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Interreg South Baltic Programme 2021–2027

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 6th CALL FOR PROPOSALS

16th September – 4th November 2026 (till 16:00 CET)

(Open for regular projects under Programme Measures 1.1 and 4.1)

Interreg South Baltic Programme 2021-2027

The Interreg South Baltic Programme 2021-2027 is a multilateral cross-border cooperation programme between the coastal regions of five EU Member States: Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Lithuania, and Poland, implemented in the framework of the Interreg policy of the European Union funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Maritime cooperation in the South Baltic area (SBA) is based on joint challenges and opportunities strongly connected with a common natural resource – the Baltic Sea. The regions of the Programme have strong historical roots of cooperation, which is an important background for sustainable regional growth.

Over the years, the networks created by beneficiaries of the Programme were strengthened to make the potential of the South Baltic area more visible in the European context, and the Programme itself took on more strategic and focused approach to support the blue and green economy at a very local level.

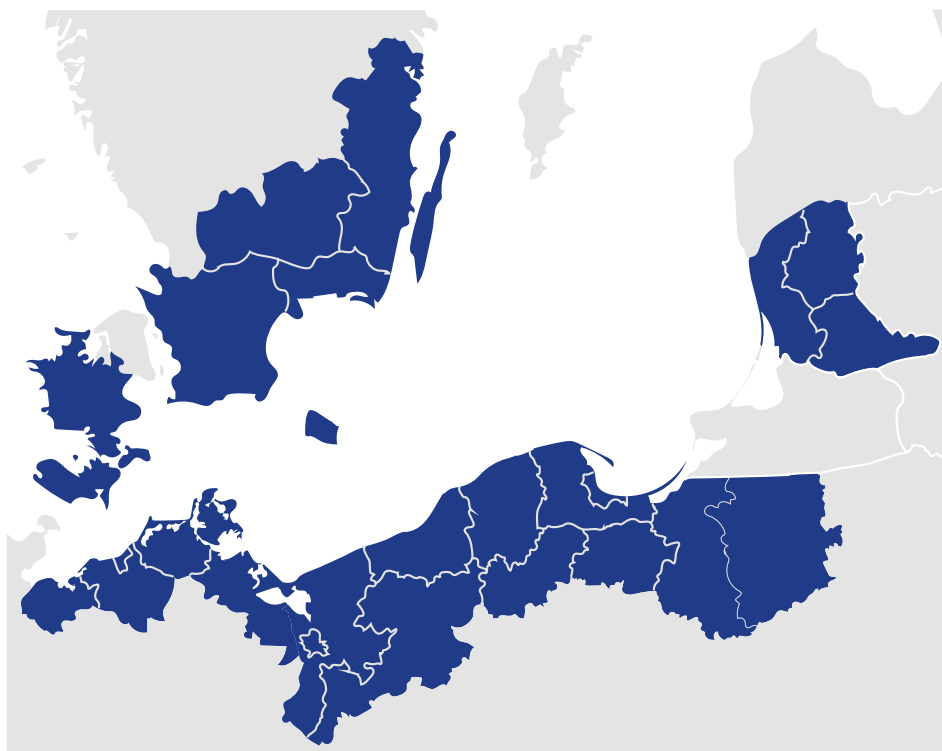
The future priority and direction of growth is reflected in the motto of the Programme: *“United by the sea into action for blue and green future – Innovative, Sustainable, Attractive and Active South Baltic”*.

Actions with the focus on natural and cultural heritage together with economic, environmental and social development, bring cooperation of different actors in the SBA foremost aiming at improving the quality of life of its inhabitants.

Programme area

The eligible area for the Programme consists of regions from five EU Member States, which includes the following NUTS III units:

- **Denmark:** Bornholm, Østsjælland, Vest-og Sydsjælland,
- **Sweden:** Skåne län, Blekinge län; Kalmar län, Kronobergs län,
- **Germany:** districts (Landkreise) Nordwestmecklenburg, Rostock, Vorpommern-Rügen, Vorpommern-Greifswald, and district-free city (kreisfreie Stadt) of Rostock,
- **Poland:** Chojnicki, Miasto Szczecin, Szczeciński, Stargardzki, Koszaliński, Słupski, Szczecinecko-Pyrzycki, Gdański, Trójmiejski, Elbląski, and Olsztyński,
- **Lithuania:** Klaipėdos apskritis, Tauragės apskritis, Telšių apskritis.



