

EUROREGION BALTIC ANNUAL REPORT 2012

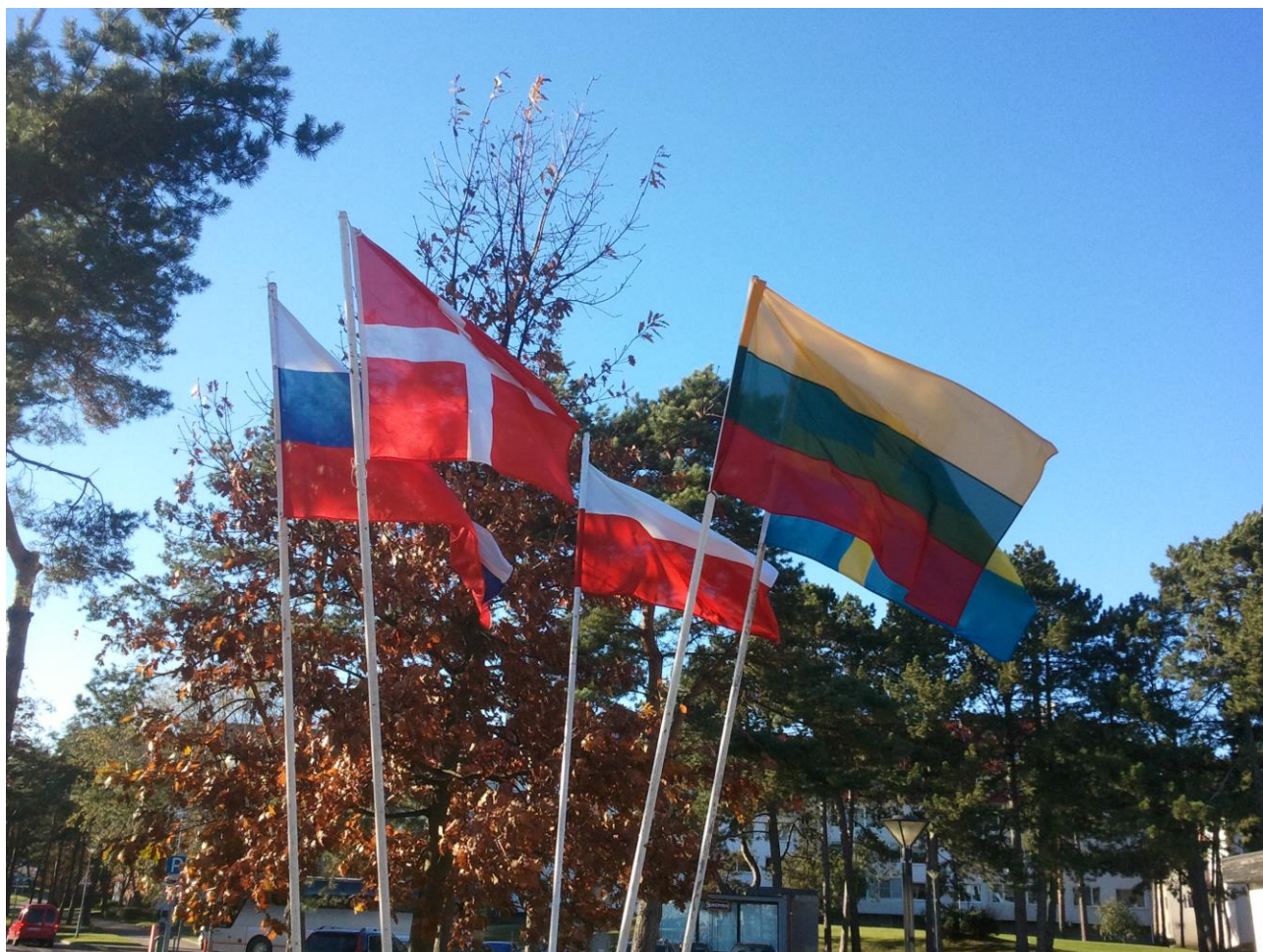


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Editor: Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzański

