

Interreg South Baltic 2014-2020

PROJECT BOOK



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Foreword

The Interreg South Baltic Programme was established in 2008 as a newcomer among the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes. Now, after years of intensive development, cooperation and building on experience, the Programme aims at unlocking the South Baltic's potential for blue and green growth through cross-border cooperation between local and regional actors from Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden.

It is an Interreg Programme by name, but also by nature, the Programme relates to the cross-border collaboration of regions bordering the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea is our common resource, but at the same time, it is also our joint task to be concerned about its well-being and sustainability.

The Baltic Sea determines the uniqueness of the projects and activities carried out by the partners. The solutions to solve local problems and to meet the needs have to be approached jointly by using the existing competence and experience of the participating regions. The good practice that has been developed can be capitalised on for the prosperity of the region and its citizens.

This project book presents 64 projects and their results co-financed by the Programme in the 2014–2021 years perspective. The results that you, dear Reader, have the opportunity to see are the response to the needs defined by the participating countries to take care of the environment, economy, innovation and sustainable development of the regions around the Baltic Sea.

I hope that the presented projects will inspire you and help to generate new ideas for the future. I look forward to new projects using the already unlocked potential of cooperation across the Baltic Sea.

Enjoy reading and grow for a blue and green future to make the region
Innovative, Sustainable, Attractive and Active.



Magdalena Bednarczyk-Sokół

Deputy Director of the Territorial Cooperation Department
Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy
The Managing Authority of the Programme



CleanTech International

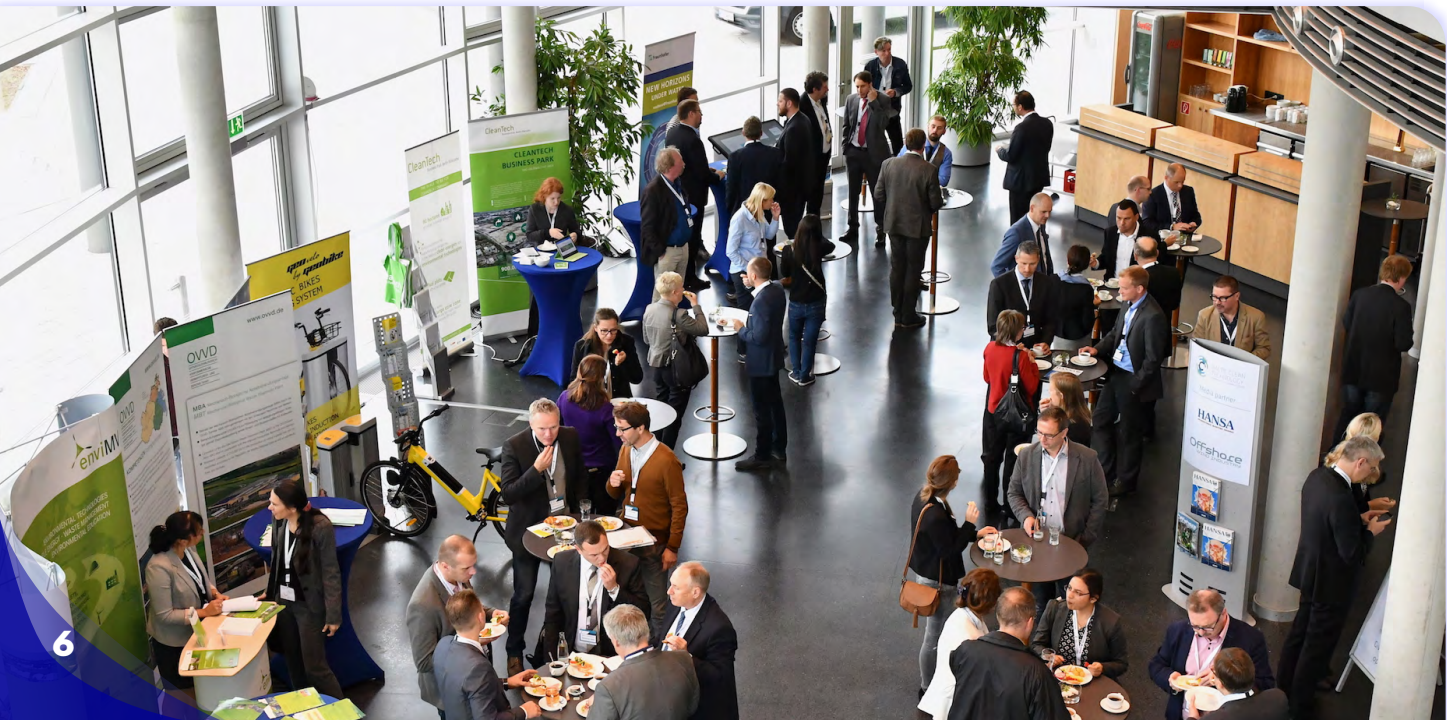
Establishing an international Cleantech Cooperation Structure in the South Baltic Region



Priority axis: 1 – Innovation capacity
Specific Objective: 1.1 – SME Internationalisation



The Cleantech project aimed to establish a South Baltic-wide Cleantech cooperation structure for SME involvement. By establishing the cross-border Cleantech network in the South Baltic region, the project has involved numerous SMEs from the green industry in cross-border relations and into the lastingly operated cross-border network, based on a formal agreement. It developed 10 tangible and efficient SMEs support structures to enable a planned cross-border exchange and cooperation on the Cleantech approach. It enabled international cooperation between SME in the South Baltic region, as well as partners and customers from all over the world.



Details



Implementation

July 2016 – June 2019



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,400,984.66 EUR
1,165,136.97 EUR



Rostock Business and Technology Development GmbH
enviMV, registered association - Environmental Technologies for
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Public Institution Strategic Self-Management Institute
Northern Chamber of Commerce in Szczecin
University of Szczecin
Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden Ltd.





Priority axis: 1 – Innovation capacity
Specific Objective: 1.1 – SME Internationalisation

ELMAR fostered the wider adaptation of South Baltic economy to marine e-mobility. The project succeeded in encouraging and supporting South Baltic SMEs and start-ups to develop and offer marine e-mobility products and services for boats and ships with electric propulsions within the international supply chains and at foreign sales markets. A multitude of events were organised for the SMEs both in cross-border and regional context, and provided opportunities not only for knowledge absorption, but also for networking. Support measures delivered within the project included:

- a series of dedicated trainings based on market analytics & research material developed within the project;
- exploration of best practice and inspiration during study tours (e.g. Norway – e-ships; South Germany, Austria and Switzerland – e-boats for leisure boating);
- online seminars on topics of interest (e.g. e-boating infrastructure in Amsterdam, Electric passenger ships in urban public transport, next generation electric ferries);
- joint visits to relevant fairs and maritime electric mobility events, and joint presentation South Baltic marine e-mobility sector at international fair;
- work-in-progress workshops and test drives of three different demo e-boats constructed in an "open source" processes in the project: a retrofitted and electrified ex-lifeboat, an open-deck e-boat for self-service charter and a replica of a traditional Viking boat with an electric engine.

What are you most proud of this project?

ELMAR managed to build a cross-border community of e-boating enthusiasts and gave them the opportunity to meet and exchange. The development of the demo e-boats in an "open source" construction process attracted high interest from other boatbuilders across borders, who shared practical knowledge about the construction issues and about developing products for electric boating.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

That the most effective and appreciated tools for facilitating B2B interactions across borders are the simple ones (study tours, international demo e-boat workshops). Physical trips to regions of

excellence and the opportunity to meet other companies enabled opening for new contacts and adopting new business ideas and were "most wanted" by the SMEs.

What is the project's future?

With its information and market exploration measures ELMAR had its share in developing market for e-mobility on the water. The knowledge and contacts gained in the project are now used in actions of the companies in the supply chain. It is especially visible in the very mature ship market, witnessing rapid increase of electric and alternative fuel shipping.

However, the transition towards e-boating, especially for leisure purposes, did not accelerate as fast, and is a potential topic for future cross-border exchange.

Details



Implementation

August 2017 – August 2021



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,814,270.05 EUR
1,542,129.54 EUR



Economic Development Corporation Vorpommern
Stralsund University of Applied Sciences
Public Institution Strategic Self-Management Institute
Polish Sailing Cluster
Yacht Technology Association
Gdańsk University of Technology
Electrotechnical Institute
Klaipeda University
Traditional and Historical Ships` Association Lithuania
Green Boats
Sventoji Tourism Association





Priority axis: 1 – Innovation capacity
Specific Objective: 1.1 – SME Internationalisation

Maritime economy is one of the most prospective areas of development in the South Baltic (SB) area, but despite the strong lobbying and support coming from the regional authorities of SB regions for the intensive development of the maritime economy, there is still a lack of international instruments in the whole SB area supporting the marketing activity of SMEs at the international level.

The INTERMARE project supported the maritime economy in the whole region of the South Baltic through the network of companies and stakeholders under a common brand. The goal of the project was the creation of the network of companies, and also stakeholders (clusters, employers organisations, regional and local authorities, etc.) to achieve greater recognition of SMEs from the SB region on international markets as well as better cooperation in the supply chains in the region.

What are you most proud of this project?

The part of the project that we are proudest of is the organisation of the INTERMARE South Baltic exhibition. The special situation resulting from the coronavirus pandemic condition enforced the organisation of the trade fair event in an online format. In consequence, we managed to organise the largest trade fair event in the South Baltic Region (or an even larger area) using the online format. Some data confirming this are the following: 1200 registered visitors, 71% attendance among registered participants, over 800 people took part in fairs and conferences organised within the frame of the project; 149 new exhibitors, 1200 downloaded business cards, 3944 views. Exhibitors from 15 countries.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The three most important takeaway issues are the following:

- 1. Intermare roadshow which made it possible to organise joint

SME stands at foreign fairs

2. Intermare marketing strategy – a common cross-border strategy for development of the blue and green maritime economy in the South Baltic Area.

3. 3. Intermare database of companies and cooperation network (an internet instrument for matching tested partners from the South Baltic area countries with other partners).

Added value to the project is the creation of a group of partners supporting the SMEs from the South Baltic area which continue to realise common projects.

What is the project's future?

The main source of hope for the future is the realisation of large trade fairs with participants involved in maritime economy. The trade fairs are going to be held in Gdansk and will help to internationalise the activities of SMEs in the South Baltic Area.

Details



	Implementation	July 2017 – June 2021
	Project total eligible budget	1,859,625.00 EUR
	ERDF	1,580,681.25 EUR

- Gdansk International Fair Co.
TNOiK - Scientific Society for Organization and Management
Rostock Business and Technology Development
University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design
Gdańsk University of Technology
Public Institution Strategic Self-Management Institute
Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts





Priority axis: 1
Specific Objective: 1.2 – SME Innovativeness

The overall idea of the project was to integrate selected elements of the circular economy into the blue and green tourism companies' services, products, and business models by minimising the environmental impact of those products and services. As a result, those companies have been enabled to take maximum value from the products while making it possible to recover/reuse their materials at the end and regenerate them during their life cycle.

The project's activities started with mapping the best practices, state of the art, and potential in the South Baltic. Based on this, a Handbook on circular economy in tourism was created. In the next step, development, validation, and application of a self-assessment tool, development of a training programme, and pilot training for tourism SMEs are foreseen. Further, the project developed and conducted pilot testing of advisory services for SMEs and integrated the training programme and advisory services into one modular programme. Lessons learnt from the project and conclusions were gathered in the form of recommendations regarding circular economy for tourism stakeholders.

The main target groups are blue and green tourism SMEs received trainings and advisory services, as well as for local authorities, SMEs associations.

What are you most proud of this project?

When looking for opportunities to integrate the circular economy (CE) with the activities of tourism companies, we were to some extent pioneers, as the CE concept was rarely applied to 'soft' areas. The Handbook created within CIRTOINNO has been recognised as the first publication directly linking tourism and the CE and is now cited by other projects and publications. It has also been noticed by the UNWTO as meeting the objectives of the One Planet – Sustainable Tourism Programme.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The opportunity for cross-border cooperation within CIRTOINNO allowed us to take a much more comprehensive look at

sustainability issues and the circular economy. It showed how similar problems and challenges are addressed in other regions of the South Baltic. The attempt to find common solutions has greatly broadened our horizons. Working in an international team turned out to be a valuable and developing experience.

What is the project's future?

At present, we are mainly focused on educational activities, providing presentations and workshops on circular tourism. Seeing the growing interest and demand from cities and other tourism stakeholders for sustainable tourism and circular economy issues, we plan to submit another project in the new INTERREG perspective.

Details



Implementation

November 2016 – October 2019



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,285,975.18 EUR
1,025,003.86 EUR



Pomerania Development Agency
Klaipeda Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts
Public Institution Strategic Self-Management Institute
Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden
Institute of Fluid-Flow Machinery, Polish Academy of Sciences
Centre for Regional and Tourism Research
Linnaeus University





Priority axis: 1
Specific Objective: 1.2 – SME Internationalisation

CTCC (Creative Traditional Companies Cooperation) improved the innovation performance and capacities of the key target group – more than 200 Danish, German, Polish, Lithuanian and Swedish small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) located in the South Baltic Sea Region from three targeted traditional manufacturing sectors that contribute to Blue and Green Growth. The up-scaling of traditional SMEs' innovation capacities was achieved by engaging in cross-sectorial collaboration with 100 freelancers, start-ups and SMEs from three Cultural and three Creative Industries (CCIs).

The CTCC project accomplished four cross-border solutions for innovation development, management & exploitation: 1) a triple-helix creative-business partnership and creative brokering platform facilitating innovation; 2) a cross-sectoral innovation training methodology and application; 3) three specific demand-driven innovation solutions prototyped for traditional SMEs and regions, such as environmentally friendly and ergonomic ship design, simulators for maritime applications; improved safe and secure navigation signs at harbours and coastal areas; and 4) four sustainable self-running and self-financing mechanisms for exploiting the developed models beyond the project life.

What are you most proud of this project?

The project successfully raised the awareness of CCIs for innovation processes. The traditional SMEs joining our workshops on creative tools for innovation development and, especially, those who actively participated in the prototyping process gave great feedback to our project and the activities offered and, in this, we were able to convince businesses about creativity being enabler for their own innovation processes.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

When the project started, the CTCC team had different understanding and knowledge on how to integrate creative

industries into innovation processes. Hence, we started to educate each other on different ideas and approaches towards the workshops, which actually increased the innovation capacities of the partners as well. Later on, the project team capitalised on the knowledge gained when assisting the prototyping companies in their innovation development.

What is the project's future?

The CTCC project has successfully brought together the creative and traditional sectors at the SME level. However, the potential of CCIs for innovation development is not fully exploited yet. Therefore, we are already actively preparing for a follow-up project that continues the path that was started by CTCC.

Details



	Implementation	July 2017 – June 2021
	Project total eligible budget	1,583,075.00 EUR
	ERDF	1,324,323.75 EUR

- Hochschule Wismar, University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design
- ATI erc gGmbH education, research and furtherance of cooperations
- Season of Creativity e. V.
- Public institution Rietavas Tourism and Business Information
- Association Rietavas Women Employment Centre
- Klaipeda Science and Technology Park
- Media Dizjan
- Pomeraniam Science and Technology Park
- Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic
- Blekinge Institute of Technology



InnoAquaTech

Cross-border development and transfer of innovative and sustainable aquaculture technologies in the South Baltic area



Priority axis: 1
Specific Objective: 1.1 – SME Internationalisation

The European Commission's Blue Growth agenda for the Baltic Sea Region identifies aquaculture as one of the most promising sectors of the region's maritime economy in terms of growth and job potential. In the South Baltic area, however, aquaculture is not a broadly established sector yet. There is also a clear territorial disparity in introducing innovative and environmentally friendly production technologies that could help to create added value and increase the sector's international competitiveness.

InnoAquaTech sought to contribute to the cross-border development and transfer of such innovative and sustainable aquaculture technologies across the South Baltic area and offer SMEs all over the region access to state-of-the-art technology, know-how, expertise and financing models. The project partners identified best practices of integrated aquaculture systems and evaluated their agro-economic and environmental impact, developed and implemented an SME service package (consisting of, e.g., matchmaking events, trainings, study visits and an innovation check tool) that will be sustained by the South Baltic aquaculture alliance beyond the project lifetime.

What are you most proud of this project?

The InnoAquaTech project was a breakthrough initiative for establishing an aquaculture competence centre in Klaipeda. The project enabled us to establish the physical infrastructure of a marine RAS system, which is now used by scientists to develop technologies and improve operational practice for the aquaculture industry in the South Baltic Sea region. The facility is now widely used in cooperation with industry partners to train aquaculture professionals, test feeds and develop best practices for cultivating high-value aquaculture species.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Without cross-border cooperation, we would not have been

able to start up the competence centre, since we did not have enough knowledge and experience in aquaculture locally. The international partnership provided an opportunity to source and build the necessary capacity for a successful launch of the centre. The international partnership has also broadened the expertise and the list of services that we can supply to the local aquaculture industry.

What is the project's future?

As the competence centre is operating in cooperation with partners in Poland and Germany, we are aiming to become a knowledge hub for aquaculture in the SBSR, bringing the necessary knowledge and expertise to local aquaculture industries to facilitate growth and competitiveness.

Details



Implementation

July 2016 – July 2019



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,677,126.25 EUR

1,400,068.44 EUR



BioCon Valley GmbH

University of Rostock, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences,
Aquaculture and Sea-Ranching
Danish Technological Institute
Maritime Institute in Gdańsk
University of Gdańsk
National Marine Fisheries Research Institute
Klaipeda Science and Technology Park



InnoAquaTech



SB Food Inno

Developing food innovation capacity in the South Baltic Region



Priority axis: 1
Specific Objective: 1.1 – SME Internationalisation

Innovation in the food industry is crucial for meeting the expected increase in food demands worldwide in the coming decades caused by the increasing world population. Investments in food innovation are essential to qualify the SBR food industry to take part in the expected potential in new and increasing markets and thereby secure and maintain global competitiveness and growth in the SBR food industry. The project developed concrete food-SME-driven innovation activities between food SMEs and knowledge institutions. Such activities are seldom offered in the traditional business development system. The project provided profound practice-based innovation addressing how to support the development of food SMEs as well as demonstrating how knowledge institutions can play an important role in the development of food SMEs as an add-on to business development accessible for food SMEs.

What are you most proud of this project?

Together, all stakeholders in the SB FOOD INNO project were successful in building an SME-centric approach for cross-border cooperation involving over 300 companies, academia and students. A concrete output is the development of 'The Food Innovation Canvas Model' – a tool for developing innovation strategies and reflections for SMEs within the food area

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The project was able to convert the cooperation format from face-to-face meetings to online webinars with accompanying web videos and innovations tools. The project's activities and outputs have highlighted the potentials and strengths of the food industry and the associated structures and strategies in the program region. The rural area that characterises the South Baltic Region has many potentials for food-related initiatives throughout the value chain from cultivation to gastronomy

and consumption.

What is the project's future?

The SBFOODINNO project is an example of capacity-building efforts that paves the way for new business and job opportunities within the Baltic Sea Region – e.g. the theme 'rural development in Lithuania' in the EUSBSR Policy Area Bioeconomy.

The SB FOOD INNO project results are small-scale examples that could be scaled up as a future flagship project is setup, with reference to:

- Latest version of Action plan 3.3. Policy area Bioeconomy, e.g. the EU European Green Deal and its following key action 'the Farm to Fork strategy'.
- The Nordic Council of Ministers is a Policy Area Coordinator for Bioeconomy in the EU's Baltic Sea Region Strategy. The policy area also covers agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development.

