

EUROREGION BALTIC

ACTION PLAN

2017 – 2018

Kalmar, 6th February 2017

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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	PF	Project Facilitation
CoR	Committee of the Regions	RCKC	Regional Council in Kalmar County
CP	Cohesion Policy	RS	Regional Secretariat
CPMR	Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions	SBA	South Baltic Area
EB	Executive Board	SBP	South Baltic Programme
EC	European Commission	SC	Steering Committee
EEN	Enterprise Europe Network	SI	Swedish Institute
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation	TF	Task Force
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument	ToR	Terms of Reference
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation	UBC	Union of the Baltic Cities
EUSBSR	EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	WCG	ERB Water Core Group
FP	(EUSBSR) Flagship Project	YB	Youth Board
H2020	Horizon 2020		
HAL	Horizontal Action Leaders		
ICLD	International Centre for Local Democracy		
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 2017 – 2018 was adopted on 6th February 2017 at the beginning of the new presidency within the organisation assumed by the Regional Council in Kalmar County. 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 current ERB Action Plan, which as it is also accustomed, provides some additional priorities and cooperation proposal from the Party assuming the ERB Presidency.

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 2016 and 2017, this Action Plan marks another step in making the vision of the Agenda more attainable. Based on that, the Action Plan recommends the activities would still contribute to the implementation of the two main 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.

As ERB includes a member organisation from the Russian Federation, i.e. the Kaliningrad Region, it is therefore also important to make reference to the Strategy of social and economic development of the North-West Federal District until 2020, which guides the development in such areas as development of sustainable, innovative and diverse economy, improved environmental protection, better transport connections and attractive tourist offers as well as improved capacities for cross-border cooperation and development of innovative socio-economic potential in such areas as education, health care, social policy, youth policy, culture and sports.

In their joint cooperation efforts all ERB partners will seek the best possible solutions to address common challenges and will therefore look for synergies in diverse strategic frameworks employed throughout the Baltic Sea Region. Working in this manner ERB members will be able to effectively tackle those of the challenges which have different impact on particular regions.

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 innovation and SME internationalisation, and at cooperating around water related issues in the ERB regions and facilitating of tourism development in ERB regions.

Assuming the leading role in the organisation in 2017, the Regional Council in Kalmar County will focus on further development of ERB cooperation using especially the Interreg South Baltic Programme. Here it will put the emphasis on the youth questions related to ERB Youth Board and CaSYPoT Project but also water questions related to priorities in the ERB Water Core group and also the Waternets-Ru project with Kaliningrad region. The Presidency will also initiate preparations for the upcoming 20th anniversary of the organisations.

The actions designed 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.

