Project idea form - small projects

Version 2.1

Registration no. (filled in by MA/JS only) _____

Project Idea Form

Date of submission 29/05/2025

1. Project idea identification

Project idea name	Retention for Resilience: Supporting Small Municipalities with Blue-Green Infrastructure
Short name of the project	Retain & Resilience
Previous calls	yes ◉ no ○
Short name of the previous project	*(max. 100 characters incl. spaces)*
Seed money support	yes ○ no ◉

2. Programme priority

	2. Water-smart societies

3. Programme objective

	2.1. Sustainable waters

4. Potential lead applicant

Name of the organisation (original)	Instytut Ekologii Terenów Uprzemysłowionych (IETU)
Name of the organisation (English)	Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas
Website	https://ietu.pl/

Country	PL
Type of Partner	Higher education and research institution

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Which organisation(s) in the planned partnership take part in a project within the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme for the first time? Please list the respective partners.

Both of the confirmed partners (i.e. Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas and Fundacja Natura Polska) have already taken part in projects within the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme.

5.1 Specific challenge to be adressed

One of the key challenges faced by small municipalities located along the Baltic Sea coast is the increasing risk associated with extreme weather events and the insufficient capacity to retain and manage stormwater. Climate change – including more frequent episodes of intense rainfall and more frequent droughts – highlights the limited water retention potential of these areas. The goal of this project is to increase the water retention capacity of small municipalities in the Baltic Sea region through educational activities and knowledge transfer related to the planning, implementation, and maintenance of blue-green infrastructure (BGI). BGI – understood as a network of nature-based and technical solutions (e.g. rain gardens, green roofs, retention parks, urban wetlands) – enables effective water retention in the urban landscape, simultaneously improving air quality, increasing biodiversity, and enhancing the aesthetics of public spaces. The project's primary target groups include local public authorities, municipal officials, spatial planning professionals, and residents who experience the consequences of infrastructure which is not adapted to the changing climate conditions. A key element of the project will be collaboration with experts, non-governmental organisations, and research

institutions to develop model solutions that can be implemented on a broader scale. The main result of the project will be the development of a catalogue of good practices in the field of blue-green infrastructure. This publication will compile practical examples, implementation guidelines, and recommendations based on pilot activities and stakeholder consultations. It will serve as a tool to support other municipalities in adopting nature-based solutions tailored to local conditions. The project will raise awareness of the importance of BGI through the presentation of good practices during study visits, workshops for residents, an eco-picnic, a public outdoor exhibition, promotional videos showing implemented solutions, an educational publication, and micro-scale climate adaptation measures for citizens – such as green walls, rain gardens, and rainwater collection systems. The project will contribute to strengthening the competencies of local decision-makers in the field of modern, sustainable water management and enhancing the climate resilience of small towns. It will also promote cooperation and knowledge-sharing across the Baltic Sea region.

5.2 Focus of the call

The project supports the coherent development of small municipalities in the Baltic Sea region by addressing climate-related challenges, particularly those related to extreme weather events and phenomena and the associated poor rainwater management. Many small coastal municipalities do not have adequate water retention facilities. Through education and knowledge exchange, the project promotes the planning and implementation of blue-green infrastructure (BGI) – nature-based technical solutions such as landscaping, rain gardens, green roofs and retention parks. They improve water retention, increase biodiversity and create healthier, more attractive public spaces. The project's main target groups are local public authorities and communities (both its residents and entrepreneurs). The cooperation of officials, residents, NGOs, experts, and research institutions will result in model solutions, recommendations and a catalogue of good practices, supporting other municipalities and cities to adopt sustainable, climate-resilient approaches. The project strengthens local capacities and promotes long-term resilience, contributing to sustainable and inclusive development of vulnerable areas in the Baltic Sea region.

6. Transnational relevance

International cooperation is crucial for effectively addressing water management issues in small municipalities of the Baltic Sea region. Climate change related threats, such as episodes of intense rainfall and droughts, know no borders, which is why joint action among Baltic Sea countries is essential to develop comprehensive and scalable solutions. International cooperation enables the exchange of experiences, sharing of knowledge, and collaborative testing and implementation of new solutions that will be effective in various local conditions. This project can thus contribute to the faster implementation of proven, sustainable practices that will have a tangible impact on improving the climate resilience of the entire region. The project involves intensive collaboration between partners from different countries, including local public authorities, NGOs, and research institutions. This will allow for the development of a good practice catalogue and the joint testing of BGI solutions – including nature-based approaches that enable effective water retention while also improving the quality of life for residents. International cooperation also ensures greater innovation and the ability to respond more quickly to challenges arising from climate change. Through joint efforts, it will be possible to implement solutions that contribute to improving climate resilience at both the local and

regional levels. The project aims to support the sustainable development of small towns along the Baltic Sea by promoting effective and durable water management methods in response to climate change challenges.

