



Euroregion Baltic



2021

**EUROREGION
BALTIC
ANNUAL
REPORT**



EUROREGION BALTIC EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021

Elin Petersson, ERB President, Chair of the Regional Development Board, Region Blekinge, Sweden (from Dec 2021)

Johan Sandberg, ERB President, Chair of the Regional Development Board, Region Blekinge, Sweden

Gustaw Marek Brzezina, ERB Vice President, Marshal of Warmia and Masuria Region, Poland

Vytautas Grubliauskas, ERB Board Member, Klaipeda City Mayor, Board Member of Association Klaipeda Region, Lithuania

Per-Ole Petersen, ERB Board Member, Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Denmark

Sabine Lyngberg, ERB Board Deputy Member, Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Denmark

Witold Wróblewski, ERB Board Member, Chair of Board of the Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic, Poland

Joanna Zielińska, ERB Board Deputy Member, Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic, Poland

Helen Bengtsson, ERB Board Deputy Member, Region Kronoberg, Sweden

Britt-Louise Berndtsson, ERB Board Deputy Member, Region Kronoberg, Sweden

Roland Gustbée, ERB Board Member, Region Kronoberg, Sweden

Robert Olesen, ERB Board Member, Region Kronoberg, Sweden

Aleksander Bogdanov, ERB Board Member, Deputy Chair of Kaliningrad Regional Duma, Russia

Alla Ivanova, ERB Board Deputy Member, Minister-Head of Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region, Russia

Liana Maximova, ERB Board Deputy Member, Deputy Head of the Agency for International Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region, Russia

Wiesław Byczkowski, ERB Board Member, Vice-Chair of the Board of Pomorskie Region, Poland

Suzanne Svensson, Regional Development Board Member, Region Blekinge, Sweden

Ingrid Hermansson, Deputy Chair of the Regional Development Board, Region Blekinge, Sweden

Karin Helmersson, ERB Board Member, Region Kalmar County, Sweden

Elin Sjölander Landerdahl, ERB Board Member, Region Kalmar County, Sweden

Peter Vretlund, ERB Board Deputy Member, Region Kalmar County, Sweden

Johanna Wyckman, ERB Board Deputy Member, Region Kalmar County, Sweden

Anders Tell, ERB Board Member, Skåne Association of Local Authorities, Sweden



Lars Lundberg, ERB Board Member, Skåne Association of Local Authorities, Sweden

Leif Sandberg, ERB Board Deputy Member, Skåne Association of Local Authorities, Sweden

Cecilia Magnusson-Svärd, ERB Board Deputy Member, Skåne Association of Local Authorities, Sweden

In 2021 Euroregion Baltic Executive Board met four times online, via the ZOOM meeting tool: on February 25th 2021, May 25th 2021, October 6th 2021 and December 20th 2021.

EUROREGION BALTIC YOUTH BOARD

Johanna Wyckman, Chairwoman of ERB Youth Board, Region Kalmar County, Sweden

Małgorzata Lewandowska, Vice Chairwoman of ERB Youth Board, ERB Youth Board Member, Pomorskie Region

Julia Orluk, ERB Youth Board Member Pomorskie Region

Greta Tautavičiūtė, ERB Youth Board Member, Klaipėda, Lithuania

Grzegorz Gieda, ERB Youth Board Member, Warmia and Masuria Region, Poland

Emil Rigstad-Andersen, ERB Youth Board Member, Regional Municipality of Bornholm

Adam Gronek, ERB Youth Board Member, Association of Polish Communes ERB, Poland (until Nov 2021)

Illia Oganisian, ERB Youth Board Member, Kaliningrad Region (until Sep 2021)

Danil Migunov, ERB Youth Board Member, Kaliningrad Region (until Sep 2021)

Elin Petersson, ERB Youth Board Member, Blekinge Region (until Dec 2021)

Alexander Nilsson, ERB Youth Board Member, Blekinge Region

Nazar Lukashev, ERB Youth Board Member, Kaliningrad Region

In 2021 Euroregion Baltic Youth Board met online several times and participated 4 times online to the ERB Executive Board meetings on February 25th 2021, May 25th 2021, October 6th 2021 and on December 20th 2021 and 3 times during the online meetings.



WATER CORE GROUP

Roger Gustavsson, ERB WCG Chairman, Region Kalmar County (until Jun 2021)

Åsa Felix Everbrand, ERB WCG Chairwoman, Region Kalmar County (since July 2021)

Tobias Facchini, Region Kalmar County

Valeria Zagirova, Environmental Center "ECAT-Kaliningrad"

Anders Almqvist, Region Kalmar County

Torben Jørgensen, Bornholm Energy and Supply

Therese Jephson, Skåne Association of Local Authorities (until June 2020)

Sarah Keidser, Blekinge Region

In 2021 Water Core Group met together with the WaterMan Interreg BSR project meetings on: 23rd Feb, 17th June, 16th Aug and during the physical project final meeting in Kalmar on 14-15th September 2021.

MOBILITY CORE GROUP

Mattias Andersson, ERB MCG Chariman, Blekinge Region

Sylwia Wymysłowska, Innobaltica Ltd., Pomorskie Region

Małgorzata Klawiter-Piwowarska, Office of the Marshal of the Pomorskie Region,

Pawel Warszzycki, Hanseatic Institute for Entrepreneurship and Regional Development at the University of Rostock

Antje Schreyer, Region Kalmar County

Agneta Carlsson, Region Kronoberg

Nicolai Munk Pedersen, Regional Municipality of Bornholm

Andrius Samuilovas, Klaipeda Public Transport Authority

Eglė Stonkė, Association of Klaipeda Region

Sven Borén, Blekinge Institute of Technology

Anna Jaroszewska, Office of the Marshal of the Warmia and Masuria Region

Aleksandra Iglińska, Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic

Agata Widzicka, Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic

In 2021 Mobility Core Group met together online on: 16th March, 24th May, and on 18th November 2021 in Gdańsk during the physical meeting.



CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE CORE GROUP

Agata Czyżewska, Pomorskie Region

Inga Kawalek, Centre for Citizens Initiative, ED Słupsk

Johanna Ronn, Blekinge Region

Sławomir Demkowicz- Dobrzański, Kronoberg Region

Antje Schreyer, Kalmar Region

Sven Kasto, Director of South Sweden's Brussels Office

Piotr Zwolak, Warmia and Masuria Region

Bartosz Tokarczyk, Europe Direct office, Warmia and Masuria Region

Małgorzata Wasilenko, Director of Warmia and Masuria's Brussels Office

Niels Chresten Andersen, ERb Secretariat on Bornholm, Europe Direct office on Bornholm

Egle Stonke, Association of Klaipeda Region

Greta Tautaviciute, ERB Youth Board Member, Klaipeda Region

In 2021 CoFE Core Group met together online on: 21st Sep 2021 to present the current activities planned for the autumn. The group concluded that The Conference on the Future of Europe is a unique opportunity for European citizens to debate on Europe's challenges and priorities. Euroregion Baltic participated through its members through numerous Europe Direct offices.



ADDRESS BY ERB PRESIDENT

Between February 25th, 2021, and 9th March 2022, Euroregion Baltic was under the political leadership of Region Blekinge, Sweden. The position as president was held by Mr Johan Sandberg, until he sadly and unexpectedly passed away on 25th September 2021.

On 19th November 2021, Region Blekinge has appointed Ms Elin Petersson to the position of ERB President.



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends of the Euroregion Baltic cooperation,

It has been a great honour to chair and lead the last year of our cooperation as president for the Euroregion Baltic Board, and to do this in the spirit of a respected colleague and friend.

It has also been an honour to be part of the Euroregion Baltic cooperation during the past years, having seen what results of that joint cooperation can actually achieve in terms of joint projects, joint position papers and joint dialogue on the future opportunities and challenges in the south Baltic region. The pandemic situation continued during 2021 to put limits to our possibilities to visit and explore our respective regions. In May the Euroregion Baltic Board members were invited to a digital tour in Blekinge, expressing the wish to welcome Euroregion Baltic friends and members to visit our Region when pandemic restrictions are ended.



I am also proud to announce that the Euroregion Baltic through seminars and webinars achieved to promote and engage local actors to take part in the opportunities related to the new Interreg South Baltic programme. A record number of project applicants showed interest in the programme last year. Other examples worth highlighting during the year is the Euroregion Baltic cooperation within the EUSBSR strategy work and the joint dialogue with the BSSSC organisation. Other prioritized areas for the year of 2021 were achieved within the Core Groups of water as well as mobility. The development of the Waterman Seed Money project and the Interconnect Tourism Seed Money project has provided future funds to create rings on the water on issues identified as common areas to develop within the Euroregion Baltic platform.

Finally, the Youth Board and the aim to empower youth participation in decisions and policy-making in the Baltic Sea Region has been in focus with successful results.

By these words I would like to thank all members of the Euroregion Baltic cooperation for a year of filled by joint challenges but also for a year filled with joint belief in the strength of our future cooperation.

Elin Petersson,

President of the Euroregion Baltic, 2021



Focus area 1: Lobbying

Strategic objective: strengthening the political role of ERB in the cross-border cooperation

South Baltic Programme

The Euroregion Baltic representatives were actively engaged in preparing the new programming perspective 2021-2027 for the Interreg SBP, which resulted in the adoption of the Programme's draft by the Joint Programming Committee (JPC) its submission to the decision of the Programme's Member States. The Head of the IPS is leading the joint Delegation of Euroregions and thus representing the ERB in Monitoring Committee; ERB representatives were also engaged in Joint Programming Committee and two working groups established to work on the new Programme.

The new programme will act under the joint vision/statement: „UNITED BY THE SEA INTO ACTION FOR THE BLUE AND GREEN FUTURE” and the planned Programme priorities are:

- Innovative South Baltic – enhancing the level of innovation and internationalization of local actors
- Sustainable South Baltic - promoting sustainable development and blue and green economy
- Attractive South Baltic – activate the tourist potential of South Baltic Area
- Active South Baltic – improving cooperation governance.

During the Interreg SBP meetings in 2021, Euroregion Baltic representatives confirmed that ERB supported the inclusion of the Olsztyński sub-region (NUTS 3) in Warmia and Masuria Region (Poland) into the South Baltic Programme's eligible area during the subsequent EU financial perspective 2021-2027.

In 2021 Interreg SBP organised two webinars dedicated to Seed money call in which ERB representatives were presenting the outcomes from our Umbrella Interreg SBP project. Head of IPS and ERB Secretariats representatives were also engaged in two online networking meetings and an annual event. During one of the sessions, the project representatives interviewed the Programme representatives: Deimante Jankūnaitė, Head of Territorial Cooperation Programmes Unit of Regional Policy Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania; Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło, Head of the Euroregion Baltic International Permanent Secretariat; Alexander Schwock, German Contact Point of the Interreg South Baltic Programme for Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Michał Ostrowski, Programme Officer at the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg South Baltic Programme.



The interview was based on questions added by participants of the event during the registration process and questions asked in a chat room during the live discussion. The method used was to reverse roles, where the projects' representatives interviewed the Programme's representatives.

Interreg SBP Programme opened a 3rd Seed Money call for proposals within the current programme, which started on 13th September and will last until 5th November 2021. Organisations could apply within all current priorities and specific objectives. This call aimed to develop the project proposals for the full-scale projects that could be implemented as regular projects under the future South Baltic Programme 2021-2027. Euroregion Baltic contributed with two project applications and acted as a facilitator and intermediary connecting partners from the SBP area to other Seed Money project proposals.

On 9th April 2021, Euroregion Baltic organised the “ERB South Baltic Agenda” seminar for South Baltic stakeholders. Online session aims were to inform the SBP actors how ERB contributes to the Interreg South Baltic Programme (SBP), what are the perspectives and planned policy objectives for Interreg SBP 2021-27, how we can align the planned SBP objectives with the work in ERB Water Core Group, ERB Mobility Core Group and ERB Youth Board and what are the possibilities for ERB Stakeholders cooperation in the area of tourism.

Over 80 participants took part in the meeting. Among the speakers who were presenting the crucial topics to the SBP area were:

- Magdalena Bednarczyk-Sokół, Deputy Director of the Territorial Cooperation Department, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Interreg South Baltic Programme Managing Authority, Poland
- Johan Sandberg, President of Euroregion Baltic, Blekinge Region, Sweden
- Dominika Butkiewicz, Head of the Joint Secretariat Interreg SBP, Poland
- Johan Lundbäck, Interreg South Baltic Programme Contact Point Region Kalmar, Sweden
- Tobias Facchini, Water Core Group Leader, Kalmar Region, Sweden
- Mattias Andersson, Mobility Core Group Leader, Blekinge Region, Sweden
- Johanna Wyckman, ERB Youth Board Chairwoman.

