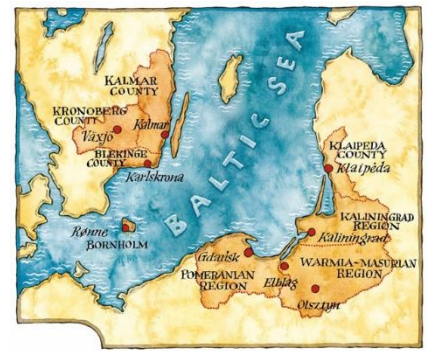




Euroregion Baltic Executive Board Meeting Bornholm Denmark 9th June 2016



Title	Final Minutes
Submitted by	SM, International Permanent Secretariat
Summary / Note	This document provides final agenda of the ERB Executive Board meeting on Bornholm on 8 – 9 th June 2016
Requested action	Implementation

Participants: ERB Executive Board:

Ms Akko Karlsson	ERB Vice President, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Kalmar County
Ms Britt-Louise Berndtsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board of Region Kronoberg
Mr Vaclovas Dačkauskas	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Mayor of Klaipeda District Municipality
Mr Lennarth Förberg	Member of ERB Executive Board, Region Blekinge
Mr Marcin Kuchciński	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of Board of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Ms Christina Mattisson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Chair of the Board of Region Blekinge
Ms Charlotta Svanberg	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board Region Kronoberg
Mr Ragnar Olsson	Member of ERB Executive Board, Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Per Ole Petersen	Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Hanna Pruchniewska	Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of Board of Association of Polish Communes ERB

ERB Youth Board:

Mr Tautrimas Rupulevičius	Chair of ERB Youth Board, Association of Klaipeda Region
Mr Oscar Sundås	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council in Kalmar County/Kumulus
Ms Alexandra Winberg	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Council in Kalmar County/Kumulus
Mr Mikkel Holm Tved	Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Paweł Kulasiewicz	Chair of Global Wave Foundation

ERB Secretariats:

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen	Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Tobias Facchini	Regional Council in Kalmar County
Ms Klaudija Kionies	Association of Klaipeda Region
Mr Sebastian Magier	Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat
Ms Therese Magnusson	Region Kronoberg
Mr Jan Martinsson	Regional Council in Kalmar County
Ms Karen Jensen	Regional Council in Kalmar County
Mr Łukasz Bielewski	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Ms Johanna Rönn	Region Blekinge
Ms Małgorzata Samusjew	Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Ms Krystyna Wróblewska	Office of the Marshal of Pomorskie Voivodeship
Mr Piotr Zwolak	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region

Guests:

Mr Jacob Bjerring-Hansen	Director of Historic Museum, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Torben Jörgensen	Head of Section resp. for Water Issues, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Mr Mikhail Durkin	Coalition Clean Baltic
Mr Arne Grove	Honorary Consul of Denmark to Kaliningrad Region

1. **Welcome**

Speaking on behalf of the hosts, Mr Per Ole Petersen, Member of ERB Executive Board welcomed the participants of the meeting.

2. **Opening**

Ms Akko Karlsson, ERB Vice President opened the meeting, presented the agenda and asked the Executive Board for its approval.

Ms Karlsson quoted a letter from Mr Aleksander Bogdanov, ERB President in which regretted not being able to chair the meeting and requested Ms Karlsson to execute this duty in her capacity as the ERB Vice President.

ERB Executive Board decided to approve the agenda.

3. **Signing the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board meeting**

ERB IPS has submitted the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board meeting held in Kaliningrad on 8th April 2016.

Ms Akko Karlsson, ERB Vice President and Ms Britt-Louise Berndtsson, Member of Executive Board signed the minutes of ERB Executive Board meeting of 8th April 2016.

4. **Address by Mr Arne Grove**

Mr Arne Grove, Honorary Consul of Kingdom of Denmark in Kaliningrad and former Director of Nordic Council of Ministers Information Office in Kaliningrad give a presentation on the current status of regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Speaking from a position of significant experience and knowledge of the Baltic cooperation, especially from more than 20 years of direct cooperation with Russian partners in Kaliningrad, Mr Grove outlined conditions and challenges that currently influence cooperation links among the partners on national level.

As far as the local and regional levels are concerned, he pointed out that the cooperation remained unchanged to some degree which puts Euroregion Baltic as well as other Baltic organisation platforms in a unique position which gives them a unique window of opportunity for further development.

