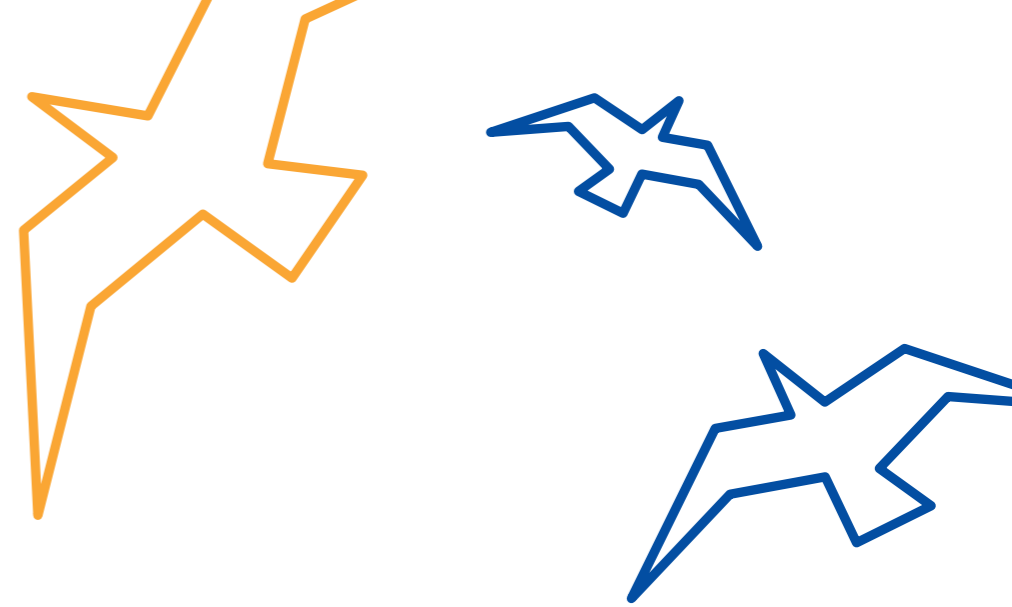




**EUROREGION BALTIC**  
**COOPERATING ACROSS BORDERS**  
**SINCE 1998**



## ABOUT ERB Background

Established in 1998 Euroregion Baltic (ERB), is a politically solid and well-anchored cross-border cooperation platform in the south-east of the Baltic Sea region, representing regional authorities and local authorities' associations in nine regions in five countries – Denmark (Bornholm), Sweden (Blekinge, Kalmar, Kronoberg, Skane Association of Local Authorities), Poland (Warmia-Masuria and Pomorskie Region, Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic), Lithuania (Klaipeda) and Russia (Kaliningrad).

The political cooperation enacted by the Euroregion Baltic has allowed for the establishment of the South Baltic CBC Programme as joint efforts promoted within the Euroregion made it possible for the programme to be launched in 2007. As a result, the Euroregion Baltic could rapidly develop into project-based cross-border cooperation, focussing on the South Baltic seashores.

- ▣ one of the biggest maritime euroregions, created in 1998
- ▣ first to include Russian partners
- ▣ hub for cross-border cooperation with focus on people-to-people projects
- ▣ strategic actions via Interreg projects
- ▣ promoting local and regional perspective in the Baltic Sea Region and EU (MLG)
- ▣ exchanging knowledge and good practice, building capacities for local actors.



## Mission

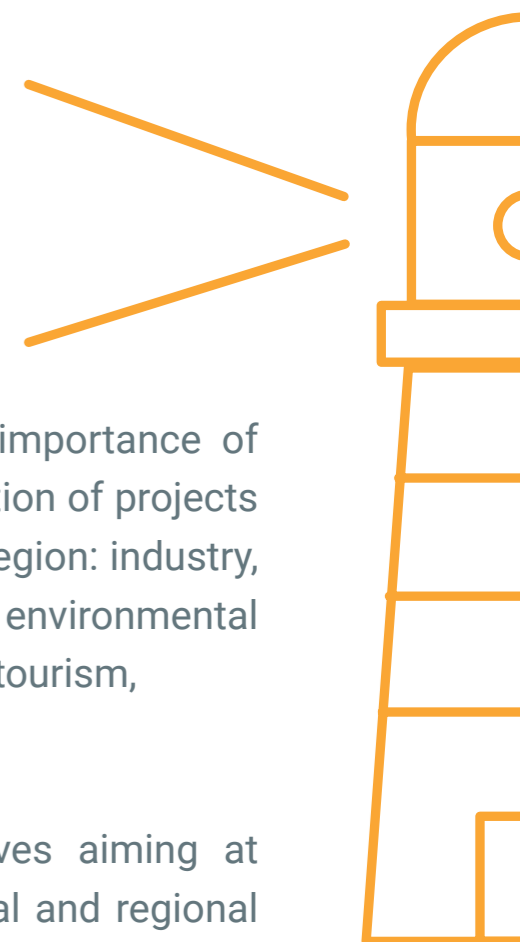
Since its foundation, Euroregion Baltic understood the importance of making use of EU opportunities to ensure the implementation of projects that could help the objectives of economic growth in the region: industry, agriculture, transport, communication, spatial planning, environmental protection, cooperation in the fields of science, education, tourism, health care, etc.

