



EUROREGION BALTIC ANNUAL REPORT 2011



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EUROREGION BALTIC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Between 21st January 2011 and 10th February 2012 Euroregion Presidency was held by the Russian partners, first by Mr **Mihail Pluhin**, Deputy Governor of Kaliningrad Region, and since 27th September 2011 by Ms **Alla Ivanova**, Minister-Head of Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region in Russia who chaired the ERB Executive Board of twenty more members:

Association of Communes, Poland

1. **Grzegorz Nowaczyk**, ERB Board Member, Chair of the Board
2. **Maciej Lisicki**, ERB Board Deputy Member, Vice-Chair of the Board

Region Blekinge, Sweden

3. **Mats Johansson**, ERB Board Member, Chair of the Board
4. **Lennarth Förberg**, ERB Board Member, Vice-Chair of the Board
5. **Suzanne Svensson**, ERB Board Deputy Member, Member of Swedish Parliament

Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Denmark

6. **Per Ole Petersen**, ERB Board Member, Member of the Council
7. **Martin Sten Jörgensen**, ERB Deputy Board Member, Member of the Council

Regional Council in Kalmar County, Sweden

8. **Åke Nilsson**, ERB Board Member, Member of the Executive Committee
9. **Akko Karlsson**, ERB Board Member, Vice-Chair of the Board
10. **Lisbeth Lennartsson**, ERB Board Deputy Member, Member of the Board

Klaipeda Regional Development Council, Lithuania

11. **Virgilijus Pozingis**, Chair of the Board (replacing Mr **Arūnas Burkšas**)
12. **Irmantas Sujeta**, Chair of the ERB Youth Board

Pomorskie Voivodeship, Poland

13. **Mieczysław Struk**, ERB Board Member, Marshal of Pomorskie Voivodeship
14. **Wiesław Byczkowski**, ERB Board Member, Member of the Board
15. **Grzegorz Grzelak**, ERB Board Deputy Member, Chair of International and Interregional Committee

Regional Council södra Småland, Sweden

16. **Roland Gustbée**, ERB Vice-President, Chair of the Board
17. **Monica Haider**, ERB Board Member, 2nd Vice-Chair of the Board
18. **Carina Bengtsson**, ERB Board Deputy Member, 1st Vice-Chair of the Board

Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship, Poland

19. **Jacek Protas**, ERB Board Member, Chair of the Board of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland
20. **Anna Wasilewska**, ERB Board Deputy Member, Member of the Board

During the Russian Presidency **Euroregion Baltic Executive Board** met on 21st February 2011 in Kaliningrad (Russia), 18th May 2011 in Gdańsk (Poland), on 27th September 2011 in Gdańsk (Poland), and on 12th December 2011 (online).

EUROREGION BALTIC YOUTH BOARD

Between 21st January 2011 and 10th February 2012 chairmanship of the ERB Youth Board was held by the Lithuanian partners, and personally **Mr Irmantas Sujeta** who chaired the ERB Executive Board of eight more members and 6 deputies:

Members

1. **Vladimir Balobaev** - Kaliningrad Region, Russia (replacing **Evegenya Demina**)
2. **Karl Holst** - Kalmar, Sweden (replacing **Marta Akesson**)
3. **Rasmus Hounisen** - Bornholm, Denmark (replacing **Bo Damgaard Nielsen**)
4. **Sissa Pagels** - Blekinge, Sweden (replacing **Elise Wählin**)
5. **Oliver Rosengren** - Södra Småland, Sweden (replacing **Cajsa Augustzén**)
6. **Krystyna Stec** - Association of Communes, Poland
7. **Paweł Sudara** - Pomorskie Region, Poland
8. **Katarzyna Wasyliszyn** - Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland (replacing **Anna Śledzińska**)

Deputy members

9. **Mateusz Ankiewicz** - Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland (replacing **Kamila Tkaczuk**)
10. **Ahmed Said Benatallah** - Kalmar, Sweden
11. **Mathias Juhl** - Bornholm, Denmark (replacing **Anders Damgaard Nielsen**)
12. **Mateusz Kryzba** - Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland (replacing **Małgorzata Piaścik**)
13. **Henrietta Serrate** - Södra Småland, Sweden (replacing **Karolis Dineika**)
14. **Vyacheslav Sutyrin** - Kaliningrad, Russia (replacing **Irina Pilukova**)

During the Russian Presidency **Euroregion Baltic Youth Board** met on 17th May 2011 in Gdańsk (Poland), on 7th July 2011 in Karlskrona (Sweden), on 15th August 2011 in Karlskrona (Sweden) and on 27th September 2011 in Gdańsk (Poland). In addition, **Euroregion Baltic Youth Board** held meetings within the Yc³ project on 20th February 2011 in Kaliningrad (Yc³ Baltic V-day), 8-9th April 2011 on Bornholm (Yc³ project Baltic-T day), and on 21-22nd May 2011 in Karlskrona (final Yc³ project conference).