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2013

EUROREGION BALTIC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Roland Gustbée	ERB President, Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Södra Småland, Sweden
Per Ole Petersen	ERB Vice-President, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Denmark
Carina Bengtsson	ERB Board Deputy Member, 1st Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council, Södra Småland, Sweden
Wiesław Byczkowski	ERB Board Member, Vice-Chair of the Board of Pomorskie Region, Poland
Lennarth Förberg	ERB Board Member, Vice-Chair of the Board of Region Blekinge, Sweden
Grzegorz Grzelak	ERB Board Deputy Member, Chair of International and Interregional Committee of Pomorskie Regional Parliament, Poland
Monica Haider	ERB Board Member, 2nd Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council in 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
Martin Sten Jørgensen	ERB Deputy Board Member, Member of the Council of Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Denmark
Akko Karlsson	ERB Board Member, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Kalmar County, Sweden
Lisbeth Lennartsson	ERB Board Deputy Member, Member of the Board of Regional Council in Kalmar County, Sweden
Maciej Lisicki	ERB Board Deputy Member, Vice-Chair of the Association of Communes, Poland
Åke Nilsson	ERB Board Member, Member of the Executive Committee, Regional Council in Kalmar County, Sweden
Grzegorz Nowaczyk	ERB Board Member, Chair of the Association of Communes, Poland
Vytautas Grubliauskas	ERB Board Member, President of Association Klaipeda Region, Lithuania
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
Oliver Rosengren	Chair of the ERB Youth Board, Regional Council in Södra Småland, Sweden
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

In 2012 **Euroregion Baltic Executive Board** met on 10th February in Älmhult (Sweden), 14th June in Nexø (Denmark), 29th October in Neringa (Lithuania) and on 3rd December (online).

EUROREGION BALTIC YOUTH BOARD

Oliver Rosengren	Chair of the Youth Board, Regional Council of Södra Småland, Sweden
Mateusz Ankiewicz	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland (Deputy)
Vladimir Balobaev	Government of Kaliningrad Region, Russia
Hmida Benatallah	Regional Council in Kalmar County, Sweden (Deputy)
Manvydas Džiaugys	Association Klaipeda Region, Lithuania
Karl Holst	Regional Council in Kalmar County, Sweden
Rasmus Hounisen	Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Denmark
Mathias Juhl	Regional Municipality of Bornholm, Denmark (Deputy)
Mateusz Kryžba	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland (Deputy)
Sissa Pagels	Region Blekinge, Sweden
Agnieszka Piłata	Association of Polish Communes, Poland
Henrietta Serrate	Regional Council of Södra Småland, Sweden (Deputy)
Marcin Popiela	Office of the Marshal of Pomorskie Region, Poland
Vyacheslav Sutyryn	Government of Kaliningrad Region, Russia (Deputy)
Katarzyna Wasyliszyn	Office of the Marshal of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland

In 2012 **Euroregion Baltic Youth Board** met on 9th February in Älmhult (Sweden), 14th June in Nexø (Denmark) and on 29th October in Neringa (Lithuania). **Youth Board** had also online meetings on 5th April and 19th April.

ADDRESS BY ERB PRESIDENT

Focus area 1: Lobbying

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

1. holding dialogue with EC, EP, CoR and regional offices in Brussels, as well as BSR organisations:
 - 1.1. A cooperation agreement was signed between the Committee of the Regions on the one hand, and ERB, Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation, Baltic 7 Islands, Union of the Baltic Cities, and Euroregion Pomerania on the other. ERB contributed to the text of the agreement (so-called Declaration of Common Interest), which was agreed and signed by ERB President and the other chairs of the organisations involved.
 - 1.2. ERB is discussing more active cooperation with the Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation and the CBSS initiative called Modernisation for South East Baltic Area.
 - 1.3. A position paper on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was adopted jointly by ERB, Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation, Baltic 7 Islands, Baltic Development Forum, Baltic Sea Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, and Union of the Baltic Cities. ERB led the process, and the text of the joint position paper was agreed and signed by ERB President and the other chairs of the organisations involved.
2. intensifying ERB's participation in the implementation of ETC and ENPI programmes in the BSR:
 - 2.1. In 2012 ERB continued to participate in the implementation of the South Baltic Programme by taking active part in the Programme Steering and Monitoring Committees and its meetings on:
 - 2.1.1. Bornholm, 18-19th April 2012,
 - 2.1.2. Ringsted, 12-13th December 2012.
 - 2.2. 2012 ERB has also been represented in the South Baltic Joint Programming Committee and its task forces which will be working to prepare for the new programming period of 2014 – 2020. There have been three meetings so far:
 - 2.2.1. in Warsaw, 11th September 2012,
 - 2.2.2. in Ringsted, 12-13th December 2012.
- 2.3. On 10th February 2012 a lobbying plan was adopted by ERB Board considering ERB recommendations on EU Cohesion Policy & South Baltic Programme as well as to challenges identified in draft Cohesion Policy regulations, with special focus on continued dialogue with national authorities based on unique assets & needs of ERB stakeholders.
- 2.4. ERB addressed the national governments with the letter containing its position on the South Baltic Programme already in May 2012, following the first meeting of the Joint Programming Committee. This letter was based on the decision taken by the ERB Board in 2011.
- 2.5. On 14th June 2012 ERB stakeholders debated on ERB's role in ETC & ENPI programmes of geographical relevance. In consequence, ERB Board extended the mandate for the Task Force to continue its work.
- 2.6. ERB standpoint on the geography of the future South Baltic Programme was adopted by ERB Board on 29.10.2012. As a follow-up, letters together with the standpoint were sent to DG Regio and national ministries on 6th November 2012.
- 2.7. ERB standpoint on the thematic scope of the future South Baltic Programme was adopted by ERB Board on 21st November 2012 as contribution to the work of the Joint Programming Committee.



