

SEAGULL WATER Input to the ERB Joint Transnational Development Programme

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Summary

SEAGULL WATER

Input to the ERB Joint Transnational Development Programme

1 Targeted measures to enhance the development of enterprises in environment techniques and products

Inventories current situation, resources, good examples, environmental industry sector and other competence
Financing and VenCap

2 ERB Water Forum

Front runner in implementing the WFD

Focus on

transnational and transboundary co-operation

connecting competence

water users partnership

Yearly conference, the first in October 2005

3 Nutrients from small and diffuse sources

Focus on

agriculture and

waste water from rural areas, settlements and private houses

4 Environmental competence

Politicians, civil servants, students

Support to Kaliningrad Region

Introduction

Seagull Water is, among else, aiming to present input to the coming ERB strategy and Joint Transnational Development Programme (JTDP) for ERB. A draft strategy is now available and the work during spring 2005 concentrates on the JTDP.

Leading words in the suggested strategy:

- * Sustainability
- * Cohesion
- * Polycentric development

There are three kinds of strategic objectives in the suggested strategy:

- * Political (a competitive business environment, front runner in implementation of modern environment and energy, labour market co-operation)
- * Technical (ERB as an arena for the exchange of good practices and benchmarking activities)
- * Kaliningrad Region (participation in European policies and bilateral and multilateral activities)

The JTDP is supposed to cover measures that:

- * Are in line with the draft strategy for ERB
- * Add values. I.e. not questions that fit better at national, regional or local level. Instead complement to what we are doing in each region. Things we can do together, which each region can't do itself. Concrete measure, need, tools, objectives etc.

The suggested below are based on the work within Seagull Workpackage 2, Water Management. A status report about the water situation within ERB was presented in November 2004.

Conclusions, water within ERB

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Old EU-members, new EU-members and Kaliningrad Region in co-operation ✓ The Baltic Sea a common concern ✓ Existing network and structure for trans-regional co-operation ✓ Sufficient amount of sweet water (in comparison to more dense populated areas) ✓ Long experience of environmental work in Sweden and Denmark ✓ Waters, beaches and coastal areas as a resource for tourism development ✓ In some areas, good experience of river basin based co-operation among stakeholders. 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lack of comparable data ✓ Lack of money for necessary investments ✓ Differing responsibilities and tasks among the ERB partners, within the field of water ✓ Weak bottom-up perspective ✓ In some areas, lack of river basin based co-operation among stakeholders. ✓ Inflow from waters upstream hard to influence ✓ Drinking water and waste water treatment in the Kaliningrad Region ✓ Weak systems for recovering of costs ✓ Weak cooperation among state authorities, local/regional level etc. ✓ Competence in small municipalities
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Common priorities ✓ International co-operation for attracting funds ✓ Exchange of competence and experiences ✓ ERB as a forerunner gives competitive advantages and a base for good development ✓ Cost effective, robust and environmentally adapted solutions ✓ Investments in the environmental sector ✓ Water Forum for efficient co-operation 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collapse of the Baltic Sea ✓ Insufficient protection of drinking water ✓ Eutrophication ✓ Insufficient waste water treatment, point sources as well as diffuse sources ✓ Pollution from oil hydrocarbons ✓ Expansion of the agricultural sector, without consideration to proper water measures ✓ Expansion of the transport and energy sectors lead to increased environmental problems

Water – important for health, ecology, economy and development

If we, just for some moments, face the potential collapse of the Baltic Sea and its effects on health, ecology, economy, it is easy to see the grave consequences on the society. Such an example clearly clarifies the importance of clean water, as a base for a good development.

At the CBSS Ministerial Meeting in Luleå, 29 August 2003, the Ministers of Environment from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation and the European Commission agreed on a declaration on Environment and Sustainable Development. The declaration emphasizes the central role of water and the need for co-operation in developing and implementing action programmes for pollution reduction.

In an EEA report¹, some key factors for sustainable development and water are discussed; factors that in many parts are also relevant for the development of the ERB region.

