



**Interreg Baltic Sea Region**  
**Focused call for applications**  
**Core projects tackling the challenge of hazardous submerged objects and**  
**dumped munition in the Baltic Sea**  
**Priority 2 Water-smart societies, Programme Objective 2.1 Sustainable**  
**waters**

**Announcement Note**

*Call duration: 17 July 2023 – 05 October 2023*

**1. Focus of the call**

Interreg Baltic Sea Region (the Programme) is launching a focused call for applications for core projects in **Programme Objective 2.1 Sustainable waters**. The Programme is opening the focused call considering the strategic, political relevance and urgency of the topic and the need for establishing long-lasting procedures to remediate the challenge.

The call for applications addresses the **critical challenge of hazardous submerged objects and dumped munition in the Baltic Sea**. The Programme seeks core project applications that develop solutions for tackling this challenge, for example, through remediation and salvage, monitoring of polluting substances and harmonising the legal framework for handling these objects and munition in the whole Programme area. In this context, the applications should actively engage competent authorities and other relevant organisations from all Programme countries to prepare or test the applicability of the proposed solutions. The Programme especially welcomes applications involving national or regional authorities responsible for handling of submerged objects and dumped munition from most or all of the Programme countries. In addition, the Programme encourages applicants to involve pan-Baltic organisations to increase the outreach of project activities.

Applicants should consider the findings and tools already developed in Interreg Baltic Sea Region projects [CHEMSEA](#), [DAIMON](#) and [DAIMON 2](#) and other finalised or ongoing initiatives.



## 2. Context of the call

Interreg Baltic Sea Region is a source of EU funding for public and private actors who want to shape the Baltic Sea region to become more innovative, water-smart and climate-neutral. It creates an environment for cooperation across borders to develop, test and put into practice smart solutions for the benefit of people around the Baltic Sea. Its added value is the transnational dimension of the supported actions. The Programme exploits opportunities and addresses issues which cannot sufficiently be dealt with by single countries, but require a joint response by partners from several countries in the Baltic Sea region.

The Programme area covers nine countries. It comprises eight EU Member States (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, parts of Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden) and one third country (parts of Norway). The detailed geographical coverage of the Programme is defined in the Programme Document published on the Programme portal at [interreg-baltic.eu](https://interreg-baltic.eu).

The Programme is designed under the territorial cooperation goal of Cohesion Policy of the European Union.

## 3. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

The Programme actively supports the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and its three objectives: Save the Sea, Connect the Region and Increase Prosperity. Many of the policy areas of the EUSBSR action plan are well reflected in the thematic objectives of the Programme. The expected Programme's contribution to the EUSBSR is described in the Programme Document and on the Programme portal at <https://interreg-baltic.eu/about/eusbsr/>. The Programme encourages applicants to get acquainted with this information as well as the action plan to the EUSBSR. More information regarding the EUSBSR is provided under <https://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/>.

The Programme also recommends checking the possible contribution of the project ideas to policy areas of the Strategy and their particular actions. The policy area coordinators of the EUSBSR (PACs) can help in this process of development and implementation of project ideas that help achieve the objectives of the EUSBSR action plan. PACs may also support policy dialogues in projects and help with dissemination of results. Contacts to PACs can be found at <https://balticsea-region-strategy.eu/contacts/eusbsr-actors>.

## 4. Main features of core projects

**Core projects** are the primary tool to deliver the change Interreg Baltic Sea Region aims at. All core projects are requested to **prepare, pilot and transfer practical and durable solutions** to the challenges they choose to tackle. These challenges must correspond to the focus of this call.

**The main results** of a core project are increased capacities of the target groups to deal with the defined challenges. **The target groups** are organisations with the competencies to influence the challenge and are



interested in the solutions. Hence, reaching out to the target groups and involving them in the preparation, piloting and transfer of the solution is crucial for the success of the core project.

Activities in a core project are **structured in three work packages** (WP): WP1 Preparing solutions; WP2 Piloting and evaluating solutions; WP3 Transferring solutions.

