

Highlights:

- CALL FOR EXPERTS TO ASSESS PROJECT APPLICATIONS IN THE 7TH CALL
- 15 PROJECTS APPROVED IN THE 6TH CALL
- TRANSNATIONALITY
- OUTCOME OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON INFORMATION MEASURES



We wish you a peaceful Christmas time and a successful New Year 2005. May the New Year bring many implemented milestones for projects, quickly paid financial requests and plenty of good project applications! The Joint Secretariat's offices will be closed between Christmas and New Year. JS team

CALL FOR EXPERTS TO ASSESS PROJECT APPLICATIONS IN THE 7TH CALL

The BSR INTERREG III B NP Joint Secretariat on behalf of the Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein acting as Managing Authority for the BSR INTERREG III B NP is looking for professional experts in the field of Spatial Planning and Regional

Development with transnational project management and financial experience who would support assessment of project proposals in March/April 2005.

For more information please go to www.bsrinterreg.net/news.html.

15 PROJECTS APPROVED IN THE 6TH CALL

At the 9th meeting of the BSR INTERREG III B NP Steering Committee in Hamburg on 9-10 December 2004, 15 projects were approved as follows:



Measure 1.2
ET-BIOENERGY
BalticFortRoute
BBN

Measure 1.3
COASTSUST
BSB

Measure 2.1
BaltMetInno

Measure 2.2
ODIN-Net
Baltic Tangent

Measure 2.3
Castle Tomorrow

Priority 3
BBDN
IC
ScanBalt Campus
B-SME
RECO
EuRoB II

COMMITTED AND REMAINING FUNDS

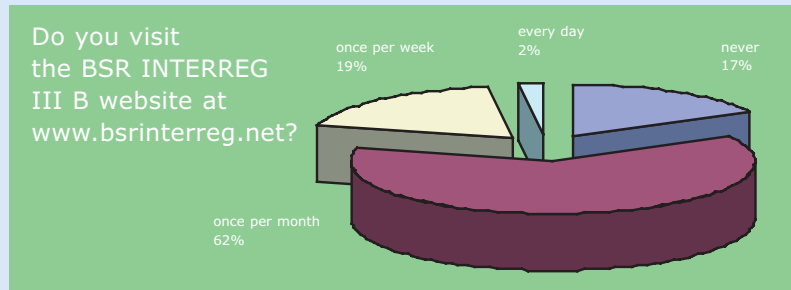
III B priorities – main projects (in million EUR)		
	ERDF	Norwegian National
Total programme funding	122.7	5.3
Committed funds	82.6	5.2
Remaining funds	40.0	0.15
Seed money funds		
	EUR	
Committed funds	545,160	
Remaining funds	254,840	

OUTCOME OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON INFORMATION MEASURES

According to the regulation (EC) 1159/2000 the Information and communication plan for the BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme had to be evaluated. A short questionnaire related to information activities was prepared in order to perform the evaluation.

The questionnaire was sent on 18 October 2004 to the Monitoring Committee, Steering Committee, National Subcommittee members, project partners in the approved as well as not approved projects, pan-Baltic organisations and other INTERREG programmes.

Altogether it was sent to approximately 3000 valid e-mail addresses. 424 replies were received in time. This means that around 14% of the receivers of the questionnaire shared their opinions.



The results of the questionnaire confirm that the information and communication plan for the BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme is serving well its purpose.

The users know where to find information about the programme (90%) and are satisfied with its quality. As 94% prefer electronic to printed media and 76% would like the information to be sent directly, the focus of the information measures could be even more shifted

in the direction of electronic media (newsletter, website) spread by direct e-mailings (regular newsletters, informing about changes on the website).

The language in the information media should be simplified and the information should be made available in good time.

It is very important to keep information users well informed – as most of them (81%) spread the information further.

TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE PROJECTS (2) – TRANSNATIONALITY

The transnational approach in the project (in its development, implementation and follow-up stages) is one of the most essential characteristics of the strand B of the INTERREG programmes. Transnationality proved to be one of the greatest challenges for project co-ordinators. Therefore, a good understanding of the nature of transnationality is one of the key factors determining the success of a project.