On the 9th of June 2021 Warmia and Masuria Region organised a webinar "International cooperation in the era of pandemic. Experiences and perspectives", where various entities from the region shared their experience about international projects implemented after the outbreak of pandemic COVID-19. One of the speakers was Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło, Head of Euroregion Baltic International Permanent Secretariat, who presented project "Umbrella 2.0".

Umbrella 2.0

To fill the gap left after the Umbrella project in the cross-border cooperation, waiting for new financing in the EU programming period 2021-2027, Euroregion Baltic realized the Umbrella



project's success in the process of capacity building initiated in 2018 could not be stopped. To fill the gap left after the Umbrella project in the cross-border cooperation, waiting for new financing in the EU programming period 2021-2027, Euroregion Baltic realized the Umbrella project's success in the process of capacity building initiated in 2018 could not be stopped.

For this reason, the so-called Umbrella 2.0 proposal was presented to the Swedish Institute as a natural consequence of the Umbrella Project (SBP) and its willingness to become a recognized brand, active also on a broader Baltic Sea scale. Therefore, Euroregion Baltic, together with UBC and BSSSC, submitted Umbrella 2.0- Boosting transnational cooperation capacities for multi-level actors in the Baltic Sea Region- that was approved and launched in January 2021.

AIM OF THE PROJECT

The project's overarching goal was to increase awareness and knowledge of transnational cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. More specifically, the project aimed to initiate a process for developing solid multi-actor and multi-level governance partnerships that could undertake cross-sectoral sustainable solutions while following the principles and objectives of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, EU Green Deal and UN SDG.

The aims concerning the Baltic Region were:

- To raise awareness of opportunities and benefits of transnational and cross-border cooperation and increase regional stakeholders' interest in it;
- To empower stakeholders to build strategic and long term-partnerships, support networking, and straighten community of practitioners in different sectors;
- To improve knowledge of the EU, its financial instruments and relevant strategies, with particular focus on the EUSBSR;
- To explore the opportunities and benefits of being part of EUSBSR and offer practical guidelines on how to engage in long-term;

- To help build competencies, i.e. knowledge and skills necessary to run projects with benefit to the Policy areas, and create specific networks of interest in different sectors in a cross-sectorial manner focusing on a shift and transformation by our beneficiaries (activating them for sustainable transnational cooperation).

UMBRELLA 2.0 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES in 2021

On 27th April 2021, over 125 participants joined the Umbrella 2.0 Awareness Raising Event to learn more about the cooperation possibilities in the Baltic Sea Region. More than 90 participants also stayed for the thematic workshops and enjoyed discussing with experts from all BSR countries. At the event, Umbrella 2.0 Experts presented the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region “entry points” for small and local actors based on 14 interviews with EUSBSR Policy Area Coordinators. The interviews conducted over two months attempted, on the one hand, to gain a broad picture of the current status of local stakeholders’ participation and listen to exciting ideas and proposals on what should be done further to integrate them in the works of the Strategy. The full report was provided in June 2021 and is available to all BS actors.

On 15th June, a webinar on “Green Deal – the strategy changing Europe” took place. The event, organized by the BSSSC, gathered 75 participants and was dedicated to the so-called 'newcomers' - small and local organizations willing to engage and increase knowledge on EU Agenda, organizations active in the Baltic Sea Region and finally on projects and their impact on 'greening' the BSR.

In September 2021, Umbrella 2.0 developed another publication - “BE PART OF THE CHANGE” booklet for the Baltic Sea cooperation newcomers, aiming to share best practices further to build the capacities of small and local actors and inspire more stakeholders to engage in transnational BSR cooperation. The presented stories show successful collaboration, extensive networking, and current and future “hot topics” for collaboration in EUSBSR thematic areas. Umbrella 2.0 asked partners of Baltic Sea cooperation projects and initiatives to share their stories about what good transnational partnerships can bring to their work, organizations, and local communities.

Finally, a series of training was conducted:

1. On the 22nd of October, the „Project Management for beginners“ webinar (20 participants)
2. On 9th November, the training on European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) within the “UMBRELLA 2.0” project took place online, gathering around 60 participants from UBC Member Cities, Civil Society, Business and Academia across the Baltic Sea Region. The overall aim of the training was to make participants familiar with the structure and opportunities within the EUSBSR and prepare them to become active players in different EUSBSR flagships or policy areas. During the interactive course of 6 hours, experts from UBC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic and the Swedish Institute provided fresh updates about the strategy, macroregional cooperation and potential funding opportunities

through programme schemes such as Interreg, European Regional Development Fund, Horizon Europe, Erasmus +, European Social Fund Plus.

3. On 18th November, the „Advanced Project Management“ webinar with 16 participants

4. On 10th December the „Project Management for beginners“ training provided by Peerstage company (19 participants)

Reports by Umbrella 2.0 publications regarding the EUSBSR and BSR cooperation were disseminated among almost 1000 BSRC stakeholders (combined Umbrella and Umbrella 2.0 stakeholders lists, UBC, ERB and BSSSC newsletters), downloaded from the websites more than 300 times.

Report **“Umbrella 2.0 Entry points to EUSBSR cooperation”**. For two months, the Umbrella 2.0 experts conducted a series of 14 interviews with Coordinators of all Policy Areas of the Strategy, attempting on the one hand to gain a broad picture of the current status of local stakeholders' participation but also to listen to exciting ideas and proposals on what should be done further to integrate them in the works of the Strategy.

Booklet **“Umbrella 2.0 Be part of the change”** Umbrella 2.0 developed this booklet with best practices further to build the capacities of small and local actors and inspire more stakeholders to engage in transnational BSR cooperation. The stories show successful collaboration, extensive networking, and current and future “hot topics” for collaboration in EUSBSR thematic areas. Partners of Baltic Sea cooperation projects and initiatives were asked to share their stories about what good transnational cooperation can bring to their work, organizations, and local communities.