The Euroregion's mission is to undertake joint initiatives aiming at strengthening and promoting cooperation among the local and regional authorities of the Parties of the Agreement, as well as contributing to the sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region, with particular focus on the South Baltic area.

## Mission – Euroregion Baltic Agenda 2030

The ERB 2030 Agenda builds on the achievements of the first 20 years of successful cooperation and provides an updated strategic framework by defining Euroregion Baltic's vision:

- ▣ South Baltic Agenda
- ▣ Baltic Sea Region Agenda
- ▣ European Agenda
- ▣ Youth and People-to-people Agenda
- ▣ Blue and Green Growth Agenda.





## Activities

ERB cooperation is built around three main types of activities:

- ▣ lobbying activities to represent and promote common interests
- ▣ implementation of strategic initiatives and projects complementing the local and regional agendas of the member organisations
- ▣ exchange activities, seek a collaborative approach to common challenges and progress in innovation and operational efficiency of the cooperation.

important platform contributing to the development of the whole Baltic Sea region, with particular attention to the South Baltic area

providing added value in activities of the member organisations to achieve blue and green growth

experienced and effective platform for the development of good projects

lobbying for improved cooperation in the BSR including MLG



# EUROREGION BALTIC MEMBERS



## Denmark

Regional Municipality of Bornholm



## Poland

Pomorskie Region  
 Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region  
 Association of Polish Communes  
 Euroregion Baltic



## Sweden

Region Kalmar County  
 Region Blekinge  
 Region Kronoberg  
 Skåne Association of Local Authorities



## Russia

Kaliningrad Region



## Lithuania

Association  
 Klaipeda Region





## ERB Youth Board

Since its establishment in 1998, Euroregion Baltic has supported and implemented projects and activities which targeted youth in a variety of cooperation areas, e.g. education and exchange activities. Youth issues concerning cross-border cooperation are of high priority in most of the ERB member regions that agreed on prioritising youth collaboration and the creation of a youth structure within the ERB strategy.

On 6th December 2007, the Council of Euroregion Baltic established a new structure within the organisation: ERB Youth Board, responsible for the promotion and facilitation of cooperation, actively involving youth from around the Euroregion. The Youth Board, which members represent the majority of Euroregion Baltic Members takes an active part in the ERB decision-making process.

ERB Youth Board main goals are to provide the opportunity for the youth to be involved in the ERB activities, act as a voice of youth in the ERB, increase interaction between regional authorities and the youth, encourage closer cooperation between the youth and local government, eliminate cultural prejudice and facilitate youth mobility.

The Youth Board elects Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson among its members. The term of the Youth Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson is for one year.

In 2021 ERB Youth Board Chairwoman is Johanna Wyckman from Kalmar Region, Sweden and Vice-Chair Małgorzata Lewandowska from Pomorskie Region, Poland.



## Water Core Group

The ERB Water Core Group consists of regional politicians and experts, appointed by the ERB members. They are working on behalf of the ERB Board and the work is supposed to contribute to regional competitiveness advantages through:

- ▣ common view
- ▣ connecting competences
- ▣ concrete projects and cooperation.

The group also serves as a link to main political assemblies and is responsible for anchoring and spreading information/results to their political fora's.

The overriding goal for the ERB Water Core Group is to realize concrete measures aiming to good ecological and chemical status in the ERB waters, as a base for good development of the area.

### Focus areas:

- ▣ decreasing the outflow of nutrients and hazardous substances, including microplastics, into the water by coastal and upstream activities (for example water management and/or spatial planning)
- ▣ actions needed to coop with effects from climate change, like droughts and flooding, on water supply and water recipients (for example rain/storm water, drinking water).

The administration of the ERB Water Core Group is run by a secretariat situated in Region Kalmar County, Sweden.



## Mobility Core Group

The ERB Mobility Core Group consists of partners from the previous Interreg South Baltic project Interconnect, as well as contact persons and experts from the ERB member organisations. The group acts on behalf of the ERB Board and its work is supposed to contribute to project development and common activities improving mobility between the ERB member regions.

