

Central Baltic Programme 2021-2027

Project Applicant Webinar - Programme logic and objectives

Project Managers

Normunds Strautmanis, Laura Cunska-
Āboma and Liina Luup

4 June 2024, online (Zoom)

Agenda

4 June 2024

Location: online on Zoom

13:00 - 13:30	Welcome and introduction to the cross-border cooperation and Central Baltic programme logic, focus on small projects
13:30 - 14:15	Introduction to PO6 (Improved employment opportunities on labour market) topics and logic
14:15 - 14:30	BREAK
14:30 - 15:00	Introduction to PO7 (Improved public services and solutions for the citizens) topics and logic
15:00 - 15:45	Practicalities about applying for funding: available guidance, Jems, deadlines

Aims of the event

- To introduce Central Baltic programme and describe in which areas the 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, focusing on small project call



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

CALLS IN 2024

Open on 9 January 2024 and
close on 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 - general

- Materials on the website
 - [Programme Manual](#)
 - [Guide for Applying for a Small Project](#)
 - [Annex templates](#)
- Applicant support events
 - Online
- Consultation possibilities
 - [Project idea form](#)



Project Applicant Webinar

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

Normunds Strautmanis

Project Manager

Normunds.Strautmanis@centralbaltic.eu

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.



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.

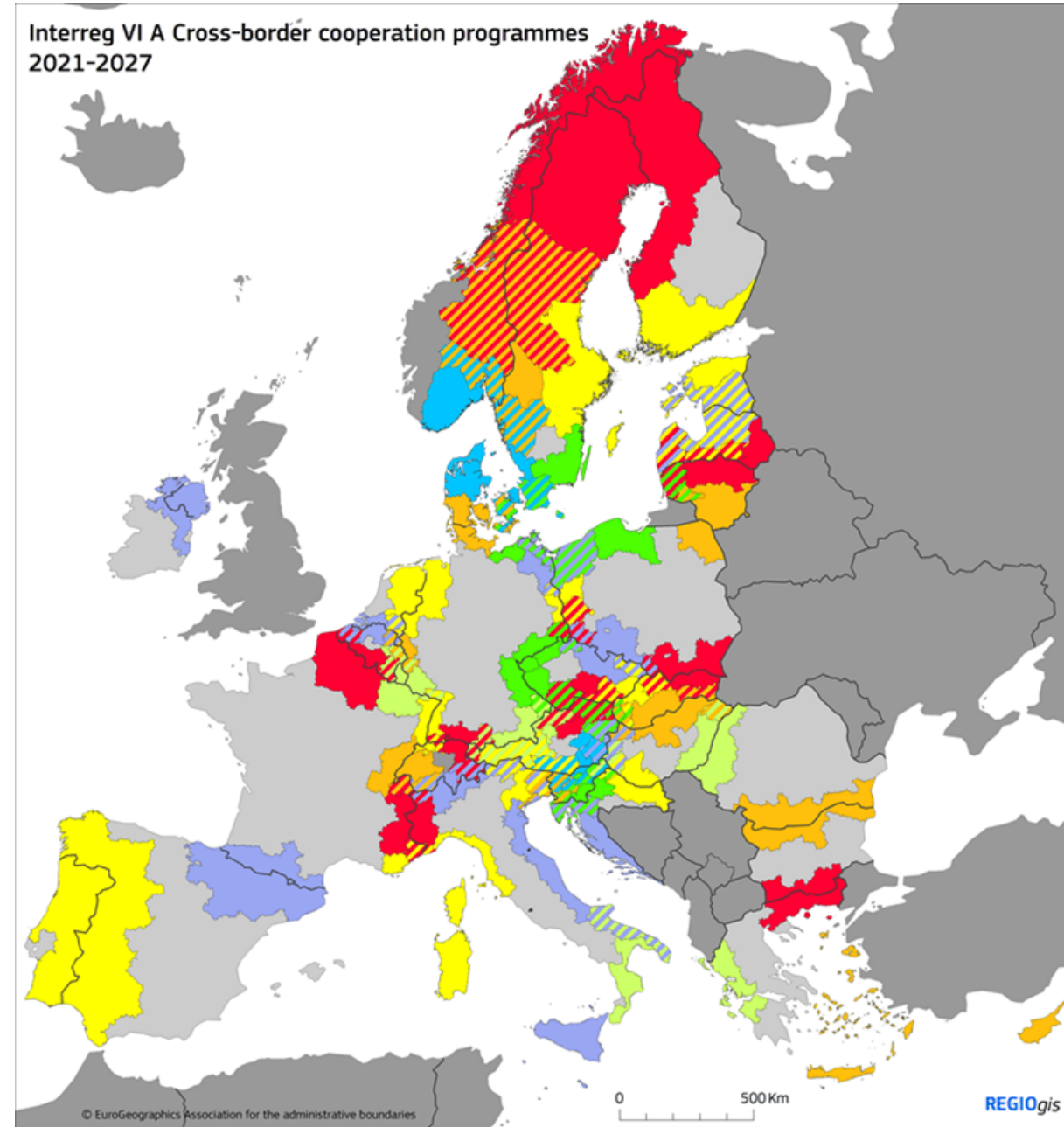
European cross-border co-operation, known as **Interreg A**, supports **cooperation between NUTS III regions from at least two Member States** lying directly on the borders or adjacent to them.

