

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

BSR INTERREG III B Activity Report

Dear Lead Partner,

Please take notice of the following when filling in the activity report:

1. Please do not change or delete the structure, page/section breaks or prefilled texts of the reporting form.
2. Please follow the instructions given in the turquoise fields or in cursive in the white fields. Please delete the cursive advise in brackets on the white fields before filling them in.
3. Please try to keep the descriptions clear and short. When appropriate, prefer bullet points and/or numbers to whole sentences.
4. We have developed a list of output indicators to help the monitoring of the outputs produced in the projects. In case you have named and quantified any output indicators in the project plan, please list and quantify the fulfilled ones in the WP reports. Please find an indicative list of output indicators on the next page.
5. The projects that originally have candidate countries as partners should still report the activities carried out in these countries in the table reserved for them (projects of the 1st – 4th rounds) with the exception of the upgraded partners of the 4th round projects. From the 5th round onwards the activities carried out in the New Member States are reported together with other EU Member States.
6. Please submit the “Summary description of the project” and “Achievements of the project so far” for the BSR INTERREG III B website also in case this was done in the previous reports as the current report will replace these two tables in our database.
7. This progress report is the final report to some of the projects. In this case we have attached two separate annexes to the final activity report for the project to fill in. The Annex A is common for all ending projects and the Annex A.1.1, A1.2 etc. is measure specific. Please submit the annexes together with the final progress report both in digital and paper version.

Further information is available on www.bsrinterreg.net in the section "How to implement". Please read carefully also the corresponding chapters of the Programme Manual.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kirsi Laitio at the BSR Interreg III B Joint Secretariat.

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BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

Output indicators

1. Number of common spatial development visions
2. Number of concrete development concepts and strategies
3. Number of land-use and building plans based on transnational strategies
4. Number of technical concepts and feasibility studies
5. Number of economic expertise and business plans
6. Number of cases where environmental impact assessment has been used
7. Number of cases where territorial impact assessment has been used
8. Number of promotion and marketing strategies
9. Number of guidelines, manuals
10. Number of learning programmes
11. Number of training courses and number of trainees
12. Number of small-scale infrastructure investments and their amount
13. Number of all persons involved directly in project events
14. Number of information releases describing project results
 - Websites
 - Brochures
 - TV and radio broadcasts, movie clips
 - Presentations and lectures

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Project name: | Seagull-DevERB | | |
| Reporting period: | 01.07.2004 - 31.12.2004 | Number of the report: | 5 |

| Summary description of the project 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 of 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 cooperation 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 trans-national 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 especially the environment and energy fields that are of vital importance for the development of the whole Euroregion. This political cooperation 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 objective is 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 and Technical 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> | |

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

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 165 *trans-national/regional seminars and workshops*, and *two big conferences* have been carried out within the project's five work packages.
- *Almost 4000 persons* have participated in the meeting activities.
- An *information brochure* about the project has been produced and printed in 6 languages – totally 8000 copies.
- *Roll-ups* about the project as well as an *A3-map* (in 1000 copies) over the ERB have been produced.
- 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 distributed to all stakeholders and other interested organisations and persons – up till December 2004 in 17 issues.
- Seven project reports – (1) *Democracy in Euroregion Baltic*, (2) *The Lyckeby River-an attitude investigation about water issues*, (3) *The Lyckeby River-Nature, culture, environment and The Lyckeby River Water Association*, (4) *Innovative centres and SMEs as vehicles in regional development*, (5) *Gender Equality in ERB*, (6) *Rural Areas in ERB-Empirical description*, and (7) *ATLAS-Euroregion Baltic and the Baltic Sea* – are printed and published on the ERB web site. *Seven more reports* are compiled and under preparations for printing or publishing at the web site. Most of these reports should be regarded as important basic material for the work in the project to form a JTDP for ERB. One of the new reports is a *study of industrial and other production clusters* in the ERB member regions. Another is a *pilot study on Cruise Tourism in the Baltic*.
- A survey has been carried out about the *nine ERB member regions' development strategies*.
- *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 as the basis for the JTDP was in the beginning of autumn 2004 presented for the Seagull Steering Committee, for public decision bodies in the member regions and for the Board and Council of ERB. The strategy concentrates on *five focus areas for supporting a long-term sustainable development of ERB*: (1) A competitive business environment, (2) Labour market cooperation, (3) Implementation of EU environment and energy policies, (4) Special support to the Kaliningrad Region, and (5) Exchange of best practises and bench-marking within primarily the mentioned focus areas for actions.
- A *first draft of the JTDP for ERB* has been compiled and printed in English, Russian, Polish and Swedish in the end of November, and formed the basis for a conference in Gdansk in the beginning of December. The conference and its eight workshops proposed actions within the five focus areas of the draft long-term strategy to be developed in the second draft of the JTDP.
- The project implementation status has been reported and discussed at *every meeting of the ERB Board and Council* since the project started – totally 13 times up to the end of 2004.

