



Interreg Baltic Sea Region Third call for small projects Applications tackling challenges under Programme Priorities 1-3

Announcement Note

Call duration: 25 March 2025 – 8 October 2025

1. Context of the call

Interreg Baltic Sea Region (the Programme) 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 <https://interreg-baltic.eu/about/>.

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

2. Focus of the call

The Programme is launching the third call for small projects. The call is open for applications tackling challenges under Priority 1, 2 and 3 of the Programme.

The Programme is particularly looking for projects supporting the cohesive development of small places, rural areas, and areas experiencing challenges significant to the social and economic fabric of their local communities within the Baltic Sea region. Projects addressing the cohesive development of



the particular BSR regions and places listed above will be prioritised by the Monitoring Committee in their strategic selection process.

The Baltic Sea region faces growing regional disparities, and the urgency to address these challenges has never been greater. The Programme's aim in this call for applications is to contribute to unlocking the potential of the affected areas in developing them into attractive places to live and work for different generations. Applicants should design their projects by reflecting on their region's demographic and socio-economic conditions, ensuring that local realities guide their proposed activities. The Programme invites applications that proactively engage with local and regional authorities and youth or other relevant organisations to transform challenges into opportunities through transnational cooperation, delivering solutions for the affected areas. The Programme seeks to enhance the region's liveability by ensuring that the development of the areas concerned is guided by the needs and aspirations of their citizens.

~~The Programme is particularly looking for projects supporting the cohesive development of small places and rural areas within the Baltic Sea region, and addressing the challenges faced by shrinking regions experiencing substantial population decline. The population decline in these regions is increasingly severe, posing significant challenges to the social and economic fabric of local communities.~~

~~The Baltic Sea region faces growing regional disparities, and the urgency to address these challenges has never been greater. The Programme's objective in this call for applications is to contribute to breaking development deadlocks through projects that deliver quick wins for the affected areas. The Programme seeks to enhance the region's liveability by ensuring that the development of small places and rural areas is guided by the needs and aspirations of their citizens.~~

~~The Programme aims to support community-led initiatives that demonstrate the commitment of local and, where relevant, regional authorities.~~ This call strongly encourages input from newcomers to the Programme, introducing fresh perspectives and expanding participation. The Programme stakeholders wish that diverse voices are heard and valued. It highlights the importance of engaging communities through participatory approaches, with a particular focus on involving young people.

The Programme seeks projects that are well integrated into the specific territorial context and address a pressing challenge that can be effectively addressed through transnational cooperation within the scope and framework of a small project. These challenges may include, **for example:**

- **Boosting access to services:** developing tailored solutions that improve the quality and accessibility of public services (like mobility or healthcare) ~~in small places and rural areas~~. Emphasis should be placed on reducing isolation and ensuring equitable access to essential services for all citizens.



- **Tackling disaster management:** Addressing challenges such as flooding and severe storms ~~in small cities and rural areas of the BSR~~ by enhancing communities' capacity to adapt and respond effectively. This includes developing preparedness measures and promoting knowledge-sharing in vulnerable regions. Projects may also address multiple types of risks to develop more integrated and comprehensive approaches.
- **Enhancing liveability and resilience:** Supporting communities in rethinking local activities by combining the sustainable use of natural resources with new ways of generating income. This includes measures improving quality of life and creating better prospects for people to remain in the places they consider home.

~~Projects addressing the cohesive development of small places and rural areas within the Baltic Sea region, and addressing the challenges faced by shrinking regions experiencing substantial population decline will be prioritised by the Monitoring Committee in their strategic selection process.~~

The detailed description of the Programme priorities, objectives and examples of actions to be financed can be found in the Programme Document published at interreg-baltic.eu. The information is also presented at the Programme portal <https://interreg-baltic.eu/get-funding/programme-2021-2027/> and in the tutorials on the Programme objectives published under: <https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/tutorials/>

3. Main features of small projects

Small projects aim at facilitating **easier access** to the Programme, in particular for those partners that have not previously participated in the Programme, including Interreg BSR 2014-2020. The small project instrument supports, in particular, cooperation between the **public authorities and/ or non-governmental organisations** (NGOs). The partners are encouraged to develop practical and durable outputs and solutions to tackle the challenges that are in line with one of the Programme objectives. Pilot activities and development of solutions are not obligatory in small projects. However, the activities need to go beyond pure networking and knowledge exchange. Small projects should increase the capacity of the target groups to deal with the identified challenges during and after the end of the project implementation.

The structure of a small project is **simplified** and consists of one work package.

The total budget of a small project must **not exceed EUR 500,000 (including preparatory costs)**.

The duration of a small project consists of three phases: contracting phase that usually lasts three months, implementation phase that may last **up to 24 months**, and closure phase lasting three months.

For further details on small projects please consult the Programme Manual (chapter E) published on the Programme portal at interreg-baltic.eu/toolkit/programme-manual-2021-2027.



