

EUROREGION BALTIC

ACTION PLAN

2015 - 2016

Elbląg, 12th February 2015

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Abbreviations

1. The abbreviations used in the tables are:

AP	Action Plan	JDP	Joint Development Programme
AEBR	Association of European Border Regions	JPC	Joint Programming Committee
BDF	Baltic Development Forum	HLG	High Level Group
BSLF	Baltic Sea Labour Forum	MC	Monitoring Committee
BSSSC	Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation	MO	Member Organisation
BSSYA	Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs	NCM	Nordic Council of Ministers
BSR	Baltic Sea Region	PA	(EUSBSR) Priority Area
B2B	Business to Business	PAC	(EUSBSR) Priority Area Coordinator
CBSS	Council of the Baltic Sea States	RCKC	Regional Council in Kalmar County
CoR	Committee of the Regions	RS	Regional Secretariat
CP	Cohesion Policy	SBA	South Baltic Area
CPMR	Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions	SBP	South Baltic Programme
EB	Executive Board	SC	Steering Committee
EC	European Commission	TF	Task Force
EEN	Enterprise Europe Network	ToR	Terms of Reference
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation	UBC	Union of the Baltic Cities
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument	WCG	ERB Water Core Group
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation	YB	Youth Board
EUSBSR	EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region		
FP	(EUSBSR) Flagship Project		
H2020	Horizon 2020		
HAL	Horizontal Action Leaders		
IPS	International Permanent Secretariat		

2. The phrase “no extra resources required” should be understood that the planned activities are financed through the ERB joint budget (from membership fees) and/or resources allocated by each region to cover the cost related to the organisation of and participation in ERB events such as meetings of EB, YB and RS.

Background

Euroregion Baltic (ERB) Action Plan for 2015 – 2016 was adopted on 12th February 2015 at the beginning of the new presidency within the organisation assumed by the Pomorskie Voivodeship. ERB stakeholders believe that biennial action plans are an effective tool enabling them to focus their efforts more precisely, to streamline their resources more efficiently and to concretise results they expect in a clearer manner. Such was the objective for this Action Plan, as well.

Goals

The ERB 2020 Agenda (adopted in 2010) provided the necessary strategic framework by defining the vision for Euroregion Baltic. According to the vision, in 2020 ERB will be a more dynamic tool to tackle common challenges observed by its members, and a strengthened political leverage in the cross-border cooperation of the Baltic Sea Region. Having analysed the implementation of the ERB Action Plan for 2014 and 2015, this Action Plan marks another step in making the vision of the Agenda more attainable. Therefore, it recommends the activities which will contribute to the implementation of the two goals of ERB 2020 Agenda: making ERB an effective political tool, as well as making ERB efficient in dealing with common challenges.

Apart from internal documents guiding ERB cooperation, there are also external documents and initiatives that are of vital importance to the organisation's work. These include the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, and their flagships, which contributes to the enhancement of cooperation in the Region and aims at bringing together initiatives in different sectors to reach its three main objectives - save the sea, connect the region and increase prosperity. The second important document is the Europe 2020 Strategy which is intended to create conditions for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the European Union.

ERB members deal also with challenges included in one of the Europe's 2020 flagship initiatives – Innovation Union. In this context it is important to remember about the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme - Horizon 2020 and possibilities that ERB could benefit from. Also worth mentioning are important sector programmes such as Erasmus+, Life, Creative Europe and the Health programme, but also the European Social Fund and the regional funds where transnational cooperation now becomes an essential part.

Actions

The actions planned to help ERB stakeholders tackle common challenges take into account interests and ambitions proposed by the member organisations. These concern joint efforts aiming at supporting youth cooperation within the ERB Youth Board, fostering B2B cooperation with focus on clusters, innovation and SME internationalisation, and at cooperating around water related issues in the ERB regions.

The actions designed in order to improve the political role of ERB are divided into external and internal ones. Externally, ERB will participate in the implementation of ETC and ENI programmes in the Baltic Sea Region, and in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, as well as cooperate with relevant actors at the EU, national and regional levels. Internal efforts will focus on the enhancement of the stakeholder approach and the enhancement of ERB internally.

