

## Announcement Note

### The Second Call for Applications for Extension Stage Projects Priorities 1-3

***Timeline: 1 October 2019 – 27 February 2020***

#### 1. Introduction

Interreg Baltic Sea Region is launching the second call for applications for extension stage projects. This call is focused on partnerships of the regular projects approved in the second call for applications in priorities 1-3.

The extension stage is an instrument in the Programme to support successful regular projects to capitalise on their results and partnerships. It aims to ensure a higher impact of the Programme on the Baltic Sea region. The extension stage offers a possibility for finalised regular projects to receive additional funding for the implementation of specific activities to strengthen the utilisation of the outcomes of the regular projects.

#### 2. Aims, activities and outputs of extension stage projects

Extension stage aims at increasing the quality and durability of the preceding regular projects. Regular project outputs should reach higher maturity when a practical application is being implemented in the extension stage. The activities of an extension stage project should be implementation focused.

An extension stage project needs to implement a solution developed during the regular project in the form of a **practical application or an investment**. Its implementation for target groups and the evaluation of its success should be at the focus of an extension stage project. The activities and outputs of an extension stage project need to demonstrate clear added value to the preceding regular project.

Examples of types of activities to be implemented within an extension stage project are listed below:

- Pilot implementation of a management scheme developed in the regular project,
- Testing instruments developed in the regular project,
- Implementation of investments prepared in the regular project,
- Implementation of policy recommendations developed in the regular project.

### 3. Composition of an extension stage project partnership

The partnership composition of an extension stage project should be **based on partners from the 2<sup>nd</sup> call regular project** that are relevant for the implementation of the activities in the extension stage project. In well-justified cases it is possible to involve organisations that were not included in the partnership of the regular project. Involvement of private partners is encouraged. **Russian organisations** may be included as project partners as well.

Organisations located outside the programme area can become partners of an extension stage project only if they were involved in the regular project. As a minimum requirement each project has to involve **at least three partners from three different countries of the Programme area**. Lead partners must be located in the territory of an EU Member State in the Programme area or in Norway. At least one of the regular partners has to be located in the territory of an EU member state in the Programme area.

Further details on the Programme requirements and the composition of the partnership can be found in the Programme Manual. Specific information on extension stage projects is described in chapter D.2.

### 4. Availability of funds and the budget of extension stage projects.

The available Programme ERDF co-financing for the projects applying in this call is currently seven million euro. The currently available Norwegian co-financing is 0.2 million euro and the ENI/Russian co-financing 0.7 million euro.

The total budget for an extension stage project can be **up to 1,000,000 euro**. However, in case the project does not plan to implement any investments the budget should be lower.

Partners from Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden may receive up to 75% ERDF co-financing, while partners from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland may receive up to 85% ERDF co-financing. Norwegian partners will receive up to 50% co-financing from Norwegian national funding. Russian partners will receive up to 85% Programme co-financing, combining the EU funding from the European Neighbourhood Instrument and the financial contribution of the Russian Federation.

Partner organisations located outside of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region's programme area are entitled to receive up to 75% ERDF co-financing.

Budgets and eligibility of costs of the extension stage projects must follow the rules of the regular projects. No costs for implementation of the extension stage project are eligible as long as the main stage project is still in its implementation phase. However, the contracting of the extension stage project of this call will take place in parallel to the last three months of the implementation of the regular project. The costs related to the

contracting can be covered from the budget of the preceding regular project. Extension stage projects cannot claim reimbursement of costs for project preparation.

### 5. Duration of the second call extension stage projects

The duration of an extension stage project consists of three phases: a contracting phase, an implementation phase and a closure phase. The contracting phase lasts up to three months and starts the day after the MC approval. As mentioned above the contracting of the second call extension stage project shall be carried out during the last three months of the implementation phase of the preceding regular project. **The duration of the implementation period may last up to 9 months (1 October 2020 – 30 June 2021)** and needs to end no later than June 2021. The closure phase lasts three months.

### 6. Extension stage projects application and selection procedure

The MA/JS will support the development of extension stage projects by providing feedback to project ideas through **individual consultations**. Prior to this, the applicants should complete a project idea form for an extension stage (available at <https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/apply-for-funds/apply-for-funds.html>) and ask for feedback. The consultation is a prerequisite for obtaining access to the online application system (BAMOS).

An extension stage application will have to be completed in BAMOS. Guidance for filling in the application is provided in the application package at the Programme website [www.interreg-baltic.eu](http://www.interreg-baltic.eu). The guidance outlines the Programme expectations regarding quality and amount of information to be provided in the extension stage application.

The table below summarises information about documents that applicants need to submit:

Extension stage project application	
<b>Digital version</b>	
Which documents?	Online application
When?	No later than 27 February 2020 at 16:00 CET (UTC+1)
How?	Submitting via online system: <a href="http://ba.bamos.eu">ba.bamos.eu</a>
<b>Paper version</b>	
Which documents?	Signed application (identical to the digital version) Partner declarations for all project partners (including lead applicant) original or copies State aid self-declarations for all project partners (including lead applicant) original or copies Optional: letters of support from associated organisations
When?	No later than 27 February 2020

	!!! The date on the post stamp must be the date of the deadline or earlier !!!
How?	Send documents to: Interreg Baltic Sea Region Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat c/o Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (IB.SH) Grubenstraße 20 18055 Rostock, Germany

The MA/JS is responsible for the verification of the completeness and correctness of the submitted documents as well as for the assessment of applications. The assessment criteria are presented in Annex I to the Programme Manual. Furthermore, during the assessment, particular attention will be paid to the practical approach of extension stage projects. An extension stage project should demonstrate additional value to the results of its corresponding regular project.

The Monitoring Committee of the Programme will select extension stage projects for funding at its meeting in June 2020.

## 7. Programme language

The official language of the Programme is English. Therefore, all communication between applicants and the MA/JS is in English. Information in application forms as well as official correspondence must be treated accordingly.

## 8. Further information and assistance

The official Programme documents are available on the Programme website: [www.interreg-baltic.eu](http://www.interreg-baltic.eu) and include:

- Interreg Baltic Sea Region Cooperation Programme;
- Programme Manual; and
- Application package for extension stage projects.

The MA/JS offers the following assistance to applicants:

- For general advice please contact: [extension@interreg-baltic.eu](mailto:extension@interreg-baltic.eu);
- The MA/JS offers consultations at its offices in Rostock and Riga, as well as via telephone/skype. To request a consultation please write to: [extension@interreg-baltic.eu](mailto:extension@interreg-baltic.eu).