



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 Strengthening Climate Adaptation in Small-Scale Farming Communities

Short name of the project SFarmAdapt

Previous calls yes ☐ no ☒

Seed money support yes ☐ no ☒

2. Programme priority

3. Climate-neutral societies

3. Programme objective

3.1. Circular economy

4. Potential lead applicant

Name of the organisation (original) Lietuvos inovacijų centras

Name of the organisation (English) Lithuanian innovation centre

Website www.lic.lt

Country LT



Type of Partner	Business support organisation
	chamber of commerce, chamber of trade and crafts, business incubator or innovation centre, business clusters, etc.
Contact person 1	
Name	Juste Rakstyle-Hoimian
Email	j.rakstyle@lic.lt
Phone	+37069439886
Contact person 2	
Name	Daiva Bičkauskė
Email	d.bickauske@lic.lt
Phone	+370 672 24219

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.

The only organisation that take part in an Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme for the first time is the City of Espoo (FINLAND).

5.1 Specific challenge to be addressed

Small-scale farms across the Baltic Sea Region are increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts like altered precipitation patterns (droughts, floods, etc) and soil degradation, threatening rural livelihoods and food security. The European Environment Agency (EEA) report "Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2022" highlights agriculture as a highly vulnerable sector, with the Baltic region projected to face changes in growing seasons and increased risks of extreme weather. National agricultural adaptation strategies in BSR countries often point to the specific needs of smaller farms. Programme Objective 3.1 emphasizes adapting water management to climate change and building capacities for risk reduction.

For LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, a primary challenge lies in the absence of tailored methodologies and practical guidance for developing and implementing effective circular economy strategies to support small local farming. They often lack accessible data on local material flows and robust frameworks for cross-sectoral collaboration, which are essential for creating viable incentives and support mechanisms for small proprietaries to adopt circular practices that enhance climate adaptation in their farms.

BUSINESS SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS (BSOs) despite their crucial role in mobilizing farming communities to adopt circular models such as regenerative agro-ecological systems, organic waste recovery, or the organization of circular input markets, often face a challenge of insufficient access to validated, evidence-based tools and scalable models for piloting and disseminating these circular economy solutions within communities. Without these practical instruments and stronger integration with research and public administration, their potential to act as facilitators of behavior change at the local level and drive widespread adoption of circular resource management for climate-resilient farming remains limited.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTRES are usually at the forefront of circular economy theory and innovation, however they frequently lack direct, structured pathways and collaborative platforms to provide solutions for climate-affected agriculture and to develop and validate circular economy technologies and tools applicable to small farms.

5.2 Focus of the call

The SFarmAdapt project directly supports the cohesive development of small places, rural areas, and communities experiencing significant challenges within the Baltic Sea Region, aligning with the focus of this call for Small Projects.

Small-scale farming communities, vital to many BSR rural areas, face significant threats to their social and economic fabric. These arise from climate change impacts like altered precipitation patterns and inherent resource inefficiencies of linear agricultural models. Such challenges undermine local livelihoods, food security, and the overall liveability of these often vulnerable areas.

The project addresses these critical issues by:

- Empowering local actors: SFarmAdaptT aims to provide a practical “SFarm Resilience Toolkit” and deliver direct training to small-scale farmers and local agricultural advisors.
- Building local resilience: By strengthening farmers' adaptive capacity and promoting resource-efficient practices, the SFarmAdapt project directly enhances the economic stability and liveability of rural communities..
- Facilitating transnational learning: Through the establishment of the online knowledge-sharing platform, the project facilitates the direct transfer of best practices from across the BSR to specific local contexts.

This approach ensures that SFarmAdapt's practical outcomes have a significant impact within local communities, contributing to their self-sufficiency, liveability, and overall cohesive development.

6. Transnational relevance

Transition to a circular economy in agriculture is a pressing matter in the Baltic Sea Region, especially when it comes to addressing the operational gaps within Local Public Authorities, BSOs, and Higher Education Centres. This topic therefore requires a collective approach and a transnational cooperation across the BSR.

COMMON CHALLENGE

This challenge has proven to be common across the BSR's diverse agricultural landscapes. The struggle to integrate circular economy principles (efficient resource use, nutrient recycling, etc) into local practices and policies is widespread and demands transnational action. In SFarmAdapt, partners will benefit from learning from diverse regional experiences.

EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES

Transnational cooperation enables the exchange of best practices and the co-development of methodologies. SFarmAdapt will bring together expertise from BSR countries, enabling partners to identify, adapt, and co-create universally applicable tools and approaches. The project will develop a "SFarm Resilience Toolkit" and online platform collaboratively to ensure robust and regionally relevant resources.

CREATION OF LASTING NETWORKS

Cooperation across BSR countries is key to promote lasting knowledge networks and up-scale SFarmAdapt's results in more regions. Local Authorities, BSOs, and Research Institutions will benefit from building stronger relationships, sharing lessons, and collectively strengthening their capacities. These networks aim to create a more resilient ecosystem driving the circular transition beyond the project.

