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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 trans-national 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.

As we earlier briefly have informed about (Seagull News No.2), the project proposal "Seagull RC" – the Russian component of the development strategy for ERB – has been approved by the EU Commission. The project budget is slightly over 247 000 Euro and the implementation period is 18 months. Our Russian partners will now in principle be able to participate in all Seagull activities up to the end of the Seagull INTERREG (IR) project implementation period – which is mid 2005.

Launching Days of new approved Tacis projects (Small Project Facility), were held in St. Petersburg, November 20-21. **Seagull RC** was represented by Ms Sigita Paulaviciene and Ms Giedre Butkute, Klaipeda County Governor's administration (lead partner of the project), Mr Victor Koshelev (as main representative of the beneficiaries of the project – the Russian partners) and Mr Rolf A Karlson (project manager of the Seagull IR project and representative of the EU partner in the Seagull RC).

The Launching Days gathered about 120 persons, representing the 33 approved projects, the EU Commission in Brussels, the EC delegations in Moscow and Kiev, and the Liaison Office in St. Petersburg as well as the Branch Office in Chisinau (capital of the Moldovan Republic).

The different **conference sessions and workshops** were very concretely oriented towards information and comments of the regulations ruling the implementation of Tacis funded projects.

Learning for the global implementation of the Seagull project:

- Our project is very complex compared with most other projects. It engages many different kinds of partners, with different mandates and big differences concerning economical strength and other resources. Therefore utmost hard efforts are still needed in order to create commitment enough both horizontally between all project partners and vertically in the participating regions. In the case of Kaliningrad Region, commitment is needed not only from the Association of Municipalities and its municipalities, but also from the Governor's Administration and the regional Duma, and from experts from Universities and other expert institutions.
- Cooperation with other projects could be of great value for the implementation of our project. We already know this from our cooperation with the SEBTrans Link, Baltic Gateway and South Baltic Arc projects. Now we learned that another of the approved Tacis projects – Integrated Management of the Vistula Lagoon Catchment – could be very interesting for the Seagull Water Management activities.
- A home-work to do now is to match the activities specified in the Seagull RC with the Seagull IR activities – and also with the activities of the Phare approved Seagull Latvia project.

Now it must be full speed ahead concerning implementation. The implementation period of the Seagull RC started already October 25 and must therefore be finished latest April 25, 2005.

The **first three agreed time-coordinated activities** between Seagull IR and Seagull RC are:

1. WP1: Seminar about Regional Development Plans in the Kaliningrad Region: January 7, 2004 (Kick off conference for the Seagull RC in Kaliningrad January 6).
2. WP1: Seminar in Poland about the Regional Development Plans for the member regions of ERB, week 5 or 6 2004.
3. WP1: Seminar about Democracy and Gender Equality in the ERB member regions – Kaliningrad Region, February 18-19 2004.

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