ADDRESS BY ERB PRESIDENT

**Between 27th September 2011 and 10th February 2012
Ms Alla Ivanova, Minister-Head of Agency for International
Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region
was the President of Euroregion Baltic**



It was a great pleasure for me to chair Euroregion Baltic in 2012 and 2012.

Basic mechanisms for cross-border cooperation and partnership have been successfully developing over the past 20 years. Without exaggeration I can say that Euroregion Baltic is one of the leading platforms among all forms of cooperation between local and regional authorities. Due to active and joint work our Euroregion has created additional opportunities to expand cross-border contacts and given them a systematic character. Our current efforts should be aimed at strengthening existing partnerships, implementing mutually beneficial projects and identifying key priorities for further work.

2011 was not the first year of Russian Presidency in ERB but the first one for me personally. The past year has been marked by lots of changes including replacement of the ERB President in the middle of the term. I would like to take this opportunity and thank once again Mr Mihail Plukhin, former member and chair of the ERB Executive Board who was actively involved in Euroregion Baltic work for many years.

The basic principle of our presidency was to ensure continuity of the goals and objectives of ERB activities, as well as of their implementation within the framework of Action Plan for 2011-2012. During 2011 a number of position papers were elaborated reflecting our joint contribution to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea (EUSBSR) and EU Cohesion Policy and consolidating positions on the lobbying process and implementation of the EUSBSR flagship projects.

However, there are no more significant results than concrete, practical ones. Undoubtedly, the most important practical result of the past year was the Second Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders 2011 in Gdansk. I do hope that our Forum has become one of the most productive and recognisable platform in the Baltic Sea Region to address common challenges and objectives.

It is encouraging to see that so much of the Action Plan 2011-2012 has already been successfully implemented, and the activities carried out tackled upon the most urgent issues of cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. It is also satisfying to me personally that over the past year under the Kaliningrad chairmanship we managed to strengthen cooperation between all the ERB member organisations, based on shared principles and priorities.

I am confident that 2012 will bring more fruitful results and generate more mutually beneficial effects for all the participating regions upgrading the added value of the ERB cooperation.

Focus area 1: Lobbying

Strategic objective:

Enhancing the role of ERB as a lobbying platform towards the European Union taking into consideration aspirations of all its stakeholders

1. Implementing the Terms of Reference of the ERB Task Force on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

1.1. In February 2011 the ERB Task Force on EUSBSR prepared an overview of the ERB contribution to the implementation of the Strategy which listed all the initiatives, planned or in progress, implemented by the ERB member organisations in relation to the EUSBSR, e.g. leading flagship projects and horizontal actions, hosting EUSBSR events, including its Annual Forum. The overview served as background for a discussion paper later developed by the Task Force.

1.2. In March 2011 the ERB Task Force produced a discussion paper in order to present it as input to the European Commission and the National Contact Points in the implementation process of the Strategy and in the drafting of the EUSBSR 2011 Report. The paper considered such issues as communication of the EUSBSR, 2nd Annual Forum, funding of the Strategy, cooperation with Russia and the forthcoming revision of the Strategy. This discussion paper was taken to a further discussion among the ERB cooperation partners with the aim of developing a formal position.

1.3. In September 2011 the ERB Executive Board formally adopted the position paper presenting proposals of improvements to ensure successful implementation of the EUSBSR, and arguing that, the Strategy being relatively new, needs moderate changes at this early stage it is too early stage. The paper proposed that a more fundamental review of the Strategy should be the subject of an open consultation with the stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). It also included two specific proposals of new flagships: *ERB Youth Board as an example of non-formal learning and Participating water management*.

