



Interreg Baltic Sea Region
First call for applications
Programme objective 4.2 ‘Macro-regional governance’
Assistance to the policy area coordinators of the
EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Announcement Note

Timeline: 8 February 2022 – 30 March 2022

1. Introduction

Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme (the Programme) is launching the **first calls for applications in Programme objective 4.2 ‘Macro-regional governance’**.

The Programme is a source of EU funding for public and private players 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. In addition, the Programme provides funding to advance the cooperation governance in the Programme area. The added value of the Programme is its 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 Interreg Baltic Sea Region area covers ten countries. It comprises eight EU Member States (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, parts of Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden) and two partner countries (parts of Norway and parts of Russia). The detailed geographical coverage of the Programme is defined in the Programme Document¹ published on the Programme portal at <https://interreg-baltic.eu/>.

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

2. Programme objective 4.2 ‘Macro-regional governance’

Programme objective 4.2 ‘Macro-regional governance’ is designed to support actions that strengthen coordination and communication of stakeholders in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). More information regarding the EUSBSR is provided at <http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/>. The Programme provides funding to the policy area coordinators of the EUSBSR and to a Strategy point. It also supports the organisation of Strategy Forums. The funding is granted through projects.

¹ The interest of Belarus to join the Programme is being clarified.



3. Focus of the call

This call in Programme objective 4.2 ‘Macro-regional governance’ is open for the assistance to the policy area coordinators of the EUSBSR. The Programme provides funding to the policy area coordinators (PACs) to coordinate the policy areas and facilitate implementation of actions defined in the EUSBSR action plan. The PACs engage stakeholders in their policy areas and support project implementation. They communicate progress and achievements of their policy areas. They may also support generation of new projects and work with project idea developers. This funding is provided in addition to the own resources of the organisation to coordinate the policy area.

The PACs may apply for Programme funding to:

- a. Coordinate their policy area of the EUSBSR, and
- b. Support project idea generation and development in their policy area of the EUSBSR.

a. Coordination of the policy area of the EUSBSR

The PACs may plan the following activities to be implemented with the Programme funding:

- Ensuring a general overview in the policy areas;
- Planning, coordinating and developing the policy areas under the guidance of the respective steering groups;
- Facilitating implementation of actions defined in the EUSBSR action plan, including support to projects and other modes of operation;
- Analysing needs for policy changes and improvements in relevant thematic areas;
- Initiating and coordinating policy discussions and other cooperation activities;
- Involving stakeholders relevant for the policy areas, including local, regional and national authorities, agencies and businesses as well as civil society groups;
- Building up networks and engaging stakeholders in the processes in the policy areas in a systematic way;
- Addressing common priorities of the EU and partner countries in the respective thematic areas;
- Monitoring progress and evaluating whether agreed targets in the policy areas are reached;
- Reviewing objectives in the work plan of the policy area, processes, actions and results, amending and updating them in consultation with the PA steering group;
- Communicating progress, achievements and results in the policy areas;
- Other tasks in line with the action plan of the EUSBSR.

The PACs may plan various activities and deliverables in the projects to be co-financed by the Programme. Examples of activities are as follows: steering group discussions, meetings with stakeholders, thematic



seminars, workshops, conferences, training sessions, surveys, studies and policy discussions. Examples of deliverables are as follows: studies, recommendations or reports from events.

The PACs should involve their steering groups in defining tasks and activities of PACs when developing project applications. The PACs need to describe the role of the steering group of their policy area in these activities. When applying for Programme funding, the coordinators of each policy area need to submit a letter of support from the steering group of the policy area to the activities planned in the application.

b. Support to project idea generation and development in the policy area of the EUSBSR

In addition to the funding for coordination of the policy areas, the PACs may apply for additional funding to work on project idea generation in the relevant thematic areas.

The PACs may plan the following activities to be implemented with the Programme funding:

- Analysing needs for project idea generation and development in a particular area in line with the actions of the policy areas in the EUSBSR action plan;
- Providing information on focus of project ideas to be generated and developed in the policy areas;
- Attracting and engaging relevant stakeholders for developing project ideas in line with the actions in the policy areas;
- Facilitating generation of project ideas and interaction among stakeholders;
- Supporting stakeholders in developing their project ideas;
- Communicating and interacting with authorities managing EU and other funds relevant for project ideas to be developed in the policy areas.

The PACs need to plan the process and activities how they support generation of project ideas and development of projects according to the needs in their policy area. They may plan various activities and deliverables in the projects to be co-financed by the Programme. Examples of activities are as follows: carrying out studies and surveys, producing information materials and disseminating them, arranging seminars, other events and meetings with stakeholders and project idea developers. The PACs applying for this additional funding should report an overview of project ideas generated and organisations involved in the development of those ideas. The PACs may prepare other deliverables according to their needs as well.

