



Title	Final Minutes
Submitted by	SM, International Permanent Secretariat
Summary / Note	This document provides draft minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting in Klaipeda, Lithuania on 22nd May 2018
Requested action	Implementation
Participants: ERB Executive Board:	
Ms Anne Thomas	ERB President, Vice Mayor of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Lena Granath	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chairman of Klaipeda Region Association
Ms Akko Karlsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Kalmar County
Ms Christina Mattisson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Board of Region Blekinge
Mr Åke Nilsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Robert Olesen	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board Region Kronoberg
Ms Sabine Lyngberg	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
ERB Youth Board:	
Ms Alexandra Winberg	Chairwoman of ERB Youth Board, Kalmar, Kumulus
Mr Marek Ziemian	Member of ERB Youth Board, Pomorskie Region
Mr Dawid Jędrzejak	Member of ERB Youth Board, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region

Ms Mille Sommer	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Jacob Munch Nielsen	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Johanna Levin	Member of ERB Youth Board, Kalmar / Kumulus
Ms Simona Skuodaite	Member of ERB Youth Board, Association of Klaipeda Region
ERB Secretariats:	
Mr Niels Chresten Andersen	Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański	Region Kronoberg
Ms Klaudija Kionies	Association of Klaipeda Region
Ms Agata Ludwiczak	Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat
Mr Sebastian Magier	Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat
Mr Jan Martinsson	Regional Council in Kalmar County
Ms Małgorzata Samusjew	Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Mr Piotr Zwolak	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Ms Gabriela Zarębska-Jende	Pomorskie Region
Guests	
Mr Peter Nilsson	Kommunförbundet Skåne
<u>Minutes</u>	
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Chairman of Association of Klaipeda Region, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas welcomed the participants of the meeting on behalf of the hosts.</p>
2.	<p>Opening</p> <p>President of Euroregion Baltic, Ms Anne Thomas opened the meeting and presented the agenda of the meeting. She also suggested to move the agenda item 12 on execution of the ERB budget and projects cashflow before item 10 – information on ERB projects.</p> <p>Commenting further on items 10 and 12, Mr Sebastian Magier, Head of ERB IPS explained the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New projects introduced in item 10 have been previously discussed and are a result of strategic cooperation of ERB with relevant stakeholders. The project Baltic Sea Region Youth Cam- 2019 is a result of the trilateral youth cooperation with BSSSC and UBC and belongs to one of ERB’s focus areas. Information about the project was briefly mentioned at the Board meeting in Elbląg on 16th Feb 2018. The project is 80% pre-financed which does not put any pressure on the 2018 ERB budget and will have majority of its

	<p>activities implemented only in 2019.</p> <p>The MIRACLE PRACTICES project concerns ERB's strategic water cooperation which needs practical project-based activities to provide necessary results. The project replaces previous water related project which was not approved during the previous call of the Interreg BSR. If approved, the project will support water cooperation over the course of 3 years.</p> <p>The SIA4Y project supports youth cooperation within the ERB and if approved (in the Europe for Citizens programme), will tackle the issue of civil society rights and access to public information by European youth. The project will start in 2019 and will be 40% pre-financed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerning item 12, Mr Sebastian Magier apologised for not sending the updated project cash-flow on time. The cash-flow will be sent after the Board meeting. <p><i>ERB Executive Board took into account the additional information and approved the agenda with the proposed changes in items sequence.</i></p>
3.	<p>Signing the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board meeting</p> <p>ERB IPS has submitted the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board meetings held in Elbląg on 16th February 2018.</p> <p><i>Relevant ERB Executive Board members – Anne Thomas and Akko Karlsson signed the minutes of ERB Executive Board meeting in Elbląg.</i></p>
4.	<p>Development of ERB 2030 Agenda</p> <p>Commenting on the process so far, Ms Anne Thomas said that the discussion would aim at getting more inspiration from stakeholders engaged in the Agenda development. Since not all of the member organisations submitted their comments to the initial draft, the meeting will serve as a chance for those members to provide input and comment on the ideas provided by the organisations which already had an internal discussion on the topic.</p> <p>Mr Niels Chresten Andersen update the ERB Executive Board on the input provided by Kalmar, Blekinge, Warmia-Mazury and Bornholm.</p> <p><u>Kalmar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> main framework for the ERB Agenda2030 document should be the UN Sustainable Development Goals Agenda2030 better inclusion of the YB members in the Executive Board voting – one member of YB from each member organisation with voting rights in the Board limiting ERB strategic focus areas to two - 1/ Lobbying activities and 2/Exchange/project activities. Prioritised thematic areas: Sustainable environment and climate questions; trade and business cooperation; transport and infrastructure; social sustainability with focus on living conditions for youth, migration and integration. Issues of democracy and human right with focus on equality and protection of the minority rights as a horizontal area. <p><u>Blekinge</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERB is an important platform to gather member regions, find consensus and take joint lobbying actions on regional and cross-border issues,

