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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.

The Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC) held its 11th Annual conference in St Petersburg, October 23-25. The Declaration from the conference stresses among other things:

- Relations with the Kaliningrad Region must be given high priority in the further BSR cooperation.
- The 2nd Northern Dimension Action Plan can be implemented only if the involvement and contribution from regional actors and their cooperation networks is strong.
- The importance of the regions in the EU policies will increase by the enlargement.

Next annual BSSSC meeting will take place in Malmö Sweden, October 21-23 2004.

Activities carried out since previous Seagull News:

- The first **expert seminars about regional development programmes** were implemented in Kalmar 29/10, Klaipeda 11/11 and Ventspils 12/11. They were all good starters of the process to discuss and collect input to the Joint Transnational Development Programme (JTDP) for ERB.
- A **WP2 meeting** was carried out in Elblag October 28, dealing with organisation and activities within the Polish part of the Water Management WP.
- The **WP3 seminars** no 3 and 4 were carried out in Liepaja and Ventspils in late October. The presentations made by both Latvian and Swedish speakers initiated lively discussions. The seminars will be followed by continuous communication between all involved participants in the four implemented seminars, and further on form concrete input to the JTDP. More info about the seminars on www.eurobalt.org/seagull-wp3.
- **WP4:** SE-DK Pilot project meeting in Kalmar October 17. Meeting in Kurzeme planning region October 20. Seminars of the Leader Model in Silute and Skouodas, Klaipeda County October 22-23 and in Elblag and Ketrzyn Poviats in Warmian Masurian Region November 5-6. SE-DK expert group meeting in Växjö November 7. Meeting in Kaliningrad November 11. Results: Decision on SE-DK pilot project, programming of the leader method, benchmarking of rural development projects.
- A **WP5 workshop** was held in Kaliningrad 1st of November focusing on development of the ERB website. The structure of a new website was discussed. Two Polish and one Russian expert will be engaged in the technical job.
- The project management has informed the Executive Boards of Uppvidinge, Västervik, Växjö, Emmaboda, Sölvesborg and Borgholm municipalities in Sweden about the Seagull project, its objectives and expected outputs.

Activities during the coming month:

- WP1: Expert seminars about regional development plans in Växjö 25/11, Gdansk 1/12, Olsztyn 2/12, Blekinge 5/12 and in Rönne in the end of November or beginning of December. Expert seminar about statistics and GIS in Ronneby November 27-28.
- WP2: Swedish working group meeting in Emmaboda November 24 about local and regional water management – SWOT-analysis. Transnational expert meeting in Gdansk December 2-3.
- WP4: SE-DK expert meeting in Ljungby December 5 about equal opportunities. Transnational expert meeting in SE December 10-11 about local mobilisation.
- WP5: A meeting with communication experts will be held in Gdansk on December 3.
- Participating in a Quality workshop for BSR INTERREG III B Macro Region projects, Karlskrona 18/11.
- Participating on behalf of the Tacis-Seagull Project in a kick-off conference in St Petersburg, 20-21/11.

www.eurobalt.org

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