4. Project partnership

Only organisations that are **officially appointed as the EUSBSR policy area coordinators** and listed on the EUSBSR website at <http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu> can apply for Programme funding. Each policy area can be represented in one application only. The application must involve at least **two partner organisations from at least two countries**. The organisations sharing the leadership of a policy area (co-PACs) should submit a joint application. PACs from different policy areas can submit a joint application.



The MA/JS recommends PACs to consider combining several policy areas in one application. If a co-PAC decides not to join the application as a partner and not to apply for Programme funding, this co-PAC can join as an associated organisation.

One of the PACs has to be appointed as the lead partner for the application. The lead partner is responsible for the preparation and submission of the application. If the project is approved, the lead partner takes over the full responsibility for management, communication, implementation, and coordination of activities among the involved partners. The lead partner bears legal responsibility for the whole partnership. The lead partner is also the link between the project partners and the MA/JS.

Further information on the requirements for the partnership, as well as the legal status of the partners, is available in the Programme Manual, chapters C. and G.

5. Duration of the projects

The project duration consists of three phases: contracting, implementation and closure. The implementation of the projects starts **retrospectively**, on **1 January 2022**. If an organisation becomes the EUSBSR PAC after 1 January 2022, it can start the implementation of the project on the date it has been officially appointed as the PAC. The first implementation period also covers the time needed for contracting. The total duration of the implementation phase is **36 months**. After the end of the project implementation the partners have three additional months for the closure phase.

6. Programme funding

The PACs may apply for the **Programme funding** amounting:

Assistance to PACs:	a. Coordination of the policy area of the EUSBSR	b. Support to project idea generation and development in the policy area of the EUSBSR
PAs: Culture, Education, Energy, Hazards, Health, Nutri, Safe, Secure, Ship, Spatial Planning, Tourism and Transport	up to EUR 234 000 each PA	up to EUR 50 000 each PA
PAs: Bioeconomy and Innovation	up to EUR 315 000 each PA	up to EUR 70 000 each PA

The PACs have to provide their own contribution to receive Programme funding. They are entitled to receive up to **80% co-financing from ERDF** (European Regional Development Fund).



7. Application procedure

The PACs must **complete and submit a project application** in the electronic data exchange system **BAMOS+** (ba.bamos.eu). The application form contains guiding questions how to fill it in. In addition to the online application, there are further documents and forms that need to be submitted via BAMOS+ (letters of support from the steering groups of the EUSBSR policy area, partner declarations, contact information, bank information). The project application and all further documents and forms **must be submitted by the deadline of 30 March 2022 16:00 CEST**.

The MA/JS provides lead applicants the access to BAMOS+ **upon receiving a signed request for log-in**. The MA/JS supports the PACs by providing feedback to their draft project applications. The PACs can submit their requests for **feedback no later than 9 March 2022**. The MA/JS responds to the requests no later than 16 March 2022.

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

What?	How?	When?
Project application	<p>A lead applicant applies for log-in to BAMOS+ via e-mail: account@bamos.eu (template available at https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/bamos-account/).</p> <p>The access to BAMOS+ is granted by the MA/JS once the call is launched.</p> <p>A lead applicant submits in BAMOS+.</p>	<p>No later than</p> <p>30 March 2022 16:00 CEST</p>
Letter of support from the steering group of each policy area included in the application	Uploaded to BAMOS+ in the Document Centre.	
Partner declaration , signed by each project partner, including a lead applicant	Uploaded to BAMOS+ in the Document Center either as a document with the advanced and qualified electronic signature or a scanned copy with the handwritten signature.	
Contact information for each project partner, including a lead applicant, and each associated organisation	Completed in the contact & bank information section of BAMOS+ and submitted by a lead applicant after having submitted the application.	
Bank information of the lead applicant bank account		



The MA/JS is responsible for the verification of completeness and correctness of all submitted documents and forms (admissibility check) as well as for the quality assessment of the applications. The admissibility and assessment criteria are described in the Programme Manual, Chapter G.4.

The Monitoring Committee (MC) of the Programme is responsible for the final selection of applications. The selection is planned to take place in June 2022.

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 application forms and official correspondence must be in English.

The official Programme documents are available on the Programme website at interreg-baltic.eu and include:

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

The MA/JS supports the PACs in developing their project applications by providing feedback through online consultations and email. There is also support provided by the BAMOS+ helpdesk at helpdesk@bamos.eu.

For advice on Programme objective 4.2 'Macro-regional governance' please contact:

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For general advice on the Programme matters please contact at e-mail: governance@interreg-baltic.eu.

Disclaimer:

Please note that the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme Document is subject to adoption by the European Commission. During this process the Programme content might be revised. Timeline of the calls is dependent on the duration of the adoption process.

All documents related to this call for applications are also subject to approval by the Monitoring Committee of the Programme. The Monitoring Committee will be constituted after adoption of the Programme by the European Commission. The Monitoring Committee might potentially change conditions of the call.

When submitting the applications, the applicants shall accept the above risks. The programme and the participating Member States cannot be held responsible or liable in any way for any claims, damages, losses, expenses, or costs.