



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 Water is Life - Water is the Future - the Future is Youth

Short name of the project WaterNet

Previous calls yes ☐ no ☒

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) Gmina Miasto Elbląg

Name of the organisation (English) City Commune of Elbląg

Website <https://elblag.eu/>

Country PL



Type of Partner	Local public authority
	municipality, 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.

1. City Commune of Vordingborg

5.1 Specific challenge to be addressed

In each port handling bulk cargo (e.g. fertilizers, coal), there is a high probability of these materials moving into the seawater, especially during loading and unloading goods. As a result of biogenic elements getting into the water (nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus), the port waters become overfertilized. As a result, this process – eutrophication of waters – leads to intensive growth of algae and cyanobacteria, which reduces the oxygen content and causes the extinction of animal organisms. This situation concerns all project partners – port cities of the Baltic Sea Region: Elbląg, Klaipėda and Vordingborg. The problem of water pollution and eutrophication is a global problem, affecting not only the regional ecosystem, but also the ecosystem of the entire BSR and, more broadly, the world. The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – also known as the "HELCOM" – is responsible for protecting the marine environment of the Baltic Sea. Its main objective is to monitor the state of the environment. HELCOM is made up of 10 parties: Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Sweden. According to the latest Helcom Report covering the years 2016-2021, eutrophication is still a serious problem in the Baltic Sea, with at least 93.8% of the region falling below the good environmental level in terms of eutrophication, including all open marine areas and 82.8% of coastal waters. Nitrogen and phosphorus reach the Baltic Sea via

three main pathways. They can be transported by rivers (river inflow), deposited from the air (air inflow) and discharged directly into the Baltic Sea from various industrial and municipal wastewater treatment plants located on the coast.

The main challenge that needs to be addressed is to make different social groups, especially young people aware of the important role that water plays in our life. It is necessary to show how important it is the connection people with water and the respect for water. Water is the foundation of life, necessary for human functioning. In order to fully enjoy water benefits, it is necessary to prevent its pollution and take care of the environment. The project aims to conduct research on the water of the Baltic Sea and to provide knowledge on how climate change, caused by water pollution, among other things, affects the resilience of society. The society should be aware of the threats posed by the lack of care for the ecosystem.

5.2 Focus of the call

The main focus of the project is to raise awareness of the threats posed by climate change resulting from human activity and what is the responsibility of local communities. It is extremely important to understand the sea waters impact on people and vice versa – the impact of people on sea waters. The project should focus on the huge role of water in our life, as well as on sensitizing young people to what is happening in nature, how human activity affects the environment. Through workshops, scientific research, meetings with scientists, we want to arouse curiosity in young people, make them aware of threats, build a sense of responsibility for the ecosystem, for water and encourage them to act, to share knowledge with peers and others. We want to show what water problems port cities struggle with and how port activity affects water quality. Additionally, through workshops and lectures, the project will contribute to increase the scope of knowledge among young people about the impact of not only human activity within the port, but also the proximity of agricultural fields on water quality. In the nearest neighbourhood of port cities there are villages and small towns, in which residents will gain knowledge about the threats related to climate change, its impact on water quality and further on life in close neighbourhood of waters, as well as knowledge about ways to protect sea waters.

6. Transnational relevance

Transnational cooperation is very important because it allows for a broader perspective on the problem of polluted waters. The transnational nature of the project allows for the expansion of its scope, which ensures a greater impact on society and enables the broader achievement of the assumed goals. Joint actions of cities from the Baltic countries are intended to contribute to solving problems on a broader scale and generate greater benefits. Within the Partnership, the cooperation is possible in order to achieve a common goal. The transnational cooperation will enable young people from Poland, Lithuania and Denmark to see the scale of the problem, exchange experiences, knowledge and best practices, including the possibility of using innovative technologies for cleaning Baltic waters. Additionally, it will allow to increase the visibility of the problem and achieve more comprehensive effect. The city of Elbląg has signed letters of intent with Vordingborg (Denmark) and Klaipėda (Lithuania) on cooperation between port cities. The main assumptions of the cooperation are primarily joint actions to increase the competitiveness of ports, strengthen their position in the Baltic Sea Region, acquire new cargo, exchange technological solutions, launch regular shipping connections.