**The duration of a core project** consists of three phases: the contracting phase that usually lasts three months, the implementation phase that may last up to 36 months, and the closure phase lasting three months.

For further details on core projects please consult the Programme Manual (chapter D) published on the Programme portal at [interreg-baltic.eu/toolkit/programme-manual-2021-2027/](https://interreg-baltic.eu/toolkit/programme-manual-2021-2027/)

## 5. Project partnership

- **The specific requirement of the call**

The Programme especially welcomes applications involving partners representing national or regional authorities responsible for handling of submerged objects and dumped munition from most or all of the Programme countries. The project has to clearly describe in the application form the reasonable efforts made to engage the competent authorities from the countries where participation could not be ensured. In addition, the Programme encourages applicants to involve pan-Baltic organisations to increase the outreach of project activities.

- **Lead partners, project partners and associated organisations**

The partnership builds on the **lead partner principle**. Each project has to appoint a lead partner responsible for preparing and submitting the application. The lead partner bears legal responsibility for the whole partnership. The lead partner is also the link between the project partners and the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat.

Lead partners:

- Must be legally registered in a Member State or Norwegian territory covered by the Programme area. A legal entity located in Germany or Norway (in the sense of legal registration) but outside the Programme area can still become a lead partner if it follows specific obligations defined in the Programme Manual (chapter C.1.2).
- Must fall into the legal status category “public” defined in the Programme Manual chapter C.2.1.

The Programme Manual (chapter C) details which types of legal entities can be **lead partners** and **project partners** and provides lists of their responsibilities in the project. The lead partner and all project partners should have a clearly defined role in the project’s implementation and corresponding budget.

The applications can also include associated organisations that support the project implementation using own resources.



- **Organisations outside the Programme area**

In exceptional cases, organisations outside the Programme area can apply as project partners for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) or Norwegian funding. For more details, please consult the Programme Manual (chapter C.2.3).

## 6. Programme funding available for projects

The main funding source of the Programme is the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for partners from the EU Member States. The further funding source is Norwegian funding for partners from Norway.

Available Programme co-financing allocated to this call:

Priority and Programme Objective	Available funds * million euro	
	*ERDF	*Norwegian funds
2. Water-smart societies 2.1 Sustainable waters		
	5.9	0.2

### Note!

Organisations applying for Norwegian funding should plan with an approximate maximum total budget of EUR 200,000 equalling approximately EUR 100,000 Norwegian co-financing.

- **Co-financing rate**

Partners from EU Member States are entitled to receive up to 80% co-financing from ERDF. Norwegian partners will receive up to 50% co-financing from Norwegian funding. Project partners have to provide their own contribution to receive Programme funding.

- **Reimbursement of preparation costs**



Projects can apply for reimbursement of costs related to the preparation of the project proposal. Only projects selected by the Monitoring Committee can have their preparation costs reimbursed. The reimbursement of preparation costs is a lump sum. It amounts to EUR 24,000 total eligible expenditure, which corresponds to EUR 19,200 of the Programme funding. Projects that have received any other EU funds specifically designed to the development of the respective project application will not receive a reimbursement of preparation costs. For further details please consult the Programme Manual (chapter D.3.5).

## 7. Application procedure

First, lead applicants **must complete and submit a project idea form (PIF)** to the MA/JS. In the PIF lead applicants briefly describe the challenge, partnership, draft work plan and planned budget. The completed PIF must be sent to the MA/JS any time after the call is opened but **no later than 21 August 2023**. The MA/JS provides feedback to applicants via consultations based on the submitted PIFs. **In this call, the MA/JS will arrange obligatory consultations for all applicants who have submitted a PIF.**

PIFs submitted to the MA/JS will be available for the Monitoring Committee of the Programme. Upon applicants' consent, PIFs will also be shared with the policy area coordinators (PACs) of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). The Monitoring Committee members and PACs may contact the lead applicants and provide guidance on further developing the project ideas. The MA/JS will not receive information about the guidance the Monitoring Committee members or PACs provide. It is up to the project partnership to consider how to incorporate the received advice.

