

EUROREGION BALTIC ANNUAL REPORT 2014



EUROREGION BALTIC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Vytautas Grubliauskas	ERB President, Chair of Association Klaipeda Region, Lithuania
Wiesław Byczkowski	ERB Vice-President, Vice-Chair of the Board of Pomorskie Region, Poland
Lennarth Förberg	ERB Board Member, Vice-Chair of the Board of Region Blekinge, Sweden
Roland Gustbée	ERB Board Member, Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Södra Småland, Sweden
Monica Haider	ERB Board Member, 2nd Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Södra Småland, Sweden, replaced by Robert Olesen , Member of the Board of Regional Council, Södra Småland, Sweden
Alla Ivanova	ERB Board Member, Minister-Head of Agency for International Affairs and Interregional Cooperation of Kaliningrad Region, Russia
Christina Mattisson	ERB Board Member, Chair of the Board of Region Blekinge, Sweden
Akko Karlsson	ERB Board Member, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Kalmar County, Sweden
Maria F. Kjaergaard	ERB Board Member, Chair of ERB Youth Board, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Denmark
Åke Nilsson	ERB Board Member, Member of the Executive Committee, Regional Council in Kalmar County, Sweden
Per Ole Petersen	ERB President, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Denmark
Jacek Protas	ERB Board Member, Chair of the Board of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland
Mieczysław Struk	ERB Board Member, Chair of the Board of Pomorskie Region, Poland
Carina Bengtsson	ERB Board Deputy Member, 1st Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council, Södra Småland, Sweden
Grzegorz Grzelak	ERB Board Deputy Member, Chair of International and Interregional Committee of Pomorskie Regional Parliament, Poland
Maciej Lisicki	ERB Board Deputy Member, Vice-Chair of the Board of the Association of Communes, Poland
Suzanne Svensson	ERB Board Deputy Member, Member of Parliament, Sweden
Anna Wasilewska	ERB Board Deputy Member, Member of the Board of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland
Jerzy Wilk	ERB Board Member, Chair the Board of the Association of Communes, Poland

In 2014 **Euroregion Baltic Executive Board** met on 20th March in Klaipeda (Lithuania), 9th May online, 16th June in Växjö (Sweden) and on 29th October in Gdańsk (Poland) and on 10th December online.

EUROREGION BALTIC YOUTH BOARD

Maria F. Kjaergaard	Chair of the Youth Board, Bornholm, Denmark
Mateusz Kryżba	Vice-Chair of Youth Board, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland
Karl Holst	ERB Youth Board Member, Kalmar, Sweden
Maksymilian Lewandowski	ERB Youth Board Member, Association of Communes, Poland
Oliver Rosengren	ERB Youth Board Member, Södra Småland, Sweden
Tautrimas Rupulevičius	ERB Youth Board Member, Association Klaipeda Region, Lithuania
Sara Sakhnini	ERB Youth Board Member, Blekinge, Sweden
Mateusz Ankiewicz	ERB Youth Board Deputy Member, Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland
Brigita Barkauskaitė	ERB Deputy Board Member, Association Klaipeda Region, Lithuania
Hmida Benatallah	ERB Youth Board Deputy Member, Kalmar, Sweden
Artur Hulu	ERB Youth Board Deputy Member, Blekinge, Sweden
Thea H. Olsen	ERB Youth Board Deputy Member, Bornholm, Denmark
Henrietta Serrate	ERB Youth Board Deputy Member, Södra Småland, Sweden

In 2014 **Euroregion Baltic Youth Board** met on 28th October 2014 in Gdańsk, Poland.

ADDRESS BY ERB PRESIDENT

Between 20th March 2014 and 12th February 2015 Euroregion Baltic was under political leadership of **Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas**, Mayor of Klaipeda City and President of Association of Klaipeda Municipalities.



Dear Friends!

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for the possibility of lead Euroregion Baltic during 2014. For me this has been a year of important initiatives and events, but also new challenges that I hope will allow ERB to become a stronger, more dynamic and creative organisation within the Baltic Sea Region.