Details

SBFOODINNO.eu
Developing food innovation capacity in the South Baltic Region



Implementation

July 2017 – December 2020

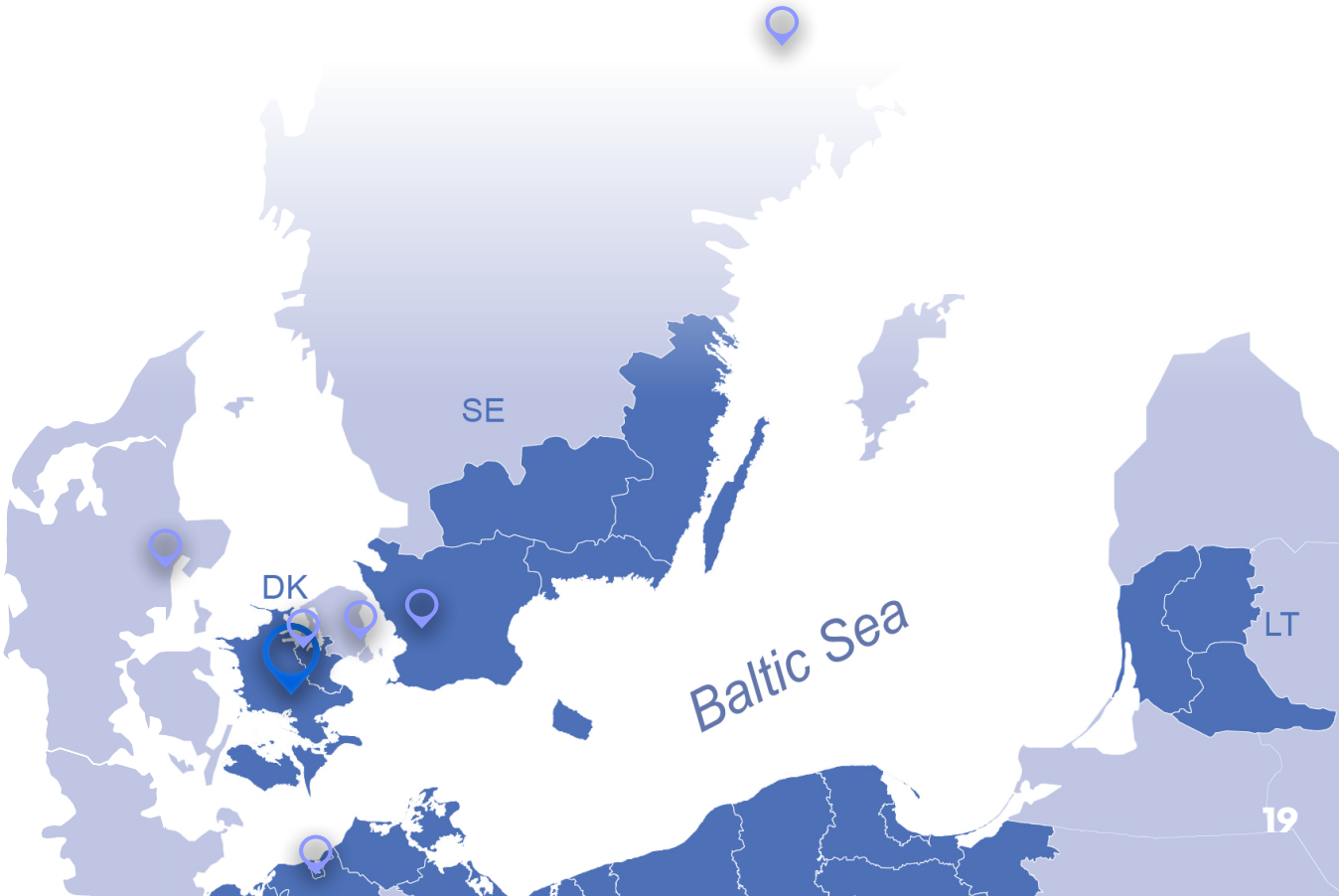


Project total eligible budget
ERDF

2,020,000.29 EUR
1,534,975.03 EUR



University College Absalon
Lund University
Rostock University
Aarhus University
Zealand Institute of Business and Technology
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
University of Copenhagen, Department of Food and Resource Economics



ArchaeoBalt

Laying fixed foundations for innovative Archaeotourism – a new 'green' Archaeoroute in the Southern Baltic Sea Region



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 Tourism

ArchaeoBalt's main goal was to create a common strategy for Archaeotourism in the South Baltic Area and its implementation tools. The project aimed to promote common touristic assets – it delivered cross-border resources for sustainable Archaeotourism through history, culture and nature, presenting the South Baltic Area heritage innovatively.

The project aimed to promote common touristic assets and to create profitable green and blue touristic route (e.g., similar to the Maya route in Mexico). The long-term aim of the project is to connect universities, museums and the touristic industry to develop an Archaeoroute to integrate the existing ideas and routes, and to improve the existing routes and offers and develop the touristic offer. The specific project objective was to create a strategy for Archaeotourism in the South Baltic Sea Region and its implementation tools.

What are you most proud of this project?

When creating the project, we saw the need to develop tourism related to the archaeological heritage – in line with the trends of slow travel, well-being and the tourist assumptions of the 3E model. Archeotourism was an ideal solution for the pandemic and post-pandemic period.

The results in the form of the number of people visiting the stands, participating in the events, and interested in the subject turned out to be much greater than we assumed at the beginning. All the organised events met with the favour of tourists and residents. These activities had a tangible impact on implementing the project objectives and combining scientific knowledge with popularisation and the tourism business

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Thanks to the international cooperation, it was possible to implement the project's assumptions. Thanks to the different experiences of the individual partners, many new and exciting solutions appeared during the implementation, which enriched the project and allowed us to look at the challenges that connected us with other, sometimes surprising perspectives.

What is the project's future?

The main source of hope for the future is the realisation of large trade fairs with participants involved in maritime economy. Trade fairs are going to be held in Gdansk and will help to internationalise the activities of SMEs in the South Baltic Area.

Details



Implementation

July 2018 – June 2022



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

2,014,749.13 EUR
1,587,442.15 EUR



University of Gdańsk
Historical Museum of Gdańsk
University of Aarhus
Museum of Bornholm
Lund University



ARCHAEOBALT
TOWARDS INNOVATIVE GREEN & BLUE TOURISM



Attractive Hardwoods

Best practice in tourism development, marketing and sustainable management of Attractive Hardwoods

‘Attractive Hardwoods’ follows up on the results of the South Baltic project ‘Hardwoods are good’ and addresses measures to increase the hardwood business opportunities through more vibrant and sustainable tourism. The partnership has a cross-sectorial orientation with LT, PL and SE organisations from forestry, nature conservation and tourism, with landowners included. The preparatory work was assisted by the EUSBSR Seed Money Facility.

The project aimed to increase the popularity of the supported hardwood sites as destinations for cross-border ecotourism through: pooled capacities in ecotourism (WP3), products and services customised to the needs of cross-border ecotourism (WP4) and better cross-border marketing of ecotourism products and services (WP5). For that purpose, the project enlarged the hardwood cooperation network, delivered a joint strategic plan to boost cross-border hardwood ecotourism, deployed new ecotourism products and services via stakeholder interaction, and conducted marketing activities directed at commercial operators. By combining existing hardwood management expertise, dedicated analyses and studies, stakeholder interfacing, establishing 6 hardwood cross-border ecotourism pilot sites and a joint umbrella-type website, the project delivered consistent best practice results promoting hardwood ecotourism in the South Baltic area.

What are you most proud of this project?

We produced good-quality tourist products that will live long after the end of the project. We developed and strengthened forest tourism at the project sites.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?




By building strength personal relations with skilled project partners, we created a trusting and highly creative atmosphere within the partnership. This resulted in smooth cooperation and a very productive team.

What is the project’s future?

The tourist products that we developed are up and running. We produced guide books, established new trails and developed old ones.

The project outputs were based on real requests from tourists and project partners and were directly incorporated in their daily work. This was made possible due to project partners being end users and the fact that we had a clear ‘exit’ after project closure built into the application process.

Details

	Implementation	July 2016 – June 2019
	Project total eligible budget	1,493,252.65 EUR
	ERDF	1,189,875.44 EUR
		

Swedish Forest Agency
Region Blekinge
County Administrative Board of Blekinge
Regional Directorate of State Forests in Gdansk
Pomorskie Tourist Board
Directorate of Žemaitija National Park



Baltic Heritage Routes

Development of Heritage Tourism Infrastructure in the South Baltic Area



The project aimed at the construction and implementation of 8 live Heritage Routes and a package of 8 multi-day SB Dream Tours to join the potentials of the SBR. The tours are thematic – based on unique concepts; sustainable – individual or small groups; environmentally friendly; respectful of the locality and culture; smart – with advanced software and extensive information coverage facilitating travel and interactive on the forum; dream – with media material – beautiful and impressive photos and movies building imagination of something unusual in life; tours – typically up to 2 weeks of real-life adventures. As a result of the project, the following Baltic Heritage Routes and corresponding Dream Tours were designed: Kayaking South Baltic; Windsurfing Exploration; National Parks Exploration; The Spiritual Roots of Europe; South Baltic Scenic Coastal Road 6. The Griffins’ Route; Wildlife Nature Trails; World of Fishermen.

Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 Tourism

What are you most proud of this project?

The project built cross-border sustainable thematic tourism products that join the potentials of several SBR countries. It showed synergies that allowed for the construction of more attractive tourist offers than were previously available.

The project discovered a lot of hidden secrets and mysteries of the SBR region, showing attractive opportunities for vacation spending for tourists from neighbouring countries.

The project built an attractive platform to collaborate between sustainable tourists and tourism businesses which resulted in new, attractive tourist offers.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The Project revealed that the cross-border cooperation among

SBR partners can increase the knowledge and skills of all of us. Beyond this, we learned a lot of organisational skills and abilities to make things happen. The project revealed new cooperation opportunities including public institutions, NGOs, universities, and businesses. All project partners declared the will to continue collaboration in future projects.

What is the project's future?

The project results open up new development opportunities. We saw how strong the electronic and digitalisation element of sustainable tourism development is. The role of social media in educating about sustainable tourism is critical. The project discovered a lot of hidden secrets of heritage tourism in the SBR. We see new opportunities in building new electronic platforms for cross-border sustainable tourism promotion in the SBR

Details



Implementation

August 2017 – April 2021



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,850,311.00 EUR
1,555,926.35 EUR



University of Gdańsk
Historical Museum of Gdańsk
University of Aarhus
Museum of Bornholm
Lund University



Baltic Pass

Maritime Heritage Tours



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 – Tourism

The overall idea of the project is to create sailing paths, taking into account the maritime heritage of the whole South Baltic region and combining sailing with visiting attractive places on the southern shores of the Baltic Sea in different countries.

The project's activities are planned in 5 work packages (WPs). WP3 is dedicated to developing new touristic products while WP4 is dedicated to testing the created products by the partners' vessels. The partners will recruit participants for test cruises from the potential target groups: youngsters, representatives of business, tourists, etc., and each cruise will be evaluated.

The products have been further enriched with examples of sailing plans dedicated to different tourist groups such as youngsters, business, etc. The last work package (WP5) is dedicated to the promotion of the Baltic Maritime Heritage Tours product. The project result is to increase the attractiveness of tourism in the SB region by creating and developing a new ecofriendly tourist product based on historical Baltic trade routes.

What are you most proud of this project?

- The local sailing event called 'Meet Gdańsk Oldtimers', during which traditional ships under the flag of the city of Gdańsk go on a one-day 'Maritime Gdańsk – trip through the ages ' cruise created as part of the project;
- Promoting sailing as an active form of spending free time in close contact with nature;
- Sensitising the society to the history and maritime heritage of the Baltic Sea region.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Permanent links between the partners, long-lasting relations, creation of a network of reliable partners.

What is the project's future?

- Continuation of the 'Meet Gdańsk Oldtimers' event;
- Plans to create a project connecting traditional sailing with ecology and transnational integration.

Details



Implementation

November 2016 – October 2019



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,252,403.80 EUR
1,018,621.23 EUR



Municipal Sport and Recreation Centre in Gdansk

Roskilde Business College

Klaipeda University

Simrishamn's Scouts

Hanseatic City of Rostock, Tourism Information Office Rostock
& Warnemuende, Bureau Hanse Sail



Baltic Stories

Professionalisation of events for culturally embedded and sustainable tourism development of destinations in South Baltic region



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 – Tourism

The main objective of the BALTIC STORIES project was the professionalisation of events organised across the South Baltic area. The project has educated and put at the disposal of event organisers a set of tools and guidelines, provided professional marketing support, and implemented pilot and training activities, so event stakeholders are equipped with novel solutions for event organisation.

The main outputs of the project were: 1) 5 tools for events and training videos on stakeholder analysis; 2) promotional campaign and marketing activities by a professional media agency; 3) four workshops with volunteer involvement during event organisation across the South Baltic region; and 4) cross-border network of event organisers.

By strengthening the capacities of event stakeholders, the BALTIC STORIES project has contributed to an ‘increased popularity of natural and cultural heritage resources as sustainable tourism destinations in the South Baltic area’.

What are you most proud of this project?

We are particularly proud of the Baltic Stories volunteer exchange programme. In total, 38 young people from Poland, Lithuania and Sweden took part in the programme. The idea was to empower young people through their engagement in the organisation of cultural events across the South Baltic region. For many of them, it was their first experience of cross-border cooperation. We are also proud of the communication activities within the project. Thanks to the Baltic Stories project, a joint promotional video was produced by using innovative technologies (drone, GoPro camera) and disseminated in various channels such as on regular trains in the Westpomerania region, tourist fairs and social media.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Cooperation with other European countries is always a rewarding

experience. I have the feeling that we tend to be more open to cooperate and learn from each other than in a project at the national or local level. We had a lot to exchange and learn from each other, but this human aspect of transnational cooperation is very important.

What is the project’s future?

A new project idea has arisen out of the Baltic Stories project, since we discovered that a network of cooperating institutions is key in the cultural sector. There are no sustainable cultural events (or any other cultural activities), if we don’t have cooperating institutions. Only a joint effort and cooperation can foster a resilient cultural sector, which is why the BREM seed money project (‘Baltic Resilient Museums: Building a network of resilient museums and cultural organisations across the South Baltic region’) has been submitted and is currently being implemented.

Details



Implementation

July 2017 – April 2021



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

863,110.00 EUR

714,613.50 EUR



Westpomerania Voivodeship

Balteus Foundation

Västerviks Museum

Administration of Silute District Municipality



Baltic Museums: Love IT!

New brand of gamified tourist products for sustainable development of natural and cultural heritage tourist destinations



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 – Tourism

The project originated from the cooperation and partnership formed in the Baltic Museums 2.0 and Baltic Museums Plus projects implemented within perspective 2007–2013. The BalticMuseums Love IT! project focused on coastal attractions (sea museums, natural museums and science centres) to turn them into sustainable tourism destinations.

The project delivered new IT-enabled tourism products for natural and cultural heritage tourist destinations in the area to increase their potential in the cases of bad weather, low season, peaks in high season (crowds) and for tourists with language barriers. It was supported by a handbook on how to apply various IT-driven user experience models in exhibitions and carried out through 9 training sessions (video-documented).

What are you most proud of this project?

In this project, we are most proud of the emused.eu platform, which provides widely configurable gamification services to collaborating tourist destinations enabling them to provide mobile-device-guided gamified tours to their visitors.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The main takeaway for us is that great tasks can be accomplished in the cross-border cooperation provided the

teams from different countries agree on the common goals, understand their respective roles and responsibilities, and can communicate effectively.

What is the project's future?

The project results are maintained in use by the institutions involved. As all of them were large tourist attractions, our future effort will be on spreading the project results to small tourist attractions, so they can also provide mobile-device-guided gamified tours to their visitors, to improve their visit experience.

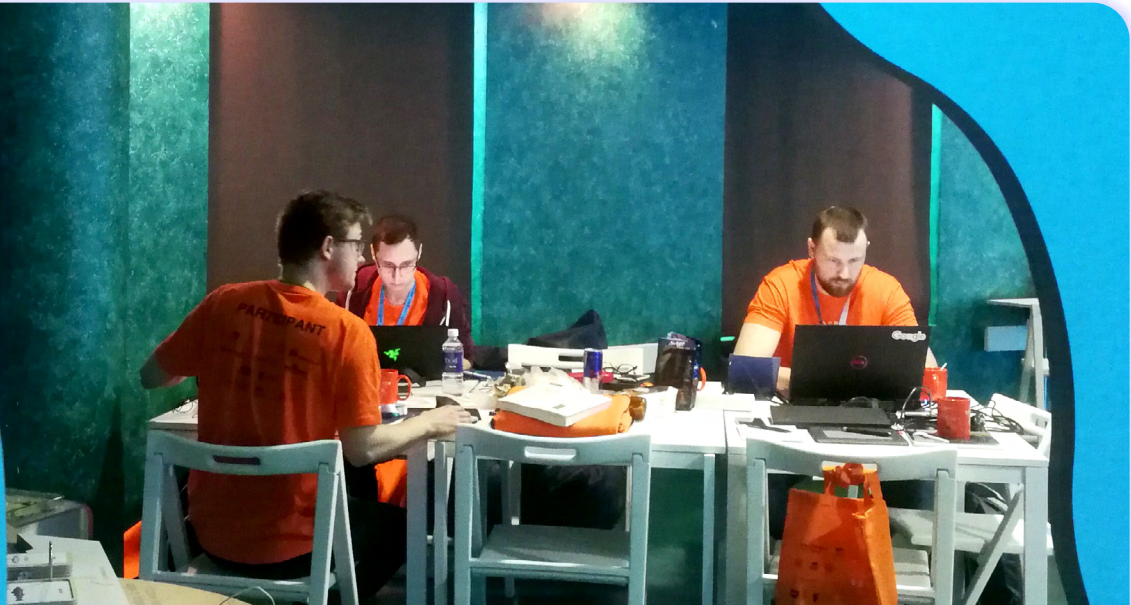
Details



	Implementation	January 2017 – July 2020
	Project total eligible budget	1,485,055.00 EUR
	ERDF	1,237,673.75 EUR



University of Szczecin
National Marine Fisheries Research Institute
Lithuanian Sea Museum
Malmö Museums
NaturBornholm
Experiment Science Centre in Gdynia
Foundation of Internet Industry Development „Netcamp”
Business Academy North gGmbH



Biking South Baltic!

Promotion and development of the Baltic Sea Cycle Route (Route No. 10) in Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 – Tourism

The project has increased the attractiveness of the Baltic Sea Cycle Route (Route EV 10) from Copenhagen (DK) to Gdańsk (PL). Biking South Baltic has as well-laid the groundwork for further development of the Baltic Sea Cycle Route in 2020–2030.

The overall idea of the project is the improvement, promotion, connection, and coordination of the natural and cultural tourist resources of the South Baltic areas’ coastal regions as a cross-border, sustainable, well-recognised cycle tourism product: the Baltic Sea Cycle Route Copenhagen-Gdańsk. Building cross-border cooperation in the field of cycling tourism between South Baltic countries will increase the sustainability of tourism in the whole region.

What are you most proud of this project?

One of the goals of the project was to popularise the EV10 Route as a tourist product among European cyclists and to create commercial offers dedicated to this target group. During the project, tour operators started to handle their first clients from different countries and the number of users increased each year, with the route along the Baltic Sea receiving positive feedback.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The exchange of experiences between partners who have

different knowledge allows you to create innovative solutions and implementations. The voice of more experienced institutions is extremely important for those partners who have less knowledge and practice.

What is the project’s future?

Project partners continue their cooperation and fulfil the assumptions of the Baltic Sea Cycle Route development strategy. They extend the area of cooperation to all Baltic countries, involve SMEs, and implement the next projects within their own and European funds.

Details



Implementation January 2017 – December 2019



Project total eligible budget 988,036.69 EUR
ERDF 807,982.52 EUR



Pomorskie Tourist Board
Pomorskie Voivodeship
Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship
European Cyclists' Federation
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Tourism Board
Centre for Regional and Tourism Research
Danish Cycling Tourism





Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 – Tourism

The ‘Baltic Sea Tourism Center (BSTC)’ project focused on developing a model for an exchange platform that helps to constantly unite the cross-border tourism sector. The main operating areas, the so-called Core Competences, of the BSTC are Partnerships, Insights and Skills. The addressed Partner Institutions (DMOs, Public Administration, Education & Research Institutes, Transnational Organisations and private companies) had the chance to grow their international network and enhance the international visibility of the institution itself, and also that of the BSR tourism industry in general. To enhance this development specifically and to anchor the necessary activities in the BSTC, four permanent working groups, the so-called BSTC Expert Groups (Tourism Policies, Market Research, Training Offerings and Sustainable Tourism), were implemented during the project lifetime.