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report (general information)

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.
- 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 trans-national activities – the implementation situation is now under relatively good control; the situation is better than it was 6 months ago when we made the fourth progress report . The attached Financial report IV – *Changes of the non-eligible budget* – shows that the eastern parties through Phare, Tacis and NCM funding and own national financing have fulfilled 81,7 % 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...)

During milestone 5 the main coordination activities have been the following:

- Steering Committee meetings in Kaliningrad in September and in Gdansk in November.
- All the trans-national expert meetings within the five project WP:s have included coordination discussions.
- Three coordination meetings with and continuously close contacts over phone and the Internet between the project management and all WP leaders.
- Continuously close contacts over phone, the Internet and at meetings with the national secretariats of the ERB organisation (there is one such secretariat in respectively Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Kaliningrad Region, Lithuania and Latvia that represent the main partners of the Seagull project) and the international secretariat of ERB in Elblag, Poland.
- Special coordination activities between the project management and the administration of the Marshal's office of the Pomeranian Region and the international ERB-secretariat in order to prepare and carry through the conference in Gdansk in December 2004.
- Special coordination activities between the Seagull project management and the management of the Tacis funded Seagull RC project.

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

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|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Title of WP1 | ERB strategy and Joint Transnational Development Programme (JTDP) | |
| Strategic focus of WP1 | Transnational, cross-sectoral approach to form a strategy and a JTDP for ERB in line with compreh. EU policies. JTDP as base for investm. | MILE-STONE |
| Planned results of WP1 | A long-term strategy and a JTDP for the whole ERB region. | 5 |