The goal of my presidency was the completion of the process of transferring the ERB International Secretariat to Poland thus providing a basis for the continuation of the process of creating an international association with legal personality. To this end I personally oversaw the recruitment of the new Head of IPS by taking part in a series of interviews which took place in Olsztyn in May 2014. One month later the process was finalised with new structure in place, thus ensuring an uninterrupted continuation of work. But before that, at the meeting of the Executive Board in Växjö in June 2014 we thanked the previous Head of IPS, Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański for his hard work, professionalism and undisputed commitment towards making the ERB an important and well-recognised cooperation platform within the Baltic Sea Region.

In 2014 Euroregion Baltic continued its work on providing the greater added value of cooperation for their stakeholders. With that in mind, during the 5th Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders we invited representatives of local and regional authorities, youth organisations and universities to share their views on common challenges related to labour mobility, higher education and youth cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. A special workshop on internationalisation of universities gathered researchers and teachers from universities in Poland and Lithuania. Especially encouraging was the fact that the Forum also managed to attract a significant number of students from Gdańsk and Elbląg, who later took part in the workshop on youth cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Within the new programming perspective in sight, the ERB Executive Board decided to establish a new Task Force that will provide support to those of our stakeholders who will develop interesting project ideas. With special focus on the South Baltic Programme 2014-2020, the Task Force on Project Facilitation will consult and assess project ideas from the ERB partners, support project development and partnership building of prioritized project ideas and evaluate their results.

I do hope that the activities and initiatives undertaken during my term as the President of ERB will make our organisation more recognisable within the rich network of Balti Sea cooperation platforms. I am looking forward to the new presidency with confidence that it will continue on the path of steady development benefiting all ERB stakeholders.

Vytautas Grubliauskas

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vytautas Grubliauskas', written over a light blue grid background.

Focus area 1: Lobbying

Strategic objective: strengthening the political role of ERB in the cross-border cooperation

1. In 2014 ERB participated in the implementation of ETC and ENI programmes in the BSR:
 - 1.1. work was coordinated by the ERB Task Force on EU Cohesion Policy which completed its work by submitting the final report during the ERB Executive Board meeting in Växjö, Sweden. During its mandate the Task Force consisted of the representatives of the ERB member organisations who take part in the implementation of the following ETC and ENI programmes: South Baltic CBC Programme, Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007 - 2013, Interreg IVB North Sea Programme, Interreg IVA Öresund Kattegat Skagerrak Programme, CBC Programme Lithuania-Poland, Central Europe Programme 2007 – 2013, and Lithuania-Poland-Russia ENPI CBC Programme 2007-2013.
 - 1.2. The process was overseen by the ERB Executive Board which heard the final report of the Task Force at meetings on 16th June 2014 at the meeting in Växjö, Sweden
 - 1.3. In 2014 ERB continued to participate in the implementation of the South Baltic Programme by taking active part in the work of its working bodies. This was manifested in the participation in:
 - 1.3.1. number of written procedures within the Steering Committee concerning all kinds of changes within the ongoing projects, as well as in the written procedures in order to select new projects within the 5th mini call for proposals.
 - 1.3.2. Meeting of National and Euroregional Coordinators with MA and JTS in Warsaw on 6th March 2014.
 - 1.4. In 2014 ERB was represented in the South Baltic Joint Programming Committee and its task forces working to prepare the new programming period of 2014 – 2020. There were 3 meetings in 2014:
 - 1.4.1. in Kalmar, Sweden, 21-22nd January 2014 (Joint Programming Committee),
 - 1.4.2. in Palanga, Lithuania, 18-19th March 2014 (Joint Programming Committee),
 - 1.4.3. in Gdańsk, Poland, 14-15th October 2014 (Joint Programming Committee),
 - 1.5. The last meeting of the Joint Programming Committee in Gdańsk decided to approve of the final draft of the South Baltic Cooperation Programme 2014-2020. In December 2014, the draft programme was officially submitted to the European Commission, which will then have three month to analyse the draft and give its opinion. Once the draft is approved by the Commission, it will be possible plan first calls for proposals within the new Programme.
 - 1.6. Based on the discussion at the last JPC meeting in Gdańsk, it was agreed to establish a working group responsible for preparation and consultation the draft of the Programme Manual. The working group was formed of practitioners, mainly JPC members and CPs representatives, who are be able to contribute to the task, by providing knowledge about their country specific situation, opinion and guidance on strategic issues, questions and changes to the current version of the programme manual, as well as opinion on reader friendliness of the document. Also the representative of the ERB has been selected to take part in the work of the Working Group. Its first meeting was scheduled for January 2015.



