



# ERB 2030 Agenda

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The Executive Board at the meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 in Elblag decided to start a revision process of the ERB 2020 Agenda.

The first and initial discussion took place at the Board meeting in Palanga 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017, followed up 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in Elblag with a decision about the timeline and preparatory activities for an adoption of a revised strategy, ERB 2030 Agenda, at the Board meeting 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 on Bornholm.

The ERB 2030 Agenda aims to set the long-term goals and priorities for the ERB cooperation, to be implemented through biannual action plans.

This draft is the result of regional stakeholder meetings and consultation visits with all ERB member organisations by the ERB President Anne Thomas, during the period May-August 2018.

Inputs have also been collected from Skånes Kommunförbund, having applied for ERB membership.

The structure of the ERB 2030 Agenda was agreed at the Executive Board meeting in Elblag, February 2018:

1. South Baltic Agenda
2. Baltic Sea Region Agenda
3. European Agenda
4. Youth and People-to-People Agenda
5. Green and Blue Growth Agenda

All the ERB member organisations are welcome to send remarks, proposals for changes and amendments to this draft before the Executive Board meeting on Bornholm 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018.



## THIS IS OUR GOAL

The stakeholders of the cooperation consider Euroregion Baltic (ERB) an important platform involving partners from Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden in activities contributing to the development of the whole Baltic Sea Region and with particular attention to the South Baltic area.

Referring to the ERB statutes the cooperation shall undertake joint initiatives aiming at strengthening and promoting cooperation among the local and regional authorities of the Parties of the Agreement, as well as contributing to the sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region, with particular attention to the South Baltic area.

The cooperation is formed into three types of activities:

- Lobbying activities in order to represent and promote common interests
- Implementation of strategic initiatives and projects complementing the local and regional agendas of the member organisations
- Exchange activities, to seek collaborative approach to common challenges and to progress in innovation and in operational efficiency of the cooperation.

The ERB member regions have designed this Agenda and its implementation to highlight added value of the cooperation in their common actions. Thus, any action should only be developed if it produces superior results by being implemented through the ERB partnership rather than by a member region alone.



## HORIZONTAL ISSUES

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), democratic and human rights with focus on equality and protection of the minority rights will form the horizontal framework for the ERB activities.

## SOUTH BALTIC AGENDA

ERB will continue its active role as a facilitator of cross-border initiatives in the South Baltic area. Over the years ERB has built a strong network of cross-border relations, involving citizens, political decision-makers, economic and social partners, as well as educational and cultural institutions. It remains our ambition to make use of these partnerships for the benefit of inhabitants and local communities in our cooperation area.

EU funds supporting territorial cooperation will be of special importance in our work. People-to-people cooperation is essential in building relations and should continue to be supported. This refers specifically to the South Baltic cross-border programme which has been a key financial instrument for the ERB cooperation since 2007. The ERB partners are committed to the programme which will continue as a separate entity with its own managing authority, monitoring committee, joint programme secretariat, regional contact points and budget. The top priorities for ERB to pursue in relation to the South Baltic CBC programme are the inclusion in its geographical scope of all the territory of Warmia-Mazury Region and the Kaliningrad Region.

ERB will continue working towards improved conditions for cross-border cooperation in the area. Administrative, cultural, economic and institutional obstacles need to be eased and removed if possible for a fully functional cross-border region. This is of specific importance especially in the context of EU's external border. In order to fully integrate the Kaliningrad Region in the ERB cooperation further lobbying will be made to reduce the border crossing restrictions.

ERB Board will remain an important platform for exchange of views and positions on important developments with a bearing on the South Baltic area. The ERB Board will constitute a close link between the political level and projects developed and implemented in the ERB member regions, especially with the EU territorial cooperation funding. The ERB Board will closely follow further developments within all the Interreg strands after 2020 with specific focus on the components applicable for the cooperation in the South Baltic area, including the "Small Projects Fund".

## BALTIC SEA REGION AGENDA

ERB will maintain its active involvement in the EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), especially in areas like youth cooperation, water environment and labour market issues participating as an observer in the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF).

The cooperation with pan-baltic organisations like CBSS, BSSSC, UBC and CPMR Baltic Sea Commission will have a high priority, especially in joint positions to EU policies and in relation to the engagement in the EUSBSR.

In relation to the Baltic Sea Region cooperation ERB will also take into consideration relevant national and regional strategies.



## EUROPEAN AGENDA

The contact to and cooperation with the ERB member organisations offices in Brussels will be strengthened, as a channel for dialogue with the EU institutions, a channel for lobbying actions and as a platform to get access to information and knowledge on issues of relevance for the ERB cooperation.

Values like participatory democracy and human rights will form the basis for the ERB cooperation.

The lobbying activities will especially be in areas like the EU Cohesion Policy, social dimension, water directive, agriculture, rural development and youth policy.

## YOUTH AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE AGENDA

ERB will maintain and further develop the youth cooperation with a focus on local youth policies, education, student exchanges and exchange of young volunteers.

More focus will be given to social sustainability, mainly through exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practice in areas like social vulnerable groups, migrants and healthcare.

