

<b>Project name:</b>	Seagull-DevERB		
<b>Reporting period:</b>	01.07.2003 - 31.12.2003	<b>Number of the report:</b>	3

<b>Summary description of the project</b> Please provide a brief overall summary of the project to be published on BSR Interreg III B webpage. (maximum 2500 characters)			
<p>The structure and living conditions differ considerably between the member regions of Euroregion Baltic (ERB), which are Kronoberg, Kalmar and Blekinge Counties in Sweden, the Regional Municipality of Bornholm in Denmark, The Kurzeme Planning Region in Latvia, Klaipeda County in Lithuania, Kaliningrad Region in The Russian Federation, and the Pomeranian and Warmia-Masurian Regions in Poland.</p> <p>The creation of ERB in 1998 is an expression of the member regions' mutual interest in closer and deeper long-term co-operation in all fields of society - aiming at developing the ERB into being an economically and environmentally sustainable and prospering region in Northern Europe and a front-runner in transnational cooperation, including e.g. network building, knowledge transfer, competitive bench-marking and – not the least – best-in-class when it comes to implementing EU directives in certain areas of vital importance for the development of the whole Euroregion. This political co-operation is the framework within which the Seagull project operates. The project is a tool in the process of deepening and concretizing the long term cooperation between the member regions of ERB.</p> <p>The Seagull project's main objectives are to contribute to the cohesion in the southeast Baltic Sea Region utilizing the increasing economic potential while taking social, environmental and cultural sustainability into consideration. The most central objectives of the project is to develop and politically decide upon a Long term Strategy and a Joint Transnational Development Programme (JTDP) for the region that will facilitate e.g. pre-feasibility studies and implementation activities concerning important investments for sustainable development, economic growth and cohesion in the region.</p> <p>The JTDP is prepared through a process-oriented work including a long range of seminars and workshops, and input in form of reports on for instance democracy and governance issues as well as the gender equality situation in the ERB member regions. Studies on regional strategies, prerequisites for building up a common ERB data base and to use GIS methods in the Euroregion Baltic are carried out. Special emphasis is put on water management issues, building networks between innovative centres (Science Parks, etc), promote entrepreneurship and cooperation between companies, and on the problematic situation in the vast rural areas within the region. Input to the JTDP about infrastructure is planned to be made through a close cooperation with the BSR Interreg III B projects Baltic Gateway, SEBTrans Link and South Baltic Arc.</p>			

### Achievements of the project so far

Please describe the main achievements of the project so far to be published on BSR Interreg III B webpage.  
(maximum 1500 characters)

- Over 100 transnational seminars and workshops, and one big conference have been carried out within the project's five work packages.
- Over 2000 persons have participated in the meeting activities.
- An information brochure about the project has been produced and printed in 5 languages – totally 8000 copies.
- An *Information and Communication Strategy* for ERB has been worked out and adopted by the ERB Board and Council.
- An electronic newsletter – *Seagull News* – is from August 2003 issued every 2-4 weeks and broadly spread to all stakeholders and other interested organisations and persons.
- Two project reports – *Democracy in Euroregion Baltic* and *The Lyckeby River – an attitude investigation about water issues* – have been printed. Nine other project reports are drafted and will be printed during spring 2004 – about *Gender Equality, Water Management, Innovative Centres and Rural Development*. All these reports should be regarded as important basic material for the further work in the project to form a Long Term Strategy and a JTDP for the entire region.
- A survey has been carried out about the nine ERB member regions' development strategies.
- A study of industrial and other production clusters in the ERB member regions has started.
- Cross-sector partnerships for rural development have been initiated in two regions (Klaipeda County and Warmia-Masurian Region).
- Strong efforts have been put on information and anchoring activities about the project aims and planned results to decision makers in the member regions, mainly within the public sector.
- A *draft Long Term Strategy* for the development of the whole ERB has been compiled and is now processed for anchoring among experts and decision makers in the ERB member regions..
- The project implementation has been reported to and discussed in the ERB Board and Council at every meeting, totally 7 times since the project start.

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

There are no changes concerning the partnership or key persons.