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

PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS

152

million euros ERDF

7

Programme Objectives

4

countries, including
Åland

29

regions involved

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

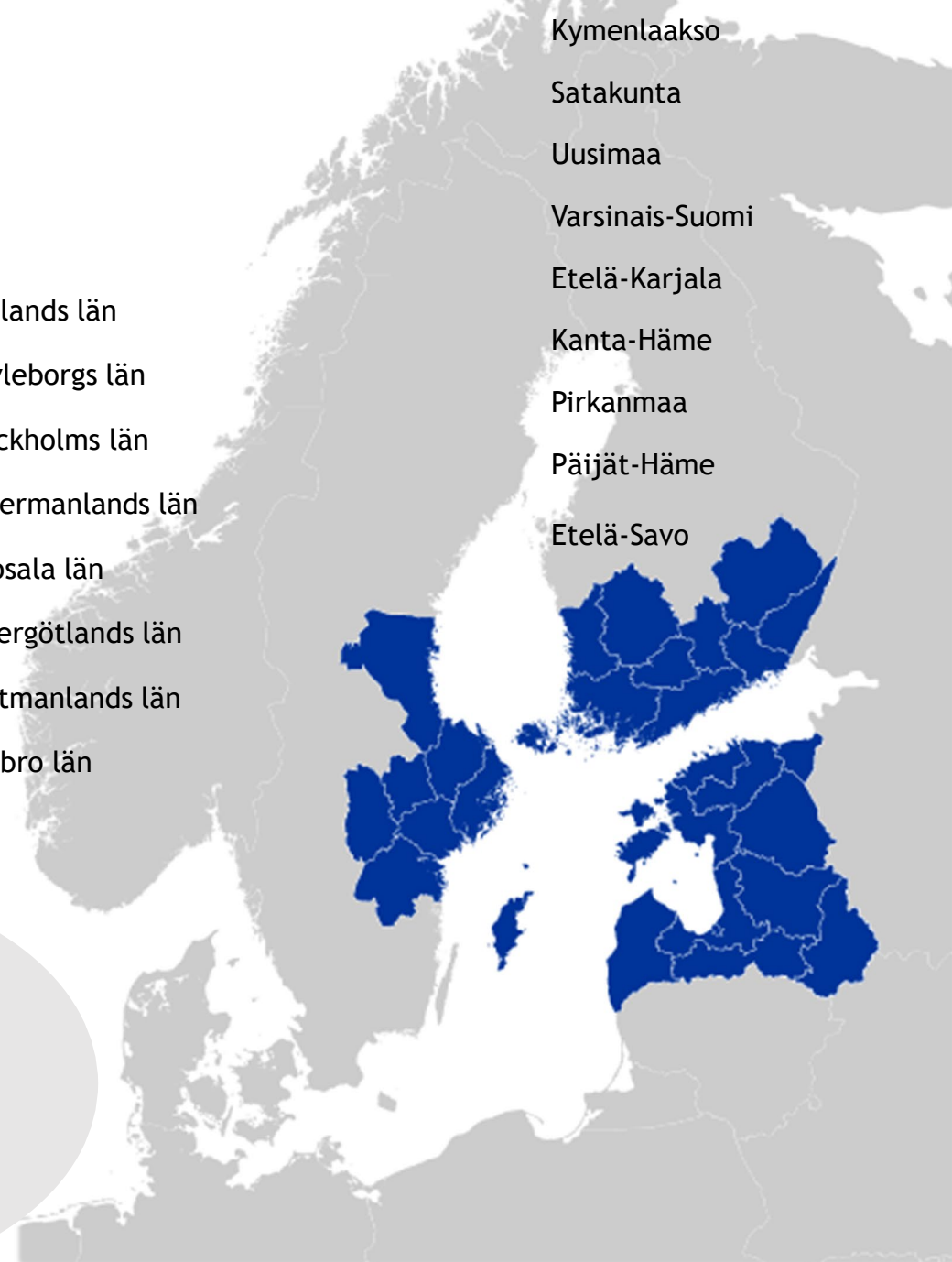
Etelä-Karjala

Kanta-Häme

Pirkanmaa

Päijät-Häme

Etelä-Savo





**1 5 2 M€
ERDF
funding**

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

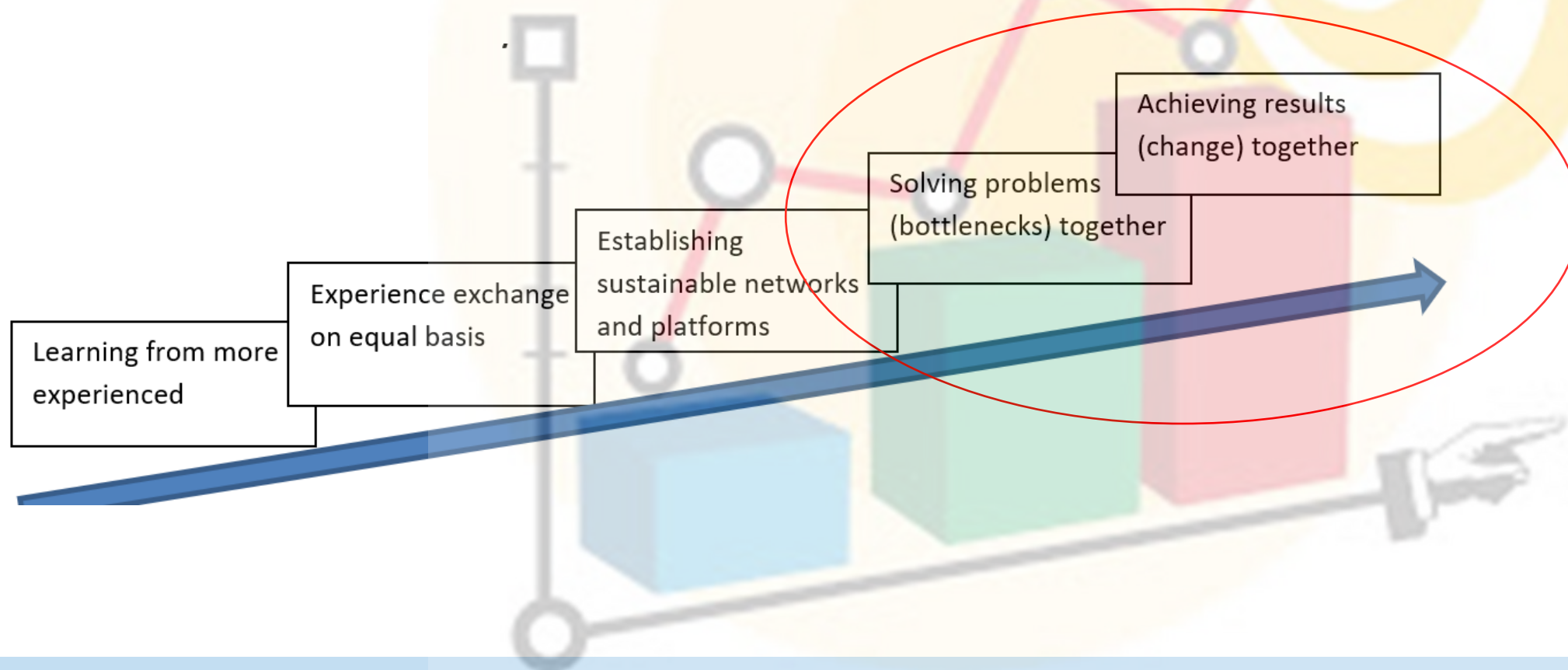
- To achieve changes together => cross-border partnerships

