

Euroregion Baltic  
 Executive Board Meeting  
 Bornholm  
 Denmark  
 26th September 2018



<b>Title</b>	Final Minutes
<b>Submitted by</b>	SM, International Permanent Secretariat
<b>Summary / Note</b>	This document provides final minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting on Bornholm, Denmark on 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
<b>Requested action</b>	Implementation
<b>Participants:</b> <b>ERB Executive Board:</b>	
Ms Anne Thomas	ERB President, Vice Mayor of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Vaclovas Dačkauskas	Member of ERB Executive Board, Deputy Chairman of Klaipeda Region Association
Ms Britt-Louise Berndtsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board of Region Kronoberg
Mr Lennarth Förberg	Member of ERB Executive Board, Region Blekinge
Ms Lena Granath	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board 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
Ms Christina Mattisson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Board of Region Blekinge
Mr Åke Nilsson	ERB Board Member, Member of the Executive Committee, 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
<b>ERB Youth Board:</b>	
Mr Damian Ciachorowski	Member of ERB Youth Board, Association of Polish Communes
Ms Mille Sommer	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
<b>ERB Secretariats:</b>	
Mr Niels Chresten Andersen	Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Łukasz Bielewski	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship
Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski	Region Kronoberg
Ms Liana Maximova	Government of Kaliningrad Region
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 Johanna Rönn	Region Blekinge
Ms Małgorzata Samusjew	Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Mr Piotr Zwolak	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship
Ms Krystyna Wróblewska	Office of the Marshal of Pomorskie Voivodeship
Ms Natalia Kila	Office of the Marshal of Pomorskie Voivodeship

# Minutes:

1.	<p><b>Welcome and opening</b></p> <p>Deputy Mayor of Bornholm and President of Euroregion Baltic, Ms Anne Thomas welcomed the participants of the meeting on behalf of the hosts. She then proceeded with opening the meeting and presenting its agenda. She underlined the importance of the upcoming discussion on subsequent approval of the ERB 2030 Agenda which would serve as the strategic basis of ERB cooperation in the coming years. She also pointed out that her visits to all the ERB member organisations proved to be very interesting and inspiring, but also very helpful in defining the future goals of the ERB cooperation.</p> <p><b><u>Decision:</u></b></p> <p><i>ERB Executive Board decided to approve the agenda of the Executive Board meeting without comments.</i></p>
2.	<p><b>Signing the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board meeting</b></p> <p>Mr Sebastian Magier, Head of ERB IPS submitted the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board meetings held in Klaipeda on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018.</p> <p><b><u>Signing:</u></b></p> <p><i>Relevant ERB Executive Board members signed the minutes of ERB Executive Board meeting.</i></p>
3.	<p><b>Membership of Skåne Association of Local Authorities (KFSK) in ERB</b></p> <p>Ms Anne Thomas informed the ERB Executive Board about the results of the consultations with the Skåne Association of Local Authorities KFSK on their membership in ERB.</p> <p>Based on the official letter from the Chairman of the Board of the Association, Mr Kent Mårtensson of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018, KFSK would decide to apply for ERB membership at the the meeting of the Board on 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2018.</p>

The KFSK Board convened on 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2018 as outlined and decided to apply for the ERB membership effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Following this decision, the Executive Board took the KFSK application up for discussion.

In accordance with the ERB membership procedure, the current Swedish member organisations of ERB were asked by the ERB President to present their standpoints regarding the KFSK membership.

Ms Akko Karlsson, Member of ERB Board representing the Regional Council in Kalmar County, said that the Council welcomed the KFSK application as it would further strengthen the ERB cooperation.

Ms Christina Mattisson, Member of ERB Board representing Region Blekinge said their organisation welcomed the application of KFSK.

Ms Britt-Louise Berndtsson, Member of ERB Board representing Region Kronoberg also stated that the KFSK application would be supported by the Region.

Following the positive opinion of all Swedish member organisation, Ms Anne Thomas requested the entire ERB Executive Board to take a decision on the KFSK application.

**Decision:**

*ERB Executive Board welcomed the membership request from the Skåne Association of Local Authorities (KFSK) and decided to accept the Association as a new member of Euroregion Baltic starting from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.*

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4.

**Adoption of ERB 2030 Agenda**

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen updated the ERB Executive Board on the process of development of the ERB 2030 Agenda and presented the final draft of the document. He then moderated a discussion among the ERB Executive Board on the main points of the Agenda.

A detailed and active discussion followed during which all ERB member organisations commented on the relevant elements of the draft.

The discussion resulted in the updated draft that would be

recommended for approval by all ERB member organisations.

**Decision:**

*Following the discussion the ERB Executive Board decided to significantly update the draft document. Taking into account the fact that not all member organisations had been able to approve the document internally before the meeting, the Executive Board recommended the approval of the redrafted Agenda 2030 by all ERB member organisations.*

5.

**Position paper on the future of the South Baltic Programme after 2020**

Ms Sebastian Magier presented the draft position paper on the future of the Interreg South Baltic Programme after 2020. He also briefed the Executive Board on his participation in a seminar organised by the European Parliament in Brussels on 05.09.2018 at which ERB was asked to lobby for amending the draft regulation on Interreg and the continuation of the programme in its current form.

Ms Anne Thomas initiated a discussions of the Board on the adoption of the position paper.

During the discussion, the Executive Board re-affirmed its support for expanding the South Baltic territorially to include the whole of Warmińsko-Mazurskie and the Kaliningrad Region.

The Board also decided to skip the item on co-financing rate due to the lack of consensus among the ERB partners on the maximum percentage of co-financing.

