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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.

A first draft with a contents structure and central text sections of the **ERB Joint Transnational Development Programme (JTDP)** is now available in English and Swedish at the new ERB webpage www.eurobalt.org.

Focus areas of the JTDP are:

- *A competitive business environment*
- *Labour market cooperation*
- *Implementation of EU environment and energy policies*
- *Sustainable development in the Kaliningrad Region.*

In addition the ERB cooperation should, according to the draft JTDP, highlight:

- *Exchange of best practises and bench-marking within the strategic areas for actions.*

The draft should be seen as a first common basis for all ERB member regions during the anchoring period of the JTDP that is now launched and will continue until summer 2005.

The draft will function as a basis for eight workshops during the ERB-Seagull conference in Gdansk in the beginning of December this year. After the conference, the draft JTDP will be developed in an iterative process of presentations-discussions-amendments-new presentations-etc. in the ERB member regions during all spring 2005 until final approvals in the ERB member regions' decision bodies and the ERB board and council during summer 2005.

An *Executive Summary* of the Seagull study ***The role of regional platforms and clusters in the development of the Euroregion Baltic*** is now also available at www.eurobalt.org, as is the Seagull Report 6: ***Rural Areas in ERB – Empirical description.***

The *seed money application* mentioned in Seagull News no. 15 – ***"Seagull II" has been approved*** by the Interreg IIIB BSR decision body. Preparations for a final application are ongoing under lead of the ERB secretariat in Elblag, Poland.

Activities carried out since previous Seagull News:

- Seagull Steering Committee meeting in Gdansk, November 3, with focus on the first draft JTDP and the programme for the Gdansk conference in December.
- **WP 1:** A report on ***Indicators for sustainable development*** has been compiled. A workshop based on the report was carried out in Elblag Poland, October 21. A Gender equality workshop was held in Klaipeda, November 23. An extra GIS seminar was carried out in Latvia in the beginning of November.
- **WP 2:** Bilateral expert meetings Latvia-Sweden in Riga and Lithuania-Sweden in Klaipeda about the draft ERB strategy and WP 2 input to the JTDP, November 16-17.
- **WP 3:** Final WP summing up and conclusions seminar in Ronneby Sweden, November 19.
- **WP 4:** Swedish expert meeting in Emmaboda Sweden, November 8. International expert meeting in Kalmar Sweden, November 25-26.

Coming activities:

- ERB-Seagull conference in Gdansk December 2-3 2004. The programme is available at the ERB webpage. About 120 representatives and some 15 invited experts and guests will participate in the conference.
- Steering Committee meeting in Klaipeda, December 13.
- Swedish secretariat meeting in Kalmar County, December 14-15.
- **WP 2:** Swedish expert meeting, December 9. Swedish Regional Conference about the role of Local Authorities in water management, Emmaboda, Sweden, January 19, 2005.

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