

Instructions to use the form <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Project idea form - small projects

Version 2.1

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

The complete project idea form should be submitted to
idea@interreg-baltic.eu

The submission of a project idea form is obligatory before receiving access to the electronic data exchange system BAMOS+ for the preparation of a full application. The project idea form will be provided to the Monitoring Committee members of the Programme. With your consent, it will also be shared with the policy area coordinators (PAC) of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). Some Member States and PACs may approach you with guidance on further development of your project idea. Please be aware that the quality assessment of the project applications is carried out based on the information in the submitted applications only. Any information in this project idea form including MA/JS feedback does not influence the quality assessment.

Project Idea Form

Date of submission 04/06/2025

1. Project idea identification

Please insert the full name of your project. The name should relate to the content of your project.

Project idea name WasserHaus – Regenerative Culture Nodes for Resilient Waterfront Communities in the Baltic Sea Region

The short name of your project should provide an indication of the topic of your project as it will also be used for external communication (e.g. in databases and other communication channels of the Programme or the European Commission).

Short name of the project WasserHaus

Please indicate if you applied for a core or small project in a similar topic in the previous calls in the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021-2027.

Previous calls ye
s ☐ no ☒

Please indicate the acronym of the previously submitted project

Short name of the previous project (max. 100 characters incl. spaces)

Please indicate whether your project is based on a seed money project implemented in the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020.

Seed money support ye
s ☐ no ☒



2. Programme

1. Innovative societies

3. Programme objective

1.1. Resilient economies and communities

4. Potential lead applicant

Please note, the potential lead applicant must be a legal entity in the legal status category a) public, as specified in the Programme Manual Chapter C.2.1.

Name of the organisation (original)	Brandenburgische Gesellschaft für Kultur und Geschichte gGmbH (BKG)
Name of the organisation (English)	Brandenburg Association for Culture and History (non-profit limited liability company)

Website	https://gesellschaft-kultur-geschichte.de/
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Country	DE
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Type of Partner	Regional public authority regional council, etc.
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Contact person 1

Name	Katja Melzer - Managing Director
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Contact person 2

Name	Dr. Katalin Krasznahorkai - Lead Curator
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Phone +49 331 620 85 40

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.

OP. ENHEIM Foundation

5.1 Specific challenge to be addressed

Please describe briefly the specific challenge you plan to tackle in relation to the selected Programme objective. In the description please refer to the target group(s) that are facing the challenge you selected.



Post-industrial and rural waterfront towns in the German federal state of Brandenburg and across the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) face a double challenge: economic fragility after the decline of traditional industries and environmental stress from climate-driven flooding, erosion and water pollution.

Local communities, especially youth and creative citizens, lack accessible, future-proof public spaces where they can develop new skills, co-create solutions, and celebrate shared cultural identity. Existing cultural venues are often energy-intensive, mono-functional, or absent outside regional capitals. The cultural dimension is critical: During the communist era, extensive networks of Kulturhäuser (cultural houses) provided vital community anchors, fostering social cohesion and collective identity. However, many of these institutions have deteriorated or disappeared since 1989, creating a cultural infrastructure void precisely when communities need adaptive spaces most.

The core challenge: These communities lack adaptive, multifunctional spaces that can simultaneously address economic revitalization, climate resilience, and social cohesion. The legacy Kulturhaus model cannot meet today's climate and digital challenges, while new cultural infrastructure remains absent, energy-intensive, or confined to regional capitals, creating a participation gap that particularly affects:

- Municipal and regional governments that need cost-efficient, adaptive cultural infrastructure.
- Cultural and heritage organizations struggling to revive the community-building role once played by Kulturhäuser, now lacking suitable venues.
- Young people, creative SMEs and social enterprises who lack accessible spaces to develop green skills, test innovations, and build networks
- Citizens in shrinking towns experiencing social isolation and disconnection from both local heritage and future opportunities

This challenge directly undermines resilient economies and communities (Programme Objective 1.1) by preventing the adaptive capacity needed for post-industrial transformation. WasserHaus revives the Kulturhaus tradition for the climate era—creating modular, climate-neutral cultural micro-hubs that restore community gathering spaces while addressing 21st-century challenges. These can be rapidly deployed, locally adapted, and replicated across diverse BSR waterfronts, rebuilding the cultural network that once strengthened social cohesion across the region.



