



2004-07-09

*Erik Ciardi
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Minutes

from the 6th Steering Committee (SC) meeting in Gdansk, June 17, 2004

Participants:

SC members: Ms Krystyna Wroblewska (Chairperson of the meeting), Mr Niels Chresten Andersen, Mr Michal Karpinski (representing Ms Bozena Wrzeszcz-Zwada), Mr P-G Lindencrona, Mr Oleg Shlyk and Ms Gunbritt Öhlén.

Seagull INTERREG Secretariat: Mr Rolf A Karlson, Mr Ulf Andersson, Ms Carolina Gunnarsson, Mr Lars Öhrman and Mr Erik Ciardi.

Other participants: Mr Victor Koshelev and Ms Evgenija Tjerniavskaja, representing the Russian ERB secretariat and the Seagull RC project, Ms Giedre Butkute and Ms Kristina Repsaite, representing the Lithuanian ERB secretariat, and Mr Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski and Ms Ania Golec, representing the Polish ERB secretariat, both partly participating in the meeting.

1. Opening of the meeting

Ms Wroblewska chaired the meeting since Mr Brynielsson could not participate. A new member of the SC was introduced: Mr Oleg Shlyk, Vice Governor of Kaliningrad Region, replacing Mr Koshelev. Mr Shlyk has earlier been chairman of the Association of Municipalities in the Kaliningrad Oblast. Mr Shlyk stressed the importance of involving all three political bodies of the region in the ERB cooperation: the Regional Duma, the Regional Administration and the Association of Municipalities.

Ms Dalia Makusiene, The Governor's Office of Klaipeda County, will most probably replace Ms Stubriené in the Steering Committee. Final decision is expected during the summer.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes from SC meeting in January 2004

Mr Karlson commented the draft minutes and explained why some decisions have not been possible to implement. Some issues will be discussed on future SC meetings. The minutes from the SC meeting in January were approved.



**The Seagull project is co-financed by the European Union
Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B programme**

4. Reports

Seagull secretariat: The implementation timetable is followed quite well in relation to the demands from the Interreg Secretariat in Rostock. The third Progress report was delivered to Rostock in time. The economic status of the project looks good, which e.g. means that there are possibilities to support representatives of the East partners when participating in meetings in Sweden or Denmark. The project management needs input to the 4th progress report from East partners – time consumption, etc. – latest in the beginning of August.

Latvia: The implementation period of the Phare Latvia project has been extended two months – until August 27 2004. There are more activities to be done, e.g. study tours. Project reports will be compiled during the summer by external forces. The Latvian secretariat in Riga is overloaded by work and has difficulties to execute all the duties. Latvia will not apply for new money from the Phare funds for the further Seagull cooperation (too much bureaucracy and paper work concerning reporting etc.), but will use own funding for financing participation in Seagull activities further on.

Lithuania: A great number of people have taken part in seminars and workshops within the part of the project financed by the Nordic Council of Ministries (NCM). Only 25 percent of the money has though been used. Ms Butkute will mail the NCM project report to the Seagull Interreg project management. An answer on the Seagull-Lithuanian Phare application (of totally €45.000) is waited in September.

Russia: The Tacis Seagull RC project is approved as reported earlier. A project team is set up with about 40 persons working for the project. Specialists and experts mainly come from different institutes and the Kaliningrad State University. The Russian partner has also created a lobby scheme for the anchoring process. There are many positive responses to the implemented seminars, which have attracted more than 200 participants.

Poland: The Polish partners have not yet succeeded in getting financial support from the Phare funds. The activities are therefore dependent on human resources in the respective ERB member organisations. Other forms of financing the Polish parties' participation in the Seagull project are though looked for. A meeting with the three Polish partners is planned to July 12.

Denmark: The process of anchoring the strategy and JTDP has started on Bornholm. The process is connected to the up-date of the Bornholm Development Plan – the international activities must be incorporated into the ordinary political agenda. Special groups are working with wp1 and wp4 issues. A process oriented public debate will be held during the autumn regarding spatial planning, and a rural development programme together with an implementation action plan is planned to be decided.

Seagull printed reports: Several reports are under printing. All reports will be available in English (printed and electronically on the web site). There is no Interreg budget to translate them into other languages. All reports will have the same layout.

5. The project implementation so far

Mr Karlson gave a brief overview of the current project implementation status, which is

fairly OK with exception for WP 2 that struggles with problems concerning participation from some of the partners.

6. Ongoing studies

The cluster study: A draft of the descriptive part of the study has been presented to Lars Öhrman and Rolf A K. A final draft version of the whole study is expected during July. Results will be presented at the next SC meeting in September this year.

Study on maritime tourism: The study is a pre-study on prerequisites for cruising tourism to interesting sites in the ERB area. It will be carried through during the summer 2004. Results of this study should also be presented at the next SC meeting in September.

Study of female preferences when choosing living places: The study is carried out by Ms Annika Carlson, researcher at the Institute for Local and Regional Democracy in Växjö. It includes a comparison between Kaliningrad, Kronoberg and a Lithuanian region. Results from the study will give input to the JTDP.

Maps describing ERB: Several maps are going to be produced to describe the ERB area. The maps can be used for both the public and decision makers. Region Blekinge will get help from students to produce material connected to the Baltic Sea. The Russian Seagull WP5 working group has earlier produced similar material of the Kaliningrad region. The material shall be published in the beginning of autumn this year.

7. The draft Strategy and the JTDP

Many seminars have been carried out about the draft strategy and input to the JTDP. One of the seminars was held in Gdansk on February 26 with representatives from Poland, Sweden and Russia. One important result from this seminar was that a fifth prioritised area was added to the strategy: the Kaliningrad issue. The work packages and other seminars have also given input to the strategy.

