

<b>Project name:</b>	Seagull-DevERB		
<b>Reporting period:</b>	01.01.2004 - 30.06.2004	<b>Number of the report:</b>	4

<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 concretising 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.</p> <p>The Strategy/JTDP is prepared and anchored 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, the gender equality situation in the ERB member regions and a cluster study for the entire region. Studies on regional strategies, prerequisites for building up a common ERB data base and to use GIS methods 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 transport issues 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)

- About 140 transnational/regional seminars and workshops, and one big conference have been carried out within the project's five work packages.
- Some 3000 persons have participated in the meeting activities.
- An information brochure about the project has been produced and printed in 6 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 month and broadly spread to all stakeholders and other interested organisations and persons.
- Five project reports – *Democracy in Euroregion Baltic*, *The Lyckeby River – an attitude investigation about water issues*, *The Lyckeby River – Nature, culture, environment and The Lyckeby River Water Association*, *Innovative centres and SMEs as vehicles in regional development* and *Gender Equality in ERB* – have been printed. One report – *Rural Areas in ERB – Empirical description* – is ready for printing. At least eight more reports will be printed during autumn 2004 and spring 2005. Most of 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 ERB.
- 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 been implemented. A final report will be presented in the beginning of autumn this year.
- A pilot study on Cruise Tourism in the Baltic has started as well as a "Map book" describing different matters concerning activities in the Baltic Sea.
- Cross-sector partnerships for rural development have been initiated in four regions – Klaipeda County, Warmia-Masurian Region, Kurzeme Planning Region and Kaliningrad Region.
- Rural development pilot projects are being implemented in Sweden, Denmark and Russia.
- Strong efforts have been put on information and anchoring activities about the project objectives, achievements 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 worked out and anchored among experts and decision makers in the ERB member regions. The strategy has been developed in a process oriented manner also including presentations and discussions in the ERB Board and Council, input from seminars focusing certain perspectives like democracy/good governance and gender equality. Additional input have been provided by Seagull WP 2,3 and 4 as well as through the secretariats contacts with external experts on industrial clusters and regional development planning. In conclusion a thoroughly discussed and anchored strategy was by the end of milestone 4 presented for the Steering Committee as the basis for the JTDP to be worked out during autumn 2004.
- The project implementation has been reported and discussed at every meeting of the ERB Board and Council since the project started – totally 11 times up till now.

**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:

- 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 not 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. A new implementation plan for WP 2 is presented in the WP 2 section further on in this report.
- 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 72, 5 % of the planned co-financing according to the approved Seagull-DevERB application.

**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 4 the following activities have taken place:

- Steering Committee meetings in Liepaja in January and in Gdansk in June.
- All of the transnational 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.
- A large number of coordination activities have been carried out to match the joint activities between the Seagull-DevERB, Seagull – Russian Component and Seagull – Latvia projects. The Swedish management group has taken part in several meetings in Kaliningrad and some of the project leaders have made concrete contributions to the Seagull – Latvia project.
- A third exchange seminar was carried out in late May between the BSR Interreg projects Seagull, SEBTrans-Link and Baltic Gateway. South Baltic Arc did not participate in the meeting but had sent written comments about the contents of draft Long Term Strategy for ERB.