2. participating in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR):

2.1. On 16th June 2014 in Växjö, Sweden the Task Force on Cohesion submitted its final report on the activities implemented during the TF's timeframe. The report was approved by the Executive Board.

2.2. On 18th November 2014 in Warsaw Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat took part in a seminar dedicated to cooperation within the Priority Area Education of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Moderated by Mr Anders Bergström, PA's Coordinator from the Norden Association, the seminar was organised by the EUSBSR National Contact Point at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



With around 60 participants from various ministries, educational institutions, labour offices and non-governmental organisations, the meeting attempted to shed more light on the details of transnational cooperation on higher education with special focus on vocational training, labour market issues and youth employment. During the presentations several active and potential Flagship Projects within EUSBSR were introduced by their representatives. These included such projects as Baltic University Programme, Baltic Training Programme, South Baltic Training Programme, HansaECVET, Baltic Sea Labour Forum, Ready to Research, Introducing Dual Education in the BSR, Baltic Sea Labour Forum mobility initiative, BSR Life Long Learning, Quick IGA, Baltic Science Network and EntrepreneurshipLab. Among them was also SYPERB Strategic Youth Policy in EuroregionBaltic project which was introduced as a new initiative that could later become a Flagship Project within the Strategy. The seminar proved to be very informative and well organised, allowing participants to gain more concrete and practical knowledge on the implementation of the Strategy and meet relevant stakeholders working within the Priority Area. ERB representatives regularly attended the meetings of in EUSBSR national coordination teams in Denmark, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden.

2.3. ERB continued to be present at main EUSBSR events:

2.3.1. Through its member organisations ERB took part in the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR, jointly organised with 16th Baltic Development Forum Summit, themed "Growing together". The Forum explored how cooperation can help strengthen economic growth, contribute to sustainable development, and create a strong and integrated Baltic Sea Region. The 16th Baltic Development Forum Summit and 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR will be part of the Turku Baltic Sea Days 1-5 June 2014. Bringing together decision-makers from business, politics, international organisations and academia from across the Baltic Sea Region, the event provided a platform to exchange opinions and experiences, discuss key issues and chart the way forward. Key areas addressed included outlooks on governance, the digital economy, regional cooperation, smart urban solutions, blue growth, innovation and competitiveness.

2.3.2. Between 1-2nd October 2014 in Karlskrona Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat took part in the 7th Baltic Sea Tourism Forum. The Forum took up tourism-related themes and topics and aligned the focus of cooperation with important forward looking aspects. The consolidation of



relevant travel topics, global and private sector perspectives of tourism development, new trends in the digital domain as well as improved cooperation structures in the Baltic Sea region represented a particular focus of the conference. The declaration adopted by the participants of the 7th Baltic Sea Tourism Forum gave an overview of the most important fields of action that face tourism development in the Baltic Sea region both today and in the future.

3. holding dialogue with relevant actors:

3.1. A representative of the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation (BSSSC) was invited to take part in the 5th Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders. Ms Małgorzata Ludwiczek, BSSSC Working Group on Youth Policy Coordinator gave a presentation on the participation of youth in the activities of the organisation. In addition, the region of Pomorskie who is a member of the cooperation within BSSSCS and ERB acts as a liaison and facilitates the exchange of information between the two organisations.

Focus area 2: Strategic actions

Strategic objective: enhancing the added value of ERB cooperation

4. reinforcing stakeholder approach through continuous dialogue and information exchange:
 - 4.1. Fifth Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders was held on 28th October 2014 in Gdańsk (Poland)

This year's Forum was entitled "Labour mobility, higher education and youth cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region – addressing common challenges". The event was organized jointly with the South Baltic Professionals project and hosted by the Office of the Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodeship. During the Forum stakeholders took part in discussions on the challenges and problems currently faced by



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the inhabitants of the regions of the South Baltic area, such as labour market mobility, internationalisation of higher education institutions and youth cooperation. The participants of the Forum tried to identify barriers hampering the development of labour mobility, and find out if creation of stable and dedicated networks of relevant stakeholders could be a key to solving this problem. Further discussions concerned methods allowing universities and other higher education institutions to cooperate better on the international level, thus providing students with better education and other skills that would allow them to pursue their careers in increasingly competitive working environments. Finally, the prospects of youth cooperation in our region and how it could be bolstered by relevant actors were investigated.

