



# Interreg Baltic Sea Region

## First call for applications

### Programme objective 4.2 'Macro-regional governance'

#### Assistance to a Strategy point

#### 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 Document<sup>1</sup> 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 (PACs) of the EUSBSR and to a Strategy point. It also supports the organisation of Strategy Forums. The funding is granted through projects.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 to applications on assistance to a Strategy point for the EUSBSR – the Baltic Sea Strategy point (BSP). The Programme provides funding to the Strategy point for its administrative and technical support for the EUSBSR management, communication, coordination and capacity building as well as for stimulating exchange and sharing knowledge among the policy areas, including cooperation with the partner countries. The National Coordinators (NC) group of the EUSBSR will guide the work done by the BSP. Contacts to the NC group are provided at the website of the EUSBSR at <https://balticsea-region-strategy.eu/contacts/eusbsr-actors>.

The partners applying for the Strategy point should plan the following activities to be implemented with the Programme funding:

#### a. Administrative tasks:

- Ensuring technical support to the EUSBSR NC group (for example, input for the revision of governance documents, preparation of NC group meetings, facilitating meetings with internal stakeholders<sup>2</sup>) and, where possible, to the policy area coordinators of the EUSBSR;
- Serving as the institutional memory of the EUSBSR (collect, spread and share knowledge by providing a professional stakeholder platform with all relevant documents and contact lists, first point of contact, information point for external<sup>3</sup> and internal stakeholders);
- Providing the Presidency of the NC group and the National Coordinators with relevant information regarding all relevant EUSBSR activities and activities of other macro-regional strategies and publishing them on the EUSBSR website;
- Participating in the monitoring and evaluation of the EUSBSR (incl. information and data gathering and analysis, visions and future options) in cooperation with the relevant services of the European Commission;
- Providing support for the NCs in organising events such as the Annual Forums, meetings with the PACs, networks of managing authorities (e.g. ERDF, ESF) and other relevant institutions or groups;

#### b. Communication tasks:

- Coordinating the overall communication activities (internal and external) of the EUSBSR;
- Implementing and developing the existing EUSBSR communication plan (including visual identity and communication tools and communication guide) to be endorsed by the NC group;
- Running the EUSBSR webpage and the webpage of the networks of managing authorities (e.g. ERDF, ESF) – hosting, maintenance;

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<sup>2</sup> Internal stakeholders are the EUSBSR National Coordinators, policy area coordinators and their steering groups, DG Regio, Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme.

<sup>3</sup> External stakeholders are international organisations, public authorities from national, regional and local level, other organisations interested or involved in implementation of the EUSBSR action plan.



- Running supportive services – e.g. publications, brochures, social media, newsletter, information about the policy area coordinators, success stories, etc.;
- Helping the PACs as per action plan of the EUSBSR;
- Supporting the EUSBSR stakeholders in building stronger ties between the EUSBSR and other relevant actors through internal and external communication;

**c. Coordination of the EUSBSR cross-cutting issues:**

- Coordinating the sharing of knowledge and best practices between the policy areas as regards to integration of essential elements, such as addressing climate change and cooperation with neighbouring non-EU countries;
- Supporting the NC group in ensuring contact with the managing authorities' networks, and facilitate the PACs' cooperation efforts to arrange contacts with managing authorities as well as other funding instruments;

Facilitating regular exchange between the policy areas on content issues, thematic coordination and proactively stimulating exchanges between related policy areas through thematic meetings, events, etc.;

**d. Capacity building:**

- Coordinating targeted capacity building for the EUSBSR stakeholders, including those in neighbouring non-EU countries;
- Encouraging and participating in the exchange of experiences between implementers and stakeholders of the macro-regional strategies and other relevant programmes, e.g. INTERACT and ESPON.

The partners applying for the BSP need to describe how they will contribute to the activities of the National Coordinators group as well as other EUSBSR stakeholders. The intensity of the different tasks over time should be agreed with the NC group.

The partners should carefully plan the staff resources assigned for the tasks above. The BSP should be available for the NC group and the PACs on a daily basis and answer requests from the NC group without delay. In particular, the day-to-day work of the BSP should be conducted in close contact with the Presidency of the NC group, that is with the NCs from the EU member state chairing the EUSBSR at that moment.

