Project idea form - small projects

Version 2.1

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

Project Idea Form

Date of submission 05/06/2025

1. Project idea identification

Project idea name	Ludwik Aniol Park: Water Retention, Biodiversity & Wellness for Resilient Small Towns
Short name of the project	Ludwik Anioł Park
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)	Miasto Lubań
Name of the organisation (English)	City of Luban
Website	https://luban.pl
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.

City of Luban, City of Prienai, Hallbar Utveckling Skane

5.1 Specific challenge to be adressed

Climate change is increasingly affecting small and medium-sized towns in the Baltic Sea Region through extreme weather phenomena – in particular, alternating heavy rainfall and droughts. Lubań, a town in southwestern Poland, is already experiencing both flash floods and prolonged dry periods, which put growing pressure on urban infrastructure, groundwater levels and the quality of life in public spaces. Sealed surfaces and outdated drainage systems accelerate water runoff and prevent local water retention, exacerbating both flood risks and water shortages.

In response, the municipality of Lubań aims to pilot a scalable pocket park model that supports water-smart urban transformation. The proposed project focuses on redeveloping a neglected green area into the Ludwik Anioł Park – a small-scale, multifunctional public space that improves local water retention, enhances biodiversity and increases resilience to climate shocks.

The core element of the project is a closed-loop water system using a local well and a natural fountain. This system is designed to retain and circulate water onsite, reduce pressure on the stormwater system and maintain soil moisture levels during dry periods. In addition, the project will use native

vegetation and landscape design to create infiltration zones, slow down water runoff and support biodiversity. A brine graduation tower will serve both health and educational purposes, raising awareness among residents about climate-related challenges and nature-based solutions.

The challenge we aim to address is not only technical – it is also about changing perceptions. Small towns are often left out of the mainstream climate adaptation discourse. Through this project, we want to demonstrate that even low-cost, small-scale interventions in public green spaces can significantly increase urban resilience, while improving wellbeing and civic engagement. The target groups include local governments, urban planners, environmental educators and local communities who will co-benefit from and co-create new standards of water-smart green infrastructure.

5.2 Focus of the call

Small and mid-sized towns like Lubań face growing environmental pressures while often lacking resources for comprehensive climate adaptation. This project contributes to the call's focus by offering a practical, replicable solution tailored to small places: the creation of a climate-resilient pocket park that enhances water retention, biodiversity and public wellbeing. Through the transformation of an underused green space into a multifunctional park with a closed-loop water system, natural vegetation and an educational brine tower, the project strengthens social cohesion and quality of life. It empowers local communities by involving them in co-design and awareness activities. By sharing methods, outcomes and lessons learned with similar towns across the Baltic Sea Region, the project fosters inclusive development and supports the long-term resilience of areas that are most vulnerable to social and environmental transitions.

6. Transnational relevance

The project addresses shared climate adaptation challenges faced by small and medium-sized towns across the Baltic Sea Region, particularly the increasing frequency of extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall and droughts. These events strain urban infrastructure, affect groundwater levels, and diminish the quality of life in public spaces.

Lubań, in southwestern Poland, seeks to pilot a scalable pocket park model that enhances water retention, biodiversity, and community well-being. The initiative involves transforming a neglected green area into Ludwik Anioł Park, featuring a closed-loop water system, native vegetation, and a brine graduation tower for health and educational purposes.

The transnational relevance is underscored by the collaboration with Prienai, Lithuania, and HutsKane, Sweden. Prienai has engaged in national efforts to improve water supply and wastewater treatment, focusing on sustainable water management practices. HutsKane brings expertise in nature-based solutions and community-driven climate adaptation strategies, including the implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems and green infrastructure By integrating these diverse experiences, the project aims to develop a replicable model for climate-resilient urban spaces in small towns. The exchange of knowledge and best practices will facilitate the adoption of effective water management

and green infrastructure solutions across the region, contributing to cohesive development and enhanced resilience of communities facing similar environmental challenges.