InDigiSE – Erasmus+ project



The project “Promotion of social entrepreneurship in the youth sector by digital and informal education tools” – InDigiSE, funded by Erasmus+ programme, led by Klaipėdos Universitetas from Lithuania, aims at delivery of youth-oriented, innovative educational tools to develop entrepreneurial competence in the field of social economy and engage youth within social entrepreneurship. Launched in March 2020, the project is successfully continued despite all difficulties caused by the pandemic. As in the previous year, all partnership

meetings in 2021 were held online via the Zoom platform, on average, once a month. In 2021 the project work was concentrated on the continuation of promoting youth social entrepreneurship on the socialenterprisebsr.net/ platform, as well as on collecting inputs and implementation of both the Intellectual Output 2, that is developing guidelines for youth centres and youth

organizations on how to stimulate social entrepreneurship via nonformal and informal learning methods including gamification methods, and on Intellectual Output 3 – developing Social entrepreneurship Innocamp Methodology Handbook and organizing Innocamps.

After conducting national reports and surveys concerning the state of social entrepreneurship in each partnership country, finally, in June 2021, the guide “How to stimulate social entrepreneurship via nonformal and informal learning methods” was ready to be published. The main goal of the Handbook was to assist youth workers (teachers, youth leaders, etc.). It identifies methods, techniques, and strategies for working with youth and promotes a holistic approach to young people’s entrepreneurial attitudes. Simultaneously, further project activities aimed at preparing for the implementation of the Methodology Handbook and organizing the first Youth Innovation Camp were ongoing.

Initially planned to take place in Kristiansand, Norway, the International Youth Innovation Camp has been finally organized online on 15-17th of November 2021 for young people from Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, and Norway. The goal was to design and validate social entrepreneurship ideas designed by youth to solve specific challenges – loneliness and social isolation. The event has been scheduled for three days to introduce participants to the challenge and the context of their work, initiate brainstorming and idea conceptualization in national groups, engage mentors to provide feedback, develop their presentation and present the solutions designed by young people.

The camp participants were divided into national groups to work on one of the assignments proposed. They were supposed to design activities and services (e.g. care services, social activities, business activities) that make the co-housing centre an attractive place to live in for: elderly people, people with physical disabilities, or students. Also, participants



were supposed to explain how can their planned solutions be implemented/organized and carried out jointly by the inhabitants. Each team could present their draft ideas to the mentors and receive feedback for improvements. Teams have discussed various ideas with mentors from Norway, Denmark, and Latvia and chosen the ones with the highest potential. After consultancy with mentors and within the teams, participants were able to conceptualize the presentations of their

advanced solution.

The final presentations included one team from Latvia, one team from Lithuania, 2 teams from Poland, and 2 teams from Norway. The Jury assessed participants based on the following evaluation criteria: Answering the assignment, Creativity, Feasibility, and Presentation quality. The results of the camp were truly impressive. The first prize went to the team from Poland, and two teams from Lithuania and Norway shared joint second place.

Finally, the **“Social Entrepreneurship Innovation Camp Methodology Handbook”** was published on the socialentreprenebsr.net platform at the end of November. The Handbook outlines the guidelines for organizing innovation camps or similar events with a strong focus on social entrepreneurship. It is a set of interactive and innovative educational material and ICT tools and gamification and brainstorming methods dedicated to training, educating, and raising awareness on the subject of social entrepreneurship among youth recommended to use by EU countries' schools, universities, NGOs etc. The content of the Handbook is recommendatory and can be easily modified according to the specifics of the innovation event.

Baltic Sea Youth Platform - Erasmus+ project

Baltic Sea Youth Platform is an Erasmus+ Programme project aiming at empowering youth and fostering real participation in decisions and policy-making in the Baltic Sea Region. It started on 1st February 2020 and was prolonged from August 2022 until December 2022. Despite many difficulties



and inconveniences caused by the pandemic, the project partnership supported and got involved in many great youth-oriented initiatives throughout the past year, thus promoting the idea of BSYP. In 2021 project partners meetings were held online every two weeks, which contributed to building strong engagement and developing new initiatives and great ideas for further cooperation.

On the 1st of March, BSYP conducted the Youth Forum within the 2nd EU Macro Regional Strategies week hosted by DG REGIO. Julia Orluk, ERB's Youth Board former Chairwoman, who's been engaged in the BSYP project from its' very beginning, was among the panellists of the bottom-up session to empower the participation of Youth and Civil Society Organisations in MRS. In March 2021, the first Interim Report for the Baltic Sea Youth Platform Erasmus+ project was submitted.

In April, the BSYP project participated in two youth-oriented events: BSSSC Youth Network on 14th April and Digital Youth Workshop on Green and Social entrepreneurship co-organised with Youth4Nature.

May 2021 was another busy month for BSYP. On the 6th of May, BSYP became a part of a youth panel during a CBSS trafficking conference focusing on human trafficking during the digital era. The

meeting was co-organised by TH-TFB and the CAR unit of the CBSS. Next, on 12th – 14th May, the CBSS Ministerial Youth Edition was held, where again BSYP was very active. During the event, young people from the BS region came up with great ideas that evaluated the CBSS Vision Statement Beyond 2030, presented to the Foreign Ministers at the CBSS Ministerial on June 1st.

Finally, between 28th and 29th May, BSYP joined the BSSSC Youth Spring Event, where modern democracy, Baltic sustainability and entrepreneurship were discussed with experts from EU Parliament.

On 22nd June, all BSYP project partners and associated partners joined Partnership Day to work on the platform vision with ACTER experts. Project partners discussed further steps regarding virtual platform development, toolkits and guidelines issues within Baltic Sea Youth Power Box, policy recommendations, youth input to the Baltic Sea Cultural Cities and other matters connected to the external report.

August 2021 was also filled with extraordinary events dedicated to youth, and the BSYP project was proud to be part of them. They were starting up with 41st Hanseatic Days days on 19th -21st August, a hybrid event taking place in Riga and online. Among others, the program included the "Youth Hanza" event, which was a virtual meeting of young people from member cities, during which issues of current issues in the region such as the climate and environment, the participation of young people in these processes, as well as the history and traditions of Hanseatic cities were discussed interactively.

On 28th – 31st August, BSYP joined the ReGeneration Week 2021 - a hybrid event, where people participated physically on the Åland Islands and through the streaming tool Coeo. The ReGeneration Week provided an international meeting place for intergenerational dialogues for a sustainable system change. The theme for the ReGeneration Week 2021 was "ReThinking The System", which highlights the need for a sustainable recovery after the pandemic. ReGeneration Week 2021 offered interactive lectures, workshops, intergenerational dialogues and provided tools to contribute to a more sustainable life in connection to the five different domains in Anatomy of Action.

