

BSR INTERREG III B

Progress Report – Activity Report (general information)

Project name:	Seagull-DevERB		
Reporting period:	01.07.2005 - 19.11.2005	Number of the report:	6+

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 was an expression of the member regions' mutual interest of 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 has operated. The project results will be the frame – the programme – for central development activities for the entire ERB and thereby also deepening and concretising the long term cooperation between the ERB member regions, which decision bodies represent as much as 6 million citizens.</p> <p>The Seagull project's overall objective has been to contribute to the cohesion in the southeast Baltic Sea Region, utilizing the increasing economic potential in the region while at the same time taking social, environmental and cultural sustainability into consideration. The most central objective of the project has been to develop and politically decide upon a Joint Development Programme (JDP) 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 JDP has been prepared and anchored through a process-oriented work including a long range of seminars and workshops, and input in the form of reports on for instance democracy and governance issues, the gender equality situation in the ERB member regions, environmental issues and studies concerning innovative environments and industrial clusters in the region. Also studies on regional strategies, prerequisites for building up a common ERB data base and to use GIS methods have been carried out. Special emphasis have been put on water management issues, building networks between innovative centres (Science and Technical Parks, etc.), promoting entrepreneurship and cooperation between companies, and on the problematic situation in the vast rural areas within the region. Input to the development programme about transport issues has been made through a close cooperation with the BSR Interreg III B projects Baltic Gateway, SEBTrans Link and South Baltic Arc.</p> <p>The vision is that "In 2015 the ERB will be a region characterised by growing prosperity and good living conditions for the citizens. The region is internationally recognised as a front runner in sustainable growth and the integration of old and new market economies, characterized by real social and regional cohesion."</p> <p>The strategy of the JDP specifies four focus areas for the development work of the coming ten years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A competitive business environment. <i>In a European perspective, measures will be taken that help to strengthen competitiveness of the ERB business world and promote innovation and an attractive investment climate. The emphasis will be put on sustainable growth through a prosperous SME sector, increased knowledge contents for products and services, and on environmental and energy issues as well as social and regulatory transparency and stability.</i> • An improved transport infrastructure: 			

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The ERB cooperation will highlight the importance of transport infrastructure as a means of facilitating the growth of trade and improving competitiveness of industry and service businesses – as well as of helping to develop tourism in the region. The ambition is that ERB becomes an advocate and a driving force of the enhancement of the member regions' development aims – a political lobbyist at national and European levels.

• **A strong social dimension:**

Cohesion activities within the social field are very important for the sustainable development of ERB. It is necessary to reduce unemployment in order to facilitate economic growth in the region. Labour market cooperation should be pursued as a means of equalising sub-regional imbalances in the supply of and demand for manpower in the member regions.

• **A sustainable environmental and energy policy:**

Joint initiatives should be taken in order to increase knowledge and common understanding of EU initiatives within the environment and energy sectors. The ERB goal is to become one of the leading regions in implementing EU initiatives and regulations in a direct dialogue with responsible EU bodies.

The JDP **Action Programme** develops eight different projects/activities within the four focus areas.

www.eurobalt.org; www.kalmar.regionforbund.se; www.euroregionbaltic.eu

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)

The project is implemented.
It has resulted in

- About 200 trans-national/regional seminars and workshops, and two big conferences within the project's five work packages.
- Over 5100 persons have participated in the meeting activities.
- The project implementation status has been reported and discussed at every meeting of the ERB Board and Council since the project started – totally 18 times up to November 2005. The implementation status has also been reported to the member regions' decision bodies at several occasions.
- 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. All copies of the map have been distributed to the member regions and to participants of bigger conferences such as the BSSSC's annual meetings.
- 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 and broadly distributed to all

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stakeholders and other interested organisations and persons – up till October 2005 in 21 issues.

