Euroregion Baltic Executive Board Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 On-line meeting



| Title            | Meeting Minutes   |
|------------------|---|
| Submitted by     | MLR, International Permanent Secretariat  |
| Summary / Note   | This document provides the meeting minutes of the ERB Executive Board on-line meeting on 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 |
| Requested action | Implement   |

## **Participants:**

## **ERB Executive Board:**

| Mr Witold Wróblewski          | ERB President, Mayor of Elbląg, Chair of the Association of Polish Communes ERB   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Mr Johan Sandberg             | ERB Vice – President, Chair of the Regional<br>Development Board, Region Blekinge |
| Mr Wiesław Byczkowski         | Member of ERB Executive Board, Deputy Marshal of<br>Pomorskie Region              |
| Ms Elin Landerdahl            | Member of ERB Executive Board, Region Kalmar<br>County                            |
| Mr Robert Olesen              | Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the<br>Board Region Kronoberg            |
| Mr Roland Gustbée             | Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Board Region Kronoberg               |
| Ms Helen Bengtsson            | Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Region<br>Kronoberg                         |
| Ms Britt-Louise<br>Berndtsson | Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Region<br>Kronoberg                         |
| Ms Maria F. Kjaergaard        | Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Member of the Regional Council in Bornholm  |
| Ms Sabine Lyngberg            | Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Regional<br>Municipality of Bornholm        |
| Ms Liana Maximova             | Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Kaliningrad<br>Region                       |

| Mr Anders Tell           | Member of ERB Board, Skåne Association of Local<br>Authorities |
|--------------------------|--|
| Mr Lars Lundberg         | Member of ERB Board, Skåne Association of Local Authorities    |
| Mr Peter Vretlund        | Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Region<br>Kalmar County  |
| Ms Johanna Wyckman       | Deputy Member of ERB Executive Board, Region<br>Kalmar County  |
| Ms Karin Helmersson      | Member of ERB Executive Board, Region Kalmar<br>County         |
| Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas | Chair of Board of Association of Klaipeda Region               |

## **ERB Youth Board**

| Ms Julia Orluk               | Chairwoman of the ERB Youth Board, Pomorskie Region          |
|------------------------------|--|
| Ms Małgorzata<br>Lewandowska | Member of ERB Youth Board, Pomorskie Region                  |
| Mr Maksym Pozdniakov         | Member of ERB Youth Board, Pomorskie Region                  |
| Mr Emil Rigstad-<br>Andersen | Member of ERB Youth Board, Regional Municipality of Bornholm |
| Mr Daniel Migunov            | Member of ERB Youth Board, Kaliningrad Region                |
| Ms Elin Petersson            | Member of ERB Youth Board, Region Blekinge                   |
| Mr Alexander Nilsson         | Member of ERB Youth Board, Region Blekinge                   |
| Mr Grzegorz Gieda            | Member of ERB Youth Board, Warmia and Masuria<br>Region      |

## **ERB Secretariats:**

| Mr Niels Chresten Andersen             | Regional Municipality of Bornholm      |
|--|--|
| Mr Slawomir Demkowicz -<br>Dobrzanski  | Region Kronoberg                       |
| Ms Evgeniya Russu                      | Kaliningrad Region                     |
| Mr Peter Nilsson                       | Skåne Association of Local Authorities |
| Ms Kristina Jauhiainen Larsson         | Skåne Association of Local Authorities |
| Ms Klaudija Kionies                    | Association of Klaipeda Region         |
| Ms Krystyna Wróblewska                 | Pomorskie Region                       |
| Ms Małgorzata Klawitter-<br>Piwowarska | Pomorskie Region                       |
| Ms Agata Birecka                       | Pomorskie Region                       |
| Mr Jan Martinsson                      | Region Kalmar County                   |
| Ms Johanna Rönn                        | Region Blekinge                        |

| Ms Małgorzata Samusjew      | Association of Polish Communes Euroregion<br>Baltic |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Mr Łukasz Bielewski         | Warmia and Masuria Region                           |
| Mr Piotr Zwolak             | Warmia and Masuria Region                           |
| Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło | Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat         |
| Ms Anna Dudziak             | Euroregion Baltic International Secretariat         |
| Mr Marcin Żuchowski         | Association of Polish Communes Euroregion           |
|                             | Baltic  |

## **ERB Executive Board meeting**

#### 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

#### 10.00 - 12.00 CET

#### **On-line session, ZOOM web app**

Please join Zoom via link before 9.45-10 am – technical instructions attached.