1.4. Involve project application submitted to the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007 – 2013

Involve was developed by the Swedish regions of Kalmar and Västerbotten to promote a new EUSBSR horizontal action (multi-level governance, local and regional spatial planning and sustainable development) following a request by the European Commission. Since the project was partly based on the experiences of Kalmar led water cooperation, including ERB Water Core Group, ERB Executive Board recommended that ERB becomes a formal partner. The project was submitted to the Baltic Sea Region Programme in March 2011 and rejected. Work is in progress to re-submit the project to the final call of the Baltic Sea Region Programme by 29th March 2012.



1.5. ERB actively participated in a number of EUSBSR meetings, seminars, workshops, conferences and fora including:

-  2nd Working Meeting on EUSBSR Implementation in Gdańsk on 16-17th February 2011;
-  Polish EUSBSR Coordination Team meeting in Warsaw on 8th April 2011;
-  Informal Baltic Sea Group seminar in Brussels on 15th June 2011;
-  2nd Annual Forum in Gdańsk on 24 - 26th October 2011;

- ✚ Conference on the future of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Regions regarding innovation and knowledge held by the EU Polish Presidency, Union of Polish Regions, and the Committee of the Regions in Brussels on 30th November 2011.



2. Implementing the Terms of Reference of the ERB Task Force on the Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders

- 2.1. The Task Force has not as yet developed a ready-to-use model or general concept of the Forum that could be used in the future.
- 2.2. First discussions on the preparations for the 2011 Forum took place at the ERB Executive Board meeting in May 2011. They continued at the meeting between the ERB International Secretariat and the CEOs of the Swedish regions in Gdańsk on 15th August 2011. As a result, the Task Force made a detailed proposal of the organisation of the Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders in 2011, specifying date, place, cost, agenda, and other practical issues.

- 2.3. 2nd Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders was held in Gdańsk on 26th September 2011 under the title: *Untapping Regional Potential In The Baltic Sea Region*. Over 70 participants from the European, national, regional and local levels around the Baltic Sea Region congregated to be inspired by new knowledge and informed about current processes of importance to the future work in the ERB, including growth potential scenarios within the Baltic Sea Region, EUSBSR and future EU Cohesion policy.



The Forum also provided an excellent opportunity for the ERB member regions to discuss the potential for joint activities in the future. Inspired by the new information at the Forum and equipped with political mandates as political representatives of their regions, the members of the last panel pointed out directions they see most beneficial in the ERB work. They offered recommendations concerning both horizontal objectives to pursue and specific areas in which to get involved. The horizontal objectives included concentration of joint efforts, improvement of ERB recognition, both internally and externally, as well as fostering of CBC relations. The specific areas comprised: transport accessibility, youth cooperation, cooperation between SMEs, clusters and facilitating innovation (also in the public sector), tourism on land and water, environment, and cultural industries.

3. Monitoring the preparation of future EU Cohesion Policy and actively promoting a greater role of its Objective 3 – European Territorial Cooperation

- 3.1. In September 2011 the ERB Executive Board adopted the position paper on the South Baltic CBC Programme after 2013 presenting arguments for the extension of its geographical scope to include the whole ERB area, proposing thematic focus, calling for the increase of its budget and simplifying its management and implementation rules.
- 3.2. In November the ERB Task Force on EU Cohesion Policy analysed the draft regulations on the future Cohesion Policy presented by the European Commission noting on the positive side that the ETC objective is significantly increased, closer ties between the ENPI and the ERDF are proposed, automatic de-commitment rule has been modified, but also that ETC programmes are

not linked to macro-regional strategies, as proposed by ERB, the 150 km limit for maritime borders has not been changed, and that the macro-economic condition has been extended to cover all structural funds on the negative side.

- 3.3. Following these analysis the Task Force drafted concrete proposals for changes and amendments to the EU draft regulations proposing that in its activities ERB focuses on the clarification of possibilities to ensure that all ERB member regions are included in the next South Baltic programme, replacement of the max. 150 km limit for maritime borders with objective criteria based on functional geographies, as well as ensuring that ERB will still be represented in the Monitoring Committee, which will be merged with the Steering Committee in the next programming period.
- 3.4. In February 2012 the Task Force will present a proposal of specific joint ERB lobbying activities based on the concrete proposals for changes and amendments to the draft regulations on the future Cohesion Policy to the ERB Executive Board for approval.
- 3.5. The Task Force will prepare an article from leading ERB politicians highlighting the ERB position towards the South Baltic CBC Programme which will be published by the Baltic Rim Economies in May 2012.