In order to strengthen the intercultural dialogue and cooperation with NGO's ERB will improve the people-to-people cooperation, mainly through exchange activities and smaller projects. It can be through activities such as sport and cultural events, facilitating participation in local and regional festivals, training and workshops.

## GREEN AND BLUE GROWTH AGENDA

Through the South Baltic programme, other EU programmes, national and regional funds ERB will bring added value to the member organisations in their effort to achieve green and blue growth.

Focus will be on climate and energy, marine environment, coastal zone management, maritime tourism, offshore industry, transport/connectivity, infrastructure and circular economy. The ERB will also foster attractiveness, innovation and business development as an important element of sustainable development agenda.

ERB will facilitate project cooperation involving both public authorities/institutions, the business sector and NGO's.





## ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP

ERB Executive Board is the highest decision-making body with up to two elected representatives from each partner organisation, and the Chairperson of the ERB Youth Board.

The Board meets at least three times a year. The Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders is organised each year back-to-back of one of the Board meetings.

The administrative support will be provided by the International Permanent Secretariat (IPS), assisted by regional secretariats in the member organisations.

The President is elected for one year, based on a rotation between the countries with ERB member organisations.

Each ERB member organisation contributes to the ERB budget with an annual membership fee, mainly to cover the costs of the IPS.

The costs for transport and accommodation will be covered by each member organisation for its own delegation.

The Youth Board consists of one representative and a deputy between 16 and 30 years old, from and appointed by each of the ERB member organisations.

The election procedure is decided by each member organisation.

The Youth Board elects Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson among its members, and with a term of one year, with a rotation between the ERB countries.

The decisions of Youth Board are based on consensus with the presence of more than 50 % of the Youth Board members.

The Youth Board contributes to the ERB Biannual Action Plan and submits an annual activity and financial report on their activities.

**Task Forces:** The ERB Executive Board can establish task forces and delegate them to specific assignments. The Water Core Group will continue and the task force for project development will be revitalised.



For the coming years the following actions has been selected to improve the ERB organisation, leadership and visibility.

## **The linkage between the political level and the project level will be strengthened**

The Executive Board will strengthen the linkage between the different types of ERB activities, aiming at bringing the political level closer to the project activities.

The aim is to ensure that the ERB cooperation activities are closely linked to the local and regional development strategies of the member organisations, and to ensure a coherent approach in the different type of ERB activities: Lobby, exchange and project activities.

One of the methods could be to organise hackaton-like events bringing together specialists and key stakeholders to develop projects and others activities on issues of top priority. Such events will also provide a more innovative approach in the development of ERB.

## **Actions to improve the ERB visibility inside and outside the ERB area**

ERB as a tool for lobbying, common strategic initiatives and exchange activities should be visible in the ERB regions and municipalities. This will be done through a stronger communication to media and political bodies in the ERB area.

The achievements of the ERB cooperation and the ongoing activities will be in focus.

Promotional material will be developed and spread, in order to be used to promote ERB at public events inside and outside the ERB area.

The Annual Forum of Stakeholders will be developed in order to attract more participants.

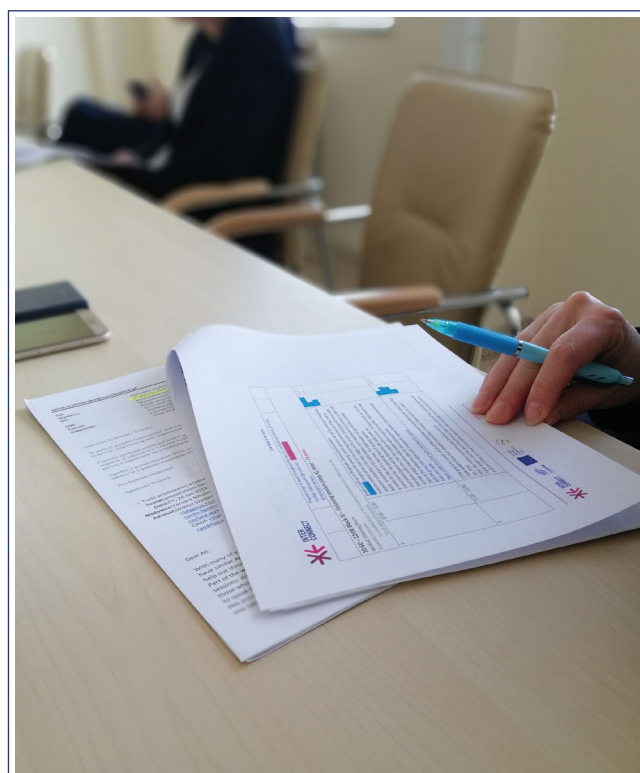
The Board will investigate the possibilities and potential partners to organise more ERB public events, e.g. sport and culture events.



## **ERB as a platform for project support will be improved**

The task force for project development will be revitalised, in order to improve the assistance of project beneficiaries in searching for project partners and generating projects, also smaller projects and the bilateral cooperation within ERB.

**ERB Presidency annual rotation** will be discussed in the light of the ERB enlargement of especially regions from Sweden.





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