

**Seagull WP 2 Water management
International meeting
Klaipeda, April 23, 2003**

Attendants:

Dalia Makuskiene, Klaipeda County Governors Administration, LT
Evaldas Jancauskas, Kretinga District Municipality, LT. Part of item 1.
Boris Chubarenko, Shirshovs institute of Oceanology, Kaliningrad, RU
Rafal Kucmanski, Municipal Office in Elblag, PL
Jurate Morkuenaite, EUCC Baltic Office, LT
Dalia Zukiene, Klaipeda City Municipality, LT. Part of item 1.
Hans-Gunnar Mattisson, Lyckeby Water Protection Association, SE
Carolina Gunnarsson, the Regional Council in Kalmar County, SE

1. Opening of the meeting

Ms Gunnarsson presented a summary of what's in the Seagull INTERREG project WP 2 (attached). Useful EU information about the Water Framework Directive (WFD) can be found at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/progress.html> (attached).

2. Lithuanian Phare application

Klaipeda County Administration has decided to make an application for Phare Small projects, instead of Phare Grant Schemes as earlier said. In Lithuania only seven projects will be accepted within the Grant Schemes. Klaipeda County Administration has decided to give priority to two other projects – one about transports (SEBTrans link) and one about protection from flooding. From Phare Small Funds you can get maximum 60 000 EURO in grants for a 12 months project (Oct 2003- Sept 2004). This means about 10 000 EURO for WP2, i.e. a very small budget. There was a long discussion between the Lithuanian municipalities and the county administration about the consequences of this small budget and the lack of money for pilot activities.

Mr Kucmanski presented a possible solution of the problem with lack of money for pilot activities aiming to raise the awareness and participation among the citizens. This part of the project may be possible to finance from another EU program, run by the “Association of Polish communes of ERB” in Elblag and directed to NGO: s. NGO: s from Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Poland can make a common application. Closing day is in May 2003, 3 000 – 15 000 EURO. *It was decided to, under the umbrella of the ERB Seagull project, make a “NGO subproject”.* NGO:s from Lithuania, Russia, Poland and maybe Latvia will apply for money for implementation of activities within the pilot areas, but also for international meetings during 2003. *Mr Kucmanski will co-ordinate the work with this NGO application.* Mr Kucmanski already has contacts with a fitting Polish NGO. *Mr Chubarenko will contact the Kaliningrad branch of “Russian Geological Society”, asking them to be a partner in this NGO project.* Ms Morkuenaite and EUCC Baltic Office will be the Lithuanian partner.

3. Presentation from each region

Russia

There has been an international conference about the problem with land lost and erosion along the coastal line. Land lost can be 1-2 m/year. Representatives from Moscow (the Ministry for governmental constructions) took part in the conference and there was a decision saying that the question of land loss is of high importance.

There has also been a meeting in Baltijsk. Baltijsk will be opened for foreign tourists and the town wants to build a new ferry terminal for passengers and cargo. This investment will be supported by the European Bank, which means that there will be environmental impact assessments and public consultation processes following European demands. In Kaliningrad this is the first time such a process is run according to European demands. If you compare the EU and Russia, there is a higher degree of involvement of public in the European process.

Suggested pilot area:

Mamonovka or Vistula lagoon. Also some activities in Nelma(?) River.

Regional strategies:

No ERB strategies. Water resources belong to the governmental level, which means that the central authorities have different types of plans.

Monitoring:

State monitoring programme exists.

Brief description of the situation:

Ready, will be sent by mail.

Regional conference:

June 13th. Municipalities, authorities, NGO:s, farmers etc. Good examples.

River basin based co-operation:

No such co-operation. People living close to the rivers think that “water belongs to the federation, we are only users”.

Lithuania

The environmental part of the EU negotiations are finished. Some parts of the WFD will be directly implemented in Lithuania. For some parts (connected to investments for waste water, drinking water and hazardous substances) there will be a transitional period.

It's a low knowledge and low interest in the communities for WFD. There is a need of education.

The action plan for Akmena-Dane was prepared some years ago. There are also plans for doing the same kind of plan for another river. There is a need of revision of the Akmena – Dane plan, due to the WFD. Among else, activities aiming to increase the citizens' participation and education activities need to be added.