| 10.00 | 1. | Welcome and opening  |
|-------|----|--|
| 10.05 |    | President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Witold Wróblewski, Mayor of<br>Elbląg and Chair of Association of Polish Communes Euroregion<br>Baltic welcomed the participants of the ERB Board second on-line<br>meeting and presented the meeting agenda. There were no<br>comments or questions to the programme; hence the Chairman<br>asked the ERB Board members to approve the proposed document.<br>Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło provided short technical instructions<br>for the meeting. |
|       |    | ERB Executive Board approved the agenda of the meeting.  |
| 10.05 | 2. | Adoption of the meeting minutes from the ERB Board   |
| 10.10 |    | meeting on 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2020.  |
|       |    | The minutes of the Euroregion Baltic Board Meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup><br>May 2020 were presented and examined by the ERB Secretariats<br>in advance. Since there was no additional comments, President of<br>Euroregion Baltic, Mr Witold Wróblewski asked the ERB Board<br>Members to adopt the minutes.  |
|       |    | ERB Executive Board adopted the minutes.   |
| 10.10 | 3. |  |
| 10.30 |    | Informative round on COVID-19 situation in the ERB states  |
|       |    | ERB President asked RB Executive Board members from Poland,<br>Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania and Russia to present information on<br>the current pandemic situation in their countries.   |

Mr Wiesław Byczkowski, Deputy Marshal of Pomorskie Region, presented the information on the situation in Poland. The latest figures from the Polish government report total number of 70.824 confirmed COVID-19 cases, by 6<sup>th</sup> September 2120 people have died, and 54,256 patients have successfully recovered. The situation differs from region to region, and most affected are Mazowieckie, Śląskie and Małopolskie Regions. In the Pomorskie Region, the problem is not as bad; however, it got worse during the summertime, and today there are 2792 people diagnosed which is nearly 4 times more than at the beginning of summer. Mr Byczkowski briefly presented the restrictions implemented by the Polish government, speaking among others about decisions made about the functioning of schools and universities. He also said that since 13<sup>th</sup> June polish borders are opened for EU countries and the quarantine is only required for people who contacted infected people. He added that the situation in Poland is dire and president Andrzej Duda convened a Cabinet Council on 4th September to discuss with members of the Polish government further approach to COVID-19 problem.

Mr Niels Christen Andersen from Bornholm Municipality presented the information on behalf of the Danish Board Member. The number of infected has been increasing for the last few weeks, and between 100-200 people are tested positive per day. However, the situation is quite well controlled. Only 30 people are staying in the hospital, and only 3-4 of them treated intensively. For the last 2-3 months, there was no one dead under 60 years old. Denmark has noted the increased number of infected people in the previous few weeks, probably because of the increased level of tests. Mr Andersen also informed about pandemic restrictions kept in Denmark. He said around 20 of 98 municipalities are more critical. Therefore the restrictions there are more strict. As for the borders, the permanent border control has been dropped at Swedish and German border.

Mr Vytautas Grubliauskas presented the information on the situation in Klaipeda Region. He said that the authorities of Klaipeda Region overcome and managed the difficult situation the best way they could do. Approximately 70000 test has been done in Klaipeda Region, 600 people were infected, and at least 20 people died. In Lithuania generally, there more than 3000 infected and 86 death. Today the restrictions are less strict as they were during the 3months quarantine time. It is now possible to organize outside events with more than 1000 participants; But, they must be registered and wear masks. Mr Grubliauskas also briefly informed about the situation in education institutions. He added that today Klaipeda Region is in a much better condition than the rest of Lithuania. Since the second wave of COVID-19 has started, it is essential to follow all restrictions.

Ms Liana Maximova presented the situation in Russia and Kaliningrad Region as more or less stable. There are no high fleshes of new cases. There are approximately 5000 new cases of COVID-19. The figures show it is more or less 20-25 new cases per day. Ms Maximova said all the limitations had been removed and the schools have now been opened with all sanitary measures. She

also informed that new vaccine was registered in Russia and the authorities expect the preventive immunization in October/ November, first of all for the groups of risk. Also, Russian sanitary inspection has started special research on regional immunity, and it shows that in Kaliningrad, it is about 20%.