- 4.2. ERB Executive Board met around the cooperation area in:
 - 4.2.1. Klaipeda (Klaipeda) on 20th March 2014

Transfer of Presidency was the key point in the agenda of Euroregion Baltic Executive Board meeting, which took place in Klaipeda on 20th March. During the meeting Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas, Mayor of Klaipeda and President of the Association Klaipeda region, took over the position of the President of Euroregion Baltic from Mr Per Ole Petersen to lead the organization in 2014. Mr Wiesław Byczkowski, Deputy Marshal of



Pomorskie Voivodeship became a Vice-President. ERB Executive Board made also some critical decisions concerning internal structure of Euroregion Baltic. It was decided that starting from 1st July 2014, ERB International Permanent Secretariat would have a new seat in Olsztyn at Foundation "Support and Promotion of Enterprise in Warmia and Mazuria". This solution would last until Euroregion Baltic acquires a legal personality as international association. Draft statutes of such international association was adopted by ERB Board.

Apart from that, ERB Board approved a new Chair of Euroregion Baltic Youth Board - Ms Maria Kjaergard from Bornholm and Mr Mateusz Kryżba from Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship as her deputy. Finally, ERB Board accepted Annual Report for 2013 and adopted both ERB Action Plan for 2014 – 2015 and main activities planned within the Youth Board.

4.2.2. Växjö (Södra Småland) on 16th June 2014

On 16th June 2014 the Executive Board of Euroregion Baltic held its meeting in Växjö, Sweden discussing issues with respect to the transfer of the International Secretariat of the organisation, upcoming activities of the ERB Youth Board and a closing report from the ERB Task Force on Cohesion Policy. Following the decisions of the ERB Board taken on 20th March 2014 and 9th May 2014, as of 1st July 2014 the Foundation supporting and promoting entrepreneurship in Olsztyn became the hosting party for the International Permanent Secretariat with Mr Sebastian Magier taking the position of the Head of the IPS. The outgoing Head of the IPS, Mr Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański addressed the ERB Executive Board and the members of the regional secretariats with expression of gratitude for the ten years of cooperation. The members of the ERB Executive Board thanked Mr Demkowicz-Dobrzański for his contribution into the collaboration within ERB. The ERB Executive Board then took note of an information from Ms Maria Fromseier Kjaergaard, Chair of ERB Youth Board on the current status of the Board and its future activities during 2014. The Executive Board was also informed about the ERB's participation in the 5th Annual Forum of EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Turku, Finland and received a closing report from the ERB Task Force on Cohesion Policy.

4.2.3. Gdańsk (Pomorskie) on 29th October 2014

Members of the ERB Executive Board met on 29th October 2014 to discuss important matters regarding the cooperation in Euroregion Baltic. The meeting followed the 5th Annual Forum held a day earlier in Gdańsk and partially followed up on Forum's organisation and content, with all delegations providing their opinions on the outcome of the event.

Discussing internal matters of ERB cooperation, the Executive Board discussed the outcome of the transfer of the ERB International Permanent Secretariat to Poland. Based on the information provided by the Head of IPS, the Board decided to extend his employment and continue the current cooperation with the Foundation for Supporting and Promotion Entrepreneurship in Warmia-Mazury.

Youth cooperation issues were also discussed by the Executive Board with opinions stressing the need for a more strategic approach towards youth issues in the future. Following the discussion, members of the Executive Board approved the involvement of a new EVS volunteer in the works of the Youth Board.

Finally, the ERB Executive Board participated in a short workshop-based discussion on project facilitation within the ERB. All delegations prepared their proposals for possible project

initiatives which were then discussed in context of the upcoming South Baltic CBC Programme. As a result, the Board decided to establish a new Task Force that would facilitate project initiation and development within Euroregion Baltic.

