



Project idea form - small projects

Version 2.1

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

Project Idea Form

Date of submission 04/06/2025

1. Project idea identification

Project idea name	Renewable Energies and Common Heating
Short name of the project	ReNew Common Heating
Previous calls	yes ☐ no ☒
Seed money support	yes ☐ no ☒

2. Programme priority

3. Climate-neutral societies

3. Programme objective

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4. Potential lead applicant

Name of the organisation (original)	Saldus novada pašvaldība
Name of the organisation (English)	Saldus Municipality
Website	www.saldus.lv
Country	LV



Type of Partner	Local public authority
	municipality, etc.

Contact person 1

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Contact person 2

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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.

- Swedish Council for District Heating - Sweheat (Helsingborg, Sweden)
- City of Lappeenranta (Finland),
- BENET OY (Jyväskylä, Finland)
- Landkreis Rostock - County of Rostock (Germany)
- IC2 - Integration and Cooperation - International Communication gUG, (Hamburg, Germany)

5.1 Specific challenge to be addressed

The transition in heat supply from fossil fuels to renewable energies is a central pillar of the energy transition. While densely developed district heating networks or individual solutions are often feasible in urban centers and large cities, rural areas – villages and small towns – pose particular challenges due to their specific structures. At the same time, they also hold unique potentials that are essential for the success of the heat transition.

A third of the CO² emissions that accelerate climate change are generated in private households, particularly for heating and producing hot water.

It is therefore important to develop and realise alternatives to larger fossil-fuelled combined heat and power plants and smaller oil and gas heating systems in private households. For individual houses and apartment buildings in low-density residential areas, individual heat pumps can be an ecologically sustainable and economically acceptable solution; in high-density residential areas with apartment blocks, district heating networks are attractive, for example using industrial waste heat.

For terraced housing estates or residential areas with semi-detached houses and a medium density, decentralised, smaller heat supply networks (grids) that use geothermal energy as well as river and sea heat in particular are suitable.

The project will focus on these medium-scale community solutions for rural areas, smaller municipalities and neighbourhoods. Practical regional solutions for the technical and economic challenges are to be developed and disseminated with the involvement of relevant local partners.

5.2 Focus of the call

Larger energy suppliers, local authorities and consulting companies already have in-depth knowledge and, in some cases, experience. This applies, for example, to the Danish city of Esbjerg, which has built a power plant that generates hot water from the North Sea for 100,000 households. The state of Hamburg is planning something similar with river heat from the river Elbe. Finally, large energy suppliers are constructing heat supply plants with capital-intensive deep drilling. Therefore, in a second step, appropriate solutions are now to be developed and planned for other groups of stakeholders, for example as part of feasibility studies. Target groups include especially smaller towns, municipal utilities, rural areas and last not least private initiatives and communities. The heat transition in rural areas presents specific challenges due to lower population density, heterogeneous building structures, and high investment costs. Older buildings with high heat demand and infrastructure deficits further complicate the transition. Financial hurdles and a shortage of skilled labor are additional obstacles for private households and municipalities. On the other hand, rural areas offer great potential for climate-friendly heat, such as the availability of biomass, wind energy, geothermal energy, or large-scale solar thermal systems. The utilization of waste heat and sector coupling are also particularly effective there.

6. Transnational relevance

The challenges described above apply to the entire Baltic Sea region. This is partly because coal for combustion in combined heat and power plants could be transported by ship at low cost to power-plants next the shore.

At the same time, however, the proximity to water also offers comparable potential for the ecologically sustainable utilisation of sea and river heat as resource for ecological District Heating. The transnational exchange of experience can also make a significant contribution to the application-oriented, local development of geothermal energy models (deep drilling for the utilisation of geothermal energy).

7. Specific aims to be addressed

Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives

The project aims to foster trust among partners by engaging them in collaborative activities focused on sustainable energy solutions, particularly renewable heating technologies. Through joint workshops, knowledge exchange sessions, site visits, and pilot initiatives, participants will not only share expertise but also develop a deeper understanding of each other's approaches, priorities, and challenges. This hands-on collaboration creates a space for open dialogue, transparency, and mutual learning — essential ingredients for building long-term trust. As trust grows, it paves the way for future joint initiatives, policy alignment, and cross-border investment in energy efficiency and sustainability.



Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR
N/A

Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens

The programme aims to actively involve private initiatives and community groups in project implementation across all partner regions. This includes, for example, residents of specific neighbourhoods, who will be informed and advised about the opportunities for heating their homes using renewable energy sources and district heating systems.

To support this, concrete models will be developed and tested through feasibility studies, which will consider technical, legal, and economic factors, as well as successful practices from other countries.

Allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges

N/A

8. Target groups

Various types of partners are to be involved in the project:

- Cities and Regions as public administrations
- Energy suppliers (especially public or co-operative ones)
- Engineering planning and consulting offices
- Private residents' and initiative groups (NGOs)
- Housing-companies

The partners should be involved in the management of the individual work packages, i.e. they should be coordinated by different partners.

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.
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1. Infrastructure and public service provider	A legal representative who can propose changes and works in direct contact with local residents. Municipal services and agencies that provide services to local residents.	Latvia, Finland, Germany, Sweden
2. NGO	Homeowners' associations, which can propose changes, provide information to residents.	Latvia, Finland, Germany, Sweden
3. Small and medium enterprise	A home manager who works closely with the utility company and local government, initiating suggestions to improve home conditions.	Latvia, Finland, Germany, Sweden
4. Local public authority	A legal representative who can propose changes and works in direct contact with residents, addressing financial and technical solutions.	Latvia, Finland, Germany, Sweden

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 Energy



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

Priority should be given to smaller cities and partners that are interested in the topic, i.e. have experience that can be expanded and have not yet participated in transnational EU projects with their specific requirements.

With the aim of transfer, organisations located outside the metropolitan centres or capital and university cities should therefore also be addressed.

They should complement each other, i.e. contribute their respective perspectives and experiences to the project and thus to the transnational transfer.

11. Workplan

Against the background of existing experience, the objectives of the project and the framework conditions of the programme, the following work packages appear to make sense:

- Project management (Lead: Saldus Municipality, Latvia)
- Description and analysis of the local and regional structures and challenges of the partners (Lead: Energy-Alliance, County of Rostock., Germany) Output: Report, including recommendations for action
- Planning, implementation and monitoring of the partners' pilot projects (Lead: N.N.) Output: Report
- Dissemination and transfer, output: public and internal transnational meetings of the partners, newsletter, regional meetings of the individual partners - online and in person (Lead: N.N.)
- Monitoring and internal evaluation, output: internal reports on work steps and goals achieved (Lead: IC 2, Hamburg-Germany)

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 XXX
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	How do you view the current partnership? Are there any types of organisations or bodies you believe are missing from the partnership? Do you recommend feasibility studies as suitable pilot projects? Would you suggest other types of pilot activities? The Lead Partner and other partners represent small cities and organisations, as requested. This may affect dissemination and transferability. What are your suggestions for addressing this challenge?
Questions related to budgeting and expenditure	N/A
Any other questions	May you as MA/JS support the clarification of the potential partners eligibility?

15. Additional information

The partnership is not complete. For example we are still looking for a Polish partner. Some partners may change. The criteria of the eligibility are not always easy to handle.

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>