The implementation schedule is still suffering due to lack of resources by our eastern partners (see also comments in Progress report 2):

- We have been forced to change time and meeting places many times due to this fact.
- Pretty many of the planned activities have been delayed – see comments later in this report under each WP. Especially WP 2 has suffered due to the lack of resources by the eastern partners. It is now very uncertain if it is possible to catch up with the original implementation schedule in such a way that WP 2 can contribute as planned to the contents of the JTDP.
- We have in some cases met the resource deficit through combining different seminars into joint activities and thereby reduced costs for travels and accommodation for the eastern partners.
- Also some of the planned project reports have been delayed due to lack of resources and changes of meeting times, etc.
- The late start of the approved Seagull Tacis and Phare projects has also led to a great need of coordination activities of planned seminars and workshops, mainly meaning delays in relation to the planned implementation according to the approved Seagull-DevERB application.

In spite of the described problems and bottlenecks, and thanks to efforts from the eastern partners – even if participation from all of them have not been possible at all our transnational activities – the implementation situation is under “acceptable” control. The attached Financial report IV – *Changes of the non-eligible budget* – shows that the eastern parties have fulfilled almost 70 % of the planned co-financing according to the approved Seagull-DevERB application.

The situation concerning active participation in the further project implementation by the Eastern partners could be described as follows:

- Our Russian partners will from the beginning of milestone 4 be able to participate in all remaining project activities through the approved Tacis Seagull-RC project.
- The Latvian parties participate fully in all WP 2-4 activities from late autumn 2003 till the end of summer 2004 through the approved Phare Seagull-Latvia project.
- The Polish partners have compiled a new Phare application that hopefully will be approved during spring 2004. The chairmanship of the ERB Board and Council is Polish from the end of February 2004 and one year ahead. The new Polish chairman, the Marshall of the Pomeranian Region, has declared that the implementation of the Seagull project and its main products – the Long Term Strategy and the JTDP – are the top priorities for the Polish chairmanship.
- The Latvian and Lithuanian partners will hopefully make successful Phare applications for participating in the Seagull project during milestones 5 and 6.

**Please describe the main co-ordination activities that have taken place during the reporting period.  
(e.g. partnership contracts, organisational arrangements, meetings...)**

The coordination activities have been very intensive since the project started. During milestone 3 the following activities have taken place:

- Steering Committee meeting in Klaipeda in August.
- All of the expert meetings within the five WPs have included coordination discussions.
- Four coordination meetings in Sweden with the project management and the five WP leaders have been carried out.
- Much effort has been put on finding suitable times for all the implemented international seminars and workshops.
- Special coordination activities have been carried out to match the joint activities between the Seagull-DevERB, Seagull RC and Seagull-Latvia projects.
- The Seagull project manager participated in the Launching Days of new approved Tacis funded projects in St Petersburg in November as one of the representatives of the approved Seagull-RC project.
- An exchange seminar was carried out in late August on Bornholm/Denmark between the BSR Interreg projects Seagull, SEBTrans-Link, Baltic Gateway and South Baltic Arc.
- The Seagull WP 1 leader participated in a transnational South Baltic Arc conference in Stralsund in October with information about regional development plans in the ERB member regions.
- Seagull was represented at an Interreg seminar between related projects held in Stockholm in October, and arranged by the Sub Committees of BSR and other Interreg programmes.
- Seagull representatives also participated in a Quality workshop arranged in Karlskrona in November by the BSR IR IIIB secretariat for Macro region projects.
- A second co-ordination meeting was held in Karlskrona in December between the Seagull, SEBTrans-Link, Baltic Gateway and South Baltic Arc projects.
- The Seagull project was presented at a Mantra East conference about water management in Gdansk in December. Mantra East is supported by the fifth framework programme, within the programme for EESD.
- A Partnership Agreement has been prepared for the Seagull RC project, where The Regional Council in Kalmar County is one of the contracting parties.

## BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)

<b>Title of WP1</b>	<b>ERB strategy and Joint Transnational Development Programme (JTDP)</b>	
<b>Strategic focus of WP1</b>	Transnational, cross-sectoral approach to form a strategy and a JTDP for ERB in line with compreh. EU policies. JTDP as base for investm.	<b>MILESTONE</b>
<b>Planned results of WP1</b>	A long-term strategy and a JTDP for the whole ERB region.	<b>3</b>

<b>Planned activities and outputs</b>	<b>Main activities that have taken place during the reporting period</b>	<b>Outputs produced during the reporting period</b>
<p>(1) A joint seminar in PI about the regional programmes and discussions of common values and actions to develop the ERB as a whole. (2) Working out a draft of long term goals and strategy for the ERB. (3) Expert workshop in LV on comprehensive theories and methodological tools for transregional/transnational development. (4) Seminars in SE and PL about how to improve the Governance situation in the ERB member regions. (5) Seminars in RU and on DK about equal opportunities. (6) Expert workshop in SE about the report on statistics and GIS for ERB. Regional anchoring and decisions about a GIS programme. Input to other parts of the Seagull project. (7) Expert workshop in PL about the report on indicators for sustainability. Main outputs: 8 seminars and workshops carried through. A draft long term strategy for ERB presented. A GIS programme anchored in the ERB regions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Steering Committee meeting was held in August in Klaipeda.</li> <li>- Four coordination meetings with the project management and all WP leaders in Sweden.</li> <li>- (1) see deviations beneath.</li> <li>- (2) 7 out of totally 9 workshops carried out about regional development plans in the ERB member regions and issues that should be prioritised in a long term strategy for ERB – in Kalmar, Växjö, Karlskrona, Klaipeda, Riga, Gdansk and Olsztyn (see further under deviations beneath).</li> <li>- (3) see deviations beneath.</li> <li>- (4)-(5) see deviations beneath.</li> <li>- (6) Workshop in Ronneby, Sweden.</li> <li>- (7) see deviations beneath.</li> <li>- A cluster study has been initiated and started as central input to the JTDP. The objectives of the study are to map industrial/innovative clusters in all ERB member regions, make analyses of the situation, and match the clusters to each other.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One Steering Committee meeting and four project management meetings carried out.</li> <li>- (2) A written internal report compiled about the ERB member regions' development programmes/plans. 7 workshops carried out; a first long term strategy for ERB compiled.</li> <li>- (4) Seagull report 1: <b>Democracy in Euroregion Baltic</b> printed.</li> <li>- (5) A draft report on <b>Gender Equality in Euroregion Baltic</b> compiled.</li> <li>- (6) A workshop carried out. A draft report on <b>Statistics and Geographic Information Systems</b> compiled.</li> </ul>

<b>Deviation from the planned activities and outputs as well as their reasons/justifications</b>
<p>The deviations commented in the following are generally due to lack of resources from our Eastern partners, or pending on the fact that milestone 3 was planned from September 1 2003 to February 29 2004 in the project application, whereas the reporting period ends already on December 31 2003.</p> <p><b>Activity (1)</b> – the joint seminar in PI – was carried out on February 26 2004 in Gdansk.</p> <p><b>Activity (2)</b> – the <b>remaining 2 out of 9 workshops about regional development plans</b> in the ERB member regions have been carried out</p>

## **BSR INTERREG III B**

### **Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)**

during January-February 2004 – in Kaliningrad and on Bornholm.

**Activity (3)** – delayed by reasons mentioned above; will be carried through during spring 2004

**Activities (4) and (5)** – the seminars have been combined to deal with both democracy and gender issues, and carried through in Poland (February 5, 2004) and Kaliningrad (February 18-19, 2004).

**Activity (7)** – report and expert workshop will be compiled/carried out during spring 2004.

## BSR INTERREG III B

### Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)

<b>Title of WP2</b>	<b>Management of Water resources</b>	
<b>Strategic focus of WP2</b>	Improved management with water resources and local/regional preparedness for participation in the implementation of the EU Water Frame Directive and the HELCOM Joint Compreh. Action Programme.	<b>MILE-STONE</b>
<b>Planned results of WP2</b>	Input to and impact on the JTDP. Conclusions about local/regional preparation needs for implementing the WFD. Methods for enhanced water quality and dialogue with citizens in water management issues.	<b>3</b>