Focusing on the cooperation with Kaliningrad, Mr Grove indicated the most promising and already existing or potential fields of cooperation such as environment, agriculture and food processing; energy efficiency, entrepreneurship and 3-helix cooperation; tourism; culture and creative industries; social and health care. In several of these fields eg. social and health care, entrepreneurship, tourism, environment and agriculture, ERB could be potentially involved to define partnerships and project ideas. The funding for such projects could be searched for in ENPI or INTERREG programmes.

Ms Akko Karlsson thanked Mr Grove for this detailed presentation of cooperation opportunities among the ERB partners.

The ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

5. **Discussion on ERB Water Forum and new cooperation initiatives in the area of water resources protection and management**

Ms Akko Karlsson, ERB Vice President started a discussion on the results of the ERB Water Forum held a day earlier with a presentation detailing the main points of the debate.

Ms Karlsson started with outlining the mission of the ERB Water Core Group for the near future. The WCG should be ready to take actions benefiting the Baltic Sea environment on both regional and local levels. Next, it should start working on pre-project that would lead to a major cross-border project on water resources. Finally it should also focus on exchanges and seminars where know-how and theoretical knowledge should be shared and exchanges for the benefit of all ERB stakeholders.

Potential topics to be further explored within the ERB WCG cooperation are: water management and climate change; problem of water supply to areas with insufficient water reserves; water nitrification and hazards; water management; storm water management and planning; water and tourism/culture; water biodiversity; connecting with technology sector and business.

Focusing on the most important issues till 2018, Ms Karlsson mentioned freshwater access and supply (Sweden - Öland, Gotland, Västervik, Ronneby, Poland), water resources management (through Water User Partnerships, Baltic Action Plan) and facilitating exchanges (through different tools and fora such as Erasmus+, ERB Youth Board, Helcom, Race for Baltic, etc.).

The members of the ERB Executive Board were requested to share the views and opinions on the organisation and results of the ERB Water Forum.

Mr Per Ole Petersen said that in all the above activities the universities should cooperate more closely with practitioners in order to provide better results.

Mr Jan Martinsson stated that within the current call for proposals for cooperation projects between Russian and Swedish municipalities organised by the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy a project will be submitted on further developing the results of the South Baltic Moment project in the Kaliningrad context.

Ms Karlsson added that a project proposal on the reusing the water treatment sludge is being developed jointly by Bornholm, Polish partners and with a Swedish Lead Beneficiary.

6. **Presentation of Bornholm Museum in Rønne**

Mr Jacob Bjerring-Hansen, Director of Bornholm Museum inform the ERB Executive Board about the developments projects currently underway at the Museum which could potentially lead up to international project cooperation in the area of sustainable tourism.

Current project of the Museum consists of three main elements: Museum+, New Museum and Light Museum.

The museum obtains 75% of funding from its own activities while the rest is received from public funds. Within the budget around 66% of expenditures are earmarked for the development of the new museum facilities.

All tourism projects should be rooted as much as possible in local history and

tradition. This is especially the case of Bornholm where all the objects of historical importance amount to one-third of all such objects in Denmark. Therefore it is highly relevant to take advantage of this significant heritage while developing projects.

Within the current development strategy the Museum intends to create an archaeological history centre which is being developed as an international South Baltic Programme project together with partners from Poland and Sweden.

Another ambitious project is the development of the Farm (Gaarden) which will be a unique agricultural museum allowing visitors to prepare their own meals based on old recipes and with the use of farming products available during certain parts of the year. The Farm museum is expected to attract around 20 000 visitors per year.

Farm contains the physical framework for a madkulturhus, creating activities, experiences and education. The culinary meeting and development place for the food industry nationally and regionally, Bornholm and the island's guests. All food players invited into this open-source framework with their needs, ideas and activities. Farm helps to shape a sustainable business in the interaction between citizens, tourism and food industries.

Adding to the information presented by Mr Bjerring-Hansen, Niels Chresten Andersen said that Bornholm has also a significant maritime heritage with 29 harbours and additional maritime facilities. Other examples of heritage based tourism is the so called granite adventure where former quarries are turned into tourism destinations.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

7. Information about ERB Annual Forum in Stockholm

Mr Sebastian Magier presented information on the organisation of the ERB Annual Forum of Stakeholders to be organised within the framework of the 7th Annual EUSBSRS Forum as a joint seminar of Baltic organisations (ERB, UBC, BSSSC) on the question of strategic youth policy within EUSBSR. The seminar proposal was submitted jointly by the three organisations within the deadline specified by the organisers of the EUSBSR Forum. We are currently waiting for the results of the call for proposals. Once the seminar is approved or merged together with other similar proposals, we will be able to proceed with practical preparations for the event including specific dates (8th or 9th November), accommodation, agendas and organisation of the Executive Board meeting.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

8. Information about the conditional approval of the CASYPOT project

Ms Jan Martinsson from Regional Council in Kalmar County presented the updated information about the conditional approval of the CASYPOT (Capacity Building for Strategic Youth Policy and Transnational Cooperation) project to be launched within the South Baltic Programme.

