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	Responsible Energy in Agriculture – Towards Reportable and Collaborative Green Transition
Short name of the project	REAgri
Previous calls	yes ◯ no ◉
Seed money support	yes ◯ no ◉

2. Programme priority

	3. Climate-neutral societies

3. Programme objective

	3.2. Energy transition

4. Potential lead applicant

Name of the organisation (original)	Tampereen ammattikorkeakoulu Oy
Name of the organisation (English)	Tampere University of Applied Sciences Ltd
Website	https://www.tuni.fi/en/about-us/tamk
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.

Local authority /farmer association in the Upper Tampere Region, Local authority /farmer association in Estonia, Local authority /farmer association in Mid-Sweden, Local authority in Mazovia Region (all to be confirmed)

5.1 Specific challenge to be adressed

Agricultural producers across the Baltic Sea Region face increasing regulatory and market-driven pressure to demonstrate their environmental responsibility and contribution to climate mitigation. New obligations under the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), national CAP strategic plans, and voluntary Scope 3 supply chain emissions tracking by food processors are creating a new reporting reality for farms of all sizes.

However, most small and medium-sized farms — particularly in rural areas — lack the practical tools, data, or capacity to quantify and communicate the climate benefits of their sustainability actions, especially those related to energy use.

Energy-intensive operations such as grain drying, livestock housing, and greenhouse cultivation represent a significant share of on-farm emissions, especially in regions with carbon-intensive electricity. While many farms have begun adopting renewable energy (e.g. solar, biomass heating, heat pumps), they often cannot assess or report the specific emission reductions associated with these investments.

This creates a double challenge:

Individual farms cannot make the business case for further investment in renewable energy without data that translates efforts into reportable and recognized benefits;

Food industry buyers, advisors, and policymakers lack credible, bottom-up information about the contribution of farm-level energy actions to wider climate goals.

In addition, rural and village-level cooperation on energy (e.g. shared installations or local energy communities) remains underdeveloped due to uncertainty around the division of environmental benefits and how joint efforts can be reported or rewarded.

This project addresses the gap between farm-level energy actions and reporting requirements by developing a practical decision-support and reporting toolkit for farms, validating it in real-world pilots, and enabling simple shared-reporting models for micro-level cooperation.

The primary target group is small and medium-sized farms in the Baltic Sea Region, especially those with fixed infrastructure and energy-intensive production. Secondary target groups include farm advisory organizations, food processors with Scope 3 reporting obligations, and local actors (e.g. LEADER groups, municipalities) facilitating rural sustainability initiatives.

5.2 Focus of the call

This project supports the cohesive development of rural and small communities in the Baltic Sea Region by strengthening their capacity to engage in the green transition through practical, locally rooted energy and sustainability actions. Many small and remote farms face barriers in accessing tools, expertise, and funding to invest in renewable energy or to meet growing sustainability reporting requirements.

By developing and piloting easy-to-use tools for energy decision-making and climate impact reporting, the project empowers farms in rural areas to quantify and communicate their environmental contributions. This increases their eligibility for funding, enhances market competitiveness, and strengthens their role in sustainable food value chains.

The project also promotes local cooperation by testing joint models for energy investment and shared reporting among farms and communities—fostering social cohesion and shared benefits.

By focusing on practical needs and scalable solutions, the project ensures that even smaller, economically challenged rural areas are not left behind in the transition toward a low-carbon, resilient regional economy.

6. Transnational relevance

The challenges related to renewable energy adoption and sustainability reporting in agriculture are

shared across the Baltic Sea Region, but the conditions—such as electricity emission intensity, national CAP strategies, and advisory structures—vary significantly between countries. Transnational cooperation is essential to develop solutions that are both regionally relevant and adaptable to local contexts.

By working together, partners can compare and learn from different national approaches to sustainability reporting, energy policy, and farm advisory systems. This enables the creation of harmonized, yet flexible tools that can serve farms across the region. For example, energy-use emissions differ greatly between countries like Estonia (still reliant on fossil-based electricity) and Latvia or Sweden (largely renewable), meaning that the same energy action may have different climate impacts—and reporting value—depending on location.

Cooperating transnationally also allows for the exchange of practical experiences: successful models of farm energy collaboration, data collection methods, and reporting formats can be adapted and scaled across borders. Joint development of decision-support tools, tested in diverse settings, ensures broader applicability and uptake.

Finally, the sustainability requirements that farms increasingly face—such as CSRD and Scope 3 reporting—are set at the EU or global level. Transnational cooperation ensures that farm-level solutions align with international expectations and help create a coherent approach for the region's agricultural sector to contribute meaningfully to shared climate goals.

7. Specific aims to be adressed

Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives

This project brings together farms, advisors, local governments, and energy experts across borders to jointly address a shared but complex challenge—linking renewable energy use to credible sustainability reporting. By co-developing tools and models based on real-world needs, the project builds mutual trust among stakeholders, laying the groundwork for future cooperation on climate-smart agriculture, rural resilience, and regional energy transitions.

Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR

The project will initiate a practical, action-oriented network of agricultural and rural energy actors across the Baltic Sea Region. This includes farms, farm advisory services, municipalities, and food sector stakeholders. The network will share tested tools, methodologies, and case studies, ensuring long-term value beyond the project lifetime and strengthening regional cooperation on sustainability and climate targets in agriculture.

Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens

N/A

Allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges

By accelerating the adoption of renewable energy solutions in agriculture, the project strengthens the

resilience of rural areas to future energy shocks, market disruptions, and geopolitical risks—such as dependence on fossil fuels or Russian energy. It equips farms with tools and models that allow faster, local decision-making and reduces their vulnerability to volatile energy prices and external supply chains.

8. Target groups

The project focuses on three primary target groups that are directly affected by the challenge of integrating renewable energy use into credible, reportable sustainability actions in agriculture—and who have both the incentive and the capacity to act on it.

Small and medium-sized farms (particularly in energy-intensive production such as grain drying, livestock housing, and greenhouse operations) are the core target group. They are increasingly expected to provide sustainability data (e.g. carbon footprint, energy use, GHG reductions) to meet buyer and policy requirements. These farms will co-develop and test practical tools for energy decision-making and climate impact reporting, ensuring outputs are grounded in real needs and ready for use.

Farm advisory organisations and rural development actors (e.g. ProAgria, LEADER groups, municipal climate officers) are key intermediaries. They have the trust of rural communities and the technical ability to support implementation. Through the project, they will be trained to use and promote the tools, integrate them into advisory services, and facilitate collaboration between farms.

Food industry actors and value chain sustainability professionals who are responsible for Scope 3 emission tracking and supplier engagement (e.g. processors, cooperatives). They will contribute to the design of reporting-compatible outputs and benefit from improved visibility into the environmental performance of farms. Their involvement ensures alignment with real-world market requirements.

These groups will be actively involved in co-creation workshops, tool testing, peer learning, and joint piloting activities throughout the project. Their adoption and feedback will guide refinement and scaling of project results, ensuring lasting relevance and uptake.

	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.	Small and medium enterprise	Farmers and their associations	Tampere Region, Tartu Region, others to be confirmed.
2.	Business support organisation	Farm, agriculture and energy advisory	Tampere Region, Tartu Region, others to be confirmed.

3.	Local public authority	Municipalities	Tampere Region, Tartu Region, others to be confirmed.
4.	Interest group	Food industry and value chain	BSR Programme Area

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 Energy

PA Innovation

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

Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK) is at this stage leading the project preparation. Regional development is one out TAMK's missions and we focus strongly on topics arising from rural areas and their development needs. We have contact with potential local authority partners in Upper Tampere region and will negotiate their joining in as LP either PP. TAMK role as energy transition and advisory process experts, citizen engagement, competence building of various target and stakeholder groups.

Tartu Regional Energy Agency has experience in effectively implementing BSR projects. This projects builds on their other projects related to this topic with the specific intention to extend and engage BSR newcomers from their region.

Other partners (local authorities and others) will be contacted soon.

11. Workplan

The project will develop and test practical tools and models that help farms and rural communities

transition to renewable energy in a way that also supports credible and usable sustainability reporting (e.g. CSRD, CAP, Scope 3). The approach is hands-on, farm-driven, and designed to deliver measurable outcomes.

Main Activities:

Energy and Emissions Mapping

- Analyze energy use and related emissions in key farm operations (e.g. grain drying, livestock housing, greenhouses).
- Compare electricity emission factors across countries (e.g. Estonia, Latvia, Finland).
- Identify typical farm-level emission reduction potentials via renewable energy.

Development of a Farm-Level Decision and Reporting Toolkit
- Create a simple calculator to estimate emission reductions from renewable energy actions (e.g. tCO_2e/year saved).
- Provide ready-made reporting templates for use in CSRD, CAP, or food industry reporting contexts.

Pilot Projects in Real Farms
- Pilot the toolkit in 5–10 small and medium-sized farms across partner countries.
- Pilots will test practical renewable energy solutions (e.g. solar PV with storage, biomass heating, load shifting) and document their measurable impact on emissions and energy use.
- At least one pilot will involve a micro-energy cooperation model between 2–3 farms, testing shared production, usage, and joint reporting approaches.

Training and Peer Learning
- Deliver targeted training sessions for farm advisors, municipal staff, and sustainability professionals.
- Organize peer exchange between pilot farms and other rural stakeholders.

Dissemination and Uptake
- Produce a practical handbook ("Green Energy and Reporting for Farms") in several BSR languages.
- Share results through policy briefings, farm networks, and rural development channels.

Target Group Involvement
- All selected target groups will be actively involved in shaping and using the project results:
- Farms will co-design and pilot tools, test solutions, and assess usability.
- Advisors and development actors will contribute to tool refinement and receive training to support implementation at scale.
- Food chain actors will help ensure compatibility of outputs with real reporting needs (e.g. Scope 3 data integration).

Expected Users of Final Outcomes
- Farmers: to support informed energy decisions and improve their sustainability positioning.
- Advisory organisations: to offer value-added services and guide farms toward funding opportunities.
- Food industry buyers: to integrate verified farm-level data into supply chain reporting and climate targets.

- Policy stakeholders and local governments: to promote rural green transition actions and shape climate support mechanisms.

The project will equip these groups with tested, replicable, and reporting-compatible tools that make renewable energy a practical and reportable part of the agricultural sustainability toolkit across the Baltic Sea Region.

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

(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