4.3. ERB Executive Board also had two online meetings:

4.3.1. On 9th May 2014

The meeting focused on the selection of the best candidate for the position of the new Head of the ERB International Permanent Secretariat. Prior to the meeting a series of interviews was held in Olsztyn with the three candidates who submitted their applications. The results of the interviews were presented to the Board after which it agreed that Mr Sebastian Magier proved to be the best candidate for the position and decided to employ him as the new Head of IPS.

4.3.2. On 10th December 2014

The final meeting of the ERB Executive Board in 2014 took place on 10th December 2014. During the meeting the Board adopted the Terms of Reference of the new Task Force on Project Facilitation. Following the discussions during its previous meeting on 29th October 2014 concerning the results of the transfer of ERB International Secretariat to Poland, the ERB Executive Board decided to extend the employment of the current Head of the ERB International Permanent Secretariat, Mr Sebastian Magier

4.4. ERB Secretariats maintained regular contact:

4.4.1. via continuous email exchange,

4.4.2. during online meetings (17.01, 10.04, 28.04, 22.05, 04.09, 09.10, 06.11).

4.4.3. during a face-to-face meeting in Växjö on 17th June 2014.

5. strengthening ERB internally:

5.1. on 20th March 2014 in Klaipeda ERB Executive Board decided to adopt the 2014 – 2015 Action Plan which outlines the continuation of the process of forming an international legal person for ERB.

5.2. on 20th March 2014 in Klaipeda ERB Executive Board discussed the draft of the new ERB statutes proposing some additional changes to the draft and asked the Russian partners to provide comments before the draft was to be finalised.

5.3. On 20th March 2014 in Klaipeda ERB Executive Board discussed the proposal of the Polish partners to host the International Permanent Secretariat of ERB in Olsztyn, Poland with the Foundation for Support and Promotion of Entrepreneurship in Warmia-Mazury as the new hosting organisation for IPS as of 1st July 2014. The Board also decided to execute a recruitment process of the new Head of IPS based on the Terms of Reference presented by the IPS.

5.4. On 9th May 2014 during an online meeting the ERB Executive Board decided on the employment of the new Head of IPS. Following the decisions of the ERB Executive Board made at the meeting on 20th March 2014, President Grubliauskas informed the Board that the recruitment of a new head of IPS began on 14th April after the ERB secretariats agreed on the scope of responsibilities for the job. Three candidates submitted applications before the deadline of 23rd April and all three of them were invited to the interviews which took place in Olsztyn on 7th May, during the visit that President Grubliauskas paid to Anna Wasilewska, Deputy Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie region and Danuta Ciborowska, Chair of the Board of the Foundation which would host the IPS. Based on the results of the interviews the ERB Executive Board decided to employ Sebastian Magier as the new head of IPS as of 1st July 2014.

6. supporting youth cooperation within ERB Youth Board:

6.1. Improved internal communication of ERB Youth Board - Increased activity of the Youth Board in the communication area. Once the problem had been pointed out by Executive Board, YB has implemented relevant guidelines improving our internal communication. In accordance with the decision of Executive Board we have begun to send official and unofficial notification e-mail as CC to the IPS and Secretariats. Moreover, YB has started to use Facebook conversations as the best way to quickly communicate among the member of the Youth Board. YB has also decided to use Google Hangouts to conduct online meetings because connections on Skype are limited and Adobe platform works only in working hours, which is difficult for young people take advantage due to numerous responsibilities during that time. Since December 2014 YB has had no problems with communication among the members of the Youth Board and with the ERB Secretariats

6.2. Meeting of ERB Youth Board in Gdańsk on 28th October 2014 - For the first time in a long while the YB managed to organise a separate meeting during Executive Board meeting. During the meeting basic questions concerning the current work of ERB Youth Board were discussed. Although more discussions were needed, yet we managed to identify questions concerning the vision of ERB, set up ways of effective communication, propose new plans for future work, a find a new EVS volunteer to facilitate our work. During the meeting it was also decided that all external activities of the Youth Board would stop until the meeting in Gdańsk in February 2015, where we expected to adopt the Action Plan in accordance with the discussion about whole strategy as an introduction to future work. Minutes of the meeting were made available to all members of the Youth Board.

