



2005-09-29

*Rolf A Karlson  
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## **Minutes**

**from the 11<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee (SC) meeting in Karlskrona, September 20, 2005**

**Time:** September 20, pm.

**Venue:** Office of Region Blekinge, Karlskrona.

### **Participants:**

**SC members:** Håkan Brynielsson, Niels-Chresten Andersen, PG-Lindencrona, Gunbritt Öhlén, Sławomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski and Kora Stanczyk (as substitute for Krystyna Wroblewska).

**Seagull Interreg secretariat:** Rolf A Karlson, Carolina Gunnarsson and Eva-Lisa Ahnström.

- 1. Mr Brynielsson opened the meeting.**
- 2. The draft agenda was approved.**
- 3. The minutes from the SC meeting in Budapest in May 2005 were approved.**
- 4. Reports:**
  - a. Budget reallocation and progress reports.  
Progress report nr 5 is approved and the lead part has got the money from Rostock. The secretariat in Rostock has also approved the budget reallocation, which means that money is moved from budget line “management” to budget line “external experts”.
  - b. Brief reports from the WP leaders.  
WP 1: All work has been concentrated on the redrafted Strategy and Action Programme.  
WP 2: Still remaining: ERB Water Forum in Klaipeda, October 6. Attitudes on water issues, Lyckeby River, second report. Comparison attitudes Lyckeby River (SE) and Gurievka River (RU). Common report from WP 2 and WP4 - “Methods for strengthening the public participation in ERB”. Development of a web-based network platform (se WP 3 below).  
WP 3: Development of a web-based toolbox for key actors and key projects. This solution can be re-used. We can make new interfaces for other network platforms.



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

WP 4: Works with the anchoring of the idea about a Rural Academy. Two more reports will be presented, one about success factors for regional development and one in co-operation with WP 2 (see above).

WP 5: Will work with the final documents and production of the not yet printed reports.

- c. Tourism development – further Danish input actions.  
Two seminars have taken place within an already running Danish project and some suggestions are presented. The Tourism Research Institute on Bornholm has clearly declared that they cannot continue this work for free.  
Slawomir Demkowicz-D. will use some of the findings in a presentation at an Economic Forum in Gdynia later in September.
- d. Brief reports about the implementation status of the Seagull RC and the Seagull Poland projects.  
Seagull PL: Four reports have been written. Two about the ERB strategy and JTDP in connection to the two Polish regions, one about water and one about statistics.  
Seagull RC: The Seagull RC project is prolonged to the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. There will be a final conference late October.
- e. Status of the Ex-ante evaluation of parts of the Seagull project.  
Performed in cooperation between Nordregio in Stockholm and The Institute of Local and Regional Democracy in Växjö. Final report is under compilation, based on deep interviews. A first draft will be presented in the end of September.  
Preliminary information says that the comments are mainly positive. The draft report will be sent to the SC members for information.
- f. Brief report of the start up of Seagull II.  
The Rostock secretariat has confirmed that the activities could start. ERB has also asked Rostock if it is possible to increase the budget (thanks to that partners are ready to put more money into the project), which seems possible. A first meeting was held in Elblag a week ago, with discussions about the reference networks.  
Today the idea is that Seagull II will follow the suggested focus areas of the ERB Strategy, which means four reference networks, divided into sub-groups (for example water and energy). Eventually there will be a Russian INTERREG/Tacis application in connection to Seagull II. If so, the application has to be handed in latest September 23.

## **5. Results of the consultation to the ERB member regions of the JTDP draft II.**

These comments have been sent out earlier to the SC members and have been the base for the rewriting of the strategy and JTDP.