Programme objective - Result indicator - Target value

The change targeted together!

- **Projects** - 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

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.

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?



Project Applicant Webinar

Programme Objective 6

Laura Cunska-Āboma
Project Manager

laura.cunska-aboma@centralbaltic.eu

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
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5. Decreased CO2
emissions

IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

6. Improved
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labour market

IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICES

7. Improved public
services and
solutions for the
citizens

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.

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.

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)

Summary by project type

Project types by result

Number of people with increased competitiveness on labour market PSR 6	Number of organisations with applied additional anti-discriminatory policies PSR 7	Number of people with increased entrepreneurship PRS8
Target groups - all less competitive groups	Target groups - companies/organizations	Target groups - less competitive <u>age groups</u>
Activities: joint learning, cross-border activities for the acquisition of skills useful in the labour market, support for job search.	Activities - joint development and implementation of anti-discrimination policies in companies/organisations.	Activities - jointly organized and implemented business training, non-financial support for business start-ups, cross-border activities for participants.

IMPORTANT!!!

01

Choose ONE result indicator only

02

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

03

Include only activities that directly contribute to the result

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.
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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 for PSR6 projects:

- 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.

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, and prove that demand 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 - rules that might limit target group participation.



Think from perspective of the target group - the focus is always benefit to the less competitive group, not only regional development or economic sector needs.



Do think cross-border!



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 P06 project? (2)



Outreach to the target group needs to be described. General approach for outreach through municipalities or public employment services needs better described, as none of them can simply disclose their clients' list / data (in accordance with GDPR). Therefore, it is important to clarify how this collaboration will be carried out and agree it beforehand.



Duplicating of existing services or proposing to test methods for other organizations - the projects should better describe what kind of support the countries already offer to the project target groups and highlight the added value of their project compared to the existing offers. It would be important to find new / innovative ways to address challenges, not to duplicate existing offers. In case of testing new methods for some other organisations - these organisations should be involved in project planning and willing to use the results.



Use existing training programmes - much is already available and can be adapted to save costs.

How to define a good P06 project? (3)

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

Always refer to:

- Programme Manual
- Guide for Applying for a Project

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

Types of projects per result indicator

*small project

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*		

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

Normunds.Strautmanis@centralbaltic.eu

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))