Focus area 2: Strategic actions

Strategic objective: Enhancing the added value of ERB cooperation

1. Implementing the ERB Joint Development Programme

1.1. Participating in the implementation of the South Baltic CBC Programme

In 2011 Euroregion Baltic continued its active participation in the implementation of the South Baltic Cross-border Cooperation Programme with activities being realised on different levels. Both the ERB and its member regions are actively engaged in the implementation and management of the South Baltic Programme as members of the Steering and Monitoring Committees, hosting the Programme Contact Points, acting as Lead Beneficiaries, Project Partners and Associated Organisations in a number of projects implemented within the Programme.

- 1.2. In the Programme Monitoring Committee ERB was represented by Carina Bengtsson, 1st Vice-Chair of the Board of the Regional Council södra Småland in Sweden. In the Steering Committee ERB was represented by Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański of ERB the International Secretariat.

1.3. South Baltic Annual Conference

ERB actively attended the Annual Conference of the Programme held on 28-29th November in Schwerin, Germany. ERB Vice-President, Roland participated in the panel on the new programming perspective 2014-2020 as well as challenges and opportunities for the territorial co-operation. The same panel was also attended by Niels Chresten Andersen of the ERB Secretariat on Bornholm and Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański of the International Secretariat. Lisbeth Lennartsson, ERB Executive Board member and the Chair of the Executive Committee in the Municipality of Bornholm took part in the panel on the impact of the territorial co-operation on the regions covered by the Programme.



1.4. Moment Project

During 2011, the MOMENT and MOMENT UP projects delivered several specific outputs. Water Users Partnerships are established, or under establishment, in all seven pilot areas. Some other examples are:

- ✚ ecologically adapted rain water solutions are under construction in Kalmar and Kretinga;
- ✚ a feasibility study concerning biogas production using sludge from small scale sewage plants in the municipality of Ronneby was presented;
- ✚ new methods for better management of forest waters got developed within Snärje Stream catchment area;
- ✚ detailed plans for nine water pilot measures in Bruatorp River were prepared;
- ✚ a GIS based water information exchange system of Bauda catchment area was developed.

The project also established good contacts with the coordinators of the Priority Area 1 of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. During 2012, each pilot area will present a local programme of measures and more pilot activities will be implemented. At the end of 2012 conclusions and recommendations for future work will be presented.

1.5. YC3 Project

On 20-21st February 2011 the Baltic Volunteering Day took place in Kaliningrad, Russia. At the meeting the attendants gave their input to the EU Consultation on the promotion and validation of non-formal learning. On 8-9th April 2011 the Baltic Tourism Day was held on Bornholm, Denmark with talks on how awareness, interest and attractiveness of near travel for the youth in the South Baltic countries can be increased, what experiences young people may be looking for and what amenities can be offered to them while travelling.



On 21-22nd May 2011 the final Yc³ project conference took place in Karlskrona, Sweden with the main theme *Youth Influence and Social Media*. Youth from all over the world came to be inspired and discuss the impact of social media in social change activities. In May 2011 a document was developed by the ERB Youth Board as a description of the distinctive factors that defines youth influence and participation as well as a collection of best practices and suggestion on how to create the best prerequisites for involving youth into the decision-making processes. It describes influence and participation as concepts, based on the discussions between ERB politicians, the Youth Board and Secretariats, as well as current research.

1.6. Capacity Building Project (CBP)

In 2011 CPB supported potential project beneficiaries organising two cross-border workshops in Karlskrona, Sweden and Rostock, Germany where almost 90 participants presented 25 advanced project proposals. It also continued supporting beneficiaries in project development. CBP partners gave a lot of general consultations, support and feedback to both experienced and inexperienced potential project developers in project design and application drafting. 18 projects received mentoring and expert support via Rent-an-Expert service. In result, 9 project were submitted in the 7th Call for Proposals within the South Baltic Programme. Moreover, CBP has developed a Short Guide to Project Development covering the main elements of project development process such as idea generation, identification of target group, definition of objectives, development of work plan, formulation of partnership and creation of budget. Finally, a self-evaluation report of the project was elaborated to judge the effectiveness of activities realised. The report also aimed to increase understanding of the needs of beneficiaries, evaluate the project services and provide useful data for future capacity building initiatives in the South Baltic and other ETC programmes.

1.7. The application of BaltNet project was not re-submitted to the South Baltic CBC Programme as the original partnership of institutions interested in its implementation had dissolved. ERB will discuss labour market issues in 2012 and a new initiative within this area may appear.