<u>Planned activities and outputs</u>	<u>Main activities that have taken place during the reporting period</u>	<u>Outputs produced during the reporting period</u>
<p>(1) Differences and possibilities of implementing the WFD in the ERB countries. Local-regional aspects. Legal/administrative prerequisites and needs, needs of monitoring and measuring. Exchange of knowledge and experience. Transnational study by the WWG. Input from milestone 2. Draft report of the study: Conclusions about local and regional preparation needs for implementing the WFD. Input to milestone 4. (2) Preparations of actions by Phare/Tacis partners concerning dialogue with different actors in the pilot areas. A Local project group is formed in each pilot area. Report to other partners every third month. (3) Continued implementation of pilot actions in SE. Report to other partners every third month. Main outputs: Transnational study carried through. Draft report compiled. Local project groups established in LV, LT, PL and RU. Dialogue action plans prepared in those countries. Reports carried through between the partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Three workshops/Swedish working group meetings in Sweden. Competence raising activities. Broader network.</li> <li>- Two international meetings in Poland.</li> <li>- Workshop on EU WFD in Sweden.</li> <li>- (1) see deviations beneath.</li> <li>- (2) see deviations beneath.</li> <li>- (3) Meetings in Sweden. Start of school project. Preparations of reports. Reporting to the other parties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Totally 6 workshops/seminars carried out.</li> <li>- (1) Working paper compiled about <b>Water Management and Water Protection Cooperation in South-East Sweden</b>. SWOT-analysis. Local and regional water management in Sweden.</li> <li>- (3) Seagull report 2: <b>The Lyckeby River – an attitude investigation about water issues</b> printed.</li> <li>- (3) Draft report compiled about <b>The Lyckeby River and The Lyckeby Water Management Association</b> (river basin report).</li> </ul>

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### Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)

#### Deviation from the planned activities and outputs as well as their reasons/justifications

The deviations commented in the following are generally due to lack of resources from our Eastern partners.

- From milestone 2: Still missing River Basin reports from Latvia, Russia and Poland.
- From milestone 2: EU WFD workshops not implemented in Latvia, Russia or Poland.
- (1) In Annex 4 to Progress report 2 the following is stated: *“According to the original project plan the descriptions of the river basin areas also were meant to include prerequisites to compare the situation in the areas – chemically as well as ecologically and concerning economy, and in relation to the WFD. Since the results are meant as a base for future discussions about common priorities, strategies and measures related to water issues within ERB there is a need to cover not only the pilot areas but the whole ERB area. The water group is working with this extended report.”* In other words: A description of the actual situation in the ERB region as a whole (with exception for Bornholm) is planned. Contents and structure of such a report was decided at an expert meeting in Gdansk in December 2003. The report is planned to be presented during milestone 4. As a consequence of this, the draft report *“Conclusions about local and regional preparation needs for implementing the WFD”* is also delayed – now planned to be drafted during milestone 4.
- (2) Preparations of actions have not started yet due to lack of resources.
- (3) Due to problems with implementing the pilot project activities in LV, LT, RU and PL, we can already foresee a possible difficulty to present the planned report about methods for enhanced dialogue with citizens as planned (during milestone 5). Instead we suggest that the experience from the Swedish pilot area in WP 2, and from different activities within WP 4, will be compiled in a joint report. Preliminary title: *“Methods for strengthening the public participation in ERB – experience from practical examples”*. Suggested timetable: Draft December 2004, exchange conference February 2005, final report May 2005.

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**Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)**

<b>Title of WP3</b>	<b>Innovative Centres and SME:s as vehicles in regional development</b>	
<b>Strategic focus of WP3</b>	Develop networks in line with the Triple Helix model. How to develop Innovative Centres. Methods for supporting entrepreneurship, especially female ones. Spatial dimensions.	<b>MILE-STONE</b>
<b>Planned results of WP3</b>	Better understanding of the role of cities/regions in dev. Innovative Ctrs. A consistent network between and within the Centres in ERB. Enhanced understanding of how cities can support female entrepreneurship.	<b>3</b>

