

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	Establishing a Collaborative Platform for Grey Dunes Restoration Planning and Practical Solutions in the South Baltic Sea Region
Short name of the project	Dune3 (LV,LT,PL)
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

3. Climate-neutral societies

3. Programme objective

3.1. Circular economy

4. Potential lead applicant

Name of the organisation (original)	CCB (Coalition of Clean Baltic)
Name of the organisation (English)	CCB (Coalition of Clean Baltic)
Website	https://www.ccb.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.

The Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) is a regional network of NGOs working to protect the Baltic Sea and promote sustainable development. The Green Movement in Latvia is experienced in coastal management, grey dune restoration, and community engagement. The Polish "Nierusz Natura" Foundation focuses on climate adaptation, urban planning, and citizen science. The Lithuanian Fund for Nature protects endangered species, restores habitats, and promotes environmental education.

5.1 Specific challenge to be addressed

Coastal regions of the southeastern Baltic, such as the Curonian Spit (Lithuania), Pomeranian Voivodeship (Poland), and Kurzeme (Latvia) are increasingly threatened by coastal erosion and climate-driven changes. These soft, sedimentary coasts are highly vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surges, and human activities, resulting in the loss of protective dune systems, damaged infrastructure, and threatened ecosystems. A pressing environmental challenge is the degradation of grey dunes, protected under the EU Habitats Directive as priority habitats. Grey dunes act as natural buffers, shielding inland areas from wind erosion and storm surges while supporting biodiversity. Key issues include: (1) loss of dune vegetation from unmanaged tourism, trampling, and invasive species; (2) encroachment by pines and other trees, altering fragile dune ecosystems; (3) limited public awareness of the ecological value of grey dunes; (4) insufficient cooperation among local communities, authorities, tourism actors, and environmental experts; (5) lack of resources and long-term restoration planning; and (6) climate change impacts that accelerate erosion and habitat fragmentation. While isolated restoration activities have occurred, they often lack a unified regional approach. In Latvia, pilot projects and NGO efforts have raised awareness but haven't driven lasting change. Lithuania has seen some progress through EU-funded projects, but stakeholder engagement and capacity-building

remain limited. Poland's LIFE project has made strides, yet cross-border knowledge exchange is still lacking. The main challenge is fragmented knowledge and the absence of coordinated, cross-border strategies and experience-sharing. There's also limited understanding of the problems and their impact on coastal communities. This project will strengthen cross-border collaboration among diverse stakeholders to restore and protect grey dunes. It directly supports the Programme's objective of implementing water-smart and climate-neutral solutions by: -Piloting ecosystem-based coastal adaptation approaches like grey dune restoration and nature-based buffers; -Building a transnational network to share knowledge, engage communities, and influence coastal governance; -Creating scalable models that can be replicated across the Baltic region.

5.2 Focus of the call

The proposed project in Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland directly supports the cohesive development of small coastal and rural areas facing social and economic challenges. By addressing environmental degradation, fostering community engagement, and promoting sustainable economic opportunities, it strengthens the social and economic fabric of these areas. Coastal communities often face economic struggles like outmigration and seasonal tourism dependency. The informational campaign will raise awareness about grey dunes' ecological and economic value, encouraging sustainable practices. Networking activities will engage tourism operators and small businesses, promoting eco-tourism and year-round economic opportunities. Social cohesion will be boosted by involving residents in citizen science monitoring and restoration activities, giving them skills and a sense of ownership. Cross-border networking will enhance cooperation among local authorities, NGOs, and protected area managers. By aligning policies and sharing best practices, the project will build regional solidarity and help small and rural communities address climate change and tourism pressures. Through grey dune restoration, the project delivers long-term environmental, social, and economic benefits for a resilient Baltic Sea region.

6. Transnational relevance

Transnational cooperation is essential to address coastal protection challenges in the Baltic Sea region because climate change impacts, such as erosion, flooding, and biodiversity loss, transcend national borders.

Grey dunes, critical for biodiversity and coastal protection, face common threats across borders, including climate-driven erosion, sea level rise, and unsustainable tourism. These challenges transcend national boundaries, as coastal ecosystems and sediment dynamics are interconnected along the Baltic Sea. The project's activities - informational campaign, restoration activities, networking, and citizen science monitoring, benefit significantly from a collaborative approach to achieve effective, cohesive outcomes. Transnational cooperation is essential to leverage shared expertise, align strategies, and maximize the impact of restoration activities.

By cooperating across borders, countries can share successful strategies, avoid repeating costly mistakes, and develop more coherent, effective, and sustainable responses. Lithuania, for instance, has strong legal frameworks for coastal management, while Poland has lessons to offer in ecosystem restoration despite past reliance on technical infrastructure. Latvia's vibrant grassroots actions, like dune protection by the Latvian Green Movement, demonstrate the value of bottom-up engagement even in the absence of a national programme.