5.2 Focus of the call

In close connection to the Announcement Note of the call and its focus, please describe how your application intends to support the cohesive development of small places, rural areas, and areas experiencing challenges significant to the social and economic fabric of their local communities within the Baltic Sea region.



WasserHaus directly addresses the call's emphasis on cohesive development of small places and rural areas by transforming abandoned post-industrial waterfronts into vibrant cultural community anchors. The project specifically targets areas experiencing social and economic fabric challenges—former mining regions in Brandenburg, shrinking riverside towns along the Daugava, post-industrial districts in Lower Silesia, and underused waterfront areas in Latvia and Poland. Our approach ensures territorial cohesion through three mechanisms:

Local activation: Each modular pavilion revitalizes underused waterfront sites, creating accessible cultural spaces where none existed. By utilizing on-site 3D printing with locally-sourced recycled materials, investment stays within small communities while demonstrating transferable green skills.

Network integration: Digital connectivity links even the smallest towns to a transnational cultural network, enabling shared programming and peer learning preventing further marginalization.

Economic embedding: The Kulturhaus model historically supported local economies through cultural tourism. WasserHaus updates this by fostering green creative enterprises, training youth in circular construction, and creating testbeds for climate-smart SMEs.

Rather than extractive development, WasserHaus builds from within communities outward, strengthening the social bonds and economic capabilities that make small places resilient and attractive for future generations.



6. Transnational relevance

Please briefly explain why you need to cooperate transnationally to address the selected challenge.

The challenges facing post-industrial waterfront communities transcend national borders across the Baltic Sea Region. Water systems, industrial legacies, and cultural memory networks inherently cross boundaries—no single municipality or country can solve their resilience challenges in isolation.

Shared regional heritage: The Kulturhaus tradition emerged simultaneously across communist-era BSR countries, creating similar community structures that faced parallel decline after 1989. This shared cultural DNA provides a common foundation for revival, but requires transnational coordination to rebuild effective networks.

Complementary expertise clustering: Partners bring specialized knowledge that no single country possesses in full:

- Germany (BKG): heritage network-management and post-mining landscape regeneration
- Latvia (RIXC): digital media infrastructure and AR/VR storytelling technologies
- Poland (OP ENHEIM): contemporary art curation and cross-border cultural dialogue
- Poland (Łaźnia Centre for Contemporary Art): Art+Science programme integrating bio-art and citizen science

Testing scalability across contexts: A truly adaptable modular design must prove functionality across diverse climatic conditions (Baltic coast vs. inland lakes), governance systems (municipal vs. regional authority structures), and demographic challenges (shrinking vs. growing communities). Single-country pilots cannot validate this adaptability.

Economic synergies: Transnational cooperation enables shared procurement of 3D printing equipment, joint certification of bio-materials, and common marketplace development for circular construction components—achieving economies of scale impossible for individual municipalities.

Without transnational cooperation, each region would duplicate research efforts, miss critical knowledge transfer opportunities, and lose the compelling narrative power of reviving a shared Baltic cultural tradition for contemporary challenges.

7. Specific aims to be addressed

*Please select one or more specific aims you plan to address in your project and describe how.
Please indicate "N/A" in the text boxes of the aims that you do not plan to address in your project.*

Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives

Partners jointly co-design, co-build, and co-manage pilot pavilions through intensive staff exchange residencies, rotating team members across all four locations for hands-on learning. This shared labor builds deeper trust than traditional project meetings.

The "Kulturhaus Circle" governance model ensures equal decision-making. Joint problem-solving around 3D printing failures, obstacles, and community engagement creates mutual respect.

Each partner institution hosts "Future Cooperation Labs" during pavilion openings. This seeds follow-up Interreg consortia around complementary themes (sustainable tourism, climate adaptation). The project's open-source documentation provides ready-made collaboration frameworks for other cultural networks, multiplying trust-building beyond the immediate partnership.

By project end, partners will have created four functioning community spaces together, establishing the deep institutional relationships needed for long-term regional cooperation.

Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR



The WasserHaus Network digital platform becomes a permanent infrastructure linking cultural actors across the BSR. Beyond project partners, the network incorporates associate members—municipalities, cultural centers, and maker spaces—who contribute content, share communication, and access open-source pavilion designs.

Annual "Blue Commons Forum" rotates between partner regions, combining technical workshops (bio-materials, 3D printing) with policy dialogue and cultural programming.

