



2005-06-30

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## **Minutes**

**for the 10th Steering Committee (SC) meeting in Slovakia/Hungary, May 28, 2005**

**Time:** May 28 pm

**Venue:** Golden Park Hotel, Budapest

### **Participants:**

**SC members:** Håkan Brynielsson, Niels-Chresten Andersen, PG Lindencrona, Gunbritt Öhlén, Dalia Pleskoviene and Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski.

**Seagull Interreg secretariat:** Rolf A Karlson, Ulf Andersson, Lars Öhrman, Carolina Gunnarsson, Eva-Lisa Ahnström, Erica Månsson, Mariana Johannesson, Per-Olof Löfberg and Erik Ciardi.

**Other:** Dalia Makuskiene

- 1. Mr Brynielsson opened the meeting.**
- 2. The draft agenda was approved.**
- 3. The minutes from the SC meeting in Klaipeda in January 2005 were approved with a minor change in paragraph 4: the year of the final seminar in WP3 should be 2004.**

### **4. Reports:**

The 5<sup>th</sup> progress report to Rostock was briefly commented.

Budget reallocation: an application to Rostock about reallocation of 4 per cent of the budget from project coordination to experts will be made. It is useful to have space for support from external experts in the last phase of the project.

WP1:

The second draft of the JTDP has been submitted to all regions for comments.

Infrastructure has no own activity in the Seagull project – input will come from other Interreg IIIB projects. The Baltic Gateway has designed a quick start programme, with priorities in infrastructure investments. ERB should also make input to the Baltic Gateway process and the ERB regions should be active in Baltic Gateway.



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

A compilation of reports and analysis with main conclusions should be produced as paper and maps. Seagull is a good platform.

**WP2:**

Two seminars have been held, one in Sweden and one in Latvia. An inventory has been made with the key actors in the regions.

The idea of the water forum has been developed. The first water forum is decided to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> October in Klaipeda at the same time as a Vistula lagoon conference. The latter gather researchers and experts, i.e. the same target group as for the Water Forum. Speakers will be invited from EU, public and private sector, etc.

**WP3:**

The final seminar was a good ending of the WP. Ms Ahnström continues to work with the network and the toolbox. The latter will be based on a database solution, including search options for clusters, learning centres in the ERB area, etc. It will be based on stories, a demand from the partners and an efficient pedagogical approach. The toolbox is going to be administrated by the actors and is planned to be designed as a toolbox. The steering committee agreed to spread information about the established contacts, around 300 persons, to all ERB partners. It will be done when the toolbox prototype is ready to be published. The first edition of toolbox will be ready after the summer.

**WP4:**

Input is being prepared for the JTDP. A database of rural development projects is under preparation – many projects but mostly in Sweden. An exchange meeting with all LAGs will be arranged in Poland. A study visit is planned in Finland during the beginning of summer 2005.

**WP5:**

One meeting has been held, where representatives of all ERB national secretariats met. It was agreed a lighter version of the JTDP should be printed. Ulf stressed the importance to disseminate comments from the member regions. No NGO seminar has been held in Latvia or Lithuania. Ulf will participate and promote the ERB and the Seagull project on a big conference with Swedish local and regional authorities.

**Tourism development:**

The next seminar of the Danish preparation project is postponed till late summer. The tourism working group has been established. All member regions have different structures in how to administrate tourist affairs. The tourist group has to identify what is common.

**Seagull Russian Component:**

The project has been prolonged by three months. The final conference will gather people from all member regions. A steadily report is going to be published within the project.

**Printed reports:**

The cluster report will be printed as soon as possible. The cruise report is on the web site and some reports will be printed in a simpler manner in A4 format.

**5. Consultation to the ERB member regions of the JTDP draft II**

A summary of the received comments was distributed and commented.

Several meetings have been held during the time for comments in the member regions.

One good meeting was arranged in Kaliningrad. It was agreed that Kaliningrad issues should be treated horizontally in the JTDP instead of as one of the focus areas of the strategy.

