



Euroregion Baltic
Executive Board Meeting
10th March 2022
Olsztyn / online mode

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81238051702>

Title Meeting minutes

Submitted by Warmia and Masuria Region

Summary / Note This document provides the ERB Executive Board online meeting minutes on 10th March 2022

Requested action Implement

Participants:

ERB Executive Board:

Ms Elin Petersson	ERB President, Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of Regional Development Board, Region Blekinge
Mr Gustaw Marek Brzezin	ERB Vice-President, Member of ERB Executive Board, Marshal of Warmia and Masuria Region
Ms Heidi Burgedahl	Member of ERB Executive Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Roland Gustbée	Member of ERB Executive Board, Region Kronoberg
Mr Robert Olesen	Member of ERB Executive Board, Region Kronoberg
Mr Grzegorz Grzelak	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of Regional Council of Pomorskie Region
Ms Suzanne Svensson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Regional Development Board Region Blekinge
Ms Ellinor Troli	Member of the ERB Executive Board, Region Kalmar County
Ms Johanna Wyckman	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Region Kalmar County

Mr Peter Vretlund	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Region Kalmar County
Mr Åke Nilsson	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Region Kalmar County
Ms Karin Helmersson	Member of the ERB Executive Board, Region Kalmar County
Mr Witold Wróblewski	Member of the ERB Executive Board, Chairman of the Association of Polish Communes ERB Board

ERB Youth Board:

Ms Johanna Wyckman	Chairwoman of ERB Youth Board, Region Kalmar County
Ms Greta Tautavičiūtė	Member of ERB Youth Board, Association Klaipeda Region
Mr Grzegorz Gieda	Member of ERB Youth Board, Warmia-Masuria Region
Mr Dawid Markun	Member of ERB Youth Board, Association of Polish Communes ERB
Mr Dawid Jędrzejewski	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Association of Polish Communes ERB
Mr Alexander Nilsson	Member of ERB Youth Board, Blekinge Region

ERB Secretariats:

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen	Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski	Region Kronoberg
Ms Egle Stonke	Association of Klaipeda Region
Mr Łukasz Bielewski	Warmia and Masuria Region
Mr Piotr Zwolak	Warmia and Masuria Region
Ms Agata Birecka	Pomorskie Region
Ms Paulina Aleksander	Pomorskie Region
Ms Antje Schreyer	Region Kalmar County
Ms Johanna Rönn	Region Blekinge
Mr Marcin Żuchowski	Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Ms Anna Dudziak	Euroregion Baltic International Permanent Secretariat

Guests:

Mr Tobias Facchini, Region Kalmar län – Water Core Group

Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło - Euroregion Baltic International Permanent Secretariat

Mr Nicolai Munch Pedersen – Mobility Core Group

ERB Executive Board meeting**10th March 2022****9.00 – 12.00 CET****Olsztyn / online mode**

9.00	1.	Welcome and opening
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9.10

President of Euroregion Baltic, Elin Petersson, Chair of the Regional Development Board in Region Blekinge, Sweden, welcomed participants, especially new Executive Board members, of the first ERB Board meeting in 2022, again held in digital format. She expressed hope that COVID-19 situation will allow to meet physically very soon. She also stated that European political situation had dramatically changed since the last meeting and all our thoughts were with Ukraine and its citizens.

President of Euroregion Baltic subsequently asked every region to present names of ERB Executive Board Members present at the meeting. From Blekinge it was Elin Petersson and Suzanne Svensson. Also Johanna Rönn was present. From Warmia and Masuria Region there was Gustaw Marek Brzezina. Also Grzegorz Gieda from ERB Youth Board and Łukasz Bielewski and Piotr Zwolak were present. From Bornholm it was Heidi Burgedahl, there were also present: Nicolai Munch Pedersen from Mobility Core Group and Niels Chresten Andersen. From Kronoberg Board Members: Roland Gustbée and Robert Olesen were present, also Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański attended the meeting. Klaipeda Region was represented by Egle Stonke from ERB Secretariat. From Pomorskie Region Grzegorz Grzelak, newly nominated member of ERB Executive Board was present. There were also Paulina Aleksander and Agata Birecka. Kalmar Region was represented by Karin Helmersson, Elinor Trolli, Åke Nilsson, Peter Vretlund, Johanna Wyckman from ERB Executive Board. Antje Schreyer was also present. Association of the Polish Communes was represented by Marcin Żuchowski, on behalf of Witold Wróblewski, ERB Executive Board Member. ERB Youth Board members Dawid Markun and Dawid Jędrzejewski were also present.

