

Central Baltic Programme 2021-2027

Project Applicant Seminar - Programme logic and objectives

Project Managers

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Cunška-Āboma and Normunds Strautmanis

16.1. and 17.1.2024, online

25.1.2024, Mikkeli

1.2.2024, Rēzekne

Aim of the event

- To describe in which areas Central Baltic 2021-2027 programme intends to achieve changes - Programme Objectives!
- To provide information to understanding whether there is match between your project ideas and the Programme Objectives
- To introduce 4th round of calls of the Central Baltic 2021-2027 programme

Fourth round of calls in 2024 - general

- Materials on the website
 - Programme Manual
 - Guide for Applying for a Project (separate for small and regular projects)
 - Annex templates
- Applicant support events
 - Online, Mikkeli, Rēzekne
- Consultation possibilities
 - Project idea form



CALLS IN 2024

Open on 9 January 2024 and
close on 31 October 2024.

REGULAR CALLS

I (General) Call for Regular Projects

Open to all programme area and Programme Objectives.

II Targeted Call for Regular Projects

Open to all Programme Objectives. Either the Lead Partner or at least half of the project partners must originate from the EU external border regions within the programme area:

- In Finland: Etelä-Savo, Etelä-Karjala, Kymenlaakso
- In Estonia: Kesk-Eesti, Kirde-Eesti, Lõuna-Eesti
- In Latvia: Latgale, Vidzeme

REGULAR PROJECTS:

First submission 9-30 April 2024
Final submission 10-31 October 2024

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 1
MORE EXPORTS BY SMES

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 2
MORE NEW SCALED-UP
GROWTH COMPANIES

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 3
JOINT CIRCULAR ECONOMY SOLUTIONS

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 4
IMPROVED COASTAL
AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 5
DECREASED CO2 EMISSIONS

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 6
IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES ON LABOUR MARKET

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 7
IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICES
AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE CITIZENS



SMALL CALL

III Call for Small Projects

Open to all programme area and
mainly Programme Objectives 6 & 7

SMALL PROJECTS:

Submission 10-31 October 2024

Fourth round of calls in 2024 - timetable

- The **first-step** submission for **regular projects** to the electronic system Jems is between **April 9 and April 30, 2024** (noon EET)
- The **second-step** submission for **regular projects** coincides with the submission period for **small projects**, occurring between **October 10 and October 31, 2024** (noon EET)
- Final funding decisions in spring 2025

Content of the event

- Welcome and introduction to the cross-border cooperation and Central Baltic programme logic
- Introduction to PO1 (More exports by SMEs) and PO2 (More new scaled-up growth companies) topics and logic
- Introduction to PO3 (Joint circular economy solutions), PO4 (Improved coastal and marine environment) and PO5 (Decreased CO2 emissions) topics and logic
- Introduction to PO6 (Improved employment opportunities on labour market) topics and logic
- Introduction to PO7 (Improved public services and solutions for the citizens) topics and logic
- Practicalities about applying for funding: available guidance, budget, Jems, deadlines

Project Applicant Seminar

Introduction to cross-border co-operation
and Central Baltic programme

Ülari Alamets
Project manager

Introduction to the cross-border cooperation and Central Baltic programme logic

- What is cross-border co-operation?
- Central Baltic programme - general overview and principles
- Programme Objectives at glance

Cross-border co-operation in the EU

With a **budget of 6.7 billion EUR**, the **73 cross-border co-operation programmes for 2021-2027**:

- 49 internal programmes;
- 24 external (10 IPA and 14 NEXT);
- PEACE + programme.

The concept of 'embedding', which has been developed for the 2021-2027 programming period also ensures that there is **much closer coordination between mainstream and Interreg programmes**. This broadens the scope of mainstream regional and Interreg programmes to co-ordinate actions in terms of a cross-border dimension.

Cross-border co-operation in the EU

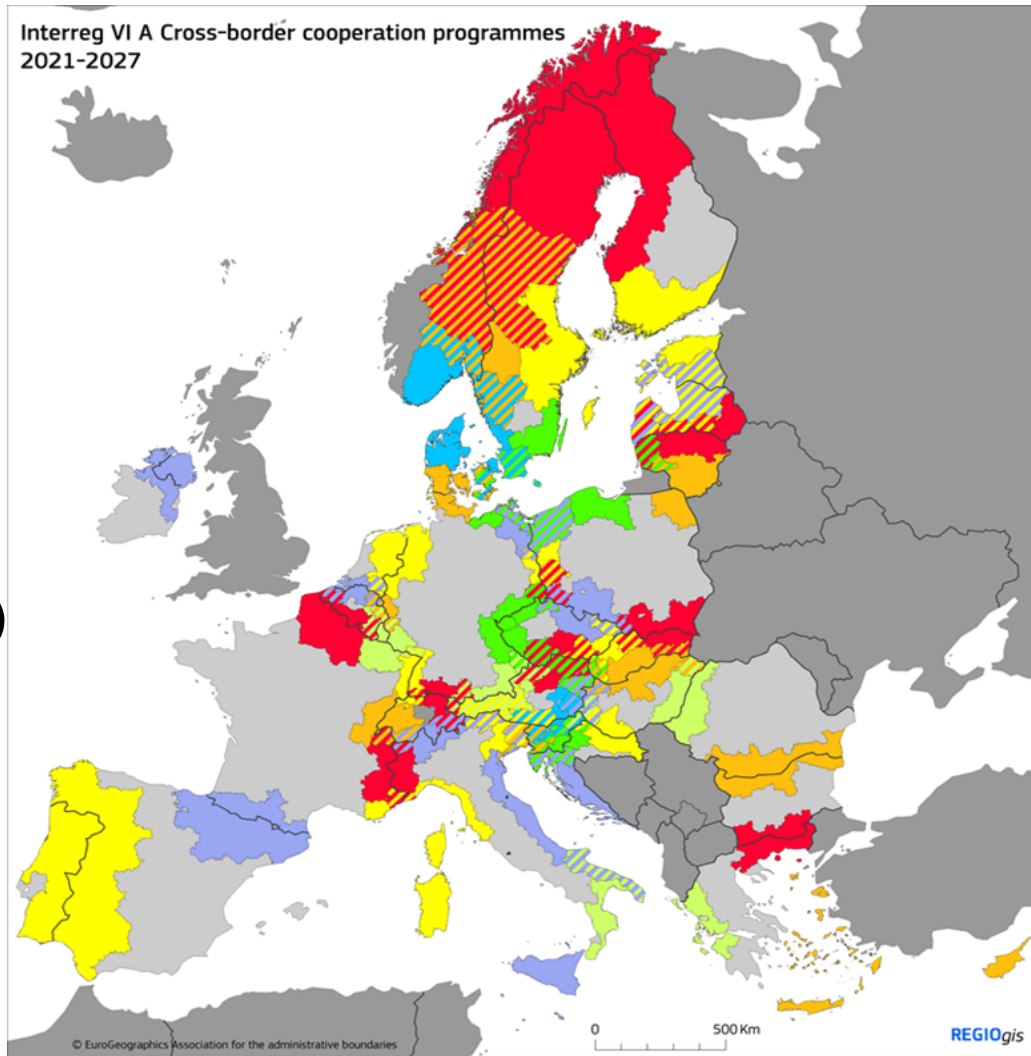
37.5% of the EU population lives in border areas, along some **38 internal borders made up of geographic, linguistic barriers** often bearing the scars of European wars. First developed as a Community initiative in 1990, Interreg was reorganized as a formal "objective" of European Cohesion Policy in 2000.

European cross-border co-operation, known as **Interreg A**, supports **cooperation between NUTS III regions from at least two Member States** lying directly on the borders or adjacent to them.

This aims to tackle **common challenges** identified jointly in border regions and to **exploit the untapped growth potential** in border areas, while enhancing the cooperation process with a view to strengthening the overall harmonious development of the Union.

Division of work!

- Mainstream programmes
- EU level programmes
- Transnational programmes (BSR)
- Cross-border co-operation programmes (Est-Lat)



Central Baltic Programme 2021-2027 area

- Estonia (all regions)
 - Finland, including Åland
 - Latvia (all regions)
 - Sweden
- 2024
- + Etelä-Savo (FI)
Latgale (LV)

Gotlands län
Gävleborgs län
Stockholms län
Södermanlands län
Uppsala län
Östergötlands län
Västmanlands län
Örebro län

Kymenlaakso
Satakunta
Uusimaa
Varsinais-Suomi
Etelä-Karjala
Kanta-Häme
Pirkanmaa
Päijät-Häme
Etelä-Savo





Programme at a glance

- 80% ERDF-funding
- Partners from at least two countries
Clear added value from cross-border cooperation
- Regular projects: two-step application phase
 - Max. 4 millions/project
 - 2 millions/partner
 - Length approximately 3-4 years
- Small projects: one-step application phase
 - Max. 213 550€
 - Max. length 18 months

We use the **lead partner** principle!

Relevant principles applied for all programme objectives

- All Programme Objectives are rather focused, specific because of the need to **target practical, measurable results** with Central Baltic programme available resources over 7 years period.
- **Results are described by result indicators target values** to provide clear direction and measurable outcomes from intervention. Those are ambitious but still achievable.
- All proposed PO-s include descriptions of elements what make projects **„joint cross-border“ (cross-border value added elements).**
- All lists of **„Indicative actions“** are meant to be used by projects **to choose from the best ones in right proportion** (the best mix) and sequence to form complex projects to achieve results. One indicative action alone would not qualify as potentially strong project.
- The main principle towards **potential partners is the relevance** of the organisations for achieving the results in the PO. In general, the partners should be non-commercial, for general purpose organisations. For 2 PO-s under Priority 2 also private companies may be the partners if relevant for achieving project results (but not as LP-s).

