

Euroregion Baltic
Executive Board Meeting
Nida, Lithuania
29-30th October 2012



Title Draft Minutes

Submitted by SDD, International Permanent Secretariat

Summary / Note This document provides provisional minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place on 29th October in Nida in Klaipeda County.

Requested action Comments / Subsequent Adoption

Participants: ERB Executive Board

Mr Roland Gustbée	ERB President, Chair of the Board of Regional Council of södra Småland
Mr Per Ole Petersen	ERB Vice-President, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Grzegorz Grzelak	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Committee for International Relations, Pomorskie
Ms Monica Haider	Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council of södra Småland
Ms Alla Ivanova	ERB President, Minister-Head of Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region
Ms Christina Mattisson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Board of Region Blekinge
Ms Akko Karlsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Åke Nilsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Executive Committee of Regional Council in Kalmar County
Ms Suzanne Svensson	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Swedish Parliament, Blekinge

Participants: ERB Youth Board

Mr Oliver Rosengren	Chair of ERB Youth Board, södra Småland
Mr Mateusz Ankiewicz	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Warmińsko-Mazurskie
Mr Hmida Benatallah	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Kalmar
Mr Manvydas Džiaugys	Member of ERB Youth Board, Klaipeda
Mr Karl Holst	Member of ERB Youth Board, Kalmar
Mr Rasmus Hounisen	Member of ERB Youth Board, Bornholm
Mr Mathias Juhl	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Bornholm
Mr Marcin Popiela	Member of ERB Youth Board, Pomorskie
Ms Katarzyna Wasyliszyn	Member of ERB Youth Board, Warmińsko-Mazurskie

Participants: Guests

Ms Dalia Makuskiene	Klaipeda Regional Development Dept., Ministry of Interior
Mr Virgilijus Pozingis	Chair of Klaipeda Regional Development Council
Ms Asta Raugaliene	Klaipeda Regional Development Dept., Ministry of Interior

Ms Levutė Staniuvienė	Deputy Mayor of Skuodas District Municipality
Mr Antanas Vinkus	Mayor of Neringa Municipality
Ms Daiva Žebelenė	Mayor of Šilutė District Municipality

Participants: ERB Secretariats

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen	ERB Secretariat, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański	Head of ERB International Permanent Secretariat
Ms Therese Magnusson	ERB Secretariat, Regional Council of södra Småland
Mr Jan Martinsson	ERB Secretariat, Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Valdas Pučkorius	ERB Secretariat, Association of Klaipeda Region
Ms Johanna Rönn	ERB Secretariat, Region Blekinge
Ms Małgorzata Samusjew	ERB Secretariat, Association of Polish Communes
Ms Joanna Woźniak	ERB Secretariat, Pomorskie Marshal's Office
Mr Piotr Zwolak	ERB Secretariat, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office

ERB Labour Task Force:

Mr Michał Bruski	Deputy Director, Pomorskie Regional Employment Office
Ms Johanna Köhnke	Employment Office, Kalmar
Ms Aneta Majbańska	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Employment Office
Mr Zdzisław Szczepkowski	Director, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Employment Office
Ms Diana Unander-Nordle	Regional Council of södra Småland
Mr Johnny Winther Holbech	Job Centre Bornholm

ERB EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Nida, Taikos g. 2

29th OCTOBER, 14.00 – 17.30

- Welcome**
Mayor of Neringa Municipality, Mr Antanas Vinkus welcomed the participants and made a presentation of Neringa Municipality.
- Welcome**
Chair of Klaipeda Development Council, Mr Virgilijus Pozingis addressed the participants and informed about the formal establishment of the Association of Region Klaipeda now representing Klaipeda in the ERB cooperation.
- Opening**
President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Roland Gustbée opened the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.
- Adoption of the agenda**
ERB President, Mr Roland Gustbée presented the agenda. He asked the heads of the delegations to meet during the coffee break in order to discuss the future of the ERB IPS, thus changing point 11 of the agenda.

ERB Executive Board members approved the presented agenda with the proposed change to point 11.

5. **Adoption of the minutes of the previous ERB Board meeting**

ERB IPS submitted the minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting which took place in Nexø on Bornholm on 14th June 2012.

ERB Executive Board approved the minutes, and ERB President, Mr Roland Gustbée and ERB Vice-President, Mr Per Ole Petersen signed them.

