

Euroregion Baltic
Executive Board Meeting
Kalmar, Sweden

14th May 2019



Title Meeting Minutes

Submitted by MLR, International Permanent Secretariat

Summary / Note This document provides the meeting minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting in Kalmar, Sweden on 14th May 2019

Requested action Implementation

Participants:

ERB Executive Board:

Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas ERB President, Mayor of Klaipeda, Chairman of Klaipeda Region Association

Mr Wiesław Byczkowski Member of ERB Executive Board, Deputy Marshal of Pomorskie Region

Mr Robert Olesen Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board Region Kronoberg

Ms Sabine Lyngberg Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm

Mr Roland Gustbée Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board Region Kronoberg

ERB Youth Board:

Ms Julia Orluk	Chair of the ERB Youth Board, Pomorskie Region
Mr Damian Ciachorowski	Member of ERB Youth Board, Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Mr Christian Van der Weij	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Johanna Wyckman	Member of ERB Youth Board, Region Kalmar County
Mr Mikhail Mikhailovskii	Deputy Member of ERB Youth Board, Kaliningrad region

ERB Secretariats:

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen	Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Ms Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski	Region Kronoberg
Ms Evgeniya Russu	Kaliningrad Region
Ms Natalia Kila	Pomorskie Region
Ms Johanna Haward	Skåne Association of Local Authorities
Mr Peter Nilsson	Skåne Association of Local Authorities
Ms Krystyna Wróblewska	Pomorskie Region
Ms Klaudija Kionies	Association of Klaipeda Region
Ms Johanna Levin	Region Kalmar County
Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło	Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat
Ms Agata Ludwiczak	Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat
Mr Jan Martinsson	Region Kalmar County
Ms Johanna Rönn	Region Blekinge
Ms Małgorzata Samusjew	Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Ms Valentina Scandola	Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat
Mr Piotr Zwolak	Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region
Ms Jenny Alftberg	Region Kronoberg
Ms Theodora Chatzipanteli	Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat, IVY Volunteer

Ms Milena Pallotta Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat, IVY
Volunteer

Guests

Mr Mattias Andersson Interconnect project manager, Region Blekinge
Mr Tobias Facchini Water Core Group member, Kalmar
Ms Antje Schreyer Region Kalmar County
Mr Torben Jørgensen Bornholm Energy and Supply
Mr Niklas Carlsson DUNC project manager
Ms Ekaterina Latysheva Environmental Center "ECAT-Kaliningrad"
Ms Johanna Levin Kumulus

ERB Executive Board meeting

14th May 2019

11.10 – 15.30

Calmar Stadshotell, Kalmar, Sweden

Storgatan 14, 392 32 Kalmar

11.10 1. **Welcome**

11.15 Ms Klaudija Kionies welcomed the participants of the meeting on behalf of the Association of Klaipeda Region, currently holding the ERB Presidency. Mr Jan-Stefan Martinsson of Region Kalmar County welcomed the participants on behalf of the hosts.

11.15 2. **Opening**

11.20 Mr Klaudia Kiones explained that Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas is on his way from the ferry and will join the meeting soon. Ms Kiones presented the agenda and asked to start with point no. 4 while waiting for the President to arrive.

ERB Executive Board decided to approve the agenda of the Executive Board meeting and accept the change of the order suggested by Ms Kiones.

11.20 4. **Presentation and current information on the ERB Water Core**
11.35 **Group**

Mr Tobias Facchini presented the Water Core Group's Workplan 2020-2022. He informed that May 2019 is a starting point in the preparation of the WCG Action Plan, that will be discussed until the end of August. The draft version shall be presented to the ERB Board during the next Board meeting in September 2019 in Ilawa (*WCG Work Plan presentation attached*).

During his presentation, Mr Facchini informed about the WCG working meeting that took place earlier that day and briefly explained the interests expressed by the ERB members who participated in the meeting regarding the future water-related projects and initiatives (*three presentations are attached*). He also mentioned the possibility to hold a Water Forum in autumn 2020 organised by the WCG.

Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło informed everyone that every Secretariat agreed to appoint people to work in the Water Core Group. By summer, there will be a full list of participants and other ERB projects will facilitate activities of the WCG. Experts from other ERB projects eg Umbrella will be brought in future meetings of the WCG.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

11.35 5. **Presentation and current information on the ERB Youth Board.**

11.40 Ms Julia Orluk, Chairwoman of the Youth Board from Pomorskie Region, presented the goals, mission and vision of the Youth Board prepared during the recent online meetings and in relation to the ongoing youth projects: Casypot, YCGN and Baltic Sea Youth 2030. She also presented a list of the planned activities : exchange of young people between regions (couch surfing), connecting young people by their interests on a social platform, exchange of experiences by creating a platform and an Event Calendar consisting of events in each region that might be interesting to the youth (*presentation attached*).

Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło spoke about the recent successful international youth meeting organised in Gdańsk within the framework of the Baltic Youth 2030 project lead by the CBSS, where ERB acts as a partner. Several subjects were discussed, among those were: easing the cooperation between existing youth councils, creating common platforms, connecting and establishing more frequent meetings.

Furthermore, the young participants are planning to make a video with a request for the support of the CSO CBSS and funds to strengthen their cooperation with additional funding.

Ms Krystyna Wróblewska noted that ERB youth issues are missing and sustainable development goals, especially the circular economy. It's essential that the youth decides which fields will be vital for them from the Baltic Sea Youth Agenda. Furthermore, she advised that the Youth Board should set its direction and that it is stable without frequent changes in its members.

Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas also recommended that the Youth Board is more active from now on and thanked everyone for their contributions.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

11.40 3. **Signing the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board**
12.00 **meeting**

Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło, Head of ERB IPS submitted the minutes of the previous ERB Executive Board meetings held in Klaipeda on 13th February 2019.

Relevant ERB Executive Board members signed the minutes of the ERB Executive Board meeting.

13.00 6. **Proposal for the sequence of ERB Presidency transfers post-**
13.20 **2020**

By the decision of the ERB Executive Board of 21st February 2011 approving the sequence of ERB Presidency transfers, the ERB Presidencies were planned until 2020. It is necessary to prepare the new sequence of presidencies, taking into account the changed number of the ERB members with Skane joining the ERB officially in 2019. During the ERB Secretariats on-line meeting on 10th April and 6th May 2019 the following sequence proposal was discussed and agreed to present to the ERB Executive Board as a suggestion:

2021 Swedish presidency (Skane or Blekinge - TBD)

2022 Warmia and Masuria, Poland

2023 Bornholm, Denmark

2024 Swedish presidency (Skane or Blekinge- TBD)

2025 Kaliningrad region, Russia

2026 Kronoberg, Sweden

2027 Pomorskie, Poland

2028 Kalmar, Sweden

2029 Klaipeda Association, Lithuania

2030 Association of Polish Communes, Poland

Moreover, the suggestion is that the presidency is given each year to one of the 10 member-regions, so there will be a 10 year rotation period.

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen stated that the Bornholm region could accept this decision.

Ms Johanna Ronn (Blekinge) said that they would discuss it and come up with their reply until September.

Ms Krystyna Wroblewska suggested that the dates of the elections in each region should be taken into account since that would result in the change of the politicians who decided on this matter.

Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło reassured everyone that currently, the only possible changes to this proposal are the years 2021 and 2024 when the Swedish presidency between Skane or Blekinge will be determined.

ERB Executive Board approved the proposal that the presidency is given each year to one of the 10 member-regions. The Board also approved the proposed sequence for the presidencies for the year 2021-2030 and requested decisions from regions Blekinge and Skane on which ERB member will hold the chair in 2021 for the September ERB Executive Board meeting in Ilawa.

13.20 7. **ERB Action Plan 2019 – current status**

13.40 Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło presented the detailed information on the actions achieved so far and the activities planned for the next four months until the ERB Board meeting in September 2019. Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło informed everyone that she would be replacing Mr Sebastian Magier at the Interreg South Baltic Monitoring Committee, that was agreed and confirmed both with the JS and the Pomerania Euroregion.
(presentation is attached)

Ms Klaudia Kiones confirmed she will represent the Euroregion Baltic during the upcoming South Baltic MC meeting in Klaipeda, as a Deputy MC Member, as Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło is already participating in the European Maritime Day on the same date.

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen inquired whether there'd be a need for participants from the Secretariats for these projects. He requested that in such case, the Secretariats are notified early and included.

Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło replied that only if granted there may be such a need, but the results will be known at the end of August the earliest with the projects (if granted) starting in 2020. Moreover, in the cases above an early application was necessary since there was minimal time until the deadline. Thus the Secretariats were not notified with advance. The projects mentioned did not need the ERB contribution and were in line with the ERB Action Plan for 2019. Nevertheless, in the future, this kind of situation will not happen, and the Secretariats will always be included in the process, at least keep adequately informed about the application process.

Ms Klaudija Kionies asked how will the communication and dissemination of these activities occur. Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło replied that the IPS is seeking for funds for the communication strategy to improve the website and communication processes. Currently, communication is happening mainly through social media via targeted posts and the website. Ms Leszczyna-Rzucidło also mentioned an upcoming communication training that will take place in Gdansk on 22-23 May – all IPS members will participate.

Following the discussion, the ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

14.00 9. **Interreg South Baltic Programme - update**

14.20 Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło informed the Board about the recent meeting with the newly elected Head of the JS Interreg South Baltic, Ms Dominika Butkiewicz.
Ms Niels Chresten Andersen initiated the discussion for the utilisation of certain program savings. There are three ways: by prolongation of a project, e.g. its communication part, by seed money and by clustering projects, e.g. green technology projects together etc.
Mr Andersen furthermore informed that most likely he will be proposed for the Danish delegation as part of the task force for the development of the next programme period.

Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło asked if there are suggestions for these

three points from the ERB Board members.

Ms Klaudija Kionies requested more info on the South Baltic Programme savings that will be discussed during the Monitoring Committee.

Mr Niels Chresten Andersen said that there would be an informational meeting in November about the next project that as ERB might interest us.

Following the discussion, the ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

14.35 10. **Information from ERB projects - DUNC**

14.50

Mr Niklas Carlsson, project manager of DUNC, Development of UNESCO Natural & Cultural assets project, presented the main project goals and outputs and updated the ERB Executive Board about the ERB involvement in DUNC project. DUNC is a project aiming to promote and develop a World Heritage site and the Baltic Sea region. The partnership involves ERB as an associated partner.

(presentation is attached)

The Baltic Sea World Heritage Summit and Baltic Meeting Point are two important conferences connected to the project that will take place in September 2019 – the ERB Board members and ERB stakeholders were invited to the Summit.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

14.50 11. **Information from ERB projects - Interconnect**

15.10

Mr Mattias Andersson from Blekinge Region, project manager of Interconnect project presented the project main goals and outputs and updated the ERB Executive Board about the ERB involvement in Interconnect project. The Interconnect project aims towards better transport services. Its duration is from June 2017 until May 2020 and involves 9 formal and 11 associated partners, including the ERB members. The project addresses several challenges like the current unsustainable mobility trends and offers solutions like no-car mobility in the South Baltic area through joint capacity building, pilot demonstration etc.

(presentation is attached)

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

15.10 12. **Short information on the recently prepared projects and planned project engagement of the ERB members.**

15.15

Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas suggested, that this point in the Agenda would be skipped, as the two recently submitted projects were already presented during point no. 7.

(both project applications are attached)

ERB Executive Board accepted the change of the order suggested by Ms Grubliauskas.

- 15.15 13. **Invitation to the next Executive Board meeting in Iława in September 2019, to the Interreg South Baltic Annual Event in Ostróda in September 2019 and to the EUSBSR Annual Forum and Participation Day in June in Gdańsk.**
15.25

Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło and other Secretariat representatives briefly updated the ERB Board members on the upcoming events relevant for the ERB stakeholders.

Upcoming events:

8-10 June - Baltic Sea Youth Camp, Gdansk (Poland);

11 June - Participation Day, Gdansk;

12-13 June – Ms Krystyna Wróblewska invited everyone to participate in the 10th EUSBSR Annual Forum in Gdansk;

18-19 June – Ms Evgeniya Russu invited ERB stakeholders to the IX Kaliningrad Partner Regions Forum (Russia);

11-12 September – Mr Piotr Zwolak invited ERB Executive Board members for the next ERB Executive Board meeting in Iława (Poland);

18-20 September – Ms Klaudia Kiones shared information about the BSSSC Annual Conference, which will happen in Klaipeda (Lithuania);

24-26 September - South Baltic Annual event, Ostroda.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

- 15.25 14. **Conclusion and closing**

15.30

President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas closed the meeting of the ERB Executive Board.