Result orientation

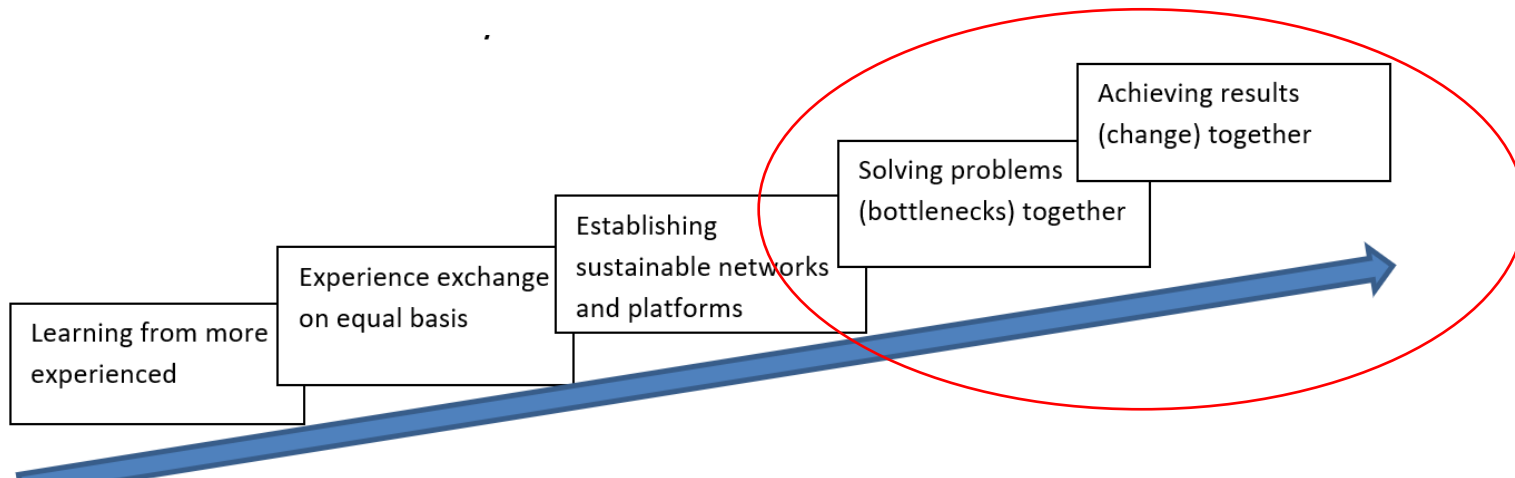
- To achieve changes together => cross-border partnerships

Programme objective - Result indicator - Target value

The change targeted together!

- **Projects** - only means to achieve programme results => we intend to choose the projects with the best impact and realistic to implement by strong partners
- Each project must choose one Programme Objective only.

Cross border value added hierarchy



Simplifications and cost-efficiency

- 2-step approach for regular projects
- Wide use of simplified cost options (SCO-s), unit costs, lump sums
- Customer orientation: feedback to Project ideas, Customer feedback surveys, real time project implementation monitoring,...
- Improved electronic monitoring system - Jems

INTERVENTION LOGIC

7 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

INNOVATIVE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

1. More exports
by SMEs

2. More new
scaled-up growth
companies

IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE USE

3. Joint circular
economy solutions

4. Improved coastal
and marine
environment

5. Decreased CO2
emissions

IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

6. Improved
employment
opportunities on
labour market

IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICES

7. Improved public
services and
solutions for the
citizens

FOCUS ON RESULTS

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 1
More exports by SMEs

As a result, companies achieve sales and contracts on target markets.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 2
More new scaled-up growth companies

As a result, companies achieve scaled-up status as, for example attract investment, develop new product or expand their team.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 3
Joint circular economy solutions

As a result, product and service cycles and chains are improved.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 4
Improved coastal and marine environment

As a result, the load of nutrients and other harmful substances to the Baltic Sea is reduced from various sources.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 5
Decreased CO2 emissions

As a result, CO2 emissions are reduced from intermodal transport nodes and areas.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 6
Improved employment opportunities on labour market

As a result, people's competitiveness on labour market and entrepreneurship capabilities are improved and additional anti-discriminatory policies are applied by organisations.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE 7
Improved public services and solutions for the citizens

As a result, solutions are taken up or upscaled by organisations.

Targeted results

- To achieve changes together via cross-border partnerships

Programme objective - Result indicator - Target value

The change targeted together!

Division of work and Central Baltic optimal scale

- In place in Programme Intervention logic and in Project logic
- Division of work with other programmes
- Is the CB scale the best for your project?

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

Central Baltic Programme

Project Applicant Seminar/Webinar

Programme Objectives 1 and 2

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PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

**1. MORE EXPORTS
BY SMES**

**2. MORE NEW
SCALED-UP
COMPANIES**

1. MORE EXPORTS BY SMEs

APPROACH AND SCOPE

- Challenges related to **SME-dominated economies** and their **capacity to take products and services to new markets**.
- Focus on export allows to achieve **real economic impact**. In addition to marketing and new market entry activities, development of products, processes and skills are relevant activities.
- **All relevant economic sectors** where joint interest to enter new markets is in place are included in the scope of this Programme Objective.
- Joint efforts of CB companies (SMEs) to enter **new markets (markets outside EU/EFTA)** and to **participate with joint offers towards international organisations** (sales to an international organisation is considered equal to entering a new market) will be supported.
- **Innovative companies** are defined as companies that are targeting higher value added than the sectorial and regional average.
- A cluster-based approach is encouraged.

1. MORE EXPORTS BY SMEs

Result
indicator

- **Companies with achieved sales on new markets**

Output
indicators

- Enterprises with non-financial support (actively participating in project activities)
- „SMEs introducing marketing or organisational innovation“

Potential
partners

- **Non-commercial organisations relevant and capable** for implementing new market entry projects, for example non-commercial organisations with competence and experience on export and product development, sectoral associations, chambers of commerce or regional development agencies.

Target
group

- **Established, mature innovative SMEs** of different sectors with international cooperation experience and capacity.

INDICATIVE JOINT ACTIONS

- Awareness raising
- Product/service development
- Developing joint offers of products and services
- Process development and digitalisation of processes
- Skills development and quality management
- Market information and research
- Branding and marketing of products and services
- **Sales support activities on target markets: visits to target markets and buyers visits to CB region, fairs, market expert services**
- Experience exchange and learning as result of joint implementation

The project should use a **suitable mix of these actions** based on the project topic. The chosen mix of actions must be relevant for achieving the **contribution to both the project and programme results.**



Additional explanations

- The projects targeting the entry to new markets of **all economic sectors are eligible**.
- Regarding the **services export** the provision of the services often takes place within programme area but for target market customers.
- **State aid** - Article 20a - **indirect (to third parties)** up to 22 000 - ERDF per company under 1 project - reporting to JS.

The indicative joint cross-border elements

- Mixed target group participants in project activities (e.g., in joint trainings, joint business missions, joint stands on trade fairs etc.);
- Joint product/service offerings and packages;
- Joint acquisition and use of market information;
- Joint development and implementation of marketing campaigns;
- The use of joint target market experts;
- ...

Result Indicator

„Companies with achieved sales and contracts to new markets“

- **Sales should be achieved** by target group companies via **joint actions** to the new markets (markets outside EU/EFTA).
- **Counted for the result** the company should have, for example, written or digital contract, proof of transaction with buyer from the targeted market for delivery of goods or services or other equal written/digital proof.
- Sales for **tourism sector and other service sectors** are counted if foreign buyer uses the service within the Central Baltic Programme area - purchases by tourists from targeted markets.
- The project partners are responsible for **keeping records** on participating companies and their achieved sales (name of company, name of contact person, proofs of the sale/contract).
- **Confidentiality** rules apply: no information on sales and deals will be disclosed without the permission of the concerned company.
- For numeric results, the unique companies are counted and aggregated on project level over project duration.
- Reporting by the projects will take place annually from the 2nd full year of the project implementation. Last overall count of results will be reported by the projects 1 full year after project has ended.

Output indicators

1. „Enterprises with non-financial support“

For achievement of this indicator, the **companies' representatives' active participation from project activities** is counted. Purely recipients of information (newsletters, emails) and other passive types of activities aren't counted.

For both output indicators the **unique companies** are reported as achievements: 1 company may participate in several project activities but 1 is counted. There can be more than 1 representative from 1 company but 1 is counted. The project partners are responsible for keeping records on participating companies.

The records should include the company's names, the contact information and in which project activities the participation took place.

2. „SMEs introducing marketing or organisational innovation“

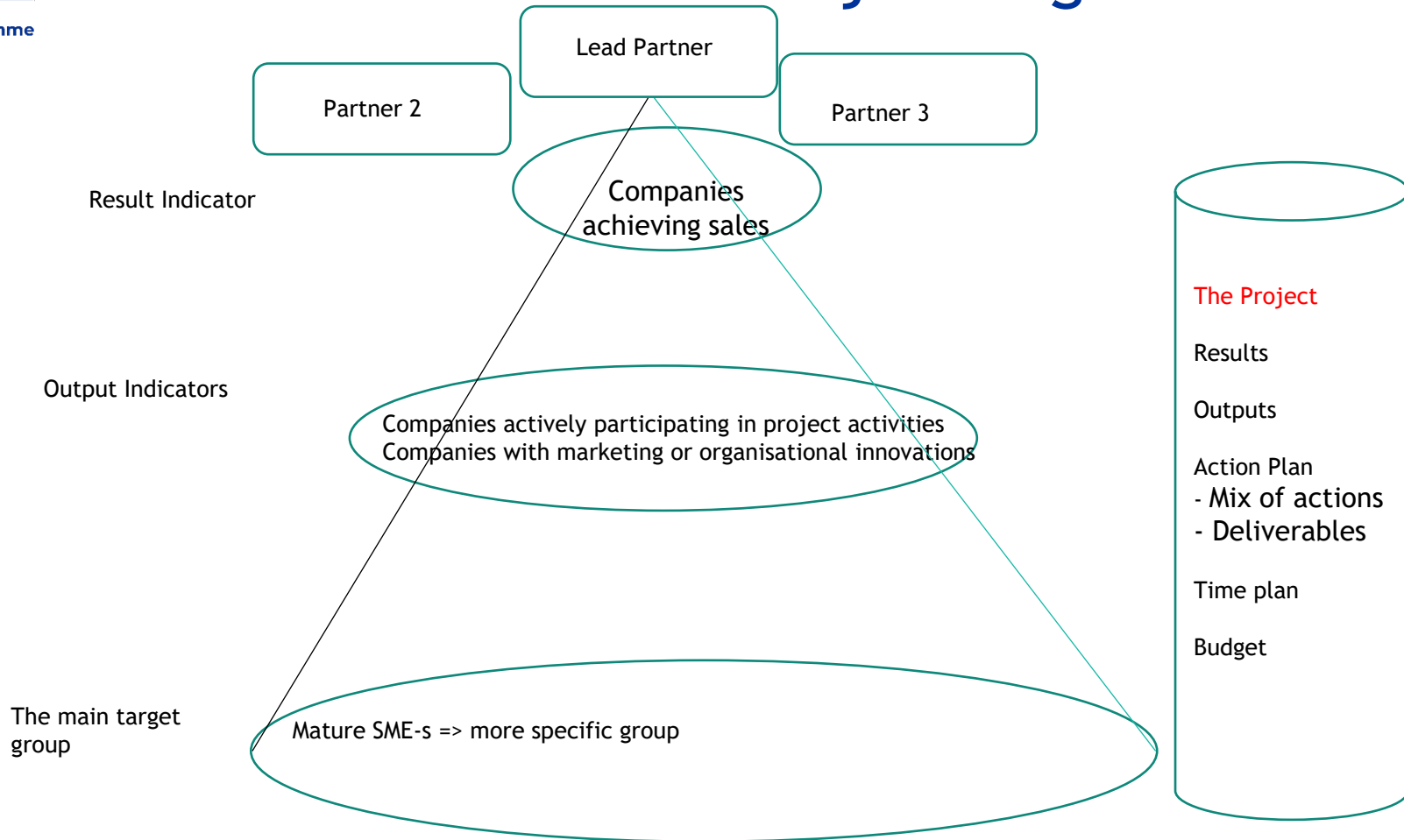
Marketing innovations are defined as new and adopted methods and ways of marketing for companies.