Decided pilot area:

The Akmena-Dane River.

Regional strategies:

There is a regional development plan from 2000, but it was never approved. Among else, this plan is about environmental issues, but nothing about water.

Monitoring:

State monitoring plan for Nemunas lowland basin area.

Brief description of the situation:

Ready, on www.eurobalt.org/admin

Regional conference:

Took place in Klaipeda March 31. About 40 persons from municipalities and authorities.

River basin based co-operation:

No.

Poland

There are some problems about how to organise the work within the Seagull project and the co-operation between the municipalities, regions and county administrations. Information about legislation, organisation, funds etc, see report [report_0303_PL_eng.pdf](#), available at <http://www.eurobalt.org/admin/doc/wp2/>.

Decided pilot area:

Pasleka River

Regional strategies:

Different strategies exists (Pomeranian region, Warmian-Masurian region, Association of ERB communities, Water Authority)

Monitoring:

Yes

Brief description of the situation:

Ready, on www.eurobalt.org/admin

Regional conference:

Will be discussed within the Polish working group

River basin based co-operation:

No

Sweden

See brief description on www.eurobalt.org/admin. Sweden will also make a presentation of Swedish examples of water co-operation.

Sweden has decided about environmental quality criteria for lakes, watercourses and seas.

They are available in English at

<http://www.internat.environ.se/documents/legal/assess/assedoc/lakes.htm> (lakes and watercourses) and <http://www.internat.environ.se/documents/legal/assess/assedoc/coasts.htm> (coasts and seas). The suggested WFD assessment system is, in many ways, similar to the Swedish Environmental Quality Criteria.

Decided pilot area:

Lyckeby River

Regional strategies:

New regional environmental objectives will be decided for each Swedish County during 2003. All these objectives are based on the national environmental objectives but there are some differences between the counties.

Monitoring:

Yes

Brief description of the situation:

Ready, on www.eurobalt.org/admin

Regional conference:

Took place in Emmaboda village March 13th 2003. About 100 persons from municipalities, regions, companies, NGO:s , farmers etc. Among else lecturers from the Swedish Association of Local Authorities, The National Board of

Housing, Building and Planning, the Federation of Swedish Farmers and some water protection associations.

River basin based co-operation:

Yes, since several years and in many different ways. *Sweden will make a presentation of Swedish examples.*

4. Future work

The brief description from Latvia is still missing. *We hope it will be possible for our Latvian partner to present such a description as soon as possible.* Of not, we have to continue the work anyhow.

Ms Gunnarsson will compare and analyse the brief descriptions from the ERB countries and suggest some conclusion for the future work. Of course there will be a need of additional information from the different partners. Each partner will support Ms Gunnarsson with such information. We will use e-mail for this communication.

The brief descriptions and the presentations at the meeting today underlines the big differences within the ERB. This means, of course, that suggestions and priorities in the final report will differ from country to country.

Lyckeby river water protection association will present a short report every third month about their activities.

According to the INTERREG project plan descriptions of the pilot areas are supposed to be presented latest August 2003. Since Phare and Tacis grants will be available earliest October 2003 this may be difficult to fulfil.

5. Other

Use the webpage for exchange of information (www.eurobalt.org/admin). *All partners are supposed to send summaries in English from their national meetings.* These summaries will be presented on the webpage, so that all partners can share the same information.

Lyckeby River: www.lyckebyan.org. Today the information is in Swedish, but we hope it will be available in English within some months.

“Association of communities of ERB”: www.eurobalt.org.pl

Next meeting: 16-17 September in Elblag.

The common meeting in Sweden is planned to June 2004.

A Swedish and Danish delegation will sail to Baltijsk and Gdansk June 10-17. There will be seminars and working group meetings during the stays in Baltijsk and Gdansk. Another main objective is to inform about the Seagull project and the ERB.