- **Agriculture**

The development of the agricultural sector and water management is connected in several ways. On the one hand there is a need for sufficient water for abstraction for agricultural uses such as irrigation or good quality water for watering of livestock. On the other hand, the agricultural sector influences water by potentially polluting activities such as the use of fertilisers and pesticides. Withdrawal of water itself also influences the aquatic eco-systems. Agriculture is thus an important driving force in the sustainable management of water.

- **Domestic use**

Good quality drinking water is crucial for human health and for the development of a region. Urbanisation and other changes in population, its distribution and density, are other key factors within the field of resources.

- **Industry**

Industrial activities generate higher water demand and put pressure on water resources and the environment. The impact can be direct, i.e. emission of pollutants, production of hazardous waste and consumption of natural resources in production processes and cooling, as well as indirect, through the subsequent consumption and use of industrial products. In parallel to a general decreasing trend, it has been observed that demand for better quality and a greater variety of products may increase water requirements in certain industrial sectors.

- **Tourism**

The development of tourism is also closely related to water issues. Seasonal increase in population, often during periods of minimum or low water resource renewal, puts pressure on water resources through direct consumptive use and through the supply of leisure facilities for the tourists. Consumption of water by tourists is often higher than by local consumers. The largest proportion of water is not consumed but used and disposed of as waste. The result is large volumes of sewage discharged to sewage treatment plants, to the sea or to rivers. In all cases, if

¹ EEA. Sustainable water use in Europe - Part 1: Sectoral use of water. Environmental assessment report No 1. http://reports.eea.eu.int/binaryenviasses01pdf/en/tab_content_RLR. 2004-09-30

water is not treated, recycled or disposed of properly, it will cause pollution. Clean waters for bathing and other recreation are necessary for a good development of the tourism.

- Climate change

Climate change, resulting from global warming, is a global environmental issue identified by the EU as one of the key environmental themes to be tackled under the Fifth Environmental Action Programme. Climate change can have considerable consequences on the flood regime. Changes in storm magnitude and frequency could give rise to a spectacular increase in run-off in short periods of time, which would aggravate the effects of floods. The impact of these changes will depend very much on local hydrological, ecological and water management conditions.

Some years ago, the European Commission identified a need for a single piece of framework legislation to resolve different kind of problems related to water and water use. In response to this, the Commission has decided about a Water Framework Directive with the following key aims:

- to incorporate all requirements for management of water status into **one single system**
- to coordinate all the different **objectives** for which water is protected (ecology, drinking water, bathing water, particular habitats) and to fill any gaps
- to coordinate all the **measures** taken on individual problems and sectors to achieve the objectives so defined, and to define the relationship between emission limit value measures and quality standards
- to increase **public participation** in water policy to provide for greater transparency, with the advantages in enforceability which will result.

A thorough restructuring process concerning European Water Policy is on the way and the new Water Framework Directive is meant to be the operational tool, setting the objectives for water protection well into the new century. The Water Framework Directive sets out clear deadlines for each of the requirements which add up to an ambitious overall timetable.

The high importance of water from the perspective of regional development, the Water Framework Directive, the common concern for the Baltic Sea and a willingness on both local and regional levels to take an active part in the work for better water qualities are the reasons to why water has been chosen as a strategic area for further co-operation within ERB.

JTDP - Suggested fields of action

Based on the analysis within Seagull WP2, four fields of action are suggested.

1. Targeted measures to enhance the development of enterprises in environment techniques and products

(Focus area “A competitive business environment”)

Suggestions

The aim to enhance the development of enterprises in environment techniques and products can be closed linked to the benefit of using the power of the trans-national region ERB in the process to create a more sustainable society.

We suggest following steps to be taken:

1. Inventory of current situation (“hot spots”, future pressures as modern agriculture, previous industrial activities and diffuse pollutions, general disturbances in the eco-system)
2. Needed resources and inventory of existing resources
3. Inventory of good examples like successful public investments. We need the box of good examples to create pattern and use them as references for capacity building activities.
4. Inventory the environmental industry sector, the competence and research within universities, institutes and public sector.
5. Identify relevant financial resources like EIB.
6. Approach the EIB (European Investment Bank) and other financial bodies for discussions of possibilities of financial support based on this inventory.
7. Initiate a dialogue with EIF (European Investment Fund) to improve the VenCap situation for the firms in this sector

