

South Baltic Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013 1st Call for Proposals 26 March -30 April 2008

ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Introduction

South Baltic Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013 is the new initiative implemented within the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation objective. Its main objective is to strengthen the sustainable development of the South Baltic area through joint actions increasing its competitiveness and enhancing integration among people and institutions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

South Baltic Programme is co-financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

2. Priority axes

The call for proposals is open for two Priority axes:

Priority axis 1: Economic Competitiveness

Measure 1.1: Entrepreneurial development

Measure 1.2: Integration of higher education and labour markets

Measure 1.3: Transport accessibility

Priority axis 2: Attractiveness and Common Identity

Measure 2.1: Management of the Baltic Sea environment

Measure 2.2: Energy saving and renewable energy

Measure 2.3: Sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage for regional development

Measure 2.4: Local community initiatives

Table: Programme allocation by priorities

Priority axis	European Regional Development Fund co-financing (ERDF)
Economic Competitiveness	22 472 194
Attractiveness and Common Identity	34 619 325

Applicants are invited to submit project applications under one of the two priority axes. A comprehensive description of the Programme objectives and priorities are included in the Operational Programme and Programme Manual.

3. Who can apply?

The South Baltic Programme is open for public authorities, non-profit organisations (public utility bodies) and other partners located in the Programme eligible area. It is possible that private companies may take part in the project with their own contribution (100%) so in this case they will not generate any ERDF funding.

The following legal entities and organisations are regarded eligible for the financial support from the programme:

- national (governmental), regional, local authorities as well as their associations;
- non-governmental organisations (NGOs);
- schools, universities, vocational and other educational organisations and centres;
- research and development institutions;
- entrepreneurship and innovation development support structures, like business incubators, chambers of commerce;
- national and landscape parks, bodies responsible for management of protected areas,
- other public institutions supporting and promoting sustainable development, innovation and entrepreneurship.

For more information please see Chapter 1 and 3 of the Programme Manual.

Projects must be implemented with the use of **Lead Beneficiary principle**.

The Lead Partner bears legal responsibility and liability for the whole Partnership. For more information please see Chapter 3 of the Programme Manual.

4. Co-financing rates

The ERDF co-financing rate for the project partners located in the Programme area in Denmark and Sweden is up to 75% and for the project partners located in Poland, Lithuania and Germany up to 85%.

5. Eligibility of preparation costs

Preparation costs can only be eligible for projects approved by the Programme Steering Committee and if they were incurred between 1 January 2007 and the date on which the Application Form has been submitted to the JTS. The preparation costs have to show a direct and demonstrable link to development of the project, e.g. meetings with the project partners, preparation of the Application Form.

The eligible preparation costs which can be reimbursed can not exceed **5% of total eligible costs of the project (but no more than 60 000 euro)**.

The preparation costs should be broken down into three budget lines: Staff, Travel and Accommodation, and External expertise and Service.

6. Project start date

The earliest possible starting date of eligibility may be the next day after the day the Application Form was registered in the JTS.

However, it has to be underlined that all expenditures will be eligible only under the condition of approval of the project by the Programme Steering Committee.

Project partners might start implement thematic activities **taking own risk** and all responsibility in case the project application is not approved by the Steering Committee.

7. Application

Applicants are asked to fill in the Application Form in English.

Information on how to fill in the Application Form is provided in the *Guidelines on filling in and submitting the Application Form* and in the Programme Manual.

The Application Form is part of the Application Pack and is available for download on the Programme website:

www.southbaltic.eu

<http://www.interreg.gov.pl/20072013/EWT/transgraniczne/baltyk/english/>

The Application Form shall be submitted in an electronic version via e-mail and as a printout (two paper original) with the CD.

Electronic version shall be submitted until **30th April 2008 4.00 p.m.** at the latest to the e-mail address: southbaltic@southbaltic.eu.

Printout, which shall also include the co-financing statements from all the partners to be involved in the project, shall be submitted until **30th April 2008 4.00 p.m.** at the latest to the address:

South Baltic Cross-border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013
Co-operation Fund Foundation
ul. Gornoslaska 4a
00-444 Warsaw
Poland

The documents for the first call for proposals – Application Form, Co-financing Statements, *Guidelines on filling in and submitting the Application Form* and the Programme Manual are available and can be downloaded from the Programme website.

8. Project selection

All project applications will be subject to a two-step assessment procedure. They will first be checked against the formal criteria. Only projects that pass the formal check will be subject to a quality assessment, which is carried out based on the quality criteria.

Formal and quality criteria are described in Chapter 5 of the Programme Manual.

Decisions by the Programme Steering Committee are taken on the basis of the project assessment.

The Steering Committee meeting is expected to be held in July 2008.