

2004-11-15



*Rolf A Karlson  
Erik Ciardi*

## **Minutes**

**from the 8<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee (SC) meeting in Gdansk, November 3, 2004**

### **Participants:**

**SC members:** Håkan Brynielsson, Niels-Chresten Andersen, Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski, Michal Karpinski (substitute for Ms Bozena Wrzeszcz-Zwada), P-G Lindencrona, Krystyna Wroblewska and Gunbritt Öhlén.

**Seagull Interreg secretariat:** Rolf A Karlson, Ulf Andersson, Lars Öhrman and Erik Ciardi.

**Seagull Russian Component:** Andrey Moshkov.

**Seagull Phare Poland:** Marcin Popiel and Marcin Lyjak.

1. The SC chairman, Mr Brynielsson, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.
2. The agenda was approved.
3. The minutes from the SC meeting in Kaliningrad were approved.

### **4 Reports:**

Mr. Andersson informed about the BSSSC annual conference in Malmö October 21-23. Around 300 persons attended the conference. The chairmanship changed from Poland to Sweden and new chairman is Mr. Uno Aldegren, chairman of the Board of Region Skåne.

The Seagull project had a well visited information stand at the conference.

During the conference a meeting with CEOs from different organisations was held. Among other issues, the proposed 150 km limit distance over water for being eligible for EU cross-border cooperation funds was discussed. The meeting participants agreed that all such distance limits are artificial, and that cross-border cooperation should be eligible for all coastal regions around the Baltic Sea. Mr. Brynielsson proposed that the issue should be discussed at the ERB board meeting on November 16 and that the ERB Board should take actions in relation to the EU Commission and the National Governments of the ERB member regions.

Ms Wroblewska promised to distribute a summary from the conference workshops to the SC members.



**WP1:** A seminar regarding the sustainability concept and how to measure sustainable development has been carried out in Elblag. 23 indicators on sustainability were discussed to be used in the future ERB cooperation.

**WP2:** Amendments to the implementation plan have been reported to the programme secretariat in Rostock. Ms. Gunnarsson prepares a WP 2 report before the end of 2004. A Water conference in Sweden is planned to be held in the second half of January 2005.

**WP3:** The work package is soon finalised in accordance with the project plan. The results and findings can be found on the website. The final conference takes place in Ronneby, Sweden, November 19.

**WP4:** Many meetings have been carried out. Networking has been a main activity. One focus of the work package has been how to implement the Leader method.

**WP5:** It has earlier been decided that the strategy must be translated into all languages. It has not been done so far. The strategy is available in English, Swedish, Polish and Russian. Danish translation is not needed according to Mr. Andersen.

**Seagull RC:** Around 30 persons will come to the ERB-Seagull conference in Gdansk, though elections are held at the same time.

**Seagull Phare Poland:** A grant of about 20 000 Euro has been awarded for the Polish Phare project (budget about 25 000 euro). The main activity is the ERB-Seagull conference in December.

**Project reports:** The 6<sup>th</sup> project report (about the rural areas of ERB) is now under printing.

**Eurobalt.org website:** Mr. Ciardi informed that the website is released. The site will be adjusted and more material is going to be inserted. Mr. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski asked for more information for media. Mr. Moshkov said the Russian partner will translate all texts into Russian. He also told that a server will be installed in the office in Baltijsk for the future work with among others the Russian part of the web page.

## **5. Discussion about the JTDP**

Mr. Öhrman gave an introduction to the present status of the work with the JTDP. A draft structure of the JTDP has been designed, based on the ERB strategy developed within the project. An important element of the programme is not only the ERB dimension – also EU and global perspectives are relevant. Introductory texts concerning ERB today, in an EU and global context, are therefore essential.

The JTDP will concentrate on a sustainable economic growth programme for the five focus areas pointed out in the draft strategy. Horizontal measures are defined. The sustainability concept is based on EU definitions. All measures are planned to be evaluated regarding economic, social and ecological consequences.

The JTDP will be a policy making programme for the member regions of the ERB cooperation – a programme highlighting and defining activities supported jointly by ERB and bringing obvious added values to the development of each member region. The JTDP will also function as a basis for ERB lobbying activities.

The JTDP will point out examples of investments, i.e. results from seminars and the cluster study among others. There is a list of possible activities to implement. It serves as a basis for future proposals in the JTDP. The proposed activities in the list need to be prioritized.

*The steering committee agreed* that a draft paper of a JTDP needs to be translated into all languages, except Danish. The politicians and officials from Bornholm can use the Swedish or the English translation.