The Baltic Sea Tourism Center is meant to simplify how tourism stakeholders in the BSR work together and make use of the already existing knowledge in their fields of work. It can help the tourism industry to not tackle a problem 3 or 4 times due to missing information from identical approaches in the past. It can serve its partners as a platform for networking and can thus create new opportunities for future projects and cooperation partners.

What are you most proud of this project?

The BSTC Tourism Market Monitor and BSTC Tourism Trend Radar helped us to make data, knowledge, and best practices available to the participating institutions, thus helping them to optimise and adapt their business and political decisions, and to take better advantage of international development trends. The latest BSTC State of the Tourism Industry report and the BSTC Tourism Trend Radar on Digital Tourism can be found at www.bstc.eu.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

One of the keys to success for a new cruise destination is

cooperation, learning & growing together. In fact, destinations are in direct competition with one another, even those in different parts of the world. By working together as a network, we’ve been able to make an even bigger impact. As part of various workshops, study visits to successful destinations, cruise line visits, and mutual exchange, we’ve been able to learn a lot about what cruise companies want.

What is the project’s future?

The project itself ended in December 2019. The developed principles can serve as a blueprint for future cooperation patterns in the BSR.



Details



Implementation

January 2017 – December 2019



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,502,935.50 EUR
1,245,738.68 EUR



Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Tourist Board
Pomorskie Tourist Board
Danish Tourism Innovation - Visit East Denmark
Stralsund University of Applied Sciences School of Business Studies –
Baltic Management Studies
Association "Klaipeda region"



CATCH

Coastal Angling Tourism – a development chance for the South Baltic Region



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 – Tourism

CATCH – Coastal angling tourism offered a unique development opportunity for the South Baltic Region, especially for the less developed coastal regions and even outside the holiday season. Therefore, the overall aim of the project was to improve the economic development of coastal communities based on an increase of visits and new jobs by developing an information and knowledge platform on sustainable coastal angling tourism. To do so, the project raised awareness of tourism stakeholders and coastal communities for the economic potentials of coastal angling tourism and created a forum for exchange between stakeholders from communities, tourism actors and anglers. Based on common data collection and a vivid exchange, especially between established and potentially new sites, an Internet-based information and knowledge platform on coastal angling tourism for tourists and coastal inhabitants along the South Baltic Region has been jointly developed, promoted and embedded in new tourism packages.

What are you most proud of this project?

Besides the ‘Pike Factory’ which serves as ‘success story’ of CATCH as well as the online information and knowledge platform on coastal angling tourism fishingsouthbaltic.eu, we are proud to have contributed to the increasing popularity of angling tourism, higher awareness of the opportunities of coastal angling tourism for peripheral regions, improved capacities of stakeholders, and better availability of information as well as exchange and mutual learning among local stakeholders.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

During project meetings and in other exchanges, the partners often mentioned that capacity-building and mutual learning from more experienced partners/regions in the project represents a great benefit both for them personally and for their organisation.

What is the project’s future?

With the information platform fishingsouthbaltic.eu, CATCH provides a tangible, long-lasting output to support and promote sustainable tourism in the South Baltic Region.

Details



Implementation

July 2016 – June 2019

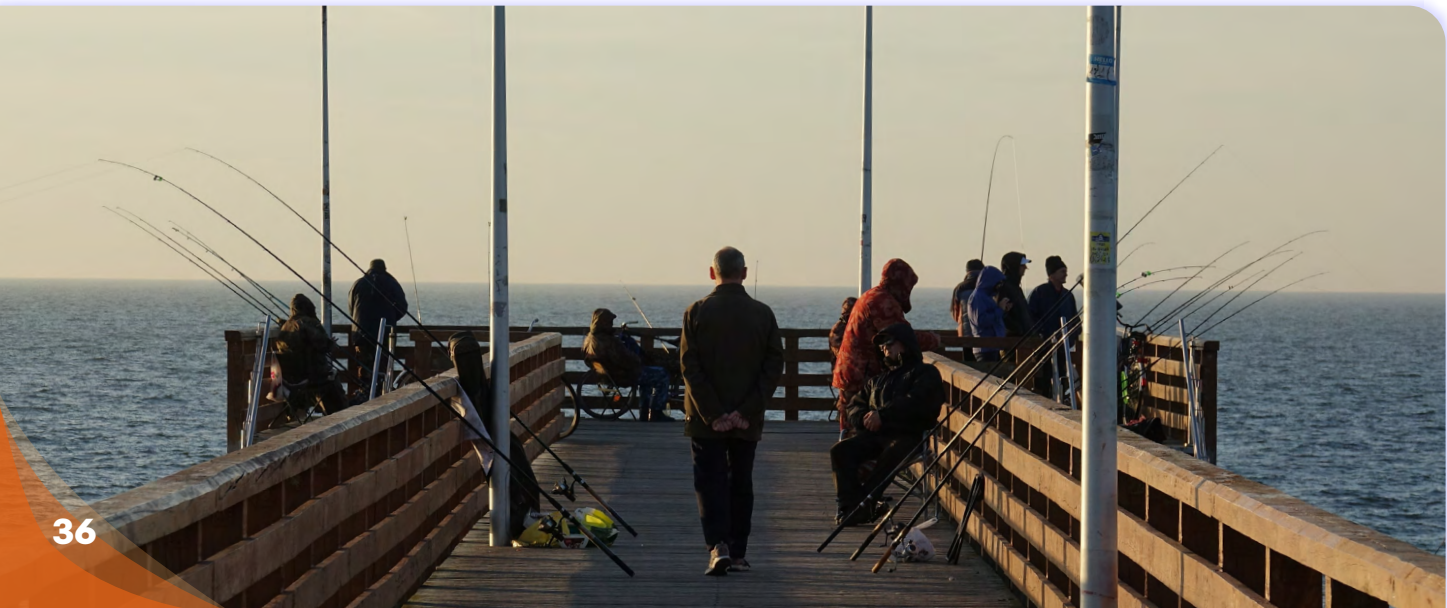


Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,596,700.47 EUR
1,327,205.24 EUR



University of Rostock, Faculty of Interdisciplinary Research
EUCC - The Coastal Union Germany County Administrative Board of Blekinge
Green Federation GAJA
Nida Culture and Tourism Information Centre "Agila"
Klaipeda University
Municipality of Vordingborg





Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 – Tourism

The project partners and associated partners represented UNESCO World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserve Areas in the South Baltic region, which are an outstanding, universal value, and as role models for sustainability. Tourism in the region is, to a large extent, unsustainable in terms of unbalanced seasonal patterns. In the project, the partners aimed to jointly develop and establish relevant cross-border strategies and accompanying action plans for the sites, to test and implement a variety of already existing tools and to try to develop new tools that were lacking.

The project established strategies and action plans, and tested and implemented a jointly developed concept with three focus areas: 1) stakeholder dialogue 2) product and service development, and 3) governance. During the project time, the focus was on UNESCO sites, but all the results and outputs will be applicable at other sites as well. Part of the project has connected with other sites that can cluster with the UNESCO sites under the umbrella concept/brand 'World Heritage and Friends'.

What are you most proud of this project?

There is now an established UNESCO network with a common identity and vision within the South Baltic Sea Region. This network is not only made up of sites managers but also ambassadors and entrepreneurs with a dedicated website, www.balticheritageideas.eu, which is a portal of information and exchange for all stakeholders and interested parties. This also provides inspiration with the concepts developed and the strategies and action plans that have been created together at a cross-border level and show what you can achieve with cross-border cooperation. We are very proud of the results.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Long-lasting cooperation between different UNESCO sites is beneficial for the whole region and can even help define the

South Baltic on the global stage. The project acknowledged that UNESCO sites have the potential to be role models for sustainable tourism, they can empower local communities and by coordinating efforts, together, they can contribute to the whole region's development.

What is the project's future?

The project lives on through the platform developed in the project, www.balticheritageideas.eu, which shows all the results of the project, acts as inspiration for other sites to develop tourism in a sustainable way and encourages them to join our network. The partners continue to cooperate, promote the region together and present, apply and develop the results of the project.

Details



Implementation August 2017 – February 2021



Project total eligible budget 1,693,066.99 EUR
ERDF 1,349,113.25 EUR



Municipality of Karlskrona
Municipality of Mörbylínga
Curonian Spit National Park administration
EUCC Baltic Office
EUCC – The Coastal Union Germany
Owner-operated municipal entity Tourist Board Stralsund
Hanseatic City of Wisma



Fish Markets

Small coastal fishery and its heritage as significant potential for tourism destination development



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 – Tourism

Along the South Baltic Sea coastline, there are many beautiful places which are unique to the region: small coastal fishery harbours, a variety of fishing boats, active fishermen, smokehouses, historical remains from the rich fishery heritage and traditions that have been dominant over centuries.

The ‘Fish markets’ project aims at valorisation of these significant potentials for further developing the South Baltic region into a sustainable tourism destination. To attract more tourists to the region, the partners set up several events and new services and offers, based on small coastal fishery, its heritage, products and traditions: e.g. fish markets, fish sales days and fish season events in spring and autumn, to prolong the tourism season. Steps to improve the existing strategic plans for harbour areas shall be initiated to attract more tourists. As a precondition, it is necessary to establish cross-sectoral cooperations between fishermen, municipal staff, gastronomy (with a view to regional fish cuisine), tourist boards and tourism service staff.

What are you most proud of this project?

The project came to fruition at a time when small-scale coastal fishery faced a lot of problems due to reduced quotas, a lack of young people who want to learn the craft of fishery and huge price pressure from industrial fishery. Because of that, we faced a lot of scepticism in the beginning which was somehow valid for every country that was part of the project. Still, we managed to earn the trust of the people to create something that lasts until today. In Poland and Lithuania, we have the infrastructure for fish markets, which is still in use, and in Germany, we created the ‘Vorpommern fish markets’ event in three different harbours, which is growing year by year.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Something which is valid for nearly every cross-border project

is the different requirements in each country. It is sometimes tough to manage this, to find a way to make everybody feel comfortable and to serve their needs, which are sometimes even different at a very local level. Still, all these different requirements and ways to work out things bring a lot of experience and new points of view to the discussion, which could help the partners in a way they did not expect at the beginning.

What is the project’s future?

Because of the current state of small-scale fishery, the situation has become even worse, a follow-up in the original way is not realistic. Not every achievement within the project worked out as planned, but as long as there are fish to catch, the fish markets will take place. A future way, probably a project idea, could be to develop something more science based, which would help to recover the fish stocks.

Details



Implementation

June 2016 – November 2019



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,798,739.31 EUR
1,528,928.42 EUR



University of Greifswald, Institute of Geography
Tourism Association Vorpommern e.V.
Small coastal fishermen's association Hiddensee
Economic Development Corporation Vorpommern
West Pomeranian University of Technology, Szczecin, Faculty of Food Sciences and Fisheries
Ustka Town Municipality
Administration of Śilutes District Municipality
Municipality of Darłowo
Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship
Association of the Small Coastal Fishers of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Region



JOHANN

Joint development of Small Cruise Ship tourism heritage products in the Southern Baltic Sea Region



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 – Tourism

The overall idea of the project was to develop the South Baltic region as an attractive small cruise ship (SCS) destination with cultural and natural SCS heritage routes by defining the necessary provisions in the six selected destinations: Rostock, Wismar, Stralsund, Kalmar, Karlskrona and Szczecin. The project developed all-round cruise routes/packages for private cruise operators (main target group). The project's activities started with a project focusing on the small cruise ship destinations by developing heritage routes, followed by actions to improve the capacity of the local actors (both on water 'side' and land 'side') and by revitalising the heritage of destination ports.

The main target groups were cruise operators, multipliers (media) and tourists; local actors related to regional tourism and port management as well as decision-makers in the project cruise destinations (city administration, port authorities, etc.).

What are you most proud of this project?

Working to exploit the existing potential and become more visible is contingent on figuring this out. What makes these locations so successful is the fantastic products they've produced – tour packages, promotional videos, and reception areas. They are produced by individuals who are 100% behind their destinations..

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

One of the keys to success for a new cruise destination is cooperation, learning & growing together. In fact, destinations are in direct competition with one another, even those in different parts of the world. By working together as a network, we've been able to make an even bigger impact. As part of various workshops, study visits to successful destinations, cruise

line visits, and mutual exchange, we've been able to learn a lot about what cruise companies want.

What is the project's future?

You know that feeling when you meet someone and feel like you've known them all your life? In our consortium, that happened! We are a group of specialists who envision partnership potential in every new acquaintance. Instead of saying 'It was nice to meet you! Let's stay in touch!', we decided we wanted to collaborate together in the future. We come from a variety of professional backgrounds, but we all share a passion for the Baltic Sea region, which is reflected in our work. We have the ultimate superpowers of knowledge and experience, and we will use them in future projects!

Details



Implementation

January 2017 – December 2019



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

2,252,038.65 EUR
1,864,846.94 EUR



Hanseatic City of Wismar

Tourism Board Stralsund
Economic Development Corporation Vorpommern
Municipality of Karlskrona
Media Dizajn
Gdynia Maritime University
Destination Kalmar AB



SB WELL

Wellbeing Tourism in the South Baltic Region Guidelines for good practices & promotion



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 – Tourism

Wellbeing & wellness are fast growing trends in tourism. SB WELL aimed at promoting the SB coastline as an attractive destination for wellbeing tourism among potential regional/international visitors. The project recognised the opportunities in facilitating SMEs in offering products/services in wellbeing tourism and makes related information visible and accessible for the target market.

SB WELL foresaw some infrastructure works. A Wellbeing place was constructed in each region participating in the project. These places are dedicated to silence and connected to the landscape, and are a new type of places that symbolise the increased focus on sustainability and wellbeing for visitors and the host region in the tourism industry.

What are you most proud of this project?

In SB WELL, we have identified target groups for wellbeing tourism: those who possess Peace of Mind, Sustainable Idealists and Curious Explorers. For the tourism industry, this has been extremely useful, as such identification has helped to develop tailor-made offers. In addition, the mentoring and study visits, during which entrepreneurs were able to exchange experiences and build a network of cross-border contacts, cannot be underestimated.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Sharing knowledge and exchanging experiences between entrepreneurs from different regions has proven to be key. In some countries, wellbeing tourism is highly developed, in others,

it is just 'crawling along'. The project made it possible to bridge the knowledge gap, and this gave the participants a competitive advantage. Wellbeing Atlas, a website where entrepreneurs can showcase their wellbeing-oriented offerings, also proved to be a useful tool

What is the project's future?

We will continue the idea of wellbeing tourism, as it meets the needs of modern tourists. However, we don't want to limit ourselves only to service recipients. We would like to support tour operators and entrepreneurs in gaining up-to-date knowledge about wellbeing trends. Soon, we will establish an association called Wellbeing International, which will bring together various stakeholders in wellbeing tourism, and provide knowledge and opportunities for further development.

Details



Implementation

July 2018 – December 2022



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

2,495,867.17 EUR
1,970,857.10 EUR



Linnaeus University
EUCC Baltic Office
Klaipeda State University of Applied Sciences
Pomerania Development Agency Co.
Tourism Association 'Vogelparkregion Recknitztal'
Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden Ltd. (ESS)
County Administrative Board of Kalmar
Professor Brunon Synak Pomeranian Research Institute
Danish Tourism Innovation



South Baltic Manors

Valorisation of manors for tourism development in rural areas of the South Baltic area



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 – Tourism

Manors are prominent testimonies of the changing history of the South Baltic area and genuine ‘cross-border monuments’ of the manifold cultural & political interrelations within the region. In recent years, moreover, they are increasingly used as venues for attractive and unusual tourism & culture offers. South Baltic Manors uses their potentials to enhance tourism development in the rural parts of the South Baltic area.

The project: launched the umbrella brand ‘BALTIC MANORS – Old places, new life’, which refers to the region’s shared history and the recent ‘space pioneer’ phenomenon (new generation of owners & users, setting up unusual culture & tourism offers); creates & promotes new joint manor tourism offers, for example the Baltic Manors Festival which takes place across five countries; elaborates & promotes sub-regional trails & tools around manors that lead visitors from the main SBA tourism hotspots to the rural hinterlands; initiates an intensive peer learning & exchange process to further innovate & reinforce touristic utilisation of manors in the South Baltic area; sets up durable cooperation frameworks for continuing the joint efforts and carrying out lobbying activities to gain further support for them.

With these activities, South Baltic Manors aims to increase the number of tourists visiting manors in the South Baltic area, and thus to level out the tourism intensity between the coastal hotspots and the inland regions.

What are you most proud of this project?

That we – within only 3 years – succeeded in developing the regional manor culture festival ‘MittsummerRemise’, which was launched in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern 15 years ago, into an international event in five countries.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

That exchange across borders can open up new perspectives. The study tours organised within the project enabled manor owners & operators to exchange with their peers in other countries and proved to be effective tools of knowledge transfer.

A very concrete result is that Polish manor owners founded an association, inspired and assisted by the German counterpart that has existed for more than 20 years.

What is the project’s future?

The umbrella brand ‘Baltic Manors’ proved to be an effective tool to open up new target groups for manor tourist offers and is highly appreciated among manor owners. The network strives, therefore, to continue and intensify the joint marketing activities, and along with this to also include manors from Latvia and Estonia in the cooperation as they belong to the ‘Baltic Manors landscape’, too.

Details



Implementation

May 2018 – September 2022



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

2,813,383.75 EUR
2,325,959.14 EUR



Tourism Association Vorpommern

Regional Planning Association Vorpommern
Association "Vorpommersche Dorfstrasse"
Association of Palaces and Manor Houses in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
The Union of Towns and Communes of the Parsęta River Basin
Tourist Association "Northern Kashubia" Local Tourist Organisation
Polish Union of Active Mobility
Museum of Kashubian-Pomeranian Literature and Music
Directorate of Rambynas Regional Park
Museum Lolland-Falster
Klaipeda University
Wemmenhög Museum Association at Svaneholm Castle
Culture Association Christinas Wänner



South Coast Baltic

Establishing durable cross-border boating destination management on the basis of the MARRIAGE cooperation network



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.1 – Tourism

The southern shores of the Baltic Sea, from Germany in the West via the Island of Bornholm/Denmark and Poland to Lithuania in the East, are an attractive cross-border boating destination that is becoming more and more popular. Following up on the MARRIAGE project (2011–2015) which established the umbrella brand South Coast Baltic and initiated joint guest boater marketing, the project proceeded with a destination-building process towards cross-border destination management that combines joint marketing with improvements to boating services & infrastructure. The main target groups of the South Coast Baltic project activities are:

- sailors and motor boaters who would like to explore the South Coast Baltic during their trips;
- boating journalists & media from Germany, Poland and Sweden;
- boating service providers along the South Coast Baltic (esp. marina operators, charter companies, tourism agencies);
- political decision-makers in the region (mayors, marshals, ministries, etc.);
- potential external supporters (e.g. tourism & infrastructure ministries, EUSBSR PAC, SBP stakeholders).

What are you most proud of this project?

The South Coast Baltic project contributed to a significant increase in foreign guest boaters. It succeeded in turning the South Coast Baltic from a ‘white spot’ into a strong & attractive alternative for tour sailing and boating holidays in the Baltic Sea which can compete nowadays at eye level with the traditional destinations like Sweden and Denmark.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The project proved that joining forces across borders makes sense in the field of boating tourism. Boaters are genuine ‘cross-border travellers’ who like to explore different countries during

their trips. Promoting and developing South Coast Baltic as a cross-border boating destination enhanced its visibility and its attractiveness for them.

What is the project’s future?

The South Baltic Coast initiative lives on. The network continues to regularly exchange and cooperate with reference to a jointly elaborated long-term action plan. One of these further joint actions is the ‘BaltSusBoating 2030’ project, in which South Baltic Coast teams up with other part-destination (e.g. East Baltic Coast, Sweden) to make boating tourism in the Baltic Sea more sustainable and even more competitive on international markets.