2. Accomplishing prioritized institutional activities of the ERB 2020 Agenda

2.1. ERB Youth Board

Between January and May 2011 the ERB Executive Board discussed possible ways of supporting the ERB Youth Board. As a result of discussions, interviews with the politicians, and surveys filled in jointly by the members of the ERB Executive Board, ERB Youth Board and secretariats, a memorandum on youth cooperation was prepared. On 18th May 2011 it was formally adopted by the ERB Executive Board who agreed what roles ERB Youth Board should play within ERB and in their regions, what institutional and financial resources the member organisations can offer, as well as the relation between the new Youth Board Vision project and EUSBSR.

2.2. ERB Water Group

On 21st January 2011 the ERB Executive Board decided to give full-fledged support to water Cooperation whereby ERB member regions continue to support ERB Water Core Group and ERB is a partner of the project INVOLVE. ERB member regions will continue to support ERB Water Core Group within the implemented projects (Moment until December 2012 and INVOLVE afterwards). In addition, ERB will become a partner of the project INVOLVE through the formal project participation of the Association of Polish Communes hosting ERB International Secretariat.

3. ERB Executive Board meetings

3.1. On 21st February 2011 in Kaliningrad, the main topics included:

- ✚ Transfer of ERB Presidency from the Polish to Russian partners;
- ✚ Overview of the implementation of ERB 2020 Agenda;
- ✚ Discussion on continued support to ERB Youth Board and Water Core Group.
- ✚ Point of interest: ERB participants took part in the formal dinner hosted by the Governor of Kaliningrad Region together with the members of the national parliaments from Germany, Poland and Russia who met on the same day in Kaliningrad.



3.2. On 18th May 2011 in Gdańsk, the main topics included:

- ✚ Adoption of 2010 Activity Report;
- ✚ Adoption of 2011-2012 Action Plan;
- ✚ Youth cooperation debate.
- ✚ Point of interest: this ERB Executive Board meeting coincided with the European Maritime Day held in Gdańsk between 19 and 20th May 2011 in which some participants took part.



3.3. On 27th September 2011 in Gdańsk, the main topics included:

- ✚ Change of the ERB President due to internal changes in Kaliningrad;
- ✚ Adoption of ERB position papers on EUSBSR and South Baltic CBC Programme;
- ✚ First discussions on the 2012 – 2013 Action Plan.
- ✚ Point of interest: this ERB Executive Board meeting took place after the 2nd Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders and gave the participants the opportunity to share their impressions and make first comments.



3.4. On 12th December 2011 on-line Executive Board meeting focused solely on the discussion of the first proposal of the ERB Action Plan for 2012 – 2013.

4. ERB Vice-President's visits to the ERB member organisations

ERB Vice-President, Mr Roland Gustbée put forward an initiative of visiting all the member organisations within ERB. The visits aimed at following the discussions held at the 2nd Forum of the ERB stakeholders and decisions taken by the ERB Executive Board in Gdańsk on 27th September, as well as at continuing the process of selecting common actions that will bring most added value to the ERB regions. Such stakeholder approach brought positive results and enabled the partners to get to know each other better, to better understand the nature of their daily work and responsibilities, their interests and ambitions. The visits took place between 1st November and 8th December 2011, generating fruitful discussions and exchanges, and resulting in an abundance of ideas and inspirations. The task for the ERB Vice-President was thus to make a strategic selection, carefully considering available financial, human and political resources, as well as the specific time in which the chairmanship is held.



The meeting between ERB Vice-President, Mr Roland Gustbée and the political representatives of the member organisations, members of the ERB Youth Board, civil servants and representatives of business support organisations and ERB International Secretariat took place in the following order:

- ✚ 1 November in Kaliningrad Oblast in Kaliningrad
- ✚ 2 November in Warmińsko Mazurskie Voivodeship in Olsztyn
- ✚ 3 November at the Association of Polish Communes in Elbląg
- ✚ 4 November in Pomorskie Voivodeship in Gdańsk
- ✚ 14 November at the Regional Municipality of Bornholm in Ronne
- ✚ 22 November at Region Blekinge in Karlskrona
- ✚ 25 November at the Regional Council in Kalmar County in Kalmar
- ✚ 5 December at the Regional Council in södra Småland in Växjö
- ✚ 8 December at the Klaipeda Regional Development Council in Klaipeda

At the meeting in Klaipeda Mr Virgiljus Pozingis, Chair of Klaipeda Regional Development Council presented encouraging information on the establishment of the Association of Klaipeda County Municipalities which as of 1st January 2012 will formally represent Klaipeda County in the ERB cooperation.

