

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT

ERB, ENPI or ???



What is ENPI ?

- The instrument to implement the European Neighbourhood Policy
 - Sharing EU's fundamental values and objectives
 - Going beyond co-operation to involve a significant measure of economic and political integration
- Main documents:
 - ENP Strategy, 12 May 2004
 - Draft regulation, 29 September 2004
 - Action Plans for each neighbouring country
 - Russia: Road map for development of the four common spaces, 10 May 2005

BACKGROUND

- February 2003: ERB Council want INTERREG III A status
- March 2003: "Wider Europe" communication from EU Commission
- April 2003: President letter to three EU Commissioners, INTERREG III A
- May 2003: ERB Board in Brussels, agree to make a position paper
- July 2003: "Paving the Way for a New Neighbourhood Instrument", WE Task Force and WE Inter-Service Group established
- August 2003: ERB Council discusses WE, agree to prepare lobbying
- October 2003: ERB Board adopt lobbying plan
- November 2003: Positive responses from Danish and Swedish governments
- May 2004: European Neighbourhood Policy – Strategy Paper, May 2004
- July 2004: Conference on euroregions in Vilnius
- September 2004: ENPI draft regulation, linked to Objective 3 (ERDF)

BACKGROUND II

- January 2005: ERB Board meetings in Brussels
- May 2005: ERB Board agree to make a Position Paper
- July 2005: ERB Board adopt Position Paper
- August 2005: Lobbying activities starts
- October and November 2005: Lobbying meetings in Brussels
 - Sweden in favour of an ERB CBC programme
 - Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Finland promote a request for postponement of the ENPI programmes with Russia and Belorussia
- February 2006: Meeting with Commissioner Danuta Hübner
- March 2006: ERB Council to discuss updated ENPI position

ENPI and Russia

”The ENPI covers Russia because the EU and Russia have decided to develop their strategic partnership through the creation of ’four common spaces’, rather than in the framework established by the ENP”

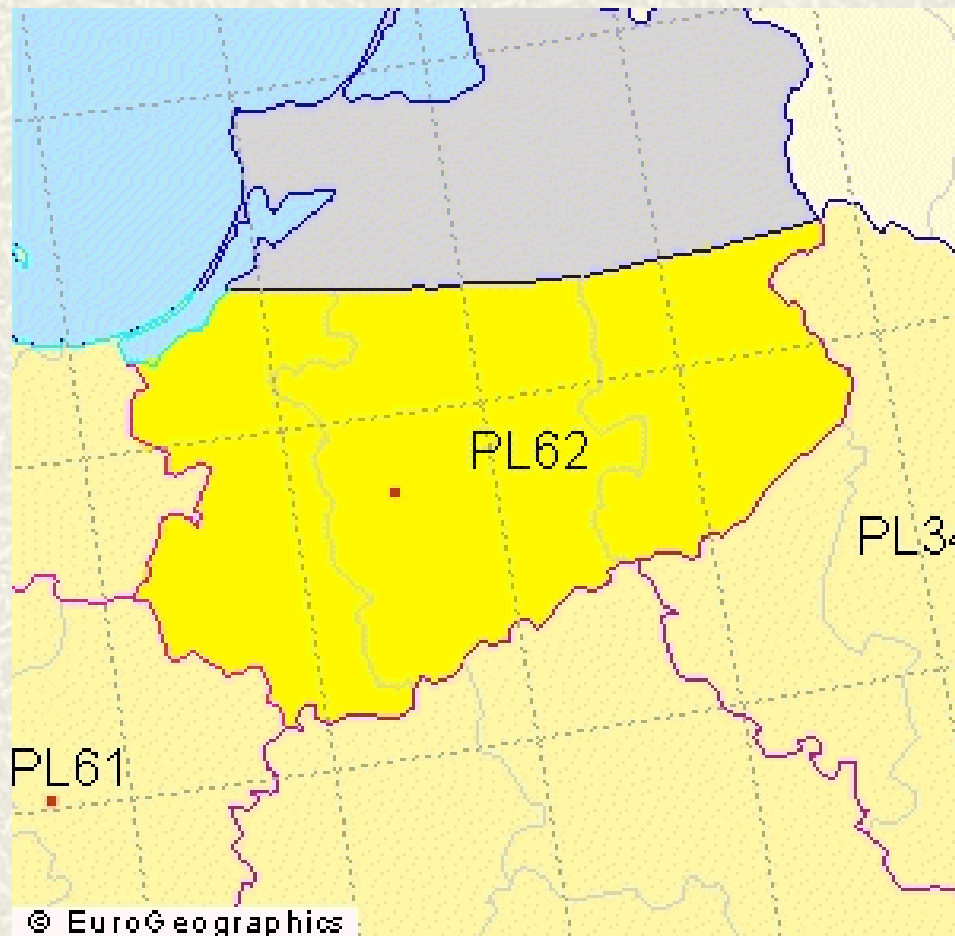
(Draft regulation)

