

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES IN THE PROGRAMME MANUAL V. 2

Location of change	Introduced changes	Justification of changes
Page 8-9; Section I, sub-section 1.4, National Authorities, Managing Authority	Information updated: Titles of ministries/organizations of the National Authorities in: Poland, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and of the Managing Authority,	Technical corrections.
Page 16; Section I, sub-section 4.4 Horizontal Principles	Information added: Every project approved by the Programme should aim at eliminating inequalities and promoting equality between men and women and integrating the gender perspective, as well as at combating discrimination based on any grounds, such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion, or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation. Project Partners representing municipalities that have taken discriminatory measures are excluded from the funding and will not be approved. In case of Polish Project Partners, a statement on the absence of discriminatory resolutions will be required from self-government units and their subordinate units and entities controlled by or dependent on them.	Introduction of relevant information on non-discrimination (a horizontal principles requirement) as well as more detailed information on the requirement for Polish partners.
Page 49, Section III, Subsection 3.3 Lead Partner, geographical location	Information added: 2. In justified cases, organisations at the national or regional level that are located outside the Programme area, but in the Programme Member State, but have a recognisable impact and/or functional links with the Programme area. In such cases, it is strongly recommended that the JS is contacted in advance to confirm eligibility.	The Programme limits the geographical eligibility of the Lead Partner to the Programme Member States (in justified cases).

<p>Page 50, Section III, Subsection 3.4 Project partners, geographical location</p>	<p>Information updated:</p> <p>Geographical location:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programme area (referring to the legal address of the organisation). 2. In justified cases, organisations located outside the Programme area but within the EU. 3. Applicants located outside the Programme area, but in the EU Member States, are entitled to receive a maximum of 80% of ERDF co-financing. 4. For partners from EU Member States outside the programme area, special agreements are needed between the Managing Authority and the EU Member State in question, wherefore the Joint Secretariat should be consulted as early on as possible. 	<p>The Programme limits the geographical eligibility of project partners to EU Member States only.</p>
<p>Page 52, Section III, Subsection 3.6 Associated partners and page 48 Section III, Subsection 3.1 Project partnership as related change</p>	<p>Information updated:</p> <p>Geographical location:</p> <p>Associated partners may come from EU Member States only.</p>	<p>The Programme limits the geographical eligibility of associated project partners to EU Member States only (not applicable for the projects approved under the 1st call for proposals).</p>
<p>Page 52, Section III, Subsection 3.7 Involvement of project partners outside the Programme Member States</p>	<p>Information added:</p> <p>Project partners located outside the Programme Member States but within the EU Member States only must agree with the relevant authority (-ies) in their respective EU Member State their participation in the project before applying in the call for proposals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In accordance with article 22(1) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 , the MA shall contact and will require a written acceptance from the relevant authority (-ies) of the concerned Member State outside the Programme Member States, to reimburse any amounts unduly paid to the project partner from this Member State, and also to confirm 	<p>Agreements should be signed between the MA and the authorities of the third countries (EU Member States), in case of participation of a project partner from such country.</p> <p>In accordance with the Interreg Regulation 2021-2027, the MA is required to obtain a written declaration from the third country that it will reimburse any amounts unduly paid to the partner established on its territory. The MA shall conclude such agreements in order to regulate the relations with the Member States from which the above-mentioned project partners will come - inter alia</p>

	<p>that it will follow the South Baltic Programme rules as described in the Programme Document, the Programme Manual, and other relevant documents , and other relevant documents.</p> <p>2. Agreement between the MA and the respective authority (-ies) in the project partner's Member State outside the Programme area is necessary. The agreement will be stipulating i.e., the responsibilities of that Member State regarding verification system under Article 46 of the Interreg regulation, irregularities, recoveries, external controls and audits, risk management, decommitment etc. and the mode of cooperation between the MA and the relevant authority (-ies) in the Member State outside the Programme area.</p>	<p>for the provision of a first-level control system in that country, reporting of irregularities, recovery of amounts unduly paid, submitting to external controls and audits, risk management, automatic de-commitment, receiving access to the CST2021 system and processing of personal data.</p>
<p>Page 62, Section IV, Subsection 2 Project Budget Structure</p>	<p>Information corrected/ updated:</p> <p><...></p> <p>It also includes a separate category for contribution in-kind (voluntary work).</p> <p>Contribution in-kind may be brought into a project only if it is an unpaid service free of charge.</p> <p>Other forms of in-kind contribution are not eligible!</p> <p>The voluntary work should be reported as a separate category dedicated to the in-kind contribution. Voluntary work as in-kind contribution cannot constitute the basis for calculating flat rate for staff cost, office and administration costs and travel and accommodation costs <...>.</p>	<p>The EC confirmed that voluntary work cannot be included in the cost category "Staff costs". However, voluntary work in general, can present as an in-kind contribution in projects.</p> <p>(Article 39 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1059; Articles 67(1) and (53)(1)(a) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1060)).</p>
<p>Page 66, Section IV, Subsection 3.2 Staff costs</p>	<p>Information on staff costs is removed from the section.</p>	<p>Please see below.</p>

