

## CONCLUSIONS

of a second roundtable of Euroregions in Lithuania  
19 October 2006, Alytus

### Participants:

- Representatives from all six Lithuanian directorates of euroregions (“*Nemunas*”, “*Šešupė*”, “*Ežerų kraštas*”, “*Saulė*”, “*Baltija*”, “*Bartuva*”);
  - Representatives of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania;
  - Representatives of municipalities;
  - Representative of the BEN Lead Partner, Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania.
1. According to Government Resolution No. 816 as of 25 August 2006 assistance to euroregions will be further provided. According to the most important instrument 3 of this programme, AEBR membership fee will be paid for euroregions “*Nemunas*”, “*Saulė*”, and “*Ežerų kraštas*”, seminars and training will be organized, and, if required, research and visibility activities.
  2. Following experience of the implementation of current INTERREG A programs in Lithuania, there is a greater need for larger-scale (infrastructure) rather than soft projects. In general the state authorities, and especially municipalities and county administrations, are much more active as applicants.
  3. Insufficiency of administrative capacity and financial resources impede a more efficient participation of non-governmental organizations and public institutions in the programme.
  4. During 2007-2013 Lithuania will have a possibility to participate in five European territorial cooperation objective programmes.
  5. One of the problems impeding successful activities of Lithuanian euroregions is that some of them (i.e. “*Baltija*” and “*Bartava*”) still do not have permanent bureaus in Lithuania, a permanent manager and competent staff.
  6. In general euroregions in Lithuania are more and more actively taking a part in different territorial cooperation programs. Amount of funds, which are being used by euroregions or their members increases with each year.
  7. One of remaining problems for some of euroregions is the division of euroregions’ territories between different programmes.
  8. Euroregional bureaus have economic difficulties and they are often functioning mainly as organizers and implementers of projects. Accordingly to euroregions, larger support to euroregions from state authorities would allow them to perform other functions, more directed towards regional development or strategic development of cross-border regions.
  9. Euroregions and central authorities should continue discussions about the possible role of some euroregions in management of small scale project funds within CBC programmes. There is an idea that small-scale project funds could be introduced within programmes, and these funds could be administered by some public institutions. The wish from some of the euroregions is that this possibility would be given exceptionally to euroregions.
  10. An open tender will be announced for administration of the part of Norwegian Financing Instrument, and euroregions can take part in this tender.
  11. An idea to establish the Association of Lithuanian Euroregions should be further discussed within each euroregion, and further development of this process could be presented during next roundtable.