4. Programme funding earmarked 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.

Earmarked funds in million euro*	
ERDF	Norwegian funds
8.30	0. 2937

* Status as of January-March 2025 *(The available amount of Norwegian funds will be adjusted following the MC decision on the first call for platforms.)*

- **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 lump sum based. The lump sum amounts to EUR 10,000 total eligible expenditure, which corresponds to EUR 8,000 of the Programme funding. Preparation costs in small projects are a part of the total project budget. Projects that have received any other EU funds specifically designed to the development of the respective project application will not receive reimbursement of preparation costs. For further details please consult the Programme Manual (chapter E.3.4).



5. Project partnership

- **Geographical composition**

Project partnership has to include **at least three project partners from three different countries of the Programme area**: a lead partner and at least two project partners. At least two of the project partners have to be located in the territory of two different EU Member States in the Programme area.

As a general rule, organisations located in the regions belonging to the Programme area can become project partners. **In exceptional cases** organisations located outside the Programme 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).

- **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 of the Programme.

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 their own resources.

- **Further expectations towards partnership**

The partnership should be composed **primarily** of local and/or regional and/or national **authorities**, as well as **NGOs**. Other types of organisations may participate as project partners as well supporting the public authorities and NGOs in their project tasks. Their role, in particular, the role of education and research organisations, should be well justified and explained in the application. Taking into consideration the limited budget of a small project, its structure and duration small projects can be implemented by smaller partnerships. Organisations that **have not previously participated in the Programme**, are encouraged to take part as partners in small projects.



6. 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 kindly asks applicants to consider the possible contribution of their projects to policy areas of the Strategy and a particular action within the policy area. The policy area coordinators of the EUSBSR (PACs) can help check whether ideas of the applicants are in line with the actions in those policy areas. PACs may give advice and support 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>.

7. Application procedure

First, lead applicants **must complete and submit** to the MA/JS a **project idea form** (PIF). 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 at any time after the call is opened but **no later than 5 June 2025**. The MA/JS provides feedback to applicants via consultations based on the submitted PIFs. The MA/JS aims to provide a consultation to all applicants who wish to have one. Early submission of the PIF will support the MA/JS to fulfil this aim.

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 the further development of the project ideas. The MA/JS will not receive information about the guidance provided by the Monitoring Committee members or PACs. 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 the consultation, will not influence the quality assessment of the submitted applications. The MA/JS will conduct the quality assessment solely based on the information from the submitted applications. 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 5 June 2025 at the latest.**

The project application and all further documents and forms must be completed and submitted via BAMOS+ by the deadline of 8 October 2025 16:00 CEST.

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

What?	How?	When?
Project idea form (PIF)	A lead applicant submits a completed PIF via e-mail: idea@interreg-baltic.eu . In the PIF, a lead applicant may request a consultation with the MA/JS on the project idea. The template of PIF is available at https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/consultations/	No later than 5 June 2025
Request for an account in BAMOS+	After submission of the PIF, a lead applicant requests a login to BAMOS+ via e-mail: account@bamos.eu The template of a request for an account in BAMOS+ (log-in to BAMOS+) is available at https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/bamos-account/ .	No later than 5 June 2025 16:00 CEST
Project application	A lead applicant submits the completed application form in BAMOS+.	No later than 8 October 2025 16:00 CEST
Partner declarations, signed by each project partner, including a lead applicant	After submission of the completed application form the lead applicant uploads the signed partner declarations to the Document Centre in BAMOS + either with the advanced or qualified electronic signature or scanned copies with the handwritten signature. The template of a partner declaration is available at https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/calls/	
Contact information for each project partner, including a	After submission of the completed application form, the contact & bank information section in BAMOS+ becomes available.	





What?	How?	When?
lead applicant, and each associated organisation	The section must be completed and submitted by the lead applicant.	
Bank information of the lead applicant bank account		

After receiving 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 [DE.2.2](#)).
- The MA/JS conducts the quality assessment of the applications based on the assessment criteria. Applicants can find the assessment criteria in the Programme Manual (chapter [DE.2.3](#)).

The Monitoring Committee of the Programme is responsible for the final selection of applications. The selection is planned to take place in March 2026. The selection timeline may be subject to adjustments if more than 80 applications are submitted in the call.

The Monitoring Committee reserves the right not to select all applications demonstrating sufficient quality. Throughout the selection process, in addition to the quality criteria, the Monitoring Committee may consider various additional factors, such as the achievement of the Programme's strategic objectives, the existing portfolio of already approved projects, and their thematic and geographical coverage, as well as available funding.

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://www.interreg-baltic.eu) and include:

- Programme Document;
- Programme Manual;
- Application package.



The MA/JS offers the following assistance to applicants:

- Gateway for applicants at interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/
- Matchmaking platform at matchmaking.interreg-baltic.eu
- Online tutorials published at interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/tutorials/
- Webinars interreg-baltic.eu/calendar/
- Individual consultations (after submission of PIF)
- BAMOS+ helpdesk at helpdesk@bamos.eu
- General advice at info@interreg-baltic.eu