On 29th August, the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)/Baltic Sea Youth Platform, together with the Swedish delegation to the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, organized the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Youth Forum to promote dialogue between young people of the region and policymakers. The forum gathered young people and members of parliament from the Baltic Sea Region who discussed how to secure a democratically and environmentally sustainable future. It provided an opportunity for young people to give input to policymakers on the issues at hand and gain insight into international parliamentary cooperation.

Furthermore, BSYP was an active participant at the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2021. On 30th September, CBSS organized a panel discussion on Empowering Youth for Green Entrepreneurship,

which became a platform for young entrepreneurs from across the BSR to share their insights on how to start a green business and provide their experience regarding existing obstacles and barriers receiving funding and building a business model. The panel also gave the floor to representatives of financial institutions and programmes. The participants also had an opportunity to discuss how to improve the status quo regarding financial mechanisms and accessibility and provide a more supportive environment for young people to start their businesses in the BSR. The last day of the Forum was entirely dedicated to youth issues. Participants joined the plenary session on youth's involvement but also heard more about Klaipėda as the European Youth Capital 2021, the role of youth in implementing ambitious green agenda of the EU, the presentation of Lithuanian Sea Museum, creative workshop on SDGs, presentations of sustainable solutions of businesses and many more.

In October, CBSS announced a call for the Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue 2021: Looking forward, looking back – 30 Years of Collaboration in the Baltic Sea Region. The dialogue held between 4th-28th November consisted of three lectures on the following topics: Safe & Secure Region, Sustainable & Prosperous Region, and Regional Identity. All participants of the lectures had an exciting opportunity to dialogue with experts from the region. The dialogue was followed by two activities: a cross country assignment and a learning diary. Each activity's best creative entries were later awarded during the online ceremony on 11th December 2021.

On 1st November, the Baltic Sea Youth Platform partnership announced the recruitment for the Baltic Sea Talent Pool. Young people (18-30 years old) eager to be active in shaping policies within the region could apply to join one of the working groups: advocacy - responsible for writing policy recommendations and taking part in the events, culture - implementing local actions and being part of the development of the Baltic Sea Cultural Cities and Regions Project Or to become a part of BSYP taskforce for child protection policies.

On 23rd November, CBSS presented the BSYP during the "Connecting minds across the ages" side event at the NDPHS Partnership Annual Conference.



Finally, on 25th and 26th November, the BSYP project partners met physically in Stockholm for the first time after nearly 20 months. At the two day meeting, organized in the premises of CBSS, representatives from Sweden, Norway, Lithuania, Estonia, Germany and Poland, including many youth representatives, had an opportunity to discuss the current

status of the project, partner contribution, funding options, add-ons to be created, development of intellectual outputs within the project as well as Strategy, Vision and Partnership beyond 2022.

The second day of the meeting was filled with some great workshops within the Baltic Sea Belongs to Kids project and very fruitful discussions among members of BSYP Working Groups.

BSYP Vision Beyond 2022

As a follow-up of the youth involvement in the first CBSS Committee of Senior Officials meeting in mid-September, BSYP was asked to provide a first draft of a vision for the BSYP after the project ended. The document is an internal document of the CBSS to continue the discussions on the institutionalization of the BSYP. It was meant to start a debate amongst the CBSS Member States on what financial support of the BSYP could look like after the Erasmus+ project ends. On 23rd November, the CSO discussed the BSYP Vision Beyond 2022 proposal and how to move on with the BSYP. Euroregion Baltic confirmed the wish to remain the BSYP core project partner, and ERB Youth Board will be included in all BSYP activities in 2022 and beyond.

Creative Waves project



Euroregion Baltic, Baltic Sea Culture Institute in Gdansk, Kaliningrad team of activists and Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre ENUT, under the project leadership of Intercult Productions from Sweden, have just kicked off a BSR project aiming at empowering representatives of most vulnerable groups, especially women, in the ever digitalising times of pandemic and post-pandemic.

Together, we – women experts and participants – want to build a feeling of identity, belonging, continuity and agency. We are reaching out to women artists, activists and creatives who may feel isolated, depressed and at a loss due to COVID-19 restrictions and the world moving more and more towards digital relations. Using tools of culture and traditional cultural activities, we plan to bring traditions and demands of current times together.

Based on the intangible cultural heritage of the BSR and its localities such as embroidery, weaving, herb gathering, cooking close to nature, singing or producing music, we want to create bonds and exchanges both in physical and virtual reality. As a result of local real-life workshops and online exchanges and meetings, we will produce a tool kit as guidance for further use based on the

communal pool of experience and a particular survey. Project partners will use a circular approach promoting the EU Green Deal, EUSBSR and Sustainable Development Goals in our work. The ultimate goal is to create a stronger, healthier, and more resilient society with everybody on board and a more friendly physical and digital space.

Euroregion Baltic Core Groups



WaterMan Seed – Interreg Baltic Sea Region project of the ERB Water Core Group

ERB Water Core Group developed together in 2020 project application for the Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme Seed Money Facility call called “Climate-resilient wastewater and groundwater management by circular approaches that reduce outflows of nutrients and hazardous substances – WaterMan project. The partnership consists of organisations from all ERB member regions. During the Seed Money phase, project partners and ERB Water Core Group experts worked together in 2021 to present the core project application ready for the submission of an application in the 1st Call of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021-2027

The main achievements can be summarized as follows:

- > Different funding options were analysed and considered, and on this basis, the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme was chosen for the main application.
- > A comprehensive state of play analysis was carried out and delivered inputs for the project development. In particular, initiatives and projects in the field of water reuse from other parts of Europe were screened and analysed to get inspirations for the design of the main project WaterMan and primarily its pilot actions
- > The approach and structure of the main project could be further refined and specified based on a broad dialogue within the partnership, particularly concerning strategic objectives and the main target groups of activities. However, the alignment with programme requirements is still pending as important references (e.g. programme manual, application form) was published only after the end of the project. However, this step will be done now after the end of the Seed Money phase.
- > Activities of the project and related responsibilities within the project consortium were defined and clarified. The main focus was thereby on shaping local pilot actions in dialogue with "hand-on" institutions that will be involved in their implementation.
- > The partnership could be further consolidated and extended, particularly concerning acquiring further "hand-on partners" that will support and carry out pilot measures within the project. Thus, an almost complete partnership covering the different roles that the project foresees is now in place in most participants, adding, e.g. institutions from further countries (e.g. DE, LV, EE) and specialists for specific tasks (e.g. dissemination partners).