The matrix below could be used as a tool for the inventories:

	Science	Capacity building	Design	Engineering	Products	Turn-key	O&M
Waste							
Fresh water							
Sewage water							
Buildings and spatial planning							
Air							
Heating							
Electricity							
Transportation							

Figure 1: Matrix for inventory of existing resources

Background

EU Strategy for Sustainable development: *Sustainable development offers the European Union a positive long-term vision of a society that is more prosperous and more just, and which promises a cleaner, safer, healthier environment – a society which delivers a better quality of life for us, for our children, and for our grandchildren. Achieving this in practice requires that economic growth supports social progress and respects the environment, that social policy underpins economic performance, and that environmental policy is cost-effective.*

The strategy is a powerful challenge for all regions and is an important tool for ERB in the ambitions to be in a front in the process to create a sustainable region.

The EU directives in the field of environment and energy form the starting point and the strategy outlines the roadmap in the process to become an attractive region with industrial growth and good circumstances for people, research and development.

Many existing important “hot spots” have been eliminated, but we have remaining problems as “thickened bombs” from old military and industrial areas. We do also face diffuse pollution sources as sewage water from rural areas, old landfills etc.

The growing transportation sectors as well as a more intensive agro-culture do cause new areas of environmental problems which have to be handled.

On the same time as we clean up we also have to focus to create better life-environment and a more sustainable region for the future.

Analysis and arguments

The vision of ERB as recognized as a region in the fore-front of sustainable development is challenging, but an important driven force to create a better environment for people, companies and society.

The approach to systematically build a sustainable region both supports the regional image of an attractive region and the industrial growth in the environmental sector. The region will be a natural choice for development and test of new environmental technology and solutions

The regional focus is serious in the light of our common eco-system around the Baltic Sea and it is obvious that important development and problems have to be sorted out in a trans-national organisations like ERB, not only in national bodies. We do have remaining serious problems, which are indicated in WP2 Status Report.

Beside the strong arguments for the necessity of securing better life-conditions we have also an economic potential in the environmental industry. Swedish Trade Council² has showed the power and potential of the environmental technology sector in Sweden and small companies account important parts of total sales, growth and export. A pro-active attitude including cluster initiatives, creation of a home market in terms of infra-structural investments and support to triple-

² Exportrådet

helix constellations will be of importance for the enhance of the development of new and exiting enterprises.

We have proved the power of systematic cluster initiatives in some parts of the region³.

By inventorying other environmental clusters within ERB we can further strength the sector. It is an important assistance to the enterprises to make the clusters visible and to create platforms for business development and transfer of knowledge.

Added Value

A successful approach in the process to obtain a more sustainable society is to secure influence and commitment from the public in different ways. Good governance is a critical success factor.

We will underline the importance of having the original definition of a sustainable society in mind:

- ecology
- economy
- cultural and social aspects

People, ideas and capital is today moving cross regions and borders and it is important for a region to be considered as attractive for investments and living. A clear focus on regional identity and sustainable development will be a competitive advantage.

Attraction is created by different layers:

Basic factors are a healthy environment, fresh water, clean air, clean ground and long-term stability in usage of natural resources.

Equal opportunities, independent on gender or ethnic background, good living conditions and career possibilities are other critical factors.

The environmental industry has global demand and market. Good possibilities for that sector will therefore create a more dynamic and international approach for the region.

Sustainable development will have a positive effect on other industrial branches as for example tourism, agro-cultural production, and knowledge-based industry.

Costs, resources, responsibility, timetable

<u>Activity</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Financing</u>
Inventories Financial bodies and VenCap			

³ Boye P: Med miljön som affärskoncept (nov 2000)

2. ERB Water Forum

(Focus area “Front runner in implementation of **modern** environment and energy policies”)

Suggestion

The suggestion is that ERB takes an initiative to an ERB Water Forum, in order to establish ERB as a pilot area for transnational and transboundary cooperation and implementation of modern methods for water management and the EU Water Frame Directive (WFD), for the benefit of the environment and a sustainable development of the region.