9.10 9.10	2.	Adoption of the meeting agenda
<p>President of Euroregion Baltic, Ms Elin Petersson, Chair of the Regional Development Board in Region Blekinge, Sweden, presented the meeting agenda and ERB Executive Board for the approval. ERB Executive Board approved the agenda.</p>		
9.10 9.15	3.	Signing the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board meeting
<p>President of Euroregion Baltic, Elin Petersson asked that ERB meeting minutes from the previous meeting would be signed by Vice-President. ERB Board members approved the proposal.</p>		
9.15 9.35	4.	Approval of the ERB Annual Report 2021
<p>President of Euroregion Baltic, Elin Petersson asked Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło, Head of International Permanent Secretariat, to present the Annual Report for 2021. At the same time she thanked Ms Leszczyna-Rzucidło for excellent work during the past year, despite the pandemic situation and many other difficulties, in which Euroregion Baltic managed to complete extensive range of activities.</p>		
<p>Ms Leszczyna-Rzucidło welcomed participants of the meeting and described the report. It has been a difficult year for all and for ERB organisation, mostly because of COVID-19 pandemic. This has forbidden us from physical meetings and has postponed a lot events that had been planned. It has also changed a course of the projects very much. Still we have managed to do a lot, actually we have managed to do the activities foreseen in the Action Plan, only slightly changing their format. Some actions were even more numerous than planned. Head of International Permanent Secretariat thanked everyone who was engaged in this cooperation, because 2021 was good for ERB, looking at our presence in South Baltic and EUSBSR cooperation.</p>		
<p>Talking about the first focus area, lobbying, Head of IPS underlined South Baltic Programme agenda as crucial for our cooperation, where she represented ERB in Monitoring Committee and Joint Programming Committee for new financial perspective; she actively participated in all the meetings, including working group 1 responsible for structure, content and objectives of new Programme and also working group 2, responsible for technical details, indicators, new programme manual. She also represented ERB as a Head of Euroregions' delegation – working closely with Euroregion Pomerania, which was present at the meetings also during her absence. ERB also actively supported inclusion of olsztyński subregion in the new</p>		

Programme, although it finally did not happen. We still hope that as many entities from Warmia and Masuria Region as possible would be entitled to participate in the Programme. Head of IPS participated also in meetings for stakeholders organised by Warmia and Masuria Region, presenting South Baltic cooperation possibilities. Head of IPS and some members of ERB secretariats were active in meetings organised by Joint Secretariat and the Annual Forum. This was the chance to present Euroregion Baltic to stakeholders and its engagement to development of the Programme.

Euroregion Baltic also initiated some activities. On the 9th April 2021 ERB organised "ERB South Baltic Agenda Seminar". We informed SBP actors how ERB contributes to the Programme, what are the perspectives and the planned policy objectives for Interreg SBP 2021-2027. Moreover, how to align planned SBP objectives with the work in ERB Core Group, ERB Mobility Core Group and ERB Youth Board. Over 80 participants took part in the meeting.

There was also seed money call in Interreg South Baltic Programme, where ERB submitted the application for "New Umbrella" project. ERB did not get the funding, as according to the Programme authorities ERB is capable of presenting the project on its own, during the first call in autumn 2022.

Euroregion Baltic was engaged also in few projects: Umbrella 2.0, Baltic Sea Youth Platform – BSYF, InDigiSE, Creative Waves PSF CBSS, WaterMan Seed Interreg BSR Project. There was also Erasmus+ application prepared by ERB Youth Board.

