



# Project idea form - small projects

Version 2.1

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

## Project Idea Form

Date of submission 30/05/2025

### 1. Project idea identification

Project idea name CORE Crisis-Oriented Resilience

Short name of the project CORE

Previous calls yes ☐ no ☒

Seed money support yes ☐ no ☒

### 2. Programme priority

1. Innovative societies

### 3. Programme objective

1.1. Resilient economies and communities

### 4. Potential lead applicant

Name of the organisation (original) Główny Instytut Górnictwa - Państwowy Instytut Badawczy (GIG-PIB)

Name of the organisation (English) Central Mining Institute - National Research Institute (GIG-PIB)

Website www.gig.eu

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.

GIG-PIB (Poland) has never implemented a project under Interreg BSR. It has experience in the implementation of Interreg Central Europe, Interreg Czechia-Poland and many other. Responding to the diagnosed threats, the solution of which is only possible in cooperation with other scientific entities/universities from the countries of the Baltic Sea Region, GIG-PIB decided to establish cooperation with the best universities from Sweden and Finland and jointly apply for project funding.

### 5.1 Specific challenge to be addressed

Due to increasing number of threats such as natural disasters, cyberattacks, terrorist acts, disinformation, and geopolitical tensions, the resilience of academic and research institutions to crisis situations is becoming crucial to ensuring the safety of people and infrastructure. Many universities and research institutes in Europe still lack comprehensive contingency plans adapted to current risks, as well as adequately trained staff to respond in emergencies.

In the countries covered by the project – Poland, Sweden, and Finland – the following risk trends have been observed:

- In Poland, there is a growing risk due to the proximity of the armed conflict in Ukraine, increased activity in cyberspace, and migration pressure at the borders. Public institutions are also increasingly targeted by disinformation campaigns.
- In Sweden and Finland, recent NATO accession has increased the strategic importance of these countries, resulting in an intensification of hybrid threats – including destabilization attempts, hacker attacks, and testing the resilience of societies to psychological and informational pressure.
- Across the entire Baltic Sea Region, the threat posed by climate change is also rising, leading to extreme weather events, power supply disruptions, and threats to technical infrastructure.

The project addresses these challenges by developing staff competences and creating and testing crisis management plans in academic environments. The exchange of knowledge and experience between partners from different countries will enable the development of effective, scalable solutions and procedures tailored to diverse threat scenarios – both technological and social.

Through training, simulation exercises, and initiatives aimed at local communities (such as "Safety Weeks"), the project will help to enhance the resilience of entire academic communities at both local and transnational levels, thus supporting the Interreg BSR objectives of a more innovative and secure Europe.

Smart solutions: the partners plan to use their existing experience of implementing modern technologies (VR/AR/XR) in educational activities and develop interactive simulation systems to practice emergency procedures.

## 5.2 Focus of the call

The project brings together three scientific institutions from the Baltic Sea Region: the GIG – PIB (Katowice, Poland), LTU (Lulea, Sweden), and Aalto (Espoo, Finland). These institutions operate in regions affected by increasing geopolitical pressure, climate-related risks, and socio-economic challenges. The aim of the project is to strengthen the resilience of academic communities, including staff, students, and all individuals working or staying within university and research infrastructure, to various types of crises.

The project focuses on the development, testing, and implementation of tailored emergency preparedness plans, the establishment of internal crisis management teams within institutions, and practical exercises and simulations. Through transnational cooperation, partners will develop adaptable models for responding to natural, technological, and hybrid threats—such as cyberattacks, disinformation, and infrastructure sabotage—intensified by actions from the Russian Federation. With the recent NATO accession of Sweden and Finland, the Baltic Sea Region has gained increased strategic sensitivity to such hybrid threats.

By addressing local socio-demographic conditions and involving academic staff, students, and local stakeholders—including youth—in training and participatory initiatives (e.g., Safety Weeks), the project will enhance institutional preparedness and foster more resilient and attractive regions to live, work, and study.

## 6. Transnational relevance

The project directly supports the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), particularly the objective "Increase Prosperity" and the policy areas Secure and Education. It strengthens institutional and societal resilience by enhancing preparedness for crises across borders, which is crucial in today's geopolitical and climate context.

Expected benefits for the BSR:

- Knowledge transfer between three institutions with complementary experience: GIG-PIB (industrial safety and emergency planning), LTU (remote, climate-challenged regions), Aalto University (innovation and digital security).
- Joint development of scalable emergency response models tailored to academic and research environments, adaptable across the BSR.
- Improved cross-border coordination in handling hybrid threats, which increasingly affect the BSR as a

strategic EU and NATO region.

