end of August.

10.00
10.05

6.2 → Action: facilitating water cooperation

Ms Carolina Gunnarsson, representative of the ERB Water Core Group informed the ERB Executive Board of recent developments within the ERB Water Core Group and Moment project. Water User Partnerships, small-scale investment in ERB member regions and special status of the moment project in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region were named as the best results of the cooperation. Lately, Mr Hmida Benatallah, representative of ERB Youth Board joined the Water Core Group. In the coming months two events will be organised:

- Water Core group seminar on 4th September,
- ERB Water Forum in Sweden between 27 and 29th November.

Additionally, Water Core Group will also ask ERB Executive Board members to fill in questionnaires which will later be used in the preparation of conclusions and recommendations for future water cooperation to be presented at the beginning of 2013.

ERB Executive Board members took note of the information.

10.05
10.10

6.3 → Action: facilitating business to business links

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański, Head of IPS informed the ERB Executive Board of recent developments with reference to ERB's role as a facilitator in improving B2B links among SMEs in the cooperation area. ERB failed to find within the EEN network funds to start a prompt project to support this work. As a result, IPS will now begin preparing an information package on the SME sector in ERB regions, based on the experience of Mr Lars Albak from Business Centre Bornholm gathered during his visit to the region of Warmia and Masuria.

ERB Executive Board members took note of the information.

10.10
10.20

7. Coffee break

10.20
10.50

8. ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan
ERB As A Political Tool

10.20
10.40

8.1 → External Action: intensifying ERB's participation in the implementation of ETC and ENPI programmes in the BSR

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen, Leader of ERB Task Force on EU Cohesion Policy presented information on the recent work within the Task Force. A discussion followed during which the importance of further ERB involvement in the work on the future of European Territorial Cooperation was stressed.

ERB Executive Board members approved the recommendations of the Task Force included in point 1 of the attached document (TF_June2012_tasks_20120608.doc), thus extending the mandate for the Task Force to continue its work.

10.40
10.45

8.2 → External Action: participating in the implementation of EUSBSR

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański, Head of IPS informed the ERB Executive Board of activities taken so far with reference to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, including the participation in EUSBSR events and the preparations for the INVOLVE project.

Mr Jan Martinsson of the Regional Council in Kalmar County informed the ERB Executive Board that the INVOLVE project was rejected by the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007 – 2013 and will not be implemented. He also said that the Regional Council in Kalmar County alongside the Regional Council in Västerbotten will continue to lead the new EUSBSR horizontal action on the strengthening multi-level governance, place-based spatial planning and sustainable development.

ERB Executive Board members took note of the information.

10.45 8.3 → External Action: holding dialogue with EC, EP, CoR and regional
10.50 offices in Brussels, as well as BSR organisations

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański, Head of IPS informed the ERB Executive Board of the initiatives taken to facilitate dialogue between ERB and other Baltic Sea organisations. Two documents had been prepared and signed: Declaration of Common Interest between the Committee of the Regions and Baltic Sea organisations (including ERB), and joint paper on EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by six Baltic Sea organisations (including ERB).

ERB Executive Board members took note of the information.

10.50 9. ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan
11.50 ERB As A Political Tool

10.50 9.1 → Internal Action: integrating further the ERB Youth Board (cross
11.45 reference to ERB As A Common Tool To Tackle Common Challenges
→ empowering youth)

Mr Oliver Rosengren, Chair of the ERB Youth Board presented two proposals:

- to change the “brand” of the ERB Youth Board into “Youths of Euroregion Baltic” in external communications; in other words ERB Youth Board will remain the official name of the structure within ERB while “Youths of Euroregion Baltic” will be used to communicate with the outside world,
- to establish an indexed youth fee for the ERB member regions in order to finance a permanent Youth Secretariat.

A discussion followed aiming at defining the coordination of work within the ERB Youth Board followed by a presentation by Ms Joana Pinheiro of Nätverket SIP in södra Småland who talked about the EVS programme and answered the questions from the ERB Executive Board.