In Umbrella 2.0 Euroregion Baltic managed to present, that has been important for South Baltic area and Baltic Sea Region. The project has been implemented with partners: Union of the Baltic Cities and BSSSC. Project was funded by the Swedish Institute. Project allowed ERB for a very active cooperation with those partners, with very frequent working meetings, events and support from the Swedish Institute. The project was intended to enhance capacities of newcomers, local actors, actors from peripheral areas, including those from ERB regions. Project mostly built their capacity, aligning their works with EUSBSR Strategy, Sustainable Development Goals and European Green Deal. Project main events were: "Awareness raising event" on the 27th April 2021, webinars on EUSBSR Strategy and EU Green Deal in autumn 2021, 4 training sessions on EUSBSR and project management from November 2021 to January 2022. Events were attended by more than 100 people. In result, capacities and knowledge were brought to actors, encouraging them to participate in seed money calls or to work on small projects for Interreg BSR Programme. Three remaining activities in the project were supposed to be physical, hoping to implement them in spring 2022, which could allow to form new platforms for cooperation where partners from South Baltic area could meet partners from other BSR countries. The goal would be to connect stakeholders with policy area coordinators and help them

to become partners to the projects, other platforms and networks of cooperation.

Project InDigiSE about social innovation and entrepreneurship for youth, has been financed by Erasmus+ Programme. All meetings so far have been held online due to COVID-19. Project has to be ended in April 2022. Project activities were focused on methodology for organising international youth innovation camps. This was included in two project documents. The methodology could be used by ERB Youth Board, which organises Erasmus+ camp in summer. The Methodology has been tested during the online camp in November 2021, with youth from Lithuania, Poland, Latvia and Norway.

Baltic Sea Youth Platform, another Erasmus+ project is the most important activity for ERB Youth Board. Project is run by the Council of the Baltic Sea States and has a high priority. Project managed to create a platform for young people, with more than 100 participants from the Baltic Sea Region. Their activities are deeper described in the Report. Council of the Baltic Sea States was so impressed by this project, that it decided to sustain the work of Baltic Sea Youth Platform, with special allocation from its budget. ERB Youth Board was active in various working groups of the project. Three Youth Board representatives were also present at a meeting in Stockholm in November 2021.

Creative Waves project is supported by the Council of the Baltic Sea States. It has been implemented since September 2021. It is supporting women who work with arts and craft is looking for best practices to digitalise their work. Euroregion Baltic is a partner of the project. 28th February 2022 was the first webinar of the project organised.

In 2021 ERB managed to carry out all activities that had been foreseen in the projects. Activities, which were postponed were moved for 2022, which was agreed with the funding agencies and partners. MLR was constantly engaged in meetings with CBSS, BSSSC and CPMR Baltic Sea Commission. MLR also met twice General Director of CBSS, Mr Grzegorz Poznański. ERB was also invited for all BSSSC Board meetings. In 2021 BSSSC Presidency was in Pomorskie Region, in 2022 it is in Zachodniopomorskie Region, which creates good conditions for new ERB Presidency to continue these works.

There were three ERB Core Groups in 2021: Water Core Group, Mobility Core Group and ad hoc COFE Core Group (working only in 2021). Water Core Group was engaged in WaterMan seed project to prepare the application for a 3-year long project, which will be led by Region Kalmar County. Mobility Core Group started its work in 2021, there were few online meetings and a physical meeting in Gdańsk in November. The Group has a good future ahead, it got a seed money project from the South Baltic call.

ERB Executive Board meetings last year were held only in online mode. They were in May, February, October and additional one was organised in December 2021. ERB

Youth Board members were active during ERB Executive Board meetings but also had their own meetings.

Financial position of ERB is very good. We have over 120.000 EUR surplus on the account, mostly due to savings in travel and accommodation and to the projects. Financial condition of ERB is very good and allows the organisation to sustain its works without interruptions and to plan new activities.