Finally, Mr Johan Sandberg presented the situation on behalf of the Swedish regions. In Sweden, there were nearly 86000 COVID-19 cases. There was a significant downturn in the number of infected. Because the difference between regions is vast, there is an average of 800 infected per 100,000 inhabitants, and that varies between 300 up to 1400 per 100,000 inhabitants. For all ERB member regions, the figure is way below the average of infected. There is an extensive testing program running all over Sweden, and right now there are 100-200 new infected per day. In Sweden, the restriction was much different from other countries. There are travel restrictions, gathering restrictions. However, schools have been opened all the time. The most significant effect right now is the economic effect. There was nearly 98 000 people put on notice for dismissal and about half of them had been let go from their jobs, and it is on a level of the financial crisis. The forecast for the GNI is going down, and about 70% of companies have seen a downturn in turnover for the last year, which is damaging for business.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

# 10.304.Information from the South Baltic Programme Monitoring<br/>Committee and Joint Programming Committee meetings10.50

Mr Witold Wróblewski underlined that functioning of the South Baltic Programme is significant for ERB cooperation. Not only as separate regions but also as organized partnership ERB has been engaged in work related to the implementation of the current program and also the framework of the future programme.

Mr Niels Chresten-Andersen from Regional Municipality of Bornholm informed the Board about the state-of-the-play in the South Baltic Programme Monitoring Committee. There were some written consultations lately, and it was approved that the contact points will be prolonged until the end of 2021. The second decision was about how the savings are used. There is only a little bit more than 1 mln Euro which is more or less one project. There will be mini calls for a running project, which means the 43 South Baltic projects still running will be able to apply during autumn for some extra funding to extend the project with new partners, activities etc. There will be more clear terms reference or criteria send out later. The fist mini call will be now and the next one in summer 2021. In spring 2021 and 2022 there will be seed money to prepare projects for the next programme.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September a virtual SBP Annual Event will take place, which was supposed to be organized in Sweden however was cancelled due to COVID-19 situation. Mr Andersen informed he would gather some project people in Bornholm Museum and he will moderate two-panel debates. The first debate will be about 5

selected projects and their impact on small regions and also on regular citizens. The second panel discussion will be among politicians, and even some of the ERB members are involved in it. It will concern the future priorities of the South Baltic Programme. The event is planned between 10 am - 1 pm, and the invitation together with the program has already been sent out.

Mr Sławomir Demkowicz – Dobrzanski from Region Kronoberg presented information about the recent Joint Programming Committee workshop and the Programme developments and shared some slides from the workshop. He started by showing a summary of the whole process, as the JPC is responsible for the programming work for the future programme 2021-2027. JPC is not the only body that is involved in that work. The MC has the supervisory role, and the programming work is discussed under regular meetings. It sometimes happens that the heads of delegations are called special meetings that can discuss special issues regarding the programming work. However, it is the JPC which was established with a specific task of preparing the new program with representatives from all of the program stakeholders, including guite active representation of regional contact points. The program has also decided to hire a company that is a so-called expert services provider and specializes in working with documents that are necessary for programming work. So far, the PwC which was selected to do that work is responsible for delivering three steps of programming work, that is the socioeconomic analysis, SWOT analysis and problems and objectives tree. What was discussed so far and during the latest meeting of JPC on 18<sup>th</sup> August was the content of these three steps. The members of the JPC and the regions have been asked to comment on the document sent by the PwC, which focuses on those three steps. The socio-economic analysis was divided into different chapters: basic information about the regions involved in the program, information about the society, economy, environment and infrastructure, technology and R&D advancement. Mr Demkowicz – Dobrzański said the report is an important document (more than 200 pages) however it is a significant step because it will be a foundation for the next two steps which are coming towards the end of this year where the program strategy will be described, and program objectives will be defined. There will be a discussion about whether the PwC should continue with the two further steps, based on the results of the current stage.