- Increased community resilience via simulations and engagement of youth and local actors in risk awareness and crisis readiness.

Policy alignment:

- Supports EUSBSR PA Secure by promoting civil protection and crisis management collaboration.
- Contributes to PA Education through capacity building and skill development in crisis leadership.
- Strengthens territorial cohesion in line with Interreg BSR's aim to make regions safer and more attractive places to live and work.

The project shows how transnational cooperation can transform common threats into opportunities for systemic improvement and support for the resilience of local communities. A good example is Aalto's (Finland) use of underground civilian shelters. GIG-PIB (Poland) has an underground BARBARA Experimental Mine and through joint transnational cooperation will be able to learn how to prepare and make available underground infrastructure for such purposes. It is planned to use 360/3D technology to simulate various scenarios and explain in detail the potential use of the equipment and functionality of the shelter.

## 7. Specific aims to be addressed

### Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives

The project fosters mutual trust among partners through joint development of emergency preparedness plans, crisis management structures, and regular simulations. These hands-on activities build shared standards, align expectations, and establish professional relationships that extend beyond institutional roles. The collaboration creates a solid base for future initiatives under broader EU frameworks, including the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network and its 2024–2028 work strands. The trust and tested cooperation methods developed here may lead to future joint applications in EU-funded training, risk awareness campaigns, or peer reviews, helping scale up Baltic Sea Region cooperation on civil protection.

### Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR

The project creates a practical, cross-sectoral network of academic and research institutions in the BSR, focusing on improving their resilience to crises. The network brings together security experts, university administrations, technical staff and students, creating a basis for further collaboration in the fields of civil protection, cyber security and education. The partnership facilitates ongoing dialogue with regional stakeholders and has the potential to develop into a permanent platform for risk preparedness. Common tools and protocols developed during the project ensure continuity and potential expansion of the network beyond the current partnership.

### Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens

The project engages citizens—especially students, university staff, and local residents—through participatory activities such as emergency drills, workshops, and “Safety Weeks.” These actions demystify EU-funded initiatives by showing their direct impact on safety and daily life. By involving young people and local actors, the project strengthens public perception of the Interreg BSR as a driver of practical, meaningful change. It highlights how EU cooperation protects people and places, helping communities feel included, prepared, and more connected to European values and programmes.

### Allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges

The project enhances institutional readiness for sudden crises by creating and testing action plans

tailored to local and transnational risks. By building internal teams and training staff and students, partners establish fast response mechanisms applicable across different threat types. The collaboration also enables knowledge sharing and rapid adaptation of tested solutions to new contexts in the BSR. This flexibility allows institutions to respond more quickly to emerging risks, such as cyberattacks, infrastructure failures, or hybrid threats, strengthening collective resilience in the region. It is planned to develop training materials on emergency response behaviour and shelter use, using 360/3D technology. Individuals will also be trained to start preparing (if necessary) shelters for use in exceptional circumstances. 360/3D technology will be used to create educational/training materials and operational manuals.

## 8. Target groups

The project targets both people and institutions, reflecting the complexity of modern academic and research environments, as well as their connection to surrounding communities.

Primary individual target groups include:

- Staff of the partner institutions – including administrative, academic, technical, and security personnel – who will directly benefit from crisis preparedness trainings, simulation exercises, and access to updated emergency response plans and protocols.
- Students from Luleå University of Technology and Aalto University, who represent a highly mobile and often vulnerable population. They will participate in awareness activities, drills, and XR-based training, helping to build a shared safety culture.
- Employees of co-located institutions, especially at GIG-PIB, where facilities are shared with several hundred employees of the Silesian Marshal Office, as well as a kindergarten and primary school. These individuals, though not formally part of the institute, require inclusion in safety procedures and alerts, and will be involved in relevant aspects of the project.
- External participants of workshops and training, including representatives of municipalities, other research institutions, and local service providers, who may adopt and transfer solutions tested during the project.

Institutional target groups include:

- Partner institutions: GIG-PIB, Luleå University of Technology, and Aalto University will each enhance their internal emergency response structures, interdepartmental coordination, and capacity to manage complex crisis scenarios.
- Local/regional authorities and civil protection bodies, particularly those cooperating with the partners during simulation exercises and outreach events.

Local communities are also a core group, especially those living or working near project sites. Through activities such as “Safety Weeks,” open drills, and communication campaigns, the project fosters preparedness, and strengthens resilience.