In his presentation Mr Martinsson focused on the main objectives of the project as well as the involvement of partners from the ERB cooperation area, including the possible involvement of Russian partners through a financial instrument offered by the Swedish Institute.

Referring to the involvement of partners from Kaliningrad, Mr Martinsson stated that a relevant project called CASYPOT-Ru was submitted to the ongoing call

within the Swedish Institute programme for third countries. If approved the project would provide 49500 EUR of direct funding for Kaliningrad Regional Administration, Immanuel Kant Federal University and municipalities of Svetlogorsk and Gusev. Once approved the project would last 24 months starting from 1st Sept 2016 and will carry out the same activities as the ones planned within the main CASYPOT project.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

9. **ERB IPS request for employment of Project Manager for CASYPOT project and support of future project development**

Concerning the upcoming implementation of the CASYPOT project, Mr Sebastian Magier, Head of ERB IPS, requested the ERB Executive Board to approve employment of a Project Manager for the implementation of the CASYPOT project by ERB for 3 years.

In the project ERB would be responsible for coordinating communication and dissemination activities, which requires an employment of a person with project management skills as well as practical knowledge of public relations and marketing.

Within the current framework with one person employed it would be very difficult to deliver high-quality work both for ERB and the project. Thus the IPS proposed to employ a new employee for the position of the Project Manager and IPS Assistant / Deputy Head. The project budget would not allow to fully employ such person. It would be however able cover 75% of employment cost within the project at 2400 PLN net per month (ca 4000 PLN gross), while the remaining 25% would have to be covered by ERB budget directly.

The financial calculation would then be as follows:

- 915 EUR (incl. taxes and social contr.) per month x 36 months = 33000 EUR / 75% = 24750 EUR for staff covered in the project
- 33000 EUR – 24750 EUR = 8250 EUR / 3 years = 2750 EUR per year for IPS work covered from the ERB budget. In 2016 this would be only 1375 EUR should the employment start on 1st July 2016.

This 25% of working time covered directly by ERB budget would be dedicated to initiating and developing new project ideas, as well as supporting the current work of the IPS, especially in the area of youth cooperation. The funding could be secured in the current ERB budget by reallocating this amount from the travels and meetings budget line.

The Head of IPS also presented information about Ms Agata Ludwiczak, the potential candidate for this position that was preselected internally by the IPS. The proposed candidate has several years of experience in initiation and management of cross-border project implemented within the South Baltic Programme 2007-2013 and the Lithuania-Poland-Russia Programme 2007-2013. The candidate also has significant experience in working on promotion and dissemination of information within the projects. In addition, she has been working as an independent consultant on preparation of project proposals to various programmes in the area of social policy, culture and entrepreneurship development. Finally, the candidate is completing her PhD studies at the University of Gdańsk which focus directly on the implementation of the people-to-people projects within the first edition of the South Baltic CBC Programme 2007-2013.

Having considered the request, the ERB Executive Board decided to approve the employment on the new IPS employee within the conditions proposed.

10. **Information about the submission of Erasmus+ projects for ERB Youth**

Board

Mr Paweł Kulasiewicz informed the ERB Executive Board about the submission of two projects for the Erasmus+ Programme that aim improve the leadership and entrepreneurial knowledge of youth from the ERB. If approved both project will give the ERB Youth Board members to participate in training courses and conference type meeting with decision makers to discuss the problem of youth entrepreneurship.

The results of the call would be known by the end of July 2016.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

11. ERB internship for the support of ERB Youth Board

Mr Sebastian Magier, Head of IPS, informed the ERB Executive Board about IPS initiative to provide additional support for the ERB Youth Board by organising unpaid internships for students and graduates of universities from the ERB area. The proposal will include participation in the Erasmus Intern programme that allows them to obtain financial support for carrying out internships at selected organisations or companies. Additionally, there is a proposal from Italy to engaged in another Erasmus+ project that would allow to apply for students from Italy to support the IPS and Youth Board work.