- Twelve project reports are printed and published on the ERB web site: (1) *Democracy in Euroregion Baltic*, (2) *The Lyckeby River-an attitude investigation about water issues – study I*, (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*, (7) *Euroregion Baltic and the Baltic Sea*, (7a) *ATLAS-Euroregion Baltic and the Baltic Sea*, (8) *The role of regional industrial platforms and clusters in the development of ERB*, (9) *Cruise Tourism in the Baltic and Bothnian Sea – a pilot study on maritime tourism*, (10) *Women's choice of living*, and (11) *Water within ERB*.
- Another twelve project reports are prepared, but available only in electronic form:
 - *Indicators for sustainable development within the ERB*,
 - *Good Governance and Gender Equality in ERB – interview survey*,
 - *Methods for Strengthening the Public Participation within ERB*,
 - *The Lyckeby River – a follow up study about attitudes towards water issues – study II*,
 - *Attitudes towards water issues in Kaliningrad and Sweden – a comparative study among people living around the Gurjevka River and the Lyckeby River*,
 - *Information and Communication Strategy for ERB*,
 - *Regional Strategies in the ERB – background paper*,
 - *Results of an Inquiry to Science Parks and Innovative Centres in ERB*,
 - *Review of Existing Links between Innovation Centres and Clusters in ERB*,
 - *Statistics and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)*,
 - *GIS – Practice Exercises*, and
 - *Rural Development and Local Democracy*.

The reports have been important basic material for the work to form the Joint Development Programme (JDP) for ERB.

All reports are or will be published at the ERB web site, that at present (summer 2006) is closed for re-designing.

- A *Tool box* has been developed concerning triple helix cooperation – published at the ERB web site.
- *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* have been implemented in Sweden, Denmark and Russia.
- Strong efforts have been put on *information and anchoring activities* about the project objectives, achievements and results to decision makers in the member regions, mainly within the public sector. Central examples are the electronic newsletter *Seagull News* that has been distributed to over 500 selected receivers, and that the second and third drafts of the JDP were in April respectively August 2005 sent to all ERB member regions for comments. All member regions
- The final JDP was worked out during autumn 2005. It consists of three separate documents: (1) a Strategy for the long term development of ERB, including a vision for the region's development until 2015 and four strategic areas for activities (see Summary above), (2) an Action Programme based on the strategy, and (3) a background document with facts and figures about ERB, some analyses, etc.
- The Strategy and the Action Programme, as well as a brief Summary of the JDP have been printed in English and Swedish in the following editions:
 - the Strategy: 1000 Eng and 500 Swe
 - the Action Programme: 1000 “ and 500 “
 - the Summary: 1000 “ and 1000 “The documents are distributed to mainly public stakeholders in all ERB member regions and to national and EU decision bodies. They have been and will be distributed at different conferences about Baltic Sea cooperation, Interreg programmes and projects, etc.

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

No changes except the delay of this report.

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

The main coordination activity during the reporting period has been to finalise the JDP documents. This process has included continuous contacts (phone, the Internet and meetings) with all national secretariats and decision bodies of the ERB organisation, and intensive contacts between the project management and the layout and printing companies of the final JDP documents.

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Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)

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.	MILESTONE
Planned results of WP1	A long-term strategy and a JTDP for the whole ERB region.	6+