The previously established cooperation between port cities is also to be based on joint activities and exchange of experiences, among others, in the implementation of European projects related to the maritime economy and economic, cultural and tourist promotion. Combining the strengths of partners can lead to a synergy effect, in which joint action will result in a better result than individual action of each partner. It will have a positive impact on mutual support of ecological activities. Joint implementation of the project will contribute to build a lasting network of cooperation between local government and schools/universities/research institutions.

7. Specific aims to be addressed

Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives

The role of trust in cooperation is crucial. It increases creativity, efficiency and allows to achieve great results. Trust in an international environment is even more important because people of different cultures, traditions and customs meet. We learn from each other working in an international environment. By gaining knowledge and experience from other people, we express that we take their opinion into account. Such action results in building trust, which will certainly pay off in further cooperation in subsequent projects.

Thanks to the implementation of the project, there will be a direct exchange of data in the field of non-formal learning (peer-to-peer) between project partners, research and scientific institutions and schools, as well as young people and further residents of the cities involved in the project.

Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR

Thanks to the implementation of the project a network important for the Baltic Sea Region will be initiated and then maintained. During the project, workshops combined with research and meetings of participants of all cities that are partners in the project will be organized. The effect will be the establishment of relationships, the development of common goals, which will allow for the creation of a cooperation network. The result of the project will be the development of a non-formal learning programme for young people. After the project is completed, the programme will be introduced to schools in the cities – project partners as an element of learning. The programme, which will be the result of a project based on cooperation, aims to translate theory into practice and develop a partnership network, thanks to what young people will gain knowledge in the field of water ecology. The lasting effect of the project will be created inspiration space and knowledge zone.

Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens

The project will also involve the surrounding villages and small towns located in the nearest Elbląg neighbourhood, especially those located directly by the port and the Elbląg River. As part of the recruitment process, young people from secondary schools in Elbląg living in villages and small towns such as Nowakowo, Batorowo, Rubno and Bielnik will be encouraged to participate in the project. Also in Klaipėda, the programme will be addressed to residents of small towns and villages located on the Curonian Bay. The third city taking part in the project is Vordingborg, a town with a population of just over 9,000.

The project is mainly aimed at young people who, thanks to acquiring both theoretical and practical knowledge regarding water pollution and pro-ecological activities, preventing activities unfavourable to nature, not only in immediate surroundings, but globally, will be able to pass on the information obtained to other residents of their small communities.

Allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges

The active project participation will contribute to increase the ecological awareness of young people. Gained knowledge will be transferred among local communities, which will enable a quick response to unpredictable challenges. The project will provide knowledge, indicate ways to prevent pollution and suggest how to respond to the challenges related to climate change. Created materials will serve as a set of guidelines and will be the basis for creating a non-formal learning programme. The long-term effect will be the involvement of public and educational institutions of partner cities, which will conduct educational activities in the field of further research of the Baltic waters condition. Target groups (young people and local communities of partner cities and nearby villages/small towns) will always be able to reach for the collected and written information in order to gain new knowledge or supplement it. Such a product will help raise awareness and educate future generations.

8. Target groups

Project target groups:

- 1.local public authority
- 2.schools
- 3.higher education and research institutions
- 4.interest group: youth and residents from partner project cities and residents of villages and small towns located in the neighbourhood of ports/port cities involved in the project.

The youth from secondary schools, living in villages and small towns port-located, will participate in workshops that will be held twice a year in Elblag. Classes in the laboratories of the Elblag Technology Park – water sampling and testing in laboratories and lectures on ecology will take place in spring and autumn, in order to compare the results. A total of 30 students are expected to participate, 10 students from each partner city. Students from grades 2 and 3 of secondary schools with a biology and chemistry profile from each of the project partners will be recruited. The same groups of young people will take part in scientific workshops in Klaipeda, which aim to present research results and their interpretation under the supervision of specialists/scientists from the Klaipeda University.

