



INTERREG SOUTH BALTIC ANNUAL EVENT

Step into the future



1. Seed money call applications must be developed under one of the current Programme SO and at the same time address future Programme Measures.

What does it mean?

Seed money projects should be developed under the Specific Objectives of the South Baltic Programme 2014-2020: 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1 or 5.1. The project ideas should aim at the preparation of regular projects in the next programming period and select one of the Measures for 2021-2027. The exact pairing of the SOs/Measures of the current and future Programme is not pre-defined. For example, a project idea can be submitted under current SO 3.1 Sustainable transport but refer to future Measure 1.1 Digitising the region as developing e-transport services.

The Application Form (AF) should include a description of the connection of the idea between current and future Programmes.

2. What are the conditions to regard the event as an on-site workshop?

There are no specific requirements set by the Programme (as to no. of participants, no. of international travels, rental costs, external expertise, services, etc.).

The event should be of a rational scale and of reasonable costs taking into account that its character should be cross-border. The workshop itself will be reimbursed based on lump sums so no real costs will be reported. However, details about this shall be presented in the AF to prove value for money. Later on, after the implementation stage, the report from the workshop shall be delivered with event-specific data. It will be checked against the description provided in the AF before reimbursing the lump sum.

3. Involving private partners (SMEs) to the project

It is not possible to involve Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the seed money project. Current partners eligibility criteria shall be applied.

The future South Baltic Programme 2021-2027 draft assumes that the SMEs will be allowed to take part as regular project partners, with their role and budget (incl. ERDF co-financing).

4. Within the seed money project we would like to organise a workshop with seed money project partners and potential future project partners. Can we cover the potential partners' costs of travel and accommodation?

Yes, the reimbursement will be made on a lump sum basis for outputs delivered regardless of the costs incurred.

5. Are all partners required to have their budget?

Yes, projects financed within the Programme should meet the cross-border cooperation criteria of joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing and joint financing. The share of the lump sum among seed money project partners should reflect fulfilling these criteria.

6. What is the deadline for the partial/joint report submission?

Regular reporting deadlines apply. Partial progress reports shall be completed in 15 days after the project end date to the First Level Controller (FLC) and joint project progress reports in 120 days after the project end date to the Joint Secretariat.

7. If there are errors in the AF, will it be possible to correct them or the application will be immediately rejected?

Formal mistakes are clarified during a project's formal assessment.

8. If someone chooses project options with physical workshops and the pandemic prevents the meeting, will the partners have to send back the entire/part of the amount received as funding, or will it be possible to complete the activity as an online workshop?

In principle, the project should be implemented in line with the Application Form. However, in case of unforeseen conditions, it would be possible to change the form of the workshop from on-site to online, but such a situation should be well justified, communicated to the JS as soon as possible and will be treated individually.

9. Is there any support for the development initiatives of the South Baltic area (Poland) in terms of the protection of the environment?

Yes, future Programme Priority Axis 2: Sustainable South Baltic - promoting sustainable development and blue and green economy, Measures 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 (green energy, sustainable use of water, circular economy).

10. Shall the seed money project deliver the final version of the main project application?

No. There are two obligatory outputs to be delivered within the progress report as the condition to receive project funding: project concept paper (template provided) and cross-border workshop (report from an on-site or online event).

11. Is there any partners search database?

There is no partners database as such, however, the Programme's regional Contact Points offer support in partners search: <https://southbaltic.eu/contact-points>
We also recommend checking the project database to find institutions already taking part in the Interreg South Baltic Programme: <https://southbaltic.eu/database>

12. What is the total budget / How much funding is available for the Seed money facility?

The total allocation per Specific Objective can be found at <https://southbaltic.eu/call-for-proposals>. The amount of resources offered within the 3rd Seed money call has an indicative character and is based on actual savings from the finalised projects. The final amount offered will equal the actual savings available at the time of the Monitoring Committee decision on the submitted applications.

13. What is the deadline for the consultations?

Individual consultation sessions can be scheduled on request until 29 October 2021. More about the consultation can be found here: <https://southbaltic.eu/-/3rd-seed-money-call-individual-project-consultations>.

14. Do all the partners need to have a budget that relates to both outputs, or could only have a budget associated with just one output?

In seed money projects, similarly to regular projects, all four cooperation criteria should be fulfilled. This includes joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, as well as joint financing. The budget of each project partner should reflect their role. From experience, partners should at least secure the budget for staff involvement, needed to secure their contribution in achieving project outputs.

15. In the seed money project, will the bigger partnership obtain more points in the evaluation or having a minimum of 2 partners from 2 countries is enough?

No, the number of project partners does not correlate with the higher assessment result. The partnership should be balanced between sectors and should enable the achievement of seed money project outputs, i.e. facilitation of future project concept preparation.

16. What is the date for carrying out the four-month seed money project? Is it October 31, 2022?

Yes, the end date of a seed money project cannot be later than October 31, 2022.

17. Does the project have to be four months? Or could it be three months as well?

No, the project duration time is up to four months.

18. When is the first possible start?

The project may start its implementation period after the Monitoring Committee decision on project approval, which is expected in February 2022.

19. Can the implementation months be March-April and September-October?

No, the duration of a project should be 4 months in a row.

20. Is it possible to cooperate with a partner outside of the South Baltic Area for the Seed Money project? We have one strategic partner outside the eligible area (Kaunas, LT). Is there any 20% rule or similar in the seed money project? Is it possible to somehow justify such a necessity or include a partner with a zero budget or as an external contractor?

In principle, to become a project partner, an organisation has to be located (what is decisive is the legal address of the organisation) in the eligible area of the South Baltic Programme. Only in exceptional cases, partners from outside the area can act as regular project partners (geographical eligibility of project partners is limited to the EU) and directly benefit from ERDF funding. Such organisations have to prove that their involvement as a project partner strongly contributes to the implementation of the project objectives, and without its contribution, the project would have difficulty in achieving its results and objectives. This will be assessed on a case by case basis during the project selection process. Their participation shall be explicitly justified by the project's character and the relevant Programme Member State (Programme region) will take over the financial responsibilities. More about the partnership rules can be found in the [Programme Manual chapter IV General rules on eligibility of costs and budget structure, point 2 Partnership principles in South Baltic Projects](#).

The 20% eligibility rule depends on the location of the activities and applies to seed money on a regular term as disrobed in the Programme Manual (chapter IV, point 2.4 Geographical location of the project activities), however, no real costs will be reported this time.

Additionally, such an institution may be involved as an external contractor (as suggested in the question), then its costs should be covered from the lump sum dedicated to project partners.