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>(1) Third joint seminar in SE between representatives of the Seagull project and central infrastructure corridor projects affecting ERB. (2) Redrafting of the JTDP based on earlier seminars and results and conclusions from WP2-4 and from the transport corridor projects. (3) Summary conference in Kaliningrad about the JTDP. Final discussions and decisions by the ERB bodies. Main outputs: Two seminars carried through. A final JTDP for ERB decided and disseminated.</p>	<p>(1) The third joint seminar was implemented on August 11 in Karlskrona, Sweden. We have also carried out bilateral hearings and discussions on the final draft proposal of a transport infrastructure section of the JDP and finally by the process where the ERB political board and council took a stand on the JDP. Due to the fact that the lead partners of the SEBTrans-Link and Baltic Gateway projects also have been key partners in the Seagull project, their views and suggestions on the transport infrastructure chapter in the JTDP have to a large extent focussed on the proper coordination of the proposals on this issue between the projects.</p> <p>(2-3)The Draft JDP was reviewed through a process including decisions and comments of the Steering group resulting in a hearing with the ERB partner regions and presented in a redrafted version to the partner regions for adoption in September followed by the ERB council's final decision in November 2005 in Klaipeda. The work and the draft JDP were constantly disseminated to the partners and the ERB bodies during the final stages of the process. This has in fact been one key condition for the adoption by the ERB council.</p>	<p>(1) Opinions of the draft JDP from all project partners, dissemination and discussions at internal political meetings by all project partners. Adoption of the final JDP as a document including a Strategy, an Action Programme and a background annex</p> <p>(2-3)The JDP is adopted by the political bodies of all ERB partner regions. The adopted version is printed in English and Swedish in three different documents – the Strategy, the Action Programme and a Summary - and disseminated to all project partners and others.</p>

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Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)

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

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Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)

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.	6+

<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) One seminar in each pilot area about the report findings. Dissemination of experiences. (2) Summary reporting to the Euroregion Baltic bodies about the results of the WP 2 activities. Main outputs: Report publication and dissemination. Reports carried through to the ERB bodies.	(1) As we have reported earlier, a conference – ERB Water Forum – with dissemination of project experience and further water cooperation work was carried through in Klaipeda in October 6, replacing the planned seminars. The conference assembled about 40 representatives from Sweden, Russia, Lithuania and Poland. Meetings were also carried out in Sweden during the reporting period – one with the Swedish WP 2 working group, one between regional authorities about the WFD, and some smaller meetings planning the Water Forum conference and exchanging project results between environment officers. (2) Summary reporting was made during the mentioned ERB Water Forum and to the ERB Council in November.	Reports: - The Lyckeby River – a follow up study about attitudes towards water issues, study II. September 2005. - ERB Water Forum. Memo 2005-09-21. - Attitudes towards water issues in Kaliningrad and Sweden - a comparison study among people living around the Gurjevka River and the Lyckeby River. October 2005. - Methods for strengthening the public participation within ERB - experiences from practical examples. November 2005. (Together with WP 4). 1 international conference and 5 Swedish meetings.

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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 overall part of what was described in the Seagull WP2 application has been implemented and the objectives are fulfilled. In some aspects, WP2 has also achieved more than what was outlined in the original project description.

WP 2 has not only suggested priorities and input to the JDP. We have also been able to establish the suggested Water Forum. The kick off took place in Klaipeda October 6th and the work is meant to continue within Seagull II.

WP 2 has also developed a tool box for the future work within the Water Forum. A preliminary model is available at http://herulen.se/blue_toolbox/ and the final tool box can be used in the future work within the ERB Water Forum.

In Sweden, the WP2 has lead to the establishment of a network for regional self government organisations within the area of the Regional Water Authority for the South Baltic Sea District. This network will concentrate on the local role in implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

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Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)

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.	6+

<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>
No planned activities.	Input to the draft and final JDP documents. Some input to the web site about the tool box on how to develop triple helix cooperation.	

<u>Deviation from the planned activities and outputs as well as their reasons/justifications</u>
More activities than planned.

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Progress Report – Activity Report (activities and outputs)

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.	6+

<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>
Sum-up and evaluation of the work package. The final findings, outcomes and agreed programmes will be reported to the ERB bodies and transferred to constitute an important input to the JTDP for ERB, see work package 1.	The WP4 arranged an exchange seminar that took place in Bartoszyce in Poland in order to conclude the project and summarize the different conclusions from the LAG's. During the seminar participants from Sweden, Denmark, Poland and Kaliningrad presented their pilot projects. Final inputs to the database of rural development projects in the ERB region. The final input to the JDP. Reporting to the ERB Council in November.	The report <i>Methods for strengthening the public participation in ERB</i> (produced together with WP 2) presents ways of strengthening the local level participation and involvement within and between the ERB member regions. Final seminar in Poland.