primarily related to the South Baltic Programme. For Blekinge ERB is the important tool to represent the member organisations being the umbrella to ensure that EU programs and ESI funds have a clear link with our regional development strategies as well as to ensure that the South Baltic area maintains its long-term partnerships and macro regional collaboration.

- Cooperation within the BSR - main purpose is to follow up on the regional contribution to the priorities set within the EUSBSR strategy
- Cooperation within EU and with EU Institutions - channel for dialogue with EU and EU institutions as well as strategic lobbying towards a sustainable cohesion policy beyond 2020. Crucial importance of ESI funds
- Cooperation with third countries - continue the joint dialogue with the Kaliningrad region
- Cooperation on "blue" and "green" growth - cooperation based on the priorities in our Regional Development Strategy

Warmia-Mazury

- New agenda to be based on the Agenda 2020
- Two new areas of vital importance for ERB to be added – readiness for enlargement with new member organisations, stressing the priority role of South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme and necessity of its continuation within the future financial perspective after 2020
- Project implementation and partner search for future project cooperation
- Knowledge exchange - development of contacts and exchange of experience with Baltic Sea Region partners

Bornholm

- Better linkage between the political dimension of ERB and its projects
- More innovative approach to daily activities eg. organisation of hackaton-like events to develop strategic areas of cooperation
- In thematic focus – development of energy testing projects.

Discussion:

Commenting on the input from Kalmar, Ms Akko Karlsson added that prioritised thematic area on sustainable environment should focus on water issues.

Ms Anne Thomas stressed the importance of stronger link between the political work and project implementation. The project should serve as a tool for implementing political priorities of the organisation. Introduction of hackaton-like events can boost the efficiency of joint work. Concerning the projects, ERB should work more as a facilitator of projects.

Ms Christina Mattisson said that focus should also be placed on innovations in the maritime cooperation.

Ms Anne Thomas asked about the relation to the SDGs. Being quite a broad topic, the ERB cannot focus equally on all 17 goals and should prioritise engagement in selected areas.

Mr Jan Martinsson said that SDGs are a universal sustainable development framework allowing to include Kaliningrad as an equal partner. The political level of ERB should always be included in project implementation to provide relevant linkages.

Mr Robert Olesen said that the Kronoberg Region was developing a sustainable development programme in close cooperation with the municipalities in the region.

Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas said that the city of Klaipeda has developed its 2030 Strategy based on input from variety of stakeholders from different areas. The strategy introduces a bold vision of city's development stating that by 2030 it