| <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 and related output indicators</u> |
|--|---|---|
| <p>(1) New review about findings from the WP 2-4 and from infrastructure corridor and other relevant projects as input to the JTDP. (2) Working out a first draft of an ERB JTDP with cornerstones essential for the ERB development. (3) Seminars about the draft JTDP with written conclusions - one in each ERB member country. (4) Compiling of Regional reports about the Governance and Equal opportunities situation in the ERB regions. (5) Two GIS workshops - in RU and PL. (6) Analysis of impact for the ERB region of proposals from central infrastructure corridor projects. Main outputs: A draft JTDP for ERB. Six seminars carries through about the draft JTDP. Reports presented about the Governance and Equal Opportunity situation in the ERB member regions and discussed with the ERB bodies with proposals of further actions. Two GIS workshops carried through. Impact analysis of results from central infrastructure projects carried through.</p> | <p>- Much ground work as a basis for the JTDP has been carried out during milestone 5. A very important part is the report <i>The role of regional industrial platforms and clusters in the development of ERB</i> that was finalised in October. Also e.g. special reports on Good Governance and Gender issues to be integrated into the JTDP have been compiled during the actual milestone.</p> <p>- Two Steering Committee (SC) meetings have been held: in Kaliningrad in September and in Gdansk in November.</p> <p>- The project implementation status has been reported to and discussed by the ERB Council and Board at two occasions.</p> <p>- Three coordination meetings have been held in Sweden with the project management and all WP leaders.</p> <p>- An expert workshop based on the report Indicators for sustainable development has been carried out in Elblag, Poland in October (delayed from milestone 4).</p> <p>- A seminar on Good Governance and Gender Equality issues carried out in Poland in September, and a Gender Equality workshop in Lithuania in November (both activities delayed from earlier milestones).</p> <p>- Mappings have been made of demands on and use of the south-east Baltic Sea surface</p> | <p>- 2 SC, 2 ERB Council/Board meetings and 3 project management meetings carried out.</p> <p>- 6 expert seminars/workshops implemented.</p> <p>(2) A first draft JTDP compiled. The draft is to be found on ERBs web site www.eurobalt.org.</p> <p>(3) A full report from the conference in Gdansk, including conclusions from eight workshops on themes connected to the JTDP, is to be found at www.eurobalt.org.</p> <p>(5) A GIS manual report is produced – could also be found on the web page.</p> <p>(6) A first draft JTDP presented.</p> <p>- Concerning outputs in the form of written Seagull reports, see WP 5 below.</p> |

**BSR INTERREG III B
Progress Report – Activity Report**

| <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 and related output indicators</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| | <p>and waters for different purposes. The mappings are presented in a report in Swedish and two “map books” in Swedish and English.</p> <p>- Final preparations for printing of a report about Cruise tourism in the Baltic and Bothnian Sea have been carried through.</p> <p>(1) Findings from WP2-4 and from infrastructure corridor projects reported in written form as input to the JTDP.</p> <p>(2) A first draft of an ERB JTDP compiled and presented and discussed during a conference with workshops in Gdansk in the beginning of December 2004.</p> <p>(3) Seminars have been carried out in some of the ERB countries, but the main seminar activity was the one at the conference in Gdansk in December 2004.</p> <p>(4) See deviation below.</p> <p>(5) The GIS workshops implemented, including an extra workshop in Latvia in November.</p> <p>(6) Analyses have been made. A draft JTDP has been presented and discussed at the conference in Gdansk. Eight seminars (workshops) carried through during the conference in Gdansk. Concerning reports about the Governance and Equal Opportunity situation, see deviation below. GIS workshops carried through. An preparatory impact analysis from central infrastructure projects has been made as input to the JTDP.</p> | |

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

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

Most of the activities (seminars and workshops) delayed from earlier milestones have now been implemented. The only still remaining activities are the following:

- (4) A sum up Report about Good Governance and Equal Opportunities. A report is under preparation, based on regional reports. It will be compiled and presented during spring 2005.
- Two workshops about using SEA and EIA on development programmes. Those workshops will be combined into one seminar that will be carried out during spring 2005.

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

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|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Title of WP2 | Management of Water resources | |
| Strategic focus of WP2 | 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. | MILE-STONE |
| Planned results of WP2 | 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. | 5 |

| Planned activities and outputs | Main activities that have taken place during the reporting period | Outputs produced during the reporting period and related output indicators |
|--|--|---|
| (1) Reporting to the Euroregion Baltic bodies about the results of the WFD preparation activities. (2) Pilot areas: Continued implementation of actions and exchange of experiences. Exchange of knowledge and experiences every third month. A joint regional seminar in PL. Evaluation of the actions. Co-ordination by the WWG. (3) 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. Main outputs: Reports presented to the ERB bodies. Pilot actions carried through in SE, LV, LT, PL and RU. A joint seminar carried through in PL. A report compiled about the river basin activities. Input to milestone 6 and to the JTDP. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bilateral expert meetings carried out with Sweden as one partner and Russia, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania as the other. - Two of the workshops at the conference in Gdansk in December 2004 dealing with water and mobilisation issues. - Swedish seminars/workshops carried out. (1) Ongoing activity. (2) Implemented in the Swedish pilot area during milestone 5: Visit to each and every school to speak directly to the teachers about what kind of support they need from the Lyckeby river association. Methods for outdoor education. Preparation for "The Lyckeby River Day". The joint regional seminar in PL implemented. - Water within ERB. Draft Status report presented. - Preliminary input to the JTDP compiled. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four bilateral meetings, two international workshops and four Swedish seminars/workshops implemented. - Draft status report: Water within ERB. - Input to the JTDP. |