With the Joint Programming Committee agreement of the draft South Baltic Programme 2014-2020, the ERB Executive Board at its meeting in Gdansk 29th October 2014 decided to establish a Task Force to prepare and facilitate development of future projects with a specific attention to the South Baltic Programme. The Task Force will also actively support project ideas that could be developed within other programmes or financial instruments such as ENI programmes and other EU programmes, as well as national programmes e.g. International Components within the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund.

Monitoring

ERB Action Plan for 2015 – 2016 gives an outline of activities, each of which will require specific structure and framework that are impossible to define at the present moment and will have to be agreed at a later time. Therefore, the role of the ERB Executive Board is crucial in the regular monitoring of its implementation. The most important criterion while assessing and guiding the delivery of the planned results should be the level of their contribution to the goals of the ERB 2020 Agenda. Moreover, this Action Plan also indicates the source and size of the incoming joint resources, as well as their allocation and expenditure, which will be part of the monitoring activities by the ERB Executive Board.

List of activities

Goal: to strengthen political role in the cross-border cooperation in the BSR

External Action: participating in the implementation of ETC and ENI programmes in the BSR			
ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Areas: Lobbying			
Activities	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
representation in SBP JPC and SBP WG Programme Manual and participation in their meetings	SBP JPC and WG meetings to be held <u>in the first quarter of 2015</u> ; reporting by IPS at EB meetings;	IPS , EB, YB	F – no extra resources required H - hours of, YB, IPS P – process overseen by EB
representation in MC in SBP 2014 - 2020	MC meetings to be held <u>in 2015 and 2016</u> ; September 2015 reporting by IPS at EB meetings;	IPS , EB, YB	F – extra resources may be required for travel of MC member H - hours of IPS, EB P – process overseen by EB
information exchange with other ETC and ENI programmes of geographical relevance such as Interreg BSR by actively promoting ERB's interests	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u> ;	IPS , YB	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS P – none
dialogue with EC and national authorities	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u> as initiated by EB; reporting by IPS at EB meetings;	IPS , EB, YB	F – no extra resources required H - hours of TF on CP, YB, IPS P – process overseen by EB

External Action: participating in the implementation of EUSBSR and other EU documents of strategic importance

ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Lobbying

Activities	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
dialogue with EC, PACs, HALs and national authorities; active participation in the EU policy-making processes, joint proposals or documents regarding EUSBR (e.g. multi-level governance) and other important EU strategies and initiatives	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u> as initiated by EB; reporting by IPS at EB meetings;	IPS , EB, YB, WCG, TF Project Facilitation	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, WCG, TF on Project Facilitation, P – process overseen by EB
involvement in EUSBSR PAs, HAs and FPs within areas of interest for ERB	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u> - IPS will coordinate dialogue with EUSBSR PAs and FPs which have been identified in the areas of youth cooperation, water issues, labour market mobility and B2B/cluster development due to their relation with ERB 2020 Agenda and this AP;	IPS , EB, YB, WCG, on Labour, TF Project Facilitation	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, WCG, YB, TF on Project Facilitation P – process overseen by EB
6th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	<u>15-16 June 2015</u>	IPS , EB, YB, WCG, TF Project Facilitation	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, WCG, YB, TF on Project Facilitation P – process overseen by EB
promotion of ERB during Polish presidency in CBSS	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	IPS, Polish RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, WCG, YB, TF on Project Facilitation P – process overseen by EB
Organising joint activities with other BSR organisations such as UBC, BSSSC, CPMR, BDF, CBSS (e.g. during EUSBR Annual Forum, European Maritime Day)	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	IPS , EB, YB, WCG, TF Project Facilitation	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, WCG, YB, TF on Project Facilitation P – process overseen by EB

External Action: holding dialogue with relevant actors			
ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Exchange Initiatives			
Activities	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
exchange of information with the European Commission, European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, EURES network	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	IPS , EB, YB, WCG, RS, TF Project Facilitation	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, YB, TF on Project Facilitation, WCG, RS P – none
exchange of information with the other BSR organisations such as UBC, BSSSC, CPMR, BDF, CBSS, NCM	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	IPS , EB, YB, WCG, RS, TF on Project Facilitation	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, YB, TF on Project Facilitation, WCG, RS P – none
exchange of information with the relevant regional offices in Brussels	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	IPS , EB, YB, WCG, RS, TF Project Facilitation	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, YB, TF on Project Facilitation, WCG, RS P – none
exchange of information with other networks such as EEN, Eurodesk, Baltic Sea Labour Forum	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	IPS , EB, YB, WCG, RS, TF Project Facilitation	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, YB, TF on Project Facilitation, WCG, RS P – none
8. Baltic Sea Tourism Forum in Gdańsk	<u>22-23.09 2015</u>	IPS , EB, YB	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, YB, , P – none