	<p>would grow to around 190 000 inhabitants.</p> <p>Commenting on the Klaipeda 2030, Anne Thomas said that it includes good recommendations on how to develop a strategy in cooperation with important stakeholders.</p> <p>She followed up on the question of education as a tool for regional development. If possible, student exchanges could be organised between ERB regions.</p> <p>Mr Grubliauskas agreed that such exchanges could be very beneficial for young people allowing them to obtain valuable knowledge and experience while staying in the home regions.</p> <p>Ms Akko Karlsson said that the Kalmar Region would be open to host such exchanges and that similar projects are already in implementation. Such activities and project would require additional financial resources. New Erasmus programme with significantly larger budget could be a very useful tool in such initiatives.</p> <p>Mr Christina Mattisson supported the idea of exchanges and said that there are projects in the South Baltic Programme eg. BB VET that deal with questions of improved labour skills.</p> <p>Mr Niels Chresten Andersen mentioned examples from Bornholm – trilateral DK-PL-RU project for young farmers and student exchanges with students from the University of Gdańsk.</p> <p>Discussion the question of the further work on the ERB 2030, Niels Chresten Andersen said that the bilateral meetings in the ERB regions would also be used as a follow-up. If all goes according the plan, the Agenda could still be adopted at the Board meeting on 26.09.2018 on Bornholm.</p> <p>Ms Agata Ludwiczak mentioned that the CaSYPoT project could contribute to the discussion with the strategy for youth participation in the ERB that will be presented at the same Board meeting. It will offer a range of practical tools boosting youth participation, which can be very useful for ERB stakeholders.</p> <p><i>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.</i></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Potential enlargement of Euroregion Baltic</p> <p>Mr Jan Martinsson update the Executive Board on the process of ERB enlargement.</p> <p>Mr Peter Nilsson from the Skåne Association of Local Authorities (Kommunförbundet Skåne) presented the organisation and their expectations towards the ERB as a potential future member organisation.</p> <p>In his presentation Mr Nilsson focused provided an overview of KFSK and its work with all 33 municipalities of the region including the biggest cities eg Malmo and relatively small municipalities below 20 thousand inhabitants. Employing 70 person KFSK has 4 departments and around 30 different networks of experts from member municipalities. It also operates a regional office in Brussels. Its main mission is to safeguard and facilitate the development of local self-government.</p> <p>Concerning the reasons for potential membership, Peter Nilsson mentioned especially the importance to stay connected to the Baltic Sea Region cooperation and improving the cooperation with Bornholm.</p> <p>As to the expectations these include possibilities for relevant partnerships in the</p>

	<p>BSR, possibilities to affect issues concerning the maritime environment and safety/security related issues in the region.</p> <p>Commenting on the presentation, Ms Anne Thomas said that the KFSK membership in ERB would further strengthen the collaboration between Danish and Swedish partners.</p> <p>Mr Grubliauskas said that inclusion of KFSK would be very relevant for the Klaipeda Association as they also include municipalities with different interests and needs (large city and smaller municipalities).</p> <p>Ms Małgorzata Samusjew from the Association of Polish Communes said that being active in international cooperation grants valuable benefits and would definitely boost the involvement of municipalities. The questions would be how to better align the strategic priorities of ERB with municipalities in the network.</p> <p>Anne Thomas said that such discussion should be included in the Agenda 2030 process.</p> <p>Mr Piotr Zwolak said that KFSK membership would definitely boost the ERB cooperation resulting in new connections and projects.</p> <p>Ms Gabriela Zarębska-Jende, Pomorskie Region, said that the new member would bring new cooperation ideas for both multilateral and bilateral cooperation within the network.</p> <p>Mr Peter Nilsson said that one of the reasons why the Association may submit the membership application is the fact that the ERB is an organisation that actually delivers and brings concrete results.</p> <p>Mr Niels Chresten Andersen said that KFSK membership would be very important in run up to the discussions on the future of the South Baltic Programme.</p> <p>Mr Sebastian Magier said that the organisations are already cooperating on the project level with stakeholders from both KFSK and ERB working together in South Baltic projects such as SB PIN and CTCC. The membership would provide an official confirmation of the importance of this cooperation and its further development.</p> <p><i>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented and voiced its full support for the potential membership of the Association hoping that the membership process could be finalised at the Executive Board meeting on Bornholm on 26th September 2018.</i></p>
6.	<p>ERB President meetings in ERB member organisations</p> <p>Mr Niels Chresten Andersen and Sebastian Magier informed the Executive Board about the ERB President's proposal to hold a series of meetings in the ERB member organisation in the course of 2018. The purpose of the meeting would be to familiarise the Presidency with the current cooperation areas and initiatives of the member organisations that could be tackled by the ERB and included in the Agenda 2030 and also to initiate dialogue with other partner regions outside of ERB.</p> <p>The potential dates for the meetings are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blekinge 22.08.2018 (9-12 AM) • Kronoberg 24.08.2018 - • Kalmar 22.08.2018 - afternoon • Kaliningrad 25.05.2018 • Pomorskie 04.07.2018