| Deviation from the planned activities and outputs as well as their reasons/justifications |
|---|
| <p>General comment: As underlined in earlier progress reports, the different time schedules for INTERREG and Phare/Tacis projects make it difficult to co-ordinate the work in the different regions. Lack of resources also causes problems when it comes to implementation of activities and participation from all regions in the common work. Lack of resources is also the reason why there are no Phare pilot areas in WP 2. Instead, the activities in the Swedish pilot area function as</p> |

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

examples of how to build a voluntary river basin based cooperation. Also within the Tacis project there are pilot river activities, within the river Primorskaja.

Instead of a succession of regional seminars about the findings (milestone 4 and 6), the Seagull secretariat suggests fewer seminars and an ERB water conference in October 2005 in order to develop and anchor the suggestions presented. As a part of this, an inventory of key persons is suggested.

Not implemented from milestone 2: Workshops in Latvia and Poland.

Remaining from milestone 4 are 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. *Instead of five seminars about the findings, four bilateral expert meetings have taken place during milestone 5. This was considered as a better and more effective way to reach the wanted results, i.e. to anchor the suggestions and conclusions which will form the WP 2 input to the JTDP. Today for fields of actions are suggested, as input to the JTDP (environment techniques and products, ERB Water Forum, nutrients from small and diffuse sources, environmental competence). There will be further seminars during milestone 6, related to the suggested fields of actions. For example, a Latvian-Swedish seminar about small scale water treatment solutions is planned for February 2005. The Seagull secretariat also suggests an international conference in October 2005, to develop and anchor the proposals presented. As a part of this, an inventory of key persons is suggested.*

(1) Development and anchoring of chosen areas will continue throughout the whole project period.

(3) As already reported in earlier progress report, 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 – experiences from practical examples". Suggested timetable: September 2005.

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

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|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Title of WP3 | Innovative Centres and SME:s as vehicles in regional development | |
| Strategic focus of WP3 | Develop networks in line with the Triple Helix model. How to develop Innovative Centres. Methods for supporting entrepreneurship, especially female ones. Spatial dimensions. | MILE-STONE |
| Planned results of WP3 | 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. | 5 |

| Planned activities and outputs | Main activities that have taken place during the reporting period | Outputs produced during the reporting period and related output indicators |
|--|---|--|
| <p>A summary seminar in SE, based on the draft report. Compiling a final report, partly as input to the work with the JTDP for ERB - see WP 1. Reporting to the ERB bodies. Main outputs: One seminar carried through. Network of Innovative Centres established. A final report presented and disseminated.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar in Poland (postponed from Milestone 4) took place in Elblag September 17 2004. - A final summary seminar was held in Ronneby Sweden November 19th. <p>Documentation see: http://www.eurobalt.org/seagull-wp3/final_seminar.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Network contacts (in total approx. 300) are collected. Network contacts and useful models and methods for establishing innovative centres and cluster, including ways to promote entrepreneurship are collected in the first version of a Tool-box for the area. This first version is published on http://www.eurobalt.org/seagull-wp3/tool_box.html and contains also relevant reports and a "library" with references to literature. - Preliminary input to the JTDP has been made, a more extensive output is under way. - A questionnaire has been distributed to contacts. The aim is to a) evaluate activities carried out b) give input to future work, including concrete actions to be formulated in the JTDP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued documentation on the web site for WP3: http://www.eurobalt.org/seagull-wp3 (tool-box etc, see activities) - A final report from 6 seminars (in Lithuania, Latvia, Kaliningrad and Poland) is compiled. - Final version of expert report 2: Results of an enquiry to science parks and innovative centres including technology networks in the Euroregion Baltic (ERB) - Regional seminar in Elblag, Poland, 17 September 2004. - Final trans-national seminar in Ronneby, Sweden, November 19th 2004. |

BSR INTERREG III B
Progress Report – Activity Report

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

No deviations from plan.