Details



Implementation

October 2016 – December 2020



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

2,516,732.99 EUR
2,127,223.04 EUR



The Association of Sea Cities and Municipalities

Tourism Association Vorpommern
Municipality Ostseebad Heringsdorf
Marina Network Association
Yacht Harbours & Marinas Association – Local Tourist Organisation
Westpomeranian Sailing Route
Żegluga Szczecińska
Maritime University of Szczecin
Municipality of Darłowo
Economic Development Corporation Vorpommern
Żuławy Loop limited liability company
Gdańsk University of Technology
Administration of Klaipeda District Municipality
Sventoji Tourism Association
Bornholm Regional Municipality

South Coast
Baltic



Where boating adventure begins





Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

Soil contamination represents a growing challenge across the world. In Sweden, the government has identified 25,000 areas of contaminated soil that are listed in national and regional databases, and in Poland and Lithuania, areas of soil contaminated by heavy metals, fertilisers and other chemical pollutants are probably just as abundant.

The Baltic Phytoremediation (BAPR) project aimed to test the promising phytoremediation method, which is based on growing plants that take up the pollutants and store them in their biomass. The plants were then harvested, and the pollutants were easily and inexpensively removed with the plants. They can then, for example, be used to produce biogas.

The project had a positive impact on cleaning the soil and reduced and removed pollutants such as heavy metals, microplastics and industrial chemicals. It also had an impact on tourism as the project activities increased the attractiveness of the park to the public and promoted green solutions.

What are you most proud of this project?

We are most proud of the successful implementation and promising results of the BAPR Pilot Cases. These actions make phytoremediation more attractive, but also more familiar to the public, offering possible broader application of this method in the future.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Throughout the duration of the project? We were impressed by the effective collaboration in a friendly atmosphere to reach the goals of the BAPR project. What is peculiar are the different

approaches of Project Partners from different countries towards similar topics and problems. This experience is very valuable to see various viewpoints, in many cases influenced by different national traditions and attitudes.

What is the project’s future?

The future of the BAPR outcomes lie in the possible application of the ideas and results in practice, for example by growing such plants in more areas as well as training on phytoremediation, with special emphasis on professionals, but also education of youths. The future should also cover further development and connecting phytoremediation techniques to the circular economy, for example in the idea of sustainable nutrient cycling.



Details



Implementation

June 2019 – November 2022



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,357,300.00 EUR
1,091,705.00 EUR



Linnaeus University

NSR AB
Gdansk University of Technology
Klaipeda University
Gdansk Municipal Waste Management
Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry
Water, waste management and district heating company in Håssleholm (HMAB)





Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

The BioBiGG project aimed at mobilising the innovation potential related to unutilised biomass resources in the form of residues, leftovers, and waste from the value chain of agriculture, forestry and biomass-based industries in the South Baltic Area. The project sought to identify and develop attractive business opportunities and to strengthen the SME innovation capacity by the means of cross-border knowledge transfer, advisory activities and innovation activities for the preparation of piloting and investments. By involving a bigger number of associated partners in the individual project activities, cross-border transfer and innovation was enforced. Based on the interaction with the SMEs and other stakeholders, the project provided new knowledge and concrete solutions for innovative products, processes and business opportunities, which were feasible for piloting and investments, and established cross-border cooperation structures.

What are you most proud of this project?

It is worth noting that the project, in collaboration with companies, has developed a large number of bioeconomic production options, which were built up in four stages. First, a feasibility study was prepared for each production option, which highlighted the technological possibilities in particular. Second, as an extension of this, an innovation program was drawn up which illuminated the development stages the technological option had to go through towards commercialisation: What is the current stage of development and which innovations will increase the potential for the production possibility in question? The feasibility studies and the innovation program were followed by a proposal for a business model for the opportunity in question, followed by

the fourth step, namely implementation opportunities.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The bioeconomy is generally at the initial stage of development. The four building blocks (feasibility – innovation – business model – implementation) have proven very fruitful in the cross-border cooperation, because it is easier to exchange and utilise experiences between the project's partner and their companies through this systematic division of the innovation process.

What is the project's future?

After the end of the project, work continues with the development of various bioeconomic production options, based on the approach and the ideas that were developed in the project.

Details



Implementation July 2017 – June 2021



Project total eligible budget 1,902,669.72 EUR
ERDF 1,526,249.26 EUR



Roskilde University
RISE Research institutes of Sweden
Gdansk University of Technology
Agency for Renewable Resources
University of Greifswald
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences





Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

The BSAM project aimed to solve these challenges using the Smart Asset Management (SAM) process, which was based on data-driven predictive and preventative maintenance methods. And the objectives of the project were: the identification of barriers and success factors for the development and implementation of SAM; the digitalisation of Direct Heating (DH) Distribution Networks; the development of nationally adapted methods for condition monitoring of DH networks and Learning; and the full utilisation of modern ICT-tools for Data Driven Predictive Maintenance of DH networks.

Baltic Smart Asset Management (BSAM) ensured sustainable and long-term operation and expansion of DH networks. In turn, reliable and widespread DH networks provided the possibility to utilise any ambient or waste energy, renewable resources, etc., for heating or cooling, for the supply of hot water, for efficient cogeneration of electricity, for balancing wind or solar energy and others. This potential is very important for energy diversification and security, for efficiency and sustainability, and to reduce Europe’s dependence on natural gas.

What are you most proud of this project?

The Demo investment project in Helsingborg has been very successful and seen by about 200 visitors, many from the Baltic Sea Region. Öresundskraft has proven that district heating can be 100% fossil free, the pipe network lifetime can be extended several decades, and hot water losses can be reduced.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

COVID has caused obstacles to cross-border visits, but discussions via digital meetings have worked out quite well. Actually, we have reached out to more stakeholders

What is the project’s future?

Our plan and ambition are to continue and expand the network. We work closely with IEA DHC and district heating associations in Europe.

Details



	Implementation	June 2019 – May 2023
	Project total eligible budget	1,302,500.00 EUR
	ERDF	1,041,125.00 EUR



- Linnaeus University
Swedish Council of District Heating and Cooling
Lithuanian District Heating Association
Gdansk University of Technology
OPEC Gdynia Energy Company
Klaipeda University
Öresundskraft Energy Company



COASTAL Biogas

Cluster On Anaerobic digestion,
environmental Services and nuTrient removAL



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

The overall aim was to create a guideline for using seaweed as a co-digestive in biogas plants, e.g. for municipalities and/or biogas operators in coastal areas of the SB Sea region, and to create incentives to financially support innovative technology, i.e. collecting and cleaning methods, and their application in a biogas plant, including also technical and legal guidelines. The project provided relevant stakeholders in the South Baltic area with the tools, knowledge, and information about the possibilities of anaerobic digestion of cast seaweed and digestate utilisation, including the economic aspects of its utilisation.

By using cast seaweed as a substrate and utilising the digestate as a fertiliser, nutrients are physically removed from the Baltic Sea and hence provide a powerful tool to mitigate eutrophication. In addition, the inconveniences of rotting seaweed on the beaches are removed for the benefit of recreation, tourism, and increased value of residential properties along the coast.

What are you most proud of this project?

The concise presentation of the project results in the two success stories and the documents for the COASTAL Biogas trainer workshops being considered very positive results that will remain significant beyond the project duration. The strong cross-linking to other relevant large biogas projects in the Baltic Sea area as well as to organisations like the European Biogas Association, HELCOM, and the Nordic Council of Ministers ensured the transfer of the project's results to relevant stakeholders.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

There was a strong cross-border benefit since the project partners evaluated the whole South Baltic Sea area for current technology development and sites/facilities, where co-digestion of cast seaweed and use of digestate as a fertiliser has been implemented. Based on good practice experiences, project

partners conducted pilot testing and provided data on local conditions for the feasibility studies. They identified strategic stakeholders and target groups with the potential to implement the technology related to the co-digestion of cast seaweed in combination with digestate utilisation as a fertiliser.

What is the project's future?

The approach of targeted technology transfer in the South Baltic Sea region in combination with feasibility studies and pilot testing can be copied and used by other stakeholders interested in exploring the anaerobic digestion of cast seaweed and digestate utilisation. The partners involved in the COASTAL Biogas project also function as multipliers beyond the project's lifetime and will ensure both the durability of the developed innovative technology and the training tool, besides any other output from the project.

Details



Implementation

July 2018 – December 2021



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,666,820.57 EUR
1,352,730.60 EUR



Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR)
Gdansk University of Technology
Baltic Energy Innovation Centre
Roskilde University
University of Rostock
Lithuanian Energy Institute



Less is more

Energy-efficient technologies for removal of pharmaceuticals and other contaminants of emerging concern



LESS IS MORE delivered two main outputs, explicitly:

1. Pilot investments in technological solutions for removing pharmaceuticals and other CECs as well as antibiotic-resistant bacteria.
2. Removal technology solutions focusing on separation processes developed and presented in the form of blueprints and expert papers.

The project directly resulted in new treatment solutions and technologies that can demonstrate a better total energy balance than existing solutions and that do not have a problem with potential harmful transformation products for the end users, notably the small and medium municipal WWTPs.

Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

What are you most proud of this project?

I think that we are most proud of the fact that our project activities have made such an important contribution to the actual development of wastewater treatment in the South Baltic region. Several wastewater treatment plants are now being upgraded with advanced treatment steps to remove organic micropollutants, and we have been able to provide important input to different stakeholders on everything from analysis methodology to recommendations for design.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Communication, early and precise, is important!

What is the project's future?

The future of the project lies both in terms of infrastructure but also in terms of results and guidelines that can be used by municipalities, consultants, end suppliers. We also hope that the project continues in new forms and we are searching for such opportunities. The project has played an important role in upgrading wastewater treatment plants in for example Sweden. We now hope that we can take even more steps in targeting critical pollutants at even lower costs.

Regarding the program itself – it gives us all opportunities to work with our close neighbours. Probably the best way to make things happen.



Details



Implementation January 2018 – June 2021



Project total eligible budget 2,299,325.00 EUR
ERDF 1,752,399.75 EUR



Lund University, Department of Chemical Engineering
Sweden Water Research ABBaltic Energy Innovation Centre
Kristianstad University
Slagelse Utility
Slagelse Municipality
JSC "Kretinga Water"
Gdansk Water Fund



Liquid Energy

Liquefied (bio-)gas as a driving force for development and use of green energy technology



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

The 'Liquid Energy' project addressed, jointly developing solutions and creating a platform for a broader and more universal use of (bio-)LNG in a micro/nano form (e.g. in a decentralised energy supply system) as an alternative fuel in the future.

The most important goal of the project was its contribution to solving technical problems and the popularisation of decentralised (regional) energy conversion with simultaneous local consumption including the transport of alternative fuel.

Furthermore, the cooperation of the project partners from Poland, Germany and Lithuania made it possible to merge existing resources, knowledge and relevant actors at the cross-border level and significantly contribute to the creation of critical mass and unlocking (especially) business cooperation in this technological area. All of which creates a way to utilise the untapped potential of (bio)LNG as an alternative energy source.

What are you most proud of this project?

The Liquid Energy project co-financed by the INTERREG South Baltic Program aims at solutions on a micro- and nano-scale. This market requires dedicated products and technologies. The project creates a framework for the broader and more universal future use of (bio-)LNG in a micro/nano form as an alternative fuel (e.g., in a decentralised energy supply system). Pilot investments presenting the application of an innovative technology are the most important element of the project that allows sharing of knowledge that is based on tangible technological achievements. A micro- and nanoscale (bio-)LNG mobile refuelling station is the core of the technological developments tested within the project. The station is based on a vehicle with a total weight of 3.5 tons. The investment is a proof of concept for a market-ready technology at the micro-scale.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Energy supply, including energy transition, is a common challenge for all South Baltic countries (and the EU). Access to innovative and reliable energy sources that can be a real alternative to those currently existing is one of the topics that define the core policy area of the EU countries nowadays.

What is the project's future?

The role of the South Baltic Programme in this process as an information and dissemination platform and funding body is an important one. It catalyses processes that strengthen the exchange of knowledge as well as specific developments and cannot be underestimated. This role can also have a pivotal impact in the future activities in this thematic area by supporting follow-up actions addressing one of the key enabling technologies for energy transition in the EU.

Details



Implementation

January 2020 – June 2023

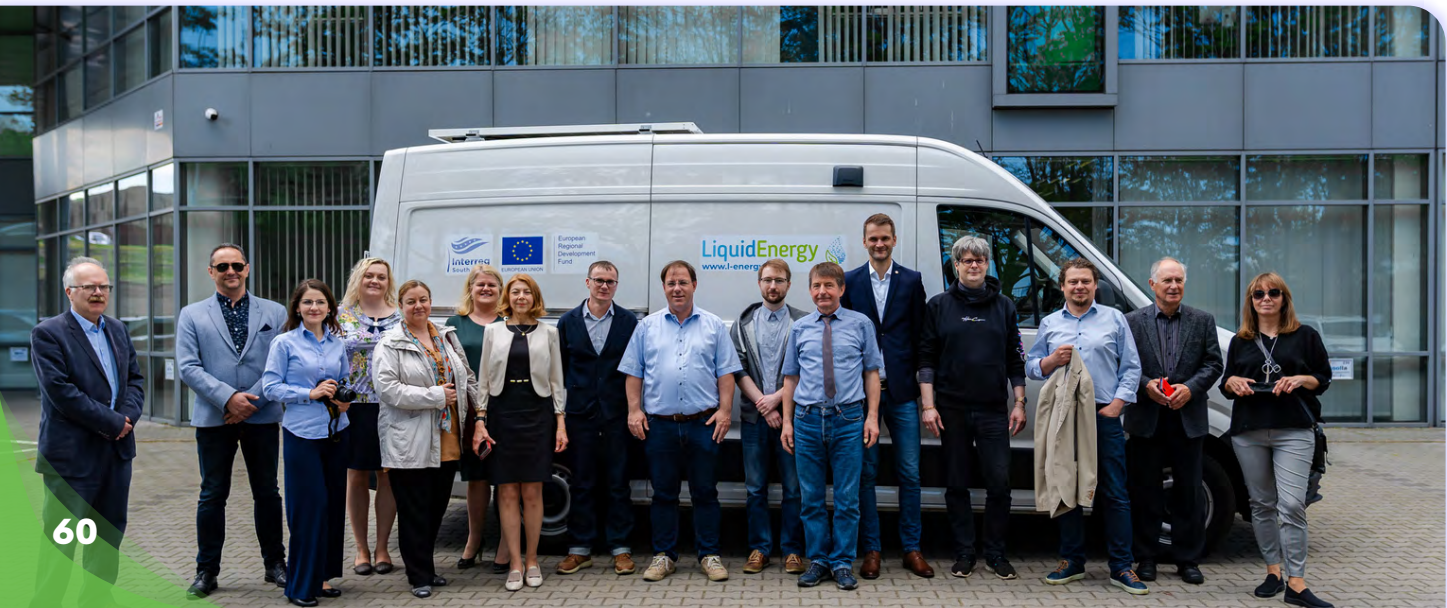


Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,977,860.00 EUR
1,681,181.00 EUR



Gdynia Maritime University, Maritime Institute
Association for Promotion of the Hanseatic Institute for Entrepreneurship and Regional Development at the University Rostock
Metropolitan Area Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot
Maritime University of Szczecin
Association for the Promotion Knowledge about Sea
University of Rostock
INWL – non-profit Limited Institute for Sustainable Economy and Logistics
Klaipeda Science and Technology Park



LiveLagoons

The use of active barriers for the nutrient removal and local water quality improvement in Baltic lagoons



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

There are many attempts to use mussels or algae cultivation for nutrient removal in the South Baltic area. However, due to the low market value of the cultivated products, these developments typically end in the initial stage of demonstration studies and are neither sustainable nor replicated in other than pilot areas. The idea was to involve the coastal municipalities in the South Baltic lagoons in the application of so-called ‘active’ or ‘living’ barrier units to improve water quality and create bathing conditions inside the South Baltic lagoons, where under normal conditions, algal blooms and sediment re-suspension prevent recreational bathing.

The envisaged results included small-scale local improvement of water quality (pilot installations) and biodiversity restoration, but, most importantly, increased awareness of local stakeholders interested in water quality and tourism (municipalities, PA administrations) and innovations (SMEs) of our tested technological applications. The cross-border co-operation allowed us to test both technological and socio-economical methodologies in different environments including 2 cross-border case studies.

What are you most proud of this project?

We are most proud that the results of our project are sustainable. The LiveLagoons project received enormous interest among stakeholders and the public at large, resulting in different spin-offs, including third-party investments in floating wetlands and new project proposals. To the best of our knowledge, the LiveLagoons project has pioneered the floating wetland applications in the SB region, adapting the technology to the climatic and other environmental conditions (including conditions in winter) in the area (most of the floating wetlands applications are in the Western part of Europe). The prepared guidelines could serve for further developments in the SB area.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

We appreciated the co-operation during the project

implementation phase and praise the complementary skills and contributions of the different partners in the project. As the activities were shared between partners and installations that were technologically different in different locations and countries, the project provided cross-border synergy and facilitated contacts between stakeholders in three countries; there was also know-how transfer between the partners from different countries.

What is the project’s future?

We are very happy to apply the experience gained during the implementation of the LiveLagoons project in the future (even making use of existing installations). We are pursuing different avenues in the further expansion of our ideas regarding floating wetlands, including applications responding to the environmental and Farm to Fork initiatives.

Details



Implementation

August 2017 – December 2021



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,237,590.00 EUR
1,051,951.50 EUR



Klaipėda University
EUCC - The Coastal Union Germany
Institute of Hydro-Engineering, Polish Academy of Sciences
Curonian Spit National Park Administration



MORPHEUS

Model Areas for Removal of Pharmaceutical Substances in the South Baltic



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

The overall idea of the project was to address the challenge of the pharmaceutical pollution in the Baltic Sea area. Chemical pollution of surface water presents a threat to the aquatic environment with effects of losses of habitats and biodiversity, as well as a threat to human health. According to directive 2008/105/EC, as a matter of priority, the causes of pollution should be identified and emissions should be dealt with at the source, in the most economically and environmentally effective manner.

MORPHEUS collected and combined information and analytical results on the incoming and outgoing pharmaceutical waste in wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). This data allowed MORPHEUS to map the quality of the wastewater treatment in the different plants and the leftover pharmaceutical substances discharged into the Baltic Sea. With this data, MORPHEUS can not only give recommendations for future investments in wastewater technology but also raise awareness among citizens.

What are you most proud of this project?

Interpreting the feedback received on the project, it seems that we successfully brought awareness on an important and complicated topic by joining results from advanced chemical analysis and pharmaceutical information, gathered from the Baltic Sea region. We could show that micropollutants are the same regardless of origin, that solutions are within reach, and they share a common ground.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Number one for sure is that this type of project is a vital instrument for bringing us closer together within the EU. Number two; the importance to define and identify each partner's obligations, responsibility, skills and expected contributions.

What is the project's future?

Hopefully, the project will continue to inspire the work of other projects in the field of environmental sustainability.



Details



MORPHEUS
Model Areas for Removal
of Pharmaceutical Substances
in the South Baltic



Implementation

January 2017 – December 2019



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,597,591.85 EUR
1,310,706.12 EUR



Kristianstad University
EUCC - The Coastal Union Germany
University of Rostock
Gdansk Water Foundation
Gdansk University of Technology
Environmental Protection Agency
Klaipeda University





Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

RBR is a unique project concept that was born through experiences from prior EU and national initiatives. The main objective and rationale of the project were to highlight a proactive approach when working with environmental projects by showcasing successful proactive methods and technologies to prevent hazardous and unwanted particles from reaching the Baltic Sea and at the same time to disseminate this knowledge to the South Baltic region by having a cross-border approach. The purpose of this was to both show the approach/technologies in practice, but at the same time to also certify the cross-border knowledge exchange and durability of the method and pilot cases after the project has ended as well.

What are you most proud of this project?

