



Seagull II

EUROREGION BALTIC

INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

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REPORT OF THE SEAGULL 2 STUDY VISIT AND THE MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date and Place:

2nd June 2006, 09.00 – 17.30 hours (local time), Karlskrona

Participants:

ERB Board / Seagull 2 Steering Committee

Mikhail Pluhin	ERB President, Chairman of the Seagull 2 Steering Committee, Russia
Irina Rozova	ERB Board member, member of the Seagull 2 Steering Committee, Lithuania
Krystyna Wróblewska	on behalf of Mr Jan Kozłowski, ERB Board member, member of the Seagull 2 Steering Committee, Poland
Bernth Johnson	ERB Vice-President, Vice-Chairman of the Seagull 2 Steering Committee, Sweden
Per Ole Petersem	ERB Board member, member of the Seagull 2 Steering Committee, Denmark
Armands Puzulis	on behalf of Mr Zigo Rutkviskis, ERB Board member, member of the Seagull 2 Steering Committee, Latvia

Seagull 2 Personnel

Niels Chresten Andersen	Seagull 2 Work Package 3 Leader, Bornholm
Ulf Andersson	Seagull 2 Regional Coordinator, Kronoberg
S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański	Seagull 2 Coordinator
Olga Grigoreva	Assistant to Regional Coordinator, Kaliningrad
Victor Koshelev	Seagull 2 Regional Coordinator, Kaliningrad
Dalia Makuskiene	Seagull 2 Regional Coordinator, Klaipeda
Kora Stanczyk	Seagull 2 Work Package 1 Leader, Pomorskie
Sigita Paulaviciene	Seagull 2 Work Package 2 Leader, Klaipeda
Piotr Zwolak	Seagull 2 Regional Coordinator, Warmińsko-Mazurskie

Guests:

Elena Koroleva	Consultant of Department for Co-ordination of Region Representatives Abroad, Government of Kaliningrad Region
Victor Romanovsky	Head of Department for Co-ordination of Region Representatives Abroad, Government of Kaliningrad Region
Natalia Stavitskaya	Head of Financial and Legal Department, Government of Kaliningrad Region

Blekinge in Sweden was the region selected for organizing the first study visit within the Seagull 2 project, following recommendations by the project reference networks.

1. Visit to Telecom City and BBI (Blekinge Business Incubator)

Telcom City is one of the greatest IT clusters in telecommunication sector, founded in 1993. Telcom City is a network consisting of a continuously growing number of different members, it is a good example of triple helix cooperation and public – private partnership: Cooperation between the municipality of Karlskrona, Blekinge Institute of Technology and 50 companies with over 4000 employees (among others: Ericsson, Flextronix, Telia Sonera but also small companies employing less than 10 employees, the smallest one only 5).

Telecom City is run and administered as a municipal project (project management is paid by the municipality). This means that the members of TelcomCity accept that the city handles joint resources according to the rules for the municipal administration and in line with what has been decided by the TelcomCity board of directors. The board (responsible for overall strategic issues) consisting of high level decision makers within the members. Project is co-financed by private companies and the rule is that bigger ones pay more than smaller ones.

The objective of the companies is to generate constant growth of the region the promotion of its competence and competitive advantage. The growth takes place both in numbers of people and in competence, both in the existing companies and in new ones.

The objective of the Institute is to strengthen its position is the most important long term action in order to make TelecomCity an internationally leading development environment. Over the past ten years the number of students with a focus on IT has increased from 100 to 2000. Some research is conducted, mainly in signal processing and telecommunications.

The objective of the municipality is to contribute to the development of Karlskrona so that it can be compared with the growth of other university cities. That means a population growth of about 15-20% up until the year 2020. This factor should greatly influence on the policy of the city, especially in the scope of infrastructure.

2. Visit to Blekinge Business Incubator

(established in 2004 from three formerly existing incubators) is owned by BBI IF (which has its major members from the former incubators Karlskrona Innovtion Center, SoftinCubator and Netport), Blekinge Forskningsstiftelse – a science foundation and ALMI business partners in Blekinge. BBI is co-financed by the region and national government.

BBI is an institution which provides guidance and services to newly established businesses and its main objective is to prepare the innovators to become a successful companies. Services provided by BBI consist of three categories: workspace, Business consulting and coaching, addition services (e.g. accounting, a personal IP, computer rental). There is also a possibility to get the seed capital for starting businesses.

Only about 14% of applying projects is accepted .

At the moment 20 companies within BBI employ 55 people and 4 alumni companies employ about 35 people. (only 3 persons are employed in BBI itself, but they cooperate with a big network of institutions and people)

3. Presentation of projects implemented in Region Blekinge within the framework of crossborder and transnational cooperation, whose subjects relate to the topics of the ERB Joint Development Programme

The Project that will be presented are: Baltic Gateway PLUS, Baltic Master, East West Transport Corridor Project, Baltic Link Association, and the Folkhögskoleproject Blekinge-Kaliningrad.