As a result of the Seed Money phase, the development of the main project, WaterMan, is well on schedule in view of applying to the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme in April 2022. Consortium will be led by the Region Kalmar County, Chair of the ERB ECG, and project partners will be represented by the actors coming from most of the ERB Member Regions.



Mobility Core Group

ERB Executive Board Members decided to establish the Euroregion Baltic Mobility Core Group during their meeting on 3rd Dec 2020. In 2021 ERB WCG presented the Work Plan for 2021-2022. The goal of the Mobility Core Group is to provide a platform to develop connectivity and sustainable mobility solutions within the Euroregion Baltic area /South Baltic area by joint dialogue and action. The activities will focus on how improved connectivity and mobility between our regions can contribute to regional growth and attractiveness.

The ERB Mobility Core Group applied a multi-level governance perspective on its activities. The link between TEN-T development and contribution to the EU cohesion policies is considered weak. The focus will be to apply a holistic view on regional mobility and transport planning as a driving force for boosting potentials within other sectors such as tourism, education and business. This approach will strengthen the relationship between public transport, regional development and the citizens.

To answer the challenges stated above, in April 2021, MCG Experts prepared a joint reply to the Open Public Consultation accompanying the Impact Assessment for the revision of the TENT Regulation. Euroregion Baltic Member Regions agreed to send this statement as a joint Euroregion Baltic reply to the European Commission. The final ERB answer to the consultation process has been submitted to the EC by the deadline of 5th May 2021.

ERB MCG members applied jointly for the new project “Public Transport Interconnecting Sustainable Tourism Routes and destinations in the SB area” and received funding from the Swedish Institute. This project aims to prepare an Action Plan for a cross-sectoral committed partnership focusing on seamless cross-border public transport applied to the tourism sector. The project will design an extended application for final implementation where funding from the Interreg South Baltic programme is of particular interest. The project involves six partners with Region Blekinge (SE) as coordinating part together with Blekinge Institute of Technology (SE), Innobaltica (PL), The Association of Sea Cities and Municipalities (PL), Association of Klaipėda region municipalities (LT), The State Enterprise of the Kaliningrad region “Avtovokzal” (RU). The partnership is integrated into Euroregion Baltic's political platform, with Region Blekinge assigned to lead mobility core issues.

Mobility Core Group members met a few times online during 2021. Also, they had a hybrid meeting on 18th November 2021 in Gdansk organised by InnoBaltica experts from the Pomorskie Region within the framework of the ERB MCG project funded by the Swedish Institute from the Seed Money scheme.



ERB CoFE Core Group

As part of her proposal for a new push for European democracy in the European Commission political guidelines for the 2019-2024 mandate, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the launch of a Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFE), which took place on 9 May 2021.

Bringing Europe closer to people and strengthening democracy for the future of the EU is one of the three priorities the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) has set for the 2020-2025 mandate. The CoR sees the CoFE as an opportunity to bring Europe closer to citizens and to strengthen European democracy, most notably within the "House of European Democracy", which sees local and regional authorities as its foundations, the Member States as its walls, and the European Union as its protective roof.

The complex and innovative structure of the CoFE is made of four parallel components: the Conference Plenary, the European Citizens' Panels, the multilingual digital platform, and the citizens' panels and events organized at national, regional and local level¹. The CoFE is expected to reach conclusions and present proposals on the future of Europe by spring 2022.

The ERB Working Group for the Conference on the Future of Europe was established following the decision made by Euroregion Baltic Board Members on 25th May 2021. This WG aims to follow the COFE debate, events and discussion over the upcoming months and inform everyone once there is some significant event or input related to ERB members and stakeholders or anything that ERB can find necessary to the South Baltic area.



The group consists of the representatives of Euroregion Baltic Secretariats from ERB member states, Europe Direct representatives, and the Brussels Offices representatives from ERB regions.

The main goals of the WG work are:

- To keep track of all COFE events and seminars relevant and essential to the Euroregion Baltic/South Baltic area citizens and stakeholders;
- To share information on important events and meetings organized;
- To promote the ERB/South Baltic area COFE events.

On 21st September 2021, the first online meeting of the WG representatives took place. The participants exchanged their knowledge and discussed the possible ways to engage ERB.



Implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

ERB actively participated in the 12th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), in 2021, held between 27th September and 1st October. It was again organised online, due to the COVID19 pandemic. The 12th Annual Forum focused on green recovery, inviting participants to revitalise the Strategy, recover after COVID-19 together, and recharge for a greener and more resilient Baltic Sea Region. The Forum comprised five plenary sessions, the kick-off event of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme, three networking sessions, 30 different workshops, and a whole day of youth events. A guiding principle of the Forum was the idea of synergies. In addition, the Forum paid particular attention to the essential roles of cities and the youth. The Annual Forum 2021 was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Kaunas City Municipality, Klaipėda City Municipality, and the Union of the Baltic Cities.

On 14th April Euroregion Baltic was actively represented during the discussion about the Baltic Sea vision 2030 and multilevel governance & cooperation in the BSR. It was during the seminar organised by the Mid-European Institute (Instytut Europy Środkowej) and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Magda Leszczyńska-Rzucidło, Head of International Permanent Secretariat, represented Euroregion Baltic in the panel next to speakers from Council of the Baltic Sea States, represented by Secretary-General, Ambassador Grzegorz Poznański, Polish National Coordinator of EU Strategy for the

Baltic Sea Region - Joanna Wojtkowska and Polish Secretariat of Helsinki Commission represented by Paweł Banaś.

Euroregion Baltic co-organised two workshops during the Forum – “Enhancing Stakeholder and Citizen Engagement Within the EUSBSR Green Transition” together with the Swedish Institute, UBC and Nordregion and „ Engaged Society – Examples of Active Collaboration Between Project Partners and Local Society for Green Recovery and More Sustainable Regions” together with the Interreg South Baltic Programme.