Living data streams from pavilion sensors (water quality, energy performance) create ongoing collaboration necessity, as partners jointly analyze trends and adapt programming.

The network's multilingual knowledge repository and matchmaking functions remain active post-project, supported by annual membership fees from participating municipalities. This creates sustainable regional infrastructure for cultural cooperation that outlasts individual funding cycles

Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens

WasserHaus makes EU cooperation tangible in daily life by creating accessible spaces where citizens directly experience Interreg benefits. Families visit pavilions to repair objects in community workshops, students 3D-print prototypes for school projects, and residents monitor local water quality using sensors installed through EU funding.

"European Neighbors" events connect citizens via video-link during cultural performances, allowing Wrocław audiences to interact with artists from partner cities such as Riga and Brandenburg in real time.

Local repair cafés, maker sessions, and climate workshops demonstrate practical EU support for everyday challenges.

School partnerships enable students to collaborate across borders on water-science projects, with findings shared through the pavilion network.

Citizens witness EU cooperation in action—not through reports, but through improved neighborhoods, new skills, cultural connections, and climate resilience that directly enhance their quality of life.

Allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges



The pavilion's lightweight, demountable modules can be relocated or re-scaled within days after floods, heatwaves or social disruptions, providing a low-carbon hub for relief, information and community gathering.

8. Target groups

Please define your target groups that you plan to involve in your project activities. The target groups you select should be directly affected by the challenge and have competences to positively influence it through the project and its outcomes. The selected target groups should be actively involved in the implementation of the project and interested in using its outputs.



WasserHaus engages a multi-layered set of actors who are both impacted by waterfront fragility and capable of referencing culture as a driving force behind innovation.

- Local and regional public authorities (urban-planning, culture, environment) are the primary owners of riversides and post-mining lakes. They need adaptable, low-cost infrastructure and new participation formats to keep small places attractive — and will co-host the pilot pavilions, integrate the open design into future development plans, and replicate the policy toolkit.
- Higher-education and research institutions bring expertise in digital media, bio-materials and environmental humanities. They co-lead data collection, circular-material testing and evaluation, while sending students to maker residencies that strengthen smart-specialisation skills.
- NGOs and civil-society groups working on heritage, climate action and community art ensure that programme content is inclusive and locally grounded. They mobilise volunteers, curate story-gathering and run repair cafés.
- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in green construction, creative technology and eco-tourism gain a testbed for new products (3D-printed components, AR tours) and early market visibility across borders.
- Education and training centres / schools—especially vocational schools and youth climate clubs—use the Blue Lab modules for hands-on STEM learning, building awareness and career paths in circular and digital economy niches.

All target groups are actively involved through co-design sessions, transnational hackathons and advisory boards, and are the intended long-term users of the pavilion designs, open-source software and policy guidelines.

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.	Local public authority	Waterfront planning, culture, climate adaptation	DE-Brandenburg, LV-Riga, PL-Lower Silesia (Wrocław)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Higher education and research institution	Media art, bio-materials, environmental humanities	Germany, Latvia, Poland (Sweden, Finland – future)	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	NGO	Heritage preservation, climate activism, community art	Brandenburg Lakeland, Latgale, Wrocław region	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Small and medium enterprise	Green 3D printing, AR tourism, circular construction	All partner regions (DE, LV, PL)	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Education/training centre and school	Vocational training, youth climate clubs, maker education	Brandenburg, Riga, Wrocław	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>

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.

up to three PAs can be selected from the list

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PA Culture
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PA Innovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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

Please describe briefly the composition of your partnership.

List the partners already involved, present their role in the project and geographic location.

Please explain why you plan to involve these types of partners and regions/countries covered in the partnership.

Please also indicate what type of partners and from which regions/countries still need to be added to the partnership.



The partnership combines cultural, artistic, ecological, and technological actors across the Baltic Sea Region.

- Brandenburgische Gesellschaft für Kultur und Geschichte gGmbH (BKG) (DE, Lead Partner) – coordinates heritage and regional outreach; anchors the pilot in the Lusatian Lake District. Builds on Brandenburg's legacy of Kulturhäuser as hubs for civic life.
- RIXC Center for New Media Culture (LV) – pioneers digital storytelling and AR/VR tools; leads the Riga pilot on the Daugava riverfront. Links cultural memory with new media, reviving waterfront narratives.
- OP ENHEIM Foundation (PL) – connects contemporary art, heritage dialogue and youth mentoring; leads the Odra pilot in Wrocław. Reclaims the cultural role of rivers in cross-border identity-building.
- Łaźnia Centre for Contemporary Art (Gdańsk, Poland) – Art+Science programme directly aligns with WasserHaus's themes of bio-art, citizen science, and climate data storytelling; will lead innovative biomaterials and ecological storytelling pilot on the Polish Baltic coast.

