



EUROREGION BALTIC

ACTION PLAN

2013 -2014

Gdańsk, 26th February 2013

Background

Euroregion Baltic (ERB) Action Plan for 2013 – 2014 was adopted on 26th February 2013 at the beginning of the new presidency within the organisation assumed by the Danish regional Municipality of Bornholm. ERB stakeholders believe that biennial action plans are an effective tool enabling them to focus their efforts more precisely, to streamline their resources more efficiently and to concretise results they expect in a clearer manner. Such was the objective for this Action Plan, as well.

Goals

The ERB 2020 Agenda (adopted in 2010) provided the necessary strategic framework by defining the vision for Euroregion Baltic. According to the vision, in 2020 ERB will be a more dynamic tool to tackle common challenges observed by its members, and a strengthened political leverage in the cross-border cooperation of the Baltic Sea Region. Having analysed the implementation of the ERB Action Plan for 2012 and 2013, this Action Plan marks the first step in making the vision of the Agenda more attainable. Therefore, it recommends the activities which will contribute to the implementation of the two goals of ERB 2020 Agenda: making ERB an effective political tool, as well as making ERB efficient in dealing with common challenges.



Actions

The actions planned to help ERB stakeholders tackle common challenges take into account interests and ambitions proposed by the member organisations. These concern joint efforts aiming at supporting youth cooperation within the ERB Youth Board, fostering B2B cooperation with focus on clusters, innovation and SME internationalisation, building a platform to address labour market mobility and youth unemployment, and at cooperating around water related issues in the ERB regions.

The actions designed in order to improve the political role of ERB are divided into external and internal ones. Externally, ERB will participate in the implementation of ETC and ENI programmes in the Baltic Sea Region, and in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, as well as cooperate with relevant actors at the EU, national and regional levels. Internal efforts will focus on the enhancement of the stakeholder approach and the enhancement of ERB internally.



Monitoring

ERB Action Plan for 2013 – 2014 gives an outline of activities, each of which will require specific structure and framework that are impossible to define at the present moment and will have to be agreed at a later time. Therefore, the role of the ERB Executive Board is crucial in the regular monitoring of its implementation. The most important criterion while assessing and guiding the delivery of the planned results should be the level of their contribution to the goals of the ERB 2020 Agenda. Moreover, this Action Plan also indicates the source and size of the incoming joint resources, as well as their allocation and expenditure, which will be part of the monitoring activities by the ERB Executive Board.

Notes

1. The abbreviations used in the tables are:

AP	Action Plan	HA	Horizontal Action
BSLF	Baltic Sea Labour Forum	HLG	High Level Group
BSSSC	Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation	IPS	International Permanent Secretariat
BSO	Business Support Organisation	JPC	Joint Programming Committee
BSR	Baltic Sea Region	MC	Monitoring Committee
B2B	Business to Business	MO	Member Organisation
CoR	Committee of the Regions	PA	(EUSBSR) Priority Area
CP	Cohesion Policy	PAC	(EUSBSR) Priority Area Coordinator
EB	Executive Board	RS	Regional Secretariat
EC	European Commission	SBA	South Baltic Area
EEN	Enterprise Europe Network	SBP	South Baltic Programme
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation	SC	Steering Committee
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument	TF	Task Force
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation	ToR	Terms of Reference
EUSBSR	EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	WCG	ERB Water Core Group
FP	(EUSBSR) Flagship Project	YB	Youth Board

2. The phrase “no extra resources required” should be understood that the planned activities are financed through the ERB joint budget (from membership fees) and/or resources allocated by each region to cover the cost related to the organisation of and participation in ERB events such as meetings of EB, YB and RS.

