

Euroregion Baltic Youth Board

2008-04-25



Euroregion Baltic Youth Board structure

- **Vision**

In 2015 Euroregion Baltic will be a region where the youth agenda is an important and integral part of the ERB cooperation, well rooted in the Euroregional and regional structures, and reflected in ERB contributions towards EU policies.

- **Goal**

Long term goals for the Youth Board are:

To provide the opportunity for the youth of the ERB member regions to be involved in all ERB activities.

To act as a voice for youth in the ERB.

To increase interaction between regional authorities and the youths.

To encourage closer cooperation between the youths and local government, employers, schools so as to stimulate opportunities for youth.

To reduce the distance between the youths in the regions in various areas by for example international cooperation, different projects and involvement in activities at regional level.

To eliminate cultural prejudices with a help of different communicational and informative tools.

To encourage cooperation between the youths both at the regional and international levels.

To support activities among the youths aiming at a sustainable environment.

To improve living conditions of the youths in the ERB regions.

To facilitate mobility of the youths in the region, showing them perspectives in the area of education, international exchanges and labor market.

To encourage the participation of youths in the decision making processes in the ERB regions.

To strive for equality and diversity perspectives at all levels and in all processes.

Short term goals:

To establish a well functioning ERB Youth Board with a clear structure and projects in process and running.

To create an informative web-page.

To implement various projects which will fulfill the long term goals.

To reach out to the youths in the region and establish a well known regional cooperation for youths.

To engage youngsters to cooperate tightly with ERB working groups.

To promote the youth perspectives through youths involvement in all ERB cooperative activities.

To have a recurrent youth conference as a possibility for youths to meet and influence the politics in the region.

- **Purpose**

The main purpose of the Youth Board is to create a meeting point for youths of the ERB regions where they can have a possibility to be influential and included in an otherwise relatively closed forum for youths. Taking part in real work of ERB, the youths would be involved in true processes of regional politics.

- **Strategy** (general, strategic challenges and strategic areas)

General

Since the very beginning of the ERB cooperation the youth aspect has played a very important role and been reflected in such joint events as youth camps, art, competitions, sports events, film projects etc. This should go on in the future and grow stronger.

Strategic challenges

One of the major challenges for the Youth Board during its first years will be to create an effectively operating structure. Everything has to be built up from the beginning, internal structures and relations, as well as external structures with the ERB Executive Board and Council. Another aspect to be considered is the necessity to make the youths in the member regions aware of their possibilities to participate and influence the development of the ERB area and ERB member regions. The Youth Board should be diverse and be representative of the ERB regions.

Strategic areas

- Youth conference
- Mobility of youths in the area of education, international exchanges and labor market
- Importance of environmental awareness
- Influence of youths in the region
- "Youth engagement" – an essential ingredient of a successful youth development approach

Action plan 2008-2009

May

Creating a webpage

Creation of the webpage is a productive way of Youth Board marketing in the regions. With a help of the webpage the Youth Board will be able to communicate with the youth living in the regions. The webpage will include short data about the Youth Board and ERB, information about the ERB regions and updated information about projects and activities coordinated by the Youth Board.

May

A logo for the youth board

The Youth Board logo should be developed

May

Internal and external structure of the Youth Board

Until the end of May work on both internal and external structure would be finished. The internal structure is a living document that will be altered throughout the year due to possible changes in the Youth Board. The internal structure is supposed to be a basis for the new elected Youth Board.

June/July

Summer "face-to-face" meeting

To be able to plan both the internal work of the Youth Board and the youth conference a meeting is planed to happen in June/July. At least one more meeting of The Youth Board members this year is essential.

September

Involvement of youths in ERB working groups

The search of the youths interested to join the working groups in ERB is planned to last until September 2008. The target group will be youths studying at upper school, from ninth grade, pupils at upper secondary school and students at universities, up to 26 years of age. The youths should be of different backgrounds, ethnicity, age, gender and level of education.

November

Arrangement of the second youth conference

The main activity of the Youth Board this first year is organization of the second youth conference on Bornholm in November 2008. The conference will be planed during "face-to-face" meeting this summer. Hopefully the youth conference can be a part of the ERB council meeting at Bornholm.

January

Fulfil the pre-study of the first project

Region Blekinge offers support of the Youth Board with project ideas by providing financial, human and administrative resources to sustain the development of the project ideas into a qualified project application.

One of the discussed ideas is "The Scholarship"- project, which is going to be developed during a "pre-study" to a more concrete and more defined project idea. This will finally result in to a project application.

In this very case the pre-study means a smaller project with the final goal of making an application for a bigger youth project. One of the main tasks in the pre-study is anchoring the ideas in the regions and getting decisions from potential partners in each region.

During the year 2008

Market Youth Board in the ERB area

To begin marketing of the Youth Board to schools, teachers and youth organisations. This process could help the Youth Board to involve youth in the projects that are started and attract new potential members of the board.