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Title of WP4 | Development Programmes for Rural Areas | |
| Strategic focus of WP4 | Focus local, transnational and cross-sectoral cooperation between partners active in rural development issues. Combining public, private and voluntary actors to find joint solutions. | MILE-STONE |
| Planned results of WP4 | 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. | 5 |

| Planned activities and outputs | Main activities that have taken place during the reporting period | Outputs produced during the reporting period and related output indicators |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Finalisation of the rural development programmes including visions, measures, actions, new project proposals, etc, stressing the added value of transnational co-operation. The programmes will also stress the Leader perspective and form a base for future cooperation through the formed LAGs. Finalisation of the pilot projects. Sum-up and evaluation of the work package. The established networks - on local, regional and international level - will lay ground for fruitful cooperation also after the closure of the Seagull project through the ERB long-term co-operation. In short: (1) Finalisation of the rural development programmes. (2) Finalisation of the pilot projects. (3) Sum-up and evaluation. (4) Input to work package 1 and the JTDP. Activities: Transnational meeting carried through in SE. Steering group meeting carried through in DK. Local meetings and Pilot project meetings carried through in each country. Input prepared to the JTDP, see WP 1.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small international expert meeting/study visit, on Bornholm. - International expert meeting/study visit, in South Kalmar County. - Workshops on woman's assessments and choice of housing, in Klaipeda County and Kaliningrad Region. - Workshop on methods for Local Action Groups – how to move further, in Ozersk, Kaliningrad Region. - Workshop on Why local mobilization? Rural development and bottom up in an EU perspective, in Gdansk, Pomeranian Region. - Study of Women's assessments and choice of housing compiled. - Study on Rural Development and local democracy in ERB compiled. - Toolbox for rural development projects in ERB compiled, summary brochure compiled. - Report, Rural Areas in Euroregion Baltic – Empirical description compiled. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 expert meetings and 4 workshops implemented. (1) Local Action Groups have been established in several regions and have elaborated rural development programmes in Ozersk, Russia and Strazde, Latvia. (1) Rural development programmes have been elaborated and a proposal for joint strategic areas has been approved. (2) Pilot Projects in Sweden, Denmark and Russia being implemented (3) The process of sum up and evaluation has started and focus on methods for a continued fruitful cooperation in the built up networks. (4) Preliminary input to JTDP has been elaborated in cooperation with WP1. - Study of women's assessments and choice of housing compiled. Study on Rural Development and local democracy in ERB compiled. -Toolbox for rural development projects in ERB compiled, summary brochure compiled. - Report, Rural Areas in Euroregion Baltic – Empirical description, compiled. |