Geographical eligibility

1. Crossborder cooperation programmes may cover all land borders and all maritime zones facing a common sea basin:
 - a) All territorial units corresponding to NUTS III-level or equivalent along the land borders between Member States and partner countries;
 - b) All territorial units corresponding to NUTS III-level or equivalent along the crossings of significant importance;
 - c) All coastal territorial units corresponding to NUTS II-level or equivalent facing a sea basin common to Member States and partner countries.
2. In special cases, eligibility may be extended to territorial units adjoining those referred to in paragraph 1.
3. The list of sea crossings of significant importance shall be defined by the Commission in the strategy paper on the basis of distance and other relevant geographical and economic criteria.

(Article 8 in draft regulation)

NUTS III, Warmia-Mazury



EUROREGION BALTIC



Programming

Joint programmes for land borders and sea crossings shall be established per border...

Joint programmes for coastal regions shall be multilateral...

Within one year of the approval of the strategy paper the participating countries shall jointly submit proposals for joint programmes to the Commission

Following the adoption of the joint programmes, the Commission shall conclude a financing agreement with the participating countries

Joint programmes shall, in principle, be implemented by a joint managing authority located in a Member State.

Current ENPI positions – March 2006

- INTERREG III B BSR to be continued as a Transnational Neighbourhood Programme 2007-2013
 - Same level of ERDF funding, and more TACIS funding
 - Innovation, accessibility, environment/energy, sustainable urban development
 - Sub programmes for macro-regions (euroregions) refused by Member States
- CBC mapping ongoing, negotiations between governments
 - Expected to continue INTERREG III A programme for Kaliningrad and neighbouring regions in Lithuania and Poland
 - So far only Sweden has supported a specific ERB CBC programme
 - Postponement of ENPI programmes including Russia and Belorussia is not expected to be agreed

ERB option 1

Intensified lobbying for an ENPI CBC programme

- National Governments, MP's and MEP's etc.
- European Commission, DG RELEX

”Euroregions involve concrete cooperation between regional and local authorities on both sides of the border, which can in time lead to substantial and effective links across the borders. They can promote common interests and thus strengthen civil society and local democracy as well as having beneficial effects on the local economy.

The European Union is not seeking to establish new bodies or organisations, but rather to support existing entities and encourage their further development; the importance of local ownership is one of the most pertinent lessons that can be drawn from the Northern Dimension.”

(ENP Strategy, 12 May 2004)

ERB option 2

Preparing for use of EU programmes available

- Objective 3, BSR Transnational programme
 - Innovation, Transport, Environment/Energy, Urban development
- Objective 3, CBC programme for D/DK/PL/S
 - SME development, innovation, tourism, transport, environment, energy
- ENPI CBC programme for Kaliningrad/LT/PL
 - Environmental hotspots, border management, transport, SME development, innovation, rural development, labour market
- Rural development programmes
- Competitiveness and Innovation Programme
- Town Twinning programme
- TACIS Institution Building Partnership Programme etc.