



Ulf Andersson

Notes from NGO seminar in Elblag 2004-05-05

Place: Euroregion Baltic Secretariat, ¾ Sw. Ducha Street, Elblag

Participants: 35 persons from different kinds of Non Governmental Organisations (NGO: s)

Ms Adriana Gniad from the ERB-secretariat in Elblag welcomed the participants and opened the seminar.

Mr Ulf Andersson from the Seagullproject informed about the background, and the aims, for the ERB organisation. He stressed that it is a political cooperation, and that it depends on the political will in the member regions how strong the cooperation will be in the future.

He also informed about the Seagullproject and the work so far in the different work packages.

Mr Rolf A. Karlson, Project manager for the Seagullproject, informed about the work with the main goal for the Seagullproject – the Joint Transnational Development Programme (JTDP).

So far there is only a strategy, a frame for the final JTDP, and there are still plenty of time to give input to final Programme.

Discussions in groups about the Strategy and JTDP

After the break followed a discussion in small groups. The discussion was very intensive and resulted in a good number of comments and proposals some concerning the Joint Transnational Development Plan and some concerning the ERB cooperation in more general terms. Below you have a summery of the comments and proposals.

Group 1.

- Need of centres for business information
- The importance of renewable energy
- Important to implement EU-regulations. ERB could have in role in this.
- A database where you could find jobs in the different member regions of ERB. A common labour market.
- Turning agriculture to tourist sector.

Priorities

1. Systematic networking and benchmarking.
2. Infrastructure
3. Environment

Group 2.

- Creating clusters between the member regions very important.
- The water quality in little rivers important.
- Cooperation with Kaliningrad on water quality is very important for Warmia-Masurian Region.
- Better Infrastructure.
- Renewable energy.
- Lobbying in Brussels is important.
- Training courses in languages.

Priorities

1. Creating clusters
2. Better water quality
3. Infrastructure

Group 3.

- NGO: s must be a part of the ERB cooperation. 170 NGO: s only in Elblag.
- Schools must also take part in the cooperation

- Business Fairs
- Networking
- Exchange of experiences and knowledge
- Promotion of private sector

Priorities

1. Create possibilities to start business.
2. Systematic networking in different fields.
3. Promotion of private sector.

Group 4.

- Create a network for business development.
- Regions with good economy must help poorer ones.
- Unemployment is a major problem in Warmia-Masurian Region.
- It must be easier to work abroad.
- Adjust the job qualifications to EU standard.
- Language courses in English.

Priorities

1. Networking for business development
2. Decrease unemployment
3. Infrastructure