Within the 1st workshop, ERB contributed with the following recommendations for the EUSBSR stakeholders:

- Promote capacity building programmes for a different types of stakeholders (policy coordinators, implementers, newcomers). Such programmes would help the alignment of

policies and processes. This might be the next stage for developing other EUSBSR activities and bringing the strategy closer to local stakeholders in the respective countries.

- Clearly define key terms of the EU Green Deal and other relevant frameworks. Stakeholders need to understand their role in such cooperation/framework and the role of others in such cooperation/framework.
- Encourage communication with even more clear reach out (activation, engaging type – value-based communication)
- Involve new groups, especially youth, and have intergenerational dialogues in every case
- Encourage individual changes, such as attitude change and more substantial ownership
- Involve newcomers by “a step-by-step approach”. Start to involve them in smaller collaborations. • Improve skills and knowledge as there is a constant learning environment
- Improve motivation, enable the spread of new perspectives and access to innovations
- Establish stronger links between research and policymakers to ensure that stakeholder challenges are identified, and scientific inputs are considered

Within the 2nd workshop, ERB contributed with the following recommendations for the EUSBSR stakeholders:

- Organize more inclusive training, initiatives, projects, programmes
- Improve skills, labour and education services for different target groups
- Encourage citizen engagement and develop upgraded tools for citizen engagement. Develop a dialogue with local communities and give them tools to participate in decision-making.
- Invest in civil education and awareness-raising
- Connect and involve institutions to establish future partnerships
- Ensure that provision of services is in accordance with citizen expressed needs
- Initiate cross-border networking activities that involve various stakeholders

Focus area 2: Strategic actions

Strategic objective: enhancing the added value of ERB cooperation



ERB Executive Board meetings

On 25th February 2021, Euroregion Baltic Executive Board met for the 1st time in 2021. Over 35 ERB Board Members, Youth Board Members, ERB Secretariat representatives and guests from Water Core Group and Mobility Core Group met to summarize ERB activities in 2020, change the ERB presidency from Poland to Sweden and hear about the ERB priorities and Action Plan for 2021.

The meeting started with the approval of the ERB Annual Report 2020 and the Annual Budget for 2020. A report detailing the activities implemented within ERB cooperation in 2020 was delivered by Ms Leszczyna-Rzucidło, Head of ERB International Secretariat, in collaboration with the Presidency held in 2020 by the Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic.

This was followed by the transfer of the ERB Presidency from Poland to Sweden. With the decision of the ERB Executive Board of 21st Feb 2011 and later in September 2019, approving the sequence of ERB Presidency transfers, the ERB Presidency will be transferred from Poland – Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic to Region Blekinge, Sweden.

By the ERB Board decision, Mr Johan Sandberg, Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Regional Development Board, assumed ERB President's position in 2021. At the same time, the ERB Vice President's position was assumed by Mr Gustaw Marek Brzezina, Marshal of Warmia and Masuria Region. Warmia and Masuria Region will lead the ERB in 2022. Since its foundation, Euroregion Baltic understood the importance of making use of EU opportunities to ensure the implementation of projects that could help the objectives of economic growth in the region: industry, agriculture, transport, communication, spatial planning, environmental protection, cooperation in the fields of science, education, tourism, health care, etc. The Euroregion's mission is to undertake joint initiatives to strengthen and promote collaboration between the local and regional authorities of the Parties of the Agreement and contribute to the sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region, with a particular focus on the South Baltic area.

Priorities of the Swedish presidency by Blekinge Region:

1. EU-funds for the South Baltic area. To continue the role with Euroregion Baltic as an active part in the programming process representing its member regions and initiating joint discussions regarding possibilities for project preparations financed by the same programme.
2. Sustainable Mobility. Establishment of the Mobility Core Group with a focus on joint actions for improved sustainable mobility within the Euroregion Baltic and South Baltic regions
3. Sustainable and Innovative Tourism cooperation. To investigate the potential for Euroregion Baltic regions to participate in current tourism networks and project initiatives and explore the potential for new and/or deepened collaboration.
4. Capacity Building and people to people activities. Concerning the up-coming new program period for EU-funds Euroregion Baltic, it has a vital role to be a facilitator and act as an intermediary for local organisations (especially newcomers), NGOs and youth organisations' possibilities to establish contacts for cross-border cooperation in our regions.

Head of the IPS, together with Johanna Ronn from the Blekinge region, presented the Action Plan for 2021 and a set of activities foreseen for the ERB in the upcoming months. After the discussion among the ERB Board Members, the Action Plan 2021 and Budget for 2021 were adopted by the Board.

This information was followed by the summary of international projects with ERB engagement and reports from the Water Core Group and the newly established Mobility Core Group (Mr Mattias Andersson).

On 25th May 2021 Euroregion Baltic Executive Board met for the 2nd time in 2021. Main topics discussed during the meeting: Euroregion Baltic Youth Board, Klaipeda as European Youth Capital 2021, Information about the Conference on the Future of Europe debate and the possibilities for ERB to involve in the process.

Ms Johanna Wyckman, ERB YB Chairwoman, presented the ERB YB Work Plan prepared by the ERB Youth Board during their meeting on 23rd April. She briefly underlined that the ERB YB main priorities areas for 2021 are: youth participation, sustainability, economic growth and gender equality (e.g. child trafficking, domestic violence, lack of LGBTQ rights, equal opportunities for representation in politics). During the meeting, Ms Aleksandra Lobaškova from Klaipeda Region, the European Youth Capital ambassador, presented a short overview of Klaipeda's youth-targeted events and activities' EYC title in place 2021. Later Mr Sven Kastö, Director of South Sweden's Brussels Office, briefly presented the Conference aims and main activities for 2021 and 2021. ERB Board Members jointly discussed the possibilities to engage ERB Members in the Dialogue and decided to establish the ERB Working Group for COFE.

The 3rd ERB Board Meeting in 2021 was scheduled for 6th October and was Chaired by ERB Vice President Marshal Gustaw Marek Brzezina from Warmia and Masuria Region. During the meeting, Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański informed the ERB Executive Board members about the recent developments in the Interreg South Baltic Programme, including the Programme's Seed Money Call Public Consultations of the new Programme for 2021-2027 and the works of the Joint Programming Committee. ERB YB Chairwoman presented the report from the recent ER Youth Board meetings happening online in the past months. She started with the Erasmus + project application on youth entrepreneurship that the ERB YB has been working on for the past couple of months. It was already submitted on 5th October. The idea of the project is to address youth unemployment, strengthen youth entrepreneurship and better connect youth in the Baltic Sea Region. Due to the decision of the Skåne Association of Local Authorities to end their membership to Euroregion Baltic by 31st December 2021, presented to the ERB Board Members during the meeting on 25th May 2021, it was necessary to update the Euroregion Baltic Statute in 2022 and decide on the changed sequence of the ERB Presidency post-2023.