Monitoring

ERB Action Plan for 2017 – 2018 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 MC in SBP 2014 -2020	MC meetings to be held <u>in 2017 and 2018</u> ; continuous reporting by IPS at EB meetings;	IPS , EB, YB, RS	F – extra resources may be required for travel of MC member H - hours of IPS, RS P – process overseen by EB
leading the implementation of the Umbrella project	If approved, the project would start in <u>06.2017</u> and last 36 months	IPS, EB RS, MO,	F – extra resources will be required for implementation H - hours of IPS, RS P – process overseen by EB
Monitoring of implementation of Poland-Russia CBC Programme with focus on ERB relevant measures	throughout 2017 and 2018	IPS, RS – especially Kaliningrad and Polish MOs Warmia-Mazury, Pomorskie, Association	F – extra resources may be required for travelling H – hours of IPS, RS P – process overseen by EB
Monitoring of implementation of Lithuania-Russia CBC Programme	throughout 2017 and 2018	IPS, RS – especially Kaliningrad and Klaipeda	F – extra resources may be required for travelling H – hours of IPS, RS 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 2017 and 2018</u> ; continuous reporting by IPS via email with Secretariats and at EB meetings	IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS P – none
dialogue with EC and national authorities to facilitate ERB’s interests including promotion of ERB during relevant events, consultations with various institutions eg. Baltic Advisory Group at Polish MFA	<u>throughout 2017 and 2018</u> as initiated by EB; reporting by IPS at EB meetings;	IPS, EB, YB	F – no extra resources required H - hours of TF on PF, YB, IPS P – process overseen by EB
investigating possibilities to develop new ETC/ENI projects with direct involvement of partners from ERB MOs	<u>throughout 2017 and 2018</u> – initiated by IPS or RS, process overseen by EB	IPS, RS, TF on PF, EB	F - no extra resources required H – hours of IPS, RS, TF on PF, EB P – process overseen by EB
organising or facilitating information and matchmaking seminars on ETC/ENI programmes for stakeholders in relevant ERB MOs	<u>throughout 2017 and 2018</u>	IPS, RS, EB, YB	F - no extra resources required H – hours of IPS, RS, EB 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, HACs 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 2017 and 2018</u> as initiated by EB; reporting by IPS at EB meetings;	IPS , EB, YB, WCG, TF on PF	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, WCG, TF on Project Facilitation, P – process overseen by EB
Organising joint activities with other BSR organisations such as UBC, BSSSC, CPMR, BDF, CBSS during eg. EUSBR Annual Forum, European Maritime Day, involvement in EUSBSR PAs, HAs and FPs within areas of interest for ERB	<u>throughout 2017 and 2018</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 , RS, EB, YB, WCG, TF on PF	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, WCG, YB, TF on PF, RS P – process overseen by EB
Lobbying on future EU structural funds	<u>throughout 2017 and 2018</u> as initiated by EB	IPS , TF on PF, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, WCG, YB, TF on PF P – process overseen by EB
Developing joint projects in support of the implementation of EUSBSR and its relevant fields,	<u>throughout 2017 and 2018</u> <u>UN SDG project in SI if approved – 09.2017-09.2018</u>	IPS , TF on PF, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, WCG, YB, TF on PF P – process overseen by EB
8th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	<u>13-14 June 2017 - Berlin</u>	IPS , RS, EB, YB, WCG, TF on PF	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 EU institutions (EC, EP, CoR), regional representations in Brussels, pan-Baltic organisations (UBC, BSSSC, CBSS especially during Swedish Presidency in CBSS) and other relevant networks	<u>throughout 2017 and 2018</u>	IPS , EB, YB, WCG, RS,	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, YB, WCG, RS P – none
investigating potential cooperation links with	<u>throughout 2017 and 2018</u>	IPS , EB, YB, WCG, RS,	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, YB, WCG, RS

actors active in international cooperation in ERB countries eg. SI, ICLD			P – none
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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)
8 th Forum of ERB Stakeholders	<u>7th February 2017</u> in Kalmar	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 6.02.2017</u> – meeting in Kalmar; <u>on 22-23.05.2017</u> – meeting in Elbląg – jointly with the Board of Association of Polish Communes <u>18-19.09.2017</u> - in Klaipeda	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 and representatives of ERB MOs	<u>throughout 2017 and 2018</u> to accompany EB meetings or as standalone events by MOs: - Kalmar Castle – 07.02.2017 - Hidden Treasures of Powiśle – 22-23.0517 - Klaipeda - tba	IPS , YB, RS, EB	F – no extra resources required, possible external funds committed through projects H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – EB participation
ERB Secretariats contacts	<u>continuously</u> – email exchange; <u>every first Thursday of the month</u> – online RS meeting; <u>on 23-24.01.201</u> – face to face meeting in Gdańsk, Poland <u>2nd face-to-face meeting</u> - date to be decided	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)
Further developing student internship programme at IPS	Throughout 2017 and 2018	IPS , MOs, RS	F – no extra resources required, additional resources obtained through funding

			H - hours of IPS, RS P – overseen by EB
Skill and knowledge development of IPS staff	Throughout 2017 and 2018	IPS , MOs, RS	F – no extra resources required, additional resources obtained through funding H - hours of IPS, RS P – overseen by EB
Developing joint ERB project to mark 20 th Anniversary of ERB	2017 – 1 st deadline for application 1.03.2017 and if approved, the project starts in Klaipeda 18-19th September 2017	IPS, TF Project Facilitation, EB , MOs, RS	F – no extra resources required, additional resources obtained through funding H - hours of IPS, RS, TF P – overseen by EB

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)
creation of ERB Youth Board Manual (internal rules) for new ERB YB members and future EVS volunteers	<u>throughout 2017</u>	YB , IPS, RS	F- no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P - decision by YB
development of relevant project proposal to be submitted to Erasmus+ tackling youth issues	<u>throughout 2017</u>	YB , IPS, RS, EB, TF on PF	F – extra resources may be required H – hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision by YB and EB
YB face-to-face meetings with specific agenda related to current activities or projects	<u>Throughout 2017</u> <u>07.02.2017 – Kalmar</u> <u>22-23.05.2017 – Elblag</u> <u>18-19.09.2016 - Klaipeda</u>	YB , IPS, RS	F - none H – hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision by YB
YB online meetings	<u>Once every two months on a specific day scheduled by via online scheduling system</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>A specific day selected each time by RS via online scheduling system – online RS meeting;</u>	YB , IPS, RS	F - no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P - none
participation in implementation of CaSYPoT project	<u>throughout 2017-2018</u>	RCKC , YB, IPS, RS, TF on PF	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 with a	<u>throughout 2017 and 2018</u>	YB , IPS, RS, EB	F – none H – hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision by YB