- A Partnership Agreement has been signed with the Seagull RC project, in which 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>MILE-STONE</b>
<b>Planned results of WP1</b>	A long-term strategy and a JTDP for the whole ERB region.	<b>4</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) Review of preliminary findings from the studies and other activities carried through in wp 2-4. (2) Two seminars about the draft ERB-strategy – in LT and SE. (3) Discussions and Decision in the ERB bodies about the strategy. (4) Working out a draft proposal about common prioritised cornerstones in a JTDP for ERB. (5) Two workshops about using SEA and EIA on development programmes – in DK and PL. (6) Two seminars about Equal Opportunities – conclusions and proposals – in LT and PL. (7) Two workshops about GIS as a tool in regional planning – in LV and DK. (8) Second joint seminar between representatives of the Seagull project and central infrastructure corridor projects affecting ERB. Main outputs: 9 seminars/workshops carried through, decision taken about the ERB long-term strategy, inputs delivered to the JTDP, proposals presented about cornerstones in the JTDP.</p>	<p>- Two Steering Committee (SC) meetings have been held: in Liepaja, Latvia in January and in Gdansk, Poland in June.                      - The project implementation status has been reported to and discussed by the ERB Council or Board at four meetings.                      - Four coordination meetings have been held in Sweden with the project management and all WP leaders.                      Concerning the delayed activities reported in Progress Report 3, most of them were implemented during spring this year:  <i>Activity (1)</i> – the joint seminar in PI – was carried out in February in Gdansk.  <i>Activity (2)</i> – the <i>remaining 2 out of 9 workshops about regional development plans</i> in the ERB member regions were carried out during January-February in Kaliningrad and on Bornholm.  <i>Activity (3)</i> – expert workshop on comprehensive theories on transregional development was carried out in Stockholm in June with participants from Nordregio and the Swedish and Russian ERB member regions.                      Activities (4) and (5) – the seminars were combined to deal with both democracy and gender issues, and carried through in Poland and Kaliningrad in February.  <i>Activity (7)</i> – a report on indicators for sustainability is compiled. The expert</p>	<p>- 2 SC, 4 ERB Council/Board and 4 project management meetings carried out.                      - 11 expert seminars/workshops implemented.                      - An ERB draft Long Term Strategy anchored in a written concept.                      - A written draft paper of Indicators for sustainability produced.                      - A draft report about Clusters in the ERB member regions presented.                      - The report Gender Equality in ERB under printing.</p>

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

<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>workshop will be carried out during autumn 2004.</p> <p>Concerning the planned activities during milestone 4:</p> <p>(1) Preliminary findings from WP 2-4 have been reviewed mainly during the SC and project management meetings mentioned above.</p> <p>(2) Several seminars about the draft strategy have been carried out, combined with the activities mentioned above. Three seminars for NGO representatives about ERB and the long term strategy have also been implemented (in Kaliningrad in April and in Elblag and Gdansk in May).</p> <p>(3) Implemented – see above.</p> <p>(4) Priority areas are described in the draft Long Term Strategy for ERB.</p> <p>(5) see deviations beneath.</p> <p>(6) - “ -</p> <p>(7) One workshop on Bornholm carried out in May. (The other one has been implemented in Klaipeda in the end of August).</p> <p>(8) The joint seminar was carried out in Vaxjo in end of May.</p> <p><i>Other important activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cont. production/printing of project reports.</li> <li>- The cluster study has been ongoing during all milestone 4. A first draft has been presented to the project management.</li> <li>- A pilot study concerning cruise tourism in the Baltic has been initiated and started. A final report is planned to the beginning of autumn.</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

We have now at large caught up with the implementation schedule as lined out in the project application, even if not exactly all activities have been implemented as planned. Some of them have been combined together, some implemented in other places than planned, and some new activities have been added. The workshops under (5) above will probably be combined with the workshop about indicators for sustainability. (6) These seminars, combined with good governance issues, will be implemented in the beginning of autumn this year.

