

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	Small local farmers: towards community building and sustainability
Short name of the project	Local farmers
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)	Vilniaus rajono savivaldybės administracija
Name of the organisation (English)	Vilnius District Municipality Administration
Website	https://vrsta.lt/
Country	LT



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.

Vilnius District Municipality Administration (Lithuania)
 Gminny Ośrodek Kultury i Rekreacji w Wilkasach (Poland)
 Gmina Korycin (Poland)
 Kohtla-Järve Kultuurikeskus (Estonia)

5.1 Specific challenge to be addressed

This project is a joint initiative of 4 partners - Vilnius District Municipality Administration (Lithuania), Gminny Ośrodek Kultury i Rekreacji w Wilkasach (Poland), Gmina Korycin (Poland) and Kohtla-Järve Kultuurikeskus (Estonia) - aiming to address common challenges.

The main problem is the insufficient application of circular economy principles, especially in more remote areas where environmental awareness among the population is still low. This often results in inefficient use of natural resources, outdated farming methods, and consumers not always aware of the environmental impact of their decisions.

Agriculture and farming provides not only various produce, but at the same time nurtures the land. This sector processes a large number of inputs, but at the same time generates large amounts of waste.

There are three main principles in the circular economy (also in agriculture): knowledge, skills and competences. Therefore, in order to implement and develop the principles of the circular economy, it is necessary to educate farmers and local communities about the use of herbicides and pesticides, their effects, the implementation of technological measures, and orientations towards high-value-

added products. Also, educate the public about the produce grown on the farm, its harvesting, processing, supply and trade.

5.2 Focus of the call

The project contributes to the transition towards a climate-neutral and circular food system by supporting farmers and rural communities in adopting environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive, and economically viable agricultural practices. It directly addresses the need for knowledge transfer and systemic change in small-scale farming, particularly in border and minority regions where circular economy principles are still underapplied

The project's goal is to contribute to the transition to a sustainable food system, which: has a neutral or positive impact on the environment; helps mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts; halts biodiversity loss; ensures food security, nutrition and public health; preserves the affordability of food, while generating fairer economic returns, promoting the competitiveness and fairness of the EU supply sector.

Through joint trainings/study visits in each partner country (2 per country), participants will explore climate-smart technologies, ecological challenges, and circular solutions in agriculture. The process culminates in 4 public events, where good practices are shared and new local commitments are launched. Cultural exchange plays a key role—helping participants learn from unfamiliar crops, methods, and food traditions, and thus build more resilient and diverse rural food systems. The project aligns with EU priorities in climate action, food security, biodiversity, and fairness in the food supply chain.

6. Transnational relevance

The implementation of the project involves the exchange of knowledge and experience between partners, reports and analyzes farming challenges covering all locations: increased cooperation between regions, more effective solving of problems, building bridges for lasting cooperation and exchange of experiences. The project combines agricultural education, active community involvement and cross-border cooperation. Partners share common ecosystems. A cross-border approach allows these areas to be understood and effectively managed as one coherent ecosystem.

7. Specific aims to be addressed

Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives

Partners have already implemented projects using EU funds. Experience gained from previously implemented cross-border projects provided experience in planning, implementing and settling projects. Partners enjoy public trust and conduct activities in accordance with the needs of the target group - all this will contribute to the successful implementation of the project. Mutual trust, knowledge of how to build trust of community members, how to engage the community, education, enthusiasts and non-governmental institutions in joint activities - all this will contribute to the successful implementation of the project.

Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR

The project aims to establish and strengthen durable cross-border networks that support sustainable



rural development and climate-neutral agricultural practices in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). These networks are grounded in multi-level partnerships involving local governments, schools, farmers, and community-based organizations.

Each partner brings strong ties to their local stakeholders and takes shared responsibility for organizing joint educational activities, workshops, and community events. These actions are designed not only to exchange knowledge but to foster long-lasting people-to-people connections, rooted in trust, cultural understanding, and a shared vision for greener, more resilient rural areas

Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens

By organizing joint training sessions and public events in each country, the project creates direct opportunities for citizens to learn about sustainable agricultural practices, explore innovative circular economy solutions, and take part in shaping a climate-neutral future. These events are not only informative - they are participatory, designed to empower farmers, youth, educators, and local residents to engage with EU-level ideas in a tangible and practical way.

Good practices will be showcased, and future cooperation paths will be co-designed together with communities, ensuring that the project outcomes reflect real local needs and inspire continued engagement beyond the project's lifespan.