LUNCH

13.00 – 14.30

BOARD/STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

14.30 – 17.30

*The meeting will be chaired by ERB President, Mikhail Pluhin in the Russian language.
Consecutive translation will be provided by Olga Grigoreva.*

4. General matters

3.1 Approval of the final agenda

*ERB President Mikhail Pluhin will propose the agenda to the Board.
The Board members are requested to approve it.*

3.2 Appointment of a Board member to co-sign the minutes

*ERB President, Mr Mikhail Pluhin and another Board member will be asked to co-sign the minutes from this meeting.
The Board members are requested to appoint a person to co-sign the minutes.*

3.3 Approval of the minutes of the ERB Board meeting on 1st March 2006 and ERB Council on 30th March 2006

Board member Irina Rozva will sign the minutes of the Board meeting that took place on 1st March 2006.

ERB President Mikhail Pluhin and ERB Board member Irina Rozva will sign the minutes of the Council meeting that took place on 30th March 2006.

5. Projects related to ERB cooperation

4.1 Green Circle Schools

*Mr Ulf Andersson will present information on the Green Circle Schools project, which had a final seminar in April in Zelenogradsk, Kaliningrad Region.
The Board members are requested to take note of the information.*

4.2 ERB Youth Games

*Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski will present information on the second edition of the ERB Youth Games that will take place between 8 and 11th June 2006 in Starogard Gdański, Poland. He will also forward the invitation to the Board members, extended by the organisers of the Games.
The Board members are requested to take note of the information.*

6. Proposals for future ERB projects

During his visit to Elbląg, ERB President Mikhail Pluhin debated on ideas for possible future projects that can be jointly implemented in the ERB area in the coming months. Among those discussed were for instance:

- *International project involving representatives of the local and regional administration from the Kaliningrad Region, aiming at transferring expertise and experience in the self-government reforms;*

- *International hockey tournament for old-boys from the ERB regions;*

The Board members are requested to discuss the possibility of implementing these projects within the framework of cooperation between the member regions, including financial capacities, the degree of involvement by the individual regions and tentative dates.

7. ERB in the future Objective 3 programmes

Crossborder and transnational cooperation will for the first time be a separate objective of the EU's structural funds between 2007 and 2013, so called Objective 3. Despite intensive lobbying efforts, a common CBC programme for all the ERB member regions has proven impossible. Therefore, while implementing the goals of territorial cooperation, ERB regions will have to apply for financial assistance through more new programmes, available in the Baltic Sea Region.

The Board members are requested to take note of the information.

6.1 Transnational programme for the Baltic Sea Region 2007-2013

This new transnational programme around the Baltic Sea Region will be the only one enabling all the ERB member regions to participate together. Mr Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski will inform of its proposed contents and geography, placing particular focus on the possibility of implementing the Joint Development Programme actions.

The Board members are requested to take note of the information.

6.2 Crossborder cooperation programmes 2007-2013

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen will present information on the new trilateral crossborder cooperation programme for Denmark, Poland and Sweden, placing particular focus on the possibility of implementing the Joint Development Programme actions.

Mr Armands Puzulis will inform the Board of the new trilateral crossborder cooperation programme for Estonia, Latvia and Sweden, placing particular focus on the possibility of implementing the Joint Development Programme actions.

The Board members are requested to take note of the information.

6.3 ENPI programmes with the Kaliningrad Region

Mr Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski will inform of the possibility for the ERB member region to cooperate with actors from the Kaliningrad Region, within the framework of the programmes financed by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. The shape of these programmes is currently under negotiations with the European Commission.

8. Seagull 2 status

7.1 Reports

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski will present financial information of the implementation of the Seagull 2 project against the background of the output achieved during the first and second Milestones. He will also note on the problems faced during this period.

The Board members are requested to take note of the information.

7.2 Information from the leaders of the project work packages

The Work Package leaders: Kora Stańczyk, Sigita Paulaviciene and Niels Chresten Andersen will present more detailed information concerning project activities that have been carried out and are planned in the coming months.

The Board members are requested to take note of the information.

7.3 Reference networks

One of the problems that have made the project implementation process somewhat complicated is the limited commitment of regional and local intuitions into the construction of partnership within the framework of the project reference networks, which will in turn appoint so called project development teams, responsible for the preparation of projects that relate to the actions recommended by the Joint Development Programme.

A proposal that had been put forward to address the problem suggested requesting the ERB member regions that they lead selected reference networks. In result, Pomorskie Marshal Office declared their patronage over the tourism network, Region Blekinge took responsibility of the transport infrastructure network, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal Office proposed to lead the work of the rural development network. Klaipeda County Governor's Administration decided to support Pomorskie Marshal Office in the leadership of the tourism network. Lately, Pomorskie has also offered to take responsibility of the social reference network.

The methodology applied to the activities performed by the project reference networks also involves the second stage whereby persons are appointed as the network leaders, and three, more staff are appointed as their core teams. Mr Jacek Zdrojewski from the Regional Tourism Organisation of Pomorskie Region is the leader of the tourism network, Mr Bengt Gustafsson of Region Blekinge is the transport infrastructure leader and Mr Jarosław Sarnowski, Director of Rural Development Department of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal Office.

These core groups will become the essential element of the project development teams, relating to the tasks recommended in the Joint Development Programme.

The representatives of the remaining member regions are requested to inform the Board of their intentions regarding possible leadership in the project reference networks.

9. Setting a date for the second Council meeting in Kaliningrad

Following the request by the Polish Party to postpone the second ERB Council meeting in 2006, a proposal is hereby made to organise this meeting on 20th November 2006 in Kaliningrad.

The Board members are requested to recommend the date to the Council.