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### 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>4</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) Five seminars about the draft report (milestone 3) findings. Proposals of further actions, including a joint ERB plan for water data. Dissemination of experiences and results. (2) Conclusions about local and regional preparation needs for implementing the WFD. Compiling a Final report about that. The Report forms input to Work Package one and the JTDP. (3) All Pilot areas: Continued implementation of actions and exchange of experiences. Exchange of knowledge and experience every third month between the partners. A joint regional seminar in SE. Co-ordination by the WWG. Main outputs: Five seminars carried through. Proposals for further actions. Dissemination of results. Final report compiled about preparations for implementing the WFD. Pilot actions carried through in SE, LV, LT, PL and RU. A joint seminar carried through in SE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two international meetings: A water group meeting in Kaliningrad in March, and – parts of (2) and (3): a Water Conference about the EU WFD and about input from WP 2 to the Strategy/JTDP for ERB</li> <li>- Regional workshop in Kaliningrad in March about the WFD, with participation from the Swedish side.</li> <li>- Three Swedish working group meetings.</li> <li>- One Swedish seminar about the WFD and its impact on other legislation.</li> <li>- Activities in the Swedish pilot area (The Lyckeby River) concerning cooperation and education of teachers and pupils.</li> <li>- One new report finally compiled and printed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 different meetings carried out.</li> <li>- Written input to the ERB Strategy/JTDP compiled.</li> <li>- Seagull report 3: The Lyckeby River and the Lyckeby River Water Association printed.</li> </ul>

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

Already in Progress Report 3 we described and commented a number of deviations from the planned activities of the work package. We stated that the main reason for the deviations was lack of resources by our Eastern parties. This situation remains even if the situation has been better for our Russian partner through the approved Tacis project and for our Latvian partner through the Seagull-Latvia project that is implemented during 2004 (ends in late August).

The different time schedules for INTERREG and Phare/Tacis makes it difficult to co-ordinate the work in the different regions. Lack of resources causes problems when it comes to implementation of activities and participation from all regions in the common work. It is also the reason why

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

there will be fewer activities, if any, in the Eastern pilot areas. Instead, the activities in the Swedish pilot area will function as an example of how to build a voluntary river basin based co-operation. Concerning the milestone 4 activities the plan is now:

(1) *August 2004 – February 2005.*

(2) *Ongoing process. The results will not be presented as a special report - instead form input to the ERB Strategy and JTDP.*

(3) *Ongoing in Sweden. Other regions?*

***The WP 2 plan for the remaining two milestones is in summary the following:***

#### **Milestone 5**

Reporting to the Euroregion Baltic bodies about the results of the WFD preparation activities.

*I.e. no “new” work, just reporting and anchoring.*

Finalising of the Water status report that originally was planned to be presented in the beginning of milestone 3.

A joint WP2/4 regional seminar in PL: International exchange conference. Methods for citizens participation

*We now suggest that this seminar is implemented in December this year – as a part of the ERB-Seagull Conference planned to December 2-3...*

Evaluation of the actions. Co-ordination by the WWG:

*SE: The attitude investigation will be repeated in the end of the project. Other regions?*

Compiling a report about the river basin area activities. Methods for enhanced dialogue with the citizens and better water quality. Conclusions and recommendations. Impact on the JTDP for ERB. Coordination by the WWG:

*The Seagull secretariat suggests that this report will be written as a joint report for WP 2 and WP 4. Preliminary title: “Methods for strengthening the public participation in ERB – experience from practical examples”. Suggested timetable: Draft November 2004, exchange seminar*

*December this year (see above), final report May 2005.*

#### **Milestone 6**

One seminar in each pilot area about the report findings. Dissemination of experiences.

Summary reporting to the Euroregion Baltic bodies about the results of the WP 2 activities.

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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>4</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>
Two regional seminars - one in RU and one in PL - building on the reports from earlier seminars. Compiling a draft report about prerequisites for developing Innovative Centres in ERB and building networks between them. Preparations for a summary seminar. Main outputs: Two seminars carried through. A draft report presented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seminar in Kaliningrad including an exhibition implemented in mid March.</li> <li>- One partner meeting carried through in Kaliningrad in March.</li> <li>- Four planning meetings in Sweden carried out.</li> <li>- Report from the seminar in Kaliningrad compiled.</li> <li>- Preparations for printing of reports.</li> <li>- Material for a “tool-box” with methods and models for building and sustaining innovative centres and clusters, and support to entrepreneurship has started to be collected.</li> <li>- Input to the ERB Strategy/JTDP prepared.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One regional seminar with 75 participants implemented.</li> <li>- A seminar report produced.</li> <li>- Five planning meetings carried out.</li> <li>- One expert report (Review of existing studies on the subject of innovation policy/actions and implementations concerning and/or affecting the member regions of Euroregion Baltic) is under printing.</li> <li>- A list of persons (over 300) for networking has been compiled and distributed.</li> <li>- Written paper compiled as input to the ERB Strategy/JTDP.</li> </ul>