Focus area 3: Exchange activities

Strategic objective:

Deepening mutual relations and strengthening cooperation between the ERB member regions

1. Meeting common challenges through collaborative approach based on the exchange of knowledge and information

1.1. Meetings CEOs of the ERB member organisations

- ✚ Kaliningrad, 24th January 2011
- ✚ Malmo, 10th February 2011
- ✚ Bornholm, 18th June 2011
- ✚ Olsztyn, 21st July 2011

✚ Gdańsk, 16th August 2011

This meeting was extended to include the directors of departments dealing with the implementation of the regional operation programme in Pomorskie, as well as the representatives of business support organisations from the region. During the meeting an idea for Euroregion Baltic to be used as a political platform in facilitating the development of business to business links in the south east Baltic Sea Region was first discussed and proposed to be continued in further ERB work.

1.2. Information flow maintained primarily by emails and during on-line meetings

- ✚ online Secretariat meetings every month;
- ✚ face-to-face Secretariat meeting on 20 January 2011 in Karlskrona
- ✚ face-to-face Secretariat meeting on 30th August 2011 in Kalmar
- ✚ face-to-face Secretariat meeting on 28th September 2011 in Elbląg

1.3. Information concerning all issues related to the ERB cooperation was regularly collected and disseminated by the ERB International Secretariat. ERB website and facebook account were continually updated and newsflashes sent to target recipients at least every month. ERB International Secretariat also distributed all relevant information provided by the partners of the cooperation.

1.4. External events attended by the International Secretariat

✚ Swedish Interreg Forum, Stockholm, 9 February 2011

Annual event gathering Swedish national, regional and local authorities to discuss the added value and results of the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes implemented in Sweden.

✚ Europaforum, Hässleholm, 13 February 2011

Held since 2002 Europaforum is a successful example of how EU issues can be discussed outside the usual big arenas, in a more local environment.

✚ Folkemødet, Bornholm 17 June 2011

Following the well established Swedish Almedalsveckan, the political week held on the island of Gotland, the island of Bornholm hosted its own “meeting of the people” for the first time in 2011.

✚ Forum of Partner Regions, Kaliningrad, 22 – 23rd September 2011

Traditionally gathering the representatives of the regions cooperating with Kaliningrad Oblast, this year was co-organised together with the Annual Conference of Lithuania-Poland-Russia CBC ENPI Programme.

✚ OECD Report for Smaland, Oland and Blekinge, 10th November 2011

Administered by Regional Council of Southern Småland, a regional Territorial Review for the four counties (Nuts 3) of Blekinge, Kalmar, Kronoberg and Jönköping was developed in dialogues with the EU and national actors, and as a background material for strategic development of the region.



1.5. A questionnaire on cross-border cooperation was not made. It could become part of the proposal of a forum of local stakeholders included in 2012 – 2013 Action Plan for Euroregion Baltic.

- 1.6. Similarly, the report with questionnaire results and information about possibilities of establishing cross-border cooperation in the future was not delivered 2011 but could be included in the organisation of the forum of local stakeholders in 2012.

REPORT FROM ERB YOUTH BOARD

1. Structure and internal communication

Activities aimed to enhance the effectiveness and productiveness of ERB Youth Board

1.1. Established ERB Youth Board duties

A document outlining ERB Youth Board duties was drafted during online-meetings will be presented to the Youth Board members for approval on 9th February 2012.

1.2. Established ERB Youth Board intranet

ERB Youth Board chose software to have internal document exchange. Agendas and minutes and other necessary information are put into a special folder. ERB Youth Board members actively use.

1.3. ERB Youth Board meetings

The regular meetings in order to improve the effectiveness of ERB Youth Board and keep youth representatives updated on activities were held during 2011:

Online meetings were held once a month. In addition, face to face meetings of the Youth Board took place on:

- ✚ 20-21st February 2011 in Kaliningrad, together with the Yc³ project Baltic V-day;
- ✚ 8-9th April 2011 on Bornholm, together with the Yc³ project Baltic-T day;
- ✚ 17-18th May 2011 in Gdańsk, together with ERB Executive Board;
- ✚ 21-22nd May 2011 in Karlskrona together with the final Yc³ project conference;
- ✚ 26-27th September 2011 in Gdańsk, together with the 2nd Forum of ERB Stakeholders.