MLR also informed the Executive Board members that 2021 was also a challenging year for the IPS. In February 2022 she informed ERB Secretariats that she would be leaving the Euroregion Baltic in March this year. She thanked for 3 years, which were so positive, meeting many great people, taking part in great initiatives and being so grateful to be a part of this group of people. She expressed her hope that this was not the end for her when it comes to work with secretariats in ERB, ERB Youth Board members, Executive Board members, and that there would be an opportunity to see each other.

President Elin Petersson thanked Magda for her presentation and for impressive work and wished her good luck. Then she asked the Executive Board if it could approve the Annual Report.

ERB Executive Board approved the Annual Report for 2021.

9.35	5.	Transfer of ERB Presidency and presentation of Warmia and Masuria Region priorities for ERB Presidency in 2022.
9.55		

President Elin Petersson said that according to the Statutes the Presidency in ERB would go from Region Blekinge to Warmia and Masuria Region, while Vice-Presidency would go to Regional Municipality of Bornholm.

Warmia and Masuria Region decided to nominate Gustaw Marek Brzezina, Marshal of Warmia and Masuria Region, for the ERB President. Simultaneously, Regional Municipality of Bornholm nominated Mikael Benzoni to take over the role of ERB Vice-President.

ERB Executive Board members approved new President and Vice-President of Euroregion Baltic.

Elin Petersson thanked all for trust and support during the year of Blekinge Presidency. Despite difficulties we managed to complete joint tasks and activities. In her opinion our cooperation is more important today, when we face the sad truth of war in our European territory. She wished good luck to new President and thanked for good cooperation with Warmia and Masuria Region during past year, and she said they looked forward to this year's ERB cooperation under the Polish Presidency.

President Gustaw Marek Brzezina thanked everybody and stressed it was a great honour for him to take over the Presidency in Euroregion Baltic and that he would make all

efforts, together with regional administration, to handle this task.

He thanked the outgoing President and Blekinge Region for their term in 2021. Remembering difficulties and tragic personal situations linked with it, he thanked that our regions succeeded to cooperate well and duly, and also prepare for taking over the Presidency by Warmia and Masuria Region. He passed his greetings also to Regional Municipality of Bornholm, hoping that the cooperation of both regions would be similar to that in 2021.

It had been thought that this would be a stationary meeting, and since the beginning Warmia and Masuria Region has been preparing for hosting delegates in the region, however it was not possible due to pandemic. Moreover, this what has been happening for several days or weeks is absolutely tragic, and puts us in a state of extreme alert. President Brzezina underlined fact, that ERB Executive Board had suspended the Russian delegation in Euroregion Baltic. He expressed the hope that someday cooperation with Kaliningrad Region could again be possible, but in this tragic state of war, after attack of the Russian Federation on independent, democratic Ukraine, it cannot be otherwise. In this situation we face completely new challenges and here in Poland it is very clearly experienced. More than 1,3 mln refugees have already come to Poland and soon it would be even 2 mln. Warmia and Masuria, as a region with big Ukrainian diaspora, is strongly engaged and shows solidarity with Ukrainian nation. Mr Brzezina offered Euroregion Baltic members to share experience of Warmia and Masuria region in relief efforts for Ukrainian nation. One relief convoy has already arrived in Rivne Region in Ukraine and others will follow. Euroregion Baltic is also in extraordinary structural situation, which causes a huge challenge for the Presidency. From the first day of the Presidency Warmia and Masuria Region is committed to cooperate closely with all ERB members.

