

THE BALTIC SEA REGION PROGRAMME 2007 – 2013

The Programme will support transnational projects working together for balanced and sustainable development of the European territory.

Strategic objective the new programme is to make the Baltic Sea Region more competitive in terms of investments, employment and living standards.

PRIORITIES

The projects will contribute to the following priorities:

- *Fostering innovations*
- *Internal and external accessibility*
- *Baltic Sea as a common resource*
- *Attractive and competitive cities and regions*

Expected results of the priorities:

- Increased political recognition of projects results
- Increased sustainability of transnational co-operative networks
- Unlocked public /private investments

Among the outcomes of the priorities there will be: feasibility studies, created new business opportunities, investment proposals and direct investments strategies, action plans, policy approaches, good practice solutions.

BUDGET

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): **208 MEUR**

European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI): **approx. 22.6 MEUR**

Norwegian national funding: **6 MEUR**

Total = 236,6 MEUR

+ co-funding from project partners from national, regional and local level

The programme will co-finance:

up to 75% of costs generated by partners from Denmark, Germany, Sweden and Finland

up to 85% for partners from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland

up to 50% for partners from Norway

up to 90% for partners from Russia and Belarus

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DEADLINE

The 2nd call for project applications was closed on 31 March 2009. The Secretariat received 86 applications.

The Monitoring Committee of the Programme approved five transport projects of the second call at its meeting in Vilnius on 8-9 June 2009. Around 16,4 million Euro of ERDF funds or 46% of available ERDF co-financing, 0,72 MEUR of Norwegian funds or 63% of available co-financing and 0.144 MEUR of ENPI funds or 5% of available co-financing were allocated. There are still approx. 25 Million Euro of the Programme funds available to support transport (Priority 2) projects in the coming calls. The approved transport projects involve 97 project partners.

Project TransBaltic was selected as a strategic project of the Programme.

The decision on the second call projects submitted in Priorities 1, 3 and 4 will be taken in Oslo on 15-16 September.

Further information is available at www.eu.baltic.net

SOUTH BALTIC PROGRAMME - CROSS – BORDER COOPERATION

Joint Technical Secretariat

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The overall goal of the programme is to strengthen the sustainable development of the South Baltic Area through increasing its competitiveness potential and promoting integration among people and institutions.

The South Baltic (SB) programme is the new initiative implemented within the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation objective.

ELIGIBLE AREA

The area eligible for the Programme includes the following NUTS III units:

Poland - Szczecinski, Koszalinski, Slupski, Gdanski, Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot sub-regions and as adjacent (according to the "20% rule"): Elblaski sub-region;

Sweden - Kalmar, Blekinge, Skane Counties and as adjacent: Kronoberg County;

Germany - sub-regions of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: Greifswald, Rostock, Stralsund, Wismar, Bad Doberan, Nordvorpommern, Nordwestmecklenburg, Ostvorpommern, Rügen, Uecker-Randow;

Denmark - Regional Municipality of Bornholm and as adjacent: Zealand sub-region;

Lithuania - Klaipeda County and as adjacent: Taurage and Telsiai Counties.

PRIORITIES

The Programme has three priorities:

Priority 1: Economic Competitiveness

Indicative actions within Priority 1 are:

- entrepreneurial development;
- integration of higher education and labour market;
- transport accessibility.

Priority 2: Attractiveness and Common Identity

Indicative actions within Priority 2:

- management of the Baltic Sea environment;
- energy savings and renewable energy;
- sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage for regional development;
- local community initiatives.

Priority 3: Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance (TA) is essential for providing effective implementation of the Programme. TA is earmarked for financing the preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, information, and control activities of the Operational Programme, as well as activities to reinforce the administrative ability to implement the funds.

BUDGET

The SB programme is co-financed by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The European Union contribution to the SB programme is 60,7 mln euro. Polish allocation is 25 mln euro.

Co-financing rate

The co-financing rate from ERDF for Polish, Lithuanian, and German partners will be max. at 85% level. Swedish, Danish partners can receive from the ERDF up to 75% of the eligible expenditure as a refund of the incurred costs.

POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES

- Local, regional governments as well as their associations;
- Non-governmental organisations (NGO's);
- Schools, universities, and R&D institutions;
- Institutions supporting and promoting sustainable development, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

DEADLINE

Third call for proposals: 15 July 2009 - 30 September 2009.

CENTRAL BALTIC INTERREG IVA PROGRAMME

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Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013 is a new cross-border co-operation programme under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective covering regions from Estonia, Finland including the Åland Islands, Latvia and Sweden with an allocation from the European Regional Development Fund of more than 100 MEUR for 2007-2013.

The Programme consists of the overall Central Baltic Programme, the Southern Finland – Estonia and Archipelago and Islands Sub-programmes.

PRIORITIES

The Central Baltic INTERREG IVA Programme has three common priorities for all, the Central Baltic Programme and the two sub-programmes.

Safe and Healthy Environment (Priority 1)

This priority focuses on protecting and improving our common environment and puts a special focus on the Baltic Sea. The priority supports a sustainable environmental development of the programme area, making it attractive for both inhabitants and visitors.

Economically Competitive and Innovative Region (Priority 2)

This priority focuses on enhancing the overall economic development and competitiveness of the programme area. It emphasises innovations and broad, qualitative co-operation. Moreover, the development of connections to facilitate cross-border co-operation and a better flow of goods and people is another focus, together with the utilisation of the labour force and the development of the tourism sector.

Attractive and Dynamic Societies (Priority 3)

Priority focuses on creating a better living environment for the programme area's inhabitants. Thus, it is important to address people's health, wellbeing and security as well as co-operation aiming at strengthening cultural exchange and the programme area's togetherness. Improving the quality of life for the citizen's is an important aspect of sustainable development. This priority deals with creating a region with equal opportunities for different groups of the population. It also supports their active participation in society.

BUDGET

The Central Baltic Programme has ERDF allocation of 102 million EUR.

STATUS

Programme has been approved by the European Commission on 21 December 2007. The first meeting of the Monitoring Committee took place on 19-20 February 2008.

The programme had its Launch Event in Turku, Finland on **29 May 2008**.

DEADLINE

The 3rd call: **15 September to 15 October 2009.**