



EUROREGION BALTIC
ACTION PLAN
2012 -2013

södra Småland, 10th February 2012

Background

Euroregion Baltic (ERB) Action Plan for 2012 – 2013 was adopted on 10th February 2012 at the beginning of the new presidency within the organisation assumed by the Swedish region of södra Småland. ERB stakeholders believe that biennial action plans are an excellent tool enabling them to focus their efforts more precisely, to streamline their resources more effectively and to concretise results they expect in a clearer manner. Such was the objective for this Action Plan, as well.

The drafting process began as early as on 27th September 2011 when the ERB Executive Board supported the proposal by södra Småland to visit all the member organisations prior to their presidency. Such stakeholder approach brought positive results and enabled the partners to get to know each other better, to better understand the nature of their daily work and responsibilities, their interests and ambitions.

The visits were held between in November and December 2011, generating fruitful discussions and exchanges, and resulting in an abundance of ideas and inspirations which could fill up a dozen similar action plans. The task for the new presidency was thus to make a strategic selection, carefully considering available financial, human and political resources, as well as the specific time in which the chairmanship is held.

Goals

The ERB 2020 Agenda (adopted in 2010) provided the necessary strategic framework by defining the vision for Euroregion Baltic. According to the vision, in 2020 ERB will be a more dynamic tool to tackle common challenges observed by its members, and a strengthened political leverage in the cross-border cooperation of the Baltic Sea Region. The Action Plan for 2012 and 2013 marks the first step in making this vision more attainable, and therefore recommends the actions which will contribute to the implementation of the two goals of ERB 2020 Agenda: making ERB an effective political tool, as well as making ERB efficient in dealing with common challenges.



Actions

The actions planned to help ERB stakeholders tackle common challenges take into account interests and ambitions proposed by the member organisations during numerous ERB events, including Executive Board meetings and stakeholder conferences, and also brought forward during the visits in November and December 2011. These concern joint efforts aiming at empowering youths with skills and capacities so that they become full-fledged actors in democratic processes, facilitating business to business links and addressing the challenges related to labour markets in the ERB regions.

The actions designed in order to improve the political role of ERB are divided into external and internal ones. Externally, ERB will cooperate with the EU institutions and BSR organisations in a number of areas, e.g. EU Cohesion Policy and EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Internal efforts will focus on the enhancement of the stakeholder approach, continuous dialogue among the member organisations and integration of the ERB Youth Board.



Monitoring

ERB Action Plan for 2012 – 2013 gives an outline of activities, each of which will require specific structure and framework that are impossible to define at the present moment and will have to be agreed at a later time. Therefore, the role of the ERB Executive Board is crucial in the regular monitoring of its implementation. The most important criterion while assessing and guiding the delivery of the planned results should be the level of their contribution to the goals of the ERB 2020 Agenda. Moreover, this Action Plan also indicates the source and size of the incoming joint resources, as well as their allocation and expenditure, which will be part of the monitoring activities by the ERB Executive Board.

Notes

1. The abbreviations used in the tables are:

BSO	Business Support Organisation	EUSBSR	EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
BSSSC	Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation	IPS	International Permanent Secretariat
BSO	Business Support Organisation(s)	HA	Horizontal Action
BSR	Baltic Sea Region	MLG	Multi-Level Governance
B2B	Business to Business	MO	Member Organisation(s)
CoR	Committee of the Regions	RS	Regional Secretariat(s)
CP	Cohesion Policy	SEBA	Modernisation for South East Baltic Area <i>Initiative by Council of Baltic Sea States and Nordic Council of Ministers to generate project development, dialogue with stakeholders with Kaliningrad in focus.</i>
EB	Executive Board	SB	South Baltic Programme
EC	European Commission	TF	Task Force
EEN	Enterprise Europe Network	WCG	Water Core Group
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation	YB	Youth Board
ENPI	European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument		
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation		

2. The phrase “no extra resources required” should be understood that the planned activities are financed through the ERB joint budget (from membership fees) and/or resources allocated by each region to cover the cost related to the organisation of and participation in ERB events such as meetings of EB, YB and RS.