The details of an ERB Water Forum have to be discussed more in detail among the ERB partners and other actors, but important parts might be:

- ✓ Yearly water conference, to connect practice, science, policy and decision making about water within the ERB area and discuss common questions, priorities etc.
- ✓ Permanent expert competence with the main target to gather and refine the experiences from implemented actions among the ERB partners, promote the regional competences, mediate contacts and increase co-operation between administration, science and industry.
- ✓ External expert panel, to secure the quality of the performed activities.
- ✓ Special focus on establishment of river basin water management co-operation for **transboundary** basins and Water User Partnerships with great extend of private, public and academic participation (Triple Helix)

Background and analysis

The Seagull Water status report describes the water situation within the ERB region. It clearly states the need of increased activities and targeted measures concerning water, to secure a Baltic Sea in balance and a sustainable development of the region. The analysis also clarify that there are many different initiatives and ongoing projects within the ERB area concerning water and water management, but no clear forum for exchange of experiences, information and contact between practice, administration, science, industry and the decision makers at different levels. That's why an ERB Water Forum is suggested, as a way to avoid double work and be more effective and co-ordinated.

It is possible for the ERB partners to create such a positive development by

- ✓ a strong and co-ordinated work in the fields where the ERB partners themselves have the authority to decide
- ✓ en extended co-operation with other actors
- ✓ offering the national level/EU a "full scale laboratory"
- ✓ refining the experiences from implemented actions among the ERB partners, in order to create a competitiveness advantage for the region and for their enterprises

The reason why ERB has chosen water as a field of action is obvious and described in the beginning of this memo. An ERB Water Forum would contribute to

- ✓ Decreased pollution of surface water, ground water and the Baltic Sea. This is, of course, the main objective. In the same time it gives lower costs for the society and decreased damage on people and environment.
- ✓ Possibility to use gained experiences as a base for business development. Long-term work and consequent quality control creates useful knowledge, which can be exported outside ERB.
- ✓ ERB as an front runner in modern water management questions and implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)
- ✓ Increased possibilities to attract capital and enterprises. Implementation of modern European methods for sustainable water management is in line with national and international strategies.

Good governance

Caring for ERBs waters will require more involvement of municipalities, stakeholders, citizens, interested parties, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) etc. Following the intentions of the EU Water Framework Directive will require information and consultation when river basin management plans are established: the river basin management plan must be issued in draft, and the background documentation on which the decisions are based must be made accessible. There are two main reasons for an extension of public participation and good governance. The first is that the decisions on the most appropriate measures to achieve the objectives in the river basin management plan will involve balancing the interests of various groups. The economic analysis requirement is intended to provide a rational basis for this, but it is essential that the process is open to the scrutiny of those who will be affected. The second reason concerns enforceability. The greater the transparency in the establishment of objectives, the imposition of measures, and the reporting of standards, the greater the care Member States will take to implement the legislation in good faith, and the greater the power of the citizens to influence the direction of environmental protection, whether through consultation or, if disagreement persists, through the complaints procedures and the courts. This means that good governance will be an important part for the suggested ERB Water Forum.

Gender

The activities will apply to women and men in a similar way. The ambition is that women and men will take part in an equal way and that there will be 40-60% men in all activities.

Sustainable Development

The suggested action clearly covers all dimensions of sustainable development. As described above, the objective is to contribute to a better environment as well as to a good economic and social development.

Added value

A joint work for a healthier Baltic Sea is of a common concern and brings added value to all ERB regions. Several examples of added value are presented in the background and analysis above. To reach good status in all waters it is necessary to establish an effective co-ordination within the river basin. Since river basin areas do not follow administrative borders, cross-border cooperation is an issue which requires special solutions. Since ERB has a well established network covering nine regions in six countries the organisation is well fitted for taking part in activities aiming to a better co-operation within transboundary river basins. River basin based co-operation is the base for modern water management methods and the EU Water Framework Directive.