- 2.8. In December 2012 ERB President published an article in the Baltic Rim Economies, highlighting ERB standpoint on the geography and thematic scope of the future South Baltic Programme.
3. participating in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR):
- 3.1. Involve project with the main aim of implementing the EUSBSR Horizontal Action on Multi-Level Governance was rejected by the Baltic Sea Region Programme and will not be implemented.
- 3.2. Throughout 2012 ERB took part in EUSBSR national coordination teams in Denmark, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden, maintaining dialogue with National Contact Points, Priority Area Coordinators and Horizontal Action Leaders.
- 3.3. ERB continued to be present at main EUSBSR events, including:
- 3.3.1. Third EUSBSR Working Meeting in Vilnius on 21st March,
- 3.3.2. Third EUSBSR Annual Forum in Copenhagen on 18 – 19th June,

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. On 13th June 2012 Euroregion Baltic (ERB) gathered its members in Nexø, Bornholm for the 3rd Annual Forum entitled: "Cooperating to meet common challenges in the Baltic Sea Region". Around 60 participants from the national, regional and local levels around the Baltic Sea region congregated to gather new knowledge about the current situation concerning labour markets, and in particular unemployment among the youngest of our citizens, prevailing in the EU, Baltic Sea Region and ERB member regions. The regional representatives heard some of the best examples of efforts made jointly by different actors in the Baltic Sea Region in order to counter-act the worsening conditions on our labour markets. They also discussed the possible role of Euroregion Baltic to take in the future so that employability and youth employment could be improved in the ERB cooperation area.
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- 4.2. ERB Board met around the cooperation area in:
- 4.2.1. Älmhult (södra Småland) on 10th February 2012. The meeting marked the change of ERB Presidency and adopted the 2012 – 2013 Action Plan and lobby plan towards a new EU Cohesion Policy. The participants discussed how to facilitate B2B links in the ERB cooperation area, talked about a multi-level governance project and heard a proposal to set up a coordination structure for the ERB Youth Board.
- 4.2.2. Nexø (Bornholm) on 14th June 2012. The meeting took place after the first ERB debate on labour mobility and resulted in the establishment of a special task force to coordinate ERB's work in the area. The participants heard the first report on the implementation of the 2012 – 2013 Action Plan as well as the presentation of the new regional development strategy of Pomorskie region. The Board also decided to assist the ERB Youth Board by making a joint European Voluntary Service project application with Kumulus in Kalmar.

4.2.3. Neringa (Klaipeda) on 29th October 2012. The meeting discussed ERB's participation in the programming work of the South Baltic CBC Programme and adopted the standpoint on the programme geography. The participants discussed preparations for the action plan of the forthcoming presidency and legal solutions for Euroregion Baltic related to the change of the host for the ERB International Secretariat.



4.2.4. Online on 3rd December 2012. The ERB Board decided to relocate the ERB International Secretariat in Växjö, Sweden as of 1st January 2013 and decided to work on legal status for the organisation to be implemented in 2013. The participants were informed that the European Voluntary Service project was approved and decided to earmark an amount in the joint budget enabling a youth volunteer to attend ERB meetings in 2013.