EUROREGION BALTIC ACTION PLAN 2013 – 2014

Goal: to strengthen political role in the cross-border cooperation of the BSR

External Action: participating in the implementation of ETC and ENI programmes in the BSR			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
representation in SBP JPC and SBP TF and participation in their meetings	SBP JPC and TF meetings to be held <u>throughout 2013 and 2014</u> ; reporting by TF on CP at EB meetings;	TF on CP , EB, YB, IPS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of TF on CP, YB, IPS P – process overseen by EB
compliance between SBP objectives 2014 - 2020 and ERB Agenda 2020	TF on CP will prepare debate on <u>27-28.05.2013</u> in order to discuss thematic links between SBP objectives and ERB 2020 Agenda; conclusions will be made as guidelines for work of TF on CP and ERB representatives in SBP JPC and TF, MC and SC; reporting on guidelines implementation at EB meetings;	TF on CP , EB, YB, IPS, TF on Labour, WCG	F – no extra resources required H - hours of TF on CP, YB, IPS, TF on Labour, WCG P – process overseen by EB
representation in MC and SC in SBP 2007 - 2014	MC and SC meetings to be held <u>throughout 2013 and 2014</u> ; reporting by TF on CP at EB meetings;	IPS , EB	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, EB P – process overseen by EB, EB member in MC
information exchange with other ETC and ENI programmes of geographical relevance	<u>throughout 2013 and 2014</u> during online meetings of TF on CP;	TF on CP , YB, IPS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of TF on CP, YB, IPS P – none
dialogue with EC and national authorities	<u>throughout 2013 and 2014</u> as initiated by EB and TF on CP; reporting by TF on CP at EB meetings;	TF on CP , EB, YB, IPS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of TF on CP, YB, IPS P – process overseen by EB

External Action: participating in the implementation of EUSBSR			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
dialogue with EC, HLG, PACs and national authorities	throughout 2013 and 2014 as initiated by EB and TF on CP; reporting by TF on CP at EB meetings;	TF on CP , EB, YB, IPS, TF on Labour, WCG	F – no extra resources required H - hours of TF on CP, YB, IPS, TF on Labour, WCG P – process overseen by EB
involvement in EUSBSR PAs and FPs within interest of ERB	throughout 2013 and 2014, TF on CP will coordinate the identification of EUSBSR PAs and FPs which will be within interest of ERB and in line with ERB 2020 Agenda and this AP, specifically regarding youth cooperation, water issues, labour market mobility and B2B/cluster development; throughout 2013 and 2014, TF on CP will prepare proposals to EB and MOs for approval;	TF on CP , EB, YB, IPS, TF on Labour, WCG	F – no extra resources required H - hours of TF on CP, YB, IPS, TF on Labour, WCG P – proposals of involvement to be approved by EB and/or MOs

External Action: holding dialogue with relevant actors			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
in 2013 or 2014 joint event based on the cooperation agreement between BSR organisations (incl. ERB) and CoR	<u>on 28.05.2013</u> – IPS will present first proposal for discussion and decision by EB; proposal should be based on careful consideration of ERB's interests and in line with ERB 2020 Agenda and this AP, specifically regarding youth cooperation, water issues, labour market mobility and B2B/cluster development;	IPS , EB, YB, TF on CP, TF on Labour, WCG	F – extra resources for travel will be required H - hours of IPS, YB, TF on CP, TF on Labour, WCG P – decision by EB
more formal links with BSSSC	on 28.05.2013 – information & decision on the scope of possible cooperation all 2013 and 2014 – implemented	EB EB, YB, IPS, RS ERB President	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – cooperation plan adopted by EB
continuous exchange of information between ERB and regional offices in Brussels	<u>throughout 2013 and 2014</u>	IPS , EB, YB, TF on CP, TF on Labour, WCG	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, YB, TF on CP, TF on Labour, WCG P – none

Goal: to strengthen political role in the cross-border cooperation of the BSR

Internal Action: reinforcing stakeholder approach			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
4 th Forum of ERB Stakeholders	<u>on 26.02.2013</u> – Forum theme discussed & agreed; <u>on 28.05.2013</u> – detailed programme discussed & agreed; <u>on 04.09.2013</u> – Forum held in Kalmar;	EB , YB, IPS, RS, TF on Labour, TF on CP, WCG	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS, TF on Labour, TF on CP, WCG P – Forum theme agreed by EB
EB meetings around ERB	<u>on 26.02.2013</u> – meeting in Gdansk, Pomorskie; <u>on 28.05.2013</u> – meeting in Karlskrona, Blekinge; <u>on 05.09.2013</u> – meeting in Kalmar; <u>on 14.11.2013</u> – meeting in Olsztyn, Warminsko-Mazurskie;	EB , YB, IPS, RS, TF on Labour, TF on CP, WCG	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS, TF on Labour, TF on CP, WCG P – decisions by EB stipulated in meeting agendas
ERB Secretariats contacts	<u>continuously</u> – email exchange; <u>every first Thursday of the month</u> – online RS meeting; <u>on 28-29.01.2013</u> - face2face meeting in Gdansk, Pomorskie; <u>on 28.05.2013</u> - face2face meeting in Karlskrona, Blekinge (tbc); <u>on 14.11.2013</u> - face2face meeting in Olsztyn, Warminsko-Mazurskie;	IPS , YB, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – none