NB: As a general rule, project activities should be implemented in the Programme area. In exceptional cases, if for the benefit of the Programme eligible area and the Programme's objectives, some activities may be implemented outside the Programme area or even on the territories of other EU Member States.

Programme Priorities and Measure targeted in the 6th call

The 6th call for project applications under [Programme Measures 1.1 and 4.1](#) is now open. The Monitoring Committee of the Programme emphasized that beneficiaries should pay special attention in future projects to identified challenges and expected solutions by [filling in the missing thematic gaps and contribution to obligatory output and result indicators in Measure 1.1](#). If a project does not comply with these call specific requirements, it will be rejected within the scope of Admissibility and Eligibility checks. [There is no call specific requirement related to indicators in Measure 4.1](#).

Please find below information on special requirements in this call for completing obligatory output and result indicators in Measure 1.1, as well as tables with Programme output and result indicators still to be delivered. Please note that after the previous call projects will be clarified and contracted, the value of some indicators committed to the Programme might slightly change.

PRIORITY 1 - Innovative South Baltic

• Programme Measure 1.1 Digitalising the region

The project activities should propose i.a. innovative approaches including digitalisation of public services and increasing the level of digitalisation of different sectors to integrate services and strengthen connectivity within the South Baltic area. It is expected that proposals will boost the development of sectors related to the blue and green economy and support the digitalisation of public services.

As a basic requirement, every project must contribute to RCO116 - Jointly developed solutions – and, as a result, to **RCR104 - Solutions taken up or upscaled by organisations**

Additionally the following call specific criterion on indicators was defined for Programme Measure 1.1: every project must contribute to one or both of the indicators listed below:

- **RCO14** - Public institutions supported to develop digital services, products, and processes - and, as a result, to **RCR11** - Users of new and upgraded public digital services, products, and processes,
- **RCO04** - Enterprises with non-financial support.

In case the project does not comply with this requirement, it will be rejected within the scope of Admissibility and Eligibility checks.

Programme Measure 1.1 Digitalising the region	Value of the committed indicators after previous calls	Value of the Programme set target	Indicator achievement rate on the Programme level
RCO02 Enterprises supported by grants	10	8	125%
RCO04 Enterprises with non- financial support	367	530	69%
RCO14 Public institutions supported to develop digital	6	9	67%

services, products and processes			
RCO84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	14	8	175%
RCO116 Jointly developed solutions (obligatory)	14	16	88%
RCR11 – Users of new and upgraded public digital services, products, and processes	1 302	15 000	9%
RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations (obligatory)	14	8	175%

PRIORITY 4 - Active South Baltic

- **Programme Measure 4.1 Strengthen the cooperation capacity of actors based within the South Baltic Area (including civil society)**

The projects are expected to focus on capacity building and strengthening the cross-border cooperation of different actors functioning within the eligible area to solve common cross-border problems and build mutual reliance. Projects are proposed to include a wide group of actors, especially local actors (e.g. NGOs, cultural institutions, non-formalized organizations, organizations supporting people with disabilities and from vulnerable groups, youth organisations), to cooperate, create an ample opportunity for networking, exchange experience and build cooperation capacities under implementation of a joint project.

In the 6th call for proposals the Programme does not pose any additional requirement on indicators in this Measure. Nevertheless, to support project development, the state of play considering indicator achievement is presented in the table below.

Programme Measure 4.1 Strengthen the cooperation capacity of actors based within the South Baltic Area (including civil society)	Value of the committed indicators after previous calls	Value of the Programme set target	Indicator achievement rate on the Programme level
RCO81 Participations in joint actions across borders	4 406	4 092	108%
RCO87 Organisations cooperating across borders (obligatory)	99	154	64%
RCR84 Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion (obligatory)	99	62	160%
RCR85 Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion	1 330	1 228	108%

Partner types in projects

In the Interreg South Baltic Programme the project partnership can consist of three types of partners:

- lead partner (LP),
- project partners (PP),
- associated partners (AP).

While all types of partners are expected to commit themselves to the delivery of the project, only the first two types of partners (the lead partner and project partners) can benefit directly from ERDF funding and have to provide their own contribution as a counterpart to the Programme co-financing. The involvement of associated partners in the project partnership is not obligatory.