7. **Report from ERB Task Force on Cohesion Policy**

(ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → External Action: intensifying ERB's participation in implementation of ETC and ENPI programmes in BSR)

Task Force leader, Mr Niels Chresten Andersen informed the Board of recent developments regarding their work, in particular of the scope related to the new composition of the ERB Task Force on EU Cohesion Policy (now only a representative of Kaliningrad region missing) and programming work within the South Baltic (where Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański represents ERB in the Joint Programming Committee and its task forces). He also presented the draft standpoint with ERB proposals regarding the programme geography and content.

Mr Andersen also informed about some controversies around the continuation of the Programme following the idea presented in June to merge South Baltic and Central Baltic programmes. It seems now, he said, that the Programme is not in danger of being scrapped (after positive feedback from Mr Colin Wolfe at the ETC Conference in Wrocław on 25th October) but ERB must remain alert. The Swedish regions sent their letter (prepared jointly with their universities) in support of the Programme.

ERB Youth Board Chair, Mr Oliver Rosengren informed that the ERB Youth Board appointed their representative to the ERB Cohesion Task Force: Ms Katarzyna Wasyliszyn who has in turn asked for more time regarding their contribution to the thematic priorities of the South Baltic Programme.

On behalf of Pomorskie region, Ms Joanna Woźniak asked to alter the text of the ERB standpoint, adding the phrase *with all NUTS 3 level regions involved in the current programme* to the sentence on the Programme geography, which will enable the continued participation of the municipality of Starogard Gdańsk. Ms Woźniak also requested that ERB wait with the recommendation of thematic priorities. The proposal to discuss future thematic priorities was further supported by the representative of the Association.

ERB Executive Board members:

- *took note of the information presented on the programming work within the South Baltic CBC Programme;*
- *approved the part of the ERB standpoint relating to the geography South Baltic programme (first three points) with the amendment as proposed by Pomorskie;*
- *decided to postpone the presentation of the ERB standpoint on the South Baltic thematic priorities until 20th November and asked the ERB Task Force on EU Cohesion Policy to meet online before this date in order to agree on a joint recommendation;*
- *appointed Ms Therese Magnusson to be a deputy member of the South Baltic Joint Programming Committee who will also act as deputy member of the two JPC task forces.*

8. **Report from ERB Task Force on Labour Markets**

(ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → Action: addressing labour market challenges)

Task Force leader, Johnny Winther Holbech informed the Board of the current composition of the Task Force (where 7 out of 9 member organisations are represented, plus ERB Youth Board), its tasks and expected results outlined in the Terms of Reference which he presented to the ERB Executive Board for adoption.

Information was also given about an application to be an observer at the Baltic Sea Labour Forum submitted by ERB in September which will be considered by the BSLF Board on 30th October, as well as the upcoming BSLF conference in Hamburg on 15th November.

ERB Executive Board members:

- *took note of the information presented on the observer status at BSLF and meeting planned in 2013;*
- *approved the Terms of Reference for the ERB Task Force on Labour Market.*

9. **Report from the ERB Youth Board**

(ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → Action: empowering youth)

(ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → Internal Action: integrating further the ERB Youth Board)

Chair of ERB Youth Board, Mr Oliver Rosengren informed the Board of recent work within the ERB Youth Board. Firstly, its three members are now appointed to represent the Youth Board in the ERB Task Force on EU Cohesion Policy (Ms Katarzyna Wasyliszyn), ERB Task Force on Labour Markets (Mr Karl Holst) and ERB Water Core Group (Mr Hmida Benatallah). Secondly, the EVS project has been submitted in cooperation between Kumulus (receiving organisation) and Ms Lotta Eriksson, Europe Direct Office on Bornholm (sending organisation) and Ms Karen Lynn Jacobsen, ERB Youth Board and Mr Hmida Benatallah and IPS and Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski. Thirdly, ERB Youth Board had a working lunch earlier that day which was the first time in some time when its members were able to take decisions. A challenge remains how to secure that in the future. One solution can be an increased number of face2face meetings in ERB (which the ERB Youth Board supports), Mr Rosengren said requesting that the Youth Board is included.

Finally, Mr Rosengren reported on the Youth Board's evaluation of the so-called linked chairpersonship, i.e. one ERB region chairing both the Executive and Youth Boards. The evaluation shows, Mr Rosengren stated, the linked chairpersonship has not given that much of an extra benefit so it's not so important to continue with the arrangement in the future. It seems more necessary that someone experienced is elected chairperson (with a at least one year's background before they are elected).

ERB Vice-President, Mr Per Ole Petersen agreed that continuity is more important than the linked chairpersonship. He thought it was absolutely natural that the ERB Youth Board attends face2face meetings of the ERB Executive Board.