Organisational innovations are defined as changes and adaptations within companies' organizational structures and/or processes. Including the usage of new software solutions for marketing.

In 1st step use AF field - “A.2 Project summary” to describe outputs and present indicators logic!

Project logic

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Things to remember

- Know and describe well (precisely) the main target group companies
- Know the markets to target as early as possible
- Target optimal number of markets - focus your efforts, resources
- Focus your activities to achieving results - sales
- Develop work plan with emphasis on “market entry” part
- Additionality and new value: new companies, new markets,...



Portfolio after 1st call

- From 1st call - 6 projects in implementation
- Sectors/themes: ITS, ICT, green-tech, nature tourism, breeding materials,...
- Markets: Brazil, North-America, Azerbaijan, UK, Uzbekistan, Turkey, international NGO-s,...

1st call projects

BreedExpo2

- **Topic /Sector/Market/** - breeding materials and know-how export to Uzbekistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan markets.
- **Partnership** - **The Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce (ECAC)**; NGO "Farmers Parliament" (LAT); Union of Agricultural Producers of South-West Finland (FIN); The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners of Satakunta (FIN)

INGOs

- **Topic /Sector/Market/** - procurements from large international NGOs, like the United Nations.
- **Partnership** - **Turku Science Park Ltd (FIN)**, Tallinn Science Park Tehnopol (EST), BusinessTampere (FIN), Latvian Information Technology cluster (LAT), RISE Research Institute of Sweden (SWE)

1st call projects

ISMEF

- **Topic /Sector/Market/** - mobility products/services or supporting ICT solutions exports to North America (Canada and the USA), the Gulf region and the UK.
- **Partnership** - **Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications (EST)**, ITS Finland (FIN)

NAT-TOUR-EXPO

- **Topic /Sector/Market/** - nature tourism products exports to the UK market.
- **Partnership** - **Latvian Country Tourism Association "Lauku celotajs" (LAT)**, NGO **Estonian Rural Tourism (EST)**, **Estonian Nature Tourism Association (EST)**, **Latvian Nature Tourism Association (LAT)**

1st call projects

LEF network Azerbaijan

- **Topic /Sector/Market/** - ICT services, green technologies, education - higher and lifelong, interior design as service and interior design products to Azerbaijan market.
- **Partnership** - **Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LAT)**, Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (EST), Satakunta University of Applied Sciences (FIN)

Bridging4Growth

- **Topic /Sector/Market/** - green-tech SME-s, smart sustainability solutions to Brazil (Sao Paulo & Rio area), Uzbekistan.
- **Partnership** - **Business Tampere (FIN)**, Tallinn Science Park Tehnopol (EST), Norrköping Science Park (SWE), Association Cleantach Latvia (LAT)

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

**1. MORE EXPORTS
BY SMES**

**2. MORE NEW
SCALED-UP
COMPANIES**

2. MORE NEW SCALED-UP COMPANIES

APPROACH AND SCOPE

- The approach derives from the challenges of scaling up the activities of new growth companies.
- **New companies with potential to grow** and to use the potential of Central Baltic start-up ecosystems will be supported.
- They should have the necessary product development **capacities and ambition to grow**.
- They should target **scaling up** (raising investments, establishing presence outside of the home market or developing business models) their businesses.

2. MORE NEW SCALED-UP COMPANIES

Result indicator

- **Number of scaled-up new growth companies**

Output indicators

- Enterprises with non-financial support (actively participating in project activities)

Potential partners

- **Non-commercial organisations with competence and experience** for new business development, product development, internationalisation such as business development organisations, science parks, associations of companies and regional development agencies.

Target group

- **New companies with scaling-up challenges and ambition.** All sectors where growth potential and joint interest exists are targeted.

INDICATIVE JOINT ACTIONS

- Awareness raising
- Product development
- Process development and digitalisation
- Skills development
- Market opportunities research
- Branding and marketing
- Business model development and expansion of operations
- Experience exchange and learning as result of joint implementation

Any project should use a **suitable mix of these actions** based on the project topic. The chosen mix of actions must be relevant for achieving the **contribution to both the project and programme results.**



Additional explanations

- The **main target group** is “new companies with ambition to grow 5 years from start of operations.
- In **exceptional cases** the target group can be new companies with the ambition to grow up to 7 years from start of operations:
 - the project includes sectors where development takes longer time because of science/knowledge intensity; E.g., deep tech, biomedicine, pharmaceuticals, material technologies etc.;
 - the project includes companies operating in sparsely populated and isolated areas where the scaling up and growing is hindered by surrounding conditions;
- In justified cases the project partners can also work with companies which are older but with similar scaling-up challenges.
- **State aid** - Article 20a - indirect (to third parties) up to 20 000.- ERDF per company under 1 project - reporting to JS.

The indicative joint cross-border elements

- Mixing target group participants in project activities (e.g., joint trainings, joint events, etc.);
- Joint scaling-up and product development processes, accelerators, etc.;
- The use of joint business development experts;
- Jointly developed and used development methodologies and technics;

...

Result Indicator

„Number of scaled up new growth companies“

The status as “scaled-up company” should be achieved via **joint actions** by project partners for the participating target group companies.

Scaled up company is defined as: company which **raised investments**, company **established presence outside of home market**, company **developed the business model**, company **developed the new product/service**, company **expanded the key team**, company **merged or acquired**, company **implemented the Initial Public Offering (IPO)**.

The **project partners are responsible for keeping records on participating companies** and their achieved scaled up achievement (name of the company, name of the contact person, proofs of the scaled-up status). Confidentiality rules apply: no information will be disclosed without the permission of the concerned company.

For numeric results **the unique companies are counted** and aggregated on project level over project duration.

Reporting by the projects will take place **annually from the 2nd full year of the project implementation**.

Last overall count of results will be reported by the projects **1 full year after project has ended**.

Output indicator

„Enterprises with non-financial support“

For achievement of this indicator, the **companies' representatives' active participation from project activities** is counted. Not recipients of just information (newsletters, emails) and other passive types of activities are counted.

For both output indicators **the unique companies are reported as achievements**: one company may participate in several project activities but one is counted. There can be more than one representative from one company but one is counted.

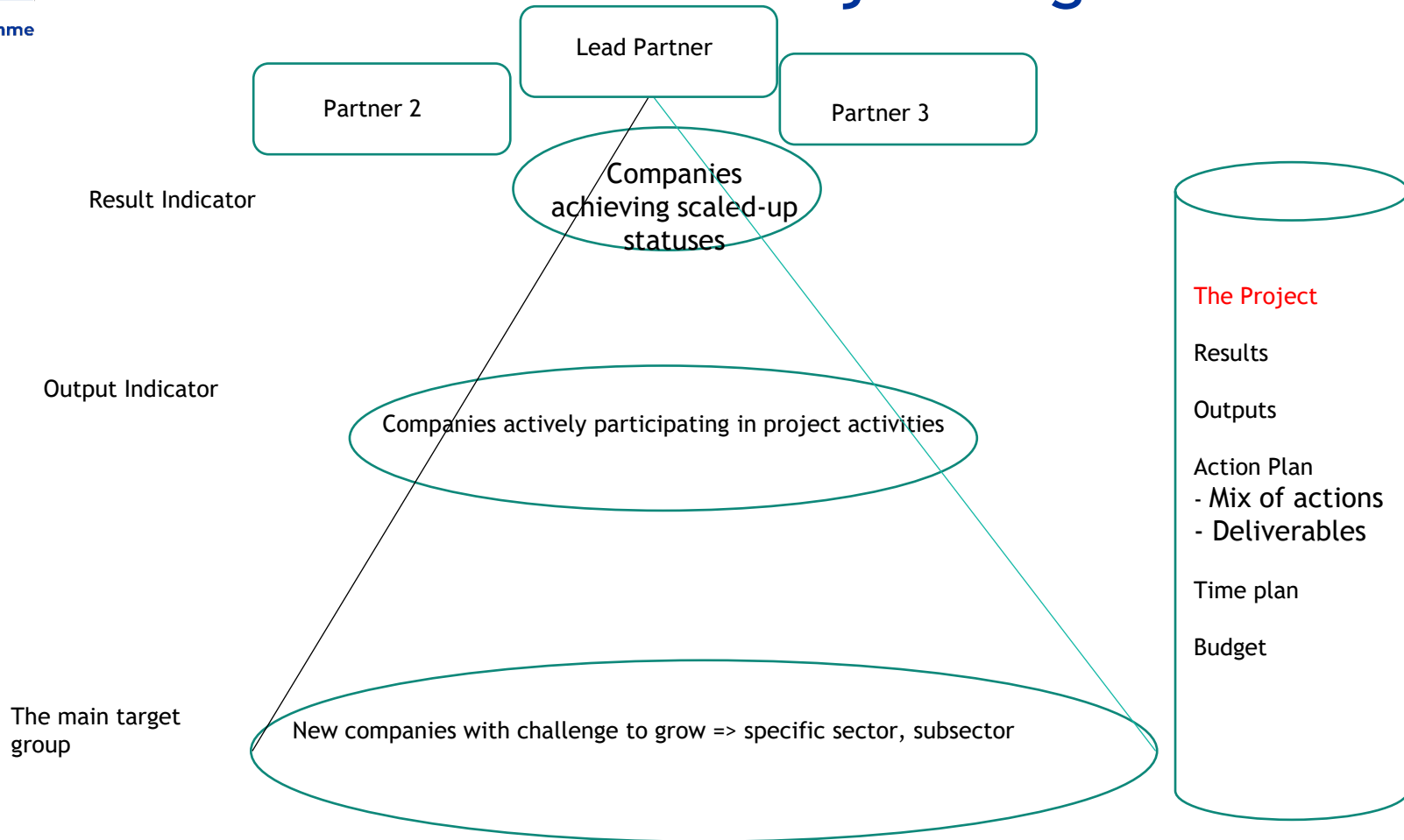
The **project partners are responsible for keeping records on participating companies**. The records should include the companies names, the contact information and in which project activities the participation took place.