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warmia-Mazury 03.07.2018 • Klaipeda 24.05.2018 • Association 02.07.2018 <p>Other meetings with partner regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skåne Association of Local Authorities – 21.08.2018 • Gotland – to be agreed with the region – TBA <p><i>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.</i></p>
7.	<p>Information from the South Baltic Programme after Monitoring Committee meeting on Bornholm on 24-25.04.2018</p> <p>Ms Sebastian Magier presented information about the recently held Monitoring Committee of the South Baltic Programme. The information included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of the 5th call for proposals and the rescheduled 6th call for 1 October until 18 December 2018 for the Specific Objectives: 2.2, 3, 4 and 5 • Brief information on the future of the South Baltic Programme ahead of a more detailed report by the European Commission to be presented at the end of May 2019. <p>Commenting on the information, Mr Niels Chresten Andersen pointed out to the conclusions of the European Council of 12.04.2018 in which it acknowledges the European added value of European Territorial Cooperation and STRESSES that cross-border, transnational and interregional territorial cooperation, including across maritime borders and with third countries, should continue to be part of Cohesion policy post 2020, while the implementation of Interreg programmes should be facilitated in order to increase their effects (item 35). That would mean that the EC should take that into account while presenting the draft regulation on 29.05.2018.</p> <p>Ms Christina Mattisson expressed her concern over the continuation of the South Baltic Programme in the current shape and proposed to develop a position paper to lobby for its continuation. The programme is vital as an important tool to maintain and develop the cross-border cooperation in the region and should be preserved in its current, independent form. Such a position paper could be developed together with other Baltic organisations which are concerned over the EC's proposal.</p> <p>Mr Jan Martinsson mentioned that the Umbrella project will hold its cross-border conference with relation to the EUSBSR and the Programme and could contribute to the discussion on the relevance of the Programme for the local and regional stakeholders.</p> <p>Ms Anne Thomas agreed that a position paper should be developed to stress the importance of the Programme and actively lobby for its continuation.</p> <p><i>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented and supported the idea to developed a position paper on the future of the South Baltic Programme.</i></p>
8.	<p>Information from ERB Youth Board</p> <p>Ms Alexandra Winberg informed about the change in the Chairwomanship in the YB due to internal changes at the Kumulus Kalmar. Ms Johanna Levin who will take over Alexandra's responsibilities at Kumulus will be proposed as the new Youth Board member while the Chairmanship would be taken over by Mr Mikkel Holm Tved, the current Deputy Chairman of the Board.</p>

She also informed about the contribution of the YB to the development of the ERB youth strategy currently under development in the CaSYPoT project and the discussion on the ERB 2030 Agenda.

Mr Dawid Jędrzejak informed about an idea for a project on youth tourism including a portable photo exhibition, which could be further developed by the YB.

Ms Małgorzata Samusjew informed that the Association has developed a similar project on photo exhibitions which could serve as inspiration for the development of this youth project. However, the funding sources would have to be investigated before the project is developed further.

Mr Sebastian Magier informed about two youth projects in the pipeline:

- Baltic Sea Region Youth Camp 2019 – information about project submitted to the CBSS PFC in the last call for organisation of a youth event back-to-back with EUSBSR Forum in Gdańsk in 2019. The project has been approved with the ERB as a project partner together with BSSSC (Leader), UBC and Baltic Sea Culture Centre in Gdańsk. ERB will participate with the budget of 17058 EUR out of which most cost will be covered by the project while ERB cost will include working time of the ERB IPS head included in the existing salary. Once project is contracted the partnership will receive 80% prefinancing, which for ERB means around 10 000 EUR. The project will see an organisation of a youth event back-to-back with the 10th EUSBSR Forum in Gdańsk in June 2019. ERB will be able to send 25 young people to the camp from all ERB member organisations.
- Strengthening civil society rights by information access for European youth (SIA4Y) – project on youth issues in Europe for Citizens Programme. The overall goal of the project is to increase the level of awareness, knowledge and ability to use the right to access public information and support freedom of information among youth. The project will contribute to increase of the level of understanding and activity of young citizens regarding public monitoring of state institutions and local government.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

9. **Information about execution of the ERB budget and projects' cash flow**

Mr Sebastian Magier presented the execution of the ERB budget as of 20.05.2018.