<b>Deviation from the planned activities and outputs as well as their reasons/justifications</b>
<p>The planned seminar in Poland is moved to mid September due to organisational reasons on the Polish side.</p> <p>The planned paper about prerequisites for building a network of regional Centres of Excellence of IT and Soft Centres in the ERB member regions is delayed due to the changed plans for the Polish seminar. Conclusions from the paper will form input to the JTDP and also refine the already started work with the network mentioned above.</p>

## 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>4</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>Elaboration of rural development programmes through the Leader method. Continuous cross-sectoral cooperation between public, private and voluntary actors/organisations. The formed LAGs will play a crucial role. Pilot projects are being implemented. In short: (1) Continuous cooperation within/between the LAGs. (2) Elaborating rural development programmes by the LAGs. (3) Realisation of pilot projects. Activities: Transnational meeting carried through in LT. Steering group meeting carried through in RU. Local meetings and Pilot project meetings carried through in each country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Several international and SE/DK expert meetings have been held.</li> <li>- Four seminars and one workshop on the subjects LEADER method, local mobilization and local development have been held (in Kurzeme Planning Region and Kaliningrad Region).</li> <li>- The process of forming LAGs has been initiated in Warmia-Masurian Region, Klaipeda County, Kurzeme Planning Region and Kaliningrad Region. In connection to the seminars the LAGs have started to elaborate rural development programmes.</li> <li>- Pilot projects ongoing in Sweden, Denmark and Russia.</li> <li>- Studies ongoing about Women's assessments and choice of housing, and Rural Development and local democracy in ERB.</li> <li>- Sub-report of the Swedish pilot project compiled: Increase the level of competence and create new arenas for local development- Part 1 Identification of success factors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6 expert meetings carried out.</li> <li>- 5 seminars/workshops implemented on the LEADER method, etc. Totally 150 participants.</li> <li>- Several LAGs and Rural development programmes under way.</li> <li>- Pilot projects constructed.</li> <li>- A positive, unexpected result is an agreement for cooperation between Torsås Municipality, Kalmar County and Virga Municipality, Kurzeme Planning Region.</li> <li>- the report Rural Areas in Euroregion Baltic – Empirical description is under printing. The report contains input to the ERB Strategy/JTDP.</li> <li>- One sub-report of the Swedish pilot project compiled.</li> </ul>

<b>Deviation from the planned activities and outputs as well as their reasons/justifications</b>
<p>The deviations are limited. As said already in Progress Report 3, the implementation activities of WP 4 have functioned well in spite lack of resources by our eastern partners, including language problems and limited access to the Internet. The process of implementation of the LEADER model has started in four out of five of our Eastern partner regions (Klaipeda County, Warmia-</p>

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

Masurian region, Kurzeme Planning Region and Kaliningrad Region) that have pointed out areas where the Local Action Groups will be formed. The activities in the regions, mainly seminars and workshops, have been very successful thanks to the broad anchoring in the municipalities, the fact that the activities were arranged locally and the big interest in the questions. At this point in the project it is crucial to focus on the process of formation of Local Action Groups in those regions where the procedure has begun. That means that we will not try to build more Local Action Group in other regions. In order to encourage the process in the initiated LAGs, follow up activities are most important.