7. Specific aims to be adressed

Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives

The project aims to build lasting trust between small and mid-sized municipalities and regional actors across the Baltic Sea Region by jointly addressing climate-related challenges through practical, place-based solutions. By co-developing the pocket park model, partners will engage in continuous exchange of experience, joint design workshops and mutual learning. The collaboration will create the foundation for a long-term partnership focused on sustainable urban transformation and nature-based infrastructure. Trust will be fostered not only at the institutional level, but also through engagement of local communities in each partner region, demonstrating that shared challenges can be met more effectively together.

Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR

This project strengthens the existing bilateral cooperation between Lubań (Poland) and Prienai (Lithuania) by extending it into a concrete, climate-focused initiative. It creates a platform for structured knowledge exchange and builds new ties with Swedish partner HutsKane, introducing expertise in nature-based and community-driven adaptation. By working together on a shared model of small-scale, water-smart urban development, the partners initiate a transnational network that links municipalities and innovation actors. The project will result in both a practical solution and a basis for long-term collaboration on resilient urban planning within the Baltic Sea region.

Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens

The project brings the Programme closer to citizens by engaging them directly in educational and participatory activities related to climate adaptation. In each partner town, residents will be invited to take part in workshops, public walks and co-design sessions led by experts from Lithuania and Sweden. These events will raise awareness about sustainable water management and nature-based solutions while fostering a sense of ownership over local green spaces. By translating transnational knowledge into local experience, the project makes EU cooperation visible and meaningful at the community level.

Allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges

The project offers a flexible, scalable model for responding to increasingly frequent and unpredictable climate events such as heavy rains and droughts. By testing a pocket park with water retention features, native vegetation and a closed-loop system, the partners develop a rapid-to-deploy intervention that can be adapted to different urban contexts. The collaboration allows towns to quickly exchange solutions and experiences, accelerating their response capacity. The project acts as a practical laboratory for small municipalities to prepare for climate impacts in a proactive and community-inclusive way.

8. Target groups

The project targets four main groups:

Municipal staff and planners – as primary implementers of climate adaptation measures in small

towns, they will co-design and replicate the pocket park model, gaining new skills and ready-to-use solutions.
Environmental educators and NGOs – engaged in awareness-raising and citizen participation, they will co-create and deliver educational components such as workshops, interpretive signage and community events.
Local residents and community groups – as users of the park and direct beneficiaries of improved public space, they will be involved in co-design, feedback loops and testing of educational tools.
Regional and national actors – such as associations of municipalities or innovation hubs, who will use project results and materials to disseminate good practices across the Baltic Sea region.
All target groups are directly affected by the impacts of climate change and have a role to play in shaping and sustaining resilient green infrastructure in small urban contexts.

	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	Local authority responsible for spatial planning, climate adaptation, green spaces and citizen engagement in small urban areas.	Poland , Lower Silesia, City of Luban
2.	NGO	Regional NGO supporting municipalities in climate adaptation, nature-based solutions, and sustainable urban planning through cross-sectoral collaboration.	https://www.hutskane.se , Sweden, Ledebursgatan 5 211 55 Malmö
3.	Local public authority	Local authority experienced in public infrastructure, water management and community-based environmental initiatives.	Prienai (Lithuania)

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 Nutri

PA Spatial Planning

PA Bio-economy

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 three organisations from Poland, Lithuania and Sweden, reflecting the geographical and thematic diversity of the Baltic Sea Region. The lead partner is the Municipality of Lubań (Poland), a small town facing increasing climate-related challenges such as flash floods and droughts. Lubań will implement the pilot pocket park and lead community engagement, planning, and testing of water retention and nature-based solutions.

The second partner is the Municipality of Prienai (Lithuania), a long-standing twin town of Lubań. Prienai contributes experience from public infrastructure investments in sustainable water management and brings practical insights into small-town urban development. As a reference municipality, Prienai will support peer learning and provide feedback on the replicability of the pilot model.