1.4 ERB Youth Board Self evaluation survey

ERB Youth Board filled in the self evaluation survey prepared by the ERB Youth Board Chairman to identify internal and external work problems, results and possible future initiatives. The results from the survey helped preparing the ERB Youth Board Annual report for 2011.

2. ERB Youth Board External Communication

Activities aimed to enhance the role of ERB Youth Board as a source of information about the Euroregion Baltic cooperation to be spread among youth within and outside the cooperation area.

2.1 ERB Youth Board logotype

The ERB Youth Board adopted a new logotype on 15th January 2012.

2.2 ERB Youth Board Information brochure

An information brochure was drafted during online-meetings will be presented to the Youth Board members for approval on 9th February 2012.

3. Focus area 1: ERB Youth Lobbying

Activities aimed to enhance the role of ERB Youth Board as a lobbying platform for Youth in the South Baltic Region within Euroregion Baltic and towards the European Union.



3.1 Comments on the ERB position paper on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

ERB Youth Board provided comments to the ERB position paper on the EUSBSR promoting youth perspectives and was presented as an example of non-formal learning under Priority Area 12: Education & Youth.

3.2 Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders

ERB Youth Board participated in the planning and preparation for the 2nd Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders and organised a session on non-formal learning at the ERB Executive Board Meeting in Gdańsk on 17th May 2011.

4. Focus area 2: ERB Youth Strategic actions

Activities aimed to create platforms for cooperate action towards issues of common interest by strengthen youth cooperation in the region.

4.1 Proposal for a new youth project

With the financial support of Region Blekinge during two face to face meetings in Karlskrona, Sweden (on 7-8th July 2011 and 15-16th August 2011) the ERB Youth Board had developed a project idea for a new youth project by youth for youth in the South Baltic Region. The objective of the project was to intensify intercultural development and improve the involvement of broader public in cross-border activities. The most recent discussions about the possible youth project were held during the ERB Vice-President's visits to the member organisations during which all the partners expressed support to a youth project with the main aim of empowering youth in the areas of entrepreneurship and youth influence with informal learning as a main tool.



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5. Focus area 3: ERB Youth Exchange activities

Increase the knowledge and experience exchange between youth in the South Baltic Region.

5.1 Deepening mutual relations and strengthening cooperation between the ERB member regions.

ERB Youth Board improved contact and knowledge exchange with the organisations within the ERB Youth Network. Youth representatives were marketing of ERB Youth Board by taking part in events arranged by others than ERB:

- ✚ During the *Youth dimension training* for the Youth in action Program and meeting with active national and regional youth NGOs on 1-5th July 2011 in Kaunas, Lithuania;
- ✚ During the presentation to the National Union of Students of Lithuania in Vilnius on 19th March 2011 in Vilnius, Lithuania;
- ✚ During the preparations for the Youth Parliament 2012 and together with the youth from the 4 Corners cooperation (Bornholm, Rügen, Ystad and Świnoujście) on 29th April 2011 on Bornholm, Denmark.
- ✚ At the conference *Cross-border cooperation* at the Warmian and Masurian on 13-14th June 2011 in Olsztyn, Poland;
- ✚ At the *Atoms in the Web* jamboree meeting of youth NGOs in Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodship on 18-21st August 2011 in Elbląg, Poland.
- ✚ At the International Forum for Young Entrepreneurs *Business without borders* on 28-29th September 2011 in Kaliningrad, Russia;

- ✚ At the *Bridges to Work* conference organised by Salto-Youth on 17-20th October 2011 in Antwerp, Belgium;
- ✚ At the meeting at *Aukuro School* on 28th October 2011 in Klaipeda, Lithuania;
- ✚ At the *Russian Scientific and Educational Forum* on 11-12th November 2011 in Moscow, Russia;
- ✚ At the conference *Poland presidency in the EU: prospects of Eastern Partnership* on 14-15th December 2011 in Saint-Petersburg, Russia;
- ✚ A study visit to the Lithuanian Youth in action agency on 23rd December 2011 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

5.2 Promoting EVS exchange among its members

There have been preliminary discussions about EVS (European Voluntary Service) and its potential with some ERB regions interested (Bornholm and Kalmar), but a more concrete proposal needs to be made. ERB Youth Board will therefore draft such a proposal together with the two ERB member regions and present it to the ERB Executive Board during its meetings in future (June 14th 2012 or October 24th 2012).