The meeting on 6th October was the last meeting for the Skåne Association of Local Authorities Board Members. Mr Lars Lundberg, ERB Board Member representing the Association, addressed the ERB Board Members to mark the final ERB Board Meeting for the Skåne Association of Local Authorities representatives and thanked them for the joint and beneficial cooperation. ERB Executive Board members thanked the Skåne Association of Local Authorities Board Members for

their Euroregion Baltic Members. They expressed the willingness to cooperate with the Region Skane and Association in the future.

On 20th Dec 2021, the final ERB Executive Board meeting in 2021 took place. It was chaired by the ERB President Ms Elin Petersson from Region Blekinge. ERB Executive Board Members approved the election of Ms Elin Petersson to the function of ERB President and welcomed the new Chair. Ms Petersson addressed the ERB Board Members underlying the importance of continuing good cooperation in the spirit of mutual trust and goodwill.

ERB Board members discussed the status of current IPS work and activities, results of the meetings of the Conference on the Future of Europe Working Group meetings and agreed on the next steps taken individually by the ERB Member regions related to the CoFE. ERB VicePresident, Mr Gustaw Marek Brzezina invited the Board members to the next meeting in March 2022 in Olsztyn, Poland. In 2022 Warmia and Masuria Region will lead the ERB cooperation.

13th Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders

The coronavirus spread has led to the cancellation of various events, including the Annual Forum of ERB stakeholders.

Working meetings with CBSS, BSSSC and CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

In 2021 Head of the IPS ERB had two online working meetings with the Executive Secretary of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission. These meetings aimed to exchange information on current ERB and CPMRs agendas, primarily related to the works of ERB Mobility Core Group and BSC CPMR Transport Expert group and discuss the possibilities for joint venture future projects and initiatives. It was also agreed to schedule a joint meeting for ERB and BSC CPMR representatives, i.e. via joint Board meeting or to invite BSC CPMR representatives to the upcoming ERB Board meetings in 2022.

In December 2021 Head of IPS ERB had a working meeting in Gdańsk with the Secretary-General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and Deputy Director of Chancellery of the Marshal for International and Interregional Cooperation representing Pomorskie Presidency at the Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation. The visit aimed to exchange the information on organisations priorities for 2022 and seek the possible cooperation of all organisations while implementing the EU Strategy goals for the Baltic Sea Region. Euroregion Baltic confirmed the support to CBSS and Pomorskie Region being the applicants for the Baltic Sea Strategy Point, the details of the possible future joint activities were discussed.



ERB YOUTH BOARD

According to the ERB YB Work Plan for 2021-2022, the ERB YB decided that the main goal for 2021 will be to give the youth board a more horizontal way of working so that the priorities for the Baltic sea region gets our perspective and doesn't forget questions that are important for youth. In this work, the youth board has decided on four areas to advocate for in the Euroregion Baltic Executive Board and in other places where it is possible, such as events, plenary sessions, the Baltic Sea Youth Platform, Interreg South Baltic and the EUSBSR. The four areas for advocating are youth participation, sustainability, economic growth, and gender equality.

The youth board want to make sure that no decision about us is made without us. We should work for getting a seat at the table so that our opinions become actual policy, both in the Euroregion Baltic and the Baltic Sea region as a whole. For example, we want to establish new and better ways of cooperation between the youth board and the executive board to get more influence over their decisions and priorities. Since the importance in the Baltic Sea region, for example, the Interreg South Baltic Programme, are made for such a long period too, usually several years at the time, it is of extra importance that youth voices will be heard since it will affect most of our youth years.

In 2021 ERB YB actively worked online to re-apply with their Erasmus+ project application for Youth Mobility. The project for Erasmus+ Youth Exchanges, "Encouraging Entrepreneurship in Baltic Sea Region", was submitted by the ERB YB members with the support of the Kalmar Region County in October 2021 and received the funding in December 2021.

The project seeks to raise youth competencies and understanding of entrepreneurship. During five-day Youth exchanges, youth will talk about different types, trends, and possibilities (e.g., women entrepreneurship, sustainable entrepreneurship, socially responsible entrepreneurship). Also, they will speak about digital forms of activities related to establishing the business.

As Euroregion Baltic is an organization that actively encourages to cherish Baltic culture and collaboration, evenings of these youth exchanges will be dedicated to cultures of different participating countries, exchange of ideas and achievements in different science, art fields, etc. Youth exchanges are designed to take place in Kalmar, Sweden, having a length of 5 days (plus two days of travel) with 18 youth representatives, youth workers and youth leaders, current or potential board members or volunteers from 3 countries who will work together to set personal and professional goals for their future choices towards career, to hear more about sustainable and socially responsible enterprises and trends.

The activity will take place during Summer/Autumn 2022 (depending on the COVID19 situation). The nonformal participatory methods utilised include simulation games, role-plays, plenary debates, interactive lectures, audio-visual presentations, brainstorming, small and large group discussions, self-assessment, and many more. All operational activities will foster intercultural learning and exchange between participants from diverse backgrounds and young people with fewer opportunities.

Euroregion Baltic Youth Board members are also very actively engaged in the Baltic Sea Youth Platform project, and 3 ERB YB representatives took part in the physical BSYP meeting in Stockholm in November 2021.

Communication

International Permanent Secretariat is running Euroregion Baltic website and social media daily. All the information related to the works of Euroregion Baltic, ERB Board meetings, Youth and people to people activities, and information regarding the projects is shared on the www.eurobalt.org website (more than 6000 visitors in 2021). IPS ERB also posts information on daily on Facebook (over 1400 visitors), Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram accounts. Instagram is mainly used to promote the ERB Members and presents the cities, municipalities and landmarks from the ERB member regions.



On 14-15th October two IPS representatives and two APC ERB representatives took part in special social media training organised by the IPS ERB. An expert from a specialised marketing company prepared the 16th training on how to better promote our activities in social media and how to boost our SM presence.

Budget execution in 2021

See annex to the Annual Report 2021.



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