The third partner is Hållbar Utveckling Skåne (Sweden) – a regional NGO with strong expertise in sustainable development, climate adaptation and green infrastructure. HutSkåne supports knowledge transfer, educational components, and the development of citizen engagement tools, based on best practices from the Swedish context.

This combination of partners allows the project to integrate complementary perspectives: local implementation (Poland), reference experience from a similar town (Lithuania), and regional-level expertise and innovation transfer (Sweden). The Baltic Sea Region benefits from this collaboration by developing a scalable, low-threshold model for climate adaptation in small urban areas.

At this stage, no additional core partners are planned. However, the partnership remains open to

involving associated organisations such as networks of municipalities, local schools or national climate adaptation agencies, depending on the development of outreach and dissemination activities.

11. Workplan

The project is built around the design and implementation of a pilot pocket park in Lubań, addressing the challenges of water retention, extreme weather and reduced biodiversity in small urban areas. The park will serve as a demonstration site for nature-based solutions (NBS) and community-driven planning. The workplan consists of six main tasks implemented over 12 months.

Task 1 (Months 1–4): Kick-off and knowledge exchange. Partners will hold a joint meeting and review best practices in water-smart planning, closed-loop systems and community engagement. This phase will ensure shared understanding of challenges and co-definition of goals.

Task 2 (Months 2–6): Co-design and community engagement. Local stakeholders in Lubań (residents, schools, NGOs) will participate in design workshops and feedback sessions. Experts from Lithuania and Sweden will support concept development and educational content.

Task 3 (Months 6–18): Implementation of the pilot park. The park will feature a closed-loop water retention system using a local well and natural infiltration zones, landscaping with native plants, and a brine graduation tower as a low-tech, educational and health-promoting solution. These elements will be tested in terms of usability, water performance and public response.

Task 4 (Months 6–21): Educational activities and knowledge sharing. The park will host guided walks, thematic workshops, and environmental education events. Materials co-created by partners will be available in three languages and tailored to target groups.

Task 5 (Months 20–24): Replication toolkit and policy recommendations. Partners will compile lessons learned into a practical toolkit for other small towns, including design templates, community methods and NBS implementation guidance. Short policy briefs will also be produced.

Task 6 (Months 20-24): Dissemination and final event. A transnational event will present the outcomes, share insights and open replication pathways. Materials will be shared openly across Baltic Sea networks.

Target groups are involved throughout the process:
Municipal staff take part in planning and testing the park model;
Educators and NGOs lead citizen engagement and knowledge transfer;
Residents and schools participate in co-design and benefit directly from the new space;
Public utilities and regional networks are secondary users of the outputs.
The final results will be used by the Municipality of Lubań for further implementation, by Prienai as a reference case, and by HutSkåne to promote the model within Swedish regional networks. The toolkit and event ensure wider uptake across the Baltic Sea Region.

12. Planned budget

ERDF budget (planned expenditure of partners from the EU)	EUR 450,000.00
Norwegian budget (planned expenditure of partners from Norway)	*EUR XXX*
Total budget (including preparatory costs)	**EUR 450,000.00**

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	Can educational components (such as workshops and signage) be considered as meaningful outputs if linked directly to pilot testing and awareness raising?Is it acceptable that the pilot takes place in only one location (Lubań), provided that replication materials and knowledge transfer are clearly planned with partners?Do you foresee any challenges in combining technical pilot implementation with soft components like participatory design and awareness raising within the small project format?To what extent should the involvement of citizens and schools be documented and reported as part of community engagement efforts?
Questions related to budgeting and expenditure	Is it acceptable to assign project coordination and reporting tasks to an internal staff member and classify their time under personnel costs?Are subcontracted services (e.g. external experts, designers, workshop facilitators) restricted in relation to the organisation's own staff or affiliated entities?
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