This approach strengthens public ownership of the Programme's objectives and helps build a stronger connection between EU priorities and everyday life in the Baltic Sea Region.

Allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges

N/A

8. Target groups

The main target groups of the project are farmers and educational institutions, but the activities will also be relevant to the general public, aiming to form a systematic approach to a sustainable economy and environmental protection from a young age.

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.
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1. Interest group	Small local farmers – especially those interested in transitioning to more sustainable, circular, and climate-resilient agricultural practices.	Vilnius District (LT), Giżycko (PL), Korycin (Poland), Kohtla-Järve (EE)
2. Interest group	Children and youngsters – as future stewards of the land, involved through farm visits, and interactive activities that promote environmental awareness and connection to food	Vilnius District (LT), Giżycko (PL), Korycin (Poland), Kohtla-Järve (EE)
3. Interest group	Local residents in rural communities – who are often less reached by sustainability initiatives and may lack access to up-to-date agricultural information or technologies	Vilnius District (LT), Giżycko (PL), Korycin (Poland), Kohtla-Järve (EE)
4. Interest group	Educators and agricultural advisors – who help translate knowledge into practice and ensure long-term impact through formal and informal education	Vilnius District (LT), Giżycko (PL), Korycin (Poland), Kohtla-Järve (EE)
5. Interest group	Municipal staff and local decision-makers – who play a critical role in supporting climate action, rural development, and local implementation of circular economy principles	Vilnius District (LT), Giżycko (PL), Korycin (Poland), Kohtla-Järve (EE)

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 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 between Vilnius District Municipality Administration (Lithuania), Gminny Ośrodek Kultury i Rekreacji w Wilkasach (Poland), Gmina Korycin (Poland) and Kohtla-Järve Kultuurikeskus (Estonia) is based on a shared vision: to educate farmers and local communities about the use of herbicides and pesticides, produce grown on the farm, its harvesting, processing, supply and trade. Though diverse in size, geography and economic profiles, the partners share key characteristics that form a strong foundation for cooperation: all are located in peripheral or border regions, face challenges related to sustainable rural development, and are home to diverse, multilingual communities, including national minorities.

The partners have all previously participated in EU-funded projects and are familiar with project planning, implementation, and citizen engagement. This cooperation is based on mutual trust and complementary expertise, enabling partners not only to share existing good practices, but also to explore new approaches together, such as testing new crops, exchanging seedlings, and building long-term community-to-community connections.

11. Workplan

The project will follow a structured, collaborative 18-month workplan implemented across all partners. It begins with a joint planning and coordination phase, including a kick-off meeting to align expectations and responsibilities. Each municipality will appoint a local coordinator to support ongoing cooperation and communication. The next phase will focus on local consultations and shared needs assessment. Through discussions, each partner will engage residents and local staff to define what types of public information are most needed in their communities. Based on these findings, partners will agree on joint content principles and technical requirements. A key part of the workplan will be 4 festivals. In the final phase, the partnership will evaluate the impact of the project, gather feedback, and draft a roadmap for continued collaboration.



The project pays attention to people of all ages - both children and youth, as well as adults and older community members, encouraging them to engage in practical and educational activities that strengthen knowledge about sustainability, responsible consumption, and the importance of agriculture in the modern world.

Small farmers will share good practices that all event participants will be able to apply in their own fields of activity.

Project activities:

joint trainings/study visits - each of the partners will organize two educational sessions dedicated to the exchange of knowledge and experience. They will discuss agricultural technologies, ecological challenges and innovative solutions;

4 festivals - public events where the achieved results will be presented, good practices will be shared showcasing healthy food and the tranquility of rural living and further steps will be discussed; creation of a website with a database of organic farms in the regions covered by the project.

equipment purchase: purchase of mobile energy-efficient lighting for events; 2 mobile stages; 2 exhibition tents.

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 *(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

The project stands out by combining agriculture, environmental education, and cultural exchange in a truly inclusive, cross-border format. Special attention is given to minority-majority municipalities, ensuring multilingual communication and equal participation. By exchanging plants unfamiliar to each region, the project turns sustainability into a tangible, lived experience. It also fosters intergenerational learning-bringing together small farmers, youth, and educators in a shared effort to promote climate-neutral values. The partnership is rooted in trust and local knowledge, but also looks outward-building long-term cooperation networks and empowering rural communities to innovate together.

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>

