



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 Empowering Municipalities for Food Security and Crisis Resilience

Short name of the project FoodSecure BSR

Previous calls yes no

Seed money support yes no

2. Programme priority

1. Innovative societies

3. Programme objective

1.1. Resilient economies and communities

4. Potential lead applicant

Name of the organisation (original) Savonia-ammattikorkeakoulu

Name of the organisation (English) Savonia University of Applied Sciences

Website <https://www.savonia.fi/>

Country FI





Type of Partner	Higher education and research institution
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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.

- LITMEA Smart Food Cluster (LT)
- Klosser Innovasjon/NCE Heidner Biocluster (NO)
- City of Iisalmi (FI)

5.1 Specific challenge to be adressed

The security landscape in the Nordics and Baltic Sea region is increasingly strained by shifting geopolitical dynamics, climate change, and growing demands for natural resources. These challenges underscore the urgent need to enhance overall preparedness. In particular, the agrifood sector must ensure uninterrupted food production and distribution, even during crises such as cyberattacks, natural disasters, or supply chain disruptions. Farmers and food industry stakeholders must implement resilient systems to manage logistical challenges and uphold food safety standards. All actors within the sector must be ready, adaptable, and capable of swift transformation in response to emergencies.

This project unites partners from Lithuania, Finland, and Norway to bolster the resilience of local food systems through comprehensive risk assessments and shared crisis preparedness tools. The initiative focuses on securing local supply chains and protecting communities from the impacts of climate change, geopolitical instability, cyber threats, and market disruptions—emphasizing strong local governance and inter-municipal collaboration.

All three participating countries have made resilience a top priority. In Lithuania, municipalities are



actively engaged in civil protection planning, which includes strategies to ensure food supply during emergencies. This involves evaluating the capacity of local institutions and agencies to respond effectively to potential threats to food supply chains.

Norway is actively enhancing its civil preparedness and food security in response to escalating global threats, including geopolitical tensions, climate change, and supply chain vulnerabilities. In terms of food security, Norway is taking significant steps to reduce dependence on global markets, with efforts underway to increase agricultural self-sufficiency, protect arable land, and conduct comprehensive risk assessments of the national food supply chain.

In Finland, the government has identified comprehensive security as a key focus in its regional development goals. The North Savo region, in particular, has developed a strong foundation of expertise, research and development (RDI) activities, and businesses aimed at tackling issues related to comprehensive security and supply chain resilience. Savonia UAS is leading a project called Centre of Excellence for Comprehensive Security. The aim is to bring together security and resilience knowledge from different organisations.

5.2 Focus of the call

This project on securing the food value chain at the municipal level will strengthen disaster management by improving local capacity to prepare for and respond to crises such as flooding, storms, and other climate-related events, as well as other types of crises, including cyber threats or geopolitical crises. It will support municipalities in identifying vulnerabilities within their food systems and implementing targeted preparedness measures to minimize disruptions. By facilitating cross-border knowledge-sharing and practical cooperation, the project will promote integrated risk management approaches that address multiple hazards simultaneously. At the same time, the project will contribute to enhancing the liveability and resilience of communities by encouraging sustainable, locally based food production and supply models.

6. Transnational relevance

Transnational cooperation is essential to address the challenge of securing the food value chain because the risks affecting food systems - such as climate change, geopolitical instability, and supply chain disruptions - are cross-border in nature and require coordinated responses. By working together, municipalities and organizations from different countries can share knowledge, pool resources, and develop harmonized strategies that are more effective than isolated efforts. This collaboration also fosters innovation and mutual learning, helping regions adopt best practices and build resilience more efficiently. Moreover, ensuring food security and crisis preparedness across national borders strengthens regional stability and benefits all participating countries.

The collaboration between Finnish, Norwegian, and Lithuanian partners creates strong synergies, enabling Finnish and Norwegian municipalities to exchange and adopt good practices from one another. Lithuanian municipalities, having only recently begun working on this topic, benefit greatly from the experience and expertise of their Nordic counterparts. It supports the development of high-quality strategies, risk assessments, and action plans in Lithuania. In turn, the collective efforts of all



partners aim to produce outcomes that contribute to a more cohesive and holistic approach to food system resilience across the entire Baltic Sea Region.

7. Specific aims to be addressed

Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives

This project marks the first collaborative experience for all participating partners. Given the shared interests and the critical relevance of this topic to both the project members and external stakeholders, the partnership aims to scale up and further develop efforts to strengthen the resilience of the agrifood value chain. Participating municipalities will engage in peer learning, exchanging knowledge and best practices. Additionally, a number of associated municipalities will be invited to participate strategically in project activities. All project partners are committed to exploring opportunities for continued and more active cooperation with municipalities beyond the project's duration.

Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR

Involving associated partners and external stakeholders helps expand the network beyond the core partnership, ensuring broader impact and stronger regional integration. Ultimately, the project lays the groundwork for ongoing collaboration and joint initiatives that will continue to benefit the BSR well beyond the project's lifetime.

Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens

This project brings the programme closer to citizens by addressing issues that directly impact their daily lives—such as access to safe, reliable, and locally produced food during times of crisis. By working at the municipal level, the project involves local governments, businesses, and communities in practical solutions that enhance food security and disaster preparedness. Citizens benefit from improved services, stronger local food systems, and greater community resilience, which contributes to a higher quality of life. Public outreach, community engagement, and communication about the project's goals and results help raise awareness about the project and the benefits that the Programme can bring.

Allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges

This project enables a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges by building local capacities, strengthening coordination mechanisms, and establishing practical tools for crisis preparedness. By involving municipalities directly, the project ensures that decision-makers and local actors are equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to act quickly when disruptions, such as extreme weather events, cyberattacks, or supply chain breakdowns, occur.

8. Target groups

The project will actively involve a diverse range of target groups to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to food system resilience:

- Local governments and municipal planners will play a central role in developing and implementing preparedness strategies.
- Local and regional food producers and distributors will contribute practical insights and collaborate



on securing supply chains.

- Emergency preparedness agencies will help align food resilience measures with broader crisis response systems.
- Citizens, including vulnerable groups, will be engaged to ensure their needs are addressed.

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	Municipality participates as a project partner	Directly: City of Iisalmi (FI) Indirectly: associated municipalities participating in activities (FI, NO, LT)
2. Small and medium enterprise	Operating in agrifood sector	Food producers and distributors in FI, NO, LT
3. Higher education and research institution	Savonia University of Applied Sciences	Finland
4. Regional public authority	County participates as a project partner	Potential partner: Inland county (NO)
5. Interest group	Regional Farmer organisation	Indirectly: Regional farmer organisation (MTK North Savo, FI)

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 Secure

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 consists of 4 project partners: 1 research organization from Finland, 2 non-profit clusters from Norway and Lithuania, and 1 municipality from Finland. While most members of the consortium are newcomers to the Interreg BSR, the project is led by Savonia University of Applied Sciences, which brings prior experience in participating in and coordinating an Interreg BSR project. Savonia University of Applied Sciences (FI) serves as the lead partner and is responsible for overall project coordination and management. The university contributes strong expertise in applied research, regional development, and stakeholder engagement in the fields of food security and comprehensive security. They will also work closely with the City of Iisalmi, as well as other interested cities and municipalities and Agri-Food Cluster North Savo

LITMEA Smart Food Cluster (LT) brings together food industry stakeholders in Lithuania and has a growing network of over 120 members. The cluster focuses on developing functional and innovative food products, fosters partnerships between food industry stakeholders and educational institutions, works on nutrition, sustainability, food value chain security and resilience. LITMEA will lead the implementation of project activities in Lithuania, engage municipalities and relevant stakeholders, contribute expertise on the national context, and carry out communication and outreach efforts across the country.

Klosser Innovasjon/NCE Heidner Biocluster (NO) is one of Norway's leading innovation environments, working at the intersection of business, academia, and the public sector. In this project, Klosser will implement activities in Norway in close coordination with Inland County, contribute national expertise, and support outreach and stakeholder engagement in the Norwegian context.

City of Iisalmi (FI) will contribute with practical insights from the local governance level, especially in the field of comprehensive security and supply chain preparedness. The city brings experience on cooperation among municipalities and other stakeholders at Iisalmi is a host municipality for farm relief services in North Savo region as well as for Rural administration cooperation area.

11. Workplan

1. Risk mapping workshops: workshops in each participating municipality with key stakeholders - such as farmers, food distributors, emergency planners, and citizen representatives - to assess vulnerabilities in local food supply chains. These sessions will focus on common regional risks, including energy dependency, climate-related events, import reliance, and cyber threats.
2. Identification and exchange of good practices: identifying effective local food resilience strategies already in use across municipalities in Finland, Lithuania, and Norway - such as decentralized food storage, local producer networks, farm-to-school programs, digital contingency tools, etc. These practices will also be shared and explored through exchange visits in each participating country
3. Food value chain stakeholder engagement workshops: conduct discussions and workshops involving food value chain stakeholders - particularly food producers, distributors, and SMEs - to assess their preparedness and capacity to operate during crises. These sessions will provide insights into gaps and opportunities for improving resilience.
4. Developing resilience roadmaps: practical roadmaps for each participating municipality, outlining steps to increase self-sufficiency and enhance the resilience of their local food systems.
5. Designing BSR municipal food risk toolkit: a comprehensive toolkit including guidelines, policy





templates, and protocols for cross-border cooperation. Designed for use by municipalities and regions across the Baltic Sea Region, the toolkit will extend the impact of the project beyond the core partnership.

6. Transnational simulation exercise: conduct a tabletop simulation of a regional food supply disruption, involving a wide range of stakeholders and municipalities, including those outside the partnership. This exercise will serve to test and validate food risk toolkit, demonstrate the use of the toolkit in practice, and promote broader regional preparedness.

12. Planned budget

ERDF budget (planned expenditure of partners from the EU)	EUR 350,000.00
Norwegian budget (planned expenditure of partners from Norway)	EUR 150,000.00
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 *(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

(max. 1.000 characters incl. spaces)





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>

