



Annex A.3 to the Final Activity Report

Measure 3: Transnational promotion of institution building, strengthening the capacity for spatial development activities

Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B

Title of the project:

Baltic Euroregional Network

Acronym of the project:

BEN

Project number:

98

Lead partner:

Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania

Form to be filled in and returned by post and e-mail to:

BSR INTERREG III B Joint Secretariat

Grubenstr. 20

D-18055 Rostock

GERMANY

Tel: +49 381 45484 5281

Fax: +49 381 45484 5282

E-mail: report@bsrinterreg.net

LEGEND

<input type="text"/>	Input field
A	Headings
A	Questions and instructions to applicants
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EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme
Community Initiative Concerning Transnational
Co-operation On Spatial Planning 2000 - 2006

I. Results and impacts

Has your project **created new network(s) or organisation(s) or strengthened the existing ones**, which are important to spatial development as they comprise regional and local authorities of different countries?

1. Referring to the **new** network/organisation, please give a short description and focus especially on the following questions: Who is taking part? What are the aims of the network/organisation? What kind of managing structure does it have? What kind of financial resources does it operate with?

(maximum 1000+1000 characters)

A wide-range network (Baltic Euroregional Network) of institutions and organizations involved in the formulation and implementation of the cross-border cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region has been established. Network includes all main levels of authorities guaranteeing wide representation of different actors: Pan-Baltic organizations, national ministries, local and regional authorities, Euroregions and non-governmental organizations. The network has approved a strategy for future development of the BEN, where the functions of the network are described as a platform where CBC structures/Euroregions can get together to exchange experiences and project ideas on the best performance of CBC; develop common visions/strategies/solutions for development of CBC in the BSR; develop recommendations/methodologies; stimulate and generate new projects among Euroregions.

Partners see the BEN as an informal network, which is partly coordinated and financed by one of or both regional organizations in the BSR – the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) and the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). The network will have a coordinator and one annual event. No formal management bodies will be established at this stage. The NCM have already expressed its support to the network, and has provided a financial support for coordinator position in 2008. The CBSS is at the moment discussing the financial support to the BEN. During the 2008 one or several new project should be developed requiring financing from different EU programs, and these projects will build basis for continuation of the network in the future. Two project proposals are already being prepared.

2. Referring to the **strengthened** network/organisation, please give a short description and focus especially on the following questions: Who is taking part? What are the aims of the network/organisation? What kind of managing structure does it have? What kind of financial resources does it operate with?

(maximum 1000+1000 characters)

Has your project **contributed to achieving following impacts**? Please indicate to which of the following impacts your project has contributed and explain briefly how. If your project **created best practices or new solutions** related to these impacts please also state the number of the best practices/new solutions created and describe them briefly.

	Yes	Number of best practices / new solutions
a) Building new networks of importance to spatial development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	53

If yes, please give a short description and specify the created networks:

(maximum 500 characters)

A wide-range network (BEN) of institutions and organizations involved in the formulation and implementation of the cross-border cooperation in the BSR has been established. The network includes all main levels of authorities guaranteeing wide representation of different actors: Pan-Baltic organizations, national ministries, local and regional authorities, Euroregions and non-governmental organizations. 53 is a total number of best-practice examples exchanged during 32 of project events.

b) Improvement of the capacity of existing institutions of importance to spatial development through		
b1) Broadening the knowledge base	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

If yes, give a short description and name the affected institutions:

(maximum 500 characters)

32 conferences/seminars/summer-schools/trainings have been arranged on different topics relevant to the CBC, such as tourism, business development, environment etc. Many of these topics are relevant to the role of CBC structures in the spatial development. Best examples of projects and activities of different partners have been presented during these events, and by this the capacity of partners has increased.

b2) Strengthening involvement of the people and non governmental organisations (NGOs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
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If yes, please give a short description and name the NGOs providing also the number of involved individuals:

(maximum 500 characters)

Euroregions in the most of cases exist as NGOs, therefore strengthening of the NGO sector was one of the main project objectives. Some other NGOs were involved as partners in the project, like Peipsi CTC or Tchudskoj project, and NGOs were often among presenters of best-practices or target audience of trainings. The role of Euroregions as lobbyists of interests of border population was often discussed during the project events.

b3) Improving democratic decision-making methods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
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If yes, please give a short description and specify the affected institutions:

(maximum 500 characters)

This issue was not in the focus but it was touched upon during discussions around best performance of the Euroregions, their management and decision-making structures (e.g. seminar on legal status of Euroregions in Vilnius).

Yes	Number of best practices / new solutions
b4) Improving the use of ICT or R&D	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
If yes, please give a short description and specify the affected institutions: (maximum 500 characters)	
Use of ICT was a mainstreaming theme penetrating all discussed issues, because it is especially suitable for CBC regions, where border obstacles hinder many of other cooperation possibilities. Triple-helix concept, cooperation with research and academic institutions was also one of red-lines in the whole project. One of WP1 seminars in Tallinn was especially devoted to this topic.	
c) Strengthened interaction between institutions and organisations (network formation, clustering) as a source of innovation in business development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
If yes, please give a short description and specify the affected institutions and organisations: (maximum 500 characters)	
Cooperation with business is essential in CBC, and many of presented best-practices contain this element, especially in WP1 seminars on tourism development (in Sakiai), labor market and business cooperation (in Fredrikstad), CBC and regional development (in Malmo), WP2 seminar on sustainable tourism development (in Pskov) etc.	

Has your project achieved other results and impacts not described above or in the Annex A?

Please give a short description. If you have defined quantitative indicators for those results, please specify them.

Result (maximum 140 characters)	No	Short Description (maximum 470 characters)	Quantitative Indicators (maximum 70 c.)

Dossier number: 98 Acronym: BEN Title: Baltic Euroregional Network LP: Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania

II. Signature	
II.1. Signature of the Lead Partner	II.2. Official stamp of the Lead Partner
II.3. Name and title of the Signatory	Teppo Heiskanen, director
II.4. Lead Partner	Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania
II.5. Place, Date of submission	

Dossier number: 98 Acronym: BEN Title: Baltic Euroregional Network LP: Nordic C