

Euroregion Baltic
Executive Board Meeting
Gdańsk, Poland
26th February 2013



Title Final Minutes

Submitted by SDD, International Permanent Secretariat

Summary / Note This document provides final minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting that took place on 26th February 2013.

Requested action Signing

Participants: ERB Executive Board:

Mr Per Ole Petersen	ERB President, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas	ERB Vice-President, President of Association Klaipėda Region
Mr Wiesław Byczkowski	Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Pomorskie Region
Mr Roland Gustbée	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Board of Regional Council of södra Småland
Mr Karl Holst	Chair of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council in Kalmar County
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, Member of ERB Executive Board, 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
Mr Grzegorz Nowaczyk	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Association of Polish Communes
Ms Suzanne Svensson	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Swedish Parliament

Participants: ERB Youth Board:

Mr Mateusz Ankwicz	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Ms Žydrūnė Chlebavičiūtė	Member of ERB Youth Board, President of Association Klaipėda Region
Ms Thea H. Olsen	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Oliver Rosengren	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council of södra Småland

ERB Secretariats:

Mr Niels Andersen	Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański	Head of ERB International Permanent Secretariat
Ms Elena Lebedeva	Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region
Ms Therese Magnusson	Regional Council of södra Småland
Mr Jan Martinsson	Regional Council of Kalmar County
Ms Agata Nazar	Association of Polish Communes
Mr Marcin Popiela	International Cooperation Department, Office of the Marshal of Pomorskie Region
Mr Valdas Pučkorius	Director of the Secretariat of Association Klaipėda Region
Ms Johanna Rönn	Region Blekinge

Ms Krystyna Wróblewska Director of International Cooperation Department, Office of the Marshal of Pomorskie Region
Mr Piotr Zwolak Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region

Other Organisations:

Mr Andrius Adomatis Member of the Council of Klaipėda District Municipality and Deputy Director of Klaipėda Local Labour Exchange
Ms Elżbieta Amulewicz Manager of Department for Job Placement and Social Security Systems Coordination, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Employment Office
Mr Bartosz Babraj Division for EU funds and development, Municipality of Elbląg
Mr Arkadiusz Banach Employment Office in Starogard Gdański
Mr Wojciech Banach Pomorskie Regional Employment Office
Mr Michał Bruski ERB Task Force on Labour Market Cooperation, Deputy Director Pomorskie Regional Employment Office
Mr Remigiusz Dobkowski Association for Social Cooperatives and Local Enterprises Development
Mr Dariusz Gobis Director of the Pomeranian Chamber of Crafts for SMEs
Mr Wiesław Drożdżyński Deputy Director of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Employment Office
Mr Vassilen Iotzov Information Officer, South Baltic Programme
Ms Karolina Hołowka EVS volunteer, Kumulus - Elbląg Europa Association
Mr Thorsten Kochlish Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat, South Baltic Programme
Ms Jolanta Kruk Second Chance project, Caritas
Ms Raimonda Kucinskaite Head of Strategic Planning And Investment Department, Administration of Klaipėda District Municipality
Ms Agnieszka Kuzimowicz EURES, Warmińsko-Mazurskie
Ms Aneta Majbańska EURES, Warmińsko-Mazurskie
Ms Anna Martinsson Trainee, Region Blekinge
Ms Bożena Olszewska-Świtaj ERB Task Force on Labour Market Cooperation, Mayor of Górowo Iławeckie
Ms Tina Storbjörk Framtid Kronoberg project, Municipality of Växjö
Ms Diana Unander Nordle ERB Task Force on Labour Market Cooperation, Competence & Skills Coordinator, Regional Council of södra Småland
Mr Johnny Winther Holbech Leader of ERB Task Force on Labour Market Cooperation, Jobcentre Bornholm
Ms Natalia Valuykina Director of Kaliningrad Regional Employment Office
Mr Marek Zbytniewski Job Counsellor, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Employment Office

25th FEBRUARY, 19.00 – 22.00

- 19.30 1. **Change of ERB Presidency**
22.00 Chair of ERB Executive Board, Mr Roland Gustbée, representing the Regional Council in södra Småland, will hand over ERB Presidency to Mr Per Ole Petersen, representing the Regional Municipality of Bornholm.
- 19.30 2. **Change of ERB Youth Board Chairmanship**
22.00 Chair of ERB Youth Board, Mr Oliver Rosengren, representing the Regional Council in södra Småland, will hand over ERB Youth Board chairmanship to Mr Karl Holst, representing the Regional Council in Kalmar County.