6.3. continued implementation of the SYPERB project

During 2014 the SYPERB pre-study project continued its work towards creating the conditions for developing a full scale project application within the South Baltic Programme. Due to the delay in preparation of the programme, the SYPERB project successfully applied for extension of its activities till July 2015. In order to anchor the project among local decision makers, in October 2014 the representatives of the project visited the city of Słupsk, Poland and Kaliningrad, Russia. The visit proved to be a success with both cities expressing their commitment in the implementation of the project. Furthermore, the SYPERB-project was included in the list of potential flagship projects under priority area "Education" in the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

6.4. EVS volunteer for ERB Youth Board – as stipulated in the Action Plan the ERB Youth Board identified a new host organisation that could host the new EVS volunteer supporting the work of the Youth Board. Based on the decision of the ERB Executive Board adopted during its meeting in Gdańsk on 29th October 2014, the work of the ERB Youth Board was to be supported by a new EVS volunteer



working within the European Association for Education and Development 'Pionier' in Olsztyn. Ms Veronika Solobai is a graduate of marketing and economics at the Belarusian State Economic University in Minsk. As of September this year Veronika was working as an EVS volunteer at the Pionier Association within the project entitled „Volunteering – a way to the unforgettable adventure”. During the her work at the Pionier Association, she dedicated part of her working time

to supporting youth cooperation in Euroregion Baltic taking part in meeting, preparing minutes and updating information on YB's facebook account.

7. fostering B2B cooperation with focus on clusters, innovation and SME internationalisation:
 - 7.1. information was disseminated about the activities of the Baltic Sea Cluster Development Centre
 - 7.2. ERB continued its work project facilitator for actors in ERB to improve SME internationalisation, innovation and exports. To this end the ERB Executive Board established a new Task Force on Project Facilitation. With a special attention to the South Baltic programme 2014-2020, the Task Force was requested to consult and assess project ideas from the ERB partners, present to the ERB Executive Board recommendation of future projects to be facilitated and supported by ERB, to support project development and partnership building of prioritized project ideas, with the ambition to be applied in the first call of the South Baltic programme in Autumn 2015, to evaluate the result of the projects applied with the Task Force involved. The Task Force would 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 eg. International Components within the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund
8. developing stronger cooperation on labour market issues in ERB:
 - 8.1. ERB closely cooperated with the South Baltic Professionals project on the organisation of the 5th Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders in Gdańsk on 28th October 2014 with one the workshops dedicated to the issue of creating a stable network and interactions among stakeholders involved in labour mobility. The workshop addressed the need to clarify details for a cooperation of skilled EURES advisers in the South Baltic. The workshop was moderated by Mr Johnny Winther Holbech from the Regional Municipality of Bornholm who is the Leader of the ERB Task Force on Labour Mobility.
 - 8.2. ERB participated in the conference Future in Focus held in Vaxjo on 16th June 2014 with a goal to discuss way on how to increase the number of youth in education, employment and training in the Baltic Sea Region.
 - 8.3. ERB continued its role as the observer at the Baltic Sea Labour Forum, platform promoting social dialogue and tripartite structures and cooperation as a crucial element of sustainable economic growth and social development in the Baltic Sea Region.
9. facilitating water cooperation:
 - 9.1. In February 2014 the WaterNets project received support of developing the WUP concept by the EUSBSR Feed Money Facility with the aim of emerging a new project application to be submitted to the Baltic Sea Programme in 2015. The WaterNets project aims to develop and spread the WUP concept, to define a clear role of the WUPs within the EU Water Administration and to facilitate a trans-baltic water cooperation and a cross sectorial and multilevel dialogue. Thereby contributing to an extended and faster implementation of concrete measures.
 - 9.2. According to the ERB Action Plan 2014-2015, the ERB Water Core Group (WCG) sent a web questionnaire to local and regional authorities in ERB in September 2104 (Appendix 1). The results from the questionnaire have now been processed and are concluded shortly below. Thirty-five organizations in five countries have answered the questionnaire. The respondents mainly represented public authorities and the majority of them know the Euroregion Baltic co-operation

well or at least a little. More than 80% of the respondents were interested in international water co-operation and a similar number also have experience from previous international project co-operation. As many as 70% of the respondents had high knowledge companies or organizations within water issues/below growth in their region. All the respondents were willing to take part in further discussions regarding possible water co-operation