Next, Mr Demkowicz - Dobrzański presented the key strengths which were identified in the PwC's report (among others: high level of employment and low long-term level of unemployment, great potential for tourism, stable economic situation), which are very similar to the objectives, challenges and strengths that have been identified before the current programming period. Among crucial weaknesses, the large disparity in population's earnings, lack of economic cohesion between regions, low birth rate, very high level of pollution and eutrophication of the Baltic Sea, diversified approach in individual regions to build the SBA's bran as a leader in eco- and green development and differences between regions in expenditure on R&D were identified. As it comes to the opportunities, the trans-regional cooperation of local cultural and educational institutions comes in the first place. There is also significant potential in the use of renewable energy sources, extensive and relatively unspoiled green areas in the SB territory,

which present potential for tourism and finally the implementation of blue and green technologies. As key threats, PwC identified the situation caused by the COVID-19, ageing of the population, deepening global climate change and remaining pollution and eutrophication in the BS region. Based on the SWOT analysis, the PwC has selected 7 thematic areas in the report, and they constitute the foundation for the future program strategy and program objectives. The areas are SMEs transformation & internationalization, better cooperation governance, sustainable & innovative tourism, blue & green economy, energy transitions, sustainable modern transport and building civil & inclusive society. These seven thematic areas have been proposed to be further developed by the JPC and PwC. The comments to the report are being sent to PwC, and there still many questions that are problem areas, for example, the question of the statistics. There are a lot of challenges in that work; however, the program has made a significant step forward, and it is very promising.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

# 10.505.Umbrella 2.0 initiative – project proposal for the Swedish<br/>Institute11.10Institute

Mr Witold Wróblewski reminded that the UMBRELLA project ends in December 2020. However, our organizations, local governments and other entities need constant support in their abilities and cooperation skills. Hence the idea of developing a new project proposal, a continuation of UMBRELLA and applying to the Swedish Institute.

Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło informed that the initiative to continue the idea of UMBRELLA capacity building project has started last year. The project was supposed to be finished in June 2020 but was prolonged due to COVID-19 situation. Nevertheless, it was certain that the capacity building initiative for the newcomers - the small and local actors in the South Baltic Area should continue. In December 2019 an initial concept for the Swedish Institute was developed, where ERB's interest to continue with the initiative was expressed. Since the SI was interested in the concept, a meeting with UMBRELLA partners, ERB members and SI representatives was held in May. In July the SI gave very specific comments on how the application should look like. At the moment the document is being drafted and will be sent to the SI at the final week of September. If the application is accepted, the one year project will start in 2021. Ms Leszczyna - Rzucidło presented a slide with first comments to the proposal sent to the ERB Secretariats. Mr Demkowicz-Dobrzański made the comments, and they are a great summary of ERB's goals in continuing the capacity building initiative. Ms Leszczyna – Rzucidło stated that the work done so far, during the last three years, has not been finalized. The first step was the first capacity-building project in 2007-2013, now there is UMBRELLA, and the next step should be its continuation. Therefore, since it is certain there will be a gap year, it was crucial to gain the interest of the SI with the idea. Ms Leszczyna – Rzucidło informed she had a talk with Mr Gabor Schneider from SI, where he stated that SI agreed on the need of improving the capacity of small & local actors, as what they

observe is the low level of involvement of local and grassroots stakeholders in the SB area which also corresponds with PwCs research. Therefore the UMBRELLA 2.0 proposal should involve such eligible organizations as local authorities-councils, civil society organizations, NGOs trying to become a part of Interreg South Baltic Programme or Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme or trying to become the EUSBSR strategy stakeholder without being a part in the project. The goal is to shift the paradigm of being engaged, meaning being in the project and to make small and local actors aware they can engage with or without a project because they can also be engaged to the process. What is needed to have these actors engaged is to boost their capacities, share the knowledge, connect new actors and to build new networks by inviting the BSSSC and UBC and their networks to join the project. This could lead to building a truly BSR project and creating a whole BSR mapping within the UMBRELLA 2.0 project, which is also very interesting for the SI. Ms Leszczyna - Rzucidło also added that within the new project, a toolbox was proposed based on the current UMBRELLA project.

Ms Valentina Scandola presented the content of the proposed toolbox. The first tool would be the awareness-raising events which would be networking events or conference to raise stakeholders awareness on EUSBSR Action Plan and communication, UN SDGs, or EU Green Deal. Another idea would be to organize a 'Meet - your - Flagship' events, which would be a mix between micro-activities and cross-border conferences. The idea is to make it possible for the newcomers to take part in meetings based on thematic areas and work on something practical without any financial burden. On the other side, cross-border conferences aim to connect all levels of governance on specific thematic areas. Therefore the meet-your-flagship events would give a chance to create entry points to major flagship processes in EUSBSR. This could facilitate shifting the paradigm of being part of a project to being part of a process.