4.3. ERB Forum of local actors has not been organised.

4.4. ERB Secretariats maintained regular contact:

4.4.1. via continuous email exchange,

4.4.2. during online meetings (12.01, 05.03, 29.03, 02.04, 10.05, 29.05, 05.09, 11.10, 14.12),

4.4.3. at face2face meetings (24.04 in Gdańsk, Poland and 29.10 in Klaipėda, Lithuania).

4.5. The question of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation has been included in the newly extended mandate for the ERB Task Force on Cohesion Policy.



4.6. Following the decision of the ERB Executive Board made on 3rd December 2012 the International Permanent Secretariat (IPS) of Euroregion Baltic was relocated to Växjö in Sweden and the Regional Council in södra Småland took over the role of IPS' hosting organisation. Discussions on legal status for the Euroregion are in progress.

5. integrating further the ERB Youth Board:

5.1. On 10.02.2012 södra Småland presented proposal to finance a permanent youth coordination structure with extra membership fees. Not all ERB members agreed to increase fees. Instead, an alternative solution was proposed to find a young person to help the Youth Board through the European Voluntary Service. A project was developed jointly by ERB, Kumulus (EVS hosting organisation in Kalmar) and Europe Direct Bornholm (sending organisation), and approved at the end of 2012.



5.2. In 2012 ERB stakeholders continued their support to the cooperation within the Youth Board by financing YB members' participation in ERB meetings.

6. empowering youth:

6.1. A youth project was successfully submitted to the European Voluntary Service in cooperation with Kumulus and Europe Direct (see 5.1 above). In January 2013 the Association Elbląg Europa in Poland took over as a sending organisation and a volunteer was selected to start their work with the ERB Youth Board in March 2013.

6.2. The proposal to include the ERB Youth Board in the EUSBSR Action Plan was not accepted as the EUSBSR Action Plan was under revision in 2012.

7. facilitating B2B links:

7.1. A meeting with the Europe Enterprise Network representatives and business support organisations from the cooperation area was held on 9th February 2012 in Älmhult (södra Småland). Although interest was identified for closer links between the actors, no source of financial assistance were available at that time.

7.2. The contacts initiated in February were followed by the visit from Business Link Greater Copenhagen to Warmia and Mazury (Poland) in May. These visits were based on two important foundations: 1. closer links between companies and business support institutions will contribute to economic development of Bornholm and Warmia and Mazury, and 2. creation of practical dimension of economic cooperation between these regions has to become a model of diverse cooperation of partners in Euroregion Baltic. A similar visit was later organized to Kaliningrad (Russia) at the beginning of June, including contact with the CBSS and SEBA project. These contacts were followed up during the Forum of Partner Regions in Kaliningrad and with the leader of the EUSBSR Priority Area Tourism.

7.3. ERB President took part in 4th Economic Forum of Baltic and Eastern Markets organised by Warmińsko-Mazurskie Regional Development Agency on 4-5th October 2012 in Lidzbark Warmiński, Poland. The participants discussed the possibilities of development of international business cooperation and trade exchange between Baltic and Eastern markets. The Forum enabled the establishment of direct economic contacts with foreign companies.



7.4. In cooperation with Business Link Greater Copenhagen, ERB will continue to work towards the establishment of an exchange platform of good practices for cluster development managers in the South Baltic Area and Baltic Sea Region, as well as towards facilitating joint projects in order to improve SME internationalisation, innovation and exports.

8. addressing labour market challenges:

8.1. A debate on ERB's role was held on 13th June 2012 during 3rd Annual ERB Forum. As a result, ERB Task Force was established with the clear mandate to develop a basis for a stronger cooperation on labour market issues within ERB, with a focus on improving the labour force mobility and to combat youth unemployment.

8.2. ERB became a formal 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.

8.3. ERB President and Task Labour Force leader took part in the BSLF Round Table in Hamburg on 15th November 2012, which resulted in the adoption of the resolution by social partners in the Baltic Sea Region, government officials and labour market experts, addressing two main subjects, youth employment and mobility of labour.

8.4. Labour Task Force analysed the situation on the labour markets in the ERB regions while preparing a seminar which took place on 25th February 2013. This information will be used in the Force's further work.

9. facilitating water cooperation:

9.1. Moment Final Conference and Fourth ERB Water Forum were organised in Kalmar on 27-28th November 2012.

9.2. Moment project partners are finalising the project and will be soon presenting the conclusions from their cooperation so far and recommendations for the future to the ERB Board.