Łukasz Bielewski presented priorities of the Presidency in 2022. The first priority is South Baltic Programme, which is crucial for ERB cooperation. Therefore Euroregion Baltic shall stay active and visible in terms of programming and monitoring the new Programme. Activities, which promote the Programme, will be continued. It will be also the right time to work out new project ideas, to be implemented together under the new South Baltic Programme. The second priority is Sustainable Development through Cooperation. The idea is to show how joint actions bring benefits to all our regions in Euroregion Baltic. Focus will be placed on sustainable mobility and innovative tourism. Works carried out by Mobility Core Group will be supported. Moreover it is hoped to organise an event on innovative tourism, within important international conference in the second half of the year. Priority 3 is Competence Building and People-to-People Cooperation. Activities that ERB conducted in the past in these areas must be continued in 2022 as well. Presidency also wants to support local authorities, institutions and NGO's in setting-up contacts with their counterparts in Denmark, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. The Baltic event to be

organised in Olsztyn in December should be considered as one of the flagship initiatives of the Presidency. Priority number 4 – Youth – 2022 has been declared in the European Union as the European Year of the Youth. Special attention would be given to ERB Youth Board. ERB Youth Board would be invited for a study visit in Warmia and Masuria during the summer, and supported in the implementation of Erasmus+ project. ERB Youth Board would be encouraged to be active outside Euroregion Baltic as well, to present Baltic issues across Europe.

9.55 6. **Transfer of ERB Youth Board Presidency**

10.10

Johanna Wyckman, ERB Youth Board Chairwoman in 2021, welcomed new ERB Youth Board members, representing Association of Polish Communes. On the 9th March 2022 ERB Youth Board held election and decided to keep Johanna Wyckman as Chairperson and Małgorzata Lewandowska as Vice-Chairperson for another year. Youth Board activities in 2021 were focused on application for Erasmus+, but Youth Board was also very active in Baltic Sea Youth Platform. ERB Youth Board Action Plan for 2022 was also discussed. The mission for Youth Board is: "to activate and engage young people, working for a better future in Euroregion Baltic". There are four priorities for 2022. Youth Participation means to activate young people and to make sure that Euroregion Baltic voice is heard in the whole region. Here very important tool is Baltic Sea Youth Platform, but Youth Board members wish to participate in other events as well, in the EU and in the Baltic Sea Region, to advocate for youth questions. The second priority, Democracy, is based on the today situation with the Russian invasion in Ukraine; youth would like to take the active role in spreading the democracy, strengthen cooperation, spread the word about our joint history in the region and work together against the Russian narration. Third priority is Sustainability. It is a very important question for young people. It is about green sustainability but also economic and social. Last priority is Youth Entrepreneurship. This topic will be covered by Erasmus+ project. It will be a five-day event, with people from Sweden, Lithuania and Poland. Moreover, it is considered to have a workshop around the Democracy area, related to the Ukrainian situation. Johanna Wyckman, on behalf of ERB Youth Board, thanked Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło for her work for IPS.

ERB Executive Board approved new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of ERB Youth Board.

10.10 7. **Reports from the Water Core Group and Mobility Core Group**

10.30

Johanna Rönn, representing the Mobility Core Group, informed the ERB Executive Board about recent activities of the Group. Johanna Rönn thanked Warmia and Masuria Presidency for prioritising activities of the Group in 2022. The Group was initiated in the end of 2020. Region

Blekinge is a Leader, Mr Mattias Andersson coordinates the Group. The work of the Group was focused on Interconnect Tourism project, financed by the Swedish Institute. This project is based on findings from previous project "Interconnect". Aim is to collect the findings regarding public transport and technical possibilities of seamless travels between regions. All regions treat tourism as priority and believe that public transport would help in this work. The activities conducted the project were: defining technical road map for the system and partner meeting in Gdańsk (defining joint vision and SWOT analysis, packaging technical solutions from previous Interconnect project). Currently there is ongoing stakeholder dialogue with tourism organisations from the regions. Project will be extended until 31st May 2022. Final partner meeting will be conducted in Sweden in May. Kaliningrad partnership in the project will be terminated. The aim of the project is to investigate if it would be possible to create new application for the South Baltic Programme.