To ensure the seamless day-to-day work of the BSP, it is recommended to plan full-time personnel for the following administrative tasks: providing technical support to the EUSBSR NC group, the Presidency of the NC group, and the policy area coordinators of the EUSBSR as well as serving as the institutional memory of the EUSBSR.



#### 4. Project partnership

The application for a Strategy point must involve at **least two partner organisations from at least two EU member states of the Programme area**: a lead partner and at least another partner. Public authorities at local, regional or national level are, in particular, encouraged to apply as partners.

All organisations eligible in the Programme as project partners from the EU member states of the Programme area and Norway can apply, except private-for-profit organisations. Information on the eligibility of partner organisations, requirements for the partnership as well as the legal status of the partners is available in the Programme Manual, chapters C. and G.

The project partnership is based on the lead partner principle. This means that the project has to appoint a lead applicant/lead partner who 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.

#### 5. Duration of the project

The project duration consists of three phases: contracting, implementation and closure. The exact dates of each phase are given in the application in the online BAMOS+ system. The contracting phase usually lasts three months and starts one day after selection of the project by the Monitoring Committee. The duration of the **implementation phase is 36 months**. The implementation phase follows directly after the contracting phase. After the end of the project implementation the partners have three additional months for the closure phase.

#### 6. Programme funding

The Programme budget is composed of several funding sources. The main funding source is the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for partners from the EU members states. The maximum **ERDF funding of the Programme** available for partners from the EU members states applying for the BSP is **up to EUR 1.2 million for a three-year project**. Further funding source is Norwegian funding for partners from Norway.

Project partners have to provide their own contribution to receive Programme funding. All partners are entitled to receive up to **80% co-financing from the Programme**.

#### 7. Application procedure

Lead applicants applying for the BSP 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+ (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+ **after an online consultation and upon receiving a signed request for log-in**.

To apply for a consultation, lead applicants **must complete and submit** a project idea form (PIF) to the MA/JS. In the PIF they briefly describe the context and challenge, partnership, draft work plan, and planned budget. The completed PIF must be sent to [governance@interreg-baltic.eu](mailto:governance@interreg-baltic.eu) any time but **no later than 9 March 2022**.

PIFs submitted to the MA/JS will be available for the Monitoring Committee of the Programme and the group of the National Coordinators of the EUSBSR. The Monitoring Committee members and the EUSBSR National Coordinators group may contact the lead applicants and provide guidance on further development of the project ideas. The MA/JS will not receive information about the provided guidance. It is up to the project partnership to consider how to take the guidance into account.

Any information in the project idea form, including the MA/JS feedback, will not influence the quality assessment. The quality assessment of the project applications will be carried out based on the information in the submitted applications only.

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 idea form	A lead applicant submits to e-mail: <a href="mailto:governance@interreg-baltic.eu">governance@interreg-baltic.eu</a> (template available at <a href="https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/calls/">https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/calls/</a> ).	No later than <b>9 March 2022</b>
Project application	A lead applicant applies for log-in to BAMOS+ via e-mail: <a href="mailto:account@bamos.eu">account@bamos.eu</a> (template available at <a href="https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/bamos-account/">https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/bamos-account/</a> ). The access to BAMOS+ is granted by the MA/JS once the call is launched. A lead applicant submits in BAMOS+.	No later than <b>30 March 2022 16:00 CEST</b>



<b>Partner declaration</b> , 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.	
<b>Contact information</b> 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.	
<b>Bank information</b> 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. In addition to the assessment by the MA/JS, the group of the National Coordinators of the EUSBSR provides feedback to the applications.

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. Please take a note that the MC will select a maximum of one application for Programme funding under this call.

## 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](https://interreg-baltic.eu) and include:

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

The MA/JS supports development of projects by providing feedback to project ideas through online consultations (after submission of PIF). There is also support provided by the BAMOS+ helpdesk at [helpdesk@bamos.eu](mailto:helpdesk@bamos.eu).

In addition, the MA/JS highly recommends the applicants to get in contact with the Presidency of the EUSBSR NC group for further advice on the content of the application.



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

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*For advice from the Presidency of the EUSBSR NC group please contact:*

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

Robertas Bružilas

Chair of the NC group, Deputy Director, European Union Department

Laura Čeponytė

Counsellor, European Union Department

E-mail: [EUSBSR-Presidency-LT@mfa.lt](mailto:EUSBSR-Presidency-LT@mfa.lt)

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