Costs, resources, responsibility, timetable

<u>Activity</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Financing</u>
Inventory, target persons and projects	2005	Seagull WP 2	Seagull WP 2
Anchoring among target persons		Seagull WP 2/ERB secr	Seagull WP 2
First water conference	Oct 2005	Seagull WP 2/ERB secr	Seagull WP 2
Prepare applications	2005-	Seagull WP 2/ERB secr	Seagull WP 2/ Seagull II?
Yearly water conference	2006-2007	ERB secretariat	Seagull II?
Permanent expert competence and expert panel	2006-	?	Seagull II?
Yearly water conference	2008-		

3. Nutrients from small and diffuse sources

(Focus area “Front runner in implementation of **modern** environment and energy policies”)

Suggestion

The suggestion is that ERB takes an initiative to a common project aiming to decrease the outflow of nutrients from small and diffuse sources, i.e. from farms, farming land, smaller settlements and private houses. The project is suggested to concentrate on:

- * A campaign to provide training and advice with the aim of encompassing the entire flow of nutrients on farms and promote environmental adapted farming through support of training activities – in cooperation with farmers’ organisations and other.
- * Waste water from rural areas, smaller settlements and private houses. Close and long-term cooperation between local authorities, clients and business partners concerning cost-effective, robust and sustainable solutions. Transfer of knowledge and technology between the regions.

Background and analysis

(Based on the Seagull report “Water within ERB”)

Elevated nutrient levels, known as eutrophication, result from an increased influx or increased availability of plant nutrients in lakes, watercourses and seas. Eutrophication leads to increased production in plant and animal biomass, increased turbidity, greater oxygen demand resulting from the decomposition of organic matter and a change in species composition and diversity of plant and animal communities. Since eutrophication reduces the value of the water body for recreation and the potential of its use for fishery, bathing etc. it also leads to social and economic problems.

Eutrophication of groundwater, surface water and coastal waters is a serious problem within the ERB as a whole, causing severe effects on environment as well as health and economic development. Curonian Lagoon is one of the most hard-hit areas. To reach the WFD objective about good ecological standard, and to establish a healthy Baltic Sea, it is necessary to decrease both the water borne and airborne loads of nutrients in the ERB region.

In the old EU countries most of the bigger point sources have been eliminated. In the new EU countries, and even more so in the Kaliningrad Region, big investments to eliminate the main point sources are required.

During the coming years, EU will strongly support environmental friendly investments, to decrease the outlets from point sources. This is of course important and necessary. If we want to reach good water status, elimination of point sources is not enough. Experiences from for example Sweden show that also the airborne nitrogen as well as the diffuse pollution from land use (agriculture) and smaller point sources (farms and rural settlements) have to be handled in a good way.

A large part of the anthropogenic load of nutrients originates from manures stored without adequate containment and fertilisers/manures applied to agricultural land where they may be prone to runoff and leaching. The future development of the agriculture, especially in the new EU-countries and Russia, and its influence on the discharge of nutrients, is most important.

Areas with a high share of intensive farming land of European kind, show high concentrations of total-nitrogen in surface water and groundwater. Of course, this also raises the question of what will happen if the farming in the new EU-countries and Kaliningrad Region adapts the traditional western European methods. This might be one of the most important challenges for to the Baltic Sea.

The future development of the agricultural sector, especially in the new EU countries and Kaliningrad region, and the effects of diffuse water pollution from agriculture as well as from smaller settlements and private houses are of strategic concern for the development of the ERB region and for the possibilities to reach the objectives in the Water Framework Directive. HELCOM results clearly indicate that losses from diffuse sources still are the main source of the excessive inputs of both nitrogen and phosphorus entering the Baltic Sea. In this context, also

small, dispersed point source discharges (e.g. from scattered dwellings or localised agricultural sources such as farmyards) are considered as diffuse sources. To combat eutrophication problems, joint and co-ordinated nutrient reduction measures should be planned for the whole ERB region.

Implementation of suggested measures will, among else, contribute to a better situation in Curonian Lagoon and Vistula Lagoon. These lagoons are appointed as “diffuse hot spots” in HELCOM Joint Comprehensive Action Programme.

The action is in line with the suggested ERB strategy and corresponds also to the settlements for the ERB working group for environmental protection and ecology, where elimination of HELCOM “hot spots”, activities connected to ecological education and dissemination of methods for sewage treatment are highlighted.

Good governance

Since the suggested measure is based on enforceability and a good co-operation with many different groups - farmers, house owners, other citizens and organisations - the work has to be build on good governance, openness and transparency.