Lead partner

In order to act as a lead partner in the Interreg South Baltic Programme project an organization has to meet the following criteria:

Eligible legal form:

- national, regional and local authorities;
- bodies governed by public law (as defined in Art 2(1) of Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014). This means bodies that have all of the following characteristics:
 - a) established, under public or private law, for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character, and
 - b) having legal personality, and
 - c) financed, for the most part, by the State, regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law; or subject to management supervision by those bodies; or having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities, or by other bodies governed by public law.
- associations of one or several regional or local authorities;
- associations of one or several bodies governed by public law;
- European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) (as defined in the Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 as amended by Regulation (EU) No 1302/2013).

Eligible geographical location:

1. Programme area (referring to the legal address of the organisation).
2. In justified cases, organisations of national or regional level that are located outside the Programme area but in the Programme Member State and have a recognizable impact and/or functional links with the Programme area. In such cases it is strongly recommended that the JS is contacted in advance to confirm eligibility.
3. The national/regional authorities which have territorial jurisdiction over the Programme region also can become lead partners if justified.

Project partners

In order to act as a project partner in the Interreg South Baltic Programme an organization has to meet the following criteria.

Eligible legal form:

- national, regional and local authorities;
- bodies governed by public law (as defined in Art 2(1) of Directive 2014/24/EU);
- associations of one or several regional or local authorities;
- associations of one or several bodies governed by public law;
- European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) (as defined in the Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 as amended by Regulation (EU) No 1302/2013).
- SME associations and clusters;
- Chambers of commerce, trade unions and NGOs;
- other entities established under public or private law operating for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character;
- SMEs.

Eligible geographical location:

1. Programme area (referring to the legal address of the organisation).
2. In justified cases, organisations located outside the Programme area, but within the EU.
3. Applicants located outside the Programme area, but in the EU Member States, are entitled to receive a maximum of 80% of ERDF co-financing.
4. For partners from EU Member States outside the Programme area, special agreements are needed between the MA and the EU Member State in question, wherefore the JS should be consulted as early on as possible.

Involvement of SMEs as project partners

In order to act as a project partner in the Interreg South Baltic Programme project an SME has to meet the following criteria:

1. SMEs can participate as project partners in projects under all Programme Measures.
2. SMEs cannot act as a lead partners.
3. Each organisation representing SME should be established at least 3 years before the announcement of the call for proposals for which each respective SME is applying.
4. To confirm their status each SME must fill a relevant section in the Supplementary Application Form and submit it in the WOD2021 Application System.
5. Involvement of SMEs in projects as projects partners should be justified and explained to be relevant and necessary for achievement of project results. The relevance of each SMEs is subject to Quality assessment.

NB: An organisation cannot join a partnership as a project partner if its only activity within

its business profile consists of project coordination, management, project communication, and consulting.

It is strongly recommended to involve partners from the public sector located in the Programme area of the respective participating country from where any SME is involved for a broader coverage of target groups, wider communication, and sustainability of project results maintained with the help of the public sector organization.

Associated partners

If an organisation does not comply with the eligibility requirements or does not intend to become financially involved but is willing to take part in the project, it may take on the role of the associated partner. These partners participate in the activities but are not directly involved in the design and implementation of the project and have no budget share.

Associated partners may come from the EU Member States only.

Financing of the Programme

Available Programme funding

The funding available under the 6th call for proposals is 2 040 972,41 EUR ERDF. Its distribution between the Programme Priorities and Measures for the 6th call for proposals is presented in the table below:

Category	Total available amount of co-financing for projects in the 6th call in EUR (ERDF)
PRIORITY 1 - Innovative South Baltic	
1.1 Digitalising the region	1 264 674,99
PRIORITY 4 - Active South Baltic	
4.1 Strengthen the cooperation capacity of actors based within the South Baltic Area (incl. civil society)	776 297,42

Co-financing rates

All partners regardless their geographical location can receive the amount of ERDF co-financing of maximum 80%.

The project budget formula is:

Max 80% of ERDF + 20% of co-financing = 100% of the total eligible budget

Costs incurred during the project preparation and closure costs

The Programme offers a lump sum for project preparation costs (no proof in the form of financial documents is needed), under the condition that the project application has been approved in the call for proposals.

The lump sum is the only way to cover preparation costs; real costs cannot be submitted and claimed for reimbursement.

NB: The lump sum is granted only if the project did not receive seed money from the Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 or another seed money instrument.

The only possible way to claim closure costs in the project is project closure lump sum. The project closure lump sum is eligible if the related activity is finalized until 31 December 2029 i.e. the final project progress report shall be submitted to the JS until this date in order to receive the lump sum for project closure.