The achievements of the **output indicators are reported annually** (1 year/12 month periods) during project duration and aggregated on project level.

In 1st step use AF field - “A.2 Project summary” to describe outputs and present indicators logic!

Project logic

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- Be as specific as possible in identifying and determining main target group
- Be ready to describe “starting situations and targeted “scaling-up statuses” for participating companies
- Focus your activities to achieving results - scaled-up new companies



Portfolio after 1st call

- 5 projects in implementation after 1st call
- **Sectors/themes:** smart manufacturing, ICT, e-governance, smart mobility, green transition in smart and sustainable city context,
- **Approaches:** joint scaling-up programmes, linking start-ups with corporations, 3BL,

1st call projects

NBSCALE

- **Topic** - scaling-up start-up companies of partner organisations' portfolios.
- **Partnership** - **Turku Science Park Ltd (FIN)**, Tallinn Science Park Tehnopol (EST), Movexum AB (SWE)

ESCALTECH

- **Topic** - scaling-up newly established tech companies, mostly focusing on smart manufacturing, ICT, e-governance, and smart mobility.
- **Partnership** - **Latvian IT Cluster/Digital Innovation Hub (LAT)**, Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications (EST), DIMECC Ltd (FIN)

SCALE-ABLE

- **Topic** - scaling-up new technology companies by linking them to corporations.
- **Partnership** - **Tallinn Science Park Tehnopol Foundation (EST)**, Norrköping Science Park AB (SWE), Swedish Incubators & Science Parks (SWE), Turku Science Park Ltd (FIN)

1st call projects

Scaleup Launchpad

- **Topic** - 3 twin cities (Tampere, Tartu, Norrköping) business support organisations scaling-up companies providing impact solutions related to green transition in smart and sustainable city context.
- **Partnership** - **Business Tampere (FIN)**, Norrköping Science Park (SWE), Tartu Science Park (EST)

Baltic Impact Accelerator

- **Topic** - new growth companies in the CB region by utilizing the Triple Bottom Line (3BL) methodology that enables more growth (Profit) and with specific consideration towards environment (Planet) and society (People).
- **Partnership** - **Green and Smart Technology Cluster (LAT)**, Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LAT), Cleantech Estonia (EST), Sustainability InnoCenter Ec association (SWE), Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology LUT (FIN)

Project Applicant Seminar

Programme Objectives 3, 4 and 5

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PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

3. JOINT CIRCULAR
ECONOMY
SOLUTIONS

4. IMPROVED
COASTAL AND
MARINE
ENVIRONMENT

5. DECREASED
CO2 EMISSIONS

IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE USE

3. JOINT CIRCULAR ECONOMY SOLUTIONS

RESULT INDICATOR

The number of improved product/ service cycles/ chains

APPROACH AND SCOPE

- The approach derives from challenges related to high levels of waste, low levels of product and material reuse, inflows of nutrients and hazardous substances and low levels of awareness.
- Three basic components will be targeted within CE: **Design of the whole life cycle of products and/or services, awareness raising and behaviour change of consumers as well as producers and service providers.**
- This Programme Objective will not target the efforts to directly reduce the impact of nutrients, toxins and hazardous substances on the Baltic sea by water management activities.
- All main categories of waste can be targeted by the projects if the **Central Baltic scale** can be identified and justified, and where there are opportunities for decreasing waste or increasing the reuse of products or materials.
 - The Central Baltic scale will be defined by the existence of cross-border product/service life cycle or chain, or a solution which extends across CB borders or can be downsized to CB scale.

Key value chains

4 million jobs

linked to the
circular economy
in the EU



- Electronics and ICT
- Batteries and vehicles
- Packaging
- Plastics
- Textiles
- Construction and buildings
- Food, water, and nutrients

INDICATIVE JOINT ACTIONS

- Awareness raising of consumers, organisations
- Mapping the cross border product life cycles/chains
- Feasibility studies, plans and designs
- Trainings and skills development
- Joint product development prototyping activities and cross-border hackathons
- Development and implementation of methods and technologies to reduce the use of materials, reduce the waste and increase the reuse of materials
- Process developments and digitalisation of processes
- Small scale investments to reduce the use of materials, waste and increase the reuse of materials
- Experience exchange and learning as result of joint implementation

Any project should use a suitable mix of these actions based on the project topic. The chosen mix of actions must be relevant for achieving the contribution to both the project and programme results.

Joint elements and cross-border added value

- The joint elements which justify and add cross-border value must be described.
- The project approach and the activity plan should be joint and integrated
- Examples:
 - The joint Central Baltic cross border product/service chain should be in place and identified as a precondition for the project
 - Mixed target group participants in project activities (e.g., joint trainings, events etc.)
 - Jointly developed or adopted approaches, methodologies and/or technologies
 - Jointly developed and applied solutions

3. JOINT CIRCULAR ECONOMY SOLUTIONS

Result indicator

- The number of improved product/service cycles/chains (13)

Output indicators

- Participations in joint actions across borders (500)
- Pilot actions developed (35)

Target group

- People, communities and businesses benefitting from reduced use of virgin materials, decreased waste, and increased reuse of products and materials.

Potential partners

- Public and non-profit organisations relevant for the targeted product chains.

Things to remember

- Focus your activities
- Do not try to cover too much
- However, more than one cycle/chain can be targeted in one project
- The focus can be on products or services
- Reduction in waste/use of virgin materials must be achieved
- Research must not be a predominant element



PO3 Project portfolio

- Three circular economy projects being implemented
- Allocated ERDF funding EUR 3 700 000
- Thematics:
 - Restaurant sector (Ce4Re)
 - Agriculture, alternative farming methods (Transfarm)
 - Second hand textile sector (BALTIC2HAND)

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

3. JOINT CIRCULAR
ECONOMY
SOLUTIONS

4. IMPROVED
COASTAL AND
MARINE
ENVIRONMENT

5. DECREASED
CO2 EMISSIONS

IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE USE

4. IMPROVED COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

RESULT INDICATOR

The number of improved urban and agricultural load sources

APPROACH AND SCOPE

- The approach derives from challenges related to the poor health of the Baltic sea.
- The approach is to use existing and new measures to reduce the inflows of nutrients, hazardous substances, plastics, and toxins' inflows to the Baltic Sea. Both preventive and direct measures are supported. This focused approach will also contribute to enhancing biodiversity.
- The focus areas with impact to the Baltic Sea have been defined in the national **water management plans and marine strategies**. As the load of harmful substances originate mainly from catchment areas, land-based load sources like for example the agricultural sector, forestry and the impact from urban systems are most relevant to be targeted by joint actions. Sea-based load sources such as sediments as can also be targeted.
- Projects resulting into direct positive effects to the Baltic Sea are prioritised.

INDICATIVE JOINT ACTIONS

- Awareness raising
- Information collection, surveys
- Analysis and surveys, plans, drawings, and designs
- Designing, adapting methods
- Planning and investing into digital solutions and processes
- Joint pilot actions to reduce inflows of nutrients, toxins and hazardous substances
- Small scale investments to reduce inflows of nutrients, toxins and hazardous substances
- Experience exchange and learning as result of joint implementation

Any project should use a suitable mix of these actions based on the project topic. The chosen mix of actions must be relevant for achieving the contribution to both the project and programme results.

Joint elements and cross-border added value

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 - Jointly developed or adopted approaches, methodologies and/or technologies
 - Jointly developed and applied solutions

4. IMPROVED COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Result indicator

- The number of improved urban and agricultural load sources (100)

Output indicators

- Participations in joint actions across borders (600)
- Pilot actions developed (90)

Target group

- People, communities, and businesses benefitting from reduced emissions.

Potential partners

- Public and non-profit organisations and authorities on national, regional, and local level, as well as private companies relevant for reducing nutrients, toxins and hazardous substances.