26th FEBRUARY, 09.00 – 12.30

- 09.00 1. **Welcome**
09.05 ERB Executive Board member, Mr Wiesław Byczkowski, welcomed the participants.
- 09.05 2. **Opening & adoption of the agenda**
09.15 President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Per Ole Petersen opened the meeting and presented the agenda.

ERB Executive Board members approved the agenda.

- 09.15 3. **Signing the minutes of the previous ERB Board meeting**
09.15 The minutes of the online ERB Executive Board meeting which took place on 3rd December 2012 were submitted by the International Secretariat in line with the ERB Statutes and thus became valid with no objections raised by any of the ERB parties.

ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen and ERB Executive Board member, Mr Roland Gustbée signed the minutes.

- 09.15 4. **Presentation of new member of the ERB Executive Board**
09.20 President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Per Ole Petersen introduced a new member of the ERB Executive Board: Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas, Mayor of Klaipeda City and President of the Association Klaipeda Region.

ERB Executive Board members took note.

- 09.20 5. **Summary of the labour market seminar**
09.45 (ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → Action: addressing labour market challenges)

Task Force leader, Mr Johnny Winther Holbech summarised the seminar held on the previous day. He also presented conclusions drawn up by the members of the ERB Labour Mobility Task Force during their meeting after the seminar, including the necessity for all ERB member regions to be represented in the Task Force, need for the Task Force members to hold face-to-face meetings, and request for the ERB International Secretariat to continue to support the Task Force.

Ms Suzanne Svensson proposed that the ERB President should become a member in the ERB Labour Mobility Task Force. A discussion followed.

ERB Executive Board members decided to:

- *support the resolution adopted by the participants of the ERB Labour Mobility seminar on the previous day;*
- *make sure their regions provide representatives to the ERB Labour Mobility Task Force;*
- *appoint ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen to be a member of the ERB Labour Mobility Task Force.*

09.45 6. **South Baltic Programme – the current state of play**
10.00 Mr Thorsten Kochlish, Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) of the South Baltic Programme and Mr Vassilen Iotzov, Information Manager at JTS made a presentation of the current state of play in the Programme.

10.00 7. **Coffee break**
10.15

10.15 8. **2012 Annual Report**
10.25 Mr Roland *Gustbée* presented the main achievements of his presidency.

ERB Executive Board members approved the 2012 ERB Annual Report.

10.25 9. **Information on work within ERB Youth Board in 2012**
10.35 Mr Oliver Rosengren presented a summary of ERB YB activities in 2012. He also presented Ms Karolina Hołowka who will start working with the ERB Youth Board in March as part of the EVS exchange project between Kumulus in Kalmar and Association Elbląg Europa.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

10.35 10. **2013 – 2014 ERB Action Plan**
11.40

10.35 10.1 **Main objectives and actions**
10.45 Mr Per Ole Petersen presented the main objectives and activities of the 2013 – 2014 ERB Action Plan.

10.45 10.2 **ERB Task Force on Cohesion Policy**
11.00 (ERB 2013 – 2014 Action Plan → External Action: participating in the implementation of ETC and ENI programmes in the BSR)
(ERB 2013 – 2014 Action Plan → External Action: participating in the implementation of EUSBSR)

Leader of ERB Task Force on Cohesion Policy, Mr Niels Chresten Andersen highlighted the activities for the Task Force in 2013 and 2014 and presented an outline of the process whereby ERB will be part of the discussion on the priorities of the future South Baltic Programme.

11.00 10.3 **ERB Task Force on Labour Markets**
11.10 (ERB 2013 – 2014 Action Plan → Action: developing stronger cooperation on labour market issues in ERB)

On behalf of the leader of ERB Task Force on Labour Markets, Mr Johnny Winther – Holbech, Mr Niels Chresten Andersen outlined main activities for the Task Force in 2013 and 2014.

- 11.10 10.4 **Water Core Group**
11.20 (ERB 2013 – 2014 Action Plan → Action: facilitating water cooperation)

On behalf of the Water Core Group, Mr Jan Martinsson presented information on the drafting of the plan for future water cooperation which will be ready by the next ERB Board meeting in May.

ERB Board member, Ms Akko Karlsson thanked all involved in the project stressing the success of the project in developing methods which will be transferred throughout the Baltic Sea Region.

