

Euroregion Baltic
 Executive Board Meeting
 Möckelnäs Herrgård
 Älmhult, Sweden
 9-10th February 2012



Title Draft Minutes

Submitted by SDD, International Permanent Secretariat

Summary / Note This document provides provisional minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place on 10th February in Möckelnäs Herrgård in södra Småland.

Requested action Comments / Subsequent Adoption

Participants: ERB Executive Board

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
Ms Carina Bengtsson	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council of södra Småland
Mr Lennart Förberg	Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Region Blekinge
Mr Åke Nilsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Executive Committee of Regional Council in Kalmar County
Ms Akko Karlsson,	Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Grzegorz Nowaczyk	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Association of Polish Communes
Mr Per Ole Petersen	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Suzanne Svensson	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Swedish Parliament
Ms Anna Wasilewska	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region

Participants: ERB Youth Board

Mr Irmantas Sujeta	Chair of ERB Youth Board, Klaipeda Region
Mr Ahmed Said Benatallah	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Mathias Juhl	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Sissa Pagels	Member of ERB Youth Board, Region Blekinge
Ms Oliver Rosengren	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council of södra Småland
Ms Katarzyna Wasyliszyn	Member of ERB Youth Board, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region

ERB Secretariats

Mr Niels Ch. Andersen	ERB Secretariat, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański	Head of ERB International Permanent Secretariat
Ms Mariana Johannesson	ERB Secretariat, Regional Council of södra Småland
Ms Therese Magnusson	ERB Secretariat, Regional Council of södra Småland
Mr Peter Ratcovich	ERB Secretariat, Region Blekinge
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

Other Organisations:

Mr Peder Bylander	Almi Företagspartner Kronoberg Ab
Mr Marek Dondelowski	Regional Pomeranian Chamber of Commerce
Ms Christina Engdahl	Region Blekinge, trainee in political sciences
Ms Aneta Gozdan-Möller	Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Jan Marinsson	Regional Council in Kalmar County
Ms Marta Piskorz	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Development Agency
Ms Elise Wåhlin	Region Blekinge, project developer

- 08.00 1. **Welcome**
08.05 The host of the meeting, Vice-President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Roland Gustbée welcomed the participants of the meeting.
- 08.05 2. **Opening**
08.10 President of Euroregion Baltic, Ms Alla Ivanova opened the meeting.
- 08.10 3. **Adoption of the agenda**
08.15 Euroregion Baltic President, Ms Alla Ivanova presented the agenda.

The delegation of Region Blekinge requested that the discussion on the youth coordination structure is held before the is moved before the discussion on the ERB Youth Board in the EUSBSR. During the course of the meeting the chair of the meeting decided that the information point on the Involve project will take place after the discussion on the ERB Youth Board in the EUSBSR and be followed by the information on the cooperation with the Baltic Sea organisations, report on the business to business meeting, discussion on the 3rd Annual forum of ERB stakeholders, adoption of the action plan on the EU Cohesion Policy and proposal by the Association of Polish Communes.

ERB Executive Board members approved of all the changes to the meeting agenda.

- 08.15 4. **Adoption of the minutes of the previous ERB Board meetings**
08.20 ERB IPS submitted the minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place in Gdańsk on 27th September 2011 and online on 12th December (see Attachment: 20111212_final_minutes.doc)

ERB Executive Board members approved and signed the minutes of the two previous ERB Executive Board meetings.

08.20
08.30

5. **Activity Report for 2011**

ERB President, Ms Alla Ivanova began by saying that 2011 was not the first year for the Russian delegation to host ERB Presidency but the first one for her personally. The past year was marked by lots of changes including replacement of the ERB President in the middle of the year and she took the opportunity to thank once again Mr. Mihail Plukhin, former Russian ERB member and ERB President, and an active ERB member for many years, who was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting who was. Ms Ivanova stressed that the basic principle of her presidency was to ensure continuity of goals and aim of ERB activities, continuity of their implementation in the framework of Action Plan for 2011-2012. During 2011 a number of position papers were elaborated as a result of joint efforts. They reflect the contribution of Euroregion Baltic in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea and EU Cohesion Policy, as well as consolidated ERB position on the lobbying process and implementation of the flagship projects.

Afterwards, the head of IPS, Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański presented the major events held within the Russian Presidency in 2011, included in the 2011 Activity Report.

Since the report was not delivered in its final form before the meeting, the ERB Executive Board members asked that it is sent together with the minutes of this meeting by 17 February 2012 and then approved in a written procedure within 14 days after submission.

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6. **Transfer of Presidency**

The Russian Presidency within Euroregion Baltic was transferred to the Swedish region of södra Småland and the Chair of the Regional Council, Mr Roland Gustbée who will be the ERB President in 2012. At the same time, Mr Per Ole Petersen representing the Regional Council of Bornholm in Denmark was appointed the ERB Vice-President.

ERB Executive Board members approved the ERB Presidency change.

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7. **ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan**

President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Roland Gustbée presented the background and highlights of the ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan.