Focus area 3: Exchange activities

Strategic objective: deepening relations & strengthening cooperation between ERB member regions

10. Meeting common challenges through collaborative approach based on the exchange of knowledge and information
 - 10.1. ERB President paid visit to Olsztyn on 6-7th May 2014 where he met with Ms Anna Wasilewska, Deputy Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie region and Danuta Ciborowska, Chair of the Board of the Foundation which would host the IPS from July 2014.
 - 10.2. Information flow was maintained between ERB secretariats primarily by emails, as well as during on-line and face-to-face Secretariat meetings.
 - 10.3. Information was collected disseminated externally via ERB website and facebook account..
 - 10.4. In addition, in 2014 ERB was part of:
 - 10.4.1. 23rd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) was assembled in Olsztyn, Poland, on 24-26th August 2014.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

01.01.2014 - 30.06.2014

REVENUES

No	Item	Planned for Jan - Dec 2014 in EUR	Planned for Jan - Dec 2014 in SEK	Actual as of 30 June 2014 in SEK
1	balance as of 01.01.2014	4 404,86 €	37 456,29 SEK	37 456,29 SEK
2	travel refund for 2013	577,10 €	4 907,32 SEK	4 907,32 SEK
3	Region Blekinge	5 500,00 €	46 750,00 SEK	49 766,75 SEK
4	Regionförbundet Södra Småland	5 500,00 €	46 750,00 SEK	52 360,00 SEK
5	Regionförbundet i Kalmar Län	5 500,00 €	46 750,00 SEK	49 570,95 SEK
6	Bornholm	5 500,00 €	46 750,00 SEK	48 244,90 SEK
7	Pomorski Urząd Marszałkowski	5 500,00 €	46 750,00 SEK	49 725,50 SEK
8	Warmińsko-Mazurski Urząd Marszałkowski	5 500,00 €	46 750,00 SEK	49 777,20 SEK
9	Stowarzyszenie Gmin RP Euroregion Bałtyk	5 500,00 €	46 750,00 SEK	24 694,18 SEK
10	Klaipėda County	5 500,00 €	46 750,00 SEK	24 896,30 SEK
11	Kaliningrad Region	5 500,00 €	46 750,00 SEK	0,00 SEK

TOTAL REVENUES

54 481,96 €

463 113,61 SEK

391 399,39 SEK

EXPENDITURE

No	Item	Planned for Jan - Dec 2014 in EUR	Planned for Jan - Dec 2014 in SEK	Actual as of 30 June 2014 in SEK
1	Personnel costs	35 347,75 €	300 576,07 SEK	179 439,35 SEK
-	salary (incl. social contribution and holiday)	29 202,81 €	248 323,20 SEK	144 472,26 SEK
-	overheads (incl office rental, internet)	5 262,94 €	44 752,87 SEK	31 688,58 SEK
-	mobile telephone	882,00 €	7 500,00 SEK	3 278,51 SEK
2	Travel	8 232,00 €	70 000,00 SEK	57 881,29 SEK
3	IT	2 685,84 €	22 838,00 SEK	9 036,00 SEK
-	ERB homepage, updates, hosting	1 281,84 €	10 900,00 SEK	9 036,00 SEK
-	online system	228,00 €	1 938,00 SEK	0,00 SEK
-	equipment	1 176,00 €	10 000,00 SEK	0,00 SEK
4	ERB Youth Board	5 500,00 €	46 750,00 SEK	6 873,00 SEK
5	Banking charges	250,00 €	2 125,00 SEK	0,00 SEK
6	Reserve	2 466,38 €	20 824,54 SEK	0,00 SEK

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

54 481,96 €

463 113,61 SEK

253 229,64 SEK

BALANCE (Revenues - Expenditure)

