



ERB Executive Board resolution on the next Multiannual Financial Framework

adopted by Euroregion Baltic Executive Board on November 7th, 2024

In the context of the ongoing discussions on the relevance and future direction of Cohesion Policy and the priorities of the EU strategic agenda for 2024-2029, specifically proposed new approach for a modern and reinforced EU budget, Euroregion Baltic (ERB) stakeholders have taken the following resolution.

Euroregion Baltic

- Opposes proposals for centralisation of programming and implementation of Cohesion funds at EU or national level. Multilevel governance is a crucial prerequisite for Cohesion policy, where regional expertise is utilized in program design, and interventions are crafted based on regional challenges and developmental potential. The regions' understanding of both short and long-term challenges allows the local and regional perspectives to contribute to and draw strength from a broader EU context.
- Believes that proposals for centralisation of programming and implementation of Cohesion funds are in strict contradiction with the provisions of the Treaty on the European Union and the subsidiarity principle, as well as the Political Guidelines for the European Commission 2024 – 2029 and the importance of partnerships with national, regional and local authorities in strengthening cohesion and growth policy with regions at the centre. We hold a strong belief in EU Cohesion policy as fundamental pillar bringing the EU closer to its citizens and reducing disparities among EU regions. EU Cohesion Policy is more directly observable and understandable to citizens than any other EU policy.
- Recognizes the fact that the European budget has provided essential funding to deal with the pandemic, energy crisis and to support Ukraine. It is essential though that a mechanism for managing these exceptional situations does not diminish the EU Budget's investment capacity. Cohesion Funds complement other financing tools and are a prerequisite for the regions to promote competitive and sustainable regional economies in line with the EU goals.
- Advocates an increased funding for interregional, cross-border and transnational cooperation as part of the Cohesion Policy within the EU Budget. Recognizing the importance of Interreg programmes, especially in addressing cross-border challenges like climate transition and resilience, we emphasize their role in creating lasting cooperation structures. Special emphasis must be put on the regions along EU's external border which have been particularly affected by the socio-economic consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and migration crisis.
- Supports the European Commission President's plan to set up a Youth Advisory Board with young people from all Member States to advise on issues that matter to their peers in their community and to act as sounding board for ideas developed by the Commission. For many years Euroregion Baltic has had its own platform that provides the opportunity for the youth to be involved, to encourage closer cooperation between the youth and local governments, eliminate cultural prejudices and facilitate youth mobility.