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański asked that two changes be introduced to the Action Plan:

- the phrase: "youth cooperation structure" is replaced with "youth coordination structure" in the internal action: integrating further the ERB Youth Board;
- the amount of money refunded from projects (position 11 of the revenues) is reduced to 7000 EUR as so far the Association of Polish Communes has not made a formal decision to be part of the Involve project;
- in consequence, the amount of money for travel and meetings (position 2 of the expenditures) is reduced to 7000 EUR, the amount for personnel costs (position 3 of the expenditures) is reduced to 18 237 EUR and the amount for IT equipment (position 4 of the expenditures) is eliminated totally.

ERB Executive Board approved 2012 - 2013 ERB Action Plan.

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański also informed that he will be discussing with the Association of Polish Communes the new form of employment according to which he will not be an employee of the Association any longer but contracted to do the activities within the job description of the head of ERB International Secretariat.

Member of the Executive Board, Mr Per Ole Petersen asked for more information on the new terms of employment when it is available.

08.55
09.05

8. **Transfer of Chairmanship in ERB Youth Board**

The outgoing Chair of the ERB Youth Board, Mr Irmantas Sujeta presented a short report on the main activities within the Youth Board in 2011.

Afterwards, the chairmanship within the ERB Youth Board was passed on to Mr Oliver Rosengren representing the Regional Council of södra Småland. At the same time, Mr Rasmus Hounisen representing Bornholm was elected the Vice-Chairman of the ERB Youth Board.

ERB Executive Board members approved the chairmanship transfer.

09.05
09.20

9. **2012 Priorities of ERB Youth Board Action Plan**

The new Chair of the ERB Youth Board, Mr Oliver Rosengren made a short presentation of the 2012 priorities of the 2011 - 2012 Action Plan. He said that during 2012 the Youth Board will work both internally and externally. Internally the main focus will be to work for a stable and continuant organisation. Youth Board administration needs to be permanent. I will also prioritise making the Youth Board independent from its project (projects cannot define whether the Youth Board is able to work or not). Externally, the Chair will pursue the vision of dual activation: Youth Board, as a central function for coordination and follow-up will work with common goals and concepts for actions. The Youth Board will take decisions concerning frameworks for regional activities. The goal is that every Youth Board member will lead activities in his or her region, e.g. networks for young entrepreneurs and youths engaged in society through for example politics or NGOs. Mr Oliver Rosengren also pointed out that the Youth Board shall work with development and cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, asking the ERB stakeholders for support to this vision, goals and actions in order to break whatever borders still exist between our youths.

ERB Executive Board members took note of the information.

09.20
09.40

10. **Report on the ERB Youth Board meeting on 9th February**

Chair of the ERB Youth Board, Mr Oliver Rosengren presented a short report on the meeting held on the previous day. Information was given about the invitation from Region Blekinge to the ERB Youth Board to be part of their regional project. ERB Youth Board informed they are interested and will follow further developments (decision on the project expected after 16th March) but have not given definite answer.

Mr Irmantas Sujeta also presented a new ERB Youth Board logo which was finally accepted by all the members of the Youth Board at their meeting the day before.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented and agreed that the ERB Youth Board can use their new logo until the final decision will be taken by the ERB Executive Board in June

- 09.40
10.10
11. **ERB Youth Board Coordination Proposal**
(ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → Internal Action: integrating further the ERB Youth Board)

ERB President, Mr Roland Gustbée made a proposal to set up a permanent coordination structure for the ERB Youth Board. First responses to the proposal and its financial consequences varied significantly from full support by the Swedish regions, support pending internal discussions and budget provisions for 2013 by the Government of Kaliningrad Region and Association of Polish Communes, expected serious difficulties in approval of the proposal at home in Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, to no support to increased financial obligations by Pomorskie Region and Bornholm.

ERB Executive Board agreed that a modified suggestion in support of the ERB Youth Board will be prepared by the ERB President before the next ERB Board meeting on 14 June 2012.

- 10.10
10.30
12. **Coffee break**

- 10.30
10.50
13. **ERB Youth Board in EUSBSR**
(ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → Action: empowering youth)

IPS presented a proposal of steps to be taken towards the inclusion of the ERB Youth Board into the EUSBSR Action Plan

ERB Executive Board members adopted the document.

- 10.50
11.20
14. **Information concerning the submission of the Involve project**
(ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → External Action: participating in the implementation of EUSBSR).

Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański informed the Board of the following:

- at its meeting in Kaliningrad on 21.02.11 the ERB Executive Board decided that ERB should be part of the Involve project;
- the Association of Polish Communes signed the financial declaration and the Involve project application was submitted to the BSR Interreg IV B Programme by the Regional Council in Kalmar County in March 2011;
- the Involve project application was rejected, mainly due to the fact that it did not fit the specific priorities of the programme;
- BSR Interreg IV B Programme opened a new call specifically for actions related to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and the Regional Council in Kalmar County decided to re-apply with the Involve project;
- IPS has been part of the preparations for the re-application of the Involve project since December 2011;
- on 3rd February 2012 the Board of the Association decided not to sign the financial declaration to be part of the Involve project leaving it open for a final decision at their next meeting scheduled for 16th March 2012.