### Focus areas

The Mobility Core Group will focus on activities from the below perspectives.

### Exchange of experience

- ▣ trends affecting public transport and sustainability change directions of the local and regional transport systems in the South Baltic area
- ▣ public transport planning vs. strategies by private operators (e.g. ferry companies).

### Shared challenges

- ▣ access to cross-border PT services for rural and more remote areas
- ▣ low knowledge/awareness of leisure time attractions on 'the other shore'
- ▣ fighting climate change.

### Joint solutions

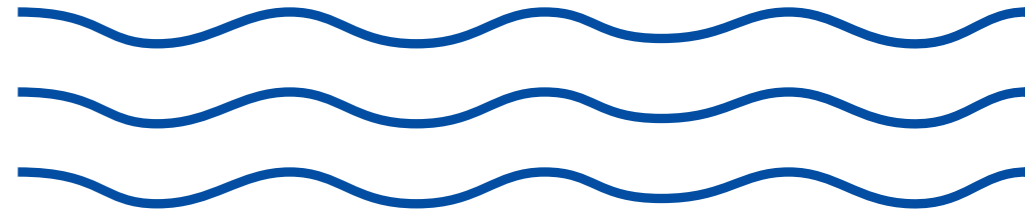
- ▣ 'Low-hanging fruits' (new or enhanced methods, services or products developed and/or applied in the Interconnect project and demonstrating a high replication potential)
- ▣ cross-border perspective of public transport in the local and regional strategic documents.

### Impact on other sectors

- ▣ tourism routes – adapted to different target groups
- ▣ cross-border commuting / labour market travel patterns
- ▣ student and youth travel patterns.

The administration of the ERB Mobility Core Group is run by a secretariat situated in Region Blekinge, Sweden.





## ERB Projects

### CAPACITY BUILDING

- ▣ UMBRELLA 2.0, Funded by the Swedish Insitute, (2021), <http://bityl.pl/rlaLm>
- ▣ UMBRELLA, Boosting cross-border cooperation capacities of local actors in South Baltic Sea, Interreg South Baltic Programme (2018-2020), <http://bityl.pl/oC5gg>
- ▣ CAPACITY BUILDING, Interreg South Baltic Programme 2007-2013, (2010-2011) <http://bityl.pl/S4ITX>
- ▣ Seagull II, Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme 2000-2006, (2005-2007) <http://bityl.pl/MhwVo>
- ▣ Seagull – DevERB, Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme 2000-2006, (2002-2005), <http://bityl.pl/TgRhp>

### YOUTH

- ▣ CASYPOT, Interreg South Baltic Programme (2017-2019), <http://bityl.pl/R52c1>
- ▣ BSYP, Baltic Sea Youth Platform, Erasmus+ (2020-2022), <http://bityl.pl/M1hcX>
- ▣ InDigiSE, Promotion of social entrepreneurship in the youth sector by digital and informal education tools, Erasmus+ (2020-2022), <http://bityl.pl/ZGd4g>





## ERB Projects

### ENVIRONMENT

- ▣ WaterMan, Climate resilient wastewater and groundwater management by circular approaches that reduce outflows of nutrients and hazardous substances, Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme Seed Money Facility, (2020-21) <http://bityl.pl/puhPQ>

### SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT & ENERGY

- ▣ INTERCONNECT, Interreg South Baltic Programme, (2018-2020) <http://bityl.pl/ZrVxH>
- ▣ BASE, Baltic Sea Biogas Alliance, BASE, Funded by the Swedish Institute, (2019-2021), <http://bityl.pl/t2UA7>

### SOCIETY

- ▣ Connect Europe, Europe for Citizens Programme, (2019-2020) <http://bityl.pl/blCf7>
- ▣ SIA4Y, Strengthening civil society rights by information access for European youth, Europe for Citizens Programme, (2018-2020), <http://bityl.pl/s7Zg5>



INTER  
CONNECT



Interreg  
Baltic Sea Region



SIA4Y  
EUROPE FOR CITIZENS  
PROGRAMME

## ERB Presidency

ERB has the following bodies:

- ▣ Executive Board
- ▣ President
- ▣ Youth Board.

ERB has the following administrative units:

- ▣ International Permanent Secretariat (IPS)
- ▣ Regional Secretariats.

The President chairs the Board and is the ERB's highest-ranking representative. The President chairs meetings of the Euroregion Baltic Board. The President's term is for one year and a representative of each Party of the Agreement subsequently holds the position.