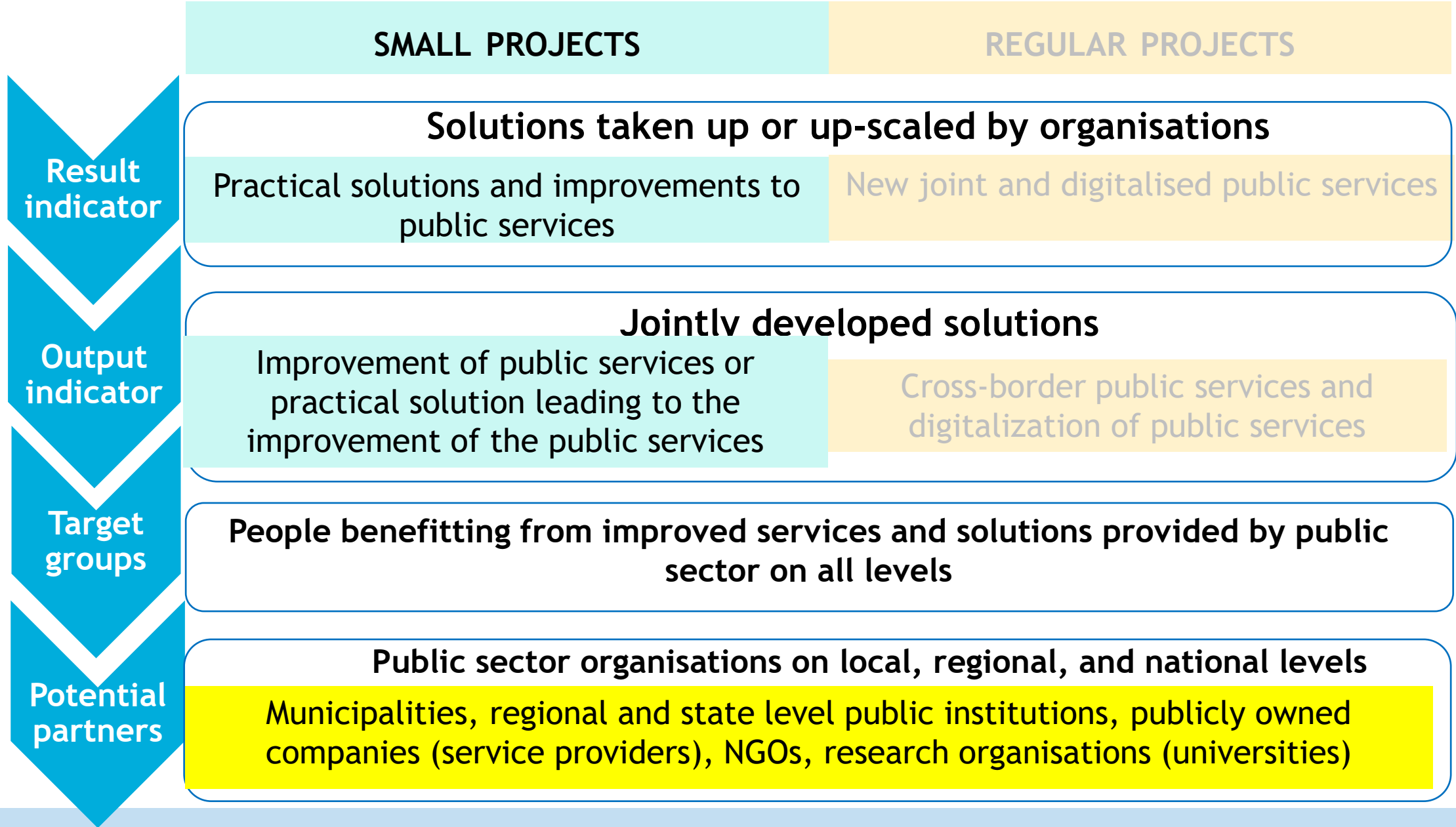
NGOs

- Other options possible

STATUTORY MANDATE!!!



7. IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE CITIZENS



Output indicator

Jointly developed solutions

- The indicator counts the number of jointly developed solutions from joint pilot actions implemented by supported projects. In order to be counted in the indicator, an identified solution should include indications of the actions needed for it to be taken up or to be upscaled.
- A jointly developed solution implies the involvement of organizations from at least two participating countries in the drafting and design process of the solution.
- “Solutions” include 2 sub-components representing 2 different interventions within Programme Objective:
 - 1) with regular projects with which **cross-border public services and digitalization of public services** should be targeted and achieved and
 - 2) with small projects where experience exchange and learning from each other should be accompanied with **improvement of public services or practical solution leading to the improvement of the public services**

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.**

7. IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE CITIZENS

Possible small project examples

NGOs

Joint practice introduction to
improve quality of the service /
support

Municipalities

Joint planning (land use,
strategic, sectorial, etc.)
Joint quality guidelines

Other*

Participatory approach
development into services to
raise the quality and / or
efficiency of the service