The Programme also foresees the use of simplified cost options for other costs than preparation and closure costs; please see the Programme Manual for details.

Project duration

The earliest start date of the project can be the day after the end date of the respective call for proposals.

At the latest, the implementation phase is required to start three months after the decision of the Monitoring Committee. The planned date of the decision of the Monitoring Committee is 8 April 2027 and thus the **latest possible start date of the project is 8 July 2027.** **NB:** Project activities can be carried out before approval of the project by the Monitoring Committee, but at the project's own risk.

The **maximum project duration in the 6th call is 24 months** and thus **the latest possible end date of projects is 8 July 2029**.

NB: In relation with potential prolongations of approved projects, please note that the latest possible end date of a project in the Programme is 31 December 2029. Therefore, **prolongations exceeding the latest possible end date will not be accepted**. Furthermore, please note that closure lump sum will be paid to the project only if the final progress report is submitted by the LP to the JS until 31 December 2029.

Application package

The documents necessary for application can be found in the application package published on the Programme website – https://southbaltic.eu/lista_nabory/6th-call-for-project-proposals/.

The Programme documents will not be altered during the call for proposals and project assessment.

The application package consists of:

- Call for proposals announcement,
- Programme Manual,
- Guidelines on filling in and submitting the Application Form,
- The list of supporting documents to be attached to the Application Form,
- Complaint form template.

All relevant documents have to be filled in English as this is the official and working language of the Programme. Applications submitted in another language will be considered ineligible.

Applicants should make themselves familiar with the template of the [Subsidy Contract](#) as well as with the template (minimum requirements) of the [Partnership Agreement](#) before submitting the application.

Submission of applications

The Interreg South Baltic Programme 2021-2027 applies **the WOD2021** electronic system for the submission of Application Forms.

When applying for the Programme funding in the WOD2021 system, make sure to choose the call relevant to the addressed Measure:

Measure 1.1	STHB.01.01-IP.01-001/26
Measure 4.1	STHB.04.01-IP.01-001/26

Please note that in Measure 4.1 a Small-scale projects call is open in parallel to the regular call. Make sure that you submit your application under the correct call.

All Application forms should be filled in and submitted via the WOD2021 system and accompanied with the supporting documents:

1. Supplementary Application Form (MS Excel),
2. Additional documents to be filled in, signed, dated, and stamped using the relevant template forms (where available):
 - Project Partner Declarations,
 - Declaration of compliance with the DNSH principle (if applicable),
 - Letters of Commitment for all associated partners (if applicable),
 - Letter of Dedication and Support from the EUSBSR PA or HA coordinator (if applicable: the list of coordinators can be found at <https://www.eusbsr.eu>),
 - Statement on the absence of discriminatory resolutions – for Polish Partners (self-government units and their subordinate units and entities controlled by or dependent on them).

Additionally, the lead partner on behalf of project partners can submit additional documents that support the verification of the eligibility, especially the financial capacity of project partners.

NB: The JS reserves the right to request any partner to submit additional documents during the assessment process to support their financial, organisational and/or management capabilities and eligibility in accordance with the Programme rules as well as documents related to the State aid/ De minimis aid.

**The Application form should be submitted in the system by
4th of November 2026 (till 16:00 CET) at the latest**

Selection and approval of projects

The decision on the selection of project proposals is taken by the Monitoring Committee of the Programme. Submitted and registered applications are subjected to a two-stage assessment carried out by the Joint Secretariat officers and external experts:

1. Admissibility and eligibility check,
2. State aid and quality assessment.

Only if the application passes the Admissibility and Eligibility checks it can be subject to State aid and quality assessment.

The Monitoring Committee's decision on the approval of projects submitted under the 6th call for proposals is expected on **8 April 2027**.

Complaints

If the partnership does not agree with the project assessment and selection process and assumes the process of assessment and selection was not conducted in line with the assessment and selection procedures, it is entitled to submit a complaint.

Annex 5 Complaint procedure and template of the Programme Manual provides a detailed description of the complaint procedure and the form to be filled in. The Annex can be found at the Programme website at www.southbaltic.eu.

Further information and contacts

Comprehensive information on the Interreg South Baltic Programme can be found at the Programme website at www.southbaltic.eu.

In case of any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Joint Secretariat:

JOINT SECRETARIAT
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