Jan Martinsson of the Regional Council in Kalmar County made a short presentation of the role that ERB could play in the project, i.e. collect and disseminate information on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and multi-level governance models, support water cooperation among the ERB regions within the ERB Water Core Group, and

coordinate local signal panels, in other words expert groups in specific areas of EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region who could be hired by all relevant actors involved in its implementation.

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen said ERB has been working hard to make itself visible in recent years and it would be a shame not to be part of the Involve project. He proposed that ERB Executive Board urges the Association of Polish Communes to reconsider their decision. Ms Mariana Johannesson said the Involve project is a perfect example of a concrete result of the cooperation that we want to achieve, and it is ready to be used while we are not acting. She supported the proposal made by Mr Niels Chresten Andersen.

Ms Akko Karlsson proposed that a youth aspect is also included in the project thus providing another example of valuable contribution to the project on the part of Euroregion Baltic.

ERB Executive Board decided that ERB should be part of the Involve project in its upcoming application and made a formal request to the Association of Polish Communes to reconsider their position. If the Association does not change their decision to be a project partner, ERB should at least be an associated partner in the Involve project, which will give ERB the opportunity to act.

- 11.20 15. **Information on the cooperation with Baltic organisations**
11.30 (ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → External Action: holding dialogue with EC, EP, CoR and regional offices in Brussels, as well as BSR organisations).

IPS informed the ERB Executive Board of recent developments and future steps related to the intensification of cooperation between ERB and other BSR organisations. Two specific initiatives were highlighted. Firstly, a declaration of cooperation between the organisations and the Committee of the Regions which is supposed to be signed in March 2012 will make a framework for BSSSC, B7, ERB and UBC to work closely with the Committee of the Regions on a number of regional and EU issues. Secondly, a joint paper of six BSR organisations on the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, whose drafting IPS is coordinating, will be presented for signing by the chairs of BDF, BSSSC, B7, CPMR, ERB and UBC at the end of March. The position paper was sent out among the secretariats for comments and it reflects the opinions gathered in ERB's own paper on the EUSBSR.

ERB Executive Board members took note of the information and gave their support to these initiatives.

- 11.30 16. **Report on the B2B meeting held on 9th February**
11.40 (ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → Action: facilitating B2B links)

ERB President, Mr Roland Gustbée made a short summary of the B2B meeting held the day before. He informed the Board that the meeting ended with the conclusion that future work of the ERB facilitated cooperation network of business support organisations should:

- build an informal network of EEN offices in ERB regions,
- continue search for funds to support the network with EEN money,
- assist partners in finding contacts and possible projects within the ongoing IEE call.

ERB Executive Board members took note of the information and gave their support to these initiatives.

- 11.40 17. **Discussion on the Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders**
12.00 (ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → Internal Action: reinforcing stakeholder approach through continuous dialogue and information exchange)
- ERB Executive Board members agreed that the theme of the 2012 Forum should be labour market issues. They stressed that youth and business organisations should be actively involved in the Forum which could also be possibly connected to the European Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity.*
- 12.00 18. **Adoption of the ERB Lobby Plan on Cohesion Policy**
12.10 (ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → External Action: intensifying ERB's participation in implementation of ETC and ENPI programmes in BSR)
- Mr Niels Chresten Andersen presented the ERB plan of joint lobbying activities for the future programming period in the EU asking the Board for its adoption.
- ERB Executive Board members adopted the document and appointed Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański as an ERB candidate to a special task force which will be established by the South Baltic Monitoring Committee on 19th April 2012 to prepare for the next programming period.*
- 12.10 19. **Proposal by the Association of Polish Communes**
12.20 Grzegorz Nowaczyk, Chair of the Association of Polish Communes presented a proposal of an international youth football tournament under the auspices of the Polish Ministry of Sport and Tourism and Ministry of Regional Development. Euroregion Baltic has been invited to be part of the Baltic Cup tournament for youngsters born between 2000 and 2001 with the participation of 16 teams (8 teams from Warmia and Mazury and Pomorskie, 4 teams from the ERB member regions in Denmark, Lithuania, Russia and Sweden and 4 teams from abroad invited by the Polish twin cities). Each team will consist of 20 people (18 players + coach + manager). The tournament will be held in Wejherowo, Gniewno, Cetniewo and Reda in Pomorskie region between 23 and 26 August 2012. The organisers cover accommodation and meals for the teams during the tournament. Cost of travel has to be taken by the participating teams.
- ERB Executive Board members expressed interest in the proposal and said they will advertise it in their regions. They will communicate their interest and contacts to possible participants to the International Secretariat.*
- 12.20 20. **Conclusion and Closing**
12.30 ERB President, Mr Roland Gustbée concluded and closed the ERB Executive Board meeting.