



ERB ACTION PLAN 2011-2012

Introduction

Euroregion Baltic (ERB) Action Plan 2011 – 2012 has been elaborated in accordance with the ERB 2020 Agenda, a fundamental policy document of the present and future cooperation within the ERB. This Plan assumes the continuation of cooperation started in the framework of the ERB Action Plan 2010 - 2011. It includes specific actions aimed at the implementation of the ERB 2020 Agenda, partly initiated in 2010. ERB Executive Board monitors the implementation of the ERB 2011 – 2012 Action Plan and will include its evaluation in the consolidated progress report for 2011 – 2012, presenting the results of the Kaliningrad region presidency in ERB.

Focus area 1: Lobbying

Strategic objective:

Enhancing the role of ERB as a lobbying platform towards the European Union taking into consideration aspirations of all its stakeholders

Rationale:

We will take an active role in shaping of EU policies which are in scope of our common interest. The main criterion while defining that scope should be that the selected issues benefit the growth of the whole cooperation area, involving the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation, a neighbour to the EU and an important partner of the ERB cooperation. The following policy documents display the highest value for the development of cooperation within the ERB: EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the EU - Russia Cooperation Strategy, Europe 2020 Strategy, EU Cohesion Policy, etc. ERB plans to continue to actively cooperate with the European Commission, European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, the Baltic Development Forum, other organizations of the Baltic Sea region, regional offices and international institutions.

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Specific objective:

ERB will act as a stakeholder in the implementation and monitoring of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Planned activities:

1. Implementing the Terms of Reference of the ERB Task Force on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea,

2. Participating in the drafting and implementation of the new Strategy Horizontal Action: multi-level governance, local and regional spatial planning and sustainable development.

Main outputs:

1. Overview of the ERB contribution to the implementation of the Strategy,
2. ERB non paper contributing to the revision of the Strategy,
3. Position Paper including proposals on new flagships and lobby plan,
4. Application submitted to the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007 – 2013,
5. ERB Participation in 2nd Annual Forum of the Strategy.

Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders

Specific objective:

ERB will organise the Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders as a meeting platform for relevant stakeholders from the member regions and outside, thus strengthening the political cooperation in ERB

Planned activity:

Implementing the Terms of Reference of the ERB Task Force on the Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders in 2011

Main outputs:

1. Concept of the Forum to be used in the future,
2. Detailed proposal of the organization of the Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders in 2011, and 2012, specifying date, place, cost, agenda, and other organizational issues related to the Forum.
3. Annual Forum of ERB Stakeholders in 2011 and 2012.

EU Cohesion Policy

Specific objective:

Monitoring the preparation of future EU Cohesion Policy and actively promoting a greater role of its Objective 3 – European Territorial Cooperation

Planned activity:

Implementing the Terms of Reference of the ERB Task Force on the EU Cohesion Policy

Main outputs:

1. ERB lobby strategy towards the EU Cohesion Policy
2. Analysis of the draft regulations on the future Cohesion Policy
3. Concrete proposals for changes and amendments to the draft regulations on the future Cohesion Policy
4. More specific joint ERB lobbying activities based on more concrete proposals for changes and amendments to the draft regulations on the future Cohesion Policy
5. Joint article from leading ERB politicians highlighting the ERB Position

Focus area 2: Strategic actions

Strategic objective:

Enhancing the added value of ERB cooperation

Rationale:

All activities undertaken within the framework of ERB, in particular, being of strategic nature, should be multilateral and contribute to sustainable development not only of ERB as a whole, but of individual member regions. By inviting high political representatives of the regions and involving other important stakeholders, such actions strengthen the vitality of the cooperation.

Joint Development Programme

Specific objective:

Implementing the ERB Joint Development Programme

Planned activities:

1. Discussing possible support by the ERB Board to the Water Core Group and Water Forum,
2. Assisting the Pomorskie Region in its efforts to re-submit the BaltNet project.

Main outputs:

1. ERB Board's decision on the scope of support given to the ERB Water Core Group and Water Forum,
2. BaltNet application submitted to the South Baltic CBC Programme.

Prioritized institutional activities

Specific objective:

Accomplishing prioritized institutional activities of the ERB 2020 Agenda

Planned activity:

Discussing possible support to the work of the ERB Youth Board

Main outputs:

ERB Board's decision on the scope of support given to the ERB Youth Board

Focus area 3: Exchange activities

Strategic objective:

Deepening mutual relations and strengthening cooperation between the ERB member regions

Rationale:

The stakeholders of the ERB cooperation are strongly convinced that significant progress in innovation and in operational efficiency can be successfully generated when knowledge is exchanged multilaterally and continuously. Exchange, and knowledge and technology transfer should occur in three main directions:

1. from academic institutions into the society and economy of the regions,
2. from region to region,
3. between ERB and other organizations of the Baltic Sea region.

ERB activities should aim at enhancing and maintaining the continuity of the above processes.

Specific objective:

Meeting common challenges through collaborative approach based on the exchange of knowledge and information

Planned activities:

1. Maintaining continuous exchange of information for the benefit of the ERB members,
2. Collecting and disseminating information on existing Baltic initiatives with an analysis of the ERB opportunities and prospects for participation,
3. Adopting measures aimed at strengthening relations between ERB communities,
4. Collecting information on the needs of communes and local communities regarding cross-border cooperation and the existing resources of this cooperation.

Main outputs:

1. Information flow maintained primarily by emails and during on-line meetings.
2. Information collected, ERB website updated and newsflashes to target recipients delivered by the International ERB Secretariat.
3. Questionnaire on cross-border cooperation needs prepared and distributed.
4. Report with questionnaire results and information about possibilities of establishing cross-border cooperation in the future presented by the International ERB Secretariat.