*Mr. Andersen* started the discussion by underlining that this first draft is a very good basis for the discussions during the planned conference in Gdansk in December. He had four remarks to the paper:

1. The paper is, which *Mr. Öhrman* underlined, a rough draft that must be more structured with an internal logic.
2. The Kaliningrad issue is important. The text should be more balanced with references to the EU-Russian relationships. Kaliningrad is one of nine equal member regions of Euroregion Baltic.
3. The vision should be kept very short; the first four lines in the current text are enough. The vision is for ERB, not for the work that is going to be carried out.
4. Hard investments must be visible in the draft. Upgrading of transport corridors and transport nodes give evident added value to the regions. Other areas for investments are education and research and trade.

*Mr. Karpinski* also stressed the importance of pre-investment proposals in order to get the JTDP politically anchored. The JTDP is a good document for attracting funding from the structural funds.

*Ms. Wroblewska* added that the regions must be prepared for the cohesion policy, i.e. have proposals of hard investments. ERB is not the only actor. *Mr. Öhrman* said the member regions themselves have to give input regarding investments.

*Ms. Wroblewska* also underlined that the JTDP should be more anchored with the regional policy of EU. She also liked to see the issue of the Kaliningrad region as a horizontal goal. More concrete investments must be proposed in the infrastructure and transport sector, as well as ideas about development of Motorways of the Sea. *Ms. Wroblewska* added that not only national and international organisations should be mentioned, but also organisations in the Baltic Sea region. The development of ERB should be seen mainly in a Baltic Sea region context. It is also important to take into account what kind of conclusions other organisations have drawn, like for example Baltic Development Forum. There are a lot of reports and documents that can be used by ERB.

*Mr. Moshkov* reflected on the strong EU perspective of the draft JTDP. He proposed that we among others should follow up the planned EU-Russia summit in December. *Mr. Moshkov* proposed to have a list of abbreviations and explanations in the JTDP. Regarding the anchoring process, he reminded that Kaliningrad Oblast is undergoing a political reform, which e.g. means that many politicians and civil servants in the regional administration will be changed.

*Mr. Andersson* underlined that the lack of Latvian and Lithuanian participation in the ERB activities and the Seagull project weaken the whole ERB cooperation.

*Mr. Karlson* stressed, when evaluating all up-coming proposals, that we must bear in mind that the JTDP should contain only activities and proposals of mutual interest for the whole ERB that must be handled on the ERB level to be solved, not proposals that could or must be solved or decided on the level of each member region.

**Mr. Brynielsson concluded the discussion:**

- It is now up to the ERB Board and Council to discuss and decide upon anchoring activities concerning the JTDP. Each region must decide how a dialogue can be set.
- The Gdansk conference on December 2-3 should be used for a proper discussion of different aspects of the draft JTDP. After the conference, new methods should be tried, where people can be involved and give input to the JTDP.
- Transport infrastructure issues must be deeper considered in the JTDP.
- A second draft of the JTDP must be ready before November 19 to give the member regions the opportunity to translate it to each language (except Danish).

**6. A common database for ERB**

A common database will serve as a tool for description and follow-up of the JTDP, and for benchmarking between the ERB member regions. There is since some time a proposal worked out of the contents of such a data base in the draft GIS/statistics report. Mr. Karlson said a discussion is needed to decide on the contents of the database, division of responsibilities between the member regions for data collection, updating of information, and other handling and administration of the base.

Mr. Andersen proposed to insert an indicator related to education level. Another important field is transport links, where example cargo and shipping are shown. Also migration within age groups can be interesting, as rural areas differs much from urban areas. To have figures and data for tourism can be another important indicator.

Indicators for sustainability should be integrated with general indicators.

The SC gave the project secretariat the task to revise the GIS/statistics report and complete it with a proposal how a database could be organised and make a preliminary cost estimation of building up and maintain such a data base.

**7. ERB/Seagull conference in Gdansk December 2-3**

The programme for the conference has been revised. Due to the facilities at the hotel Hevelius, only 4 work shops each day can be held. The participants should be selected so that only English could be used in 4 of the seminars, and English-Russian-Polish in the other four.

A guideline for work shop moderators, experts and secretaries will be distributed. A special work shop for the youth delegation is planned, but not in the conference venue. The Russian delegation was to decide if a work shop on Kaliningrad issues is going to be carried out.

Mr. Demkowicz-Dobrzanski, Ms. Wroblewska and Mr. Karlson are responsible for the detailed planning of the conference.

**8. Next SC meeting** takes place 13<sup>th</sup> of December in Klaipeda, not in Kalmar as decided earlier.