/Carolina Gunnarsson

Part one: river basin based management/preparation WFD

- Regional conference in each country. 0308
- Description of the today situation. (0302)
- Prestudy: pilot areas. Description and comparison WFD. 0308
- Report: Regional and local preparation need. Covering the whole ERB are. Input to JTDP. Draft 0402, ready 0408.
- One regional seminar in each country about the draft report. 0402-0408
- Joint seminar in Sweden 0402-0408. Joint seminar in Poland 0408-0502.

Part two: pilot area

Dialogue with citizens, for enhanced awareness and better water

- Description of the pilot areas (se above). 0308
- Preparation of actions, local project groups established. 0402
- Implementation of actions and exchange of experiences. 0402 →
- Joint seminar in Sweden 0402-0408. Joint seminar in Poland 0408-0502.
- Evaluation of the activities in the pilot area.
- Report: Conclusions and recommendations about methods for enhanced dialogue with the citizens and better water quality. Input to JTDP. 0502

Summary:

- One seminar in each country about the report findings. Dissemination of experiences. 0502-0508
- Final reporting to ERB

State-of-play of the different activities under the Common Implementation Strategy

A number of joint activities were agreed in the Common Implementation Strategy process. Each of the activities aims to produce practical outputs which shall assist the Water Framework Directive implementation.

The strategy could be divided in three phases:

Phase I: Preparation of guidance documents (2001/2002)

Phase II: Testing of guidance documents in pilot river basins (2003/2004)

Phase III: Manual for integrating river basin management (2004/2005)



The table below provides an overview on the current main activities and the state-of-play as regards the final product in phase I. In principle, the mandate of the working group expires after finalisation of the different products unless the a new mandate is agreed upon. Currently, a discussion is being initiated to re-structure the working groups and to provide new mandates for the years 2003 and 2004.

All the documents are drafted in English. The final documents are primarily made available on the **information exchange platform WFD CIRCA** for circulation on the internet. In addition, the Commission is currently exploring the question of publication. As regards translation, the Commission will not engage in a centralised translation exercise but most Member States are looking into this question at the moment.

A testing of the guidance documents is envisaged in the so-called "pilot river basins". The objective are to gain practical experiences and apply several documents together in order to test their consistency and coherency. Following the testing phase, the final aim of the joint strategy is to produce a "**Manual for Integrated River Basin Management**" in 2004/2005. This manual shall be used to prepare river basin management plans under the Water Framework Directive.

Group	Acronym	Name	Output 2002	State-of-play
2.1	IMPRESS	Analysis of pressures and impacts	Guidance document	Document finalised and available on WFD CIRCA
2.2	HMWB	Heavily Modified Water Bodies	Guidance document and Toolbox	Document finalised and available on WFD CIRCA
2.3	REFCOND	Reference conditions for rivers and lakes	Guidance document	Document under preparation, Expected finalisation mid-2003
2.4	COAST	Typology, classification and references conditions for transitional and coastal waters	Guidance document	Document finalised and available on WFD CIRCA
2.5	IC	Intercalibration	Guidance document	Document finalised and available on WFD CIRCA
2.6	WATECO	Economic analysis	Guidance document	Document finalised and available on WFD CIRCA
2.7	MON	Monitoring	Guidance document	Document finalised and available on WFD CIRCA
2.8	GW	Groundwater - tools for assessment and classification	Report and software tools	Report finalised and available on WFD CIRCA
2.9	PROCLAN	Best practices in river basin planning	1) Report on identification of river basin districts	Document finalised and available on WFD CIRCA
.	.	.	2) Guidance on public participation	Document finalised and available on WFD CIRCA

.	.	.	3) Guidance on planning process	Expected finalisation mid-2003
3.1	GIS	Geographic information systems	Guidance document	Document finalised and available on WFD CIRCA
4.1	PRB	Integrated testing in pilot river basins	Establish pilot river basin network	Network established including 14 test basins, overview available on WFD CIRCA
COM	-	Special drafting group on the identification of water bodies	Horizontal guidance	Document finalised and available on WFD CIRCA
Drafting Group	New working activity	Wetlands	Horizontal Guidance	Work just started; expected finalisation mid- 2003

The documents are prepared for publication later in 2003. The finally published documents will be made available on these web pages in relation to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/progress.html> 030416