**In 2021 Euroregion Baltic** Presidency is held by Blekinge Region (Sweden). ERB President – Mr Johan Sandberg, Chair of the Regional Development Board Region Blekinge.

**In 2020 Euroregion Baltic** Presidency was held by the Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic (Poland) and Mr Witold Wróblewski, Chair of the Association and Mayor of Elbląg was ERB President.

**In 2022 Euroregion Baltic** Presidency will be held by Warmia and Masuria Region (Poland) and Mr Gustaw Marek Brzezina, Marshal of Warmia and Masuria Region will represent Euroregion Baltic as ERB President.



Mr Johan Sandberg



Mr Witold Wróblewski



Mr Gustaw Marek Brzezina



**Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło**  
Head of the International  
Permanent Secretariat



**Anna Dudziak**



**Valentina Scandola**

**Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło (PhD),**

**Head of the International Permanent Secretariat of the Euroregion Baltic**

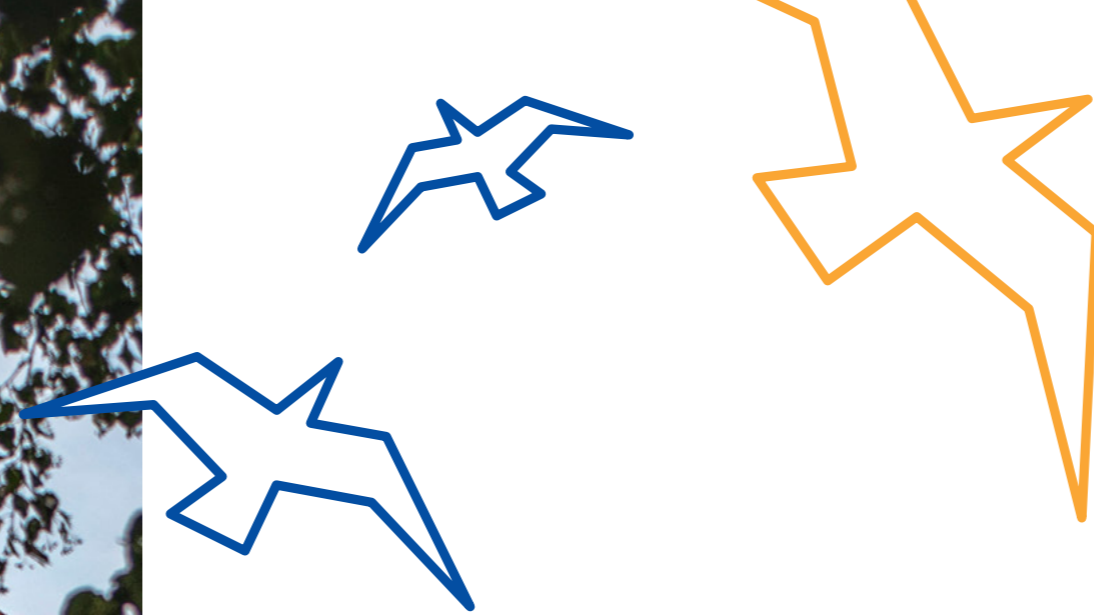
Since 2005 she has been involved in transnational cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, working in various international projects' teams focusing on capacity building, but also: blue growth, entrepreneurship and smart specialization. In 2012 she obtained her PhD in political science on Baltic Sea regional cooperation and EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. She's an experienced project manager and independent expert assessing project applications in several EU-funded programmes including Interreg transnational and CBC programmes, H2020 and Erasmus+. As an NGO activist, she became involved in the Baltic Sea NGO Network and encouraged other Polish NGOs to start the cross-border cooperation. She became a Head of the IPS in 2019.

**Anna Dudziak, Project Officer**

Anna is an International Relations studies graduate, working in public administration for nearly 11 years. In November 2019 she joined ERB's International Permanent Secretariat team and since then she supports its activities in cross-border cooperation and communication. Her biggest passion is travelling and meeting new people. She tries to follow the rule that "life is a journey not a destination".

**Valentina Scandola, Project Manager, Umbrella Project**

She has been working for ERB IPS for almost four years now, started in ERB as an intern from Padova University in 2017, where she did her Master's Thesis on multilevel-governance. She led Umbrella Interreg South Baltic Programme project from January 2018 until the end of 2020 and is now engaged in Umbrella 2.0 project funded by the Swedish Institute. Valentina is still involved remotely taking care of administrative and managerial issues in the IPS, keeping a bond with this organization to gain the professional experience and develop personally and professionally.



## **CONTACT**

### **INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT SECRETARIAT (IPS) EUROREGION BALTIC**

#### **ADDRESS**

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