Any information in the project idea form, including the MA/JS feedback during consultation, will not influence the quality assessment of the submitted applications. The MA/JS will conduct the quality assessment based on the information from the submitted applications only.

To fill in a **project application form** and work with **further documents and forms** (partner declarations, contact information, bank information), lead applicants must apply for **access** to the electronic data exchange system **BAMOS+** (<https://baplus.bamos.eu/>). **Requests for access to BAMOS+ must be submitted by 21 August 2023 at the latest.**

**The project application and all further documents and forms must be completed and submitted via BAMOS+ by the deadline of 5 October 2023 16:00 CET.**

The table below summarises the process of the application procedure. **All documents and forms are submitted in the digital format only.**



What?	How?	When?
<b>Project idea form (PIF)</b>	<p>A lead applicant submits a completed PIF <b>via e-mail: <a href="mailto:idea@interreg-baltic.eu">idea@interreg-baltic.eu</a></b>.</p> <p>The MA/JS will arrange obligatory consultations for all submitted PIFs.</p> <p><b>The template of PIF is available at <a href="https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/consultations/">interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/consultations/</a></b></p>	No later than <b>21 August 2023</b>
<b>Request for an account in BAMOS+</b>	<p>After submission of the PIF, a lead applicant requests a login to BAMOS+ <b>via e-mail: <a href="mailto:account@bamos.eu">account@bamos.eu</a></b></p> <p><b>The template of a request for an account in BAMOS+ (log-in to BAMOS+) is available at <a href="https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/bamos-account/">interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/bamos-account/</a>.</b></p>	No later than <b>21 August 2023</b>
<b>Project application</b>	A lead applicant submits the completed application form <b>in BAMOS+.</b>	No later than <b>5 October 2023</b> <b>16:00 CET</b>
<b>Partner declarations, signed by each project partner, including a lead applicant</b>	<p>After submission of the completed application form, a lead applicant uploads to the Document Centre in BAMOS + the signed partner declarations, either with advanced or qualified electronic signatures or scanned copies with handwritten signatures.</p> <p><b>The template of the partner declaration is available at <a href="https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/calls/">interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/calls/</a></b></p>	No later than <b>5 October 2023</b> <b>16:00 CET</b>
<b>Contact information for each project partner, including a lead applicant, and each associated organisation</b>	<p>After submission of the completed application form, the contact and bank information section in BAMOS+ becomes available.</p> <p>The section must be completed and submitted by the lead applicant.</p>	No later than <b>5 October 2023</b> <b>16:00 CET</b>
<b>Bank information of the lead applicant bank account</b>		

After receiving the applications:



- The MA/JS checks the completeness and correctness of all submitted documents and forms. This step is called an admissibility check. Applicants can find the admissibility check criteria in the Programme Manual, chapter D.2.
- The MA/JS conducts the quality assessment of the applications based on the assessment criteria in the Programme Manual, chapter D.2.3.

The Monitoring Committee of the Programme is responsible for the final selection of applications. The selection is planned to take place in November 2023.

## 8. Further information and assistance

The official language of the Programme is English. Therefore, all communication between applicants and the MA/JS is held in English. Information in project idea forms, application forms and official correspondence must be in English.

The official Programme documents are available on the Programme portal at [interreg-baltic.eu](https://interreg-baltic.eu) and include:

- [Programme Document](#)
- [Programme Manual](#)
- Application package

The MA/JS also offers further assistance:

- Gateway for applicants at [interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/](https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/)
- Matchmaking platform at [matchmaking.interreg-baltic.eu/](https://matchmaking.interreg-baltic.eu/)
- Online tutorials published at [interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/tutorials/](https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/tutorials/)
- Obligatory consultations after submission of PIF at [interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/consultations/](https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/consultations/)
- BAMOS+ helpdesk at [helpdesk@bamos.eu](mailto:helpdesk@bamos.eu)
- General advice at [info@interreg-baltic.eu](mailto:info@interreg-baltic.eu)