Gender

It is necessary to involve women as well as men in the process. Good experiences from the project “Vital waters in Kalmar” show the importance and success of involving not only the (mostly male) farmers, but also the women in the work. These experiences can be used and developed further.

The ambition is that women and men will take part in an equal way and that there will be 40-60% men in all activities.

Sustainable Development

The suggested action contributes to an economically and ecologically sustainable development in the ERB region. Or, maybe more correct, economically and ecologically sustainability will be threatened if the diffuse leakage of nutrients to the waters continues as today or increases. Social and cultural values will be preserved or developed, among else thanks to decreased health risks, improved possibilities for fishing, improved access to water and better conditions for swimming.

Added value

A joint work for a healthier Baltic Sea is of a common concern and brings added value to all ERB regions. ERB is an organisation covering nine regions in six countries, which makes it possible for the organisation to contribute to the establishment of transboundary river basin based co-operation, in line with modern water management methods and the EU Water Framework directive.

Costs, resources, responsibility, timetable

<u>Activity</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Financing</u>
Inventory, target persons	2005	Seagull WP 2	Seagull WP 2
Anchoring among target persons		Seagull WP 2/ERB secr	Seagull WP 2
Prepare applications	2006	ERB secr	Seagull II?
Implementation	2007-		

4. Environmental competence

(Focus area “ERB as an arena for the exchange of good practices and benchmarking activities”)

Suggestion

The suggestion is to create a programme for increased competence, exchange and benchmarking in environmental issues within ERB, among else including exchange for environmental officers and an extended co-operation between green schools.

Background and analysis

There are a number of measures taken at European level to tackle particular pollution problems. To make this possible it is, among else, necessary to build an adequate administration, secure relevant competence and knowledge at all levels, raise the interest, awareness and public participation and find ways for co-operation and mobilization among all stakeholders

To be able to reach clean and healthy environment, it is also necessary to secure good management and co-operation. This means good governance, competence and knowledge at all levels. Furthermore, an ecosystem approach, and establishing of management with great extend of public and academic participation is necessary.

The size of the municipalities within ERB differs a lot. This in turn influences resources and capacity. There are also big differences in responsibilities within the field of water, where Swedish municipalities have quite big responsibilities while the local level in other regions hardly have any power at all when it comes to water management.

There is a significant lack of resources at both the regional and the local levels. This is to some degree relevant for all regions, but especially in the new EU-countries and in the Kaliningrad Region. This translates into a lack of people to ensure compliance and enforcement, a lack of expertise, and most crucially a lack of good practice exchange.

There also is a huge need for education of politicians and officers regarding the WFD and its consequences at the local level.

Examples on activities:

- Network for environmental schools

Green Circle School is a pilot project within ERB, run with co-financing from EU. The aim of the project is to set out and evaluate a tool for environmental education independent of pupils/students age, which will lead to a more sustainable development. This development work has run for some time. It would now be possible to gear up the project.

- Exchange programme for civil servants working with environment
Education of local and regional officers (environmental, technical, physical planners etc) and politicians. Sweden (Ljungby municipality) and Lithuania (Silute municipality) has brought about a "micro pilot project". One officer from each municipality visited the other as a way to learn about the situation in each region and to start a co-operation and a concrete exchange of competence. The experiences from this micro project could be extended to an exchange programme between twin towns all over ERB. Also the methodology within the projects "Miljösamverkan Sydost" and "Miljösamverkan Kronoberg", i.e. a methodology for co-operation between environmental authorities and joint competence raising activities, might be of interest.

Good governance

Even if this activity concerns environmental competence, also good governance is supposed to be an important item. Good governance includes a transparent and open dialogue between different bodies, experts, decision makers etc, to be able to communicate and co-ordinate the work in the most efficient way. Failure to communicate may cause the most striking problems and may, if left unchecked, seriously undermine the efforts to implement and enforce measures leading to better environment.

Gender

The activities will apply to women and men in a similar way. Gender items will also be illustrated in all activities. The ambition is that women and men will take part in an equal way and that there will be 40-60% men in all activities.

Sustainable Development

All activities will present environmental questions in the context of sustainable development, i.e. discuss the connections between environment, man and market.