Tobias Facchini from the Water Core Group informed that main activity of the Group was project WaterMan. He thanked Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło for work in the project. Project dealt with problems like high amounts of nutrients and hazardous substances in water, water shortage and floods, need for circular approaches and impacts of climate change. Main objectives were water re-use with circular approaches, finding new ways for re-using water. In the end of February a new call was opened within Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme. It is already clear that cooperation with Russian partners will not be longer possible. Remaining task is to prepare a quality application: especially budget of the project, completing the partnership, collecting partner declarations. This has to be done in March / April, so that application could be submitted until 26th April.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

10.30 8. **Decision on the IPS hosting organisation**

11.30

ERB President Gustaw Marek Brzezina opened the discussion thanking Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło, Head of IPS for her invaluable work and communication among parties and acknowledging with regret her decision. But he expressed also hope that our contacts will not definitely finish.

Mr Brzezina also referred to the written procedure initiated by Region Blekinge. He thanked as well for time given for consultation to the Polish Party, which was extensively used. The results of the consultation are as follows. The Association of Polish Communes does not exclude further hosting of the IPS. The draft agreement prepared by the Association was received on the 9th March 2022 in Polish language. ERB President asked APC to translate it into English and send it out to all members for final discussion. He also took note of the new situation after

suspension of Kaliningrad Region, which opens up new possibilities for legal formula of IPS. Mr Brzezina proposed that ERB Regional Secretariats would cooperate in taking up functions of IPS, under coordination from Warmia and Masuria. The final agreement about further actions would have to be made shortly, in April at the latest.

Grzegorz Grzelak agreed that proposed solution is the only possible, providing that agreement would be finally made.

Marcin Żuchowski assured about full will to cooperate and that translation would be made with no delay. He also declared openness for all solutions proposed.

Niels Chresten Andersen asked if APC could inform about the main elements of the proposal, wondering if it is possible for APC to continue hosting of IPS without changing of ERB Statutes. He also reminded that Johanna Rönn prepared a presentation about what has happened since 13th January. He said that many Executive Board members do not have current knowledge on a daily basis and this meeting could be a good opportunity to be better prepared.

Marcin Żuchowski informed that proposal made by the members of the Board of the Association does not introduce any amendments to the ERB Statutes. The proposal is the shortest version that was possible, because it does not include any provisions from the Statutes or any additional responsibilities to either parties. It only concludes how IPS should work in the structures of APC, in accordance with the Polish law and possibilities of APC. He hoped that this version would be suitable for all parties of ERB cooperation. He also said that APC was still open for being the hosting organisation, taking into account all capabilities and possibilities of the APC.

Elin Petersson asked what was the difference between current and previous proposal of the agreement. Łukasz Bielewski replied that proposal from the APC was shorter, it also did not include quotations from the ERB Statutes.

Johanna Rönn informed about the results of the written procedure, initiated on the 20th December 2021, and concluded on the 27th January 2022. 3 options for further operation were considered: (A) finding the solution within the existing agreement, (B) new host organisation or establishing new legal body, (C) rotating permanent secretariat after presidency. Option B became the most preferred, but partners agreed to investigate option A in parallel. For discussion remained such issues, as: common vision for ERB joint cooperation, decision on next steps in the process (transition process, preferred options), further planning (budgetary, current and joint projects, division of tasks and interests).

Niels Chresten Andersen proposed what the Executive Board should decide during current meeting. Proposed that another meeting for the Executive Board could be convened, in April at the latest, to decide about option A. The first decision should be made, that the current arrangement regarding IPS is to end 31st March 2022. It matters also financially. Second decision would be that

Warmia and Masuria would take over IPS duties until more permanent solution is found. Third recommendation - about projects - where APC is a partner - would be that APC would be responsible to finish them. For option B recommendation would be that within the money left in ERB budget, it would be possible to use money for external expertise to investigate opportunities for option B.

Roland Gustbée from Region Kronoberg stated that Niels Chresten Andersen summed up a clear path forward and that Region Kronoberg supports it.