7. Specific aims to be adressed

Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives
In the project, trust-building will take place on several levels. Openness and transparency in action will be key, ensuring that partners have equal access to the project's progress and its outcomes. Common goals and benefits will make partners more motivated to work together. Joint activities (e.g. developing the catalogue of good practices or the testing of BGI solutions) will enable the exchange of experiences and strengthen relationships. Planned workshops will provide an opportunity to build personal relationships, which will strengthen trust. The project also envisages a long-term commitment to collaboration, which will help to maintain partnerships after the project has ended. Involving local community representatives (officials) in the education and consultation activities will in turn enable trust to be built between partners and residents, increasing their willingness to continue working together.
Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR
The project will establish and strengthen transnational networks among small municipalities across the Baltic Sea Region, fostering long-term collaboration on climate change adaptation. By connecting local public authorities, research institutes, NGOs, and other key stakeholders, the project will facilitate knowledge exchange and joint learning on blue-green infrastructure solutions for stormwater management. These networks will serve as a foundation for current and future shared capacity-building, the dissemination of best practices, and the coordinated implementation of nature-based solutions, ensuring that proposed adaptation efforts are resilient, inclusive, and regionally cohesive.
Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens
Through workshops and information meetings, local community representatives will gain substantial knowledge about climate change and blue-green infrastructure (BGI). Local leaders will act as intermediaries, facilitating communication and building trust. These activities will allow residents to feel engaged in the process, which will increase their support and involvement in climate change adaptation projects. An additional asset will be the distribution of educational materials, including a good practices guide.
Allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges
A rapid response to unpredictable challenges will be possible thanks to the project's flexible structure. The creation of a crisis team consisting of leaders of each project partner will make it possible to monitor the situation and respond quickly to urgent problems. Flexibility of operations will allow plans to be adapted to changing conditions and new solutions to be implemented in response to emergencies. Cooperation with partners (local public authorities, NGOs, research institute) will enable resources and knowledge to be mobilised more quickly in emergency situations. With these solutions, the project will ensure flexibility and preparedness to respond quickly to challenges.

8. Target groups

1. Local public authorities and local government officials – are responsible for spatial planning, water management and technical infrastructure in small municipalities. They have a real influence on the implementation of nature-based solutions and will directly benefit from the project results.
2. Community leaders and representatives of rural authorities – as leaders of local communities, they have key contact with the inhabitants of smaller towns and villages. They will play an important role in transferring knowledge, organising consultations and supporting local initiatives related to climate change adaptation.
3. Residents of small towns and rural areas – are directly affected by the effects of climate change, such as local flooding or periodic droughts. They will be involved in education, consultation and pilots, increasing their awareness and willingness to support implemented solutions.
4. Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) implementation specialists – their involvement will ensure a high level of substance in the activities and sustainability of the results.

	Please use the drop-down list to define up to five target groups that you will involve through your project's activities.	Please define a field of responsibility or an economic sector of the selected target group	Specify the countries and regions that the representatives of this target group come from.
1.	Local public authority	The project involves local authorities in training, public consultation and the co-creation and dissemination of the catalogue of good practices.	Poland, Germany, Lithuania
2.	NGO	The NGO will carry out educational activities, involve local residents, support the implementation of the BGI, contribute to the catalogue of good practices and promote the results of the project.	Poland
3.	Small and medium enterprise	SMEs will support the implementation of micro-adaptations, provide BGI solutions and participate in educational activities and networking at local and transnational levels.	Poland, Germany, Lithuania

4.	Higher education and research institution	The research institute will provide substantive and scientific support, develop diagnoses, recommendations and tools to support the implementation of nature-based solutions.	Poland
5.	Interest group	Residents will take part in educational activities, citizen science and the implementation of micro-adaptation, co-creating local solutions to increase water retention.	Poland, Germany, Lithuania

9. Contribution to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Please indicate if your project idea has the potential to contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (https://eusbsr.eu/implementation/).

yes ◉ no ◯

Please select which policy area(s) of the EUSBSR your project idea contributes to most.

PA Safe
PA Education
PA Spatial Planning

The MA/JS may share your project idea form with the respective policy area coordinator(s) of the EUSBSR. You can find contacts of PACs at the EUSBSR website (https://eusbsr.eu/contact-us/).

☒ If you disagree, please tick here.