Things to remember



- Focus your goals
- Aim for achieving a change
- Reduction of harmful substances should take place during the project
- Focus on concrete activities that directly reduce the load
- Research should not be a predominant element

P04 Project portfolio

- Five coastal and marine environment projects being implemented
- Allocated ERDF funding EUR 10 800 000
- Thematics:
 - Silage in agriculture (Sustainable Silage)
 - Lost/derelict fishing gear (Re:Fish)
 - Stormwater-related problematics (StoPWa, MUSTBE)
 - Reed in nutrient management (BalticReed)

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

3. JOINT CIRCULAR
ECONOMY
SOLUTIONS

4. IMPROVED
COASTAL AND
MARINE
ENVIRONMENT

5. DECREASED
CO2 EMISSIONS

IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE USE

5. DECREASED CO2 EMISSIONS

RESULT INDICATORS

**Improved intermodal transport nodes and transport areas
with CO2 reductions**

APPROACH AND SCOPE

- The approach derives from challenges related to CO₂ intensity of transport systems, the lack of multimodal integration, and the low level of use of less CO₂ intensive mobility solutions.
- Existing Central Baltic transport nodes and areas and improving the mobility solutions in large and small urban transport systems (also the ones servicing hinterlands of the urban areas) are in the scope of this Programme Objective. The goal is to achieve joint mobility solutions and improved intermodal mobility that help reduce CO₂ emissions.
- Improvements in efficiency and usability of transport nodes and areas and urban intermodal systems should be achieved as well.

INDICATIVE JOINT ACTIONS

- Awareness raising
- Analysis and surveys
- Plans, drawings, and designs
- Planning and investing into digital solutions and processes
- Small scale investments leading to lower CO₂ emissions
- Piloting new mobility solutions
- Experience exchange activities as joint seminars, study visits, surveys and trainings

Any project should use a suitable mix of these actions based on the project topic. The chosen mix of actions must be relevant for achieving the contribution to both the project and programme results.

Joint elements and cross-border added value

- The joint elements which justify and add cross-border value must be described
- The project approach and the activity plan should be joint and integrated
- There should be intermodal transport node or intermodal/multimodal transport system with common challenges in place

Joint elements and cross-border added value

- Examples:
 - Mixed target group participants in project activities (e.g., joint trainings, events etc.)
 - Jointly developed or adopted approaches, methodologies and/or technologies
 - Jointly developed and applied solutions
- Intermodal transport node refers to a place or location where different transport modes interlink
- Intermodal transport area/system refers to an urban area with its hinterlands, where different transport modes interact and coexist

5. DECREASED CO₂ EMISSIONS

Result indicator

- Improved intermodal transport nodes and transport areas with CO₂ reductions (25)

Output indicators

- Participations in joint actions across borders (70)
- Pilot actions developed (30)

Target group

- People, visitors, businesses as the users of less CO₂ intensive, improved transport nodes/areas, multimodal and mobility solutions.

Potential partners

- Public and non-profit organisations and authorities on national, regional and local level, private companies relevant for improving transport nodes/areas and achieving CO₂ reductions.

Things to remember



- Focus your goals
- Aim for achieving a change
- Reduction of CO₂ should take place during the project, but it is also ok in some cases if reductions are foreseen right after the project
- Focus on concrete activities
- Research should not be a predominant element

P05 Project portfolio

- One CO₂-reducing project being implemented
- Allocated ERDF funding EUR 2 700 000
- Thematics:
 - Port functions (Sustainable Flow)

Project Applicant Webinar

Programme Objective 6

Laura Cunska-Āboma
Project Manager

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7 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

INNOVATIVE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

1. More exports
by SMEs

2. More new
scaled-up growth
companies

IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE USE

3. Joint circular
economy solutions

4. Improved coastal
and marine
environment

5. Decreased CO2
emissions

IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

6. Improved
employment
opportunities on
labour market

IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICES

7. Improved public
services and
solutions for the
citizens

Small and regular projects:

- Small project - up to 213 550 EUR total budget
- Regular project - up to 4 000 000 EUR total budget

More details to follow in practicalities presentation later today

APPROACH AND SCOPE

The **goal** is to strengthen and improve employment opportunities on the labour market through joint efforts in the region.

The **approach** derives from the challenges of **less competitive groups** in the society to access work opportunities, and labour market inflexibility.

6. IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ON LABOUR MARKET

Result indicator

- Number of people with increased competitiveness on labour market - 1800
- Number of organisations with applied additional anti-discriminatory policies - 90
- Number of people with increased entrepreneurship - 950

Output indicators

- Participations in joint actions across borders - 100 organisations and 2920 people
- Organisations cooperating across borders - 128

Target group

- Less competitive groups (including young people under 25, people in pre-retirement, retired people, immigrants, and people with special needs and other less competitive groups) and companies.

Potential partners

- Organisations with competence and experience on labour market, organisations representing employees, employers, public authorities, organisations representing disadvantaged groups, and organisations with competence and experience on entrepreneurship.

The main target groups

Less competitive groups (including young people under 25, people in pre-retirement, retired people, immigrants, and people with special needs and other less competitive groups) and companies.

Additional explanations

Each project should define the less competitive group that they work with; the project application should also specify how or why this group is considered less competitive.

! Entrepreneurship development activities towards the less competitive age groups and youth. Entrepreneurship training for target groups may include social entrepreneurship training.

Recommended - focus on ONE target group, ensure the activities are tailored to their needs!

When is the result achieved?

- **Number of people with increased competitiveness on labour market**

People with increased competitiveness: work contract achieved; work affiliation achieved; new qualification gained, certificate proving the completion of study programme; actively job-searching. (all target group people)

- **Number of organisations with applied additional anti-discriminatory policies**

Companies with anti-discriminatory policy applied: policy prepared, approved and applied. (target group companies)

- **Number of people with increased entrepreneurship**

People with increased entrepreneurship: successful completion of complex entrepreneurship programme. (less competitive age groups)

IMPORTANT!!!

Choose ONE result indicator only!

Output needs to be a larger number than result indicator to account for possible drop-outs!

Include only activities that directly contribute to the result!

Who can be a partner?

- 1 lead partner and 1 or more project partners.
- Partners from at least two Member States.
- Relevance = partners should have a statutory authority or mandate to act in the chosen field. Participating in a project should be considered a priority for the organisation.
- Public authorities (national, regional and local) as well as bodies governed by private law (NGOs). NOT FOR PROFIT!
- Companies are not eligible as partners for PO6, but link with employers highly recommended:

Recommended - have employer organisations in partnership or committed to take part to achieve better impact! Companies cannot be partners, but can cooperate with the project partners to provide better chances of employment to the participants.

INDICATIVE JOINT ACTIONS

- Awareness raising among target groups
- Designing and implementing trainings
- Digital tools for online skills development and working
- Incentives and services for employers
- Networking and dialogues between counterparts of labour market
- Entrepreneurship enhancing simulations and problem-solving exercises
- Mobility of participants
- Experience exchange and learning as result of joint implementation

All projects should use a **suitable mix of these actions** based on the project topic. The chosen mix of actions must be relevant for achieving the **contribution to both the project and programme results.**

Joint elements of cross-border cooperation

- The project approach and the activity plan should be joint and integrated.
- The indicative joint cross-border elements in projects are:
 - **Mixed** target group participants in project activities (e.g., joint trainings, seminars, etc.);
 - **Jointly** developed and implemented seminars, training programmes for target group employees and employers;
 - **Jointly** developed and used methods for learning and working;
 - **Jointly** developed and implemented teleworking and distant learning solutions;
 - Preparing and applying anti-discriminatory policies by organisations **together**.

Possible project examples

Competitiveness

Training + at work practice
in another CB country =
people with improved
competitiveness

Online training for an
international group of
trainees = people with
improved competitiveness

Anti-discrimination

Seminars for employers
from different CB countries
to work on anti-
discriminatory policies =
new anti-discriminatory
policies

Social dialogue activities
with international
experience exchange and
agreement on anti
discriminatory policies =
new anti-discriminatory
policies

Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship training
and problem-solving
exercises with elements of
how to work in different CB
countries = people with
increased entrepreneurship
skills

NB - each of these needs to
deliver one of the pre-
defined project results!!!
-Needs to include a suitable
mix of joint actions

Horizontal principles:

- Sustainable development
- Equal opportunities and non-discrimination
- Equality between men and women

Costs can be covered to accommodate special needs, accessibility of materials needs to be ensured

Be specific in application form descriptions:

- Describe the challenge with relevant data, prove that need for the project exists!
- Prove with data there is demand from employers for the skills to be trained!
- Describe how many hours of training, mentoring, consulting or other activities will be provided!
- Describe the content of the training!
- Mention who will do the training/other activities - which partners staff or via procurement?
- What kind of certificate the participants will receive?
- Similarly for anti-discrimination policy projects - what benefit the participating companies will receive?

What? For whom? How? How much does it cost?

How to define a good P06 project? (1)

- Know your target group situation! Demand from the target group and employers, rules that might limit their participation.
- Think from perspective of the target group - the focus is always benefit to the less competitive group, not regional development or economic sector needs.
- Do think cross-border!
- Be precise - describe what will be done and how!
- Be ambitious - work with employers and go for work contract achieved as result indicator after competitiveness improvement activities! Seek that entrepreneurship project participants are establishing their own company after the project! Look that anti-discrimination policies are implemented and followed!
- Watch cost efficiency!

How to define a good PO6 project? (2)

- Check coherence of different elements in the application.
- Check the assessment criteria.
- Do consult! Ask Laura.Cuncka-Aboma@centralbaltic.eu

Always refer to:

- Programme Manual
- Guide for Applying for a Project

<https://centralbaltic.eu/for-applicants/key-documents/#application-documents>

Increasing labour market competitiveness - PSR6 people with improved competitiveness	Anti-discrimination strategies in companies - PRS7 number of companies with new policies implemented	Entrepreneurship for less competitive age groups - PSR8 number of people with improved entrepreneurship
Wood for Youth	Silver strategies	We C Business
Take the Challenge!	EAS Work*	SocEntYouth
Tour4Youth		Silver Entrepreneurs
CeMeWe		Cbye
Women Online*		
Creative GPS*		
EFE*		
WOTECH*		

Types of projects per result indicator

*small project

Information on the current projects:

<https://centralbaltic.eu/projects/>



Wood for Youth

Wood for Youth project main challenge is related to attracting youth to study practical skills that are needed for the industry, and therefore for the economy. Project is piloting and creating interactive trainings programs with practical trainings to raise youngsters competitiveness in woodhouse industry.

Project Applicant Webinar

Programme Objective 7

Normunds Strautmanis
Project Manager

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Intervention logic P07

- Improving public services across CB is targeted.
- The approach derives from challenges and obstacles related to the administrative, regulatory, language and cultural barriers in public administration.

RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED

1. New joint cross-border public services or digitalized public services
(by regular projects)
2. New practical solutions leading to improvements to public services (by small
size projects)

What is a public service?

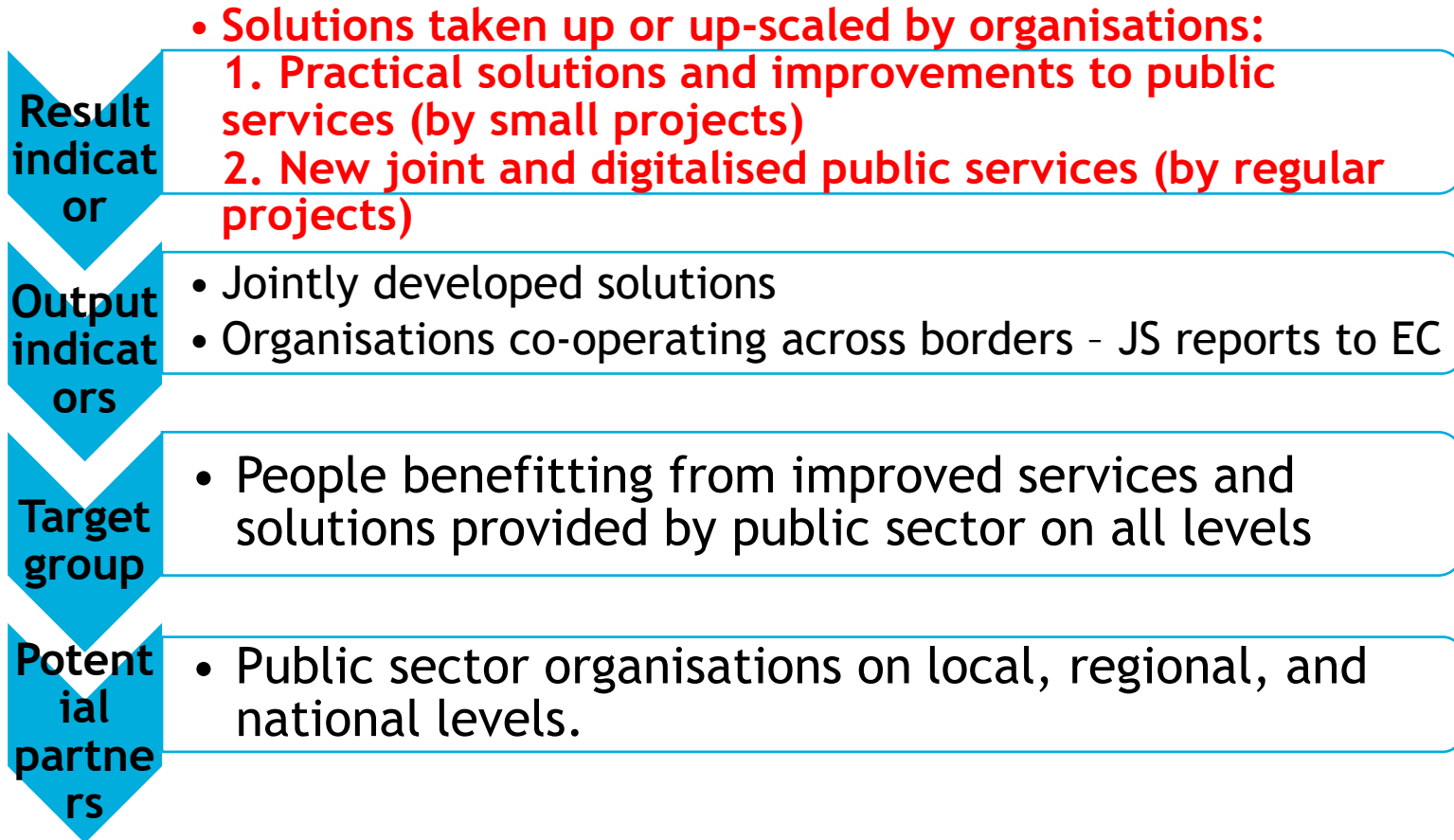
- A public service is **any service** intended to address specific needs pertaining to the aggregate members of a community.
- Public services are available to people within a government jurisdiction as provided directly through public sector agencies or via public financing to private businesses or voluntary organizations (or even as provided by family households, though terminology may differ depending on context).
- Other public services are undertaken on behalf of a government's residents or in the interest of its citizens.

Who does provide a public service?

- **National government**
via government agencies
via government owned public service providers (companies)
via private companies (selected as result of procurement or otherwise (contract))
- **Regional and local government**
via regional or local agencies
via regional or local government owned public service providers (companies)
Via private companies (selected as a result of procurement or otherwise (contract))
- **NGOs**
- **Other options possible**



STATUTORY MANDATE!!!



P07: Which sectors are covered?

- ANY
- ALL

NB! Joint curricula development in education sector is excluded





Small or regular project?

Small projects vs regular projects

	Small project	Regular project
Budget	<p>Max 213 550 EUR total (including the preparation cost lump sum)</p> <p>Note that if the total project budget remains under 200.000 EUR the project can only choose simplified cost options; such projects cannot apply any real cost.</p>	<p>Min 213 551 EUR total</p> <p>Max 4 000 0000 EUR total</p> <p>Max 2 000 000 EUR total/partner</p>
Project duration	max 1,5 years (18 months)	no set limit, but typically 2-3 years
Application	only selected parts of the Application Form, less detail required, 1-step application procedure	full Application Form 2-step application procedure
Reporting	shorter reporting forms wide use of Simplified Cost Options	full reporting form wide use of Simplified Cost Options
Relevant Programme Objectives	All Programme Objectives, if relevant, but in particular Programme Objective 7	All Programme Objectives

When to opt for a small project?

- New to Central Baltic? Start with a small project!
- Opportunity for smaller organizations with limited funds available for pre-financing.
- Opportunity for smaller, more local initiatives.



7. IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE CITIZENS

RESULT INDICATOR SMALL PROJECTS

New practical solutions leading to improvements to public services (by small size projects)

For small projects - The practical solution and improvement of the public services must be defined in each project plan. Project should implement the solution.

Examples include increased quality level of the service, adopted improved regulation, adopted policy document or plan, shortened time of the service delivery, expanded target group, improved usability of the service, improved **participation** (including feedback) opportunities etc.

INDICATIVE JOINT ACTIONS / SMALL PROJECTS

- Study visits and experience exchange seminars;
- Trainings and networking;
- Feasibility studies, plans and designs relevant for improvements;
- Improving public services and solutions leading to improvement of public services
- Improving participatory processes for developing services

Above list is not exclusive. All projects should use a **suitable mix of these actions** based on the project topic. The chosen mix of actions must be relevant for achieving the **contribution to both the project and programme results.**

PROJECT EXAMPLE / SMALL PROJECTS

BREAKING BARRIERS

- project aims to create practical solutions on how to improve inclusive education services into day-to-day education services and practices



7. IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE CITIZENS

RESULT INDICATOR REGULAR PROJECTS

New joint cross-border public services or digitalized
public services
(by regular projects)

!!! The improvement or new solution is achieved if it is tested/piloted or taken into use by
customers (users).

Either creating new joint cross-border public service or digitalization of existing
public service

INDICATIVE JOINT ACTIONS / REGULAR PROJECTS

- Awareness raising for stakeholders and target groups
- Trainings for target groups and networking
- Feasibility studies
- Plans and designs (including strategic and land use planning) for new or aligned joint services and service infrastructure
- Synchronisation and harmonisation of public services (like IT)
- Data economy solutions

Above list is not exclusive. All projects should use a **suitable mix of these actions** based on the project topic. The chosen mix of actions must be relevant for achieving the **contribution to both the project and programme results.**

PROJECT EXAMPLES / REGULAR PROJECTS

VINCE

- project aims to develop and improve public integration services for migrants to transfer individual and group-based integration services into the virtual, digital world

SuRuMo

- project aims to develop cross border digital platform that includes various physical mobility solutions to be used by citizens and one tool for estimation of mobility patterns to be used by traffic planners to map areas where new mobility solutions can be introduced



Potential project examples (1/2)

Partner organisation example	Type of project	Example of projects	Examples of potential results expected	Result indicators targeted
Local or regional municipality	Small project	Joint land use and / or sectoral* / strategic planning across borders * Transport planning, health care planning, education planning, social care planning etc.	Synchronized land use / sectoral / strategic planning across municipalities / borders (partners)	New practical solutions leading to improvement to public services
		Participatory approach development into municipal services to raise the quality and / or efficiency (planning, implementation, monitoring, or evaluation stage of the service)	Inclusion of participatory approach into day-to-day services and practice across municipalities (partners)	
	Small / regular project	Common solutions to urban, rural, or urban - rural development challenges and obstacles* * utilities provision, waste management, inclusion of migrants, entrepreneurship support and development,	Improved practices regarding urban, rural, or urban-rural development challenges across municipalities (partners)	New practical solutions leading to improvement to public services / New joint public services or digitalized public services
Regular project		Synchronization or digitalization of existing public services (any kind of service provided by municipalities)	Synchronized or digitalized (existing) public services	New joint public services or digitalized public services

7. IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE CITIZENS

Potential project examples (2/2)

Partner organisation example	Type of project	Example of projects	Examples of potential results expected	Result indicators targeted
Municipal companies providing public services National or regional authorities and institutions	Regular project Small project	Development of common / joint cross -border public services	New joint public services or digitalized public services	Municipal companies providing public services National or regional authorities and institutions
		Participatory approach development for providing services to raise the quality and/or efficiency (planning, implementation, monitoring, or evaluation stage of the service)	Inclusion of participatory approach into day-to-day services and practice across institutions (partners)	
	Regular project	Synchronization or digitalization of existing public services (any kind of provided by institutions)	Synchronized or digitalized (existing) public services	New practical solutions leading to improvement to public services / New joint public services or digitalized public services
	Regular project	Development of common / joint cross -border public services	New joint public services or digitalized public services	New joint public services or digitalized public services