Through collaboration, these diverse strengths can be combined, institutional gaps filled, and limited resources used more efficiently. NGOs, especially within transnational platforms like Coalition Clean Baltic, play a key role by connecting stakeholders, promoting shared learning, and ensuring that coastal protection reflects local needs while supporting a broader regional vision.

7. Specific aims to be addressed

Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives

The project aims to build trust and foster collaboration among stakeholders in Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland by actively involving local communities, authorities, NGOs, researchers, educators, protected area managers in grey dune restoration and cross-border networking.

Through joint activities such as habitat restoration, stakeholder meetings, field visits, training sessions, and citizen science monitoring, participants will develop a shared understanding of the importance of coordinated coastal protection efforts.

By strengthening this foundation and creating a transnational network of various stakeholders, the project will pave the way for future cross-border initiatives, including joint conservation efforts and eco-tourism ventures, thereby enhancing regional cooperation across the South Baltic region.

Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR

The project establishes and sustains networks critical for the Baltic Sea Region by connecting local authorities, NGOs, research and educational institutions, administrations of nature-protected areas through networking activities. These meetings facilitate knowledge exchange, data sharing on dune restoration techniques and sustainable tourism practices, addressing shared challenges like coastal erosion and climate change. Regular workshops and cross-border meetings foster continuous collaboration and help harmonize policies and strategies across Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland.

Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens

The project engages citizens directly through informational campaigns and citizen science monitoring, making the Programme accessible and relevant. Campaigns, including workshops and public events, will educate residents in small coastal and rural areas (Poland in Pomeranian Voivodeship, Lithuania in Neringa Town Municipality, Latvia in Jūrmala Town, Municipality of Talsi Region and Municipality of Tukums Region) about grey dunes' ecological and economic value, fostering a sense of ownership. Citizen science initiatives will involve local residents in monitoring dune health and biodiversity, empowering them with skills and knowledge. These activities bridge the gap between the Programme and citizens, encouraging active participation and ensuring that project outcomes, like restored dunes, directly benefit local communities.

Allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges

The project enables rapid responses to urgent challenges, such as intensified coastal erosion or storm impacts, through its adaptive framework. Restoration activities, supported by real-time data from citizen science monitoring, allow stakeholders to identify and address emerging threats to grey dunes promptly. Networking ensures quick coordination among various stakeholders across borders, facilitating resource sharing and joint action. Informational campaigns keep communities informed and prepared, enabling swift adoption of protective measures. This agility strengthens the resilience of South Baltic communities against unpredictable environmental and socioeconomic challenges.

8. Target groups

The project's target groups are: (1) local communities and residents; (2) local authorities and municipalities; (3) environmental NGOs and volunteers; (4) educational and research institutions; and (5) managers of nature-protected areas.

These groups face risks from grey dune degradation, which affects safety, livelihoods, and local economies. Their local knowledge, authority, expertise, and economic influence can contribute to restoration, monitoring, and awareness-raising. Active involvement ensures that project outputs, like restored dunes and monitoring data, directly benefit them and support coastal resilience and biodiversity in the South Baltic.

Local communities face erosion and flooding risks, combined with economic challenges and limited awareness of dune ecosystems. Engaging them in restoration and citizen science monitoring builds skills, ownership, and social cohesion.

Local authorities, despite limited resources, have the power to integrate restoration into planning and foster cross-border cooperation. They will use project outputs, restoration plans and monitoring data to strengthen governance and resilience.

Environmental NGOs and volunteers lead advocacy and community conservation. As project partners, they will coordinate engagement, awareness campaigns, and restoration efforts, enhancing regional conservation.

Educational and research institutions bring scientific and teaching expertise. They will support citizen science, provide summer school training, and integrate dune topics into curricula. Schoolchildren will join volunteer campaigns, learning about coastal ecosystems, dune biodiversity, microplastics, and coastal species with the Coastwatch method.

Protected area managers oversee grey dunes under the EU Habitats Directive but face challenges like limited resources and staff. The project will boost their capacity, share management practices, and connect conservation with community and economic goals.

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. Interest group	Communities and residents engage in community-based initiatives that enhance local well-being and economic prosperity and support living environments.	In Lithuania (Neringa Town Municipality), Latvia (Tukums and Talsi regions, Jūrmala town), and Poland (Pomeranian Voivodeship).

2. Infrastructure and public service provider	Public administration and local government; planning and implementing regulations to support sustainable development, environmental protection, and community welfare in their regions.	Administration of Neringa Town Municipality (Lithuania); Administration of Tukums Municipality (Latvia); Administration of Talsi Municipality (Latvia). Jūrmala town
3. NGO	Non-profit sector: promoting environmental protection, raising awareness, and implementing grassroots initiatives for biodiversity preservation and sustainable resource use.	CCB, LaGM, Nierush Natura, Lithuanian Fund for Nature and other environmental organizations and volunteers in Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland.
4. Higher education and research institution	Education and research & development (R&D); knowledge dissemination, environmental education, and conducting research to support innovative solutions for sustainability and conservation.	Lithuania Klaipėda University; Poland University of Gdansk Latvia Latvian University
5. Infrastructure and public service provider	Protected area management: maintenance, protection, and sustainable management of natural reserves, parks, and biodiversity hotspots to ensure ecological balance.	Administration of Kuršių Nerija/ Curonian Spit National Park (AKNN) in Lithuania; Słowiński National Park in Poland; Nature Protection Agency in Latvia.