EUROREGION BALTIC ACTION PLAN 2012 – 2013

Goal: to strengthen political role in the cross-border cooperation of the BSR

External Action: holding dialogue with EC, EP, CoR and regional offices in Brussels, as well as BSR organisations			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
cooperation agreement	by <u>20.01.2012</u> - prepared to be signed by <u>9-10.02.2012</u> – signed all <u>2012 and 2013</u> – implemented <u>February 2013</u> – reported to EB	IPS ERB President EB ERB President	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS P – endorsement by EB
joint position paper on EUSBSR	by <u>31.01.2012</u> – draft prepared on <u>9-10.02.2012</u> – draft discussed and recommendations made by <u>31.03.2012</u> – paper adopted (written procedure) all <u>2012 and 2013</u> – paper disseminated and promoted	TF , IPS, RS EB EB TF , IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, RS, TF P – paper adopted by EB
more formal links with BSSSC	on <u>9-10.02.2012</u> – information & decision on the scope of possible cooperation all <u>2012 and 2013</u> – implemented <u>February 2013</u> – reported to EB	EB EB , YB, IPS, RS ERB President	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – cooperation plan adopted by EB
more formal links with SEBA	on <u>9-10.02.2012</u> – information & decision on the scope of possible cooperation all <u>2012 and 2013</u> – implemented <u>February 2013</u> – reported to EB	EB EB , YB, IPS, RS ERB President	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – cooperation plan adopted by EB
YB cooperation with Four Corners & BSSSC	on <u>9-10.02.2012</u> – information on the scope of possible cooperation on <u>13.06.2012</u> – update on possible cooperation indicating further steps	YB , EB, IPS, RS YB , EB, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – possible decision on further steps by EB

External Action: intensifying ERB's participation in the implementation of ETC and ENPI programmes in the BSR			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
lobbying plan with regards to ERB recommendations on CP & SB and to challenges identified in draft CP regulations, with special focus on continued dialogue with national authorities based on unique assets & MO needs	by <u>20.01.2012</u> – drafted on <u>9-10.02.2012</u> – adopted all <u>2012 and 2013</u> – implemented and reported to EB	TF , IPS, RS EB EB , YB, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, RS, TF P – lobbying plan adopted by EB, involvement of EB in political dialogue with national authorities
debate on ERB's role in other ETC programmes of geographical relevance	by <u>20.01.2012</u> – proposals included in CP lobbying plan on <u>9-10.02.2012</u> – discussed and concluded	IPS, RS, TF EB	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, RS, TF P – conclusions agreed by EB

External Action: participating in the implementation of EUSBSR			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
project Involve implementing HA on MLG	by <u>31.01.2012</u> – first application draft made on <u>9-10.02.2012</u> – first draft discussed and concluded by <u>29.03.2012</u> – final draft submitted	IPS , RS, TF, WCG EB IPS , RS, TF, WCG	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, RS, TF P – draft opinionated by EB
continuing ERB's role as a stakeholder in EUSBSR implementation	<u>all 2012 and 2013</u> – information exchange political dialogue managed by EB participation in EUSBSR Forum and other events	EB , IPS, RS, TF EB EB , IPS, RS, TF	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, RS, TF P – involvement of EB in political dialogue with EU & national authorities

Goal: to strengthen political role in the cross-border cooperation of the BSR

Internal Action: reinforcing stakeholder approach through continuous dialogue and information exchange			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
Forum of ERB Stakeholders	on <u>9-10.02.2012</u> – vision of Forum discussed & agreed (incl. topic of Forum debate (see action addressing labour market challenges) on <u>24.04.2012</u> – detailed programme discussed & drafted on <u>13.06.2012</u> – Forum held on Bornholm	EB , YB, IPS, RS EB , YB, IPS, RS EB , YB, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – vision of Forum agreed by EB
EB meetings around ERB	on <u>9-10.02.2012</u> – meeting in södra Småland on <u>13 – 14.06.2012</u> – meeting on Bornholm on <u>23-24.10.2012</u> – meeting in Klaipeda	EB , YB, IPS, RS EB , YB, IPS, RS EB , YB, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decisions by EB stipulated in meeting agendas
ERB Forum of local actors	by <u>18.05.2012</u> - proposal presented on <u>13 – 14.06.2012</u> - proposal discussed and concluded	MO Association of Polish Communes EB , IPS, RS	F – extra resources required by MO H - hours of IPS, RS P – decision on the proposal by EB
ERB Secretariats contacts	<u>continuously</u> – email exchange every first Monday of the month – online RS meeting on <u>24.04.2012</u> - face2face meeting in Gdańsk on <u>04.09.2012</u> - face2face meeting in Växjö on <u>24.10.2012</u> - face2face meeting in Klaipeda	IPS , RS IPS , RS IPS , RS IPS , RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – none
EGTC	by <u>20.01.2012</u> – inclusion of the topic into scope of TF Cohesion Policy work	TF , IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, RS, TF P – none
Joint projects	please, see Result (youth project) in Action (empowering youth) and Result (B2B project) in Action (facilitating B2B links)		

Internal Action: integrating further the ERB Youth Board			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
permanent youth coordination structure	<u>on 9-10.02.2012</u> - proposal presented	RS södra Småland	F – extra resources required by MO H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – decision on the proposal by EB
	<u>on 14.06.2012</u> – proposal discussed and concluded	EB , YB, IPS, RS	
ongoing support by MO	<u>all 2012 and 2013</u> – within the scope of the youth cooperation memorandum agreed by MO on 18.05.2011	MO , IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – none