The thing I am proudest of in the project is the successful installation, run up and testing of all 4 Pilot Cases. We are proud that we could implement our ideas and show that we are not only talking about the importance of environmental protection, but we are ready for action and work to create a better, clean place to live not only for people but also for all flora and fauna.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The cross-border cooperation in the project was crucial for the project's success, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Project partners have a unique opportunity to exchange international and cross-border knowledge and experience during

the project implementation and to compare different project implementation environments in many areas, like differences in salaries, policy, country development, historic background, etc.

What is the project's future?

All project partners are still working on testing the Pilot Cases, creating new project ideas and cooperating to develop them at a bigger scale. In the final phase of the project, a green technology cluster was established and the RBR project partners started to cooperate not only among themselves but also with other institutions from the cluster. There are several initiatives that will hopefully become new projects based on RBR, and some of them already have initial financing and some are in the preparation of new proposals stage.

Details



Implementation July 2017 – June 2021



Project total eligible budget 1,483,941.18 EUR
ERDF 1,189,950.00 EUR



Gdansk University of Technology
Klaipeda University
Linnaeus University
Industrial Development Centre South
Pomeranian Special Economic Zone Ltd.
NSR
Municipality of Palanga



SB OIL

South Baltic Oil spill response through clean-up with biogenic oil binders



Different ships carrying people, products and raw materials travel the Baltic Sea in heavy traffic. This leads to a significant risk of maritime accidents resulting in environmental damage, loss and injuries. Besides the immense amount of crude oil transported at sea, almost every vessel carries fuel for its own propulsion. SBOIL aimed to take up green technology to strengthen the existing cross-border spill response capacities. Sub-national administration levels were included in the cross-border cooperation. A multilingual handbook has been produced, summarising basic knowledge about oil spills, response measures and the structural approaches of the individual SB countries to close the information gap and increase awareness, addressing local and regional authorities and national incident managers.

Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

What are you most proud of this project?

The South Baltic Programme has been beneficial in many ways: Not only from a research or expert exchange point of view, but also from the personal point of view of the participants themselves. All the institutions involved are still in contact today. The cross-border discussion on oil spills has been very beneficial for all sides. Deficits were revealed in all regulations/ recommendations of the Baltic Sea countries.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

One of the most important experiences of cross-border cooperation is that in the event of oil spills, all the countries involved ‘at all levels’ should be informed simultaneously as early as possible.

What is the project’s future?

The Biobind product works and can be used. Unfortunately, the support of the governments involved to make improvements to the regulations in force at the time is very limited.

Details



Implementation

July 2016 – December 2019



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,218,209.60 EUR
998,307.20 EUR



University of Rostock, Chair of Geotechnics and Coastal Engineering
World Maritime University
Maritime University of Szczecin



STEP

Sludge Technological Ecological Progress – increasing the quality and reuse of sewage sludge



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

The main aim of the STEP (Sludge Technological Ecological Progress) project was to develop tools to increase the quality of sewage sludge that can be reused for water treatment plants of small and medium size. Small wastewater treatment plants in the South Baltic area are facing the problem of sewage sludge reuse efficiency. The existing tools were mostly developed for big WWTPs. The successful implementation of the project provided a new dimension for the quality of sewage sludge. The specific objectives of the project are:

- reuse of nutrients and lower pollution of the outflowing water;
- to improve the situation regarding heavy metal pollution and incoming water content in the South Baltic Region;
- to create a robust network of different scientific and technical entities established both at WPUT and at partnering organisations so that a creative environment can be developed for innovative solutions leading to the generation of projections of the future of use of good-quality sewage sludge, which will make it possible to respond to this challenge also at the European level;
- to transfer projections of the use of sewage sludge to planning agencies and political authorities in the Baltic Sea area;
- to educate the society and to increase public awareness and let the public understand the challenges that the water treatment plants are facing;
- to exchange the good practices on the use of different sludge-handling technologies between different countries and municipalities.

What are you most proud of this project?

The project dealt with sludge processing and reuse which is still a very important topic. We proposed and tested several technologies of sludge processing in real conditions.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The regulations regarding wastewater handling vary in different member countries, however such cross-border cooperation provides the opportunity to exchange best practices and learn from the experiences of others.



Details



Implementation

January 2018 – June 2021



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,159,655.00 EUR
945,024.25 EUR



West Pomeranian University of Technology
Bornholms Energi & Forsyning
Klaipeda University
The municipality of Höör / Mittskåne Water
Goleniow Water and Sewage Company





The overall idea of the project revolved around the challenge of energy saving and reuse of energy waste. It focused on initiating industrial symbiosis through cooperation between companies, utilities and municipalities in order to make use of energy and other resources that would otherwise go to waste. Industrial symbiosis is an approach where the by-product/residual product of one organisation is used as a resource by another organisation, in a closed cycle.

The project’s activities were mainly aimed at identification of potential cases for industrial symbiosis, exchange of experience in industrial symbiosis, development of business models and financing solutions for industrial symbiosis investments, as well as implementing pilot investments of industrial symbiosis for energy waste.

The main target groups of the project were industrial companies, local authorities, and energy and waste companies (some of them were already represented in the project partnership).

What are you most proud of this project?

The actual implementation of the pilots for industrial symbiosis. Real examples of industrial symbiosis implemented during the project period in four countries.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

A good example of learning from partner regions in a certain area, in this case urban industrial symbiosis.

What is the project’s future?

The project continues to provide inspirations for industrial symbiosis after the project end through the implemented pilots. Industrial symbiosis is very much on the agenda nowadays and UBIS is a good example of what it is about and how it can be done.

Details



Implementation January 2017 – December 2019



Project total eligible budget 1,968,401.16 EUR
ERDF 1,547,123.91 EUR



- Skane Energy Agency
Sustainable Business Hub
City of Malmö
Bjuv municipality
Lithuanian District Heating Association
Silute District Municipality
Rostock University
Kalundborg Municipality - Symbiosis Center Denmark
Kalundborg Utility
Gdansk University of Technology



WASTEMAN

Integrated Sustainable Waste Management Systems
decreasing pollution discharges in the South Baltic area



Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

The project addressed the needed change of the Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) sector in the South Baltic from a linear to a circular system. The main objective of the project was to implement Integrated Sustainable Waste Management (ISWM) systems that decrease the pollution from the waste management sector and at the same time ensure the effective recycling of municipal waste resources. The project implemented ISWM systems in the MSWM sector through three main outputs that address the three basic objectives of the ISWM system:

- working together with multiple stakeholders;
- building a stable service value chain;
- enabling sustainable value aspects.

The complete ISWM systems produced cross-border cooperation ensuring a circular change in the South Baltic area. The technology and management system exchange provided added value from the partners through the cross-border cooperation.

What are you most proud of this project?

Development of an innovative waste selection system based on waste collection points, which has been implemented in Bornholm. Application of the Living Lab activities to co-design an effective waste segregation system on the island of Bornholm involving local residents. And development of a technology for the production of fertilisers from food waste with the use of effective microbes.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Our takeaways are: innovative social solutions e.g. co-design with citizens; the use of effective microbes for the production of fertilisers in the context of the possibility of application in various countries; enables the exchange of knowledge and experience

between project partners; allows to track how EU standards are implemented in individual countries; allows to verify to what extent a given solution is a universal one..

What is the project's future?

The Wasteman project has optimised the method of separate collection of waste on Bornholm, and the results of the project are directly implemented as part of the new waste collection system on the island. The results of the project will be used in the new PLASTREC and BALTREC projects. The projects will include consumer behaviour change and value chain interventions by introducing waste sorting and recycling techniques to supermarkets and by offering secondary products in the supermarket's product portfolio.

Details



Implementation

July 2018 – June 2020



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,511,550.00 EUR

1,228,636.00 EUR



Institute of Fluid-Flow Machinery Polish Academy of Sciences
The Administration of Tauragė District Municipality
The Administration of Nowa Karczma District Municipality
Bofa
Aalborg University
EKO DOLINA





Priority axis: 2
Specific Objective: 2.2 – Environment

The South Baltic region is currently experiencing the effects of environmental pressures resulting from the concentration of the population and economic activities in coastal areas, which lead to eutrophication and biodiversity loss hazards as a consequence of nutrient discharges into the South Baltic catchment areas. WISA was a project that developed and tested new green technologies to reduce pollution by stormwater from ports and other large hard surfaces. The cross-border cooperation and networking have resulted in concrete solutions that will remain after the WISA project has ended. This is our contribution to a cleaner and healthier South Baltic Sea. The project co-designed methods of developing green technologies capable of handling storm water in harbours and other large hard surfaces. Furthermore, the cooperation between the project partners from Sweden, Lithuania and Poland created the possibility for unlocking the potential for innovative and cost-effective solutions. To unlock this potential, the stakeholders (researchers, companies, municipalities and others) needed access to functions for testing, skills and knowledge of problems related to water; for this reason there is a need to develop a testbed for water innovation, to develop the interconnected water innovation ecosystem in the region. The project activities led to decreased pollution discharges in storm water, especially from fertilisers, in the participating regions, which in turn also led to a better and healthier environment and increased economic growth.

What are you most proud of this project?

The project has resulted in new collaborations between partners and a network of organisations that share knowledge with each other.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

It is very rewarding learning about other organisations

and gaining a deeper understanding of how others work and how you can use their methods/experiences in your own organisation.

What is the project's future?

The hope is to create a testbed around the Baltic Sea to continue to work on water-related innovation.



Details



	Implementation	June 2019 – November 2022
	Project total eligible budget	1,840,213.71 EUR
	ERDF	1,461,788.99 EUR
		Krinoa AB Klaipeda University Gdansk University of Technology Port of Åhus Port of Gdynia Authority S.A.





Priority axis: 3
Specific Objective: 3.1 – Transport

CAR (Creating Automotive Renewal) developed systems solutions to implement and scale-up electric vehicle systems. The approach comprised vehicles, charging posts, payment solutions, business models, and information and discussions with companies and organisations that are interested in investing in fleets of electric vehicles. The goal was to work with several organisations with the potential to invest in ten or more electric vehicles and together with representatives of the organisations explore opportunities, identify obstacles, and drive the process forward towards realisation of the investments.

CAR worked together with national authorities and leading players in the field of electric vehicle systems, car companies, and organisations that develop software and services. The project also developed a competence resource in the form of a strategy-setting network that continued to work with systems and business-related aspects of the large-scale transformation of transport systems.

What are you most proud of this project?

I am most proud of the learning experiences and the understanding of e-mobility development we gathered through the project. After the project, these experiences spawned new project ideas and collaboration initiatives. We are currently finalising the seed money project South Baltic Electromobility as a Service, which will become a full-scale project application. I am also very proud of the range of pilot investment projects that were developed in the project with the very diverse solutions that were developed and the interest these pilot installations have generated from organisations outside of the project.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The cross-border experience taught us very much about

the different circumstances for electromobility in the different countries. The circumstances generate very different opportunities for charging infrastructure and the expansion of vehicle fleets. The dialogue with partners and participants at the cross-border seminars contributed a lot of knowledge about this.

What is the project's future?

The CAR project has a very bright future. We learned many things that will be further developed in future projects and collaboration activities. We used the experiences to develop the idea for South Baltic Electromobility as a Service after the project. We also understood the significant knowledge that will need to be developed in municipalities, utilities, and in companies to participate in and support the transformation to electromobility.



Details



Implementation

January 2018 – December 2021



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,956,959.97 EUR
1,549,675.00 EUR



Industrial Development Centre South
Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences
City of Gdynia
DTU Elektro - Technical University of Denmark - Electrical Engineering
PKT Gdynia
Gdansk University of Technology
Lund municipality
Regional Municipality of Bornholm
Rostock Port GmbH
RISE





Priority axis: 3
Specific Objective: 3.1 – Transport

The overall objective of CoBiUM was to reduce car traffic and parking pressure in urban areas – relieving roads, making them safer and creating new space, reducing air pollution and noise emissions and as a consequence, improving the quality of life in Baltic cities. At a higher level, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is a strategic objective of this project.

CoBiUM focused on three thematic areas: private users, municipal services, and business logistics. CoBiUM offered innovative and sustainable solutions, helping municipalities in the South Baltic area to integrate cargo bikes into their urban mobility concepts. At the same time, the knowledge about the potential of cargo bikes and their acceptance among private users and businesses were improved through targeted communication and campaigning – at the project level and at the local level.

What are you most proud of this project?

In Gdynia, Poland, we successfully introduced cargo bikes to the inhabitants starting from no knowledge about what a cargo bike is to offering a free-of-charge cargo bike rental scheme. Cargo bikes are now used in everyday private travels by parents as well as commercial couriers.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

It was very helpful to use the knowledge and avoid mistakes from partners that are more used to cargo bikes. As we were starting from the ground up, we had so much to learn and we did so.

The lessons learned by other partners were very valuable for everyone on the project.

What is the project's future?

The cargo bike rental system – our pilot activity – is still running using bikes purchased within project. We adjusted the distribution of the bikes within different target groups (private or business) to reduce the queues, but the interest is still strong. Within our sister project – City Changer Cargo Bike – we introduced a financing scheme for Gdynia citizens. So far, we have distributed subsidies for 16 new and used cargo bikes.

Details



	Implementation	February 2018 – October 2021
	Project total eligible budget	1,823,470.00 EUR
	ERDF	1,452,602.50 EUR

City of Växjö
University of Greifswald, Institute of Geography
City of Slupsk
City of Gdynia
Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden
Danish Cycling Tourism



Connect2SmallPorts

South Baltic Small Ports as Gateways towards an Integrated Sustainable European Transport System and Blue Growth by Smart Connectivity Solutions



Priority axis: 3
Specific Objective: 3.1 – Transport

The Connect2SmallPorts project supported the development and implementation of innovative digital solutions of South Baltic small and medium ports, thus offering a competitive advantage. Distribution of digital technologies for transport and logistics in South Baltic ports and their service portfolios is very limited, not shared and not integrated at the cross-border level.

In this, the Connect2SmallPorts project targeted real-life, existing problems in close cooperation with the main target group of smaller ports. Thus, the project was able to improve the IT and infrastructural capacity of the participating ports in the SB region. Several small ports, maritime businesses and research institutions participated in the project in order to improve cargo flows, environmental and economic efficiency, digitalisation competencies as well as Blockchain and IoT knowledge by June 2022.

What are you most proud of this project?

By focusing on innovation potentials for smaller ports only, we have been forerunners in this particular field, which received more and more attention from business and also research in the last two years. Thanks to the great project outcomes, bigger ports such as Rotterdam and Dubai Ports approached us for potential cooperation. Also, in the final project phase, South Baltic port asked for possibilities to develop a digital pilot with the project after recognising the benefits the project can bring to smaller ports.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The cross-border cooperation is of course a challenge but also the key advantage when it comes to transnational innovation development and application. In our consortium, responsibilities

and tasks were shared according to the partner's strengths and competencies which enabled not only great project results but also a great team atmosphere that we will maintain after the project closure in future cooperation initiatives.

What is the project's future?

Even though Connect2SmallPorts was a very successful project, it is very clear for us that it has been only a first step in supporting the digital transition of smaller ports in the South Baltic Sea Region and beyond. Digitalisation is rather a process than a status-quo and, in this, we are happy to have already launched the DigiTechPort Excellence Centre, which already received Seed Money Funding and shall later on be transferred into a bigger project to continue our path in facilitating small- and medium-sized ports.

Details



Implementation

July 2018 – June 2022



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

2,117,175.00 EUR

1,744,003.75 EUR



Hochschule Wismar, University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design

Klaipeda Science and Technology Park

Motus Foundation

Blekinge Institute of Technology

INWL Institute for Sustainable Economics and Logistics

Seaport of Wismar

(NPPE) Klaipeda Shipping Research Center (KSRC)

Klaipeda State Seaport Authority

Port of Karlskrona



INCONE60

Inland Blue Transport Connector E60



Priority axis: 3
Specific Objective: 3.1 – Transport

The INCONE60 project aimed to develop the concept of launching regular navigation along the international E60 waterway and connecting it with other inland waterways. Furthermore, the project sought to shift cargo from land to sea transport, decrease the negative impact on the natural environment, and increase awareness about the benefit of choosing short sea shipping. With the development of cargo and passenger traffic in the South Baltic area, small and medium ports gained new clients, secured their economic development, and integrated into more extensive transportation schemes.

The project formulated a set of transport solutions to support the active development of peripheral coastal regions of the South Baltic area by focusing on local ports as growth pools. It helped boost the competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region and increase its accessibility and attractiveness.

What are you most proud of this project?

The INCONE60 Cargo Flow Model is the main product, which calculates all transport-related costs and external costs such as accidents, noise, pollutants, climate costs, infrastructure degradation and congestion (simulator.incone60.eu). Finally, we have created the INConet Business Network to link small ports in the South Baltic Sea and the North Sea regions with the business sector.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The INCONE60 project cooperated with institutions beyond its partnership. Regular cooperation has been established with other Interreg South Baltic Programme projects and other

programmes like Interreg North Sea Region and Horizon 2020. This cooperation allowed for the exchange of experiences and inspirations, and the acquired knowledge allowed for the creation of universal tools that can also be transferred beyond the programme's area of operation.

What is the project's future?

The project results will be further developed in two Seed Money projects – SeaTech and SmartNet – and ultimately in future regular projects. As a result, a universal tool for digitising individual processes in the maritime sector and logistics will be created, including the further development of the INCONE60 Cargo Flow Model

Details



Implementation

June 2018 – May 2022

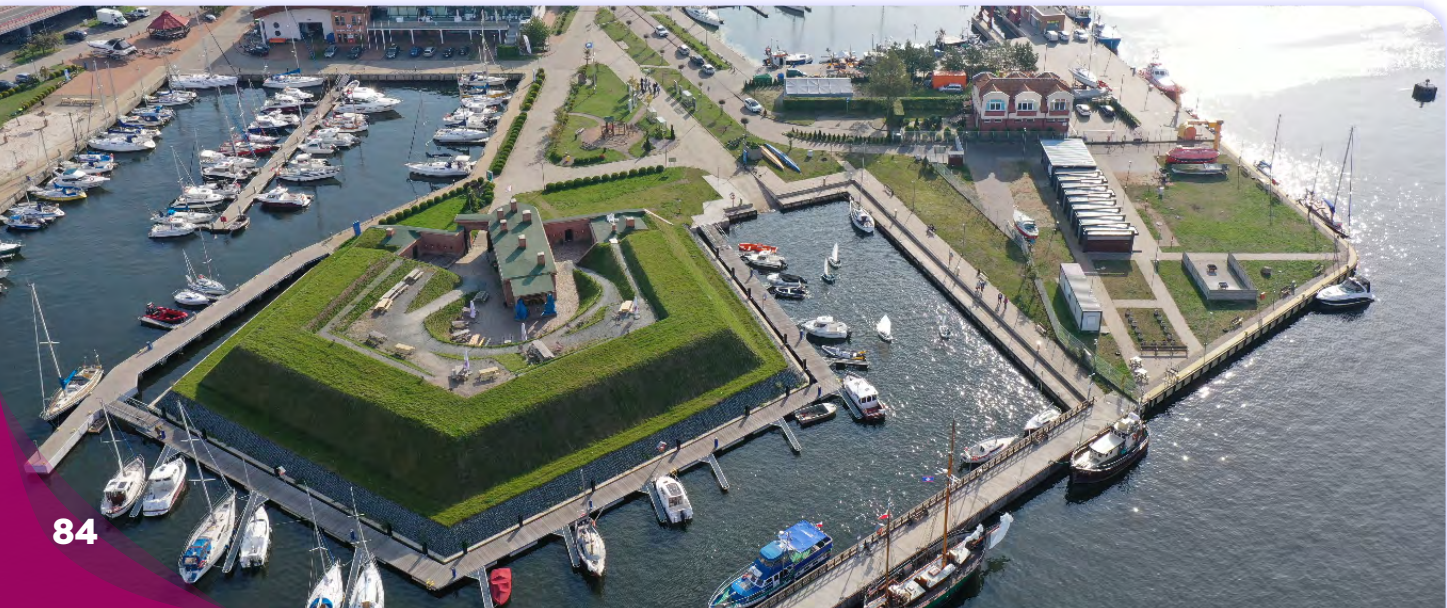


Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,517,782.29 EUR
1,262,084.95 EUR



Gdynia Maritime University, Maritime Institute
EUCC Baltic Office
Public Institution Coastal Research and Planning Institute
Port of Władysławowo "Szkuner" Sp. z o.o.
Port of Oostende (Belgium)





Priority axis: 3
Specific Objective: 3.1 – Transport

Interconnect, an EUSBSR flagship candidate, addressed the challenge of curbing the car-reliant mobility trend in the SB area through user-adjusted and more sustainable public transport services for regional and cross-border travels.