- 11.20 10.5 **ERB Youth Board**
11.30 (ERB 2013 – 2014 Action Plan → Action: supporting youth cooperation within ERB Youth Board)

Mr Karl Holst, Chair of the ERB Youth Board informed the ERB Executive Board of the activities planned by the Youth Board in 2013.

- 11.30 10.6 **Adoption**
11.40

On behalf of the Association of Polish Communes, Ms Agata Nazar proposed three changes to the 2013 – 2-14 Action Plan:

- Change 1: extend the result “decision on legal status for ERB” of the internal action: strengthening ERB internally, with “discussion on ERB Statutes, proposals for possible changes”;
- Change 2: add an extra result to the internal action: strengthening ERB internally, phrased as: “Forum of local level stakeholders held in Poland”;
- Change 3: add an extra result to the action: supporting youth cooperation within ERB Youth Board, phrased as: “25th Jubilee International Competition of Fine Arts of Children and Youth from Euroregion Baltic We Are From the Sea”.

A discussion followed in response to the proposals presented.

ERB Executive Board:

- *approved 2013 – 2014 ERB Action Plan, including changes 1 and 3 proposed by the Association;*
- *did not agree to include Change 2 proposed by the Association;*
- *took note of the information presented by the Task Force on Cohesion Policy,*
- *agreed to the merging of the ERB Task Force on Cohesion Policy and ERB Task Force on EUSBSR,*
- *took note of the information presented by the Task Force on Labour Markets,*
- *took note of the information presented by the Water Core Group,*
- *took note of the ERB Youth Board action plan.*

- 11.40 11. **4th Annual ERB Forum**
12.00 (ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → Internal Action: reinforcing stakeholder approach)

Mr Valdas Pučkorius informed the Executive Board of the discussion held during the ERB secretariat meeting regarding the fourth annual forum of ERB stakeholders. Ideas were discussed of:

- involving representatives of the local authorities in the ERB area,
- promoting results of the projects implemented within the South Baltic Programme 2007 – 2013,
- presenting new cooperation possibilities of the South Baltic Programme 2014 – 2020,

- focusing on opportunities related to tourism development.

A discussion followed during which Ms Krystyna Wróblewska proposed that the EUSBSR flagship project called "Promote the cultural and natural heritage" with Pomorskie as a leader, could be presented at the Forum. Mr Karl Holst suggested that the Forum also touches upon entrepreneurship involving business dealing with promotion. Mr Niels Chresten Andersen thought it necessary to combine EUSBSR with practical expectations from the municipalities and therefore proposed that results of South Baltic projects are shown. ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen summed up by saying that tourism is present in many aspects: energy saving, transport, infrastructure and urging the ERB secretariats to work towards the preparation of a comprehensive proposal for the next Board meeting.

ERB Executive Board members agreed that 4th Annual ERB Forum which will take place on 4th September 2013 in Kalmar will target local stakeholders within ERB and focus on financial possibilities available in the new programming period in ETC programmes to support local actors in addressing their local challenges, including tourism.

12.00 12. **Presentation of Blekinge Strategy**

12.15 Region Blekinge is in the process of drafting its new regional development strategy. Ms Johanna Rönn made a presentation of the new strategy as part of its consultation process.

ERB Executive Board members took note of the information presented.

Send in comments

12.15 13. **Legal matters**

12.40 Head of IPS, Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański presented the terms of reference for the purchase of legal expertise in order to assist Euroregion Baltic in the acquisition of a legal status.

Member of the Board, Mr Grzegorz Nowaczyk proposed a change in the ERB Statutes in its introductory part where the explanation is provided of the Lithuanian delegation. Following the establishment of a new body representing Klaipeda region, i.e. the Association Klaipeda Region, he will propose that the Association Klaipeda Region replaces the Regional Development Council in Klaipeda Region which is named in the current version of the Statutes.

ERB Executive Board members:

- *approved the terms of reference for the purchase of legal expertise,*
- *approved the change in the ERB Statutes proposed by the Association in the following wording: "Lithuanian delegation, consisting of the representatives of the Association Klaipeda Region (successor to the Klaipeda County's Governor Administration who was the original signatory of the Agreement), consisting of Municipalities of Klaipeda, Neringa and Palanga, as well as District Municipalities of Klaipeda, Kretinga, Silute and Skuodas."*

12.40 14. **Conclusion and Closing**

12.45 ERB President, Mr Per Ole Petersen concluded and closed the ERB Executive Board meeting.