Responding to the proposal, Ms Britt-Louise Berndtsson stated that it would be very important to have a clear work plan for any potential interns working at the IPS during their internships.

Also Mr Niels Chresten Andersen mentioned that preparing such an internship requires a clear plan and potential internships should last between 6-12 months to generate any practical results.

Head of IPS replied that such a plan would be drafted and focus mainly on work related to main ERB activities especially in the youth cooperation area, including development and implementation of ERB projects.

ERB Executive Board decided to approve the proposal.

12. ERB Task Force Project Facilitation – information about supported projects

Mr Sebastian Magier, Head of IPS informed the ERB Executive Board about project initiatives of various ERB stakeholders that are developing project proposals in cross-border cooperation programmes.

1. BSR Interconnect

BSR INTERCONNECT – Interconnecting regional public transport systems in the Baltic Sea Region is a seed money project developed and implemented by Region Blekinge within the Swedish Institute Seed Money Facility. The aim of the project establish an international and cross-sectoral network of professionals able to increase the visibility of cross-border public transport on the regional, national and international policy agendas through a common view and coordinated actions.

It is expected that during the implementation of the seed funding project the team of partners competent in public transport management and regional growth expands to include representatives of the relevant thematic sectors (e.g. economic competitiveness, cross-border labour market, tourism, marketing and product branding, environmental aspects etc.) and

of wider geographical areas.

The seed funding project should lead to the preparation of a project idea for one of the Interreg programmes in the Baltic Sea Region, perhaps the South Baltic Programme. The choice of the programme will be determined by the thematic scope and territorial coverage of the stakeholder network.

The ERB IPS participated in the project meeting in Gdańsk at the end of May 2016 to learn more about its scope and potential partners that could be included in future activities. Following positive information from the Klaipeda Region about potential interest in such a project, IPS discussed this prospect with the project leader and received a positive response as to the inclusion of Lithuanian partners should the project be submitted to the South Baltic Programme.

The IPS will continue to facilitate contacts to develop contacts between the project and partners from Klaipeda by working closely with Region Blekinge and the Association of Municipalities of Klaipeda Region which is contact with relevant stakeholders in the region.

2. CAFaaS

The CAFaaS project is developed by the OPEGIEKA company / R&D centre in Elbląg to be submitted to one of the Interreg programmes in BSR, most probably to the South Baltic Programme.

The project intends to improve the sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region by developing capacity and effectiveness of public administration. The Common Assessment Framework is coordinated by the European Institute of Public Administration and implemented by many European public organisations. Many organisations have already begun using it with good results. Now CAF certifications are implemented by outside consulting agencies, which makes the method expensive and time-consuming. The project would like to change that by introducing a digital CAF certification system to allow every public organisation to implement CAF through a dedicated software. Based on the demand of recipients, the project will test several solutions within pilot activities in the regions and use CAF dedicated service – CAFaaS. The service allows organisations to independently certify and improve its effectiveness within the CAF framework. To fully utilise the potential of the method a transnational exchange of experiences among many organisations active in the South Baltic cooperation is needed. By input provided by these organisations, it will be possible to improve their excellence through a process of benchmarking, in which organisations are engaged in a mutual learning process based on the experiences of other organisations. A transnational partnership will allow these organisations to learn about strengths and weaknesses of others in order to take own initiatives and avoid mistakes.

The project is currently looking for partners from ERB regions of Sweden, Denmark and Lithuania to try to develop a strong partnership for one of the upcoming calls within the South Baltic or BSR programmes.

3. Marija Non-governmental Organisation

Marija NGO is an organisation from Kaliningrad Region working with people with different sorts of disabilities, especially supporting children and youth. The organisation has been actively working with these issues since 1998 and is one of the most experienced organisations in this sector.

Marija would like to start an international cooperation project to exchange experience with Polish, Danish and Swedish organisation with similar

experience on therapies for persons with physical and mental disabilities including the Down syndrome and autism. The potential project would also include organisation of the thematic conference in Kaliningrad to develop contacts and cooperation as well as exchange information and experiences on successful project implemented in this area of cooperation.

Commenting on the Marija project proposal, Mr Arne Grove said Marija is a very serious organisation, one of the most experienced in the field of social policy and has already participated in similar projects in the past. There are publications developed in previous projects that could be of use when developing a new project, eg. a guidebook for parents of children with disabilities.

