

Euroregion Baltic Water Core Group

Work Plan 2020-2022

Kalmar, Sweden 2020-05-27

The ERB Water Core Group

The ERB Water Core Group consists of regional politicians and experts, appointed by the ERB members. They are working on behalf of the ERB Board and the work is supposed to contribute to regional competitiveness advantages through:

- Common view
- Connecting competences
- Concrete projects and cooperation

The group also serves as a link to main political assemblies and is responsible for anchoring and spreading information/results to their political fora's.

Background

Good and efficient management of water resources is imperative for health, ecology, economy and development in general in the Baltic region. The severe state of the Baltic Sea with algae blooms and increasing dead zones requires actions. The threats of climate change also highlight water issues as draughts, storms and flooding are expected to increase in the future. This can give impact also on food production and the quality of drinking water.

The high importance of water from the perspective of regional development, the EU Water Framework Directive, the common concern of the Baltic Sea and the willingness on the local and regional levels to take an active part in the work for better water qualities – these are the main reasons why ERB has chosen water as a strategic field of action.

ERB wants to establish the region as a pilot area for transnational and trans boundary cooperation and implementation of modern methods of water management and the EU Water Framework Directive. This will benefit an environmental and sustainable development in the region. A joint work for a healthier Baltic Sea is a common concern for all ERB partners and brings added value to the entire region.

The goal

The overriding goal for the ERB Water Core Group is to realize concrete measures aiming to good ecological and chemical status in the ERB waters, as a base for good development of the area.

Focus areas

- Decreasing the outflow of nutrients and hazardous substances, including microplastics, into the water by coastal and upstream activities (for example water management and/or spatial planning).
- Actions needed to cope with effects from climate change, like draughts and flooding, on water supply and water recipients (for example rain/storm water, drinking water).

Method

The ERB Water Core Group operates from a local and regional perspective and support trans boundary cooperation. Further the approach should be characterized by participation from private, public and academic sector (Triple Helix) and be based on the structure of water basin areas.

Mission

The mission of the ERB Water Core Group is stated above. It should act for a **common view**, as a focal point for expertise from different sectors to build knowledge and consensus about the current situation, necessary and effective measures etc. It should **connect competence** by offering an arena for trans boundary exchange of experiences, geographical as well as institutional, and support transfer of information and knowledge. Finally, the ERB Water Core Group should facilitate formation of **concrete projects and cooperation** as a tool to reach the overriding goal.

Actors from each region

The ERB Water Core Group should hold members from all nine regions, in five countries. The members are presumed to bring important knowledge and information into the Water Core Group. It is equally important that the knowledge and information gained within the Water Core Group are spread in the home regions.

Actions

The actions within the ERB Water Core Group are based on regular meetings, physical meetings as well as web meetings. The number of meetings and other activities depend on the projects running and are stated in the Euroregion Baltic Action Plan every two years. An ERB Water Forum is suggested on a regular basis. The Water Forum can be held adjacent to an ERB meeting or held in one of the member regions to bring in understanding for each others conditions by local examples and experiences.

Budget

The ERB Water Core Group does not have its own budget. Participation is paid by each member organization. Projects might offer financing of certain activities.

Secretariat

The administration of the ERB Water Core Group is run by a secretariat consisting of a Chairman and Secretary. Presently the secretariat is situated at The Regional County Board in Kalmar County, Sweden.

Chairman: Mr Roger Gustavsson (member of the Regional Development Board within Region Kalmar County) Roger-kyrkby@hotmail.com

Secretary: Mr Tobias Facchini (Expert water and environment, the Region Kalmar County) tobias.facchini@regionkalmar.se