Goal: to strengthen political role in the cross-border cooperation in the BSR

Internal Action: reinforcing stakeholder approach			
ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Strategic Actions			
Activities	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
6 th Forum of ERB Stakeholders	<u>September - October 2015</u> in Gdańsk	IPS , EB, YB, RS, WCG, TF Project Facilitation	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS, TF on Labour, WCG P – Forum theme, scope and target audience agreed by EB
EB meetings around ERB	<u>on 12.02.2015</u> – meeting in Elbląg (Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May-June 2015 Brussels • in conjunction with 6th ERB Forum - September – October 2015 	IPS , EB, YB, RS, WCG, TF Project Facilitation	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS, WCG P – decisions by EB stipulated in meeting agendas
study visits for EB	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u> to accompany EB meetings	IPS , YB, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – none
ERB Secretariats contacts	<u>continuously</u> – email exchange; <u>every first Thursday of the month</u> – online RS meeting; <u>on 14-15.01.2015</u> - face2face meeting in Olsztyn	IPS , YB, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – none

Internal Action: strengthening ERB internally			
ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Strategic Actions			
Activities	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
future legal status for ERB	throughout 2015 - discussion on the following steps regarding the establishment of an international association	EB , MOs, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, RS P – EB decisions on further proceedings

Goal: to be a more dynamic tool to tackle common challenges

Action: supporting youth cooperation within ERB Youth Board			
ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Strategic Actions			
Activities	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
improved level of work in YB through participation in ERB Task Forces	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	YB , IPS, RS, EB	F – extra resources may be required H – hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision by YB and EB
giving opinions to all draft decisions adopted by the EB that include youth perspective	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	YB , IPS, RS, EB	F - no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P - decision by YB and EB
mapping of local youth organisations from each region and creation of a database of potential partners	<u>first half of 2015</u>	YB , IPS, RS	F - no extra resources required H- hours of YB, IPS, RS P - decisions by YB
organisation of a thematic seminar/workshop during important youth-related events such as European Youth Week	<u>May 2015</u>	YB , IPS, RS	F - extra resources may be required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P - decision by YB
creation of ERB Youth Board Manual (internal rules) for new ERB YB members and future EVS volunteers	<u>first half of 2015</u>	YB , IPS, RS	F- no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P - decision by YB
development of relevant project proposal tackling youth related issues	<u>throughout 2015</u>	YB , IPS, RS, EB, TF Project Facilitation	F – extra resources may be required H – hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision by YB and EB
YB face-to-face meetings in between EB meetings	<u>Two meetings in 2015:</u> <u>May 2015</u> in conjunction with thematic seminar/workshops <u>Second half of 2015</u>	YB , IPS, RS	F - none H – hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision by YB

YB online meetings	<u>Once a month on a specific day starting from March 2015</u>	YB, IPS, RS	F - no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P - none
participation in RS online meetings by YB Chair, Vice Chair or delegated YB member	<u>every first Thursday of the month – online RS meeting;</u>	YB, IPS, RS	F - no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P - none
continued implementation of SYPERB project	<u>throughout 2015</u>	RCKC, YB, IPS, RS, TF Project Facilitation	F – none H – hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision by YB
supporting YB work by involving EVS volunteers from different host organisations within ERB	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	YB, IPS, RS, EB	F – none H – hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision by YB
improvement of communication within YB and between YB and other ERB bodies by employing new communication and management tools eg. ASANA task management software	<u>February - March 2015</u>	YB, IPS, RS	F- no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P - decision by YB
communication and cooperation with other youth networks in the BSR such as BSSSC, BSSYA, Secretariat for Youth of the West Pomeranian Region and other relevant actors in ERB regions and EU (Eurodesk)	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	YB, IPS, RS, EB	F – no extra resources required H – hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision by YB