During the discussion no consensus was reached as to the proposal of increasing membership fees in order to support a permanent coordination structure for the ERB Youth Board. Instead, the participants proposed that the coordination of work within the ERB Youth Board can be shared by all the regions by means of their own administrative resources. Ms Akko Karlsson informed that Kalmar has a number of effective and running youth exchanges in the region through the European Voluntary Service (EVS) and proposed that Kalmar can help to organise such an EVS exchange for a volunteer working for the ERB Youth Board.

ERB Executive Board agreed to the proposal of changing the "brand" of the ERB Youth Board into "Youths of Euroregion Baltic" and rejected the proposal of establishing an indexed youth fee for the ERB member regions in order to finance a permanent Youth Secretariat. Instead, ERB Executive Board members indicated, ERB member regions should share the burden of coordination by means of their own administrative resources. In addition, ERB Executive Board accepted the offer from ERB Board member, Ms Akko Karlsson of Kalmar hosting the ERB EVS exchange in the future. To this end, ERB Executive Board asked ERB Youth Board, Kalmar and IPS to work together towards the preparation of an EVS application.

11.45 9.2 → Internal Action: reinforcing stakeholder approach through
12.15 continuous dialogue and information exchange

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen, Leader of ERB Task Force on EU Cohesion Policy presented information with reference to the EU regulation on European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation which is under revision before the new programming period. A discussion followed during which different aspects of the EGTC status application were discussed.

ERB Executive Board members approved the recommendations of the Task Force included in point 2 of the attached document (TF_June2012_tasks_20120608.doc), thus extending its mandate to also monitor the development of the EGTC regulation.

12.15 9.3 → Internal Action: reinforcing stakeholder approach through
12.30 continuous dialogue and information exchange

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański, Head of IPS informed the ERB Executive Board of the activities held with the aim of reinforcing stakeholder approach through continuous dialogue and information exchange and related to regular interaction of ERB secretariats.

President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Roland Gustbée gave a short information on his meeting with the new Chair of Klaipeda Region Association, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas during which the Lithuanian partners expressed their interest to willingness to actively participate in the ERB cooperation and to host the next meeting of the ERB Board on 29-30 October 2012. President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Roland Gustbée proposed that a payment planned until 2014 is developed and agreed with Klaipeda Region Association enabling the Lithuanian partners to pay all outstanding fees.

Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański, Head of IPS presented a proposal concerning the functioning of the International Permanent Secretariat, which had been earlier agreed with the Association of Polish Communes. The proposal was as follows:

- between 1 July and 31 December 2012 the Association of Polish Communes remains the hosting party for IPS;
- the Association procures services from Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański and pays him monthly fees;
- the monthly fee includes the 2012 resources planned for: salary, travel & meetings, and webex subscription while telephone and internet, ERB Youth money, banking charges will remain on the Association's account; all the IPS budget will constitute a guarantee for the payment of monthly fees (given the fact that IPS has not yet received the Capacity refund or membership fees from Kaliningrad and Klaipeda);

- between 1 July and 31 December 2012 ERB stakeholders will discuss the appointment of a new hosting organisation for IPS which will start as of 1 January 2013.

ERB Executive Board members took note of the information provided, and agreed to the proposal of preparing a payment plan for Klaipeda Region Association. ERB Executive Board also accepted the proposal concerning the IPS operation as presented by Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański, Head of IPS, stressing that effective and pragmatic solutions need to be found to the employment of Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański considering financial flows, administrative approach and supervision by ERB Executive Board.

12.30 **10. Summary and Closing**
12.35

President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Roland Gustbée closed the meeting expressing his gratitude to the hosts, the Regional Municipality of Bornholm for the excellent effort put into the organisation of the 3rd Forum of ERB Stakeholders and ERB Executive Board meeting.

12.30 **11. Lunch**
13.30

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Mr Roland Gustbée
ERB President

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Mr Per Ole Petersen
ERB Vice-President