Member of the ERB Board, Ms Akko Karlsson said that whichever region chairs the ERB Youth Board it is absolutely crucial that they should give the person in charge their full support in everyday work.

Member of the ERB Board, Ms Monica Haider agreed that continuity is most important and said each region should take responsibility for the involvement of their members in the ERB Youth Board.

Mr Piotr Zwolak, representing Warmińsko-Mazurskie said his region is in principle in favour of linked chairpersonship but the question related to the chairpersonship in 2013 should first be asked to Bornholm.

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen said it would be great if somebody else took over chairpersonship in the ERB Youth Board since Bornholm is so active in many other aspects of the ERB cooperation.

ERB President, Mr Roland Gustbée summed up by saying that clear description of the future workload must be known to the ERB Youth Board members as well as the regions, including the number of face3face and online meetings, external meetings, etc.)

ERB Executive Board members took note of the information presented.

10. **Break**

11. Report from ERB International Secretariat

ERB President, Mr Roland Gustbée informed of the internal meeting he held with the heads of the delegations during the break. Based on the information collected from the delegations, Mr Gustbée concluded that the Polish regions were not in favour of Option 2 (as presented in the attached documents, i.e. hosting the International Secretariat by an ERB region) while the Swedish regions find Option 3 impossible to accept (as presented in the attached documents, i.e. the person in charge of the International Secretariat being individually contracted by each member region). Remaining a solution acceptable for all the parties, Option 1 poses some questions that need clarification and further investigation, e.g. the ERB member organisations could consider an international association but when it consists of legal persons as members, not physical persons. Preliminary investigation into the possibilities of establishing an association of international legal bodies will be made before the online meeting of the ERB Executive Board in November. Mr Gustbée also informed that the person currently in charge of the International Secretariat is moving to Sweden, and in order to enable him to continue, at least temporarily and while the international association is being set up, a temporary solution should be found. In his capacity as the President of ERB Mr Gustbée proposed that the head of the International Secretariat be employed by the Swedish regions which could add to his salary, and consequently to his workload. This means that the other member organisations would each need to provide 2-3 hours weekly more to the work related to the ERB cooperation. Mr Gustbée proposed that an online meeting should be held in November in order to agree on a solution before the next year.

Head of ERB International Permanent Secretariat, Mr S. Demkowicz-Dobrzański presented the financial report for the three quarters of 2012 and revised joint budget for 2012, providing additional explanations to the specific budget items.

ERB Executive Board members:

- *approved the financial report for the three quarters of 2012 and the revised 2012 budget;*
- *agreed to hold an online meeting of the ERB Board in November to make a final decision concerning the IPS and asked the ERB secretariats to find a suitable date.*

12. Preparations for 2013 – 2014 Action Plan

(ERB 2012 – 2013 Action Plan → Internal Action: reinforcing stakeholder approach through continuous dialogue and information exchange)

ERB Vice-President, Mr Per Ole Petersen informed the ERB Executive Board that Bornholm is beginning its preparations for the drafting of the ERB Action Plan 2013 – 2014. A draft will be first developed by the Danish and Lithuanian partners, as well as the IPS and presented for further discussion to all the ERB partners by the end of this year. Mr Petersen also informed that he would like to meet Mr Grubliauskas at the beginning of January in order to discuss the draft.

Following the proposal by Pomorskie to host the first ERB meeting in 2013, ERB Executive Board members set the date to be 25 and 26th February 2013. The February meeting will deal with ERB presidency change and a special labour market seminar. Regarding other dates:

- 27 and 28th May was proposed for the second ERB Board meeting in 2013 (date and place to be confirmed, theme: future South Baltic programme),
- week 36 was proposed for the third ERB Board meeting in 2013, combined with 4th Annual ERB Forum (date to be confirmed, place: Kalmar, theme to be identified),
- week 46 was proposed for the fourth ERB Board meeting in 2013 (date to be confirmed, place: Warmińsko-Mazurskie, theme: youth, YB and EVS volunteer could prepare an application to organise a youth event - as an outcome of the EVS project and cooperation with Kumulus).

ERB Executive Board members:

- *agreed on the drafting process of the ERB 2013-2014 Action Plan, as proposed by Bornholm;*
- *agreed on the place and date of the first ERB Executive Board meeting in 2013;*
- *agreed that places and dates of the subsequent ERB Executive Board meetings in 2013 will be agreed while preparing the draft ERB 2013-2014 Action Plan.*

13. Conclusion and Closing

ERB President, Mr Roland Gustbée closed the ERB Executive Board meeting.

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Mr Roland Gustbée
ERB President

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Mr Per Ole Petersen
ERB Vice-President