Participatory approach
development into services to
raise the quality and / or
efficiency of the service

* regional or state level public bodies or
public service providers

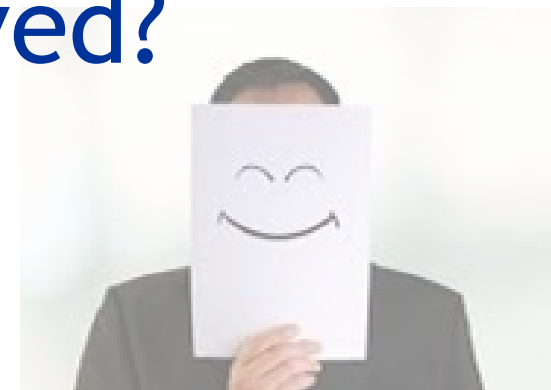
When is the result considered achieved?

- Partnership implements actions relevant to achieve the stated aims / results of the project
- Jointly developed solutions (to improve public services)
- (Jointly developed) Solutions taken into use

Project
activities

Output
indicator

Result
indicator



During project implementation phase jointly developed solution to improve public service, for example, improve quality, shorten delivery period, reach new target groups (new users), participatory approach introduced etc. **(as defined in the application form by project partnership)**

During project implementation or latest one year after end of the project jointly developed solution to improve the public service is available to users

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



Small scale investment

- The Central Baltic programme allows for **small-scale investments**.
- These are particularly relevant for **P03, P04, P05, and P07**.
- All investments **must have cross-border added value** and the **must be crucial for reaching the results** of a project.
- Investments are understood as **equipment that are permanently used for reaching the results of the project**. Our focus is on solutions that are operable after the project has ended.
- Investments **must be planned in the project application**. The information should explain what investments are needed, how they contribute to the project results, and what risks are related to their implementation. The relevance of the investment will be assessed as part of the application.



What to think when in planning phase?

CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE INDICATORS

- Looking at the result and output indicators

Real public services for real people

THE RIGHT PARTNERS

- At least 2 partners from 2 different member states
- The right partners needed to achieve results

Statutory mandate to act in the field

SUSTAINABLE RESULTS

- Value-for-money through real results
- Plans for the use of results should be considered early on

How will you ensure that the service is to be used by the target group?

Time for Q/A



Central Baltic Programme 2021-2027

Practicalities on applying for funding

Liina Luup

- Project applicant webinar
- Zoom | 04 June 2024

Deadlines: 4th call small projects

Call open - now

Programme Manual and Guide for Applying for a Small Project 5.1 on CB website

Jems open: **October 10 - October 31, 2024 (noon EET).**

Decisions - mid-February 2025

Jems <https://jems.centralbaltic.eu/>

- be sure to be on the right place!
- click 'Create account', 'Register', receive an email with a confirmation link
- choose Call 4 small projects - available from October 10
- step-by-step guidance available in
- **GUIDE FOR APPLYING FOR A SMALL PROJECT**
- don't leave application submission to the last day!



