



## NOTE FROM THE MEETING

### 14-16.02.2018 SB YCGN KICK OFF CONFERENCE

#### Elbląg, Poland

#### SUMMARISING ERB 20TH ANNIVERSARY AND SB YCGN CONFERENCE



On February 14-16, Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic celebrated its 20th Anniversary during a 3 days long series of meetings and conferences hosted in Elbląg. The celebration, which saw the participation of nearly 150 guests representing delegations from Russia, Poland, Sweden, Denmark and Lithuania, was a good opportunity to take stock of the situation, capitalise the results achieved over the last 20 years and lay the foundation for a fruitful future cooperation.

**On February 14th two projects were launched:** UMBRELLA and SB YCGN (Youth Core Group Network). UMBRELLA, within whom ERB plays the role of Lead Partner, aims at developing know-how capacities for small local and regional organisations in the South Baltic Programme area to initiate their active participation in the cross-border cooperation in daily activities. On the other side, SB YCGN focuses on the cooperation of different local actors as regional authorities, universities, NGOs, etc. in the field of youth participation in the decision making on the local level and to strengthen the capacities of local and regional actors related to youth policy in the South Baltic Programme area.



**START OF SB YCGN KICK OFF CONFERENCE** - During the meeting, all project partners had the opportunity to meet f2f each other for the first time and had time to discuss in an enlarged group (taking into account both partners of the Associations and full partners) project details. Partner discuss a number of issues related to the application itself and the context of cooperation as part of the future actions and activities of the SB YCGN network

#### 14.02.2018 - The program of first day of the kick off was divided into six basic sessions:

##### 1. Welcome by the Lead Partner – led by Ms. Małgorzata Samusjew

- presentation of the history of the Association and the scope and context of the creation of the Euroregion Baltic network;
- presentation of the ideas and goals of partner cooperation under the Euroregion Baltic;
- presentation of the context of the event and basic information about the conference dedicated to the celebration of the 20th anniversary of cooperation of the Baltic Euroregion, which take place on February 15, 2018
- introduction of LP and its scope of activity and action plan especially actions taken in youth issues;
- scope of project activities and LP's experience in project management;

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## 2. Introduction of Main Project Idea

- the idea of the project was shown closer to the participants – especially the design and program framework of the project, the stages of application development and main aims and objectives
- planned project results were discussed and briefly explained goals of the project, and among them the three most important: Increased cross-border cooperation, exchange of experience and competences of partners on young citizens' participation issues (learning from each other and building capacity for cooperation), increasing the capacities and competences of local government units and their representatives to engage them into civil dialogue with young people, thus increasing the participation of young citizens and dissemination of lessons learned and experiences and joint analysis and reflection on the future of young people participation in the South Baltic area.
- The project main outputs were described in details:
  1. Analysis and research of partner countries' local needs for increasing civic participation and cross-border cooperation - A qualitative and quantitative analysis on the state of art of youth civic participation. Results of the analysis will be used to develop a questionnaire for a cross-border research. The research will be built on some other previously implemented SB projects (e.g., CASYPOT), and will also design some completely new elements covering the local and international levels. Apart from some theory-research work, it will also yield some very practical outputs and outcomes.
  2. Cross-border network and joint capacity building events - developing skills of the stakeholders - The activities will address development of skills in policy-making, youth issues understanding, learning foreign expertise, cooperation between social partners, etc. Young people in each partner country will be selected by way of a competition. An informal Network will be established in each partner country. To strengthen the Net will be set up in each partner country (4) YCG, in order to bringing together new-comer local actors that could work together. Creating (1) cluster of YCG - the newly established and currently existing groups will joint create and become members of the Baltic Sea Youth Core Group Network - formal agreement between groups, An informal network of Universities will be created and ensured by joint publications
  3. International participatory campaign - The aims of activities for this output include: activating mutual learning process, establishing a shared understanding of the overall participatory process on the international level, and improving the understanding of the concept of civic participation at the SB regional level.

An issue for the campaign will be selected following numerous other activities in the course of the project. The campaign itself will include: preparatory meetings with either national, regional or local decision-makers in each country, exploration of an issue among youth groups, an on-line discussion by some 20 participants in all project countries, and a live public event in each partner's locality.



