



Ulf Andersson

## *Notes from NGO seminar in Gdansk 2004-05-06*

**Place:** Old Town Hall, Korzenna str 33/35

**Participants:** 70 persons from different kinds of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

**Ms Anna Golec** from the ERB-secretariat in Gdansk welcomed the participants and opened the seminar.

**Ms Krystyna Wroblewska** talked over the theme Role of international co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region – example of the Euroregion Baltic. She stressed that the co-operation within Euroregion Baltic is very important for Pomeranian Region.

**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.

**Ms Anna Golec**, with help of local project leaders, then gave some examples of European and Baltic initiatives of the NGOs in the Pomorskie Voivodeship: EURONGO project and Forum of Friendly Neighbourhood project.

## **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.**

- Promotion of the regions in ERB.
- Exchange between research and higher education.
- Stimulate small businesses
- A common labour market.
- Protect the Baltic Sea.
- Culture exchange
- Student exchange programmes.

### **Group 2.**

- The situation for disabled persons is difficult. ERB could work for networking and exchange of knowledge in this field.
- Entrepreneurship must be prioritised.
- Education on all levels must be better.
- Mutual culture
- Internet in all classrooms
- Tourism is important. Culture tourism around the Baltic.
- Better Infrastructure.

### **Group 3.**

- Equal opportunities in the member regions.

- Language training.
- Development of transport systems. Infrastructure.
- Computer studies. A computer in each home.
- Well skilled labour force.
- Better standard of public administration.
- Networking in all fields – even NGOs in the ERB area.

**Group 4.**

- Create a network for business development.
- Language training – English.
- Cooperation on environmental science.
- Transparency on legal issues.
- A seminar about disabled people for NGOs in the ERB area.
- Exchange programs for young people.

**Ms Mariana Gómes** from the Europe Office in Växjö, Sweden, informed about the possibilities to get financial support from EU Programmes for NGOs.

She especially mentioned the following programmes:

- Daphne
- Gender Equality
- Culture
- Environment 2010
- Community Action Programme
- Action Programme to Combat Discrimination
- Youth Community Action Programme