



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	BESS-COMM – Citizen Energy & Community Battery
Short name of the project	BESS-COMM
Previous calls	yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/>
Short name of the previous project	Energy Circle
Seed money support	yes <input type="radio"/> no <input checked="" type="radio"/>

2. Programme priority

3. Climate-neutral societies

3. Programme objective

3.2. Energy transition

4. Potential lead applicant

Name of the organisation (original)	Tønder Erhvervsråd
Name of the organisation (English)	Tønder Business Council
Website	https://tondererhvervsraad.dk/



Country	DK
Type of Partner	Business support organisation
	chamber of commerce, chamber of trade and crafts, business incubator or innovation centre, business clusters, etc.
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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.

Tønder Erhvervsråd(BSO), Business Fredericia (BSO), Connect 44(SME), Digitaleus(SME), TARTU REGIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (Sectoral Agency)

5.1 Specific challenge to be addressed

In response to the energy supply crisis amplified by geopolitical instability, the European Commission launched REPowerEU in 2022, emphasizing the need for improved local energy production and autonomy. Directive (EU) 2019/944 further encourages decentralised energy systems and the establishment of citizen energy communities, allowing citizens and local businesses to produce, store, and consume electricity.

However, local energy systems across the Baltic Sea Region often lack infrastructure and organisational models for energy storage and participation. This limits grid stability, causes renewable energy loss, and hinders local energy security and resilience.

5.2 Focus of the call



The project aims to engage local communities in producing, storing, and distributing renewable energy through a scalable, container-based Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) connected to solar PV and wind turbines. The project also addresses the organisational side by exploring models for energy communities, including ownership, governance and financing. Through advanced algorithms and smart energy management, the project seeks to optimize the balance between production, storage, and consumption at a local level.

6. Transnational relevance

Transnational Relevance The transition to decentralized energy systems and increased local energy autonomy is a shared ambition across the Baltic Sea Region, particularly in light of energy security concerns, climate neutrality goals, and the implementation of EU directives such as (EU) 2019/944. While many countries in the region have initiated efforts to enable citizen participation and local energy production, structural, legal, and technological barriers remain diverse and fragmented. BESS-COMM addresses a common challenge by developing and testing scalable solutions for community-based energy storage that can be adapted across different national contexts. The project brings together partners from urban and rural areas in Denmark, Germany, Poland, Sweden, and the Baltic States to jointly explore: Shared approaches to legal and financial frameworks for citizen energy communities; Cross-border testing and comparison of small-scale battery storage systems; Knowledge transfer and peer learning on governance models, cooperative structures, and smart energy management; Regional policy recommendations that support harmonised development of local energy storage and participation mechanisms. By leveraging the diversity of the Baltic Sea Region, BESS-COMM aims to create a transferable “Community Battery Model” that can support the green energy transition across borders and contribute to regional energy resilience, innovation, and cohesion.

7. Specific aims to be addressed

Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives

BESS-COMM fosters trust by engaging citizens, local authorities, SMEs, and energy experts in co-creating tangible energy solutions. Through open dialogue, shared pilot activities, and transparent governance models, the project builds mutual understanding across sectors and borders. Trust is further strengthened by practical collaboration on real-life challenges such as energy costs, resilience, and community ownership. The project creates a foundation for future joint actions—whether scaling up community battery solutions, influencing policy, or developing new cross-border initiatives focused on energy transition, digitalisation, or rural development. Lasting partnerships and networks will be supported through transnational exchange and joint learning processes.

Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR

BESS-COMM will establish and strengthen transnational networks focused on citizen-driven energy systems, involving municipalities, BSOs, SMEs, energy agencies, and civil society actors across the Baltic Sea Region. These networks will serve as platforms for continuous knowledge exchange, joint policy dialogue, and replication of successful models. By connecting local pilot sites and actors with similar ambitions, the project lays the groundwork for long-term cooperation on energy resilience, digitalisation, and sustainable community development. The networks formed during the project will



be maintained beyond its lifetime through shared tools, communication channels, and follow-up

Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens

BESS-COMM places citizens at the heart of the green energy transition by enabling local ownership, participation, and awareness around energy production and storage. Through pilot projects and working groups, the project will directly involve residents, local associations, and SMEs in the co-design and operation of community battery systems. The project contributes to making the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme more tangible by: Demonstrating how EU cooperation delivers real-life benefits to local communities in both rural and urban areas; Promoting citizen empowerment through shared ownership models and transparent governance structures; Offering educational activities and community events to raise awareness about smart energy use and the potential of local energy systems; Strengthening trust in cross-border collaboration by showing how shared challenges in energy security and climate action can be addressed together. By fostering visible, local impacts and direct citizen engagement

Allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges

The project responds directly to the urgent need for local energy resilience in light of volatile energy markets, geopolitical instability, and climate-related disruptions. By developing flexible, small-scale battery systems and citizen-driven energy models, BESS-COMM offers communities tools to react quickly to supply shocks, grid overloads, and rising energy costs.