To enhance car-independent mobility in the South Baltic area, the partnership carried out joint capacity-building, pilot demonstration and advocacy actions. These tackle the three dimensions of public transport in serving the regional and cross-border travels – the demand, the supply and the governance. The project delivered innovative multi-stakeholder planning approaches for sustainable public transport of the future and invest in new and more efficient services for no-car travellers both in and between the partner areas.

Through involving a broad range of stakeholders in designing and testing the planning and management solutions that will be compatible in the cross-border context and replicable elsewhere, the project increased the policy and community attention on the role of public transport in serving mobility needs in the SB area.

What are you most proud of this project?

I am very proud that this project managed to have a very diverse approach to enhancing car-independent mobility. In addition to a focus on our north-south transport corridor – Nykøbing-Gedser-Rostock – the project also had the capacity to work on the mobility needs from the hinterland into the transport north-south corridor and its interchange points.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The project provided frameworks for a series of cross-border meetings among local institutions, citizens’ associations,

business organisations and local authorities as part of a broader promotional campaign involving more than 300 people from Guldborgsund and Rostock and underlining the ‘reasons to go’ and the needs for easy and sustainable transport across the South Baltic Sea.

What is the project’s future?

The project now continues in the many results that were produced during its lifetime; one of them being the bicycling routes that was established in cooperation between bicycling organisations on both sides of the South Baltic Sea.

Details



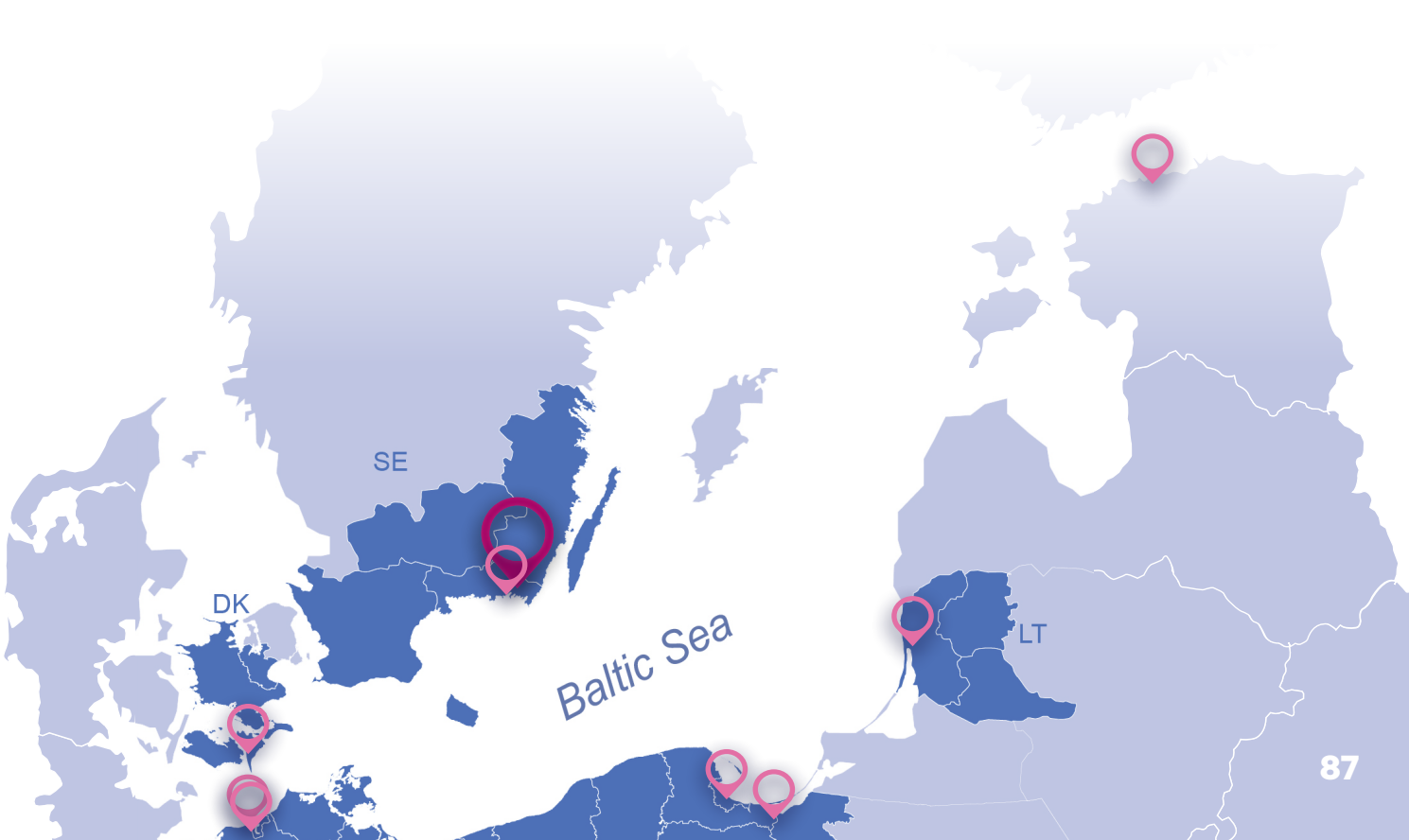
Implementation June 2017 – November 2020



Project total eligible budget 3,462,692.66 EUR
ERDF 2,816,374.88 EUR



Region Blekinge
InnoBaltica Ltd
Assoc. for Promotion of Hanseatic Institute for Entrepreneurship and Regional Development at the University of Rostock
Hanseatic City of Rostock
Guldborgsund Municipality
Klaipeda Public Transport Authority
Blekinge Institute of Technology
Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Viimsi Municipality, Estonia





Priority axis: 3
Specific Objective: 3.1 – Transport

With the overall aim of starting the establishment of low-carbon logistic structures in four locations within the SB-region, giving them best practice status towards the widest possible adaptation, the project has been organised as follows:

- analysis of preconditions (flows, type of goods, stakeholders, guidelines etc.);
- joint development of a low-carbon logistics concept for towns and rural areas in the SB region, which have been done jointly by the pilot regions and an international consortium of transport and mobility experts; the joint concept served as the basis for local/regional working plans + long-term strategies, developed as local adaptations in close cooperation with the relevant players;
- in its last stage, the project started the active implementation of the determined measures and solutions, one pilot measure per region included.

What are you most proud of this project?

All project partners were flexible and focused on solutions throughout the entire project. Actual solutions were finally implemented despite unexpected challenges, and we managed to implement different solutions with the same aim. The mix of expert organisations and local/regional authorities and organisations was key to successfully implement our project ideas in the involved regions.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Learning together! I can just speak for myself, but I think all

partners increased their knowledge related to transport-related challenges and structures in our countries. We realised that we are neighbours, but that we have a lot to learn from each other. Small scale! We showed that small changes can make a difference and that it is possible for behavioural changes to make a difference.

What is the project's future?

We keep our South Baltic contacts alive and hope to build a new project in the future. There is still a lot of transport-related emissions to be reduced.

Details



Implementation

June 2016 – September 2019



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,788,146.37 EUR
1,466,075.60 EUR



Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden Ltd. (ESS)

Olofströms Näringsliv AB
Public institution Rietavas Tourism and Business Information Centre / RTVIC
Research GmbH Wismar, Competence Centre for Rural Area Mobility
Maritime University of Szczecin
Institute for Climate Protection, Energy and Mobility (IKEM)
Neringa Municipality
The Green Policy Institute
Rietavas Municipality Administration



Parking gets smart

Improved & digitalised parking management as tool to foster green and multimodal transport in the South Baltic area



Priority axis: 3
Specific Objective: 3.1 – Transport

The ‘Parking gets Smart’ project developed and disseminated innovative parking management solutions that make the most of digitalisation and advanced ICT.

To achieve this, the project gathered a ‘pioneer developer community’ that created new approaches & disseminates them to other parking actors in the SBA. PgS delivered:

- A set of innovative, site-oriented model strategies for digital parking management in typical use cases in the South Baltic area (e.g. seaside resort, protected area).
- Open source tools (e.g. ‘parking data hub’) and models to establish the base infrastructure for digital processing & sharing of ‘open parking data’.
- Model implementations that put ICT-based end-user devices into everyday use (e.g. dynamic parking guidance apps). Effects on mobility behaviour are documented & evaluated. The end-user solutions are partly developed as open-source software, too.
- Further extension of the user group & use range of digital parking management in the South Baltic area. The ‘open source’ software solutions are provided to followers free-of-charge. Software developers are invited for hackathons to create new digital parking solutions.

What are you most proud of this project?

Within the implemented pilots, PARKING GETS SMART created models to change the mobility behaviour of drivers by providing them with real-time digital information about parking occupancy in the hot-spot areas, and by showing them alternative transport modes. At market level, the project contributed to a more positive approach of the local and international digital parking companies towards sharing open parking data.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

SSStudy trips allowed building on the experience and practical advice from experts and practitioners in digital parking

management, and avoiding their mistakes. Learning from each other in a cross-border exchange process helped all involved partners to develop the best possible digital solutions for managing their parking challenges, which exemplified typical use cases in the South Baltic.

What is the project’s future?

The model solutions developed within the project and the experiences collected from implementation will be available free-of-charge to cities, municipalities or other institutions which are considering implementing digital parking management. To facilitate the uptake of those, the project has launched a helpdesk which will provide advice to followers in the future.

Details



	Implementation	June 2016 – May 2019
	Project total eligible budget	2,655,643.40 EUR
	ERDF	2,217,096.89 EUR

Polish Union of Active Mobility
City of Gdansk
Gdansk University of Physical Education and Sport
Fundacja InfoShare
PICTEC Foundation
Neringa municipality administration
Klaipeda public transport authority
Municipality of Växjö
Hanseatic City of Bremen
Municipality Ostseebad Heringsdorf



SB Transport Loops

South Baltic Transport Loops



Priority axis: 3
Specific Objective: 3.1 – Transport

The main objective of the SB TRANSPORT LOOPS project was the development of new regular shipping connections to and from project partner ports in order to develop these (small- and medium-sized) ports. To and from partner ports does not mean between partner ports only. Shipping connections may be implemented between a partner port and any other port inside and outside the Baltic Sea. The focus was two sectors of the shipping sector: 1) container, bulk and general cargo transport, and 2) ferry (Ro-Ro, Ro-Pax, Rail-Ro) sector. For the second aspect, the strengthening of existing ferry connections is an important objective as well. ‘Strengthening’ means the introductions of new products and/or higher frequencies in order to increase passenger and cargo transport figures and the market share of these ferry connections. The expected and envisaged change to be gained on the project was the implementation of new regular shipping connections.

These connections improved the accessibility of the SB region. Improved accessibility supports the development of the economy (production and trade) as well as tourism. It may also help to increase the population in certain areas.

What are you most proud of this project?

We are proud of many achievements. The two ‘biggest’ ones are the development and implementation of the Baltic Sea Bridge, a regular, several times weekly operated train plus ship container transport solution between China and different places in Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands including a container ship service between Baltiysk and Mukran/Karlshamn. The second main achievement is the new ferry service between Mukran and Ystad.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Interreg is a great instrument to support long-lasting, trustful trans-national relationships. The type of cooperation with regular ‘real’ or ‘online’ meetings over a period of three years

or even longer is a great format to work on complex and challenging tasks. International cooperation is always fruitful and creates better results than the stand-alone development of solutions. Interreg projects create the institutional setting or framework for projects that otherwise (without Interreg) would not have been realised.

What is the project’s future?

We see an increase in the frequency of ferry operations in summer 2022 for the ferry links that were either improved during the SB Transport Loops project or that were developed and implemented with the help of the project. We hope that these services for the transport of passenger and cargo see a further positive development for the benefit of their users and the regions that are connected.

Details



Implementation April 2018 – December 2021



Project total eligible budget 1,260,895.34 EUR
ERDF 1,033,411.25 EUR



Mukran Port
Port of Elblag
Klaipeda Shipping Research Center
Port of Karlshamn
Port of Roenne





Priority axis: 3
Specific Objective: 3.1 – Transport

The idea for the project arose with the goal of tackling new security challenges. The approach of the SECMAR (Secure Digitalisation for Sustainable Maritime Transport) project was to organise a collaborative, proactive and solution-oriented response. Science Parks and Clusters have good knowledge about the local environment and can connect and represent ship owners, port officials, companies, and maritime researchers. Meanwhile, through a proactive approach, these partners can synthesise the needs of the industry with the knowledge from research and the capabilities of the relevant suppliers. This resulted in practical solutions tailored to the specific needs of the maritime industry as a whole and individual maritime stakeholders specifically and led to secure digitalisation of the maritime transport system addressing both shipping companies and ports, but also to the consolidation of a joint, long-term virtual innovation hub for continued work towards increased security.

The project approach was to involve different stakeholders in solving problems connected to cybersecurity as part of the risks connected to the rapid digitalisation of the maritime transport/sector. Enabling innovation and focusing research ambitions are tools for identifying and developing solutions. It is also important to highlight that the field of cybersecurity in maritime transport is an emerging field; this means the project is highly proactive, strategic and 'early'. Taking action now is important in minimising future risks and threats, while also positioning the South Baltic area as a hub for developing cybersecurity solutions.

What are you most proud of this project?

Both the cybersecurity roadmap for the Baltic Sea and Portathon (Hackathon event in Klaipeda) are fantastic examples on how the project has contributed to a safer digital sea.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

That there are so many brilliant people around the South Baltic. The project has given us the possibility to connect and

engage individuals and competence on a level that truly makes a difference.

What is the project's future?

We have now embarked on a seed project together with another Interreg South Baltic project, Connect 2 Small Ports, to create DigiTechPort, an excellence centre on maritime digitalisation.

Details



Implementation July 2019 – December 2021



Project total eligible budget 939,823.95 EUR
ERDF 732,516.98 EUR



Blue Science Park
MDC – Maritime Development Center
Pomeranian Science and Technology Park
Klaipeda Science and Technology Park
Blekinge Technical University



AquaVIP

Aquaculture virtual career development platform
for the South Baltic region



Priority axis: 4
Specific Objective: 4.1 – Skills & Labour

The AquaVIP project aimed to capitalise on this and be an innovator in the field. The project focused on boosting education with the aim of producing a well-prepared labour force and creating business capacity in innovative aquaculture, which is possible as the project partners have already displayed considerable efforts in capacity-building in aquaculture competence and have previous experience with aquaponics, microalgae cultivation, RAS systems and building previous projects.

AquaVIP focused on: investigating best practices and exchanging knowledge and experience related to human resource capacities for the aquaculture sector area's blue and green economy, cooperation with partners and joint development of tailored solutions for boosting human resource capacities, testing innovative methods and tools, forming international networks with organisations pursuing the same mission, as well as experiencing the cross-sector cooperation possibilities in an international setting.

What are you most proud of this project?

This platform and its activities not only enable closer partnerships between scientific institutions in Lithuania, Germany and Poland, but also provide tangible results in terms of the business needs of aquaculture.

The project partners implemented more than 10 different experiments – these activities were important for gaining the necessary knowledge and experience, which was successfully passed on. We managed to involve a wide range of the stakeholders in the entire South Baltic Sea region, boosting the professional exchange and communication and opening a wider view of the current situation, problems, and possible solutions.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Contributing to a common knowledge base, where everyone works in coordination and with common goals, processes become more efficient – knowledge transfer is accelerated, time is saved. It's extremely important for industry – business must be highly adaptable, constantly feel the pulse of innovation and have the necessary resources of people and competences.

What is the project's future?

We see good prospects within the framework of the South Baltic Aquaculture Competence Centre to continue our work through education, knowledge exchange and talent attraction. Together will all our partners and stakeholders, we are turning a new page in this industry with inspiring success stories for business, science and society.

Details



Implementation

January 2020 – June 2022



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,053,108.00 EUR
895,141.80 EUR



Klaipeda Science and Technology Park
University of Rostock
University of Gdańsk
Klaipeda University





Priority axis: 4
Specific Objective: 4.1 – Skills & Labour

Today, Vocational Education and Training competencies (ECVET) are credited and recognised by all countries, however, up until today, there are no practical experiences in using this tool for either companies or schools. BBVET is creating awareness and opening up new opportunities in creating a dialogue with authorities, schools and companies that lead to practical know-how about common validation methods and new models supporting cross-border collaboration.

The aim was to develop and pilot the first international cross-border VET Education in the green and blue sector, involving 40 students and 5 countries. Practical experience and analyses of national curricula together with ECVET regulations in the specific vocational fields were the main parts of the project. This promoted steps towards the internationalisation of VET schools and regional companies.

What are you most proud of this project?

BBVET, with its unique nature of long-term mobility and a special emphasis on soft skills, set a precedent for vocational education and training (VET) in Europe. Some doubted its success at the beginning, but the program defied the odds, affected students on personal and professional levels, boosted businesses in the region and paved the way for future collaborations among South Baltic countries.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

There are many similarities but also differences between the countries. You gain a great deal of experience in international work and an understanding of what can be difficult. It still feels like the distance between each other is getting smaller.

What is the project’s future?

The outcome of the project will be tested in reality by two of the partners (schools) that will perform international education in two countries.

Details



Implementation May 2016 – May 2019

Project total eligible budget 2,083,000.00 EUR
ERDF 1,660,000.00 EUR



NetPort Science Park Ltd
University of Rostock – Chair of Business, Economics & Entrepreneurship Education
Public institution Rietavas Tourism and Business Information Centre/RTVIC
Plunge Technology and Business School
University of Szczecin
Centre for Vocational Education Lolland Falster (CELF)





Priority axis: 4
Specific Objective: 4.1 – Skills & Labour

The main objective of the BFA – Baltic for All project is to increase the activity of skilled labour in the blue economy sectors of the South Baltic Area through acquiring professional qualifications of young and disabled people in the professions of sailing, windsurfing and kitesurfing. Young and disabled people are trained as instructors for the disabled in these water sports and will thus gain employment opportunities. The target groups are disabled associations, water sports clubs and schools, water sports instructors, disabled people, and young people. Cross-border activities in the project (incl. engaging disabled people from the associated partners) produced a synergy effect and helped in solving the region’s common problem – the low level of activity in the labour market among young and disabled people. The project institutes the realisation of the following innovative solutions:

- Product innovation – preparing training programmes for water sports instructors for the disabled, based on currently available knowledge gained in the project.
- Process innovation – using the eLearning training platform created in the project to train sailing and wind-/kitesurfing trainers. It ensures unlimited access for disabled users to the knowledge that gives them the possibility to prepare themselves for the training.

What are you most proud of this project?

We are proud that many people working in the field of water sports have been trained to work with people with disabilities and the opportunities offered by this project to people on both sides – trainers and disabled sailors. We also showed that water sports, considered to be very elite, are indeed for everyone. The smiles on the faces of people with disabilities who have tried water sports for the first time under the watchful eye of our trained trainers is the greatest value.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Our cross-border cooperation was exceptionally easy in this case – the sailing environment, water sports enthusiasts are world people for whom the world has always been open and

the lightness with which they cooperated in training people with disabilities, their empathy, their willingness to learn new experiences and openness to other people are the best proof that cross-border cooperation is natural and necessary for this type of activity.

What is the project’s future?

The project is continued by each of the Partners in their communities. Groups of disabled sailors have emerged and are already taking part in regattas all over Europe. Additionally, other trainers working with our groups undergo a course developed as part of the project and acquire new skills in their work. In addition, there are plans to continue the project as part of the ‘Active for all’ initiative, where we will complement water sports with other activities. Work on the project is well advanced.



