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We have earlier promised to keep the information in this newsletter short – on one peace of paper. As new project results are getting more concrete and too complex to describe as briefly as we would like to do, and as we from now on also intend to inform about the implementation of the Russian (Seagull RC) and Latvian (Seagull-Latvia) components of the project (later hopefully also Polish and Lithuanian components), we have come to the conclusion to extend the newsletter to two pages if needed – *never more* (at least not our intensions now).

Contact persons for the Russian and Latvian Seagull components are indicated in the left column of the newsletter. New contact person for Seagull RC is Ms Sigita Paulaviciene, since Ms Roma Stubriené has been appointed Managing Director for the new Klaipeda Science and Technology Park. She will thereby still be connected to the Seagull Project – now to the activities within WP 3 – Innovative environments.

### *Activities carried out since previous Seagull News:*

The Seagull Steering Committee carried through its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting south of Liepaja, Latvia, January 8-9. The main issue on the agenda was to discuss a first draft (a synopsis) of a long-term strategy for ERB. The almost three hour's discussion was very fruitful and resulted in consensus that the strategy should rest on two pillars:

- I. A methodology for the ERB cooperation development that is *process oriented* (which means involving as many ERB actors as possible with a bottom-up perspective in order to create the best possible commitment from all parties to the development strategy) around a circle (or chain) containing vision, mission, goals, long-term strategy, JTDP (Joint Transnational Development Programme) and concrete investment proposals.
- II. A main focus on developing ERB into being a frontrunner among EU regions concerning sustainable growth, concentrating cooperation activities to the following four areas:
  1. Measures that, from an EU perspective, strengthen competitiveness within the region's business world and promote innovation and an attractive investment climate with an emphasis on economically sustainable development through increased knowledge content for products and services.
  2. Political instruments for increased knowledge and common understanding of various EU initiatives, primarily within the environment and energy sectors.
  3. Labour market co-operation in order to correct sub-regional imbalances between the supply of and demand for manpower – as a first step within the public health/ healthcare sector.
  4. Systematic networking and benchmarking within the areas of local and regional good governance, water management, infrastructure, tourism and rural development.

*ERB Board meeting January 23 in Klaipeda, Lithuania:* The above very condensed described strategy synopsis for ERB was presented by the Seagull project manager at the ERB Board meeting in Klaipeda. The Board took the presentation into consideration and had an initial discussion on added values for each ERB member region connected to an overall ERB strategy, and recommended the project management to continue the planned process.

*Board meeting in the Kalmar Regional Council, January 28:* The Board had a two hours discussion about Baltic Sea Cooperation in general with a focus on ERB cooperation activities. Main conclusions: (1) ERB is a first cooperation priority for the Regional Council in Kalmar County. (2) Continue the planned process concerning the long-term strategy for ERB. (3) Work hard on involving the private business sector in the cooperation, and on environmental and health issues.

*Seagull Russian Component: Kick-off Conference in Kaliningrad January 29:* The conference gathered over 100 politicians and experts from mainly the public sector and the universities in Kaliningrad Oblast. The project objectives as well as the contents of the different work packages (the same five ones as in the Interreg part of the Seagull project) were run through. The conference was also part of the regional discussions about a joint long term strategy for ERB.

### ***Seagull reports***

*The first Seagull report is now published: Democracy in Euroregion Baltic.* It gives an overview of the democratic structures in the six countries with member regions of ERB.

*The following three reports are in the pipeline for printing and distribution:*

*Seagull report 2-2003: The Lyckeby River – an attitude investigation about water issues, study 1.* Results from an investigation among people living within the Swedish pilot river basin area. Will be printed and published during February 2004.

*Seagull report 3-2003: Review of existing studies on innovation policies, actions and implementations concerning or affecting the member regions of Euroregion Baltic (ERB).* Will be printed and published during February 2004.

*Seagull report 4-2004: The Lyckeby River Water Management Association.* Will be printed and published during March 2004.

All reports will gradually be distributed in English to all project partners, experts and others. They will also be available at [www.eurobalt.org](http://www.eurobalt.org). So visit the website now and then for latest information about Seagull!

### ***Activities during the coming month***

- Democracy and Gender Seminar, Gdansk, February 5
- Workshop on Danish input to the ERB strategy and JTDP, Bornholm, February 16
- Democracy and Gender Seminar, Kaliningrad Oblast, February 18-19
- Transnational Seminar on ERB strategy issues, Gdansk, February 26
- ERB Council meeting, Elblag, February 27

*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.*