



Project idea form - small projects

Version 2.1

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

Project Idea Form

Date of submission 05/06/2025

1. Project idea identification

Project idea name	Address the root causes of the increase in youth crime in the Baltic Sea Region
Short name of the project	BSR INTEGRATE NOW
Previous calls	yes <input type="radio"/> no <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Seed money support	yes <input type="radio"/> no <input checked="" type="radio"/>

2. Programme priority

1. Innovative societies

3. Programme objective

1.1. Resilient economies and communities
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4. Potential lead applicant

Name of the organisation (original)	Föreningen Norden Sverige
Name of the organisation (English)	Norden Association Sweden
Website	www.norden.se
Country	SE



Type of Partner	NGO
	Non-governmental organisations, such as Greenpeace, WWF, etc.

Contact person 1

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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.

Besides the two Policy Area Coordinators, PA Education and PA Culture the partnership is not yet decided.

5.1 Specific challenge to be addressed

The increased number of refugees constitutes a challenge to those Member States where refugees choose to seek asylum. At the same time, many Member States struggle with demographic changes with an ageing population which within a decade will lead to a deficit of skilled workers – academic and non-academic - in for e.g. industry, health care and other sectors. This underlines the need for an effective integration of refugees and migrants for them to contribute to the building of inclusive, cohesive and prosperous societies which are of common interest to all Member States.

Youth violence, particularly gang-related crime, has become a growing concern across the Baltic Sea Region – reflecting a global trend. The rise in violent acts among adolescents has brought attention to the increasing involvement of children in street gangs. An especially dire example is Sweden, having the highest prevalence of youth street gang involvement, with cities like Stockholm reporting particularly alarming figures – the highest in the EU.

In Sweden, young people's involvement in serious crime – linked to criminal networks – has increased alarmingly fast over the last decade. Studies show that a large percentage of local criminal networks

actively recruit young people under the age of 18 to their cause. It has become more common for established criminal actors to exploit children and adolescents not only for drug-related crime but also for carrying out violent and risky crimes such as shootings, explosions or assassinations.

One of the root causes of youth criminality is the insufficient integration of migrants. Many of the children and adolescents involved in criminal activities live in parallel societies where neither they nor their parents are fully integrated into the host country. They often do not attend school, and their parents are frequently unemployed. This alarming situation, observed not only in Sweden, highlights the urgent need for effective policies and instruments to address this complex societal challenge.

5.2 Focus of the call

We choose to start with a quote, from the European Commission President Ms Ursula von der Leyen from her speech in Aachen on 30 May where she listed four central tasks for Europe where one of them was “renewing and strengthening democracy to protect member countries from internal and external threats”.

The presented societal challenge occurs often in metropolitan areas in the Baltic Sea Region. However, it is often one or a few districts of the city that is mainly affected, often one or more suburbs. This is on this local level, the innovative integration policies need to be applied. This is where a supportive ecosystem is needed for the citizens, new ones as well as natives.

This project aims at gathering stakeholders, cross-sectorial, multilevel and transnational for mutual learning and for co-creating measures and policies. It will feed into the EUSBSR Action Plan for PA Education and PA Culture. A specific focus will be on involving the target group, vulnerable groups of adolescents and their parents in the areas affected by youth criminality.

Our firm belief is that the affected districts, with both migrants and citizens want to change the present situation. That people want to contribute to a lasting change. That there are existing supportive structures that need to be strengthened. That there are lessons to be learnt and new initiatives to be developed between cities and districts facing similar challenges in the Baltic Sea Region.

6. Transnational relevance

The situation with increased criminality in the countries in the Baltic Sea Region is usually connected to European and sometimes even global criminal networks. Already today the increased criminality among children and adolescents in Sweden is spreading across the borders to Denmark with Swedish teenagers committing crimes including murders in Denmark.

This criminality has no borders and with large groups of migrants in several of the countries in the Baltic Sea Region joint actions are needed if not even a must to effectively stop this development. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) has proved to be the needed platform for learning from



each other's and for developing measures together.

In this project proposal the applied mode of implementation offered by macroregional strategies is of importance. Stakeholders need to be gathered from civil society organisations, local and regional administrations, state agencies, academy and from companies. In development processes involving many stakeholders, from different countries and cultures the experiences from EUSBSR are important for a successful implementation.

7. Specific aims to be addressed

Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives

The criminality grows from lack of trust between migrants and natives. Migrants come to their new countries with hopes for a better future, often leaving wars, hunger and social misery. They often have no knowledge about what is required to find a job and living in the new country. There are major cultural differences to overcome.

The new country offers measures to support integration such as language training, social benefits, help with education etc. Still, this is not enough. Both natives and migrants need to develop relations, to learn about each other's backgrounds and cultures.

In this project proposal a model of a supportive ecosystem will be elaborated, encouraging collaboration among local communities, civil society organizations, and cultural institutions to create an inclusive and empowering environment for migrants. A model that can be applied locally in the Baltic Sea Region, in districts with large numbers of citizens from different countries and cultures.

Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR

EUSBSR is being implemented by stakeholders brought together for jointly developing solutions to our most complex societal challenges. Challenges that can't be solved by single stakeholders. There are today many existing networks in the region. However, they are often based on one or a few groups of stakeholders being for example municipalities. For developing targeted solutions to the most pressing and complex challenges networks based on cross-sectorial, multilevel and transnational stakeholders are needed.

This project aims at inviting stakeholders from public sector, for example social services, police and schools. Another group to be invited are the civil society organisations with parental organisations, sport clubs and youth organisations. A third one is the private sector with companies able to offer internships for the target group. All three groups of stakeholders will be offered one joint platform for exchange of experiences and for jointly co-creating solutions.

Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens

An essential part of this project is to understand the driving forces behind young people getting involved in crime. Dialogue is needed with both young people and their parents, with school staff and other adults who come into contact with young people in the target group. There is great concern and

commitment among residents in the affected areas, and the project aims to engage both those who are most directly affected and those who can contribute to change.

The project aims to provide a platform for exchange of experiences between those actors who are working at local, regional and national levels to develop solutions to this highly topical and serious societal problem. The project can thus be useful from the start, as there is currently no structured learning and exchange in the Baltic Sea Region for this societal challenge. The platform being developed in this project will besides offering exchange of good practice offer co-creation of measures and structures that will help the situation on the ground. A fast response is needed and can hopefully be secured by involving stakeholders able to implement changes with no delay.

8. Target groups

The project plan to involve five target groups besides the two Policy Area Coordinators for respective PA Education and PA Culture.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS

There are several departments within local administrations that needs to be involved, education, social affairs, labour and culture/leisure departments.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Organisations to be involved are both on local and national levels. On national levels youth councils dealing with youth policies will be involved and on local levels parental organisations, sport clubs and other organisations providing activities for young people.

POLICE

Primarily the local police authorities will be involved, and it will be up to them to decide whether to involve other levels in their organisations in this project.

NATIONAL AGENCIES

On the national level the project plans to involve the Public Employment Services (PES), agencies responsible for youth affairs and the National Agencies for Education. There might be more national agencies involved depending on the distribution of responsibilities in member states.

POLITICIANS

An important aim of the project is awareness raising and to involve politicians in both developing measures and later implement them. We foresee mostly local politicians to be involved. Politicians on national level will be invited to policy dialogues.

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	Education, social affairs, labour and culture/leisure.	Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden. There might be more countries involved.
2. NGO	Youth policies, parental organisations, sport and other leisure activities targeting youth	Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden. There might be more countries involved.
3. National public authority	Police, Education, Public Employment services, Youth affairs,	Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden. There might be more countries involved.

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 Education

PA Culture

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 is initiated by the two Policy Area Coordinators for respective PA Education and PA Culture. The initiative is contributing to the implementation of the two Action Plans. The project idea addresses a pressing societal challenge with increased criminality among children and adolescents.

The partnership is being formed with contacts made to relevant partners. No decisions yet. It is foreseen that one of the organisations of the Policy Area Coordinators will take the Lead Partner role. Besides this anchoring with the Policy Area coordination the partnership will be built with three group of stakeholders with in total 6 to 8 partners.



LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS

The idea is to have mix of larger and smaller municipalities affected by criminality today or facing the risk of increased criminality. Stockholm Region is a possible Swedish partner. Similar with Denmark, Finland and Germany.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

One partner is expected to be one of the national youth councils in either Denmark, Finland or Sweden. More organisations will be involved in the project, mainly local ones but not as partners.

NATIONAL AGENCIES

One or two national agencies will be project partners from Denmark, Finland, Germany or Sweden. One National Agency for Education and possible one responsible for youth affairs.

11. Workplan

The workplan is reflecting the urgency for actions where this project will develop an action plan addressing the challenge with increased criminality among children and adolescents.

ACTIVITIES

The activities will be a mix of desk research, in-depth interviews, and co-creation of measures in thematic groups. The focus is on stakeholder dialogues, harvesting good practice and co-creating new measures. Making best use of the collective competencies in the Baltic Sea Region. Activities leading to formulating a joint Action Plan.

STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

Identifying relevant stakeholders in the eight member states is the first activity providing an overview of municipalities with heightened criminality among children and adolescents. Stakeholders on both local and national levels are identified also with contact persons.

STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES

The next step is to carry out in-depth interviews with the listed key stakeholders on local and national levels. Interviews that will constitute the knowledge base for the Action Plan but also identifying areas of mutual interest for jointly developing measures.

FORMING A NETWORK

The third step will be to establish a Baltic Sea Region wide network of stakeholders, cross-sectorial, multilevel and transnational. In the framework of the network online workshops will be organized sharing good practice on key topics with colleagues in the region.

CO-CREATION

The fourth step will be several co-creative workshops onsite and online with key stakeholders on the identified areas of mutual interest. The workshops will be for one or two days with experienced

process leaders and input from researchers and other experts.

OUTPUT – AN ACTION PLAN

The fifth and final stage of the project will be the Action Plan with early warning systems, and measures building trust between migrants and natives, between migrants and public service providers. The Action Plan will be a collection of measures and structures; already existing practices and new ones developed in the framework of the project. Each measure will be presented with target groups, financing, activities and expected effects. For the latter it will be explained how the effect will be measured, with output indicators and instruments to measure results.

12. Planned budget

ERDF budget (planned expenditure of partners from the EU)	EUR 400,000.00
Norwegian budget (planned expenditure of partners from Norway)	EUR XXX
Total budget (including preparatory costs)	EUR 400,000.00

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

PA Education and PA Culture are working together on societal challenges related to integration of migrants, one from the perspective of labour market integration and the other from culture as an important vehicle for integration.

They have started their cooperation with organizing two joint workshops, one at last year's EUSBSR Annual Forum on "Culture X Integration" and one online this spring on "Culture, creativity and integration of older people".

This project idea should be understood as the response to the need of a more structured cooperation between the two Policy Areas on a topic that has been identified as the most important one to be addressed jointly within integration of migrants.

When children are being recruited by international gangs for serious crimes the basis for our democracies are jeopardized. The trust between people and the right for everyone to be safe and secure.

A new societal contract is needed with a supportive eco-system at its core

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>