-0,00 €

0,00 SEK

138 169,75 SEK

01.07.2014 – 31.12.2014

REVENUES	Actual Jul-Dec 2014 in EUR	Actual Jul-Dec 2014 in PLN
Transfer from Södra Småland	10 362,69 €	41 279,78 PLN
Södra Småland	3 908,80 €	15 740,35 PLN
Asociacija „Klaipėdos regionas”	1 375,00 €	5 600,79 PLN
Asociacija „Klaipėdos regionas”	1 375,00 €	5 546,34 PLN
Stowarzyszenie Gmin RP Euroregion Bałtyk	2 678,30 €	11 294,00 PLN
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>19 699,79 €</u>	<u>79 461,26 PLN</u>
EXPENDITURE	Actual Jul-Dec 2014 in EUR	Actual Jul-Dec 2014 in PLN
Personnel costs	13 435,96 €	56 516,42 PLN
overheads (incl. office rental, internet)	2 448,82 €	10 311,93 PLN
mobile phone	613,14 €	2 545,50 PLN
salary	10 374,00 €	43 658,99 PLN
Travel / Meetings	1 037,82 €	5 860,78 PLN
IT	1 218,36 €	5 050,01 PLN
ERB website, updates, domains and hosting	0,00 €	0,00 PLN
online system	0,00 €	0,00 PLN
equipment, services	1 218,36 €	5 050,01 PLN
ERB Youth Board	0,00 €	0,00 PLN
Banking charges	62,02 €	254,57 PLN
Reserve	0,00 €	0,00 PLN
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>15 754,16 €</u>	<u>67 681,78 PLN</u>
BALANCE	<u>3 945,63 €</u>	<u>11 779,48 PLN</u>

ERB SECRETARIATS

EUROREGION BALTIC INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

Between January-June 2014:

Videum Science Park
351 96 Växjö, Sweden
Sławomir Demkowicz Dobrzański
Tel. +46 470 72 47 65
E-mail: Sławomir.D-D@rfss.se
www.euroregionbaltic.eu

From July 2014:

Plac Gen. J. Bema 3/1
10-516 Olsztyn, Poland
Sebastian Magier
Mobile: +48 606 216 845
Tel: +48 (89) 535 17 80
Fax: +48 (89) 535 17 84
E-mail: Sebastian.magier@euroregionbaltic.eu
www.euroregionbaltic.eu

CONTACTS IN ERB REGIONS:

Агентство по международным и межрегиональным
связям Калининградской области
Елена Лебедева
+7 4012 599 089
e.lebedeva@gov39.ru
<http://gov39.ru>

Asociacija "Klaipėdos regionas"
Simonas Gentvilas
Tel. +370 6456 1144
info@klaipedaregion.com
<http://www.klaipedaregion.com/>

Bornholms Regionkommune
Niels Ch. Andersen
Tel.: +45 3018 2192
Niels.Chresten.Andersen@brk.dk
www.brk.dk

Region Blekinge
Johanna Rönn
Tel: +46 455 30 50 22
Johanna.Ronn@regionblekinge.se
www.regionblekinge.se

Regional Förbundet i Kalmar Län
Jan Martinsson
Tel: +46 480 44 87 95
Jan.martinsson@kalmar.regionforbund.se
www.kalmar.regionforbund.se

Regionförbundet Södra Småland / Region Kronoberg
Therese Magnusson
Tel: +46 470 72 47 54
Therese.Magnusson@kronoberg.se
www.kronoberg.se

Stowarzyszenie Gmin RP Euroregion Bałtyk
Zdzisław Olszewski, Roma Naruszewicz
Tel: +48 55 611 2000
sekel@eurobalt.org.pl
www.eurobalt.org.pl



Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Pomorskiego
Krystyna Wróblewska, Magdalena Skłucka
Tel: +48 58 32 61 710
k.wroblewska@woj-pomorskie.pl
m.sklucka@pomorskie.eu
www.woj-pomorskie.pl/

Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Warmińsko-
Mazurskiego
Łukasz Bielewski, Piotr Zwolak
Tel: +48 89 53 40 019
l.bielewski@warmia.mazury.pl
piotr.zwolak@warmia.mazury.pl
<http://www.wrota.warmia.mazury.pl>



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