Page 67, Section IV, Subsection 3.2 Staff costs	Information on voluntary work removed.	Please see above.
Page 77, Section IV, Subsection 4 Reimbursement of small-scale projects	Information added: Voluntary work is eligible and is covered by the 40% for any other costs.	Please see above.
Page 78, Section IV, Subsection 6 Cost sharing	Information removed: <...> This exclusion, however, would not prevent project partners from agreeing on shared cost arrangements outside the Programme framework.	The division of tasks and budget outside the Programme framework is a concern outside the Programme implementation; thus, is not relevant to the Programme Manual.
Page 78, Section IV, Subsection 7.1. Conducting procurement procedures	Information added: The beneficiary must exclude from a public procurement procedure or competition persons and entities included in the EU or national sanction lists in connection with Russia's aggression against Ukraine or an entity that is related to persons or entities included in these lists.	Information added in line with the Council Regulation (EU) No 2022/576 amending Regulation (EU) No 833/2014.
Page 95, Section V, Subsection 4 Submission of the Application	Information added: 1. Information provided in the Application Form submitted in WOD2021 prevails over information in all other obligatory documents, attachments to the Application Form, etc. 2. The lead partner (acting as a lead applicant in the WOD2021) of the project is the only responsible partner for submitting the application on behalf of the project consortium.	Technical specifications.
Page 96 Section V, subsection 4.2 Submission of the Application, Table 2	Information added to the list of documents to be submitted when applying for the Programme:	Technical correction. Please see above.

	Statement on the absence of discriminatory resolutions, which is mandatory for Polish Partners: self-government units and their subordinate units and entities controlled by or dependent on them.	
<p>Page 101, Section VI, Subsection 3.1 Communication obligations for project partners letters: b), c), e)</p> <p>Table 3 Percentage of the funding reduction for non-compliance with communication obligations 1, 2, 3b</p>	<p>Information corrected:</p> <p>b) ... information about receiving financial support from the Programme;</p> <p>c) visibly displaying information about the support from the Programme in documents and information materials related to the implementation of the project, intended for the general public and participants.</p> <p>e) for projects that do not fall within the scope of point d), placing at least one poster in public with a minimum size of A3 or a similar size electronic display with information about the project and the support received from the Programme.</p>	Technical correction.
<p>Page 102, Section VI, Subsection 3.1 Communication obligations for project partners</p>	<p>Information corrected:</p> <p>The EU should be granted a free and non-exclusive license to use the materials and any pre-existing rights that derive from such license.</p>	Technical correction.
<p>Page 103, Section VI, Subsection 3.1 Communication obligations for project partners Additional duties</p> <p>Page 104, Section VI, Subsection 3.2 Preparation of the Communication Plan,</p>	<p>Information corrected:</p> <p>1. Photographic and audiovisual documentation of the project implementation (including photos, films, webcasts, radio and TV broadcasts or scans of press articles). The technical and qualitative parameters of the selected materials are defined in the Communication Guidelines for Beneficiaries.</p> <p>Partners are required to consent to the use of this documentation by the Managing Authority or JS in their information and</p>	<p>Technical correction:</p> <p>The title "Communication Guidelines for Beneficiaries" is used in the Communication Strategy. Corrections are made to harmonise titles in both documents.</p>

Section VI, Subsection 3.3 Programme logotype	<p>promotion activities. The transfer of the rights to the documentation will take place based on separate, free, and non-exclusive license agreements.</p> <p>2. Note: Additional communication obligations (i.e., delivery of a project success story) are provided in the Communication Guidelines for Beneficiaries.</p> <p>3. Note: Details on the project's communication plan and practical examples can be found in the Communication Guidelines for Beneficiaries.</p> <p>4. More information on its use can be found in the Communication Guidelines for Beneficiaries.</p> <p>5. Project logos should be attached to the Programme logotype according to the guidelines in the Communication Guidelines for Beneficiaries</p> <p>6. The project logos from previous editions of the Programme (2014–2020, 2007–2013) can still be used under the rules set out in the Communication Guidelines for Beneficiaries.</p> <p>7. Note: More detailed information on the usage of the logo and colours can be found in the Communication Guidelines for Beneficiaries.</p>	
Page 125 Section VI, Subsection 6.1 Irregularities	<p>Information added:</p> <p>The MA waives the recovery of irregular expenditure if the amount due does not exceed 250 euro from the Programme funds to a project in an accounting year.</p>	Information added in line with Article 52(2) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1059.
Page 21, Annex 3 Specific rules of awarding contracts under the project –	<p>Information added:</p> <p>Additional requirements</p>	Additional requirements to procurement procedures.

<p>specific rules for Polish beneficiaries</p>	<p>The beneficiary must exclude from a public procurement procedure or competition persons and entities included in the EU or national sanction lists in connection with Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine or an entity that is related to persons or entities included in these lists.</p> <p>For Polish beneficiaries, additional requirements for the exclusion of contractors, also result from Article 7 of the Act of 13 April 2022 - on special solutions in the field of counteracting supporting aggression against Ukraine and serving the protection of national security.</p> <p>The Beneficiary must apply the exclusion of the above-mentioned contractors to contracts awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -in accordance with the Public Procurement Law (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 1129, as amended), -in proceedings with a value of less than PLN 130,000, including the competition rule, - in procurements excluded from the provisions of the Public Procurement Law. 	
<p>Page 36, Annex 6 Project selection process and criteria</p>	<p>Information added:</p> <p><...></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All obligatory annexes are submitted in the electronic system (e.g., Project Partner Declarations, Declaration of compliance with the DNSH principle, Letters of Commitment, Statement on the absence of discriminatory resolutions for Polish Partners). 	<p>Information is added to correspond to the changes in the Programme Manual. Please see above.</p>