All five priorities of the draft strategy aim at development of the ERB region. Even though the Kaliningrad region issue has its own area of interest, the topic is mainstreamed in all prioritised areas. Other mainstreamed areas are gender aspects and good governance. It is essential to stress the trans-nationality of the strategy and the JTDP.

The next working step is to manage the transition of the strategy to the JTDP and how to develop the JTDP in view of the strategy. The first seminar next week with the organisation Nordregio will give input to this. Mr Karlson and Öhrman and representatives from the three Swedish regions will take part in the seminar. The strategy will be structured based on the result from the seminar with Nordregio researches and regional representatives.

Strategy input from WP2:

During seminars, workshops and other meetings within WP2 some important questions and problems have been addressed:

- Protection of drinking water – highest priority.
- Deletion of HELCOM Hot Spots

- Investments in water treatment and waste water treatment plants. Use of experts and experience from local/municipal level as well as private companies.
- Investments in manure treatment and treatment of waste water from smaller settlements and private houses. Use of experts and experience from local/municipal level as well as private companies.
- Promoting environmental adapted farming. Transfer of knowledge, techniques, and methods etc. for reduced nutrient losses. Co-operation with farmer organisations and other.
- Promoting Water Users Partnership as a way to strengthen the local level and implement the WFD management plans in a more effective way.
- Education of concerned officers, politicians etc.
- Mobilize interest and awareness. Information and dialogue!
- Twinning rivers
- Financing

There are, beside the above mentioned topics, two others not related to the Baltic Sea or water issues, but important for the environmental situation: air borne pollution, mainly from transports and heating, and Maritime Safety.

Cross cutting issues are: the Kaliningrad region, Baltic Sea issues and the Lissabon and Göteborg strategies.

Strategy input from WP3:

The results from the cluster study will hopefully be a strong input to the JTDP. The ERB regions will benefit from the existing Science parks and innovation centres, especially if we can promote cooperation between them. The network built up within in WP3 consists of more than 300 persons in the nine member regions.

Besides the Science Parks in the major cities/towns of the ERB, local innovation (development) centres should also be an important component of the networks now building up.

Strategy input from WP4:

The coming Rural Areas Status report suggests many good input ideas to the ERB strategy and JTDP.

Strategy input from relevant transport corridor projects:

A seminar with the BSR transport corridor projects SEBTrans Link and Baltic Gateway was held earlier in June. Representatives of the project South Baltic Arc was also invited to the meeting but could not participate; however we got valuable written comments to the draft strategy from the project management. The results from the projects will form input to the JTDP. The project South Baltic Arc supports the idea to emphasize the environment and energy topics in one of the strategy's prioritised areas.

The Steering Committee approved the reports from the Seagull secretariat, and supported

the secretariat to continue the work according to the activity plan and the timetable in Interreg application.

8. *Seagull and the planned ERB conference autumn 2004*

Due to changes of activities for relevant partners, the conference date must be changed to November-December. The conference will be divided into two parts – one for ERB and one for the Seagull project – as the Polish ERB presidency has to apply for separate Phare funding for the ERB part of the conference. The conference is though still one mutual event and a common invitation will be issued. The Seagull project will have its part day 2. The conference is partly a follow-up of the Ronneby conference in December 2002. The participants are those who are involved in Seagull and ERB activities. Local politicians are also a target group for the conference.

The Seagull input is to arrange around ten two-hours seminars with the strategy as a base for the themes. The content should be focused on different issues and problems within the work packages but should not be named after the work packages, which makes it to technical. Ms Wroblewska and the Seagull project management will make the organising group of the conference.

9. *The need of input to the JTDP from the ERB member regions, and dissemination and anchoring activities during milestone 5 and 6*

To succeed with the project aim to create a well developed strategy and a thoroughly anchored JTDP, participation and engagement from all partners is totally essential. All East partners, except the Russian and to some extent the Latvian partners, still lack EU funded resources to finance Seagull activities.

It is interesting to note that – according to Mr Shlyk – the ERB cooperation and the Seagull project is now observed in Moscow, and could perhaps serve as a good example on transregional cooperation for other Russian regions.

It is now essential for the implementation of the Seagull project and the further ERB cooperation that all member regions set up their own anchoring plans for the long term strategy and JTDP. The Seagull project management is available to assist at different meetings by presenting the project and its results, and give input on seminars and other meetings in the ERB member regions.

Such anchoring plans should be presented in September at the next SC meeting in the Kaliningrad Region. The anchoring activities should then start later during autumn 2004 and continue during all spring and summer 2005 until the closing date of the project.

The Polish partners will discuss the anchoring process on the meeting July 12. Mr Shlyk said he would provide the Governor of the Kaliningrad Region with information about decisions taken at this steering committee meeting.

Work package 5 shall produce a good information material to be used by all partners and especially at the conference. The information package should consist of slides and maps with questions and basic information. A draft of this info material should be presented at the next SC meeting.

The new website will be launched in late August and is an important part of the anchoring process of the ERB cooperation and the long term strategy and JTDP.

10. *Coming Steering Committee meetings and other meetings*

The steering committee decided to have meetings more regularly during the last Seagull implementation year to be able to discuss and decide on different project matters.

Coming meetings autumn 2004:

23-24 September in the Kaliningrad Region. Mr Koshelev would like to invite WP-members of the Seagull RC to the SC meeting to let them know about the project better.

3 November

12-13 December in Kalmar

ERB/Seagull Conference preliminary 2-3 December, Olsztyn

11. The meeting was closed.