Details



Implementation

July 2018 – October 2021



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,151,156.30 EUR
978,482.86 EUR



Kołobrzeg Commune
Administration Of Silute District Municipality
Barth Sailing Club e.V.
Students Sailing Club “Blue”



FOCUS

Facilitating blue growth with open courses
by utilizing R&D products and virtual mobility



Priority axis: 4
Specific Objective: 4.1 – Skills & Labour

The overall idea of the project is to enable the exchange of knowledge and transfer of good practice from R&D sector to practitioners in marine biotechnology, marine / coastal tourism sectors as well as to students searching for education in a given field. In order to achieve this objective a virtual mobility platform (VMP) has been created and a pilot delivery of digital education system took place. The main target groups are SME professionals working in marine biotechnology, marine / coastal tourism as well as students searching for education in the areas of blue biotechnology and coastal tourism. The project includes the following activities:

- Performing a feasibility study combining required knowledge needs for the marine biotechnology and tourism sector in the South Baltic region and defining human resources Identification of at least 5 crucial subjects for the knowledge transfer in the sector;
- Developing course syllabus related to blue growth sectors and e-mentoring course;
- Adaptation of developed content to the virtual training and launching the Virtual Mobility Platform (VMP);
- Pilot online delivery of at least 5 subjects addressing blue growth topics to train the target group;
- Feedback survey and improvement of content and virtual platform.

The main target groups are SME professionals working in marine biotechnology, marine/coastal tourism as well as students searching for education in the areas of blue biotechnology and coastal tourism.

What are you most proud of this project?

During the project, the partners jointly in accordance with the demand from employers in the blue biotech and coastal tourism sectors, developed long-lasting results that include 10 open online learning courses (in blue biotechnology and coastal tourism) publicly available for all interested parties on the MOOC (Massive Online Open Courses) platform.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Committed partnership is very important. Clear and timely distribution of tasks between the partners makes the collaboration

smooth, and move forward on time. Keeping the schedule and works as close as pre-planned in the project proposal was the key to a successful project.

What is the project's future?

The project keeps alive all ten open online learning courses. Up to this moment, the courses count more than a combined 16,000 enrolments since early spring in 2020. On average about 200 learners from all over the world (as well from the countries situated in the South Baltic Region) enrol into FOCUS online learning courses each month. We keep running the open online courses and are looking forward to possibly extending the durability as the demand is clear strong enough.

Details



Implementation

January 2017 – December 2019



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,023,000.00 EUR
823,700.00 EUR



Klaipeda University
Lithuania Business University of Applied Sciences
Linnaeus University
University of Gdansk
Roskilde Business College



JOHANNA

Joint staff qualification in SB destinations to increase the skilled workforce in the SBS and by that ensure a sustainable SCS development in the SBS



Priority axis: 4
Specific Objective: 4.1 – Skills & Labour

The JOHANNA project aimed to tackle these problems and its main aim is to better educate and equip the different target groups within the population with appropriate qualifications by offering specific tailor-made qualification and training modules, such as:

- Professional training of guides (regional knowledge, special needs of SCS passengers, education skills). Target group: students, part-time employees/parental leave.
- University education in the field of cruise management (city and port development, marketing, tourism, cruise business). Target group: students, school graduates.

The measures strengthen the tourist sector, attract new, qualified people, and prevent emigration by opening up new job perspectives for young people, and through this, the share of the skilled workforce in the South Baltic Sea region has increased.

What are you most proud of this project?

We are most proud of having been able to contribute to the successful development of small cruise ships in the SBS, especially as the cruise sector was hit significantly by the pandemic. Small cruise ships turned out to be the right answer to the new reality, thus JOHANN and JOHANNA could contribute to making the SBS a forerunner in the segment. This was possible thanks to committed partners and smart digital solutions.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Our takeaway from the Johanna project is that everything is possible. Even though it was a difficult time for tourism and small ships, we managed to implement an onsite and online education

programme, with elements of storytelling. We provided education for new city guides and cruise managers. The program was a success, and we are proud of our achievement. It was a challenging time, but we overcame the difficulties and delivered a quality product.

What is the project's future?

The project's future will be further developing the small cruise ships segment regarding sustainability and digitalisation of services. Also, the network that we have built will be strengthened and broadened to other ports and regions. We have learned and grown so much. We know that we can always count on each other. Together, we can achieve anything.

Details



Johanna



Implementation

August 2019 – December 2022



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,611,239.18 EUR

1,355,253.30 EUR



Hanseatic and University City Rostock

Hanseatic City of Wismar

Mukran Port

Municipality of Karlskrona

Gdynia Maritime University

Media Dizajn

Strategic Self-Management Institute

University of Applied sciences Stralsund





Priority axis: 4
Specific Objective: 4.1 – Skills & Labour

The SB Bridge project aims to build connections between higher education and its graduates and the green and blue labour market, improving the motivation of young people to study and work in the green and blue sector.

The challenge to be addressed by the ‘SB Bridge’ project is to reduce the mismatch between higher education and their graduates and the green and blue labour market, to improve the motivation of young people for green and blue-related studies and jobs. The project aimed to build a bridge between education and the requirements of engaging SMEs by developing a new approach based on the concept of the ‘TechnOlympics’ and ‘Green camps’. The targeted SB Bridge project is based on the concept where cross-border events of a competition (in theoretical and practical tests) arouse students’ interest in technics and innovation.

What are you most proud of this project?

The slogan ‘There is no Planet B. Join the Green side’ invited the brilliant youth from LT-PL-GE-DK-SE to international green campuses and technolympics, which were organised across the whole South Baltic area with a focus on thematic topics: Energy efficiency, Waste management, Water management, Green building and Clean transportation as well as targeting the issues of 5R and Sustainable development goals. The active, creative, curious, friendly and very motivated youth was the most successful thing we experienced during the organised green campuses. The thematic profiles of green growth produced concentrated focus on particular fields of green growth, inviting companies to present their expertise and share the current, ongoing green growth challenges they currently face with the youth.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

AAs the topics on sustainability are becoming increasingly

important and popular, it is crucial to continuously educate people about recent innovations and discoveries, without borders. Social media channels like Facebook and Instagram can be used not only to inform the public about the events that happened within the SB Bridge project, but also to share knowledge related to green lifestyle. The great value of the international cooperation in the field of green growth built confidence and expertise for future cross-border initiatives.

What is the project’s future?

Real-life examples have the power to make a significant impact. 21st century students are ready to leave their desks and explore how things work in reality. Providing opportunities to experiment and bringing examples from specific cases can be a great motivator for youngsters to get more involved. Nowadays, the youth are craving experiences over theory. The project team aims to explore new forms and methods to deal with green growth education and build knowledge in this field.

Details



Implementation

July 2018 – December 2021



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,223,072.50 EUR
996,999.38 EUR



Klaipeda University

ATI ert gGmbH education, research and furtherance of cooperation
Gdansk Entrepreneurial Foundation
County Administrative Board of Skåne
Holbaek Municipality
Klaipėda Economic Development Agency



Nature Guide Network

Supporting sustainable nature tourism in transboundary coastal areas in the SB Region via establishing a common education scheme for Local Guides



Priority axis: 4
Specific Objective: 4.1 – Skills & Labour

The SB Nature Guides project contributed to increasing the share of the skilled labour force in the green economy sector in the SB region by establishing a new qualification with significant job market potential: The Nature Guide, a tourism expert that is able to meet an urgently demanded offer for tourists coming to the partner regions. Target group analyses have identified qualified guided tours as one important point of interest here, professionalisation strategies as implemented in SE, DK and UK demonstrated that professionalisation enhances the perception of such regions as high-quality tourism offers, which, again turns the former voluntary worker service into a reliable source of income for professionals, and also stabilises associated services (accommodation, catering, tour organisation, etc.).

The project makes use of this experience to develop a job profile tailored to the needs of the involved SB regions, jointly learning from the experienced countries, but also profiting from each other's expertise in different relevant fields. To ensure an efficient integration of the new offer resp. the newly trained experts into the labour market, a Nature Guide Network is established with a durably working cooperation structure. This forms the basis for ongoing experience exchange between the qualified experts and also integrates multipliers who monitor and support the offers provided by these experts and contributes to the cross-border promotion to tourism experts as well as to relevant tourism target groups (focus: green tourism).

What are you most proud of this project?

The cross-border cooperation of nature tourism experts has definitely resulted into an optimisation of the national and regional nature guiding offers – the partners have benefited from the concepts and experiences in the partner countries a lot. We were able to establish a true cooperation network that will enable regular future experience and know-how exchange.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The project has clearly demonstrated that cross-border cooperation in this sector provides significant value that

overrides the cultural differences every cross-border project has to face. It is especially valuable where partners are confronted with challenges in their own countries – here, the exchange with experts from other countries can really help to find new approaches and solutions.

What is the project's future?

The joint promotion of nature guidance, the information on its main values and principles, the training of more nature guides answering a clear labour market need as well as the experience exchange between the nature guide experts will be continued as the project was able to prepare a solid basis for this, demonstrating the added value for the participants.

Details



Implementation

January 2018 – December 2021



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,333,615.50 EUR
1,133,573.18 EUR



Klaipeda University

Environmental Action Germany

Association of Friends of the Ina and the Gowienica Rivers (TPRIIG)

Northern Chamber of Commerce in Szczecin (NCC)

HOP Transnational Network Oder Delta e.V. (HOP)

Curonian Spit National Park Administration (CSNPA)



SEAPLANSPACE

Marine spatial planning instruments
for sustainable marine governance



Priority axis: 4
Specific Objective: 4.1 – Skills & Labour

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) is a new type of a sustainable marine governance stipulated by an EU Directive in 2014. MSP is a cornerstone of the EU Blue Growth strategy and EU Integrated Maritime Policy. It requires new skills and new types of knowledge.

The SEAPLANSPACE project aimed to strengthen the quality of the labour force engaged in the marine spatial planning (MSP) dialogue and increase the number of people who are able to understand the impact and influence of marine governance in their daily work and education related to blue growth. This goal has been achieved due to the good cooperation.

The project made a significant contribution to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region (EUSBSR), Europe 2020 and the ‘Blue Growth’ strategy.

What are you most proud of this project?

The project brought together eight partners from five countries. In the SEAPLANSPACE project, we consider our good cooperation as the most valuable achievement, in terms of efficient communication regarding the implementation of activities in the project. We are proud of the SEAPLANSPACE training and the SEAPLANSPACE webinar as it contributed to developing the capacity of cross-border cooperation by providing MSP knowledge to various stakeholders.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Genuine links’ of cross-border cooperation as a base for resilience in the South Baltic area. The general takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the

duration of the SEAPLANSPACE project allow us to hope for its further strengthening.

What is the project’s future?

The SEAPLANSPACE project initiated various activities related to the transfer of MSP knowledge in the context of sustainable marine governance.

The experience gained during the implementation of the SEAPLANSPACE project served as an argument to establish the Center for Sustainable Development of the University of Gdańsk (https://czrug.ug.edu.pl/en/en_start/) in January 2021. Plans for this year include the opening of the Centre for Maritime Economy Research at the UG, which includes ‘Maritime spatial planning’ in the scope of its activities.

Details



Implementation

January 2018 – December 2021



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

1,735,712.35 EUR
1,360,932.56 EUR



University of Gdansk
EUCC BALTIC OFFICE
EUCC Germany
World Maritime University
Aalborg University Copenhagen
County Administration Board of Kalmar
Gdynia Maritime University, Maritime Institute
Centre for Regional and Tourism Research





The project addressed the low participation of local actors in the South Baltic Programme and their need for capacity-building. By bringing together new-comer local authorities, in cooperation with universities, the project aimed at showing the benefits of soft cross-border cooperation with regard to solving common problems in the field of youth issues.

Cooperation has been facilitated by the umbrella organisation Euroregion Baltic and the cooperation of regional authorities within it. The main aim of the project is to increase cross-border cooperation resulting in building the capacity of local actors working with youth in the ERB.

The partner municipalities jointly carried out a survey among teenagers to identify their needs and problems, providing comparable data. The obtained results have been analysed by universities and compared between the countries.

Priority axis: 5
Specific Objective: 5.1 – Capacity building

What are you most proud of this project?

In the interviews and the discussions with the municipality representatives, it is clear that the project has been a boost both in energy and in legitimacy for the youth-related issues in the municipalities.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

Everybody involved has learned about the culture and situation in the other countries which is an important lesson both in terms of self-reflection and future collaborations.

Details



Implementation July 2016 – June 2019



Project total eligible budget 457,331.00 EUR
ERDF 357,732.35 EUR



Association of Municipalities in Kalmar County
Municipality of Emmaboda
Linnaeus University
Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic / ERB
Klaipeda University
The City of Slupsk





Priority axis: 5
Specific Objective: 5.1 – Capacity building

The overall idea of the project was to support communities situated on Natura 2000 sites, together with their institutions, associations, local public bodies, and other stakeholders in building international cooperation focused on the exploitation of protected and conserved areas. The aim was to increase the cross-border networking of local actors responsible for the most important operations in their regions, connected to the protected areas with potential, which are: fishery, forestry and agriculture, tourism services as well as handicraft and art.

The project showed a very attractive and innovative example of how stakeholder exchange can be realised in practice. Thus, it demonstrated the benefits coming from international cooperation by cross-border networks focused on Natura 2000 aspects.

Taking part in cross-border cooperation was key to the development of small communities. Therefore, the project showed how to transfer good practice examples of capacity-building opportunities to other communities exploiting Natura 2000 sites.

What are you most proud of this project?

I am particularly proud that we have managed to influence the change of planning processes in such a way as to seek partners from outside the region, including from abroad, to achieve local or regional goals. In the local communities we have worked with, institutions think more holistically: nature, culture, history, and economy are closely related.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

To stimulate local and regional organisations to be more active in the field of cross-border cooperation, I have travelled and met



a lot of fantastic local actors. I am richer with new acquaintances that inspire me to come up with and implement new projects. Carrying out cross-border projects is like opening a window through which good ideas flow.

What is the project's future?

CICPA turned out to be very valuable for the whole community and inspired some organisations and institutions. Partners decided to expand cooperation and boost the engagement of local communities in activities related to environmental protection, especially in the tourism and cultural heritage sectors. A seed money project is ongoing and new regular projects will come up.

Details



	Implementation	January 2018 – March 2020
	Project total eligible budget	457,331.00 EUR
	ERDF	357,732.35 EUR
	 	

Administration of Seaside Regional Park
EUCC Baltic Office
Society for The Coast (EUCC-Poland)
Community Centre of Culture in Stepnica



CROSSROADS

Crossroads in History



Priority axis: 5
Specific Objective: 5.1 – Capacity building

The goal of this project was to promote regional identity through the multinational Time-Travel method used by the participating museums. The project also brings additional benefits for the people, as using the common history of the region provides a window into the present and future, and broadens one’s horizons; and also for the museums, as they have the opportunity to increase their reach beyond the borders of their own country. Furthermore, from a regional perspective, projects such as this help to bring together the common history and common future of the South Baltic region and help to create a common identity.

What are you most proud of this project?

The main achievement of CROSSROADS is the network of museums and educational institutions created within the project. By creating a network of cultural institutions around the Baltic Sea who are all working with the Time Travel Method, using our common cultural heritage, we have opened up an intercultural dialogue between partners focusing on challenges, opportunities and common values.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

AAs one of the Project Partners in CROSSROADS put it: ‘We all have our local stories and dramatic historic events but when we talk it over, we can see that there is a lot we have in common.

It is always about human rights, happiness, and cooperation. Working cross-border gives us the opportunity to compare and discuss our experiences and find common ground’.

What is the project’s future?

Several of the CROSSROADS Partners have joined together with new partners in a project titled Baltic Sea Time Travels for Community Building (BSTT), funded by the Swedish Institute, with the purpose to gather heritage institutions in the Baltic Sea Region that work with the Time Travel Methodology to exchange experiences, find common challenges in societal development, and prepare for a more extensive, future application and long-term cooperation.



Details



Implementation

July 2019 – November 2021



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

489,628.53 EUR
399,576.10 EUR



Kalmar County Museum
Klaipeda University
European Solidarity Centre
National Museum in Gdańsk
Historic Museum of Wismar
Gargždai Land Museum

CROSSROADS





Priority axis: 5
Specific Objective: 5.1 – Capacity building

Despite the efforts made, there is still a need to increase the sustainability of cross-border cooperation initiatives in the South Baltic Sea. Few local entities participate in the cross-border projects and initiatives to improve the quality of services being offered – this often happens due to the lack of common ground of action, a common denominator that could unite different entities.

The FilmNet project wanted to develop cross-border cooperation by creating an international network focusing organisations of non-profit cinemas, especially non-multiplex cinemas, self-government cultural institutions, non-governmental organisations dealing with film education and the promotion of cinematography, but also institutions and organisations that are active in the field of cultural activities in the South Baltic. The aim of the project was to strengthen the capacity of cross-border film and film art organisations to build cross-border co-operation through the creation of a network of collaborating institutions, international knowledge transfer, skills and experience exchange, and to upgrade the competence of the partner institutions’ workers and strengthen the Baltic Identity.

What are you most proud of this project?

We, as the Lead Partner of the FilmNet project, are most proud of the success in international cooperation: exchange of experience by the participants, better skills of the project staff and greater awareness of the possibilities in cooperation between international partners.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The implementation of the project had a very positive impact on the development of cross-border cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region area (people and organisations). Especially with respect to cooperation in the film & film education field, which was initiated for the first time. We established cross-border

cooperation between regional and local actors and started cross-border initiatives such as: cross-border conferences, Baltic Identity Film Tour.

What is the project’s future?

The FilmNet project revealed many opportunities for further cooperation in the field of film and film education.

During project implementation, we got to know better the structure and way of managing cultural institutions in the South Baltic Region – what are the advantages and disadvantages. What is more, we discovered obstacles that may appear when holding future projects. That knowledge, together with a list of recommendations and expectations, gave us stable foundations for future activities, e.g. film festivals, as a tourist attraction.

Details



	Implementation	February 2018 – September 2020
	Project total eligible budget	501,125.00 EUR
	ERDF	415,996.25 EUR

Center of European Meetings Światowid in Elbląg
Reaktor Sydost
Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic
Gargzdai centre of culture
Institute for New Media
The Baltic Sea Cultural Centre



Let's do it

South Baltic Initiatives to stop climate change

Priority axis: 5
Specific Objective: 5.1 – Capacity building

Local stakeholders, especially in the school sector, were hesitant to join cross-border cooperation projects due to a lack of knowledge about the management of EU funded projects, lack of personnel capacities & time to deal with EU projects, missing language skills & methods on intercultural learning, connected with uncertainty about their personal capability to implement international activities.

Let's Do It focused on test pilots to realise several cross-border teacher seminars and hands-on teacher training camps, involving schools in all partner cities to demonstrate how school exchanges can be realised in practice. The project's objective was to provide a test-ground for the participating schools & teaching staff to realise international school exchanges on climate change to try out methods in a hands-on training approach for the teachers who, together with other teachers from other schools, plan, carry out and evaluate school exchanges that include workshops on the climate protection issue.

The contents of the project can be summarised as follows: developing a transferable concept for international school cooperation, organising teacher seminars about all aspects of international school cooperation, testing and evaluating multilateral camps with students as hands-on experience on how a school exchange works in practice.

What are you most proud of this project?

We are very proud of being able to implement the project despite all the bureaucratic challenges, which, for a small-scale project such as ours, are just too much.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

We have learned about the bureaucracy and administrative rules in the 5 participating countries, but the project made our

'Exchanges for All' school cooperation solid, so it successfully involved a large group of teachers and students.

What is the project's future?

Our Exchanges for All cooperation is still going strong and most partners from Let's do It are still involved – together with new partners from LV, EE, FI & SE – exchangesforall.eu.

Details



Implementation May 2016 – April 2018



Project total eligible budget 444,005.50 EUR
ERDF 351,711.18 EUR



Fjord School
Falkenberg School, Kalmar Municipality
Gargzdai Minija progymnasium
Klaipeda Sendvario pre-gymnasium
City of Schwaan
Reda City Municipality
Educational Association of Social Primary School & Social Gymnasium No. 1





Priority axis: 5
Specific Objective: 5.1 – Capacity building

The aim of the SB FICA project was to help build capacity within the project’s partner organisations to work across borders.