President Gustaw Marek Brzezina explained, that the next step in proceedings would be analysis of the English version of the draft proposal from the Association of the Polish Communes. He asked member organisations for some time to do this and decide further on which option would turn out to be relevant. Simultaneously he declared openness of Warmia and Masuria Region for coordinating current issues under the guidance of Director Bielewski in a close contact with ERB regional secretariats. He stressed however that taking full responsibility for IPS operations by Warmia and Masuria Region is formally not possible, meaning especially budgetary issues. Therefore he underlined the need for acting chronologically.

Roland Gustbée from Region Kronoberg suggested holding the extra ERB Executive Board meeting before the 31st of March. President Gustaw Marek Brzezina agreed.

Elin Petersson from Region Blekinge agreed with Bornholm and Kronoberg. She accepted also the chronology and a need for extra Executive Board meeting. Elin Petersson recommended also to be prepared if option (A) would not work.

Niels Chresten Andersen agreed that ERB Executive Board should meet still in March. He asked also the Association of Polish Communes for clear indication which elements of current arrangement violate the Polish legislation. He also stressed the necessity to decide about IPS before the end of March and recommended to agree on division of tasks between the parties, including financial issues.

President Gustaw Marek Brzezina summed up the discussion, claiming that clarification regarding option (A) will be done soon and repeated that Warmia and Masuria Region will coordinate further activities of IPS, but he also stressed, that whole financial responsibility remains within the APC. He believed that concrete solutions will follow after the decision about options is made. He also said that implementation of these solutions will take some time. According to him the next ERB Executive Board would be convened when only it would be possible.

ERB Executive Board agreed for the proposal from ERB President.

11.30	9.	ERB Action Plan 2022 - 2023
11.40		<p>President Gustaw Marek Brzezina asked about comments or proposals to the ERB Action Plan 2022-2023. Roland Gustbée pointed out a few details in the document. First issue was to delete the line from page 3 where Kaliningrad Region of Russian Federation is mentioned as ERB member. He also indicated a necessity to clarify who represents ERB in external organisations.</p> <p>ERB Executive Board approved the document with changes proposed.</p>
11.40	10.	Change in ERB Statutes
11.45		<p>ERB President informed about three proposed amendments to ERB Statutes.</p> <p>It was proposed to delete from the Statutes Introduction references about Skåne Association of Local Authorities.</p> <p>It was also proposed to add a remark in the Statutes Introduction: "on the 2nd of March 2022 ERB Executive Board decided to suspend the Russian delegation in Euroregion Baltic".</p> <p>Moreover it was proposed to introduce change in § 2 p. 3 in the Chapter I, where Committee of the Regions shall be renamed to European Committee of the Regions.</p> <p>ERB Executive Board approved the requested changes.</p>
11.45	11.	Invitation to the next Executive Board meeting
11.50		<p>Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański informed that the upcoming ERB Board meeting will be held city of Växjö in Kronoberg Region, on the 11th and 12th of May, from lunch to lunch, to enable participants to arrive on the 11th of May in the morning and to depart on the 12th of May in the afternoon. It will be a back-to-back event with "the competition" event for young students from junior high schools. They will compete in 56 different professions. Thousands of participants and visitors are expected during the event. ERB Executive Board is supposed to meet on the 11th of May, after lunch; on the 12th of May there would be a study visit to the competition. Mr Demkowicz-Dobrzański asked member organisations for indicative number of participants.</p> <p>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.</p>
11.50	12.	Any other business
11.55		<p>President Brzezina informed that the European Congress of Local and Regional Authorities will be organised on 11 – 12 April 2022 in Warmia and Masuria Region. Some European regions have already confirmed their presence. There are 10 thematic tracks in the programme. Mr Brzezina asked members of ERB Executive Board to consider their participation in the event. He informed that the previous edition of the event was attended among else by head of Rivne Region administration in Ukraine.</p> <p>ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.</p>

11.55	13.	Conclusion and closing
12.00		President of Euroregion Baltic, Gustaw Marek Brzezina thanked for a possibility to take over the Presidency in Euroregion Baltic and closed the meeting of the ERB Executive Board.