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- description of the pilot project LYC SB enabling the preparation of the main application and its results. During this part discussion was held about barriers, perceptions, expectations of past and current applications;
- LP show the scope of actions implemented under the seed money LYC SB project and the main reasons that determined the creation of the bigger application among them: need of more practical actions raising skills and the participants' competences, sharing experiences and coordinate joint activities, increasing real civic participation by including youth in decision-making, involvement actors from different environments, organizations levels, sharing common problems and find the way to solve them, creation of long-term network - something that will be real support for youth activities
- The composition of the partner team and the individual partners and their location were presented among them Project and Affiliate Partners from 4 countries. The project involves 8 partners and 6 associated partners from four South Baltic countries. The core partners represent local communities, an international association of communities (EUROREGION), Academic sector, two foundations working with the local community and support of youth engagement.
- The last part of this session was presentation the overall project budget, basic budget lines and related to them examples of costs were presented



### 3. Background of other SB Youth Projects – led by Ms. Zofia Makowska

- participants had the opportunity to share experience and make first contacts with members of other similar projects developed in the Baltic Sea Region – CASYPOT project presentation led by Zofia Makowska; During the presentation, the scope of joint work and the specific scope of cooperation and co-operation between the two project consortia were clarified.
- The partners had the opportunity to heard advice on the implementation of the project and information on the bottlenecks of project development
- Casypot partners share the practice of Swedish LUPP survey in cross-border scale: Survey - Investigate the situation and compare internationally in ERB, Youth policies and action plans - Address the identified problems, Tools to be tested - Follow up on the issues identified
- Results of Loop methods were presented

### 4. SB YCGN state of Play & its Mainstay – rationale, scope, scale and structure – led by Mr. Marcin Żuchowski - Overall status of the project

- the state of the project's progress, the status of project clarification has been presented and the situation related to the preparation of programming documents, as well as the status of works on subsidy contract and partnership agreement discussed
- LP described the previously implemented activities in the project and their condition
- Role, Functions & Contribution of the Lead Partner described.

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Among LP tasks and functions we can mention: Submission of overall project progress report (SL2014) and getting reimbursement on the project level, fulfilment obligations related to storage and availability of documents for audit trail purposes, coordination of all project activities, ensure coherence and quality of all activities and ensure Project Partners (PPs) expenditures corresponds to the activities agreed in the Application Form

- Basics about Cooperation with the Lead Partner presented
- Role, Functions & Contribution of the Project Partners and Project Management Structure discussed
- Presentation of potential project logotypes along with their description were carried out. A vote was made regarding the selection of a potential project logotype. Partners mostly agreed to the option of the 4th logotype, indicating the need to present additional options at the same time

### 5. Getting to know each other: short partner presentations, roles & contributions in the SB YCGN project

During this part of the session, participants had the opportunity to present their organizations and places from where they came. Each of the partners and partners of the Associates made a brief description of the situation in the given institution, present the partner team



### 6. Presentation of Project Responsible Officer, Joint Technical Secretariat of South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 led by Ms. Agnieszka Limanówka

- Compliance with the Programme Rules, Partnership;
- Obligations and Work with the JS and responsible Project Officers;
- Framework conditions, partner participation & contribution, management bodies, reporting & reimbursement;
- Electronic reporting system (SL2014).
- Programme visualization
- Key things to be remembered (Focus on the results, durability of results, cooperation with the JS, financial and reporting discipline)
- Reporting deadlines for the 1st payment claim:
  - the 1st reporting period - 1 October 2017 – 31 March 2018
  - submission of partner report (partial payment claim) to FLC - 15 April 2018
  - verification by FLC, clarifications - up to 13 July 2018
  - LP: submission of project progress report (payment claim) to JS - 28 July 2018
- Reporting- use of Euro



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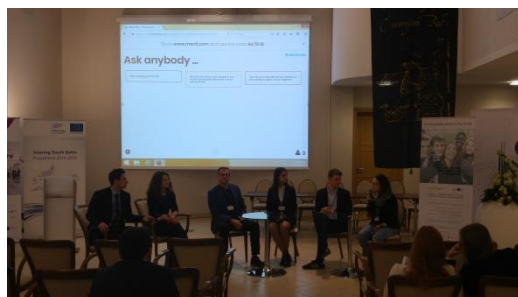
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**15.02.2016 - The program of the second day of the kick off conference was divided into three different parallel modules**



In the morning of February 15th, a delegation from Russia participated in a meeting led by Małgorzata Samusjew, ERB Director of the Secretariat, to discuss the cooperation between local governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to boost a joint and efficient local development.

