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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 Board meeting in Gdansk, June 16:

· The implementation status of the Seagull project was reported. The work with the contents of the JTDP has now started with e.g. draft inputs from WP 2-4.

· Important matters discussed and decided upon was the financing and date for opening of *the permanent ERB secretariat in Elblag* – earlier decided to be set up by the ERB Council. The secretariat starts to work on July 1 and will be headed by Mr Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski. For more information, contact Erik Ciardi.

· It was also decided to move the ERB/Seagull conference, earlier planned to be implemented in Elblag in late September, to the end of November/beginning of December. Final dates will be announced as soon as possible.

The Steering Committee (SC) of the Seagull project met in Gdansk, June 17. Important matters discussed and decided upon:

· The SC sanctioned the frames for the JTDP, drawn up in the draft long term strategy for the ERB cooperation and development. Possible input from WP 2-4 to the JTDP was presented and discussed, as well as input from the Democracy and Gender activities within the project, and from some of the ongoing transport corridor projects of relevance for the ERB development. For more information, contact Lars Öhrman.

· Planning for dissemination and anchoring of the project proposals and results was discussed. It was decided that each SC-member is responsible for working out a dissemination and anchoring plan for the ERB member region he/she is representing. These plans will be coordinated during September-October, and implemented during December 2004 – May 2005. For more information, contact Rolf A Karlson or Ulf Andersson.

Other activities carried out since previous Seagull News:

General: A workshop between the Seagull management and researchers from Nordregio and the Kaliningrad State University about scientific input to the ongoing working process about the long term strategy-JTDP was carried out in Stockholm on June 22. The need of a clear focus and a good structure of the strategy-JTDP was emphasised by the researchers, as well as the importance of well thought through anchoring plans. The workshop will be followed up with a broader seminar preliminary in October with experts from all ERB member regions. For more information, contact Rolf A Karlson or Lars Öhrman.

WP 2: A two day seminar/study visit about the water within ERB was carried out in Karlskrona on May 27-28. A main result of the seminar was a draft list of water issues that should be dealt with in the JTDP.

WP 4: A workshop and exchange seminar on the process of building Local Action Groups was carried through in Talsi district, Latvia on June 3. A study visit in South Sweden for Latvian experts, with focus on local development and the organisation of Local Action Groups was implemented June 14-16 (the visit was a part of the implementation of the Seagull-Latvia project).

Planned activities during the coming months:

General: September 3: Information about the project implementation status at the ERB Board meeting in Poland.

WP 1: See Seagull News No. 12. The announced democracy-gender meeting in Klaipeda is moved from August 31 to September 3.

WP 2: August 26: Swedish working group meeting.

WP 3: See Seagull News No. 12. The announced seminar in Poland is moved to September 17.

WP 4: July 8: Workshop on Women's assessments and choice of housing. Klaipeda, Lithuania;

August 30-31: International expert meeting on Bornholm, Denmark.

WP 5: September 2: Transnational working group in Poland about the new ERB web site and plans for dissemination and anchoring of the project proposals.

*Next Seagull News will be issued during September.
We wish all our readers a nice and warm summer!*

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