9.3. A storm water treatment installation in Kretinga (Klaipeda) is in its early stage of development and a study visit could not be organised.

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. An association consisting of all the municipalities within Klaipeda County was established and replaced the former partner representing this Lithuanian region. The Mayor of Klaipeda, Mr Grubliauskas became the Association's first President, as well as the member of the ERB Executive Board. ERB President paid a visit to Klaipeda and the newly established Association of the municipalities of Klaipeda Region on 4th June after the Association was formally founded.
 - 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, and newsflashes were sent out to subscribers.
 - 10.4. In addition, in 2012 ERB was part of:
 - 10.4.1. State of the Region Report published by Baltic Development Forum in June 2012,
 - 10.4.2. Sonnenberg Association Summer Conference on Bornholm 4th July 2012
 - 10.4.3. Visit of Swedish parliamentarians to the Polish and Lithuanian regions of ERB, 21 – 23rd August 2012,
 - 10.4.4. Fourth Forum of Partner Regions, Kaliningrad, 13 – 14th September 2012
 - 10.4.5. South Baltic CBC Programme Annual Conference, Ronneby, Blekinge, 23 - 24th October 2012.



FINANCIAL RESULTS

INCOME:

	Item	Planned for 2012: I-XII in EUR	Planned for 2012: I-XII in PLN	Actual for 2012: I-XII in PLN
<u>1</u>	<u>Result as of 01.01.2011</u>	-19 777,94 €	-85 045,15 PLN	-85 045,15 PLN
<u>2</u>	<u>Region Blekinge</u>	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN	23 289,75 PLN
<u>3</u>	<u>Regionförbundet Södra Småland</u>	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN	23 716,00 PLN
<u>4</u>	<u>Regionförbundet i Kalmar Län</u>	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN	22 019,80 PLN
<u>5</u>	<u>Bornholm</u>	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN	23 705,00 PLN
<u>6</u>	<u>Pomorski Urząd Marszałkowski</u>	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN	22 359,15 PLN
<u>7</u>	<u>Warmińsko-Mazurski Urząd Marszałkowski</u>	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN	21 961,20 PLN
<u>8</u>	<u>Stowarzyszenie Gmin RP Euroregion Bałtyk</u>	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN	23 650,00 PLN
<u>9</u>	<u>Klaipėda County</u>	4 600,00 €	19 780,00 PLN	9 265,39 PLN
<u>10</u>	<u>Kaliningrad Region</u>	2 300,00 €	9 890,00 PLN	9 261,18 PLN
<u>11</u>	<u>Refund from Capacity & Involve</u>	7 000,00 €	30 100,00 PLN	27 859,60 PLN

TOTAL INCOME

32 622,06 €

140 274,85 PLN

122 041,92 PLN

	Item	Planned for 2012: I-XII in EUR	Planned for 2012: I-XII in PLN	Actual for 2012: I-IX in PLN
<u>1</u>	Overheads	1 425,00 €	6 127,50 PLN	5 324,41 PLN
	office rental - IPS	280,00 €	1 204,00 PLN	1 046,99 PLN
	mobile phone	977,00 €	4 201,10 PLN	3 587,34 PLN
	internet connection	168,00 €	722,40 PLN	690,08 PLN
<u>3</u>	Travel / Meetings	7 000,00 €	30 100,00 PLN	31 242,18 PLN
<u>4</u>	Personnel costs	18 237,00 €	78 419,10 PLN	79 019,10 PLN
<u>5</u>	IT	660,00 €	2 838,00 PLN	2 771,08 PLN
-	ERB website, updates, domains and hosting	75,00 €	322,50 PLN	288,50 PLN
-	Webex	585,00 €	2 515,50 PLN	2 482,58 PLN
-	equipment	0,00 €	0,00 PLN	0,00 PLN
<u>6</u>	ERB Youth Board	5 100,00 €	21 930,00 PLN	1 896,88 PLN
<u>7</u>	Banking charges	200,06 €	860,25 PLN	603,47 PLN

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

32 622,06 €

140 274,85 PLN

119 044,94 PLN

RESULT (Income - Expenditure)

0,00 €

0,00 PLN

1 184,80 PLN

ERB SECRETARIATS

EUROREGION BALTIC INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

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