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

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

- The establishment of Local Action Groups in ERB has been quite a complex process due to the uneven social infrastructure between different parts of the region. Actually we have in the project application underestimated the time for this process. All regions have not been able to form Local Action Groups in this short time. Considering this, we are pleased to state that in spite of these difficulties the two member regions in Russia and Latvia have formed Local Action Groups that have elaborated regional/local rural development programmes.
(1) Due to the complex process and the special preconditions, we have changed the focus from elaborating rural development programmes for each ERB member region to the establishment of Local Action Groups and the elaboration of a joint rural development programme for ERB as a whole. The programme is processed by the leader method through several seminars and workshops and focuses on the added value for ERB. Since each LAG does not have been able to elaborate a local/regional development programme, we put special focus in the input to the JTDP on the need for local mobilization in the region. An ERB Rural Development Academy, which is a main WP 4 input to the JTDP, is one important tool to further develop and improve local mobilization and rural development in the region.
- In order to further strengthen the Local Action Groups we plan an exchange seminar for them in August 2005.
- The Seagull partners all have had unequal prerequisites. The Interreg-partners have had their participation funded from the beginning. The Phare and Tacis partners had different possibilities due to the well known lack of co-financing.
(2) The pilot projects have been delayed but some results have been presented in the report "Identification of success factors". Never the less, results from the pilot projects will give input to the JTDP in time.
(3) Sum up and evaluation has started but will continue during the whole milestone 6.

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

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Title of WP5 | Information, communication and evaluation | |
| Strategic focus of WP5 | Good dissemination of the project and its results. Creating channels for such dissemination. Fair evaluation of the project activities and outcomes. | MILE-STONE |
| Planned results of WP5 | 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. | 5 |

| <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 and related output indicators</u> |
|---|---|--|
| (1) Continued web page implementation. (2) Continued preparations of the Report package. (3) Conference in PL directed to representatives of the private business sector in ERB. (4) Evaluation activities. Main outputs: The new web page in function. Private business sector conference carried through. | <p>- One trans-national working group meeting carried out in Poland in September.</p> <p>(1) The new ERB web page is functioning since the beginning of milestone 5 and is continuously developed.</p> <p>(2) New Seagull reports printed or compiled for later printing or publishing on the web site.</p> <p>(3) Two seminars in Sweden directed to the private business sector carried out. Contacts established with the new Chamber of Commerce for the southern Baltic Sea Region.</p> <p>(3) A big conference in Gdansk directed mainly to politicians and officials from the ERB member regions implemented in December.</p> <p>(4) An ex ante evaluation of the project discussed and agreed upon between the project management and the R&D institution Nordregio in Stockholm.</p> | <p>- One trans-national WG-meeting carried out .</p> <p>(1) The new web site in function.</p> <p>(2) Two Seagull reports printed during the milestone: No. 5: Gender Equality in ERB, and No. 6: Rural Areas in ERB. Both reports are published on www.eurobalt.org. Seven more reports are compiled and under preparations for printing or publishing at the web site:</p> <p>No. 7: ATLAS – Euroregion Baltic and the Baltic Sea,</p> <p>No. 8: The role of regional industrial platforms and clusters in the development of ERB,</p> <p>No. 9: Indicators for sustainable development within ERB,</p> <p>No. 10: Cruise tourism in the Baltic and Bothnian Sea - a pilot study on maritime tourism,</p> <p>No. 11: Water within ERB. Draft Status report,</p> <p>No. 12: Study of Women’s assessments and choice of housing, and</p> <p>No. 13: Study on Rural Development and local democracy in ERB.</p> <p>(3) Two business sector seminars implemented. A big ERB-Seagull conference carried through.</p> <p>(4) Agreement with Nordregio about an ex ante evaluation of the project during the first half of 2005.</p> |

BSR INTERREG III B

Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)

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

The deviations from planned activities are limited:

- Some more Seagull reports than planned are under preparation for publishing.
- Some less seminars directed to the private and NGO sectors implemented.
- The conference in Gdansk in December was not planned in the project proposal. It replaced from some points of view the planned private business sector conference that was cancelled (as already reported in Progress Report 4). The Gdansk conference turned out to be a success and has sped up the process of preparing the second draft of the JTDP.

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

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, Gender equality, sustainable development actions and the use of GIS techniques in planning and evaluation activities.
- 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 to 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.
- Seven project reports printed and published at the ERB web site. Seven more reports compiled and under preparations for printing/publishing at the web site.
- In spite of the reported deviations earlier in this report, we would like to stress that we are quite content with the project results so far. 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 processed and anchored among the project partners and approved by the ERB decision bodies.
 - A first JTDP draft is presented and discussed at the conference in Gdansk in December 2004
- 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.