Concerning the annual fee payments, the IPS would double check the payment of the Blekinge fee for 2018 to make sure that it has been paid as requested.

Currently the IPS is waiting for 3 reimbursement from the South Baltic Programme, including the Umbrella preparation costs of 17 000 EUR. That should add the necessary liquidity of the budget. The IPS will however recalculate the financial flows in the second part of the year to confirm whether there would be a need to obtain a short-time loan to cover the expenses at the end of the year before the next reimbursement round arrives at the IPS. Mr Sebastian Magier will communicate that to the ERB Secretariats.

The Association of Polish Communes will pay its contribution as fast as possible after all project reports have been settled.

Ms Anne Thomas said that this should be investigated but hopefully it would be possible to manage the budget without the need for a loan.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

10.	<p>Information about ERB projects</p> <p>ERB IPS updated the ERB Executive Board about the ERB involvement in its strategic projects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Baltic Programme – CaSYPoT, Interconnect and UMBRELLA – by Agata Ludwiczak and Valentina Scandola • Regions and SDGs – seminar in Stockholm on 7th March 2018 and idea for the final seminar coinciding with the ERB Executive Board on Bornholm on 25-26.09.2018 – by Sebastian Magier • MIRACLE PRACTICES – information about BSR project submitted by Linkoping University in the area water management – by Sebastian Magier • Information from the SB Public Innovators Project (Hässleholm Municipality - EU office Skane Nordost, Krinova Science Park, Municipality of Koge, Neasetved Municipality) – idea for a potential stakeholder meeting with ERB on future cooperation initiatives and projects to be held in the morning of 23.05.2018 – by Małgorzata Samusjew. <p>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.</p>
11.	<p>Information about ongoing cooperation with pan-Baltic organisations</p> <p>Mr Sebastian Magier presented the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPMR Baltic Sea Commission – information after ERB’s participation in the CPMR BSC’s General Assembly in Oulu on 15-16.05.2018 – election of new CPMR BSC President and Board, continuation of bilateral cooperation on SDGs with final project event on Bornholm on 27.09.2018 and idea for signing a bilateral memorandum of cooperation between ERB and BSC. • UBC and BSSSC – organisation of a youth seminar at the EUSBSR Forum in Tallinn on 3-4.06.2018 entitled Nothing about us without us! <p>Commenting on the proposal to sign a memorandum with CPMR BSC, Ms Anne Thomas said that it was a good idea to have a joint political document on the current and future cooperation between the two organisations, especially concerning the SGGs. A good occasion for further talks on the idea would be the next Board meeting on 26-27.09.2018 which will also include a seminar on SDGs within the Regions and SDGs project. Currently the IPS would be too occupied with the strategic work on the Agenda 2030, so only after that would be able to put more focus on this interesting proposal.</p> <p><i>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented and supported the idea for a joint memorandum of cooperation with the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission.</i></p>
12.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Ms Akko Karlsson informed about a Bonus programme seminar on circular economy to be held in Helsinki. She also pointed out that the ERB Water Core Group would organise the ERB Water Forum in Kaliningrad this year. The date will be notified to the ERB member organisations in advance.</p> <p>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented</p>

13.

Conclusion and closing

Closing the meeting, Ms Anne Thomas summed up the most important discussions and decisions made during the Board meeting. These included:

- importance of project implementation and their linkages with the policy development of ERB;
- continuation of round-table discussions in the member organisations over the ERB Agenda 2030;
- potential enlargement of the ERB
- more focus on the Erasmus+ Programme in the new EU programming period
- bilateral meeting of the ERB President with ERB member organisations and partner organisations
- development of a position paper on the future of South Baltic Programme and preservation of its current organisation
- developing a memorandum of cooperation with the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission to further strengthen future cooperation between the organisations.

Ms Anne Thomas invited the ERB member organisations to Bornholm for the third ERB Executive Board meeting to be held on 26-27.09.2018.

/ SM, 2018.06.06