

Fact Sheet on extension stage projects supported by Interreg Baltic Sea Region

Concept and objectives of extension stage projects

The extension stage is an instrument of the Programme to support successful regular projects in the capitalisation of their results and partnerships. This instrument was designed to ensure a higher impact of the Programme on the Baltic Sea Region.

The extension stage offers a possibility for the finalised regular projects to receive additional funding for the implementation of specific activities that would strengthen the utilisation of the outcomes of the regular project.

Extension stage should help to increase the quality and durability of the preceding regular projects.

Activities and outputs of extension stage projects

The activities of an extension stage project should be implementation focused and based on the outcomes of the regular projects. The activities of the extension stage projects cannot be a simple prolongation of regular project activities. Regular project outputs might reach higher maturity when a practical application is being implemented in the extension stage.

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. Investments should be based on joint evaluation and planning activities from the regular project. The investment should either demonstrate a transnational dimension or should otherwise be of transnational added value.

Composition of the partnership

The partnership composition of an extension stage project should be **based on partners from the regular project** that are relevant for the implementation of the activities in the extension stage project. Each project has to involve at least three project partners from three different countries of the programme area. In well-justified cases it is possible to involve organisations that were not included in the partnership of the regular project. Russian organisations may be included as project partners. Lead partners must be located in the territory of a Member State in the Programme area or in Norway. At least one of the partners has to be located in the territory of an EU member state in the Programme area.

Duration of an extension stage project

The duration of extension stage projects consists of a contracting phase, implementation phase and closure phase. In combining these three phases of an extension stage project may **last up to 24 months**.

Budget and eligibility of costs of extension stage projects

Budgets and eligibility of costs of the extension stage projects must follow the rules of the regular projects. Any costs of the extension stage projects are not eligible as long as the main stage project is still in its implementation phase. Extension stage projects cannot claim reimbursement costs for project preparation.

Further information about the extension stage projects please see in Chapter D2 of the Programme Manual: http://www.interreg-baltic.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/about_programme/Main_documents/