*Ms Scandola was facing some technical problems; therefore, Ms Leszczyna – Rzucidło took over the presentation.* 

Ms Leszczyna – Rzucidło informed that SI asked to prepare an external study on what are the currently running flagship processes and how can the small and local actors be included and become part of the processes. Therefore the next step would be organizing cross-border conferences that would be a sort of cocreation labs where the local actor could join, mostly in digital format, and meet the PAs from the flagships or people already engaged in the strategy and find out if their daily activities fit in the strategy. There is also a possibility of organizing small on-line training on such thematic areas as the implementation of EUSBSR, SDGs and Green Deal as these are three main topics that SI considers crucial. Since in UMBRELLA a very good project management material has already been developed and also the Moodle platform is functioning, these tools could be used to build on the results to continue and share them with more people in the future. The outcome would be the communication campaign about activities happening next year concerning the EUSBSR, SDGs and Green Deal in Baltic Sea Region and of course to what is happening in Interreg South Baltic Programme and Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme. Ms Leszczyna – Rzucidło stressed out that the project will be addressed to the small and local actors only. What needs to be considered is the budget, and Mr Schneider suggested it has to be between 50000 – 100000 Euro. Ms Leszczyna – Rzucidło thinks the budget should be related to the number of planned events and said that Mr Schneider suggested organizing as many on-line events as possible. The Swedish Institute is waiting to receive the application. However, it is not certain that, even if they like the project, it will receive the funding. Ms Leszczyna – Rzucidło said the IPS would continue the work on being more specific in this application and trying to visualize the road map of this project for next year. It is proposed to engage the BSSSC and UBC as the copartners, thus engage their network and beneficiaries.

Ms Krystyna Wróblewska on behalf of Pomorskie Region expressed her support for this kind of initiatives and projects and underlined that since new actors do come to the BSR scene, it is constant work to understand the need of collaboration. On the other hand, as the BSSSC representative, she reminded that the BSSSC is not a legal entity; therefore, it can only be an associated or supporting partner of the project. She suggested the project proposal and partnership proposal should be presented to the BSSSC Board meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

# 11.106.Sustainable transport Working Group in ERB11.30

Blekinge region representatives and Interconnect project Leader Mr Mattias Andersson presented the proposal for the establishment of next ERB ad hoc working group.

Mr Mattias Andersson gave a summary of the main features of the Interconnect project and informed the project was extended until November 2020. He also listed the so-far achievements of the project, for instance, creating the database of sustainable solutions for public transport. One of the aims of the project is to set up an organization and maintain collaboration after the project ends. In one of the final reports, project partners discussed the options of a possible collaboration like loose coalition network, or joint association (EGTC), however, establishing a formal structure seems to be the best solution. Besides commitment also capacity is needed and since the ERB shows excellent track record in cooperation and networking, Interconnect project partner find it as one of the best suitable governance bodies hence they suggest this sustainable transport group. Another option might be calling it a sustainable mobility working group that indicates more what Interconnect is all about. Many fields are important for future cooperation like an exchange of experience, shared challenges, joint solutions and finally impact on other sectors. In terms of the latter, Mr Andersson believes the possible cooperation could make a significant difference. There are many ideas, for example, to set up tourism routes, especially for youth, sustainable public transport as a business facilitator and many more. Furthermore, Region Blekinge and Pomorskie Region are discussing the Horizon 2020 application.

Ms Johanna Rönn shortly summed up the proposal. Region Blekinge and Interconnect project partners are seeing the

possibility, as it is written in the ERB statute, to establish an ad hoc working group or task forces however they ask the ERB Board to consider whether they should start the work with a more detailed proposal. The Interconnect project partners are very much in favour of using the ERB as a platform for further work. There are no financial requirements for establishing this network. It is to discuss who and how the organizations participate, but the first idea was that organizations participate from their means.

Mr Niels Christen Andersen sees that the aims of this proposal should be very much on cultural bridges and B2B etc. However, the biggest challenge for the transport sector must be the climate aspect and emissions hence the aspect of greener fuels. He asked Mr Mattias Andersen to give his opinion on the challenge of using greener fuels in public transport.

Mr Mattias Andersson admitted that it is a subject which wasn't that much highlighted when the project has started; however, during the project's lifetime, this aspect has been increasingly important. In the Interconnect Final Conference HIE-RO, one of the project partners will put the public transit transport in the light of the Green Deal. This issue is significantly highlighted in Interconnect reports, and of course, it comes into both experience and shared challenges.