Internal Action: strengthening ERB internally			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
decision on legal status for ERB to adopt (incl. decision regarding future IPS function) and ERB Statutes (proposals for possible changes)	<u>on 26.02.2013</u> – ToR for commissioning legal assistance presented and adopted by EB; <u>by middle of March 2013</u> – legal assistance commissioned; <u>by end of April 2013</u> – road map for ERB to become legal person presented; <u>on 28.05.2013</u> – decision on road map by EB;	IPS , EB, RS, MOs	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, RS P – EB decisions on ToR, report, and adoption of legal status
investigation of EGTC status	<u>by beginning of March 2013</u> – work initiated within TF on CP in order to prepare SWOT analysis of EGTC status for ERB; <u>by end of April 2013</u> – SWOT analysis ready; <u>on 28.05.2013</u> – SWOT analysis presented and decision on possible EGTC status by EB;	TF on CP , EB, IPS, RS, MOs	F – no extra resources required H - hours of TF on CP, IPS, RS P - decision if ERB should apply for an EGTC status
merging TF on CP and TF on EUSBSR	<u>on 26.02.2013</u> – proposal submitted to EB for approval;	TF on CP , EB, IPS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of TF on CP, IPS P – decision on proposal by EB

Goal: to be a more dynamic tool to tackle common challenges

Action: supporting youth cooperation within ERB Youth Board			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
supporting YB by establishing a permanent structure independent of projects	between February 2013 and February 2014	IPS , YB, RS, MOs	F –extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – none
supporting YB in their efforts to promote concrete activities / events projects	<u>on 26.02.2013</u> – proposals of youth project ideas related to an event on 13.11.2013 discussed within YB and EB; <u>on 28.05.2013</u> – proposal of selected youth project idea related to an event on 13.11.2013 presented and decided on by EB; <u>September 2013</u> – start of implementation;	YB , IPS, RS, EB, MOs	F – extra resources may be required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision on proposal by EB
supporting YB by anchoring it regionally in accordance with YB own action plan	<u>all 2013 and 2014</u> – within the scope of the youth cooperation memorandum agreed by MO on 28.05.2011	MO , EB, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – process overseen by EB
25 th jubilee International Competition of Fine Arts of Children and Youth from Euroregion Baltic “We are from the Sea”	<u>31.03.2013</u> – deadline for sending work <u>21.09.2013</u> – opening an exhibition held in Elblag and awarding the winners	Association of Polish Communes	F – no extra resources required H - hours of RS P – none

Action: fostering B2B cooperation with focus on clusters, innovation and SME internationalisation

Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
ERB as exchange platform of good practices for cluster development managers in SBA and BSR	<p><u>on 24-25th April 2013</u> - Business Link Greater Copenhagen holds conference on cluster development attended by BSOs from ERB area;</p> <p><u>on 28.05.2013</u> – conference feedback presented and discussed at EB meeting;</p> <p><u>2nd half of 2013</u> – ERB is invited as supporting organisation by Business Link Greater Copenhagen which coordinates work aiming at extending cluster development cooperation into whole BSR;</p> <p><u>2nd half of 2013</u> – EB will be asked to respond to invitation and define scope of involvement;</p>	RS , IPS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of RS, IPS P – decision on invitation by EB
ERB as project facilitator for actors in ERB to improve SME internationalisation, innovation and exports	<p><u>on 28.05.2013</u> – following cluster conference ideas presented and discussed at EB meeting on how ERB can assist actors in ERB in the improvement of SME internationalisation, innovation and exports;</p> <p><u>2nd half of 2013</u> – EB will be asked to respond to ideas and define further of involvement;</p>	RS , IPS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of RS, IPS P – decision on ideas by EB