<b>Planned activities and outputs</b>	<b>Main activities that have taken place during the reporting period</b>	<b>Outputs produced during the reporting period</b>
<p>Four regional seminars – two each in LV and LT – about the report and of prerequisites for building innovative environments: networks, building science parks, entrepreneurship – especially how to contribute to developing female firms, spatial aspects and impact on society. Conclusions and proposals. Preparations for new seminars. Main outputs: Four seminars carried through. Reports from the seminars presented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two Swedish working group meetings.</li> <li>- Four international expert meetings – in Klaipeda, Ventspils and Kaliningrad, and as a telephone meeting.</li> <li>- One information meeting with Polish participants in Ronneby.</li> <li>- International seminars including exhibitions in Klaipeda, Kaunas, Liepaja and Ventspils.</li> <li>- A draft report from the seminars has been put together.</li> <li>- One of the earlier compiled reports on Innovative centres and SME:s as vehicles in regional development has been arranged for printing.</li> <li>- Preparations for seminars during spring 2004.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four seminars with exhibitions carried out.</li> <li>- A report on <b>Seagull regional seminars and exhibitions 2003</b> compiled (not printed yet).</li> <li>- The Seagull report 3: <b>Innovative Centres and SME:s as vehicles in regional development</b> – <i>Review of existing studies on the subject of innovation policies/actions and implementations concerning and/or affecting the member regions of ERB</i> is ready for printing.</li> <li>- 7 working group/expert meetings carried out.</li> </ul>

<b>Deviation from the planned activities and outputs as well as their reasons/justifications</b>
No deviations.

## BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)

<b>Title of WP4</b>	<b>Development Programmes for Rural Areas</b>	
<b>Strategic focus of WP4</b>	Focus local, transnational and cross-sectoral cooperation between partners active in rural development issues. Combining public, private and voluntary actors to find joint solutions.	<b>MILE-STONE</b>
<b>Planned results of WP4</b>	Compile (1) a joint summary report/analysis, and (2) development programmes in order to formulate visions and methods for future cooperation. Initiate pilot projects elaborated by formed Local Action Groups.	<b>3</b>

<b>Planned activities and outputs</b>	<b>Main activities that have taken place during the reporting period</b>	<b>Outputs produced during the reporting period</b>
<p>Seminars about the Leader method – programming – stressing a bottom-up perspective, which combines public, private and voluntary actors/organisations. Local and regional actors are identified to give input and to form Local Action Groups (LAGs) in the participating regions. Pilot projects are being implemented. In short: (1) Method for programming. (2) Identify local and regional actors through the Leader method. Formation of Local Action Groups (LAGs). (3) Realisation of pilot projects. Activities: Transnational meeting carried through in LV. Steering group meeting carried through in SE. Local meetings and Pilot project meetings carried through in each country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four seminars on the LEADER method – in Silute and Skoudas municipalities in Klaipeda County, and in Ketrzyn and Elblag powiats in Warmia-Masurian Region.</li> <li>- Two study visits – in Liepaja District Municipality and in Blekinge County.</li> <li>- Five transnational expert meetings – in Silute and Skoudas municipalities, in Virga Municipality in Latvia, in Kaliningrad and in Blekinge County.</li> <li>- Four SE-DK meetings in Sweden.</li> <li>- Working with two reports: Description of Rural Areas in Euroregion Baltic, and a report about Leader+ in the new EU Member States.</li> <li>- Pilot project descriptions made for Sweden and Denmark.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four LEADER seminars, two study visits, five transnational expert meetings and four SE-DK meetings have been carried out.</li> <li>- Methods for programming of LEADER activities have been elaborated during the seminars and meetings.</li> <li>- Local and regional actors have been identified in connection to the seminars.</li> <li>- The process of forming Local Action Groups has been initiated in the Warmia-Masurian Region and in Klaipeda County.</li> <li>- Pilot project descriptions compiled; for Sweden: Kompetensutveckling och nya arenor (Development of competence and new arenas); for Denmark: Rural areas of Bornholm – how to get people involved in local development.</li> <li>- Draft reports compiled about <b>Rural Areas in Euroregion Baltic – Empirical description</b> (ready for printing) and about <b>Leader+ in the new EU member states</b>.</li> </ul>

<b>Deviation from the planned activities and outputs as well as their reasons/justifications</b>
<p>The implementation activities of WP 4 have functioned pretty well in spite of lack of resources by our eastern partners, including language problems and limited access to the Internet. The transnational meetings combined with study visits have strengthen the network of the international working group.</p> <p>(1)-(2) The process of implementation of the Leader model has started in two regions (Klaipeda County and Warmia-Masurian Region) that have</p>

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### **Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)**

pointed out areas where the Local Action Groups will be formed.