Residents are also a target group that, thanks to the substantive and practical knowledge gained by the youth, will also learn about port waters and their pollution. This target group will be able to take an active participation in activities protecting the ecosystem.

The mentioned target groups are an inseparable element of the port ecosystem, therefore their selection is justified and will bring the best results of the project implementation.

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	Representatives of the cities being partners of the project and its port authorities, responsible for the projects outcomes	Poland, Lithuania, Denmark

2. Education/training centre and school	Schools from each cities taking part in the project, using the informal educational programme in the future	Poland, Lithuania, Denmark
3. Higher education and research institution	Elbląg Technology Park, Klaipeda University, responsible for research and development of the informal educational programme	Poland, Lithuania
4. Interest group	youth engaged in the project; other youth taking part in the informal education programme; inhabitants of the cities taking part in the project and inhabitants of villages located nearby port cities	Poland, Lithuania, Denmark

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

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



Lead Partner - City Commune of Elbląg / Poland
Project Partner - City Commune of Klaipėda / Lithuania
Project Partner - City Commune of Vordingborg / Denmark
Port authorities of the project partner cities: Elbląg Sea Port Authority, Vordingborg Port Authority
Klaipėda State Seaport Authority
Higher education and research institutions involved in project's implementation: Elbląg Technology Park / Poland, Klaipėda University / Lithuania
Schools from each 3 cities (Elbląg / Poland, Klaipėda / Lithuania, Vordingborg / Denmark) involved in project's implementation

11. Workplan

WORKPLAN:

1. Working meeting of partners on project activities
2. The arrival of youth from partner cities in Elbląg
3. Lectures and meetings with scientists
4. Outdoor activities
5. Workshops in the Elbląg Technology Park
6. Study visit for youth from Lake Drużno to the Shipping Canal through the Vistula Spit
7. Departure of youth from partner cities to Klaipėda in order to discuss the results of the first studies.
8. Educational lectures at the Maritime Museum in Klaipėda.
9. Beginning of scientific work concerning educational programme based on research results – specialist/scientist from the University of Klaipėda
10. The arrival of youth from partner cities in Elbląg
11. Outdoor activities
12. Workshops in the Elbląg Technology Park
13. Creating and equipping the educational room "Inspiration space and knowledge zone".
14. Conference - summary and presentation of project results.

The project will include 2 blocks of workshops covering water sampling and testing in laboratory conditions at Elbląg Technology Park, which are supposed to show water pollution in different seasons of the year, depending on the temperature and intensity of use of port waters. There are planned lectures of ecology, which together with research results will be the basis for creating a non-formal learning programme. After project's completed, the programme will be introduced to schools in cities participating in the project and increase the ecological awareness of residents from Baltic cities. One of the elements of non-formal learning is partnership relations and role variability, which will allow workshop participants to take on the role of a teacher and pass on their knowledge to other residents of villages and small towns. Such activities will bring them closer to the topic of water pollution, ecology and ways of fighting for our ecosystem.

Based on the conducted research, workshops and lectures, as well as the created non-formal learning programme, an inspiration space and knowledge zone will be created. The location of the educational room with information and educational boards and other necessary equipment is planned in Elbląg. It will be a place where young people will be able to obtain information about the port and its maritime activities, about biodiversity, water pollution and substances increasing eutrophication, the impact of climate change and changes in water on life and finally about the sustainable use of water resources. The final effect of the project will be the impact on reducing the water footprint - increasing awareness



of the need to use less water.

Increasing knowledge about the marine environment through activities in 5 thematic areas:

- 1.maritime activities, port operations
- 2.biodiversity, biosphere – lectures at the Maritime Museum in Klaipeda
- 3.hazardous substances and marine litter (e.g.nitrogen compounds,sulfur compounds,phosphates, pesticides)
- 4.climate change and the impact of human activity on water quality
- 5.sustainable use of water resources.

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

Questions related to
budgeting and expenditure

Any other questions

15. Additional information



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>