Action: developing stronger cooperation on labour market issues in ERB

Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
investigating perspectives for the labour market development in the South Baltic area	<p><u>on 25.02.2013</u> – seminar held in Gdansk, report with statistical data presented and declaration adopted by ERB stakeholders;</p> <p>by middle of March – conclusions from seminar submitted with specific follow-up plan to be adopted by EB in written procedure by end of March;</p> <p><u>on 14.11.2013</u> – evaluation of TF on Labour and decision on possible continuation;</p>	TF on Labour , EB, YB, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – discussions and decision by EB
contributing to the programming process of the South Baltic CBC Programme 2014-2020	<u>throughout 2013</u>	TF on Labour , EB, YB, TF on CP, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – process overseen by EB
cooperating within BSLF and EURES offices in ERB area	<u>throughout 2013 and 2014</u>	TF on Labour , EB, YB, IPS, RS	F – extra resources may be required for travel H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – process overseen by EB
continuous exchange of ideas, experience and project ideas regarding labour mobility and youth employment	<u>throughout 2013 and 2014</u>	TF on Labour , YB, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – none

Action: facilitating water cooperation			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
scope of future water cooperation within ERB	<p><u>on 26.02.2013</u> – information on drafting process for future water cooperation plan presented by WCG at EB meeting;</p> <p><u>on 28.05.2013</u> – future water cooperation plan presented to EB for adoption;</p> <p><u>throughout 2013 and 2014</u> – implementation of future water cooperation plan</p>	WCG , EB, YB, MOs, TF on CP, IPS, RS	<p>F – may require extra resources (?)</p> <p>H - hours of WCB, YB, TF on CP, IPS, RS</p> <p>P – adoption of water cooperation plan</p>
conclusions from MOMENT project	<u>on 28.05.2013</u> –conclusions from MOMENT project implementation presented to EB;	WCG , EB, TF on CP, IPS	<p>F – no extra resources required</p> <p>H - hours of WCB, TF on CP, IPS</p> <p>P – none</p>
ERB Water Forum	<u>on 26.02.2013</u> – preliminary information on ERB Water Forum in 2014	WCG , EB, TF on CP, IPS	<p>F – no extra resources required</p> <p>H - hours of WCB, TF on CP, IPS</p> <p>P – none</p>

EUROREGION BALTIC BUDGET 2013

#	REVENUES	In EUR	In SEK
	Result as of 01.01.2013	296,20 €	2 526,56 SEK
1	Association Klaipeda Region	5 500,00 €	46 915,00 SEK
2	Kaliningrad Oblast	5 500,00 €	46 915,00 SEK
3	Pomorski Urząd Marszałkowski	5 500,00 €	46 915,00 SEK
4	Region Blekinge	5 500,00 €	46 915,00 SEK
5	Regionförbundet i Kalmar Lan	5 500,00 €	46 915,00 SEK
6	Regionförbundet södra Småland	5 500,00 €	46 915,00 SEK
7	Regionskommun Bornholm	5 500,00 €	46 915,00 SEK
8	Stowarzyszenie Gmin RP Euroregion Bałtyk	5 500,00 €	46 915,00 SEK
9	Warmińsko-Mazurski Urząd Marszałkowski	5 500,00 €	46 915,00 SEK
	TOTAL REVENUES	<u>49 796,20 €</u>	<u>424 761,59 SEK</u>
#	EXPENDITURE	In EUR	In SEK
1	Personnel costs	32 918,24 €	280 792,60 SEK
	overheads (incl. office rental, phone, internet)	6 226,85 €	53 115,00 SEK
	mobile phone	1 172,33 €	10 000,00 SEK
	salary	25 519,06 €	217 677,60 SEK
2	Travel / Meetings	8 206,33 €	70 000,00 SEK
3	IT	838,22 €	7 150,00 SEK
	ERB website, updates, domains and hosting	76,20 €	650,00 SEK
	webmeeting facility	0,00 €	0,00 SEK
	equipment	762,02 €	6 500,00 SEK
4	ERB Youth Board	5 500,00 €	46 915,00 SEK
5	Legal counselling	2 110,20 €	18 000,00 SEK
6	Banking charges	223,21 €	1 903,99 SEK
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>49 796,20 €</u>	<u>424 761,59 SEK</u>