Added value

Transfer of knowledge about strategic items increases the transparency, efficiency and professionalism and brings added value to the whole region.

Costs, resources, responsibility, timetable

<u>Activity</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Financing</u>
Exchange programme environmental officers			
Preparations	2005	Seagull WP 2/ERB secr	Seagull WP 2
Exchange	2005	Seagull WP 2/ERB secr	SALA IDA? EU?
Network for environmental schools			
Preparations	2005	GCS	GCS
Implementation	2006		

The Kaliningrad region

(Focus area “The Kaliningrad region”)

There is a huge need in supporting Kaliningrad Region in their work for cleaner water. In many ways the Kaliningrad Region is the “hot spot” of ERB and has huge needs for improvements in environmental infrastructure and other. This is a common interest for the whole ERB area. This means that, in all activities aiming to better water, special efforts should be put on support to Kaliningrad.

One example is the waste water from Kaliningrad town. During last decade the water treatment facilities were improved at the Polish side of the Vistula Lagoon catchment. Small and medium size cities got a mechanical and chemical treatment facilities. Nowadays WWTP in Kaliningrad is the only significant point source at the Vistula Lagoon coast which is still exist and needs implementation of the chemical and biological treatment.

The WFD is relevant for the European Union. It would be of most interest to, together with Kaliningrad region, establish a pilot area for transnational co-operation and implementation of the WFD intentions.

Other fields of action, discussed during the Seagull Water process

Except for the fields of actions given priority above, several items have been discussed during the Seagull Water process. Some of them are listed below, in alphabetical order.

Biological values

All measures aiming to reach good chemical standard also contribute to keep or recreate balanced ecosystems and biological values. Within ERB, increased knowledge about existing biological values, as well as protection of already well-known valuable areas, are considered as most important.

Economy

The water is polluted in many parts of the ERB; drinking water as well as biological values, production, fishing and tourism are treated and extensive measures are required. This means there is a big need of resources, not only for investments but also for institutional strengthening and capacity building. A common work for finding different financing sources is one part. Implementing systems for recovery of costs and finding cost effective solutions and methods are other. Supporting environmental adapted technology and business development is a third part under this headline.

Monitoring and modelling

Joint monitoring and modelling is essential, as a scientific base for assessment, decisions about priorities, evaluation, benchmarking etc. At national level, implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) will lead to joint monitoring and assessment within the EU countries. Also co-operation with the Russian federation is necessary. In an ERB perspective, data also have to be available for the regional level. Today, this kind of comparable information is missing.

Mobilisation

One of the most crucial questions is to raise the understanding, interest, awareness and public participation. This is the base for almost all kind of measures aiming to protect our waters and secure a healthy development. Citizens in general are, of course, an important target group. Other important groups are decision makers, business owners, farmers and children/youths. Information, dialogue, own responsibility and possibilities to influence are important parameters.

Oil

Pollution from **oil** and other **chlorinated hydrocarbons** are also suggested as an important chemical parameter connected to water issues. This question is most relevant along the east coast of the Baltic Sea, where oil processing industries, refineries and chemical industries are located.

- Baltic MaSTER

One aspect of this question is maritime safety; to avoid accidents with vessels. ERB was one of the initiators to the Trelleborg Conference about maritime safety and there is now an ongoing work, aiming to follow up this conference. Region Blekinge is the lead partner in a process, aiming to create an INTERREG project about the local and regional role in the work for increased maritime safety in the Baltic Sea Region. (Preliminary name: Maritime safety – transport and environment in the south Baltic Sea Region – Baltic MaSTER)

Research and trends for the future

It is important to not only look at the today situation, but also trying to find important trends for the future. In the aspect of water and development of ERB, the possible effects of coming climate changes and the possibilities for the agricultural sector to develop in an environmental adapted way seem most important to notice.

- Promotion the establishment of a joint ERB corporate body of university and post graduate school expertise, commissioned to develop training courses and improved text-books/manuals in environment issues relating to EU policies - to be used at different levels of education/vocational training.
- Initiatives for the development and coordination of ERB located R&D and political activities concerning the protection of South Baltic Sea water, coastal zones and maritime safety in the region.

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