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**



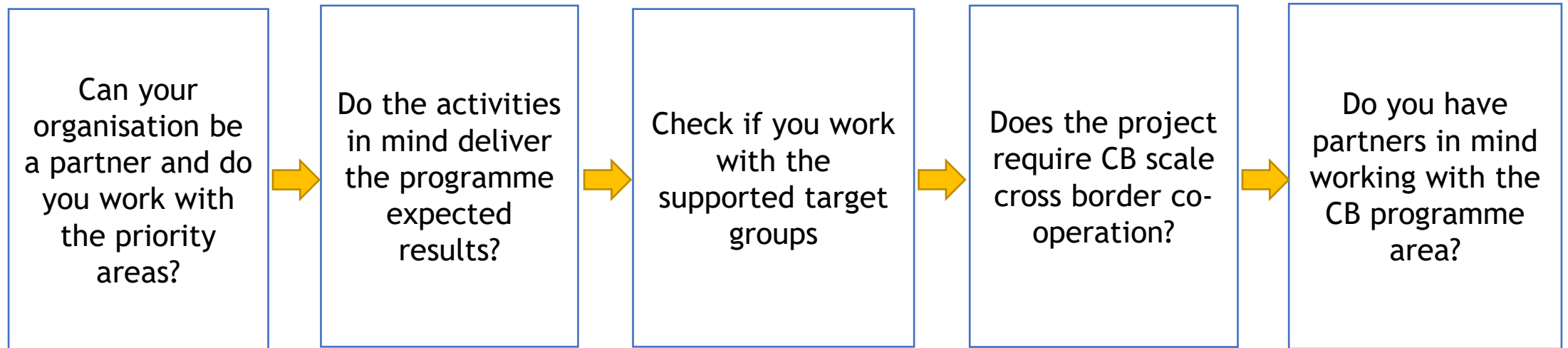
Elements of a good project (2)

- 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!



How to start?

Start with checking the 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

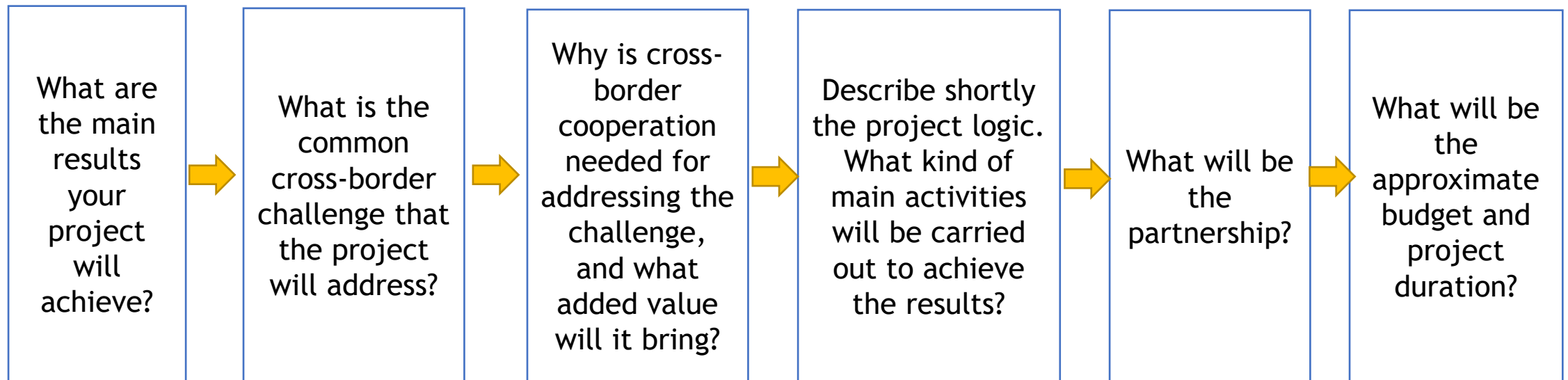
Project idea form

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 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