Mr Niels Christen Andersen said it is very promising. He added that Bornholm is a partner and applied for several projects in power trace and hydrogen area. It is not only the public transport that needs to use more green fuels but also ferries, trucks, agricultural machines, and it is a significant challenge everyone is facing now. Therefore Bornholm would like to propose the aspect of greener fuels to play the core-role in possible cooperation.

Mr Witold Wróblewski asked the Region Blekinge representatives if they expect the Board to vote for establishing the workgroup now or they shall postpone it until next Board meeting.

Mr Niels Christen Andersen said there should be terms of reference prepared to indicate the starting and ending date, concrete measure to deal with, what kind of people and with what competencies should work in this group because there are no permanent working groups in ERB.

Ms Johanna Rönn added that if there is permission to develop the idea further and they will propose something more concrete for the next meeting. Mr Mattias Andersson agreed.

Mr Witold Wróblewski agreed the developed idea should be discussed on the next Executive Board meeting.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

# 11.307.11.45WaterMan Interreg Baltic Sea Region Seed Money Facility<br/>project start

Mr Witold Wróblewski reminded the ERB regional WaterMan Project submitted to the Seed Funds of the Baltic Sea Region Programme

has been approved and received funding. Thanks to these funds, the Water Core Group will be able to develop a complete main concept and submit a main application related to the sustainable management of water resources. This subject is very important for the presidency and local governments.

Mr Tobias Facchini, head of Water Core Group, Region Kalmar presented briefly the main objectives that the Water Core Group foresee for the main project that will start at the soonest within two years. The objectives are a group of activities identified by partners who have jointly written this application. It is a very broad spectrum of a different group of activities. Within each group, there are many other activities, hence during the seed money stage, the Water Core Group will have to narrow them and decide what type of scope the future project will have. Furthermore, Mr Facchini presented the planned outputs of the WaterMan Seed Project and a list of partnership with indicated partner budget in the project. He added there is still the possibility to join the project during the development stage that will soon start. Finally, the project timetable was presented with a start date of 1st October, the kickoff meeting will be held probably at the end of October, the implementation phase will last from October 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, and the final partner meeting will be held before next summer.

Ms Magda Leszczyna – Rzucidło added that over the summer, the clarification process had been done. She told about technical problems which occurred in receiving the originals of partners declarations send by post to IPS. She also informed that the day before she received information from the JS that the clarification phase is finalized. She added that the applications are also partially a result of the Water Core Group meeting held in February in Elbląg, in which many other organizations were engaged and which are now interested in becoming a regular partner in the main project. She stressed out that the upcoming year is a proper time to compose a new consortium for the final project. The budget of 50000 Euro is mostly dedicated to preparing the final project application and only for the kick-off and final partner meeting.

ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.

# 11.458.Information about the current work of the ERB11.55International Permanent Secretariat.

Ms Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło presented the information about the current work of the ERB IPS shortly. First of all, she mentioned the upcoming Interreg South Baltic Annual Event on 17<sup>th</sup> September, in which many of ERB representatives are engaged. She then informed of the BSSSC Annual Forum on 29-30<sup>th</sup> of September, which will be followed by the Interconnect Final Conference on 1<sup>st</sup> October. She added that Interconnect conference is an event worth paying attention to, especially considering the proposal of establishing the sustainable transport working group within the ERB. The next planned event will be the digital EUSBSR Annual Forum on 20<sup>th</sup> October. Ms Leszczyna – Rzucidło added that the

|       |    | ERB is engaged in Baltic Sea Youth Platform, which is an Erasmus+<br>project within which a youth event will be organized probably in<br>advance to the EUSBSR Annual Forum. The ERB Youth Board is<br>also engaged in this project. Finally, on the 2-3 <sup>rd</sup> of December, the<br>UMBRELLA final conference will be held on-line. Ms Leszczyna –<br>Rzucidło proposed to have an additional ERB Executive Board<br>meeting, along with the conference, on 3 <sup>rd</sup> December. She also<br>asked the ERB Board members to consider engaging in the<br>UMBRELLA final conference on 2 <sup>nd</sup> December. |
|-------|----|--|
|       |    | ERB Executive Board took note of the information presented.  |
| 11.55 | 9. | Conclusion and closing   |
| 12.00 |    |  |
|       |    | President of Euroregion Baltic, Mr Witold Wróblewski closed the on-line meeting of the ERB Executive Board.  |
|       |    |  |