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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. 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.

An important **meeting with the Polish Seagull partners** was held in Elblag, Poland September 25. Over 75 persons participated, including the Swedish Seagull project management. The Polish Association of ERB Communes will now – in close cooperation with the two other Polish Seagull partners and the Swedish Project Management – prepare a PHARE application during the next application round that soon will be opened.

Other activities carried out since previous Seagull News:

• **The 2nd Seagull Progress Report** has now been delivered to the Programme Secretariat in Rostock, Germany. Main conclusions: There are some delays in the project implementation due to lack of PHARE and Tacis co-financing. Since the situation now is brighter (see Seagull News no. 2), the project management consider it possible to catch up with the time schedules according to the project proposal during milestones 3 and 4. The financial report says that 20% of the budget is spent after 10 months, equal to 27, 8 % of the total implementation time.

• As a part of the **input to the Joint Transnational Development Programme (JTDP)**, a special cluster study has been designed and will be carried out, with mapping of different industrial and other clusters in the ERB member regions, analyses of the present situation and considerations of opportunities of matching clusters to each other.

• The first two **WP 3 (Innovative Environments) seminars** were carried out in Klaipeda and Kaunas in September. Main results: A continued co-operation between participants with the aim to present relevant information in a concrete and adoptable way will take place.

• A **WP 4 (Rural Development) meeting** between representatives from the Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture, Chamber of Agriculture and the SE/DK expert group was held in Blekinge. Main outcome: current information about negotiations for the structural funds, plans for cooperation in the implementation of the Leader method.

• Another **WP 4 meeting** was carried out in Klaipeda September 23 for key persons from the Skuodas and Silute municipalities. Main outcome: dissemination of results from the report about rural areas in ERB, information about the role of the leader method in the structural funds.

Activities during October 2003:

• The first seminar about the ERB member regions' development plans, Kalmar, Sweden, October 29.

• **WP 2 (Water Management):** Swedish working group meeting in Emmaboda, October 16, with presentation and discussion of the report "The Lyckeby River – attitudes towards water", results from a questionnaire in the Swedish pilot area.

• **WP 3 seminars** in Liepaja October 22 and Ventspils October 23. (Separate meetings outside the seminar programme in Liepaja October 23 and Ventspils October 24).

• **WP 4 meetings** October 17 (SE-DK pilot project group in Kalmar), October 21 (Virga Municipality, Latvia) and October 22-23 (Seminars about the LEADER model in Skuodas and Silute, Lithuania).

• **Seagull info** to the Executive Boards of the SE municipalities Sölvesborg (14/10) and Västervik (16/10).

• **Participation** in a Transnational South Baltic Arc meeting in Stralsund, Germany, October 22-23 with information about regional development plans in the ERB member regions.

• **Participation** in the BSSSC 11th Annual Conference in St. Petersburg October 23-25.

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