In Lithuania a series of discussion with experts, the governor and the university have been carried through. The JTDP draft has been sent out to all municipalities in the region. Some of them discussed the JTDP. No practical proposals or remarks have though been reported.

A summary of the ERB member regions' comments of the JTDP draft II and the Seagull secretariats comments to them will be sent to the ERB national secretariats during the summer of 2005.

### **Structure of the JTDP**

Mr Brynielsson proposed that the Steering Committee should discuss the structure of the JTDP. It is in this discussion very important to keep in mind the added values the JTDP could give to the member regions.

A discussion followed where the Steering Committee agreed upon a developed structure of the JTDP. The final papers describing the JTDP should be divided into three separate documents: (1) The Strategy – focus areas, (2) The prioritised actions to implement the strategy, and (3) a background document with facts and figures about ERB, SWOT analysis, etc

### **Strategic focus areas**

After a long discussion it was agreed that the labour market focus area should be named “Social dimension”, that transport infrastructure should form an own focus area, that building up a joint statistical database and benchmarking/knowledge transfer between the member regions should be recognised as tools for the further cooperation, and that Kaliningrad issues should be treated horizontally in the further cooperation activities.

The strategic focus areas will consequently be: (1) Support to a competitive business environment in the region, (2) Actions in order to enhance the unsatisfactory situation for ERB when it comes to transport infrastructure, (3) To be a frontrunner in implementing EU environment and energy policies, and (4) Issues concerning the EU social dimension.

Efforts in order to get ERB recognized as an “**Interreg III A-like area**” for EU support should be excluded from the JTDP since such actions are already under way through decisions by the ERB Board and Council.

### **Horizontal goals**

Horizontal goals for all prioritised actions should be sustainable development, good governance and equal opportunities. Actions concerning the Kaliningrad Region should also be treated horizontally.

**The prioritised actions** should be:

***In support of a competitive business environment:*** (a) Establish a platform for innovation and SME development as a partnership between the public and private sectors and academia, (b) establish an ERB Academy for Rural Development and (c) develop cooperation within the tourism sector;

***In order to enhance the transport infrastructure:*** (a) Establish a Transport Infrastructure Committee with politicians from the member regions, (b) gather results from different transport corridor projects and make analyses, (c) carry out and adopt a common ERB strategy for joint actions in order to enhance the transport infrastructure situation, (d) establish a dialogue with the private sector and national authorities responsible for transport infrastructure issues, (e) carry out lobby activities;

***Social dimension actions:*** In order to enhance labour market cooperation: (a) Compile a report that describes and analyses the labour market rules in the countries of the ERB member regions, (b) carry out an education programme based on the report for the labour market parties in the member regions.

***In order to be a front runner in implementing EU environment and energy policies:*** (a) Create an ERB Water Forum with the objective of establishing ERB as a pilot area for trans-national and cross-border cooperation in the field of water management, (b) develop the cooperation within the energy field in order to speed up the transition into a sustainable energy supply system based on renewable sources such as wind- and bio-energy, (c) work out a special programme for diminished threats from the 2-3 most important environmental hot spots in the Kaliningrad Region.

#### **6. Timetable for the finishing of the project**

New drafts of the strategy and the prioritised actions should be sent to the member regions for a second round of comments in September this year. Final decision by the ERB Council is planned to late November.

#### **7. The role of the SC in the dissemination process of the JTDP**

The need of an active participation of the SC members in the dissemination process of the JTDP was discussed and underlined.

#### **8. Evaluation of the study tour**

The study tour made it possible to bench-mark the ERB cooperation in relation to activities within another Euroregion – the Carpathian one. This was a good lesson and very encouraging for the ERB cooperation since the work with a JTDP obviously is very advanced in relation to the activities in other Euroregions.

The visit to the Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Science in Giőr and the connected study visits gave very interesting input to the discussion within ERB to create an Academy for Rural Development.

#### **9. Decision of dates for the final SC meetings**

Next meeting will be held in Karlskrona, Sweden on August 25 (later changed to September 20).

#### **10. Since there were no other businesses, Mr Brynielsson closed the meeting.**