10. Partnership

1. Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas (IETU) – lead partner, an R&D unit acting under the Ministry of Climate and Environment located in Katowice, Poland. IETU has strong expertise in environmental protection, sustainable land management, circular economy, and pollution mitigation, among other

areas. They will act as the lead partner, drawing on its extensive experience in climate risk assessment, urban climate change adaptation, and the implementation of blue-green infrastructure (BGI). IETU brings scientific and technical expertise to the project, leading the development of model solutions and contributing to the creation of the catalogue of good practices. The Institute will also coordinate transnational knowledge exchange and ensure scientific rigor in the planning and evaluation of the pilot measures.
2. Fundacja Natura Polska (FNP) – partner, an NGO located in Żary, Poland. FNP is a foundation focused on nature conservation, education, and sustainable development. They work on biodiversity, habitat protection, ecological awareness, and often collaborate with local communities and schools. FNP will support the project with its strong background in stakeholder engagement, environmental education, and event organisation. FNP will take the lead in planning and delivering outreach activities such as workshops, eco-picnics, and public exhibitions. The organisation will also coordinate promotion of the project and communication with local communities, helping to ensure the project's activities are inclusive, well-publicised, and relevant to the needs of residents.
3. To ensure transnational relevance and local impact, the partnership will be expanded to include small municipalities from the Baltic Sea Region, particularly from Poland, Germany, and Lithuania. These local authorities will act as pilot sites, hosting project activities such as study visits, educational campaigns, stakeholder consultations, and micro-scale climate adaptation initiatives. Their involvement is essential to test and adapt the BGI approaches in diverse local contexts, while also strengthening their own capacities in sustainable water management. The inclusion of these partners will foster cross-border learning, replication of solutions, and lasting cooperation across the region.

11. Workplan

Main activities will include:
1. Conducting a diagnosis of local needs related to water management, retention and climate change in selected partner municipalities via, among others, the joint mapping of places requiring intervention.
2. Experience sharing via lectures, workshops, trainings and study tours for partners, representatives of local public authorities, village leaders, planners and other key groups, increasing their competences in BGI planning and implementation.
3. Developing a BGI open database through citizen science (joint mapping) and the involvement of local communities, local governments, NGOs, and a research institute.
4. Joint development of a publication: "Recommendations for the implementation of blue-green infrastructure" for a selected town/municipality and a "Catalogue of good practices for residents and entrepreneurs in the field of increasing retention potential".
5. Microclimate adaptations for local communities (residents and entrepreneurs), e.g. green walls, rain gardens, rainwater harvesting tanks in selected locations.
6. Promotion of adaptation activities in the field of increasing the retention potential of the Baltic Sea region areas for local communities (residents and entrepreneurs), governments and NGOs by organising meetings, educational campaigns and workshops for stakeholders, an ecological picnic, a public exhibition, promotional videos with presentation of solutions, an educational publication.

The project activities will actively involve:
1. Local public authorities and officials – through participation in the diagnosis, pilot implementations,

lectures, workshops, trainings and study tours.
2. Village leaders and representatives of rural communities – as local leaders supporting the contact with the residents.
3. Residents and entrepreneurs – through meetings and practical education in public spaces.
4. NGOs – responsible for education, consultation and promotion of the results.
5. Researchers – supporting the project with their expert knowledge and evaluation of the effectiveness of the solutions.
6. Professionals and planners – as designers and implementers of BGI solutions.

The final results of the project will mainly benefit:
1. Partner municipalities and cities, who will implement solutions to improve retention and quality of life for their residents.
2. Other municipalities in the Baltic Sea Region, who will use the "Recommendations for the implementation of blue-green infrastructure" and the "Catalogue of good practices for residents and entrepreneurs in the field of increasing retention potential" as an inspiration and implementation tool.
3. Local communities which will benefit from the improved environmental conditions and quality of public space and will have the opportunity to increase their competences and knowledge in the field of implementing blue-green infrastructure in their area.
4. Planning and design institutions, who will receive proven models for technical solutions.

12. Planned budget

ERDF budget (planned expenditure of partners from the EU)	EUR 500,000.00
Norwegian budget (planned expenditure of partners from Norway)	EUR 0.00
Total budget (including preparatory costs)	**EUR 500,000.00**

13. Project consultation

Please indicate if you wish to have a consultation (online meeting) with the MA/JS to discuss your project idea

yes ◉ no ◯

14. Questions to the MA/JS

Questions related to the content of the planned project	*(max.1.000 characters incl. spaces)*
Questions related to budgeting and expenditure	*(max.1.000 characters incl. spaces)*

Any other questions	*(max. 1.000 characters incl. spaces)*

15. Additional information

(max. 1.000 characters incl. spaces)

Your account in BAMOS+

Please remember that to officially submit your application you need to access our electronic data exchange system BAMOS+. More information about the process of applying for your account in BAMOS+ you will find here:
https://interreg-baltic.eu/gateway/bamos-account