



SEAGULL NEWS

No. 12, May 2004

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Seagull is a project for the Euroregion Baltic (ERB) with the main purpose of developing and anchoring a long-term strategy and a joint transnational development programme (JTDP) for the region. It will form the basis for future investments in the environment and infrastructure, etc. and will thereby contribute to social, economic and environmentally sustainable development throughout the region.

The ERB Council was informed about the Seagull project implementation status at its meeting in Elblag, Poland on May 4. The Strategy/JTDP working process from now on will be the following:

- The draft strategy and the development of the JTDP will come up for discussion in the Steering Committee during the summer and the beginning of autumn.
- The Steering Committee decides to put forward a proposal to the ERB Board, which in its turn – after deliberations – sends out the proposals to the member regions' decision bodies for discussions and possible amendments or other proposals.
- The project management work up new drafts based on the comments from the member regions and present and discuss them with the Steering Committee, who in its turn puts forward a new proposal to the ERB Board.
- The Board puts forward a final proposal to be decided by the ERB Council.

Nordregio in Stockholm, a centre for research, education and documentation on spatial development, established by the Nordic Council of Ministers, and part of the ESPON network that is following up and evaluating the EU Interreg programmes, has been engaged to give scientific input to the working process now launched in the Seagull project – to transform the ERB Draft development strategy into a Joint Transnational Development Programme (JTDP). A first expert workshop between the Nordregio researchers and the Seagull management will take place on June 22.

Other activities carried out since previous Seagull News:

WP 1: Workshop about GIS techniques on Bornholm, May 24-25.

WP 2: A Swedish working group meeting was held on May 12, combined with information from Växjö Municipality about its coming water investments. About 35 MEURO will be invested, to secure future water supply.

WP4: Swedish working group meeting and study visit, Växjö municipality April 28.

WP5: Seminars about the Seagull project with NGO representatives in Kaliningrad April 27, Elblag May 5 and Gdansk May 6. The seminars gathered about 35, 35 and 80 participants respectively. Many interesting ideas were proposed by the participants. Notes from the meetings will be published on www.eurobalt.org.

Planned activities during the coming months:

Information about the project implementation status to the ERB Board, Gdansk June 16.

Seagull Steering Committee meeting in Gdansk June 17.

WP 1: Gender equality and democracy/governance aspects will be given considerable attention in the drawing up of the JTDP for ERB. In order to get input in this respect of the JTDP work, two identical seminars are planned to take place in Klaipeda 31 August and in Gdansk 16 September 2004.

WP 2: A two day seminar about the water within ERB will take place in Karlskrona May 27-28, with study visits about regulated drainage and ecological waste water treatment, presentation of the Global International Waters Assessment of the ecological status of the Baltic Sea and work shop about future work within ERB.

WP 3: The 6th seminar and exhibition about Innovative centres and SMEs as vehicles in regional development has been delayed and is now planned to take place in Elblag or Gdansk – preliminary on September 7.

WP 4: Workshop and exchange seminar on the process of building Local Action Groups, Talsi district, Latvia, June 3 (in cooperation with the Local Action Group Smålandsgruppen). Study visit and experience exchange seminar for Latvian experts in Sweden, June 2004.

A spin off effect of WP 4 is that the Municipality of Torsås in Kalmar County, Sweden and the Virga Municipality in the Kurzeme Region in Latvia have decided to start cooperation – the formal signing of the cooperation agreement will take place in Torsås on June 3.

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