**Decision:**

*ERB Executive Board to decided to re-draft the position paper and subsequently decided to approve the document.*

6.

**Information from ERB projects**

ERB International Permanent Secretariat updated the ERB Executive Board on ERB's involvement in its strategic projects, including:

6a.

**CaSYPoT**

Mr Damian Ciachorowski and Ms Agata Ludwiczak presented a

	<p>working draft of the Euroregion Baltic Youth Strategy being developed within the project.</p> <p>Commenting on the presentation, Ms Krystyna Wróbkewska from Pomorskie Voivodeship said that the draft was interesting and suggested to combine it more with another youth project led by BSSSC in cooperation with ERB and UBC - Baltic Sea Region Youth Camp.</p> <p><i>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.</i></p>
6b.	<p><b>Interconnect</b></p> <p>Ms Agata Ludwiczak informed the Executive Board on the recent activities within the Interconnect project.</p> <p><i>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.</i></p>
6c.	<p><b>Umbrella</b></p> <p>Ms Sebastian Magier informed the Board about the recent activities in the Umbrella project.</p> <p><i>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented</i></p>
6d.	<p><b>Newly approved projects</b></p> <p>Sebastian Magier informed the Board about the newly approved projects with ERB participation - Baltic Sea Youth Camp 2018 financed by the CBSS Project Support Facility and Strengthening civil society rights by information access for European youth (SIA4Y) financed by the Europe for Citizens Programme.</p> <p><i>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented</i></p>
7.	<p><b>Information about the workshop - Energy Transition in the Baltic Sea Region on 27.09.2018</b></p> <p>Sebastian Magier informed about the workshop on Energy Transition</p>

in the Baltic Sea Region organised the next day within the Regions and SDGs project financed by the Swedish Institute.

*ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.*

8.

**Information about execution of the ERB budget between 01-08.2018 and budget balance till the end of the year 2018**

Ms Sebastian Magier presented the execution of the ERB budget as of 31.08.2018 and estimated balance of the budget at the end of 2018.

*ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.*

9.

**ERB Youth Board**

Ms Mille Sommer, Member of ERB Youth Board from Bonrholm presented short information about the situation in the ERB Youth Board to start a discussion about how to ensure the participation of youth representatives from all the ERB member organisations, and also how to ensure that the youth from the ERB territory is represented in the ERB YB.

Commenting on the presentation, Ms Anne Thomas suggested that the year 2019 could be used for reorganising the work of the ERB YB. It should be done through an internal discussion within the member organisations and then within the ERB itself.

Ms Akko Karlsson said that in the future the ERB YB should include youth representatives from all member organisations. These representatives could be recruited from different organisations and bodies such as NGOs working with youth or municipal councils.

Mr Piotr Zwolak, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship stated that there is an added value from the involvement of young people in the ERB work. The problem is to ensure continuity of youth participation in the YB. Perhaps we should change the concept of the YB and focus on bigger one-off events that would serve as a basis for future youth work.

Mr Jan Martinsson, Regional Council in Kalmar County said that despite low activity of the YB the organisation has been engaged in a number of youth projects such as CaSYPoT, Youth Core Group Network, while new projects eg. SIA4Y are now in the pipeline.

Ms Britt-Louise Berndtsson said that lessons needed to be done at

home so that all member organisations have their representatives in the YB.

Mr Damian Ciachorowski, Member of ERB YB from the Association of Polish Communes said that a way should be found on how to combine the term in YB with local/regional structures.

Ms Anne Thomas asked about the mandate of youth representatives in the YB and what the mission and vision of the YB would be in the future. Young people are often not interested in local or regional affairs. How should we proceed to change that?

Mr Jan Martinsson suggested that the YB could be transformed into a task force to develop joint events and projects.

Christina Mattisson agreed that creating a task force could help developing positive momentum in ERB youth cooperation.

Ms Małgorzata Samusjew, Association of Polish Communes ERB said that their project Youth Core Group Network (YCGN) in South Baltic could serve as an example. The project will create a network of young people by using existing structures eg municipal councils from Poland, Sweden and Denmark.

Ms Krystyna Wróblewska said that there was a regional youth council in Pomorskie and that the the experience shows that activists are often much better engaged than young politicians. Eg Pomorskie Business Week graduates could be involved in the ERB work instead of regional council members. BSSSC youth declaration could also be combined with the strategy of Casypot.

Mr Damian Ciachorowski said that one crucial thing in youth participation was that often adults do want to give real voice to the youth, organising instead meetings and exchanges. But that's not policy but participation. To do that we would need to include youth in the decision making processes. ERB has young person in the Board which unique.

Following the discussion, the Executive Board decided to discuss the following issues at its next meeting:

- Local/regional structure vs YB
- Mandate, influence, power
- Focus on the task force with project results together with YB
- Use 1-2 days to do youth vision/declaration at the Baltic Sea

10.

**Dates of ERB Board meetings in 2019**

The ERB Executive Board decided on the following dates and locations of its meetings in 2019:

- 13-14.02.2019 - in Klaipeda, Lithuania
- 13-14.05.2019 - in Kalmar, Sweden including the final conference of the CaSYPoT project / Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders (by ERB Secretariats at online meeting on 6.12.2018)
- 11-12.09.2019 in Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship, Poland (by ERB Secretariats at online meeting on 6.12.2018 - exact location of the meeting would be given later in 2019)

11.

**Conclusion and closing**

President of Euroregion Baltic, Ms Anne Thomas thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting of the ERB Executive Board.