Project Applicant Seminar

Practicalities of applying
from project idea to project submission

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Interreg

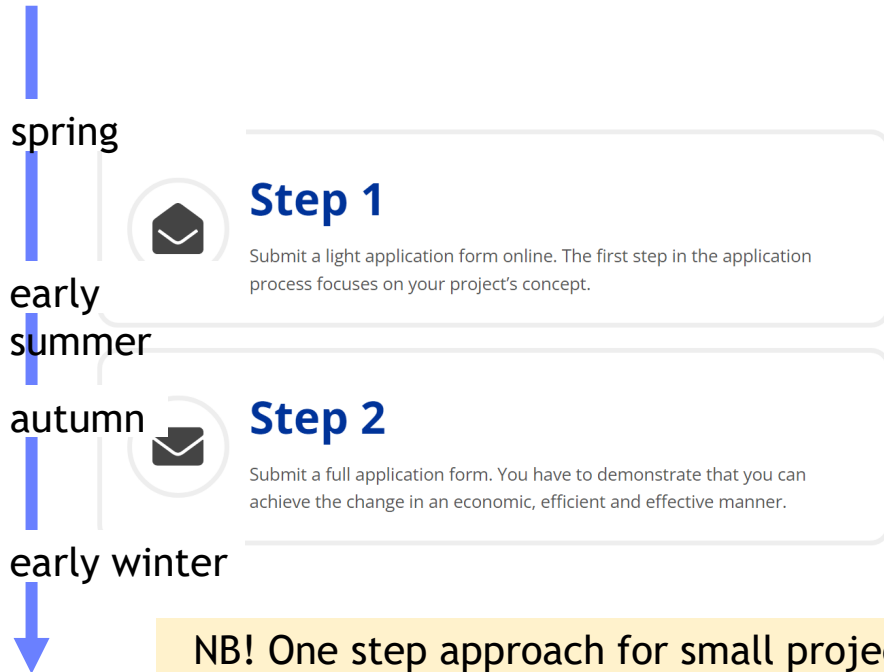


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Central Baltic Programme

FROM PROGRAMME TO PROJECT

2-step approach for regular projects



- Admissibility checklist
- Quality assessment criteria
- Threshold (min. 2,5 out of 4)

- Assessment by Programme Joint Secretariat
- Decisions by Monitoring Committee

Elements of a good project (1)

- **Demand-driven**
 - Identified target group will be able to benefit from the project
- **Relevance** for the programme
 - Project contributes to the programme objectives results
- **Result oriented**
 - Project will make a change by addressing the need of the target groups
- **Real need** for cross-border co-operation
 - **Project would not succeed without international co-operation**
- **Relevant partnership**
- **Sustainable and durable**

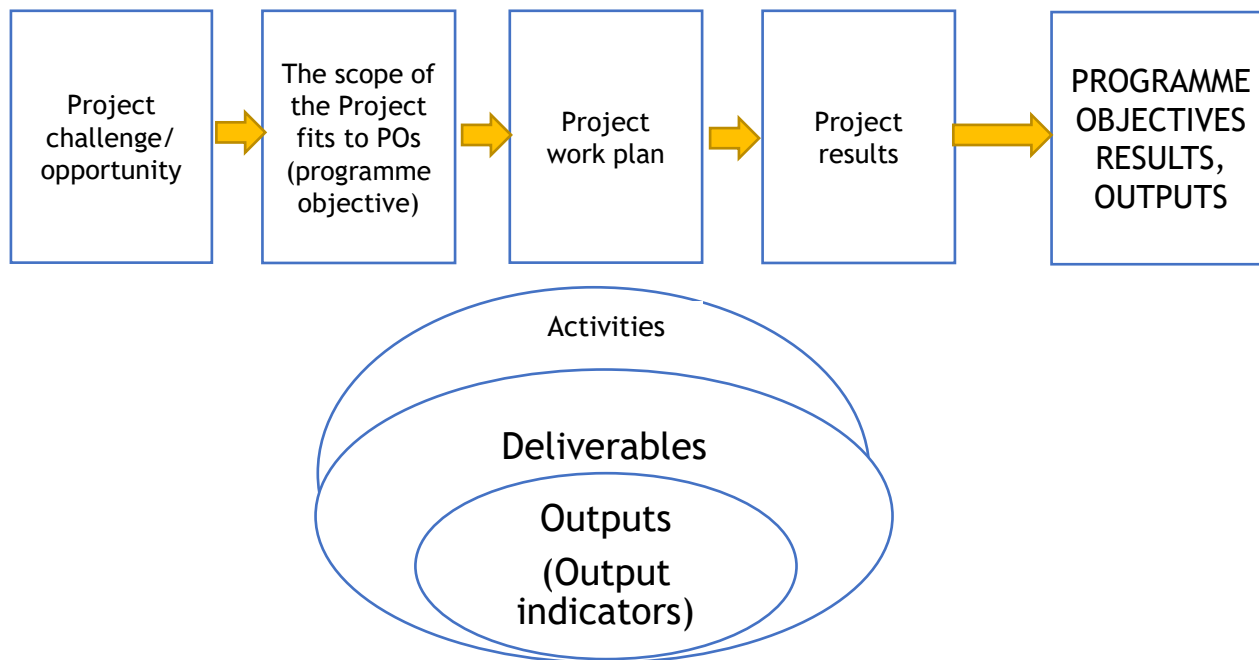


Elements of a good project (2)

- Know the basics of the programme, be aware of what we want
 - Geography, support rate, budget limits etc.
 - If anything is unclear, refer to the written guidance or contact the JS
- Logical work plan
- Impact to the programme area
- Do not apply just to get money, but to make a change!

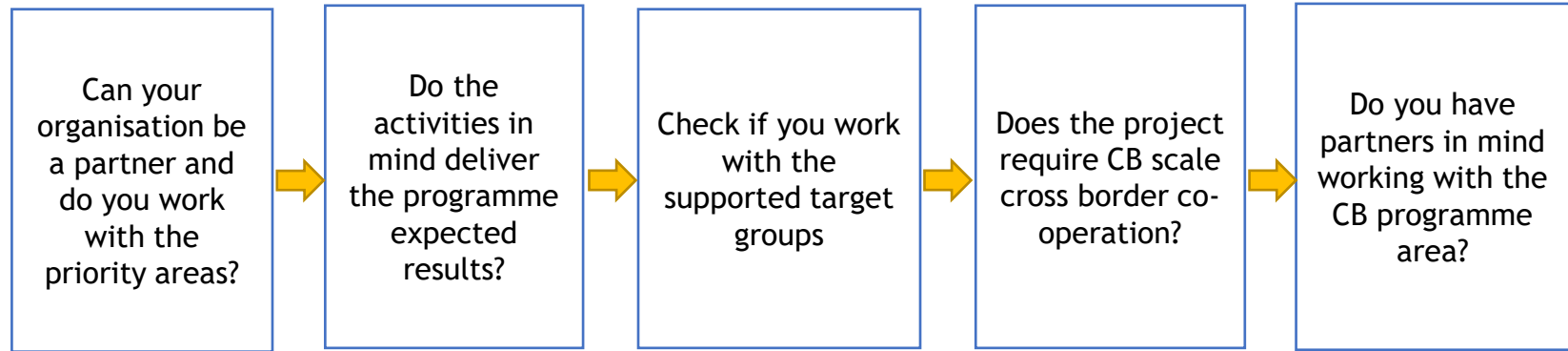


Project intervention logic



How to start?

Start with checking the Programme Manual:



Be sure that your organisation is able to pre-finance the implementation of the project activities!

Write down your project idea and consult with the Joint Secretariat

Central Baltic Programme

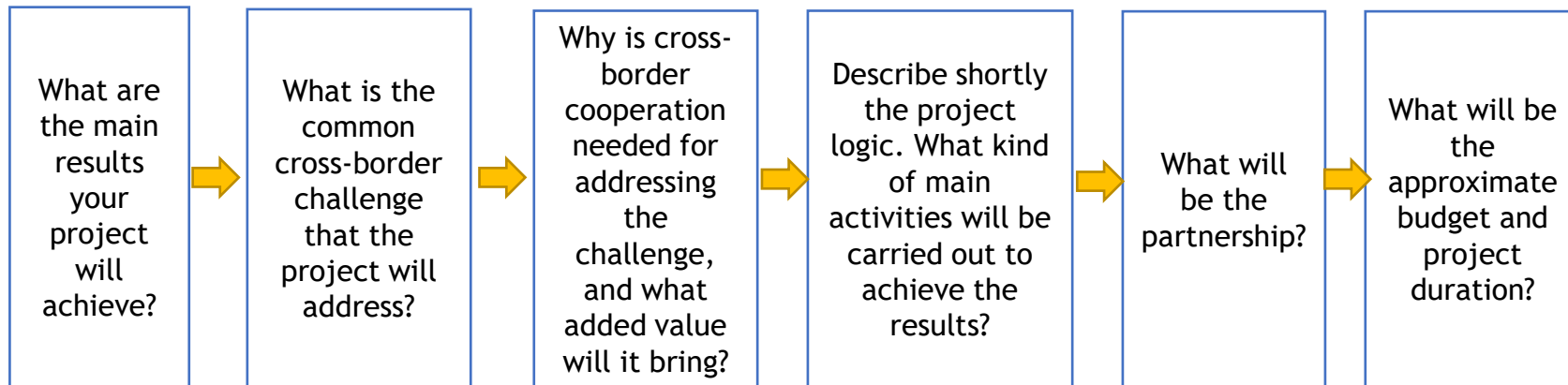
Project idea form

Central Baltic programme 2021-2027

Provide a short and concise description on the indicated aspects of the project idea. Avoid repeating same things under different questions. To get more information on the Programme content, please find a draft of the Programme Document from our website at www.centralbaltic.eu/for-applicants/key-documents/

Indicative name of the project	
Targeted Programme Objective <input type="checkbox"/> PO 1: More exports by SMEs <input type="checkbox"/> PO 2: More new scaled-up growth companies <input type="checkbox"/> PO 3: Joint circular economy solutions <input type="checkbox"/> PO 4: Improved coastal and marine environment <input type="checkbox"/> PO 5: Decreased CO2 emissions <input type="checkbox"/> PO 6: Improved employment opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> PO 7: Improved public services	