AMPLIFICATION OF POLICY INFLUENCE

SFarmAdapt aims to amplify policy influence through transnational cooperation. By generating practical tools from the project pilots, the project will provide stronger arguments for policy recommendations at national and macro-regional (EUSBSR) levels.

7. Specific aims to be addressed

Building trust that could lead to further cooperation initiatives

The SFarmAdapt project is specifically designed to achieve this goal by establishing a collaborative framework that brings together a diverse range of partners—including BSOs, higher education and research institutions, and local public authorities—from several countries to jointly undertake practical tasks.

By addressing the typical difficulties of working across sectors and borders on tangible outcomes—such as the shared research efforts in Work Package 1 and the coordinated pilot initiatives in Work Package 2—the project fosters deep professional connections and mutual respect that extend far beyond basic networking.



Serving as a structured incubator for these collaborations, the project lays the groundwork for enduring, effective partnerships. This tested and successful cooperation is crucial for launching broader, future initiatives and aligns directly with the core aim of the small projects instrument: to act as a springboard for lasting cross-border partnerships in the region.

Initiating and keeping networks that are important for the BSR

The SFarmAdapt project is fundamentally designed to cultivate essential transnational connections throughout the Baltic Sea Region. It launches collaborative efforts by uniting a wide-ranging group of local public authorities, non-governmental organizations and institutions of higher education and research.

By jointly developing the SSFarm Resilience Toolkit and conducting collaborative pilot initiatives, these partners establish a dynamic and effective working network.

To ensure the sustainability of this network, the project introduces an online platform for knowledge exchange and promotes ongoing peer-to-peer learning among both core partners and broader stakeholders such as farmers and advisors. This approach lays the foundation for a long-lasting community of practice in the Baltic Sea Region, focused on advancing circular economy principles in agriculture.

Bringing the Programme closer to the citizens

SFarmAdapt takes a hands-on approach by engaging directly with small-scale farming communities, which play a crucial role in the social and economic vitality of rural regions.

Through the delivery of practical, customized tools—such as the SSFarm Resilience Toolkit—and targeted training for farmers and local agricultural advisors, the project brings the Programme's goals of climate resilience and sustainable resource management to life, offering immediate, real-world benefits to rural livelihoods.

Involving local public authorities and BSOs as key target groups further ensures that project results are rooted in and spread throughout local contexts, effectively connecting broader macro-regional policies with the day-to-day experiences of citizens across the Baltic Sea Region.

Allowing a swift response to unpredictable and urgent challenges

The project tackles the urgent need for rapid response by strengthening adaptive capacity and delivering practical solutions to climate-related emergencies like agricultural droughts and floods.

The SSFarm Resilience Toolkit offers readily applicable methods and practices designed for immediate use. By offering specialized training and setting up the pilots, the project equips farmers and advisors with the skills and tools needed to implement swift and effective adaptation strategies, greatly improving their readiness to handle sudden environmental pressures.

In addition, the transnational networks established through the project facilitate quick knowledge sharing and collaborative action, enabling faster and more coordinated responses to emerging climate

challenges across the region.

8. Target groups

The project's target groups are strategically selected for their direct connection to the environmental climate challenge, their capacity to act, and their interest in using the project's results.

LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITY

As key players in the design of local policies and rural development plans, local authorities will actively participate in the adoption and dissemination of circular economy solutions in agriculture. Their role includes facilitating regulations that favour the closing of nutrient cycles, the efficient use of water, and the reuse of organic agricultural waste.

Additionally, they will be central to Methodology and the policy dialogues in WP3, enabling pilots implementation and integrating outcomes into local planning for enhanced resilience.

BSOS (Business Support Organizations)

BSOs directly face the challenge of effectively advising BSR agricultural businesses on circular economy due to a lack of specialized and practical tools.

The project actively involves BSOs in Toolkit development, pilot testing and in delivering training and disseminating project outputs to their networks. They intend to enhance their advisory services with evidence-based circular economy solutions, thereby fostering a more resource-efficient and resilient agricultural sector.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTRES

Challenged to provide solutions for climate-affected agriculture and to develop and validate circular economy technologies and tools applicable to small farms, these centres possess scientific expertise, leading research, innovation and education.

They will be actively involved by integrating project materials into curricula, providing a framework for project-based learning, and dedicating teacher support for student participation in research (WP1) and pilots (WP2). They are key final users of the Toolkit and assessment as ready-made resources that fulfil their educational mandates, increasing student capacity.

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	Local Authorities are direct users of the project solutions, and will use the Toolkit to support the creation of policy recommendations into local rural development.	Partners will come from across the BSR programme area, with representatives from rural regions in Lithuania, Latvia and Finland to ensure a broad transnational scope
2. Business support organisation	Provides project solutions to agricultural businesses and small farms, offering advisory services, promoting resource efficiency and fostering circular economy adoption for rural development.	Partners will come from across the BSR programme area, with representatives from rural regions in Estonia and Lithuania to ensure a broad transnational scope.
3. Higher education and research institution	Integrate project's toolkit and farm insights into research agendas and curricula. Drive innovation in sustainable agriculture, circular economy studies and knowledge transfer for the BSR rural sector	Partners will come from across the BSR programme area, with representatives from rural regions in Sweden to ensure a broad transnational scope

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

PA Nutri

PA Hazards

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 SFarmAdapt project involves a diverse, transnational partnership crucial for advancing circular economy and climate adaptation in BSR small-scale farming.