At the same time, organized by Damian Ciachorowski, ERB Youth Board, and Zofia Makowska, Project Manager of CaSYPoT at the Regional Council of Kalmar County, a Youth Panel took place to bring together young people, politicians, representatives of NGOs and local authorities in order to exchange ideas over the cooperation and involvement of multiple stakeholders in shaping transnational policies related to the youth. During the panel, Alexandra Winberg recently appointed Chair of ERB Youth Board, and Domenico Misurelli, Interreg Volunteer Youth – IVY at ERB, addressed the audience with their own current and past experience of young people operating in the field of youth and cross-border cooperation.



The main event of the 3 days long celebration took place in the afternoon: the conference entitled “PARTNERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE: Solving Baltic Sea Cooperation Rubik’s Cube”. The conference offered an overarching view of the successes and challenges of the ERB in the broader context of the Baltic Sea Region and European Union while looking back at its past and current achievement. At the same time, the participants

reflected on ideas and initiatives that could shape the future of ERB cooperation as an innovative international cooperation platform capable to better contribute to the multi-level development of the entire region.

After the welcome speech by Mr Witold Wroblewski, Mayor of Elbląg and Chair of the Association of Polish Communes, the panellists recalled the beginning of the organizations. Indeed, back in the 90’s, a Euroregion in the Baltic Sea was a new form of cooperation and since it aimed at the inclusion of the Kaliningrad region several obstacles had to be overcome. In this sense, the institutionalized Polish-Swedish cooperation offered a unique start point from which expanding the collaboration in the region and including new actors. Currently involving 8 regions in 5 countries, ERB plays a fundamental role in





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addressing future challenges in the region along with organizations such as UBC, BSSSC, CBSS. As highlighted by Ann-Irene Saeternes, Secretary General of BSSSC, and Krystyna Wróblewska, Pomorskie Region Marshal Office, key issues such as the crisis of capitalism, globalisation, the crisis of democracy and climate change require a macroregional approach. In this regard and in order to tackle issues capable of affecting the region it takes a stronger political leadership, the capacity to anticipate trends, a closer cooperation with EU, a strengthen visibility and an increased financial support. As suggested during the panel the Rubik cube might not be solved if it means to end up being stranded. Indeed, the cooperation among different stakeholders placed in the region requires an ongoing effort capable to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants. Achieving the UN Sustainable Development Golas represents a great challenge for the whole Baltic Sea Region.

### 16.02.2016 - The program of the third day of the kick off conference

February 16th, was devoted to a detailed description and analysis of individual elements of the application, especially the scope of the assumptions provided for in the project. Introduction to the project – discussion about main project issues: Dividing project roles (Task Leaders WP Leaders, contractors of activities), budget and eligibly of expenditure, evaluation of the project, Dissemination of project results, establish the Project Management Team, Set on-line and face-to-face meetings;

Moreover during this working meeting the basic elements related to cost reporting, SL2014 system, project values based on which the logotype and promotional elements are built were recalled.

Lead Partner and individual partners have described the composition of their work packages and presented their scope, duration and commitment of the other members of the team. Partners representing PP2 - PP6 - PP3 working as a WP leaders presented their responsibilities and joint work of preparation detailed project schedule.

Task for all partners – Municipalities, ngo organisations - must determine what possibilities and resources they have to involve youth and politicians in project actions. At the same time, they must specify what age groups of young people will be able to be involve in project implementation.

WP3 - Gdańsk University of Technology – presentation led by Ms. Krystyna Gomółka - describing partner activities among most importnat:

3.1.1 Working out assumptions with whom to meet – preparation March - April - physical gathering of all materials and data - identifying good groups that will allow us access to youth. Research must be published, showing what has been done so far – gathered and compiled with use of electronic system SPSS (scientific program)

3.4 conferences - First is already - kick off meeting (February)



- First conference. Present general assumptions - it must take place in the first 6 months (April-May) and connected with next Project team and steering committee meeting,

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- third conference. Presentation of research - from various environments, scientists, politicians, NGOs

### 3.9 Youth portal

- current content about the project, disjunction function

A vector for the future, a space of knowledge for those interested, how to involve young people in youth participation. They will start thinking from July to August. The rise will take place the fastest in February 2019.

It will show what we do, what is happening in communities, and information about events worth participating in.