Goal: to be a more dynamic tool to tackle common challenges

Action: empowering youth			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
youth project	<u>on 9-10.02.2012</u> – project development process leader identified among MO	EB , YB, IPS, RS	F – extra resources required from MO H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – roles of MO, EB, YB, IPS and RS agreed by EB
	<u>on 13 – 14.06.2012</u> – update on project development process	MO	
	<u>2012 – 2013</u> – submission	MO	
ERB Youth Board in EUSBSR Action Plan	<u>by 20.01.12</u> - information on steps taken so far	RS Blekinge	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS, TF P – lobbying plan approved by EB
	<u>by 27.01.12</u> – proposal of lobbying activities	TF , YB, IPS, RS	
	<u>on 9-10.02.2012</u> – discussion & adoption of lobbying plan	EB , IPS, RS, TF	
	<u>2012 – 2013</u> – implementation of lobbying plan and reporting to EB	EB , IPS, RS, TF	

Action: facilitating B2B links			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
B2B project	<u>by 27.01.12</u> – indication of possible funding sources	IPS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS, RS, TF, BSO P – roles of MO, EB, IPS, RS and BSO agreed by EB
	<u>on 9-10.02.2012</u> – project development process leader identified among MO	EB	
meeting with EEN and BSO	<u>by 13.01.2012</u> – programme prepared and invitations sent <u>on 9-10.02.2012</u> – meeting held in södra Småland or Gdańsk	TF , IPS, RS, BSO	F – no extra resources required H - hours of IPS P – none

Action: addressing labour market challenges			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
debate on ERB's role	<u>on 9-10.02.2012</u> – topic proposed as part of Forum vision (see action: reinforcing stakeholder approach)	EB , YB, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of YB, IPS, RS P – conclusions (and possible recommendations for future work) adopted by EB
	<u>on 13 – 14.06.2012</u> – debate accompanying Forum of ERB Stakeholders	EB , YB, IPS, RS	
	<u>on 13 – 14.06.2012</u> – debate conclusions	EB	

Action: facilitating water cooperation			
Results	Time Framework	Actors responsible (leader in bold)	Resources (financial, human, political)
Conclusions and recommendations for future water cooperation (Moment project output)	<u>by 13 June 2012</u> – date for the presentation of the document and ERB Water Forum communicated to EB <u>September, October 2012</u> – document presented and discussed at ERB Water Forum	WCG WCG	F – within Moment project H – within Moment project P – within Moment project
future water cooperation	<u>on 23-24 October 2012</u> – scope of ERB water cooperation in 2013 and onwards discussed and agreed	EB , WCG, IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of WCG, IPS, RS P – conclusions for future work adopted by EB
ERB Water Forum	<u>by 13 June 2012</u> - date for ERB Water Forum communicated to EB <u>September, October 2012</u> – Forum held in Gdańsk	WCG WCG	F – within Moment project H – within Moment project P – within Moment project
Study visit to the storm water treatment system	<u>on 23-24 October 2012</u>	WCG , IPS, RS	F – no extra resources required H - hours of WCG, IPS, RS P – none

JOINT BUDGET IN 2012

#	REVENUES	In EUR	In PLN
1	Result as of 01.01.2011	-19 778,00 €	-85 045,00 PLN
2	Region Blekinge	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
3	Regionförbundet södra Småland	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
4	Regionförbundet i Kalmar Lan	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
5	Bornholm	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
6	Pomorski Urząd Marszałkowski	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
7	Warmińsko-Mazurski Urząd Marszałkowski	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
8	Stowarzyszenie Gmin RP Euroregion Bałtyk	5 500,00 €	23 650,00 PLN
9	Klaipeda County	4 600,00 €	19 780,00 PLN
10	Kaliningrad Region	2 300,00 €	9 890,00 PLN
11	Refund from Capacity	7 000,00 €	30 100,00 PLN
	TOTAL REVENUES	<u>32 622,00 €</u>	<u>140 275,00 PLN</u>
#	EXPENDITURE	In EUR	In PLN
1	Overheads	1 425,00 €	6 127,50 PLN
	office rental - IPS	280,00 €	1 204,00 PLN
	mobile phone	977,00 €	4 201,10 PLN
	internet connection	168,00 €	722,40 PLN
2	Travel / Meetings	7 000,00 €	30 100,00 PLN
3	Personnel costs	18 237,00 €	78 419,10 PLN
4	IT	660,00 €	2 838,00 PLN
	ERB website, updates, domains and hosting	75,00 €	322,50 PLN
	Webex	585,00 €	2 515,50 PLN
	equipment	0,00 €	0,00 PLN
5	ERB Youth Board	5 100,00 €	21 930,00 PLN
6	Banking charges	200,09 €	860,40 PLN
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>32 622,00 €</u>	<u>140 275,00 PLN</u>