<u>Deviation from the planned activities and outputs as well as their reasons/justifications</u>
More reports produced than planned.

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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.	6+

<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) Finalising of the Report package. Printing and distribution. Information activities directed to the private sector, NGO:s and other citizen´s groups about the JTDP and other project results. (2) Compilation of the final evaluation report. Main outputs: Report package disseminated. Final evaluation report presented.	Reports and JDP documents finalised and disseminated.	.)

<u>Deviation from the planned activities and outputs as well as their reasons/justifications</u>
Information activities towards the private sector, NGOs and citizen groups have been decided to be a task for each member regions' decision bodies as a part of their ordinary information and dissemination activities.

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Progress Report – Activity Report (project implementation status)

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, the newsletter Seagull News and other dissemination activities within the project.
- Evident strengthening of networks of experts from the different ERB member regions in issues concerning regional planning, sustainable environment, triple helix cooperation and rural development planning and actions. The network of experts interested in further development of Science Parks, IT Soft Centres, cluster cooperation, etc. consists of more than 300 persons. A tourism working group has been created and has started activities through Seagull and special Danish funding. A Water Forum had its first meeting in October 2005.
- Strengthening of the political networks in the region. The project has in general strengthened the ERB cooperation.
- Over 5 100 persons have participated in different kinds of meetings within the project implementation.
- A close cooperation between the Seagull project and the Interreg III B projects Baltic Gateway and SEBTrans Link has been carried out.
- 23 project reports compiled out of which 11 printed in English. All of the reports published digitally at the ERB web site.
- The central objective of the project idea, to work out a Joint Development Programme (JDP) for ERB, has been achieved. This has been possible through a process oriented working method with continuous reporting, discussions and anchoring of the project implementation in the ERB decision bodies, but also in the member regions' decision bodies.
- The understanding of added values of the JDP for the member regions' own development opportunities has grown. 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. Also from such points of view, the project's results are very satisfactory.

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Progress Report – Activity Report (project implementation status)

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

The **highlight** during the extension milestone was naturally that the JDP finally was approved by the ERB Council after approvals in the member regions' decision bodies. The JDP is now the basis and frame for how to concretise and develop the ERB cooperation. We will also highlight the importance of the JDP for the progress of managing to get a new EU cross-border programme accepted for the Southern Baltic Area and the importance of the JDP contents as input to this new cross-border programme.

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.

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Progress Report – Activity Report (CEEC/NIS activities)

- 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. (Additionally there have been many meetings in the named regions within the frames of the Phare, Tacis and NCM financed connected Seagull projects).
- From the project start in August 2002 up to November 2005
 - 18 meetings have taken place in the Kurzeme planning region in Latvia,
 - 25 meetings carried out in Klaipeda County,
 - 21 meetings taken place in Kaliningrad region, and
 - 37 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.
- The Polish Phare funded Seagull project has contributed with interesting written reports about the situation in Polish Euroregion Baltic Regions in Joint Transnational Development Programme Priority Areas, Long-Term Objectives and Priorities of ERB in the context of JTDP, Analysis of Water Management in the Polish Euroregion Baltic Regions in the context of the EU Water Directive, and Concept of Common Statistical Database for ERB Member Regions.
- The Russian Tacis funded project has also contributed with interesting reports of great value for the ERB JDP.
- As can be understood from the final Financial report, 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 and 6 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 has been lead partner for the project. The project's implementation period is January 2004 – June 2005 (prolonged to November 2005).
 - The preparations of the approved Seagull-Latvia project were professionally made by Latvian consultants on behalf of our Latvian partner. The project was 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 was 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 that year. The preparations of the important Conference in Gdansk in December 2004 were mainly done by our Polish partners, and financed from the approved Phare project.
- During the 6+ milestone, our eastern partners have mainly contributed with comments to the final JDP draft as well as to preparations and implementation of the Water Forum meeting in Klaipeda and the WP 4 sum up seminar in Poland.
- To summarize: all eastern partners with the exception of the Latvian one during the last year of the

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