SB FICA was about combining innovation with old traditions. Take advantage of old knowledge (history, traditions, and culture), manage it, and add new thinking, for example managing food waste. The project included case studies of food events in Sweden, Poland and Lithuania and aimed to find opportunities to develop these events in a cross-border perspective, and several workshops on intercultural dialogue were held. Capacity-building is about knowledge and the exchange of good practice – and the project gave the local actors the ability to take an active part in cross-sectoral networks and cross-border events.

What are you most proud of this project?

The project has resulted in new collaborations between partners and a network of organisations that share knowledge with each other.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

It is very rewarding learning about other organisations and

gaining a deeper understanding of how others work and how you can use their methods/experiences in your own organisation

What is the project’s future?

Regarding SB FICA, the project partners have continued to work with the development of food innovation and food events.

Details



	Implementation	December 2017 – December 2019
	Project total eligible budget	390,367.00 EUR
	ERDF	313,394.45 EUR
		Krinoa AB

Czarna Dąbrówka Municipality
Rietavas Tourism and Business Information Center
The Baltic Sea Cultural Centre





Priority axis: 5
Specific Objective: 5.1 – Capacity building

The main objective of the project was to increase cross-border cooperation resulting in capacity-building of local youth work actors and to demonstrate the benefits of soft cross-border cooperation in solving common youth problems.

The objectives of the project are:

- to strengthen cross-border cooperation between young people in the partner countries and organisations working on behalf of this social group;
- to disseminate and develop tools for multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional enhancement of civic participation and involvement based on network activities;
- to enhance the capacity and competence of local governments and their representatives to engage in civic dialogue with young people and disseminate the project results to develop plans for increasing youth participation in local and cross-border issues in the SB region.

What are you most proud of this project?

The most important achievement of the project is the sustainability of its results, which have outlasted their time and content dimension. Its results continue to have a positive impact on the whole of the Baltic Sea communities. The project has also had a lasting impact on the possibilities of cross-border cooperation between actors.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

We have wonderful and active young people in our countries, whose level of preparation, knowledge, and creativity could

put many adults to shame. What is needed is as many joint international initiatives as possible to unleash this potential, to provide a spark and a platform for solving common challenges (which, as it turns out, are similar in different locations).

What is the project's future?

We are still thinking about continuing the project and expanding it with new locations, and new dedicated partners that would broaden its scope. Time will tell if we can build a new consortium within SB YCGN 2.0 adding new aspects not covered so far. The project has already yielded unexpected results, as it has resulted in further dedicated project initiatives focusing on its selected aspects (CATALYST).

Details



Implementation January 2018 – March 2020



Project total eligible budget 563,526.37 EUR
ERDF 468,640.70 EUR



Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic
Civis Polonus Foundation
Public Establishment Samogitia Community Foundation
Telsiai District Municipality Administration
Gdańsk University of Technology (GUT), Faculty of Management and Economics (FME)
Klaipeda University
Municipality of Hässleholm – Employment and skills development unit





The overall idea of the project was to increase the municipalities' and other local organisations' international expertise and activity through network-building and increased capacity in order to create the conditions and demonstrate the benefits of transnational cooperation and cross-border networks.

The project activities included mainly workshops for networking and experience exchange for local actors who are stakeholders in the given workshop theme:

- two workshops related to blue growth such as maritime and coastal tourism, coastal protection, water innovation and environmental monitoring;
- two workshops related to green growth such as renewable energy, environmental management, green constructions, sustainable tourism, land, forestry and agriculture management;
- two workshops related to sustainable urban development: elderly care and age-friendly cities.

The main target groups were municipal officials and politicians involved in developing processes/projects as well as in blue and green growth, EU coordinators.

What are you most proud of this project?

We are most proud of the number of representatives that we managed to engage in the workshops of the project. Connections and relations were built that still last to this day. We are also proud of the partnership, that we could find actors from the different countries interested in the thematic areas of the project.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

One major takeaway is the importance to have physical/on-site meetings when developing cross-border cooperation with various international partners. Digital meetings are really useful

when planning and discussing in-depth issues, but relations are built during on-site meetings. It's also good to have in mind the small distances in the South Baltic area, when thinking about travelling to each other.

What is the project's future?

The project focused on thematic workshops and the participants developed joint project ideas. Unfortunately, we didn't have much time left in the programme period, but some ideas are on-going or have resulted in now-finalised projects financed by Interreg or other EU-funds. Others are being developed individually with the potential to be new Interreg-projects in the upcoming programme.

Details



SBPIN
SOUTH BALTIC
PUBLIC INNOVATORS
NETWORK



Implementation

January 2017 – March 2019



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

497,695.76 EUR
380,752.67 EUR



Municipality of Hässleholm - EU office Skane Nordost
Municipality of Koge
Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic
Krinova Incubator & Science Park
Center for strategic og Innovation, Neasetved Municipality

Priority axis: 5
Specific Objective: 5.1 – Capacity building



South Baltic Creative Clusters

Initiating a network of interacting creative clusters in the South Baltic Region



Priority axis: 5
Specific Objective: 5.1 – Capacity building

Over the past decade, the creative industry sectors in metropolis areas have established internal as well as interdisciplinary cooperation structures and, out of this, strong self-confidence as an important pillar of the local economies. In towns, medium-sized cities, and rural areas of the South Baltic (SB) region, initiatives have been started with the intention to catch up with this development, and some of them have achieved considerable success.

The project targeted the involvement of even more places in the future to further expand the cooperation so that an SB-wide network can develop step-by-step. In the project itself, the development of instruments for an ongoing regular exchange was developed and established, combining a digital (joint communication platform) and a real-life-approach (annual forums) with each other.

What are you most proud of this project?

Creative companies are the ones that suffer the most during tough times like these. And our project was specifically for them. We could see what they need and not only boost their effectiveness, but also just be there for them. We implemented surveys, workshops, promotional campaigns, and developed a strong network of CClIs in the South Baltic Region.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

The project brought together several different stakeholders from across the region to work on a number of different initiatives. The

project was a great success, and it is hoped that it will continue to be a success in the future.

What is the project's future?

Industry 5.0, digital security, new services and attractions, ecological restrictions and the ongoing pandemic all present new challenges for the creatives in the region. All these challenges present opportunities for future cooperation. By sharing knowledge and experience, the creatives can capitalise on these challenges and emerge stronger than ever before.

Details



Implementation

January 2020 – June 2022



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

257,078.40 EUR
217,833.25 EUR



Media Dizajn

Hanseatic City of Rostock, Department for Urban Development, Urban Planning and Economy
Public Institution Rietavas Tourism and Business Information Centre
Association Rietavas Women Employment Centre / RMUC
Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic – ERB
Kreativum Science Center



Trans-Opera

Increasing local culture and social operators
trans-border capacity with opera



Priority axis: 5
Specific Objective: 5.1 – Capacity building

The overall idea of the project was an answer to the lack of capacity of local cultural actors’ for creating common initiatives with other entities from the South Baltic area. The project intended to increase the ability of cultural organisations/actors from the South Baltic area to create multicultural events and networks in cooperation with cross-border partners. As a result, the project offered improved involvement of local cultural actors in cross-border cooperation networks and multicultural events.

What are you most proud of this project?

Foreign cooperation within the framework of the ‘Trans-Opera – Increasing local culture and social operators’ trans-border capacity with opera’ project turned out to be very successful both for the Partners and for mini partnerships. The joint production undertaken by Opera na Zamku and Theater Vorpommern, carried out thanks to project funding, constituted a success for both theatres.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

All 8 partners declared after the implementation of the joint undertaking the willingness to establish international cooperation with another entity/artist in the future. The representative of each

country would also use the offer of cooperation with a different institution if this cooperation was of a networking character.

Artists taking part in the project also appreciated the possibility to establish contacts at the international level and to perform on a foreign stage.

What is the project’s future?

The partners may sign an agreement on long-term cooperation, but an even better solution consists in maintaining the contact between their representatives. Good practice thus involves inviting partner’s representatives to performance premieres, concerts, and inauguration events organised within our regular activity. By maintaining the contacts with partners institutions, we also increase artistic opportunities of our own entity.

Details



Implementation

November 2016 – October 2018



Project total eligible budget
ERDF

320,383.31 EUR
272,325.81 EUR



Castle Opera in Szczecin
Theatre of Vorpommern



UMBRELLA

Boosting cross-border cooperation capacities of local actors in South Baltic Sea



Priority axis: 5
Specific Objective: 5.1 – Capacity building

The research showed that the South Baltic Programme (SBP) is still poorly available to small organisations, because of their insufficient institutional and financial capacities. In general, among the SBP stakeholders, there are still communication barriers due to the lack of English language skills, lack of competences and capacities for project development and implementation, especially by small local actors. As a consequence, only a low level of international activity of small actors can be observed.

Umbrella was an Interreg South Baltic project endeavouring to boost the capacity for cross-border cooperation in the South Baltic. To achieve this goal, the project implemented a significantly broader approach, going much beyond the typical scope of the projects’ interventions. This was determined by a strategic decision of the partnership to address different levels of capacity-building processes – from the single institutional capacity of a potential project partner, via micro-activities addressed to the micro-organisations to strategic capacity-building at the programme macro level.

What are you most proud of this project?

It has been an important goal for Umbrella to reach small and local partners such as smaller municipalities, cultural and education institutions and civil society organisations. Communication and willingness to cooperate is the most important factor to success.

What is your takeaway from the cross-border cooperation experience throughout the duration of the project?

There is important network, knowledge, and experiences in our neighbouring countries and further out in Europe, and we should keep in mind that they have similar challenges to us. Be curious, open-minded, and patient – you will be inspired. Being a partner in an international project helps brand your organisation locally, nationally, and among neighbouring countries.

What is the project’s future?

Together with an expert on strategies in the Baltic Sea Region, Umbrella has also organised online focus group workshops to provide input for the new INTERREG South Baltic programme period 2021–2027. These workshops consulted relevant stakeholders to collect honest opinions, new ideas, and to examine the needs in areas like Blue and Green growth, energy transition/connectivity, building civil society, and sustainable and innovative tourism.

The Umbrella Rent-An-Expert services have proven a valuable opportunity to help more newcomers find inspiration, become engaged in their search for EU opportunities, and get help to start their own journey in future EU projects and cross-border cooperation.



Details



	Implementation	January 2018 – December 2020
	Project total eligible budget ERDF	986,566.00 EUR 786,652.00 EUR

Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic
"Pomorskie in the European Union" Association
Baltic Institute for Regional and European Concern BISER
Klaipeda University
Region Kalmar County
Guldborgsund Municipality



Testimonials

ELMAR: In the context of the ELMAR project, the South Baltic Programme provided a great opportunity for initiating the cooperation between SMEs from different countries. It became possible for them to explore new market opportunities and find inspiring ideas to enhance their businesses. This would not have been possible without cross-border actions, opening new perspectives, such as the B2B events and the study tours.

— Igor Kaniecki

BALTIC STORIES: I am very grateful to the programme for giving us the possibility to work in the partnership of counties across the South Baltic basin. At first view, apart from the shared sea, we do not have much in common. I am confident that this programme helps to build a common sense of belonging and to develop stronger cooperation ties in the South Baltic region. Our diversity is our strength.

— Małgorzata Steckiewicz

DUNC: We can highly recommend the South Baltic Programme and the opportunities for a shared experience where we can learn from each other and develop. It is amazing what you can achieve in an international project when you unite with a common goal. Seeing things from different perspectives can result in even more productivity, problem-solving and creativity.

— Sarah Kristoffersen

SB MANORS: We appreciate very much that the JS has a good understanding of how projects work in practice. It enables constructive & open dialogue when problems occur and makes it possible to address new opportunities that were not anticipated by the original application (e.g. the revival of domestic tourism in the pandemic). The flexible approach contributed a lot to the success of our project.

— Jens Masuch

SOUTH COAST BALTIC: The South Baltic Programme gave us exactly the support that we needed. We appreciated in particular that the programme understands that building up a cross-border boating destination takes more than the 'usual' three years, and that it supported both the MARRIGAE project and its successor SOUTH COAST BALTIC, which allowed us to 'harvest the fruits' of our joint efforts.

— Jens Masuch

COASTAL BIOGAS: The specific regional focus allowed the project to cater specifically to the South Baltic area. Stakeholders in different countries might face similar problems to those targeted by the COASTAL Biogas project, e.g. the potentials of cast seaweed, pre-treatment technologies or policy frameworks, and thus the results are also valuable beyond just the project.

— Thies Fellenberg

LESS IS MORE: It gives us all opportunities to work with our close neighbours. Probably the best way to make things happen.

— Michael Cimbritz

LIVE LAGOONS: Implementation of the South Baltic Programme project provided opportunities to share and build cross-border knowledge about the project topic, look for the best possible solutions, boost societal interest and awareness – all these combined actions create regional synergy and add value to our daily lives.

— Jurgita Maračkinaite

WASTEMAN: In our opinion, the South Baltic Programme effectively supports regional cooperation by contributing to smart, sustainable solutions, fostering the harmonious development of the South Baltic regions, leading to a reduction of the regional disparities. Project partners are effectively supported during the whole project cycle by the SB Programme project officers assigned to the projects, SB Programme events, and by an easy-to-use electronic reporting system, etc.

— Marcin Piasecki

INCONE60: As a leader, we have been cooperating with the South Baltic Programme for more than 4 years. This cooperation was very fruitful. The Joint Secretariat helped us with all issues from the application process through the implementation phase, solving dozens of problems to support us with financial management and administration. Also, thanks to the Joint Secretariat, we received a lot of opportunities to promote our project and bring it to a higher level. There were no issues that remained unsolved throughout the whole project lifetime. All of the project activities would not be possible without the support of the South Baltic Programme. Sharing common goals and beliefs, we are still taking steps towards the regional development of the South Baltic Sea region.

— Rafał Koba

SB TRANSPORT LOOPS: We are thankful for great support from the SB Programme and its Joint Secretariat. The Programme gave us the opportunity to develop the project, to implement it successfully and to create the achieved outcomes/benefits.

— Dr. Olaf Zeike

PARKING GETS SMART: The Programme makes it possible to address similar challenges in a cooperative way by mixing and combining various the experiences of the partners and build on each other's expertise. This cooperative learning is the biggest strength, as it broadens the perspective of the involved people and institutions. The Programme itself is quite 'user friendly' and was very supportive of our project, which is much appreciated.

— Igor Kaniecki

CAR: I am very impressed by the South Baltic Programme. I have participated in projects since 2010. The project officers are very professional and helpful with everything related to the project management. You are definitely not a collection of EU bureaucrats, but more like consultants that help projects succeed and achieve the best possible results.

— Mats Larsson

INTERCONNECT: It is with great joy that I think of the cross-border cooperation within the South Baltic Programme, including the Interconnect project. For a municipality like Guldborgsund, the South Baltic Programme is very suitable because of the broad and true-to-life programme-themes that also facilitate concrete and tangible results. Another great advantage of the South Baltic Programme is the programme area of the five countries that supplement each other and are large enough to make it possible to find the right project partners who want the same as us.

— Frede Danborg

BBVET: I would like to urge organisations to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in these Interreg projects to get to know their nearest neighbours, increase knowledge of their countries and make friends for life. Through friendship, you can change the world for the better.

— Catarina Borgqvist

COBIUM: It was pleasant to work in the South Baltic programme. The lead partner looked after us and provided all the necessary knowledge. Cross-border cooperation was great thanks to constant contact via regular calls, e-mails, and several in-person meetings.

— Pawel Kimel

SB YCGN: Administratively and technically, the programme is not the easiest in its initial phase, but this is true of every international project we have encountered so far – it takes time to learn the relevant procedures and prepare the staff for the requirements of the programme. However, once the first steps have been put in place, the implementation mechanisms and appropriate project implementation processes are in place, it proves to be extremely rewarding and makes the benefits of participating in the programme cover any inconvenience related to its technical side. At the same time, it must be remembered that when we think of the programme, we are talking about international projects, which are not among the easiest. However, with the right support from more experienced actors, even a newcomer to the Interreg SB programme who has not had any early contact with the programme will be able to learn quickly. The programme provides a unique opportunity for all those who have not previously had the opportunity to work with foreign partners to get started in cross-border cooperation easily and enjoyably. The support of the entire programme community and the ability of the programme authorities, operators and technical support (JTS, FLC) to continuously improve the programme, meet the expectations of the beneficiaries and continuously create a number of facilitations for the beneficiaries is extremely encouraging. All those who try their hand at new initiatives can count on considerable flexibility and a desire to achieve the best possible results for the local communities by all involved (because that is what the programme is for, by the way), making it much easier to implement projects.

— Marcin Żuchowski

FOCUS: Cross-border cooperation acts as a booster for regions, brings innovation and good practices, and helps to build cross-border networks capable to cooperate in interdisciplinary or specific topics. The South Baltic programme allows representatives from various regions to speak a common language by expressing the needs, wills, and interests of a number of communities and to bring added value to the regions by shared action.

— prof. Dalia Baziukė

JOHANNA: We have been involved as the lead partner and as a partner in various South Baltic projects. The work in the cross-border projects and with the partners has been and is a great pleasure and enrichment for us – professionally and personally. May we never run out of ideas for future projects and may we continue to be so well supported by the programme secretariat in all project phases.

— Constanze Benzell

CICPA: The South Baltic region differs from the rest of Europe with its historical, cultural and natural assets. It is truly unique. It is so hard to imagine our regions without international partnerships. But cross-border cooperation must be constantly stimulated to be sustainable. Therefore, the Interreg South Baltic Programme is a crucial tool with its financial and organisational support. I hope that the new perspective 2021–2027 will focus on the young generations, because they will soon take over our region and our work. I hope that ISB will strengthen youth participation and enrich the educational aspect in all projects, to show young people what has already been done for their future and how to act together to keep this region green, healthy and safe.

— Martyna Rabska-Osipowicz

FILMNET: Initially, the Programme seemed very difficult and complicated, not dedicated to institutions like ours. Writing the application also turned out to be very complicated. But a small Seed Money project helped us to understand the main rules of the program. We could meet our future partners and talk about the main output of the FilmNet project. After that, it went very well, and the project requirements were very helpful and simple.

— Natalia Piotrowska

SBPIN: For us small, local actors, the South Baltic Programme functioned as the essential and critical platform to start up our cross-border cooperation. From supporting the actions to finding the necessary and good partners. We could engage and cooperate with similar actors in the area with the same needs and challenges as us.

— Ludvig Einarsson

SB CREATIVE CLUSTER: We are grateful for everything that we have been through together. We have learned and grown so much. We know that we can always count on each other. We are excited to see what the future holds for us. Together, we can achieve anything.

— Dr. Monika Klein

SEAPLANSPEACE: Due to the extensive framework of the South Baltic Programme and the possibilities it offers, it becomes real to achieve the appropriate level of cross-border cooperation, lessons learned, capacity-building in the thematic scope of implemented projects. This is also the case for the SEAPLANSPEACE project. From the perspective of the SEAPLANSPEACE project Lead Partner, it should be emphasised that the tangible achievements of this kind of MSP project would not have been possible without the support of the South Baltic Programme. This Programme has a transparent and logical structure and a professional and supportive staff. Due to the very detailed program guidelines, many issues related to the implementation of the project can be managed efficiently after correctly interpreting these guidelines.

On behalf of the LP and the SEAPLANSPEACE project Team, we would like to express our gratitude for the support given to us at every stage of the SEAPLANSPEACE project implementation. We believe that the South Baltic Programme is extremely necessary in the Baltic Sea area, and its great and valuable achievement, in particular in marine spatial planning, is contributing to the building and development of the marine spatial culture, as well as connecting the Baltic Sea stakeholders representing various domains of science, knowledge and experience. It gives us a justified feeling that, being a Baltic community, we are closer to each other and that we can work together to solve certain problems.

— prof. Dorota Pyć, SEAPLANSPEACE Project Manager
— Jolanta Mrozek, SEAPLANSPEACE Financial Manager



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