## 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>4</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) Discussions about the web page proposal in the member regions. Presentation of a final proposal and approval by the ERB bodies. (2) A workshop in DK on how to start the implementation of the new web page. (3) Information seminars for representatives of the private business sector and NGOs about the project and its development activities and ideas. One seminar in each member country. (4) Continued preparations for the private business sector conference. (5) Preparations for a Report package of the project. (6) Evaluation activities. Main outputs: A new web page decided. A workshop carried through on how to start implementation of the web page. Six information seminars directed to the private business sector and NGOs carried through. A draft Report package presented.</p>	<p>- Two WP 5 working group meetings carried through.</p> <p>(1) The new web site proposal has been discussed and anchored.</p> <p>(2) Workshop carried out.</p> <p>(3) Info seminars about the project and the Long Term Strategy carried out in Poland (2 seminars) and Kaliningrad Region. Also several information seminars for political bodies and other groups in Denmark and Sweden carried out.</p> <p>(4) – see deviations below.</p> <p>(5) Preparations have started.</p> <p>(6) Ideas of useful evaluation have been discussed with researchers at Nordregio. The discussions will continue during autumn.</p> <p>- Issuing of Seagull News in principle every month.</p>	<p>(1) Design of a new web site for ERB approved by the ERB decision bodies.</p> <p>(2) Workshop carried out.</p> <p>(3) Three business/NGO seminars implemented with totally about 150 participants.</p> <p>At least 12 info seminars carried out in Denmark and Sweden.</p> <p>- 5 numbers (no. 9-13) of Seagull News issued.</p>

<b>Deviation from the planned activities and outputs as well as their reasons/justifications</b>
<p>The deviations from the planned activities are relatively limited:</p> <p>(2) Implementation of the new web site during this autumn.</p> <p>(3) Several info/anchoring seminars for business representatives/NGOs are planned to be carried out during the two remaining milestones.</p> <p>(4) The planned private business sector conference will not be implemented – instead we will carry out more seminars directed to NGOs and representatives of the business sector.</p>

**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 and Gender equality.
- 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. The network of experts interested in further development of Science Parks, IT Soft Centres etc. consists of more than 300 persons.
- A close cooperation is ongoing 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. A draft Long Term Strategy is now processed and anchored among the project partners and approved by the ERB decision bodies.
- The understanding of added values of such a strategy and JTDP for the member regions' own development opportunities is 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.

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Progress Report – Activity Report (CEEC/NIS activities)**

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

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 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 Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland (1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> round projects), and in Russia and Belarus.

- About 50% of all Seagull-DevERB meetings have been located to Latvia, Lithuania, Kaliningrad Region or 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
  - 16 meetings have taken place in the Kurzeme planning region in Latvia,
  - 16 meetings carried out in Klaipeda County,
  - 15 meetings taken place in Kaliningrad region, and
  - 24 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 Russian and Latvian participation in the meetings during milestone 4 have been covered by Tacis and Phare funding respectively

All eastern parties have 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. The project is closed in the end of August this year.
- Our Lithuanian partner has made applications both during 2003 and 2004 to the Lithuanian Phare CBC programme, but both proposal were rejected.
- Also our Polish partners have made Phare applications both 2003 and 2004. The first application was rejected. The second one is not yet finally evaluated.

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

- Our Russian partners are from the beginning of milestone 4 able to participate in all remaining project activities through the approved Tacis Seagull-RC project.
- The Latvian parties participated fully in all WP 2-4 activities from late autumn 2003 till the end of summer 2004 through the approved Phare Seagull-Latvia project. They are not planning for another application to the Phare funds due to all bureaucracy concerning administration, reporting, etc. The Latvian level of further participation is thereby uncertain.
- The Polish partners have compiled a new Phare application that seems to be approved during September 2004, but the budget is limited – about 25 000 euro. Thereby also the level of Polish participation is uncertain.
- Our Lithuanian partner has no Phare funding for the rest of the implementation period for the Seagull project – also here the level of participation is uncertain.