

Seed Money Facility is calling for new project applications

Timeline: 06 July - 30 October 2015

The EUSBSR Seed Money Facility calls for project applications in all Policy Areas and Horizontal Actions.¹ This call is restricted to applicants who received a letter of support by a Policy Area Coordinator (PAC) or Horizontal Action Coordinator (HAC) of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR).

1. Introduction and objectives

Seed money is an EU grant scheme to prepare projects helping implement one of the policy areas or horizontal actions of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

2. Focus of the call

All topics listed in the Action Plan to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) can be addressed by a seed money project. The EUSBSR is structured around three objectives: saving the sea, connecting the region and increasing prosperity. The EU Member States have defined certain Policy Areas and Horizontal Actions that are considered crucial for the development of the Baltic Sea Region. The EU Strategy is available at www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu.

3. What can be financed?

Every project prepares three compulsory outputs that contribute to the development of a main project. For the first output partners should prepare a report on the state of play in the field addressed. The second output is a project work plan and the third a report on funding possibilities. The work plan should include a description of activities and outputs, the composition of the partnership, the indicative budget and can be further developed into an application to any of the EU or national funding sources. If the main project is to be focused on investments also pre-investment studies can be financed.

4. Who can receive funding?

Seed money applications can be submitted by national, regional or local authorities, bodies governed by public law, as well as by other bodies that have been established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Norway, Belarus and North-West Russia. In duly justified cases organisations from other countries may

¹ Please note, should the conclusion of the amendment to the Grant Agreement, which is currently in its signature process, fail, no projects will be contracted.

participate. As the objective is to create viable broad partnerships already at the seed money stage, there have to be at least three partners involved with own financial contribution representing three different Baltic Sea Region countries.

5. Lead partner principle

Seed money projects have to follow the so-called lead partner principle, which means that among the partners who carry out the project, one is appointed as a lead partner, acting as the link between the project and the Seed Money Facility Secretariat. The lead partner (LP) takes on the responsibility for management, communication, implementation and co-ordination of activities among the partners involved. The lead partner is also the contractual partner of the Facility's implementing body i.e. Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein.

6. Size of grant and co-financing rate

The project budget can range from 30.000 to 50.000 Euro. When pre-feasibility studies are included, the budget may reach up to 100.000 Euro. Seed money will co-finance up to 85% of the total budget. The partners have to contribute with at least 15% from own sources. Most of the costs are based on simplified cost options, such as standard hourly rates for personnel costs or lump sums for meetings.

7. Duration of activities

The funding is granted for a period up to one year. In addition, the approved projects are given two additional months for managing tasks related to concluding of a Lead Partner Grant Agreement (contracting phase) and a month for compilation and submission of the final report to the Seed Money Facility Secretariat (closure phase).

8. Preparing the application

The seed money application procedure consists of two steps. First, applicants have to seek support from the relevant Policy Area Coordinators/Horizontal Action Coordinator as soon as possible. Please submit the project applications to the PACs/HACs no later than 30 September, 2015. You can find their contacts on the contact section of the EUSBSR website in the [Contact Database](#). Please check the second worksheet called "PACs HACs".

9. Submission of applications

Once the applicants have received the letter of support, applications can be submitted to the EUSBSR Seed Money Secretariat until 30 October, 2015. The documents need to be sent in digital form only to: applications@eusbsr.eu. All forms are available on the seed money facility website seed.eusbsr.eu.

Please note that the final application together with the compulsory attachments (letter of support and partner declarations) is the only basis for the quality assessment of the application.

10. Selection procedure

The funding decisions will be taken by the Seed Money Committee including members of the Baltic Sea Region Programme Monitoring Committee and Policy Area Coordinators/Horizontal Action Coordinators of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The next decision will be taken in winter 2015/2016.

11. Official language

The official language of the Facility is English. Therefore, the application, the report and all obligatory templates must be filled in English.

12. Further information and assistance

The Seed Money Facility Secretariat provides written feedback and offers face-to-face consultations and support to potential applicants and project idea owners during consultation days in Riga 25-26 August, 2015 (tbc.) and in Berlin on 8 September, 2015.

If you have a project idea and you are interested in feedback and answers to your questions, please request a consultation by sending the filled in [Project Idea Form](#), in pdf format, to seed@eusbsr.eu by Friday, 14 August, 2015 (for Riga) and 21 August, 2015 (for Berlin).

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