- Each partner has a translation budget if they want to translate

- other institutions should be included, JTS has attached himself, that we will only limit ourselves to our organizations, and we are to expand the network. Formal and informal units, NGOs, scientific institutions must be, and whoever else we want to add must be decided by the partners themselves.

• The University of Technology and Klaipeda University are to set a schedule, present to partners and will involve all partners, and combine it with the rest of the HR.

WP4 Civis Polonus Foundation – presentation led by Ms. Joanna Pietrasik - describing partner activities among most important:

4.1 Youth will be included in the real process of participation in the decision-making process  
Partners recruit young people in their municipalities.

Do one-day training for teams, think about where (the second half of May)

4.7 the essence of the entire Workpackage required:

- good cooperation with politicians

- they must declare to which decisions they can admit young people to participate

- young people have to do a needs analysis

- discussion about needs and problems in municipalities

- check what will change during the year

- the decision-making level of the young, to which they will be admitted - depends on politicians, the commune ...

- in Poland, youth councils of municipalities, in Lithuania "round table" - what tools are with them and what can be included in Poland?

- age group of youth councils - students who learn, and the "round table" are also older. You can invite all interested

- Taking 5-6 people + adult coordinator to carry out an annual process, they need to know their community to include them in activities

- the decision makers are quickly involved in the project, but in Denmark it is difficult to include (impossible) politicians, they do not have youth councils

- youth participation is not only leaders, people who already work, but to reach out to young people (disabled people who are not active on a daily basis also have to take part)





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4.2 - the recruited group arrives (May-June) for training

4.3 seminar - There must be 4 seminars, each partner has 4 seminars

- for young people and their guardians, but also for politicians
- there is no specific number of people involved

4.4 - youth core groups, create groups for youth

- collect all youth, sports, cultural, chess groups, ....
- at the local level
- 9 groups are to be created (but yet to be resolved, after getting information about which organizations are in a given commune, institution)

4.5 - a set of rules and operating standards

- that the groups do not meet once or twice a year and actually help the municipalities
- often municipalities do not know these groups, and so they will know them and will be able to contact them
- the 13-year-old will not contact the 25-year-old

4.8 Monitoring visits

- learn from each other, share experience, go to yourself
- how much should I take? - as much as the budget allows, but the partners definitely participate

4.9 - young people presented their decisions 2 times to the decision makers

- for example, the young will go to the municipal council sessions and speak there
- PP3 conversion to PP4 Task leader
- in Denmark: very ambitious, not impossible, but it can be successful, for now there is no such tradition of public hearing, it can be a simple conversation between young people and politicians.
- no result, or a fully made plan is the result, result.
- maybe the authorities / politicians will eventually get used to the fact that young people also participate

WP5 Public Establishment Samogitia Community Foundation – presentation led by Ms. Birute Jatautaite - describing partner activities among most important:

5.1 - several people from each commune will take part in the discussion

- identification of the most important problems
- moderator of small groups, because it may be that they will not want to speak to open themselves

5.4 Creating a promotion video

5.5 creating an analysis

- all young people have something to say and want to solve problems
- sitting in our countries and we will talk
- lack of a specific age





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### 5.7- compilation of the document

#### NEXT Meeting

- To be specified in relation to other programme events
- Online by using appear.in

#### Other:

- in the meantime, meetings between partners to develop overall detailed project schedule
- online for entire partnership within 2-3 weeks (March)
- terms of management to be developed by the LP
- the final vote over the project logotype during two weeks after kick off meeting
- Lead partner suggests that every partner should be responsible for meeting, conferences and events in areas in countries that we don't have included in the current partnership. When such are found they should be communicated to the Lead Partner. The Lead Partner then ask the steering committee if it's suitable. After that, a decision on whether to participate or not, could be taken.
- During the project we can use "Appear.in" which is a conferencing system

#### Day 3 of conference

At the same time, organized by Sebastian Magier from International Permanent Secretary of ERB - ERB Executive Board representatives met to summarise ERB's activities and plan the future ones. The ultimate goal of the ERB's work in the field of cross-border cooperation in the South Baltic Region will be to put people at the centre of its actions trying to find the right balance. During the executive board, ERB Presidency was officially transferred from Ms Akko Karlsson, Vice-Chair of the Board of Regional Council in Kalmar County, to Ms Anne Thomas, Vice Mayor of Regional Municipality of Bornholm. At the same time, the Chair of ERB Youth Board was transferred from Ms Yanina Andrushkevich (Kaliningrad) to Ms Alexandra Winberg (Kalmar).



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