LEAD APPLICANT: Lithuanian Innovation Centre (Lithuania): LIC will coordinate the overall project and financial management, translating research into practical solutions for farmers.

PP01: Biržai District Municipality Administration (Lithuania): Biržai will integrate SFarmAdapt's outcomes into local rural development plans, ensuring relevance for small farms.

PP02: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Sweden): SUAS will contribute specialized knowledge in sustainable agriculture and circular economy, validating technologies and tools for small farms.

PP03: Zemgale Planning Region (Latvia): Facilitates regional uptake of project outcomes, ensuring broad dissemination of tools and recommendations.

PP04: DIGITALEUS OÜ (Estonia): DIGITALEUS will be the key partner in designing and developing the SFarmAdapt online knowledge-sharing platform.

PP05: City of Espoo (Finland): Espoo will demonstrate urban-rural linkages for circular economy in agriculture, disseminating results locally.

JUSTIFICATION FOR PARTNERSHIP COMPOSITION

The involvement of Local public authorities (Lithuania, Finland, Latvia) is critical for policy integration, rural development, and connecting macro-regional goals with local citizen experiences. Their broad BSR representation ensures transnational relevance.

Higher education and RDI centres (Sweden, Lithuania, Estonia) provide essential scientific expertise, drive innovation for circular economy tools, and build long-term capacity through knowledge transfer and curriculum integration.

While not explicitly listed as a partner, BSOs are crucial target groups, mobilizing farming communities and facilitating behavior change at the local level.

FUTURE PARTNERSHIP EXPANSION

To enhance impact, additional BSOs with strong farmer networks from coastal regions (e.g., Finland, Germany) would strengthen small farms engagement. The inclusion of farmers' associations/cooperatives would provide direct practical insights. Finally, public authorities from coastal regions of Poland and Germany would further broaden the transnational scope and transferability across the entire Baltic Sea Region.

11. Workplan

The SFarmAdapt project applies a 3-Work Package (WP) structure: solutions, pilot and transfer results, guiding the transition of small-scale farms in the BSR towards circular, climate-resilient agricultural models.

GoA1: DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS.

Design and deliver a SSFarm Adaptation Methodology and the "SSFarm Resilience Toolkit".

ACTIVITIES:

A.1.1. Solution 1: SSFarm Adaptation Methodology: a protocol for local authorities to assess challenges faced by farmers and rural communities and to develop a roadmap for establishing a network of rural workers to support sustainable development and resilience in rural areas.

A.1.2. Solution 2: Design and build "SSFarm Resilience Toolkit": a practical, multilingual online platform featuring campaign guides and training modules. The toolkit empowers small farms to close water, nutrient and organic matter cycles, improving climate resilience from a circular economy perspective.

A.1.3. Pilot test and refine toolkit/platform with farmers/advisors.

OUTPUTS:

BSR Best Practices research report

SSFarm Adaptation Methodology

Digital "SSFarm Resilience Toolkit"

TARGET GROUPS:

Higher education and research institutions will lead research; BSOs and Local Authorities will co-develop tools and facilitate farmer groups establishment.

GoA2: PILOTING SOLUTIONS.

Implementation and tests solutions, demonstrating effectiveness and building capacity in small-scale farmers/advisors.

ACTIVITIES:

A.2.1: Piloting solution 1: PPs will use the Methodology to create the BSR Farmer Roadmap.

A.2.2: Piloting solution 2. PPs will use the Digital "SSFarm Resilience Toolkit" to establish and train 3 local groups. After the training, each group will deliver 4 national training workshops for farmers/advisors.

A.2.3: Pilot Monitoring & Evaluation: Collect data and feedback to assess impact of pilots.

OUTPUTS:

3 BSR Farmer Roadmaps
 3 Local Farmer Groups
 40 farmers/advisors trained/engaged (drought/flood protection)
 Pilot Evaluation Report.

TARGET GROUPS:

BSOs and Local Authorities will lead pilot actions in each collaboration area.

GoA3: RESULTS TRANSFERABILITY - SPREADING THE IMPACT

GoA3 focuses on visibility, policy impact and sustainability.

ACTIVITIES:

A.3.1: Develop and implement communication and exploitation strategy
 A.3.2: Transferring and enlarging the usage of SSFarm Adaptation Methodology: The number of documents will rise from 5 to 10, with continuous follow up of investment.
 A.3.3: Transferring and enlarging the usage of Toolkit/platform: The number of farmer groups trained will rise from 10 to 40.

OUTPUTS:

Communication and exploitation strategy and materials
 Report on conclusion of the transfer of solutions

TARGET GROUPS:

Results will be shared with public authorities and policymakers.; BSOs and Local Authorities will ensure sustainability.

FINAL OUTCOMES:

- Policymakers: Apply policy brief and pilots to improve climate adaptation.
- BSOs: Use toolkit and network to expand environmental programmes.

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 XXX
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>