perspective of creating a network of EVS organisations in ERB			
establishing working contacts 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 2017 and 2018</u>	YB , IPS, RS, EB	F – no extra resources required, H – hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision by YB
Implementation of study visit project for youth from Warmia-Mazury to the EUSBSR Forum in Berlin	<u>If approved, during 2017</u>	IPS , YB, RS, EB	F – no extra resources required H – hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision by YB
Development and implementation of youth exchange project between youth from Kaliningrad and Polish MOs	<u>If approved, during 2017</u>	IPS , YB, RS, EB	

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 2017 and 2018</u> twice a year: <u>07.02.2017</u> - Kalmar	RCKC , MOs	F – extra resources required H - hours of WCG, IPS, RS P – politicians involved in WCG
Development and implementation of relevant project based on the issues identified by WCG	<u>throughout 2017</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
Implementation of WCG working plan based on the result from the web questionnaire carried out in 2014 and an overview of EU project possibilities	<u>throughout 2017</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.
ERB Water Forum	<u>In 2018</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 2017</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

Action: fostering B2B cooperation with focus on innovation, entrepreneurial internationalisation			
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 and innovation	<u>throughout 2017 and 2018</u>	TF on PF , 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 2017 and 2018</u>	TF on PF , 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 ERRIN Network	<u>throughout 2017 and 2018</u>	TF on PF , YB, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H – hours of TF Project Facilitation, IPS, RS, YB P – none

Action: fostering tourism development in ERB regions			
ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Strategic Actions			
Activities	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
participation in implementation of Baltic Sea Tourism Centre as AO	Throughout 2017 – 2018	IPS , RS, EB	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, RS, EB P – overseen by EB
participation in implementation of the South Coast Baltic project as AO	Throughout 2017 – 2018	IPS , RS, EB	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, RS, EB P – overseen by EB
10. Baltic Sea Tourism Forum in Tartu	11-12.10 2017	IPS , EB, YB	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, YB, , P – none
monitoring and supporting new relevant activities or projects developed within ERB MOs	Throughout 2017 - 2018	IPS , EB, YB	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, YB, , P – none

Action: fostering sustainable transport and energy efficiency in ERB regions			
ERB 2020 Agenda Focus Area: Strategic Actions			
Activities	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
participation in implementation of INTERCONNECT project as AP	If approved, the project will start in 06.2017. Throughout 2017 – 2018	IPS , RS, EB	F – extra resources may be required for co-financing of activities H - hours of IPS, RS, EB P – overseen by EB
Participation in development and implementation of Friendly House project	If approved, the project will start in 06.2017. Throughout 2017 – 2018	IPS , RS, EB	F – extra resources may be required for co-financing of activities H - hours of IPS, RS, EB P – overseen by EB

Budget

ERB Annual Budget between 1st Jan - 31st December 2017 (EUR and PLN)		
INCOME	Planned for 2017 EUR	Planned for 2017 PLN
Balance as of 1-01-2017	12 046,94 €	51 801,84 PLN
Blekinge	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
Bornholm	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
Kaliningrad	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
Klaipeda	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
Kalmar	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
Kronoberg	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
Pomorskie	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
Warmińsko-Mazurskie	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
Association of Communes ERB	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
CaSYPoT Project refund	11 147,75 €	47 935,33 PLN
Income total	72 694,69 €	<u>312 587,17 PLN</u>
EXPENDITURES	Planned for 2017 EUR	Planned for 2017 PLN
<u>Personnel:</u>	<u>29 444,69 €</u>	126 612,17 PLN
Overhead including office rental	5 000,00 €	21 500,00 PLN
Phone	1 000,00 €	4 300,00 PLN
Salary	23 444,69 €	100 812,17 PLN
Travels, meetings	10 000,00 €	43 000,00 PLN
IT	1 000,00 €	4 300,00 PLN
Youth Board	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
Training and skills development	1 500,00 €	6 250,00 PLN
Banking charges	250,00 €	1 075,00 PLN
Reserve (projects)	25 000,00 €	107 500,00 PLN
EXPENDITURES	72 694,69 €	<u>312 587,17 PLN</u>
BALANCE	0,00 €	<u>0,00 PLN</u>