Action: facilitating water cooperation			
ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Strategic Actions			
Activities	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
WCG meetings around ERB	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u> twice a year	RCKC , MOs	F – extra resources required H - hours of WCG, IPS, RS P – politicians involved in WCG
development and submission of WaterNets project application	<u>throughout 2015</u>	RCKC , MOs, WCG, IPS, RS, TF Project Facilitation	F – no extra resources required H - hours of WCG, IPS, RS, TF Project Facilitation P – support by EB and politicians involved in WCG
minor revision of focus areas in the WCG working plan based on the result from the web questionnaire carried out in 2014 and an overview of EU project possibilities	<u>throughout 2015</u>	WCG , MOs, TF Project Facilitation, IPS, RS	F- no extra resources required, H - hours of WCG, IPS, RS, TF Project Facilitation P - support by EB and politicians involved in WCG.
5 th ERB Water Forum	<u>in 2015</u>	WCG , MOs, IPS, RS	F – extra resources may be required H - hours of WCG, IPS, RS P – support by EB

further project cooperation activities in two newly identified fields: 1) Water management/Spatial planning and 2) Rain water/Storm water treatment.	<u>throughout 2015</u>	WCG , MOs, TF on project facilitation, IPS, RS.	F - no extra resources required, H - hours of WCG IPS RS, P - support by EB and politicians involved in WCG
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Action: fostering B2B cooperation with focus on clusters, innovation, entrepreneurial internationalisation and tourism development			
ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Strategic Actions			
Activities	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
ERB as project facilitator for actors in ERB to improve entrepreneurial internationalisation, innovation and clusters	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	TF Project Facilitation , IPS, YB, RS	F – none H – hours of TF Project Facilitation, YB, IPS, RS P – support by EB
overview of smart specialisations strategies in ERB regions, discussions on plans and experiences using relevant EU programmes	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	TF Project Facilitation , IPS, RS, YB	F – none H – hours of TF Project Facilitation, IPS, RS, YB P – none
exchange of information with relevant partners/networks such as Business Link Greater Copenhagen; ERRIN Network	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	TF Project Facilitation , YB, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H – hours of TF Project Facilitation, IPS, RS, YB P – none
presentation of a study investigating the potential for B2B cooperation between SMEs in South Sweden and North Poland	<u>12.02.2015</u> - presentation of the study, discussion on possible role for ERB in the further process	RCKC, EB , YB, IPS, RS, TF on Project Facilitation, WCG	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS, TF Project Facilitation, WCG P – agreed by EB
ERB as a supporter of tourism development in ERB regions	<u>throughout 2015 and 2016</u>	TF Project Facilitation , YB, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of TF Project Facilitation, YB, IPS, RS P – none

Budget

Results as of 01.01.2015	3 232,43 €	13 777,60 PLN
Правительство Калининградской области – membership fee for 2014	5 500,00 €	23 442,65 PLN
Asociacija „Klaipėdos regionas”	5 500,00 €	23 442,65 PLN
Правительство Калининградской области	5 500,00 €	23 442,65 PLN
Pomorski Urząd Marszałkowski	5 500,00 €	23 442,65 PLN
Region Blekinge	5 500,00 €	23 442,65 PLN
Regionförbundet i Kalmar Lan	5 500,00 €	23 442,65 PLN
Regionförbundet södra Småland	5 500,00 €	23 442,65 PLN
Regionskommun Bornholm	5 500,00 €	23 442,65 PLN
Stowarzyszenie Gmin RP Euroregion Bałtyk	5 500,00 €	23 442,65 PLN
Warmińsko-Mazurski Urząd Marszałkowski	5 500,00 €	23 442,65 PLN
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>58 232,43 €</u>	<u>248 204,10 PLN</u>
EXPENDITURE	In EUR	In PLN
Personnel costs	27 136,60 €	115 664,33 PLN
overheads (incl. office rental, internet)	5 000,00 €	21 311,50 PLN
mobile phone	900,00 €	3 836,07 PLN
salary	21 236,60 €	90 516,76 PLN
Travel / Meetings	15 000,00 €	63 934,50 PLN
IT	600,00 €	2 557,38 PLN
ERB website, updates, domains and hosting	300,00 €	1 278,69 PLN
equipment, services	300,00 €	1 278,69 PLN
ERB Youth Board	5 500,00 €	23 442,65 PLN
Banking charges	250,00 €	1 065,58 PLN
Reserve	9 745,83 €	41 539,65 PLN
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>58 232,43 €</u>	<u>248 204,10 PLN</u>

The EUR / PLN exchange rate is based on the of the average rate of exchange published by the National Bank of Poland on 31st December 2014