

## **Coalition Clean Baltic, Annual Conference, Rostock 12 May 2007**

### **Projekt Factory: Creating well-financed and sustainable cross-border projects**

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#### **Agenda:**

1. Utilising the Green Belt for project development
2. Discussion of further ideas for international projects

**Presentation of the European Green Belt initiative** and currently ongoing projects, followed by a discussion of the potential for utilising the Green Belt in northern Europe. The frame for a Green Belt project is

- transboundary and transsectoral cooperation
- nature conservation and sustainable regional development

Feedback: Green Belt could be useful for projects in the immediate coastal strip (land and water).

Interest was voiced from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. A complementation to projects from Sweden was seen as possible, especially in matters of sustainable fishery. Interest also from Belarus and Ukraine to develop extensions of the initiative for secluded areas along the border to Poland.

However, it has to be considered that the possibility for cross-border actions at external EU borders differ from internal EU borders, resulting in different thematic interests. This might limit the possibility to develop multilateral projects involving parallel cross-border action along internal and external EU borders. It seems necessary first to screen and differentiate specific possibilities and needs of these different kinds of borders carefully before considering multilateral joint action.

**Presentation of a Green Belt project proposal** developed for the German Baltic coast by the BUND Rostock. Discussion of possibilities to extend this project to a transboundary project.

Feedback: Parallel activities in other coastal areas of the Baltic Sea coast are necessary. Fishery sector and tourism sector should be included in a joint project.

#### **Framing a joint international project on this basis, for example within INTERREG IV / Objective 3 Territorial Cooperation**

##### **Added value of an international approach:**

- Exchange of experience, development of a joint NGO perspective and position
- Knowledge transfer, to close knowledge gaps, especially on the NGO side (there is little knowledge about fishery and management of offshore Natura 2000 areas yet)
- Complementary actions to solve international problems in a better way
- Joint policy development, elaboration of policy recommendations across borders
- Provide model strategies to be used in other parts of the Baltic Sea and beyond
- Join forces to solve technical problems (overfishing)
- Pool capacities
- Initiate implementation partnerships between NGOs and public bodies in the framework of a broader international cooperation, overcoming controversy positions in the local and national arenas

##### **Involvement of project partners:**

(→ find a common ground for working relationships within a project across sectors and borders)

- Involvement of NGOs as the basis for making the project interesting from a CCB point of view
- Project coordination institutions experienced with international working processes and project management (e.g. CCB, IUCN, external experts)
- Stakeholders / Implementing partners for carrying through concrete local pilot actions
  - Fishers
  - Anglers
  - Researchers
  - Fishery agencies, relevant sector authorities at the regional and local levels

- Local governments / municipalities
- Competent ministries and supranational bodies (regional advisory council for fishery policy, EU commission)
- Experts for bringing in the knowledge
  - Researchers on nature protection issue and
  - economists and researchers for regional development aspects
  - social scientists
- Target groups
  - government
  - lobbyists
  - regional development planning
- Composing the partnership
  - proper mix of stakeholders, experts and implementing partners in order to be able implement concrete pilot actions and achieve political significance in each participating country as well as on Baltic Sea Region level

#### **Tools/activities:**

- workshops
- expert database
- information platform
- access to national, regional policy makers
- meetings for finding an overall strategy
- model regions/pilot areas/pilot activities
- strengthen local communities to defend their stakes
- synergies with universities
- access to regional advisory council/parties/EU decision makers

#### **Financing demands for the following activities:**

- administration and coordination
  - permanent staff for the international working process
- implementation
  - additional/part-time staff for work on the spot
- meetings, discussions, field trips
  - to develop an overall strategy, common ground
  - to send local stakeholders to best practice examples
- additional expert input
- equipment (monitoring equipment, ..)
- research funds

#### **Contributing so-called “national co-finance” (> EU funding is complementary only!):**

- most of, especially local, NGOs have only little cash resources to bring in
- bringing in working hours of permanent staff possible but limited for NGOs (e.g. no experts for fishery available)
- voluntary work of NGO members can be used as co-finance, but only complementary and within certain limits
- need for involving financially strong partner from the governmental side in order to achieve the necessary “critical mass” for an INTERREG / TO project, e.g. by involving them in local pilot action and implementing them conjointly

#### **Results: potential for joint project development**

- CCB + Green Belt as joint project promoters
- Fishery + regional coastal development on the land side as possible thematic foci
- Partners from DE, PL, RU, LT, LV, EE, SE, DK possible
- Natura 2000 management integrating local stakeholders
- Special focus on managing offshore Natura 2000 areas interesting

- Reference to EU directives under development enhances the transnational relevance
- Local implementation of EU directives with feedback to policy level
- Baltic Sea as a pilot area for maritime regulations
- Integration of land **and** sea in the coastal strip as guiding idea

First call to be launched in late 2007/early 2008, start of first projects can be expected for ~June 2008.