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

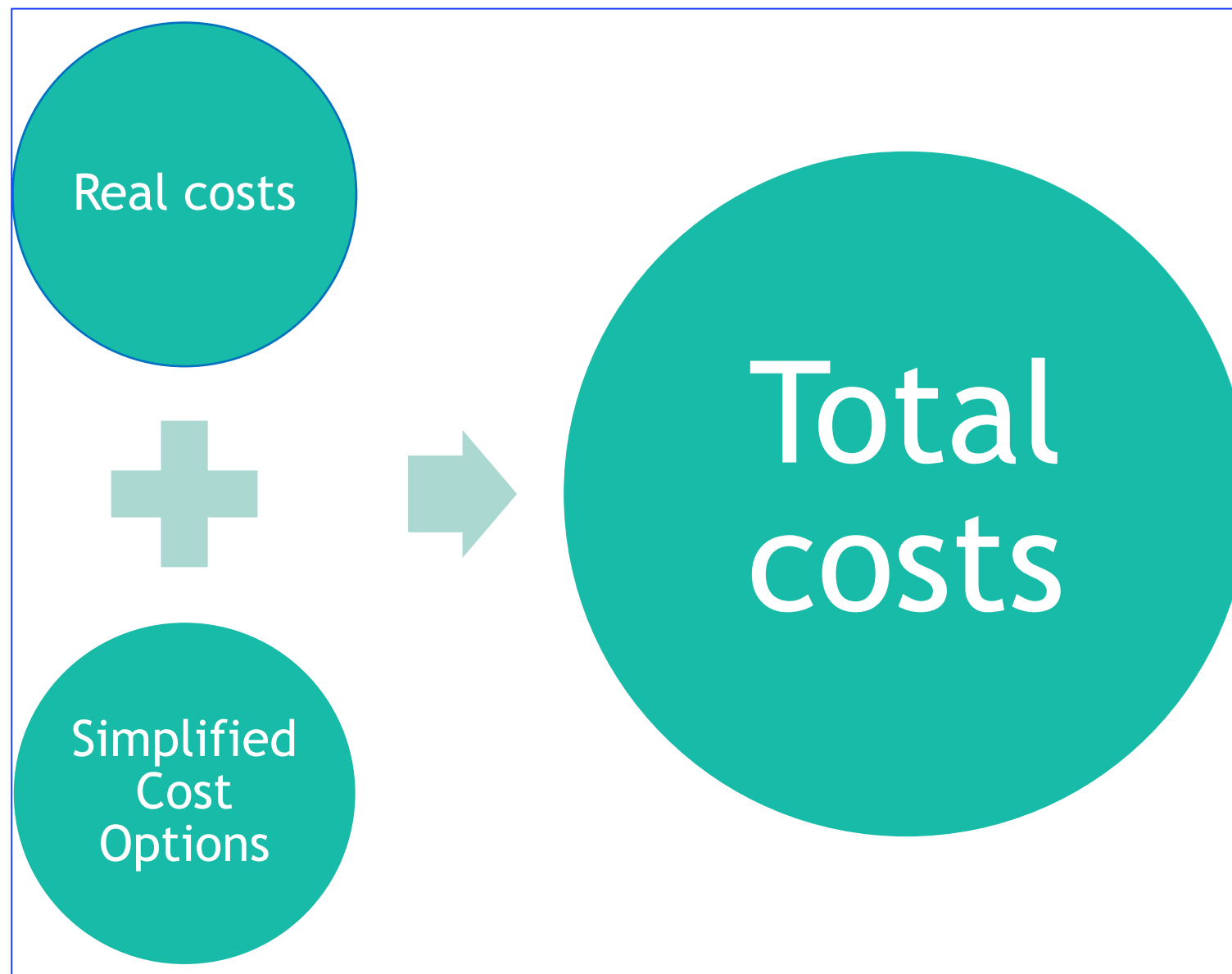
No advance payments

Preparation lump sum of 13 550 EUR

Wide use of Simplified Cost Options

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)
- Office equipment - unit cost
- Other equipment, investments - real costs

Simplified Cost Options

- NB - projects with less than 200 000 Euro budget cannot use real costs - SCO only!
- In practice it means you can budget F2F events costs (premises, catering), but no moderator, expert, lecturer, travel costs for target groups, etc.

Staff costs - unit cost, rate per hour

Estonia	Finland (including Åland)	Latvia	Sweden
29 EUR	39 EUR	26 EUR	50 EUR

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

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 event
- Costs apply based on location of the event
- Paid based on agendas and signed participant lists (participants have to sign separately for each day)

Other rules

- Public procurements should always be done according to national rules or following EU rules, depending on the thresholds - both for real costs and SCO's.
- **Direct state aid** - General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER), Article 20⁶, 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.

Other rules

- VAT is an eligible cost for despite the partner VAT status;
- 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. If the VAT can be recovered by the partner, the VAT is not an eligible cost.

Project Applicant Webinar - Budget and planning

The aim is to provide information about project budget and activity planning

17 September - save the date!

Interreg



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Thank you!



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