## **6. The new Strategy and Action Programme documents.**

The Joint Development Programme for ERB will, in compliance with the decisions of the SC at its meeting in Budapest in May 2005, consist of three parts/documents:

- Strategy for development of ERB
- Action programme

- Facts, figures, analyses and tools

***Strategy: Four strategic areas:***

- Competitive business environment
- Transport infrastructure
- Social dimension actions in accordance with the EU definition of Social dimension
- Implementation of environment and energy policies. Comment: We have not been working with the energy part within the Seagull project so this part has to be further developed.

***The Action Programme: Eight prioritised activities:***

- Establishment of an ERB structure for innovation and SME development
- Establishment of an Academy on Rural Development
- Tourism development
- Promotion of transport infrastructure
- Labour market cooperation
- Pilot area for modern water management
- Hot spots in the Kaliningrad Region
- Energy management

The project leader had also made rough cost estimations (to mid 2007) for implementing the Action Programme

***Facts, figures, analyses and tools:***

- Facts and figures
- Brief summaries of compiled reports
- SWOT analysis
- Tools for further implementation.

***Discussion:***

The SC is content with the new drafts and finds them clearer and more logical than the JTDP draft II. Suggestions about smaller changes and corrections can be sent directly to the project coordinator.

There is a report about how to involve citizens in rural development, available in Danish and Polish. This report can serve as input to the common WP2/WP4 report. N-C Andersen will send the report to the project leader for WP 4.

There is still a lack of descriptions of the social economic effects of the suggested activities.

There was a discussion about the possibility to use pictures where you can recognise that they are taken somewhere within the area of ERB. If so, it is important that these pictures are professional, i.e. of really good technical quality.

There are a lot of references to Seagull II, especially when it comes to financing. This is not possible, certainly not when it comes to external experts. Most of the suggestions in the JTDP are about building structures. In the next step, there is a need of concrete measures, indicators, outputs. This might be possible to do in Seagull II.

### ***Decisions:***

Add a short summary, as a first part of the Strategy and the Action programme.

It is important that each official ERB partner ***approves*** the final documents; otherwise the status of the strategy and action programme will not be clear enough.

Add a new text to page 49 in the action programme, suggesting that the regions take the main responsibility for implementation of one action each. After approval of the programme, the ERB secretariat is suggested to ask each region to offer three actions which they are ready to take the main responsibility for. Then it will be possible to make a puzzle and finally decide about how to divide the responsibilities.

Add a more detailed map to the strategy with names of more towns.

The SC commissioned itself to check if the own organisations have pictures that might be used in the strategy and action programme. If so, these pictures will be sent to the project leader within one week.

Go through the references to Seagull II. The references to financing throughout Seagull II have to be “cut down”.

It is necessary to produce also a popular version of the strategy and the action programme, if possible not more than 10 pages.

Take away the calculations and financial tables in the action programme. Take away “promote” from the strategic area headlines. Use “Competitive business environment” and “Transport infra structure” as headlines.

Final decision: The SC supports the strategy and the action programme. After changes in accordance with what is mentioned above, the documents can be sent to the ERB regions for approval.

## **7. The background document with facts, figures, SWOT analysis etc.**

The document is under preparation and will be presented for approval of the SC at its last meeting.

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

Latest September 30

Comments on the Strategy and Action Programme from the SC members to the project leader.

Week 40 (beginning of Oct)	Documents will be sent to the regions for approval. Meanwhile: Translation to different languages, drafts ready around October 10 <sup>th</sup> .
9-10 November	Expert seminars in Elblag on the prioritised actions, “hand over” from Seagull I to Seagull II
Week 46 (Nov 15)	Preliminary deadline for approval and comments. (depending on the dates for approval meetings in the regions).
28-29 November	Board and Council meetings in Klaipeda. Approval of the documents.
All autumn	Different dissemination activities.

### **9. Date for the final SC meeting**

A final SC meeting will be held in Vilnius, from afternoon 3<sup>rd</sup> of November to afternoon 4<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **10. A.o.b.**

Short information about coming elections that could influence the ERB cooperation. There will soon be elections in Kaliningrad Region as well as in Poland and Denmark.

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