FINANCIAL RESULTS

Item	Planned for 2011: I-XII in EUR	Planned for 2011: I-XII in PLN	Actual as of 31.12.2011 in PLN
Result as of 01.01.2011	-21 606,42 €	-86 425,68 PLN	-86 425,68 PLN
Region Blekinge	5 500,00 €	22 000,00 PLN	21 101,85 PLN
Regionförbundet Södra Småland	5 500,00 €	22 000,00 PLN	20 766,90 PLN
Regionförbundet i Kalmar Län	5 500,00 €	22 000,00 PLN	20 767,45 PLN
Bornholm	5 500,00 €	22 000,00 PLN	20 871,95 PLN
Pomorski Urząd Marszałkowski	5 500,00 €	22 000,00 PLN	21 969,20 PLN
Warmińsko-Mazurski Urząd Marszałkowski	5 500,00 €	22 000,00 PLN	21 969,20 PLN
Stowarzyszenie Gmin RP Euroregion Bałtyk	5 500,00 €	22 000,00 PLN	22 000,00 PLN
Klaipėda County	2 300,00 €	9 200,00 PLN	0,00 PLN
Kaliningrad Region	2 300,00 €	9 200,00 PLN	8 755,18 PLN
Refund from Involve	2 150,00 €	8 600,00 PLN	0,00 PLN
Refund from Capacity	29 750,00 €	119 000,00 PLN	95 660,23 PLN

TOTAL INCOME **53 393,58 €** **213 574,32 PLN** **167 436,28 PLN**

Item	Planned for 2011: I-XII in EUR	Planned for 2011: I-XII in PLN: 1 EUR = 4.0 PLN	Actual as of 31.12.2011 in PLN
Overheads	5 150,00 €	20 600,00 PLN	23 159,74 PLN
office rental - IPS	1 500,00 €	6 000,00 PLN	7 188,25 PLN
office rental - Capacity Building Project	1 300,00 €	5 200,00 PLN	5 109,31 PLN
land line	250,00 €	1 000,00 PLN	711,40 PLN
mobile phone	1 700,00 €	6 800,00 PLN	8 498,25 PLN
internet connection	350,00 €	1 400,00 PLN	1 387,83 PLN
stationary	50,00 €	200,00 PLN	264,70 PLN
ERB Publishing / Marketing	170,00 €	680,00 PLN	676,00 PLN
Travel / Meetings	8 400,00 €	33 600,00 PLN	64 166,40 PLN
IPS	5 225,00 €	20 900,00 PLN	48 524,31 PLN
Capacity	1 550,00 €	6 200,00 PLN	6 205,59 PLN
Involve	1 625,00 €	6 500,00 PLN	9 436,50 PLN
Personnel costs	33 750,00 €	135 000,00 PLN	141 164,92 PLN
IPS Head	20 500,00 €	82 000,00 PLN	84 121,30 PLN
IPS Head (Involve)	850,00 €	3 400,00 PLN	3 609,12 PLN
IPS Head (Capacity)	1 650,00 €	6 600,00 PLN	6 516,40 PLN
IPS Assistant (Capacity)	10 750,00 €	43 000,00 PLN	46 918,10 PLN
IT	628,00 €	2 512,00 PLN	2 805,26 PLN
ERB website, updates, domains and hosting	100,00 €	400,00 PLN	325,00 PLN
Webex	500,00 €	2 000,00 PLN	2 004,56 PLN
equipment	28,00 €	112,00 PLN	475,70 PLN
ERB Youth Board	5 100,00 €	20 400,00 PLN	19 567,17 PLN
Reserve (incl. Banking charges)	195,58 €	782,32 PLN	941,94 PLN

TOTAL EXPENDITURE **53 393,58 €** **213 574,32 PLN** **252 481,43 PLN**

RESULT (Income - Expenditure) **0,00 €** **0,00 PLN** **-85 045,15 PLN**

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Visiting the football arena in Gdańsk, still under construction, 17.05.2011



ERB Executive Board meeting ERB Youth Board in Gdańsk, 17.05.2011



Visiting the IKEA Museum in Älmhult, 09.02.2012





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