These partners were chosen for their ability to weave together culture, climate adaptation and community cohesion.

We aim to expand with:

- A Swedish design & urbanism organisation (e.g. Färgfabriken, Stockholm) to enrich the architectural and curatorial approach and broaden Nordic participation.
- Bioart Society (FI), noted as a potential future partner, bringing expertise in artistic practice with biomaterials research and citizen science methodologies.

Additionally, we are in talks with:

- Floating University Berlin, a site dedicated to experimental urban water culture, which could co-host workshops, mobile water labs and youth summer schools.
- Nida Art Colony (Vilnius Academy of Arts, Lithuania)
Ecology + Art Integration: Their deep engagement with ecological art practices aligns perfectly with WasserHaus's bio-materials and water-resilience focus. Their experience with "slow residencies" and deep place-based engagement supports long-term cultural anchoring of the pavilion concept.
- MoKS – Centre for Art and Social Practice (Mooste, Estonia)
Rural Arts Leadership: They are pioneers in socially engaged practice in rural Eastern Europe, crucial for demonstrating replicability beyond urban hubs. Their experience with experimental media complements RIXC while grounding it in a non-metropolitan, agricultural context.



11. Workplan

*Please briefly describe the main activities and outputs.
 If you plan to have pilot(s), please explain which solution(s) you plan to test in them.
 Please also describe how you plan to involve the selected target groups.
 Please explain which institutions/ target groups will use the final outcomes of your project.
 For further information on small projects, including work plan, please consult the tutorials and the Programme Manual.*

WP 1: Management & Communication – BKG coordinates; OP ENHEIM leads cultural visibility strategies; joint multilingual outreach across DE, PL, LV.

WP 2: Design & Material Innovation – Łaźnia Centre for Contemporary Art tests circular bio-based 3D-printing recipes and explores ecological storytelling through artistic practice; OP ENHEIM explores art-driven fabrication formats and design mentoring through OP_YOUNG.

WP 3: Local Pavilion Pilots – Each partner (BKG, RIXC, Łaźnia Centre for Contemporary Art, OP ENHEIM) installs and activates a WasserHaus unit. OP ENHEIM curates exhibitions, workshops and experimental concerts in the Wrocław pilot.

WP 4: Capacity & Skills – Youth exchanges and transnational training (e.g., OP_FAME); OP ENHEIM hosts mentoring sessions on curatorial practice and art markets.

WP 5: Policy & Uptake – Joint development of modular permitting and shoreline-regeneration toolkits; OP ENHEIM contributes through its heritage revitalisation model and Lower Silesian policy connections.

Target groups are involved through co-creation charrettes, hackathons and advisory boards. Final users: municipalities, cultural agencies, environmental NGOs, green-tech SMEs.

12. Planned budget

*Please indicate for which funds you intend to apply and provide a rough estimation of the total budget planned.
 Please note that the total budget may not exceed EUR 500 000,00.*

ERDF budget (planned expenditure of partners from the EU)	485000
Norwegian budget (planned expenditure of partners from Norway)	EUR XXX
Total budget (including preparatory costs)	



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

Please list here your questions related to planning of activities and outputs, involvement of the target groups, or any other content-related topic which you would like to get answered during the consultation.

Questions related to the content of the planned project

- Does using semi-permanent pavilions qualify as a “pilot infrastructure” under small-project rules?
- Would citizen-science water-quality data be an accepted “output” if hosted on an open platform?

Please list here your questions related to budget, eligibility, accounting of costs or any other financial topic, which you would like to get answered during the consultation.

Questions related to budgeting and expenditure

- Are on-site 3D-printing materials eligible under equipment or infrastructure?
- Can partner staff time for residency mentoring be claimed under external expertise?

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

15. Additional information

In case you would like to present additional information not corresponding to the questions above please place them in this section.

WasserHaus can be a leading example of how to mix culture, recycled building methods, and climate-smart design, lining up neatly with EU efforts like the New European Bauhaus.



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>