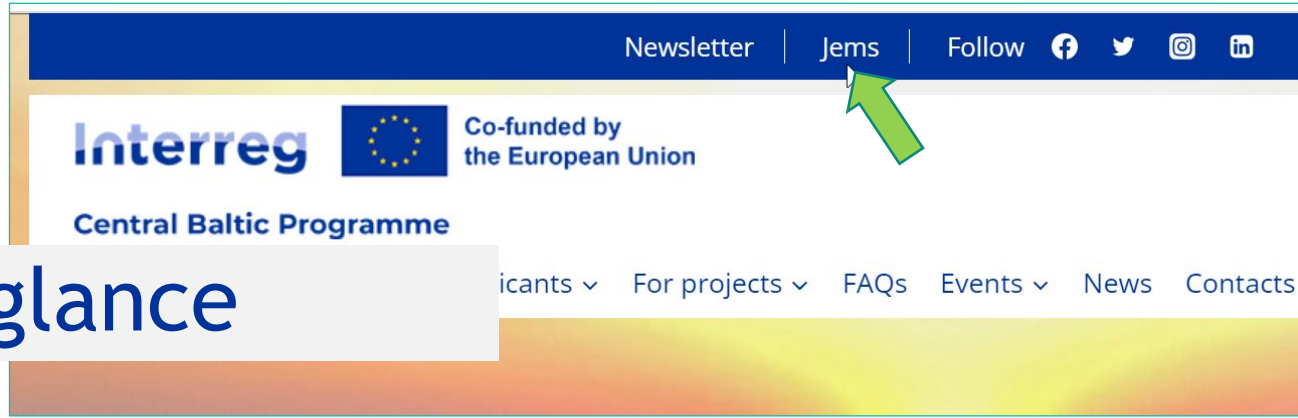
Project idea form questions:



Tips for planning the project

- Start early
- Involve the partners
- Consider target groups' needs
- Fill in project idea form
- Consult with the Joint Secretariat (JS)
- Take in account the JS feedback when planning further
- Know the guidance documents - the Guide and the Manual
- Use the Guide and the Manual side by side when filling in the application
- Use the Guide to see the questions of the Application form
- Check against the assessment criteria in Programme Manual





Jems at a glance

- Project submission is done via the e-Monitoring System called **Jems**.
- Jems is jointly developed by and for Interreg programmes
- Each programme can (to an extent) customise the system based on their needs
- Jems is a web-based application that is **used with a web browser**.
- Jems can be accessed through the Programme website as well as directly at: <https://jems.centralbaltic.eu/>

Key documents for applicants:

Key documents - Central Baltic

Better together!

- Project idea form
- Programme Manual
- Guide for Applying for a Project
- FAQ and questions you should ask

Always refer to the last version of the documents on centralbaltic.eu

BUDGETS

Main funding principles



Up to 80% ERDF funding

Min. 20% own contribution (partner, national, other source)

Funding based on reporting period of 6 months

No advance payments

Preparation lump sum of 13 550 EUR

Wide use of Simplified Cost Options

Budget in the application form for regular projects



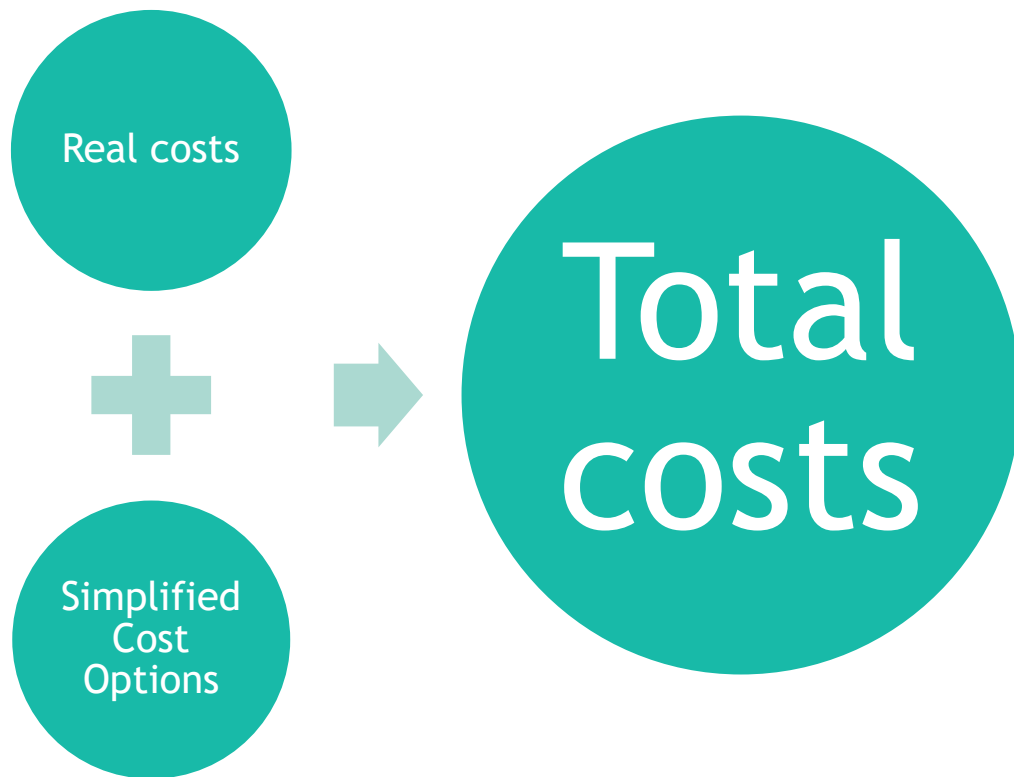
Budget as well as work plan is part of 2nd step application form for regular projects



NB! Indicative budget information is part of the 1st step application form

Costs used:

**NB! Use of
pre-defined
simplified
cost options
is mandatory!**



Simplified Cost Options

- Preparation costs - lump sum (13 550 EUR)
- Staff costs - unit cost (differs across MS)
- Office and administration costs - 15% of the staff costs
- Travel and accommodation - 15% of the staff costs
- External expertise and services: unit cost for events (differs across MS)
- Equipment: unit cost for project management equipment - 0,23 euro per unit
- Other equipment, investments - real costs



Staff costs - unit cost, rate per hour

Estonia	Finland (including Åland)	Latvia	Sweden
29 EUR	39 EUR	26 EUR	534 SEK (budgeted in EUR, 50 EUR)

- Budgets are always made in euro
- Max hours for 1 full time employee are 1720 per year, counted pro rata as necessary
- Paid based on employment contracts and report of hours

External expertise and services - simplified cost option - FACE TO FACE EVENTS

Estonia	Finland (including Åland)	Latvia	Sweden
55 EUR	80 EUR	51 EUR	84 EUR

- Costs mentioned above are for 1 day of event
- Costs applied based on location of the event
- Paid based on agendas and signed participant lists (participants have to sign separately for each day!!!)
- Check the Programme Manual for full conditions

Other rules

- VAT eligible
 - The exception is project partners to whom the funding is granted under the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) Article 20. For these partners, their VAT status determines the eligibility of VAT. If the partner cannot recover VAT, then it is part of the eligible cost.
- Public procurements should always be done according to national rules or following EU rules, depending on the thresholds - both for real costs and SCOs.
- Direct state aid - General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER), Article 20 requirements have been integrated into programme rules.
- In cases of indirect aid to third parties the GBER Article 20a is applied. This means that a project partner can grant aid up to 22 000 EUR ERDF per undertaking per project. The partner has to document the calculation of the amount of aid and report it to the MA/JS.

Activities and deadlines

Individual consultations - Project idea form - feedback

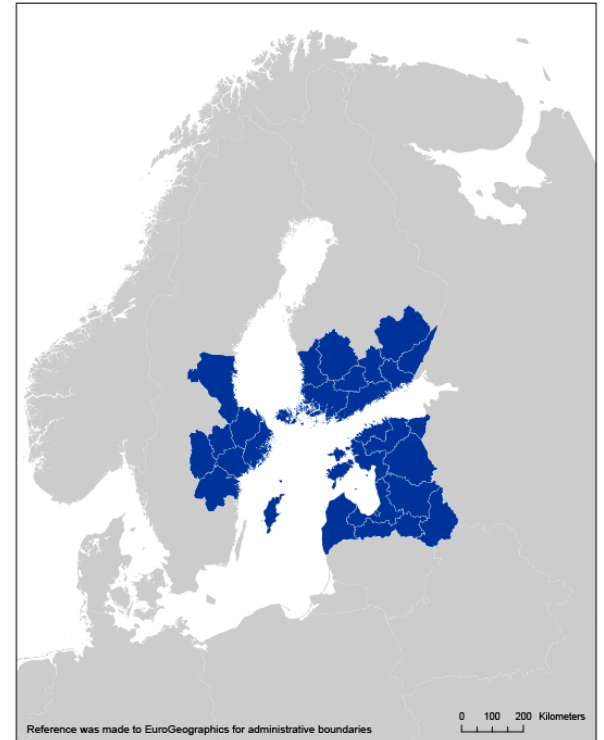
National Contact Points in each country, including Åland

4th round of calls in 2024

Jems open for 1st step regular projects 09.- 30.04.

Jems open for 2nd step regular projects and for small project applications 10.-31.10.

Funding decisions early 2025





Supporting events for applicants

- Project Applicant Seminar - Programme logic and Objectives
 - **25 January**, Mikkeli, Finland - [Information and registration](#) until **19 January**
- Partner search event (online)
 - **30 January** - [Information and registration](#)
- Project Applicant Seminar - Programme logic and Objectives
 - **1 February**, Rēzekne, Latvia - [Information and registration](#) until **26 January**
- Project Applicant Webinar - Programme logic and Objectives 6 & 7
 - **4 June**
- Partner search event (online) - **11 June**
- Project Applicant Webinar - Budget and planning - **17 September**

Whom to send your project idea form?

1. More exports by SMEs

2. More new scaled-up growth companies

3. Joint circular economy solutions

4. Improved coastal and marine environment

5. Decreased CO2 emissions

6. Improved employment opportunities

7. Improved public services

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Thank You!



Varsinais-Suomen liitto
Egentliga Finlands förbund
Regional Council of Southwest Finland