BSR INTERREG III B Progress Report – Activity Report

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

Information on written material about the project:

We are not attaching any Appendices to this progress report (as for the two earlier ones). The reason now is the same as earlier – all such material is available at the ERB web site 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 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).

Highlights:

As mentioned earlier in this report, the Gdansk conference carried out in December 2004 was a success. It gathered 135 participants, mainly leading politicians and officials from the ERB member regions. The discussions and considerations during the conference and its eight parallel workshops confirmed a strong consensus about the proposed five focus areas of the draft ERB long-term strategy/JTDP and laid a good ground for the further work of developing prioritised actions to be put forward in the JTDP.

The president of the ERB Board and Council, Marshal of the Pomeranian Region, Mr Jan Kozlowski, closed the conference by stating, among others, that important proposals in the draft JTDP are development of R&D centres for business development, Competence centres for environment and energy issues, an Academy for rural development, development of thematic tourism packages and creation of an ERB labour market without barriers.

He also stressed that a central prerequisite for success of the implementation of the final proposed actions in the JTDP is that the involved decision makers, i.e. politicians in the whole Euroregion Baltic, accept the visions, aims and directions in the JTDP as their own visions, aims and directions and become their owners, and find sufficient human and financial resources to implement them. Another crucial condition for success is to reach concordance between the ERB member regions' decision bodies and the local communities within the regions who must share the views of specific goals and join in the implementation process.

Comments:

The mutual understanding of the final ERB JTDP actions and their added values for the ERB member regions are crucial for the further success of the ERB cooperation. Such understanding demands meetings and discussions between the partners about the draft JTDP proposals. Anchoring takes time and human resources. This is why we have applied for a three months prolongation of the implementation period of the Seagull project. This prolongation period will be used entirely for information, discussions and anchoring of the proposed JTDP activities, in order to make the best possible preparations for the final decisions in the member regions and the ERB decision bodies about their final JTDP proposal.

BSR INTERREG III B

Progress report – activity report (results)

Please describe the activities that have been carried out in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland (1st – 4th round projects with the exception of upgraded projects), and in Russia and Belarus.

- More than 50% of all Seagull-DevERB meetings have been located to Latvia, Lithuania, the 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 up to the end of 2004
 - 18 meetings have taken place in the Kurzeme planning region in Latvia,
 - 20 meetings carried out in Klaipeda County,
 - 19 meetings taken place in Kaliningrad region, and
 - 31 meetings and one big conference 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 V, a considerable 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 (for Lithuania) and a considerable part of the costs during mainly milestone 4 by Phare for Latvia. Costs for Russian and partly Polish participation in the meetings during milestone 5 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 2004.
- Our Lithuanian partner has made applications both during 2003 and 2004 to the Lithuanian Phare CBC programme, but both proposals were rejected.
- Also our Polish partners have made Phare applications both 2003 and 2004. The first application was rejected. The second one was approved during autumn 2004, but with a limited budget – 25 156 euro. The Polish partners have been very active during milestone 5. This is to a great extent explained by the fact that the Marshall of the Pomeranian Region has been chairman of the ERB Board and Council during 2004, and that a permanent ERB secretariat located to Elblag in the Warmia-Masurian region, financed by the member regions, was created in 2004 and started its work in August. The preparations of the Conference in Gdansk was mainly done by our Polish partners, financed from the approved Phare project.

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 principally 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 participation has been limited during milestone 5, and is uncertain for the rest of the project.
- The level of the Polish participation is estimated to be good during the rest of the implementation period.
- Our Lithuanian partner has no Phare funding for the rest of the implementation period of the Seagull project. The chairmanship of the ERB Board and Council is though Lithuanian during 2005, which hopefully will increase the Lithuanian participation also in the Seagull project.