

Interreg Baltic Sea Region training aid scheme 2014-2020

Scheme reference number: SA.42812

1. Legal basis

The Interreg Baltic Sea Region training aid scheme 2014-2020 (the ‘scheme’) operates under Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Article 107 and 108 of the Treaty¹ (‘GBER 2014-20’).

The legal basis for the scheme is the European Territorial Cooperation programme “Interreg Baltic Sea Region” (CCI 2014TC16M5TN001), (‘the Programme’).

2. Objectives

The objective of the scheme is to support training in the context of Interreg Baltic Sea Region.

3. Definitions

The definitions set out in Article 2 of GBER 2014-20 shall apply to this scheme.

4. Exclusions

This scheme shall not apply to activities excluded from eligibility under Article 1 of GBER 2014-20. In particular:

Export aid

The scheme is not available to

- Export-related activities towards third countries or Member States, namely aid directly linked to the quantities exported, to the establishment and operation of a distribution network or to other current costs linked to the export activity
- Aid contingent on the use of domestic over imported goods

¹ OJEU L187/1 of 26 June 2014.

Sectoral coverage

This scheme is not available for:

- The processing and marketing of agricultural products in the following cases:
 - Where the amount of aid is fixed on the basis of the price or quantity of such products purchased from primary producers or put on the market by the undertakings concerned
 - Where the aid is conditional on being partly or entirely passed on to primary producers
- To facilitate the closure of uncompetitive coalmines, as covered by Council Decision No 2010/787.²

Firms subject to recovery orders or in difficulty

This scheme explicitly excludes the payment of aid in favour of an undertaking which is subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market.³

This scheme is not available to firms in difficulty (as defined in Article 2(18) of GBER 2014-20).

5. Eligibility criteria

There is no automatic entitlement to support under this scheme.

This scheme is available in the EU Member States and European Free Trade Association States participating in Interreg Baltic Sea Region, i.e. Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden.

6. Type of aid

This scheme shall offer only forms of aid that are considered transparent. Aid is considered transparent if it is possible to calculate precisely the gross grant equivalent of the aid ex ante without any need to undertake a risk assessment. This includes aid comprised in grant and interest rate subsidies and aid comprised in loans where the gross grant equivalent has been calculated on the basis of the reference rate prevailing at the time.⁴

² OJEU L336/24 of 21 December 2010.

³ The firms affected are listed here:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/studies_reports/recovery_statistics.xlsx

⁴ Interreg Baltic Sea Region offers aid in the form of grants only.

7. Incentive effect

This scheme is only available to projects where it will have an incentive effect. An incentive effective will be considered present if the beneficiary has submitted a written application before work on the project or any activity starts.

8. Cumulation

Aid under this scheme may be cumulated with other forms of aid exempted under GBER 2014-20 provided that either: those measures concern different identifiable eligible costs; or, where there is partial or total overlap in eligible costs with other aid exempted under GBER 2014-20 or awarded under the de minimis Regulation, on condition that the highest aid intensity or aid amount applicable under GBER 2014-20 is not exceeded.

9. Training aid

Training aid under this scheme shall comply with GBER 2014-20, Article 31.

The aid amounts are the maximum levels of support that may be offered. In practice, lower levels may be applied. Moreover, the type of project supported and the scope of eligible expenditure must also meet the requirements of Interreg Baltic Sea Region.

Training which undertakings carry out to comply with national mandatory standards on training is not eligible.

The eligible costs are:

- (a) trainers' personnel costs, for the hours during which the trainers participate in the training;
- (b) trainers' and trainees' operating costs directly relating to the training project such as travel expenses, materials and supplies directly related to the project, depreciation of tools and equipment, to the extent that they are used exclusively for the training project. Accommodation costs are excluded except for the minimum necessary accommodation costs for trainees' who are workers with disabilities;
- (c) costs of advisory services linked to the training project;
- (d) trainees' personnel costs and general indirect costs (administrative costs, rent, overheads) for the hours during which the trainees participate in the training.

The maximum aid intensity is 50% of the eligible costs. It may be increased, up to a maximum aid intensity of 70% of the eligible costs, as follows:

(a) by 10 percentage points if the training is given to workers with disabilities or disadvantaged workers;

(b) by 10 percentage points if the aid is granted to medium-sized enterprises and by 20 percentage points if the aid is granted to small enterprises.

10. Reporting

In compliance with GBER 2014-20 Article 11(b), the Managing Authority will assure the compilation of the data required for the submission to the Commission an annual report for each whole year or each part year during which this scheme applies.

11. Monitoring

In compliance with GBER 2014-20, Article 12, the Managing Authority will assure the maintenance of detailed records with the information and supporting documentation necessary to establish that all the conditions laid down in GBER 2014-20 are fulfilled. Such records shall be kept for 10 years from the date on which the last aid was granted under the scheme. The Managing Authority will enable the provision to the Commission within a period of 20 working days or such longer period as may be fixed in the request, all the information and supporting documentation which the Commission considers necessary to monitor the application of GBER 2014-20.