8. Target groups

The project targets a broad range of stakeholders relevant to the transition towards decentralized and citizen-driven energy systems: Municipalities and local public authorities, particularly those responsible for climate, energy, and infrastructure planning, who can act as enablers and adopters of community battery models. Citizen energy communities and cooperatives, including both established initiatives and emerging groups interested in renewable energy self-sufficiency and shared ownership. Local SMEs and energy technology providers, especially companies involved in battery systems, solar/wind integration, and smart grid solutions. Energy agencies and public utilities, with a role in facilitating technical integration and regional energy planning. Policy makers and regulatory bodies, at both national and EU levels, who influence the legal and financial conditions for community energy systems. Academic and research institutions, contributing with expertise on energy systems, algorithm development, and governance models. Civic society organisations, working with sustainability, rural development, and citizen engagement. These groups will be engaged through pilot activities, working groups, capacity building, and policy dialogue to ensure practical uptake, legitimacy, and long-term impact of the project 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. Business support organisation	Support local SMEs and entrepreneurs in green transition, innovation, and regional development through advisory services, networking, and project facilitation	participating countries
2. Interest group	Represent citizens, consumers, or specific community interests in areas such as renewable energy, sustainability, rural development, and social innovation, promoting inclusive participation	(max. 200 characters incl. spaces)

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 ☒

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 partnership brings together a complementary mix of business support organisations (BSOs), small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and a sectoral energy agency, ensuring both strategic outreach and technical depth: Tønder Business Council (Denmark) – Lead partner and regional business support organisation (BSO) with strong ties to local enterprises, municipalities, and innovation networks. Business Fredericia (Denmark) – BSO with expertise in green transition and local energy strategies, supporting SME engagement and cross-sector collaboration. Connect 44 (Denmark) – SME specialised in IT and infrastructure services, contributing to the digital integration of energy storage and monitoring systems. Digitaleus (Estonia) – SME focusing on smart energy management solutions and algorithm development for local grid optimisation. Tartu Regional Energy Agency (Estonia) – Sectoral



agency with experience in regional energy planning, citizen energy initiatives, and policy dialogue in the Baltic Sea Region. Together, the consortium combines local anchoring with transnational innovation capacity, bridging policy, technology, and community engagement across diverse settings.

11. Workplan

Work Plan (Summary)
 Phase 1: Project Preparation & Technical Scoping (Months 1–4)
 Kick-off meeting and partner coordination
 Technical scoping of BESS units, solar/wind integration, and smart control systems
 Mapping of regulatory and legal conditions across partner countries
 Phase 2: Local Pilots & Framework Development (Months 5–12)
 Selection and setup of pilot sites in partner regions
 Deployment of small-scale BESS prototypes
 Establishment of local working groups and citizen engagement activities
 Drafting of community ownership/governance frameworks (e.g. cooperatives, andelsmodeller)
 Phase 3: Testing, Monitoring & Policy Dialogue (Months 13–20)
 Operation and testing of BESS units and control algorithms
 Digital monitoring and performance analysis
 Transnational exchange of pilot experiences
 Start of policy dialogue and stakeholder workshops
 Phase 4: Finalisation & Replication (Months 21–24)
 Refinement of community battery model based on pilot results
 Publication of policy recommendations and replication guide
 Final conference and dissemination to Baltic Sea Region stakeholders
 Project reporting and closure

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
(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

BESS-COMM is rooted in the belief that the green transition must be both technologically smart and socially inclusive. By combining battery energy storage, digital control systems, and participatory ownership models, the project bridges innovation with citizen empowerment. The partnership represents a strong mix of regions, business organisations, SMEs, and energy experts, ensuring practical results and broad transferability across the Baltic Sea Region. The project builds on existing initiatives in local energy and climate planning, and aims to contribute directly to EU priorities under REPowerEU, the European Green Deal, and the revised Renewable Energy Directive.

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>