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 Spatial Planning

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 consists of four primary partners from Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland, each bringing complementary expertise and regional perspective.

The Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), based in Sweden, serves as the lead applicant and coordinator. CCB is a well-established regional NGO advocating for the protection of the Baltic Sea and supporting civil society engagement in environmental governance. It is responsible for overall project management, coordination, and ensuring the delivery of objectives.

The Latvian Green Movement (Latvia) is an experienced environmental organization with a strong focus on coastal management, grey dune restoration, and community-based environmental education. It will lead pilot restoration activities, awareness campaigns, and stakeholder engagement in Latvia. In addition, its experts will contribute to training and networking activities in Poland and Lithuania, sharing practical knowledge on dune restoration and collaboration with local communities.

The "Nerush Natura" Foundation (Poland) brings expertise in climate adaptation, sustainable land use, and citizen science. It will lead the implementation of national activities in Poland, engage with local communities, support awareness-raising efforts, and promote citizen science initiatives across the consortium.

The Lithuanian Fund for Nature (Lithuania) has a long-standing experience in biodiversity protection, ecological restoration, community engagement, and environmental education. The organization will coordinate the implementation of project activities in Lithuania, contribute to transnational knowledge exchange, and lead awareness-raising and networking efforts within the country.

Together, these partners represent a diverse range of geographical, institutional, and thematic backgrounds, enabling them to effectively address the project's transnational and multi-level goals. The consortium also benefits from established relationships with key target groups, who will be actively involved throughout all stages of project implementation.

11. Workplan

The grey dunes restoration project in Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland includes five main activities and outputs:

(1) An informational campaign featuring two documentary films, social media content, and podcasts to raise awareness about the grey dunes' ecological and economic value. Outputs will include multimedia materials tailored to diverse audiences for wide dissemination, with the goal of increased public awareness and local engagement.

(2) Educational activities such as two summer schools, "Youth Coastal Forum" and the "Baltic Climate School," three international training sessions, and two national discussion meetings and field visits in Lithuania and Latvia. These activities will promote knowledge exchange, train participants, and produce a best-practices brochure on coastal protection. Outcomes include a better understanding of coastal challenges and restoration strategies.

(3) Restoration efforts will cover research, planning, obtaining permits, and carrying out dune restoration in Latvia (25 ha, 1.2 % of total grey dunes) and Lithuania (16 ha, 2 %). Work will be done with communities, volunteers, businesses, and local administrations. Expected outcome: a network of partners trained in restoration techniques.

(4) Community involvement will center on coastal area monitoring and grey dune health using citizen science tools (including Coast Watch and Clean Games), plus gender-segregated data collection on vulnerable communities' challenges. Outputs: monitoring data and gender-sensitive reports. Outcomes: a public monitoring system and partnerships to integrate citizen data into policy and research, guiding future projects.

(5) Networking and partnership activities will include forums in Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia, encouraging collaboration among stakeholders and promoting joint advocacy campaigns on restoration. Special sessions will highlight the economic benefits of dune restoration and explore integrating them into ESG and sustainability strategies. A shared online database hosted by the CCB website will feature research articles, best practices, and policy documents for stakeholders. Target groups include local communities and residents, local authorities, environmental NGOs and volunteers, educational and research institutions, and managers of nature-protected areas. Tailored activities will ensure inclusive participation and engagement.

Final outcomes will include restoration plans, citizen science data, educational resources, and a stakeholder network. Local authorities will use these plans in land-use decisions and policies; researchers and educators will integrate the data into curricula and community outreach; and NGOs will use the tools and connections to replicate restoration efforts. The online database will support ongoing collaboration and knowledge-sharing, ensuring long-term conservation of grey dunes in the South Baltic region.

12. Planned budget

ERDF budget (planned expenditure of partners from the EU)	EUR 410,130.00
Norwegian budget (planned expenditure of partners from Norway)	EUR 0.00
Total budget (including preparatory costs)	EUR 410,130.00

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 We, as a non-governmental organization, receive funding from various sources, including the EU LIFE programme. Is it possible to use co-financing from these programmes for some of the project activities?

Any other questions *(max. 1.000 characters incl. spaces)*

15. Additional information

Risks in Implementation

Key risks include potential delays in obtaining approvals from local authorities, which may slow down restoration activities. There's also a risk of limited engagement among target groups, such as low participation in citizen science efforts or restoration activities. Inconsistent or low-quality citizen science data could undermine its value for future planning. Finally, unexpected weather events (e.g., storms or flooding) might damage restoration sites or postpone planned fieldwork. To manage these risks, the project will engage authorities early, offer robust volunteer training, use flexible outreach methods

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>