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During the ERB annual meeting in Klaipeda on February 25-26, the new ERB Board decided that the second draft of a Joint Transnational Development Programme (JTDP) should be sent as soon as possible to the ERB member regions' decision bodies for comments.

A second draft JTDP has been prepared since the beginning of 2005, and was "finalised" in mid March. It has now been distributed to the member regions' decision bodies for comments to be delivered latest May 10.

The draft is proposing one general action concerning promotion and lobbying for ERB being eligible for funds corresponding to the Interreg III A programme conditions for cross-border cooperation, and 13 different actions/activities within the five focus areas of the draft long-term strategy for ERB. The member regions are now asked to prioritise between the different proposals. The second JTDP draft is available for down-loading at www.eurobalt.org (the full text in English and an Executive summary in English, Russian, Polish, Swedish, Latvian and Lithuanian).

Other activities carried out since previous Seagull News:

- The 5th Seagull Progress Report (for the second half of 2004) has been compiled and delivered to the Interreg Programme Secretariat in Rostock, Germany. The report is published at the ERB web site.
- An ex-ante evaluation of the Seagull project has been decided to be carried out during spring-summer 2005, conducted by experts from Nordregio in Stockholm and the Institute for Local and Regional Democracy in Växjö.
- Project management meeting in Växjö February 7.
- WP 4: Swedish-Danish meeting in Emmaboda, Sweden, February 8.
- WP 2: Swedish-Lithuanian seminar in Klaipeda February 10 – a seminar for local authorities in the Klaipeda region about different ways and alternatives to establish sustainable sewage systems for rural areas. Different technologies were presented as well as the frame of regulations and directives.
- Meeting with leading politicians in the three Swedish member regions in Växjö, February 14. Presentation and discussion about prioritised actions in the second draft JTDP.
- WP 5 international meeting in Klaipeda, February 28. Discussions about possible information actions about the second draft of the JTDP and other dissemination activities.

- WP 4: Meeting in Emmaboda March 15.
- WP 4. Participation in a Hearing about rural issues with the State Commission for Rural Development in Emmaboda, March 22.
- Information and discussion about the second draft JTDP with the Regional Development Board of the County Council of Kronoberg Council, March 23.
- WP 2: Swedish Water Expert meeting in Emmaboda, Sweden, March 24.
- Information about the draft II of the JTDP to Leader groups in south-east Sweden, March 31.
- Information about the project to a delegation of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and Russian representatives in Kaliningrad, April 4.
- Seminar about the second JTDP draft with representatives of the Regional Duma, the Governor's administration, the Association of Municipalities and different municipalities of Kaliningrad region in Kaliningrad, April 5.
- Meeting with Swedish ERB politicians in Växjö on April 8 about the draft II of the JTDP.
- Meeting with the Committee of European and Baltic Sea matters of Region Blekinge about draft II of the JTDP in Karlskrona, April 11.
- WP 2: ERB Water Expert meeting in Gdansk, April 12.
- WP 5: Dissemination meeting in Elblag, April 12.
- Information about the draft II of the JTDP to tourism stakeholders in the Kalmar Region, April 14.

Planned activities during the coming month:

- WP 2: The Lyckeby River Day, April 24. Authorities, companies and NGOs along the river invite the citizens to different activities (information, competitions, exhibitions, study visits etc).
- May 3: Swedish water meeting in Kalmar between the Water Authority for the South Baltic Sea District and all regions concerned. Discussion about the role of the local authorities when implementing the EU Water Framework Directive.
- WP 4: Transnational expert meeting in Gdansk, May 31.
- Info and discussion about the draft II of the JTDP to CEOs of the municipalities in Kalmar County, April 29.
- Seagull management and WP-leader meeting in Växjö, May 3.

Visit www.eurobalt.org for more information about the project status, printed reports, etc.

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. The programme will form the basis for future investments in the environment and infrastructure, etc. It will thereby contribute to social, economic and environmentally sustainable development throughout the region.