(3) Pilot projects may be delayed in some regions due to the complex process of formation of LAGs and the lack of co-financing from the eastern partners.

## BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)

<b>Title of WP5</b>	<b>Information, communication and evaluation</b>	
<b>Strategic focus of WP5</b>	Good dissemination of the project and its results. Creating channels for such dissemination. Fair evaluation of the project activities and outcomes.	<b>MILE-STONE</b>
<b>Planned results of WP5</b>	A communication strategy and a developed web site for the ERB. Printed information about the project and its results. Information and discussions with representatives of the private sector and NGO: s.	<b>3</b>

<b>Planned activities and outputs</b>	<b>Main activities that have taken place during the reporting period</b>	<b>Outputs produced during the reporting period</b>
(1) Working out a proposal of an extended ERB web page - contents, design, host issues, etc. (2) Compilation of project information. Printing in six languages. Distribution. (3) Production of a compact exhibition about the project. (4) Preparations for a conference about private business cooperation within ERB. (5) Evaluation activities. Main outputs: A draft proposal of a new ERB web page. Written project information disseminated in all member regions. Compact exhibition. Evaluation results presented to the project management, the steering committee and the ERB bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A final proposal worked out of an Information and Communication Strategy for ERB...</li> <li>- (1) A draft new web site worked out by experts. Two expert meetings carried out – in Kaliningrad and Gdansk.</li> <li>- (2) Project information brochure translated and printed in Russian and Polish – see further under deviation. A monthly electronic newsletter about the project implementation produced.</li> <li>- Project information has been given to a number of the executive boards of the regional bodies and municipalities concerned in Sweden.</li> <li>- (3) See deviation beneath.</li> <li>- (4) Preparations discussed – see further under deviation.</li> <li>- (5) See deviation beneath.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information and Communication Strategy for ERB produced and approved by the ERB Council.</li> <li>- (1) A first draft of a new web site presented – see further comments under deviation.</li> <li>- (2) 8 issues of Seagull News produced – available at the present ERB web site.</li> <li>- All concerned regional bodies informed about the project at several occasions. 12 out of totally 25 municipal executive boards informed at board meetings.</li> </ul>

<b>Deviation from the planned activities and outputs as well as their reasons/justifications</b>
<p>(1) A final proposal of a new ERB website was presented to and approved by the ERB Council February 27 2004.</p> <p>(2) Project information compiled already during milestone 1 – see Progress report 1 to the Rostock secretariat. Printed in English and Swedish during milestone 1; in Lithuanian during milestone 2. Not printed in Latvian due to lack of resources.</p> <p>(3) Exhibition produced already during milestone 1.</p>

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### **Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)**

- (4) The conference is planned to be changed into a number of “for-sight” seminars. We think that such seminars will give more added values for the JTDP and for the direct contacts between representatives of private companies.
- (5) The evaluation activities are delayed. We made a Tender procurement with deadline in the end of September 2003, and got only one answer that was much too expensive for the project. Now we are rethinking how to form the evaluation. A proposal will be compiled during milestone 4.

