

BSR INTERREG III B

Small progress report/ report of changes in project set up

Project name:	Seagull-DevERB	
Reporting period:	January-June 2003	Number of the report: 2

Are there any changes on the general project conditions/project set up (e.g. partnership, key persons, schedules ...)?

There are no changes of vital importance that have occurred during milestone 2:

- No changes at all concerning the partnership.
- When it comes to key persons, Mr Lars Ohrman, The Regional Council in Kalmar County, has taken over the project leadership for WP1 from the project coordinator.
- There are also some changes of members of the Steering Committee (SC) of the project – the present SC members and other project officials are listed on www.eurobalt.org/english/projects/seagull/Project_officials_Seagull.pdf

Concerning the implementation schedule, there are some delays in the production of mapping reports due to deficit of resources by our eastern partners, which still are suffering from lack of PHARE and Tacis funding for taking a really active part in the implementation of the Seagull project. The shortage of resources has lead to difficulties for them to participate in WP-meetings and deliver material to the reports.

The co-financing situation has though got brighter during this summer. We are now expecting a more active participation and deeper commitment in the project from the east partners through approvals of the following applications:

1. To Tacis-CBC for the Kaliningrad Oblast participation (in all Seagull WPs).
2. To PHARE-CBC for participation of the Kurzeme Planning Region in Latvia (in WPs 2-4).
3. To the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) for participation in WP 1 activities for the Lithuanian and Latvian parties.

Our Lithuanian partner has unfortunately got a rejection answer on its PHARE application, but is nevertheless prepared to do the best to fulfil its tasks in order to make the Seagull project successful.

Our Polish Partners are just now preparing a PHARE application. The Polish ERB secretariat in Elblag (that is representing one of the main Polish project partners) has announced that it will be re-organised in a way that will answer to demands for an active implementation of the Seagull project.

In this new co-financing and project commitment situation, we consider it possible to catch up with the time schedules in line with the project proposal during milestone 3 and 4.

**Please give a narrative description of the project implementation so far
and highlight the accumulated results.**

The project implementation during milestone 2 has to a great extent been focused on mapping-studies and analyses that will form the basis for workshops and seminars during the following milestones in order to build up the long term strategy for ERB, the JTDP, etc. A summary list over planned activities during the milestone according to the project application, and main outputs with comments is attached to this report as *Annex 1*.

Concerning **Work Package 1** a lot of efforts have been put on gathering material for a series of status reports – about Regional strategies and development programmes in the ERB member regions, Democracy and Governance, Gender Equality, and Statistics and GIS.

A main two days WP 1 meeting was carried out in Mikolajki, Poland in the end of April. The main objective of this meeting was to draw up guidelines for the work with compiling the reports mentioned above and discuss contents and timetable for the milestone 3 seminars/workshops – see Report from the meeting, *Annex 2* to this report.

The material compilation for the status reports has been carried out mainly through visits by Swedish experts to the other ERB regions, with structured interviews of regional experts and collection of written material. As mentioned earlier, the reports are somewhat delayed due to lack of resources by our east partners.

The Democracy report is however compiled in a final draft and is attached here as *Annex 3*. The report will – after a final contents check by all parties involved – be printed and disseminated during autumn 2003.

The other reports are in various stages of drafts. All of them will however be arranged in a way that they can form basis for the planned seminars and workshops during milestone 3 and 4.

Work Package 2 (Water Management) has up till now suffered most of lack of resources by the east partners – see *Annex 1* and the attached Activity report (*Annex 4*; concerning the Attachments to Annex 4, please visit the web page – see comments below about access to the web page). All workshops planned have not been able to carry out and River Basin Area reports are delayed. Planned pilot actions in Sweden are though carried through and reported to the other partners.

All planned activities in **Work Package 3** (Innovative Environments) have been implemented. The main output is three draft reports about Innovation centres in ERB and Innovation policies affecting the ERB member regions. A WP 3 Activity report is attached (*Annex 5*) as well as the draft report about innovation policies affecting the ERB member regions (*Annex 6*) that will be printed during autumn this year. The other two reports will be completed and redrafted next year when the planned seminars during milestone 3 and 4 are carried out. Concerning the other attachments to Annex 5, see the comment above under WP 2.

Work Package 4 (Rural Development) has also suffered from the lack of resources by the east partners. The work in this WP has further been affected by language problems and poor accessibility to the Internet for some of the partners. Several meetings combined with study visits have though been carried through and a first draft report has been compiled – see Activity report (*Annex 7*) and *Annex 8*. A process of implementation of the Leader model has started in line with the planned activities according to the approved Seagull project proposal.

The **Work Package 5** (Information and dissemination) activities have in principle been carried out in accordance with the approved Seagull project proposal:

- An Information and Communication Strategy for the ERB has been formulated – see *Annex 9*. (The ERB Council approved this strategy at its meeting on Bornholm, August 29-30).

- The ERB web page has been developed as a main information source of all Seagull activities – in principle all material produced within the project is put there, including agendas and minutes from all WP meetings.

- Most of the project material on the web page is however not available for other than project participants. The reason for this is that the material contains draft reports, etc, not worked through enough to be put on the open part of the web page. If the BSR INTERREG III B Programme Secretariat is interested in taking part of this material, please contact the Seagull project management in Kalmar.

- The web page has also been extended by a special area for WP 3.

- The work to rebuild the web page has started.

- A brief newsletter – Seagull News – has been prepared. The newsletter will contain maximum one full

page of news and will be edited every 2-4 week from August 2003.

- Preparations for evaluation of the Seagull project have started.

The Project management has also put much effort to other information and dissemination activities during milestone 2, e.g.

- Further project information to partners – see notes from a partner meeting in Riga as an example (*Annex 10*).
- Support to the eastern partners in their preparations of PHARE, Tacis and NCM applications with comparatively positive results – see above, page 1.
- Project information meetings with all Executive Boards of the Swedish municipalities have started and will be carried through during milestone 3.
- A communication and information sailing tour to Klaipeda and Gdansk has been implemented – see *Annex 11*.

The Steering Committee has met once during the milestone – in Malbork, Poland in connection to the Fifth Anniversary of the foundation of the Euroregion Baltic. Minutes are attached (*Annex 12*).

The accumulated results so far are in summary:

- 8 draft reports (in different draft stages) have been compiled.
- A great number of WP meetings and study tours have been carried out.
- An Information and Communication Strategy for ERB has been drafted and approved by the ERB Council.
- Much effort has been put on information and communication activities about the project. In spite of lack of resources by the east partners, a very interesting process-oriented network building is well under way between the partners.
- Comparatively success concerning co-financing from the PHARE, Tacis and NCM funds.