



INTERREG SOUTH BALTIC PROGRAMME

Project SB PIN

South Baltic Public Innovators Network

Partnership:

LP: Municipality of Hässleholm - EU office Skåne Nordost (Sweden)

PP2: Municipality of Køge (Denmark)

PP3: Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic (Poland)

PP4: Krinova Incubator & Science Park (Sweden)

PP5: Center for strategi og Innovation, Neasetved Municipality (Denmark)

AP1: Skåne Association of Local Authorities (Sweden)

AP2: Region Skåne's Administration of Cultural Affairs (Sweden)

Priority axis 5 - Increasing cooperation capacity of local actors in the South Baltic area for the blue and green growth

Specific objective 5 – Improve the cooperation capacity of local South Baltic area actors through participation in cross-border networks

Project objective: To increase the participating municipalities' and other local organisations' international expertise and innovation capacity through.

Project results: Improved involvement of local community organisations in cross-border cooperation networks. The project will essentially lead to the participant organisations taking part in cross-border networks and projects with international partners in the area of blue and green growth, as well as other areas of local interest.

Estimated duration : 24 months

Estimated budget: Almost 500.000 EUR

Date of project start: January 2017

Description of initial situation: Participating organisations are aware of the fact that there are many cross-border initiatives in the south Baltic area. Some of the participating municipalities have, for instance, twin cities in the area but the cooperation is limited to, at best, short visits which are not leading to local development or a sense of a common South Baltic identity. It is safe to say that few local actors are participating in cross-border projects and initiatives in order to develop the qualities of services provided. The local actors such as local municipalities, businesses and local service providers in participating regions have found it difficult to engage in projects that contain transnational cooperation. Most projects are operated without European partners, hence the participating organisations are missing opportunities to local development in cooperation with international partners. Since several of the EU funds and programs of interest to municipalities and others require European partners, there is a need to find ways to help local actors mobilise resources in order to be able to participate in cross-border cooperation.

Project description: The municipalities/local authorities in participating regions have found it difficult to engage and manage projects that contain transnational cooperation. The local organizations have a positive attitude towards transnational cooperation, but most EU-funded projects in our communities (with a few exceptions) are operated without it. There is a need to develop international partnerships and international cooperation to focus on mutual challenges and development areas.

The aim of the project is to increase the municipalities' and other local organisations' international expertise and activity through network building and increased innovation capacity in order to create the conditions and demonstrate the benefits of transnational cooperation and cross-border networks. The activities will prepare the participants to allocate resources to increase their presence in the cross-border cooperation and implement thematic cross-border programs, courses, workshops developing the participants' international expertise, innovation capacity and established networks.

The project will result in improved local capacity in transnational cooperation and lead to the municipalities participating in cross-border cooperation and networks. The project will essentially lead to the participants jointly participation in i.e Interreg SBP.

The target group: The target group of the project consists of key persons when it comes to internationalisation connected to operational development EU coordinators, officials and politicians involved in development processes / projects, officials and politicians involved in blue and green growth. In the long perspective, its likely that municipalities in a broad sense will benefit from the project. However, for the success of the project, it will be the municipal officials and politicians that are in focus and the main target group.

Summary of the work plan: This project seeks to prepare local actors in order to participate more actively in cross-border networks and projects. Participating partners will organise common skills development where participants from the different regions will participate in minimum 8 workshops with the following content:

- Increasing local skills regarding project development, innovation capacity and intercultural dialogue through exchange of experiences and transfer of knowledge in participant driven workshops.
- Preparing the participants to allocate resources to increase its engagement in cross-border networks. In short, exchange experiences about how to structure and integrate international cooperation in local policy development and/or organisational development.
- Discuss heritage, common identity and culture with participants in order to raise awareness and interest for our common identity. With a greater feeling of common identity and knowledge of common challenges, project development to meet these challenges should be more interesting.
- Discuss how the project's participants and network can influence decisions and/or policies (regional-, national- and EU-level) that are affecting the local actors and their development.

Following WPs will be implemented:

- WP1 Project Management incl. administration, evaluation and budget. Develop methods to strengthen the international expertise of project partners through internationalization efforts.
- WP2 Communication of project results.
- WP3 Theme blue growth. Workshops, seminars and network activities related to blue growth such as maritime and coastal tourism, coastal protection, water innovation and environmental monitoring. Resp PP4.
- WP4 Theme green growth. Workshops, seminars and network activities related to green growth such as renewable energy, environmental management, green constructions, sustainable tourism, land-, forestry- and agriculture management.
- WP5 Theme care of elderly and age-friendly cities.
- WP6 Expanding cross-border networks.

Strategic documents: The project is structured in accordance and with compliance to the EUSBSR and the national priorities and relates to all the three main objectives in the EUSBSR. This project connects and will result in networks and relationships between innovative individuals, organizations and forums in the South Baltic. Through the increased competence, capacity and contacts, innovative ideas could be realized jointly in the region, which would serve the goals of the BSR. This project seeks to foster participation and establish partnerships/networks for innovation in compliance to EUSBSR objectives.

With increased capacity and participation in cross-border networks, likeliness of involvement in projects will increase. Focus will be on EUSBSR objectives. The improved capacity and the established partnerships and networks would in practical terms all serve to meet the challenges in the EUSBSR. The project will also help participating organizations work towards and fulfill their targets in relation to the EU 2020 strategy.

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