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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.

At its latest planning meeting, the Seagull project secretariat went through the time relations between the five project work packages as well as to the Seagull Tacis and Phare projects and the transport corridor projects that are close related to the Seagull project and the ERB area. A scheme was put together showing the latest possible dates for input from WP 2-4 and the transport corridor projects to the coming drafts of a long term strategy and JTDP for ERB. Important deadlines are mid May 2004, mid September 2004 and the end of March 2005.

Also the first synopsis of a long term strategy and an ERB JTDP was discussed. The scheme and the synopsis will now be put forward to the project's Steering Committee at its meeting in Latvia in the beginning of January 2004.

Activities carried out since previous Seagull News:

- An expert workshop about a Statistical database and a GIS concept for ERB was carried out in Ronneby, Sweden in the end of November. A first set of statistical indicators was agreed upon by the experts. A draft report will be presented to the Steering Committee in January 2004.
- The Swedish Working group on Water management met in Emmaboda November 24 about local and regional water management - SWOT-analysis. A presentation of the Seagull project was made at the MANTRA East-Vistula lagoon workshop in Gdansk, December 15-16. A transnational expert meeting was held in Gdansk December 17.
- At a WP3-meeting (Innovative Centres and Clusters) with partners in Sweden on December 16 conclusions from the four seminars held in Lithuania and Latvia during autumn 2003 were drawn. Now the network between participants from the seminars will be set up and also the first start for a "Tool Box" with examples, good methods and ways to act for promotion of active entrepreneurship in ERB will be presented. The network will start to work in early 2004.
- A workshop about local development and village associations were carried out in Växjö, December 17. An International expert group meeting, with focus on local mobilization, was held in Ronneby, December 10 and 11. The Swedish Local Action Group E-bygd i Gränsland arranged interesting study visits in connection to the meeting.
- The WP 5 Working group met in Gdansk in the beginning of December together with two Polish experts about a better website for ERB. A first draft of a new structure for the website will be presented to the Steering Committee at its meeting in January.

Project reports:

- The first Seagull report *Democracy in Euroregion Baltic* is now printed in English. It will soon be distributed to all project partners. It is also available at www.eurobalt.org.
- The second Seagull report *The Lyckeby River, an attitude investigation, part I* will be printed and distributed in the beginning of January 2004.

Activities during the coming month:

- Seagull Steering Committee meeting in south-west Latvia January 8-9.
- WP 1 meetings about the ERB strategy and JTDP in Kaliningrad January 21 and in Rönne in the end of January.
- Latvian Water Management expert meeting January 8. Regional Swedish seminar about the EU Water Frame Directive in relation to other legislation, with the Lyckeby River as a case study, January 29 (all Swedish municipalities in the region are invited).
- A Swedish-Danish expert group meeting about rural development in Växjö January 13.
- Seagull information to the Swedish Municipal Executive Boards of Kalmar, Mönsterås, Ljungby, Tingsryd and Oskarshamn municipalities.



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