**Please describe the accumulated results of the project from the start of the project until now. If you have defined result indicators, please use them in this description.**

- Transfer of experience and best practices between the regions concerning Good Governance.
- Understanding of the importance of regional and interregional cooperation as one fundamental prerequisite for development of Good Governance in municipalities and regions – in view of restricted own resources and of being part of the European Union.
- Better knowledge and understanding by a great number of representatives of the ERB member regions of the different member regions' preconditions for regional and sustainable development through all meetings and workshops carried out, all project reports compiled up till now, the newsletter Seagull News and other dissemination activities within the project.
- Evident strengthening of networks of experts from the different ERB member regions, especially within WP 3 and 4.
- A close cooperation has started between the Seagull project and the Interreg III B projects Baltic Gateway, SEBTrans Link and South Baltic Arc.
- In spite of the reported deviations earlier in this report, we would like to stress that we are quite happy with the results so far with exception for WP 2. The central objectives of the project – to work out a Long Term Strategy and a JTDP for ERB – are following the implementation schedule and the work is functioning better than we had expected. The understanding of added values of such a strategy and JTDP for the member regions' own development opportunities is rapidly growing. Much effort has been put on overcoming language barriers, differences in cultures and resources, differences in apprehending the idea of working process-oriented and involving/committing as many decision makers and other stakeholders as possible in the project implementation, different interpretations of concepts as “vision”, “strategy” and “development programme”, etc. From such points of view, the progress of the project is very satisfactory.
- See also the described “Achievements of the project so far” earlier in this report.

## BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report (CEEC/NIS activities)

Is there anything else you would like to report (problems, highlights etc.)?

**Important notation:**

We are not attaching any Appendices to this progress report. The reason is that all such material is available at the ERB web-site [www.eurobalt.org](http://www.eurobalt.org), e.g. printed and drafted reports, all issues of Seagull News, agendas and notes from Steering Committee and secretariat meetings, as well as from all WP seminars, workshops and expert meetings.

If the Rostock Programme secretariat is interested in this material, please visit the ERB web-site. Also working material is available on the web-site, but not open for others than the project partners. The reason for this is that the working material is not quality checked by the project management. If representatives of the Rostock Programme secretariat would like to get access to this working material, please contact the project coordinator or Mr Erik Ciardi (contact coordinates are available at the web page and in the Seagull News).

## BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report (CEEC/NIS activities)

Please describe the activities that have been carried out in the candidate countries, Russia and Belarus.

- Some more than 50% of all Seagull-DevERB meetings have been located to Latvia, Lithuania, Kaliningrad Region and Poland in order to make it easier (cheaper) for our eastern partners to participate. The preparations for each of these meetings have been made jointly between the responsible Swedish WP leader and partner representatives in the actual region for the meeting.
- From the project start in August 2002
  - 11 meetings have taken place in the Kurzeme planning region in Latvia,
  - 16 meetings carried out in Klaipeda County,
  - 9 meetings taken place in Kaliningrad region, and
  - 18 meetings carried through in the two Polish ERB member regions.
- The eastern project partners have also contributed with material about the regional development plans for their respective regions, and with material to the main part of the project reports that have been mentioned earlier in this report, e.g. the democracy report, the gender equality report, the statistics/GIS report and the descriptive report about rural areas in ERB.
- As can be understood from the Financial report IV, the main part of the eastern partners' costs for participating in meetings and contributing to the reports, etc. have been covered by the eastern partners themselves (national financing). A small part has been covered by NCM funding. Costs for some of the meetings in Latvia during autumn 2003 have been covered by Phare funding.
- All eastern parties have also made considerable efforts to prepare applications for Phare/Tacis funding of their participation in the Seagull project.
  - The Russian preparations of the approved Seagull-RC have been very extensive – including input from the Seagull-DevERB management and the Governor's Administration in Klaipeda County that is lead partner for the project. The project's implementation period is January 2004 – June 2005.
  - The preparations of the approved Seagull-Latvia project were professionally made by Latvian consultants on behalf of our Latvian partner. Some Seagull seminars carried out in Latvia during autumn 2003, e.g. the two WP 3 seminars in Liepaja and Ventspils, were funded from the Seagull-Latvia project.
  - Our Lithuanian partner did also make an application during 2003 to the Lithuanian Phare CBC programme, but the proposal was rejected. Through a smaller contribution from the NCM funds, the Lithuanians and Latvians have been able to fund participation in WP 1 activities during the autumn of 2003.
  - Also our Polish partners made an application to the Polish Phare CBC fund in 2003, but the application was rejected by a very formal reason – an incorrect form of the Partnership Declaration was used. The three Polish partners have continued their efforts and have now prepared a new Phare application to one of the CBS Small Projects Facility Funds.