Ms Małgorzata Samusjew, Director of Association of Polish Communes Secretariat mentioned that Marija was in touch with the Association for some time and together they managed to attract to cooperation a similar association from Puck, Poland and that they would have a joint meeting on 10th June 2016. Also, she said that Marija was now in the process of creating a special village (therapy centre) for persons with disabilities where they would be able to engage in different activities such as handicrafts etc. This could be also something worth including in a joint project.

4. DUNC Development of UNESCO Natural and Cultural assets

Adding to the information about the projects worth supporting by the ERB, Ms Johanna Rönn informed that the Karlskrona municipality is currently finalising a tourism project application entitled DUNC - Development of UNESCO Natural and Cultural assets, which will aim at developing these sites into sustainable tourist destinations by a packaging of products and services that can attract different target groups. The project will also develop a joint marketing of the UNESCO sites/areas to attract visitors to prolong their travelling in the Baltic Sea region. The project will result in information/marketing tools that will make the values of the UNESCO sites/areas more comprehensible and inspire the visitor to visit the other sites/areas in the project as well. Taking into account that the project gathers partners from the ERB area (Curonian Spit National Park, Malbork Castle Museum) perhaps it would be useful to include ERB through the Association of Polish Communes as an Associate Partner in the project.

Discussing the proposal, the Executive Board decided that the municipality of Karlskrona should be asked about the possibility for the ERB to join the project as an Associated Partner. If the answer is positive, ERB IPS should make all necessary formal arrangements concerning the participation in the project proposal.

ERB Executive Board took note of the other information presented.

13. **ERB joint project in South Baltic Programme**

Mr Sebastian Magier, Head of IPS informed the Board about investigating possibilities to initiate and develop a joint ERB project within the PA5 of the South Baltic Programme. The idea is to mark the 20th anniversary of ERB in 2018 with a concrete action that would bring back the reason why the Euroregion has been established – promoting and facilitating cross-border cooperation of partners to jointly tackle issues of common importance. A joint ERB project facilitating cross-border cooperation and building cooperation capacities of local actors could serve this purpose ideally. Such project could have a form of an umbrella project within the South Baltic Programme that would further boost the potential of actors to

develop and submit good quality projects within all other 4 Priority Areas of the Programme. More work was underway including discussions with relevant stakeholders and potential partners. The goal was develop the project for the 4th call for proposals within the South Baltic Programme.

ERB Executive Board decided to give its approval to initiating the work on the project development.

14. **Information about study visit of Swedish politicians to ERB regions**

Mr Jan Martinsson, Regional Council in Kalmar County, informed the ERB Executive Board about the planned trip of Swedish politicians from ERB Board to the regions of Pomorskie, Warmia-Mazury, Kaliningrad and Klaipeda between 29-31st Aug 2016 (see presentation attached).

Once the organisation of the study trip is confirmed by all regions, special letters will be sent to all hosting regions with information about topics of interest and potential cooperation areas for discussion.

Up until the Board meeting, all except Pomorskie and Kaliningrad confirmed their will to host the Swedish delegation, but these were expected to take place after the meeting still in June 2016.

Mr Łukasz Bielewski, Director of International Cooperation Department at the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Marshal's Office stated that the region was looking forward to hosting the delegation and asked whether it would be possible for the delegation to spend the whole day there. This would allow to prepare a more comprehensive programme and present more details on the areas of potential joint cooperation.

Mr Jan Martinsson replied that the calendar was unfortunately not very flexible in this respect and would be difficult to dedicate the whole of 29th Aug to visiting only one Polish region.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

15. **ERB IPS information about knowledge and skills development**

Mr Sebastian Magier informed the ERB Executive Board about recent initiatives taken to improve knowledge and skills in the ERB IPS. In 2016 these activities will include:

- Postgraduate Scandinavian Studies at University of Gdańsk to be funded 100% by internal programme offered by the Polish Labour Office. The studies will last 4 semesters
- continued project management skills development within PRINCE2 methodology. The Prince2 Practitioner training and exam will be taken by the IPS Head in July 2016.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

16. **ERB budget**

Mr Sebastian Magier, Head of ERB IPS presented the current implementation of the ERB budget for 2016 (see attached).

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

17. **Conclusion and closing**

Ms Akko Karlsson, ERB Vice President thanked the hosts for a very good organisation and the participants for active participation, and closed the meeting of ERB Executive Board.