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. Higher education and research institution	Education, research, innovation, and institutional crisis preparedness in the context of hybrid, natural, and technological threats.	Poland, Sweden, and Finland, with relevance and transferability across the entire Baltic Sea Region and eligible EU and EEA countries.
2. Local public authority	Local governance, civil protection, crisis response coordination, and public service continuity in emergency and hybrid threat scenarios.	Poland, Sweden, and Finland, with application potential across the Baltic Sea Region and other EU and EEA member states

## 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 Secure

PA Education

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

The project consortium comprises three complementary institutions:

- Central Mining Institute – National Research Institute (GIG-PIB), based in Katowice, Poland, is a research institution contributing to the transformation of Upper Silesia—an EU Just Transition region—through monitoring, policy support, and the development of transition concepts. GIG focuses on industrial safety, environmental engineering, and risk management. The institute's Competence Development Centre brings experience in professional education, use of digital tools, and international cooperation. Several external institutions, including offices of the Silesian Marshal's Office, a school, and a kindergarten, are located on GIG's premises—broadening the real-life relevance of crisis



preparedness measures tested during the project.

- Luleå University of Technology (LTU), in northern Sweden, operates in a region undergoing rapid green industrialization, while also coping with environmental pressures tied to climate change and its Arctic location. LTU brings strong research expertise in infrastructure resilience, crisis logistics, and remote community preparedness. The university has long-standing cooperation with regional authorities and industries, particularly in the areas of risk awareness and societal security. As Sweden reorients its civil protection capacities following NATO accession, LTU is actively involved in strengthening knowledge-based preparedness in northern Europe.
- Aalto University, located in Espoo, Finland, is a multidisciplinary institution integrating technology, business, arts, and design. Positioned in the Helsinki metropolitan area, Aalto is a leader in smart infrastructure, cybersecurity, and user-centered innovation and its mission is to build a sustainable future. The university plays a key role in shaping Finland's digital resilience strategies and hybrid threat preparedness through both research and education. Aalto also coordinates national and international networks related to for example sustainability and urban safety. Internationality and global networking are important parts of research, teaching and learning at Aalto. Its broad experience in public-private partnerships and co-creation with communities makes it well-equipped to lead participatory and scalable activities within the project framework.

Together, the partners provide a diverse yet cohesive consortium, capable of developing practical, high-impact tools for crisis management across the BSR

## 11. Workplan

This project is based on close cooperation between three institutions - each partner brings unique experience, enabling the co-creation of practical, scalable emergency preparedness tools and procedures, applicable across diverse institutional and national contexts. All activities will be carried out through joint expert teams and regular coordination.

Key activities include:

- Joint risk and needs assessment: Partners will review existing emergency plans and identify potential threats (natural, technological, hybrid). Findings will be harmonized to develop shared response approaches.
- Development and update of emergency plans: Each institution will prepare or revise tailored emergency and crisis management plans, based on jointly defined scenarios and standards.
- Creation of step-by-step guidelines and procedures: Practical instructions will be developed to guide staff and campus users during incidents. Materials will be co-designed and peer-reviewed between partners.
- Training and workshops for staff and students: A series of trainings will be conducted at each site, addressing fire response, evacuation, cyberattacks, misinformation, and violence prevention. Some sessions will be delivered cross-institutionally by partner experts.
- Simulation exercises (physical and digital): Realistic drills will be organized in all partner institutions, including evacuation rehearsals, system failures, and cyberattack scenarios, involving both internal and external participants.
- XR-based simulation system: Partners will co-develop an interactive Extended Reality (XR) training system based on real threats, providing immersive, safe learning environments for emergency response.
- Internal alert and communication systems: Each institution will establish internal crisis





communication tools for both preventive messaging (e.g. weather alerts) and real-time instructions during incidents.

- Testing of emergency equipment: Critical infrastructure (e.g. alarm systems, backup power, IT backups) will be checked and tested according to shared guidelines.
- “Safety Weeks”: Public outreach events will be organized by each partner to raise awareness among local communities, promote institutional transparency, and build public trust.

Throughout the project, partners will maintain strong institutional and personal collaboration through regular meetings, joint product development, and staff exchange. The project will result in practical tools and models, transferable to other academic institutions in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond.

## 12. Planned budget

ERDF budget (planned expenditure of partners from the EU)	EUR 492,760.00
Norwegian budget (planned expenditure of partners from Norway)	EUR XXX
<b>Total budget (including preparatory costs)</b>	<b>EUR 492,760.00</b>

## 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>