INTERREG III B programmes have different approach in assessing transnationality in a given project. Documents such as the Programme and the Pro-

gramme Complement give very general, often minimum definitions, stating that the project is transnational only if activities carried out in one country have a significant impact on other participating countries as well.

Transnationality, what does it actually mean? There is no common definition, but one can say that the project is transnational when a common (naturally transnational) problem is approached jointly and outputs, bringing solutions to the problem, are achieved jointly as well. Transnationality often means that:

- problem should be common

for authorities representing numerous levels (not only national governments) and several countries;

- development of a project idea to an application form is driven by a consortium consisting of various partners (opposite to the very often practiced approach where an idea owner fills in an application form and only then looks around for convenient partners);
- project implementation is based on co-operation and joint participation of partners from all involved countries (opposite to working on individual and one country-

- oriented subprojects);
- outputs of the project, even if anchored in one place (especially when a project has pilot character), after project completion are transferable to areas of other partners and outside the project consortium;
 - after the project completion a continuation of transnational co-operation is foreseen.

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**FROM FAQ SECTION:
WHICH COSTS ARE CONSIDERED AS "PROJECT COSTS"?**

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Only costs incurred, accounted and paid for within the project period can be considered as project costs. If these costs are eligible for funding (see Commission Regulation (EC) No 448/2004) they can be reported and refunded. Costs incurred and paid before and after the project period are not eligible and cannot be refunded.

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**ANNEXES TO THE FINAL
ACTIVITY REPORT**

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When a project has finished its planned activities it will submit the "normal" progress report. In addition to this project has to fill in two special annexes to the final Activity Report (AR). The first annex is common for projects in all measures (Annex A to the Final Activity Report) and the second is a measure specific (e.g. Annex A.2.1 to the Final Activity Report for projects in Measure 2.1.). To download the annexes to the final AR go to Downloads in How to implement section. For more information please contact Ms Kirsi Laitio (kl@bsrinterreg.net).

What is the added value of transnational approach in your project?

- you know that you are not alone with your problem,
- you tackle the problem with a solution tested and verified somewhere else,
- you profit from experiences of others and/or from other development models,
- you better understand your "neighbours".

In other words, one has to ask a question if – and to

what extent – the project depends on transnational approach regarding partnership and scope of work. If the answer is negative, you may expect that your project will not be approved within the frame of the INTERREG III B programme.

On the other hand, if you find your project really transnational, then demonstrate clearly the added value of the transnational approach.

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NEWS FROM ONGOING PROJECTS

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The BERNET (Baltic Eutrophication Regional NETWORK) is a Pan-Baltic cooperation among 7 regional authorities in the Baltic Sea Region.

The cooperation was founded in 1999 with financial support

from the BSR INTERREG II C. The aim of the BERNET is to improve regional environmental management and to support the aims of the Helsinki Convention on "assuring the ecological restoration of the Baltic Sea environment".

In the BSR INTERREG III B project "**BERNET CATCH: Integrated Management of Catchments**" the partners explore the regional implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), which all member states have to implement before 2015. By then all water bodies must meet the required "good ecological quality".



The WFD introduces also a new concept for the management of the aquatic environment based on the ecological quality and vulnerability of each water body. It requires an integrated management of Water Districts and involvement of all stakeholders

in the planning process. The Water District Planning will thus play a central role in future physical planning, with strong implications for land use, industrial and urban development, and economic and recreational use of water resources.

The aim of the BERNET CATCH is to develop common tools and strategies for an integrated management at catchment level. The results will include a Water District Plan for selected catchments in partner regions in compliance with the WFD, and with concrete suggestions of measures towards the actual problems in each catchment.

The project will also identify interest conflicts among regional stakeholders and assess the economic consequences of the suggested measures. The BERNET CATCH will strengthen the regional capacity for WFD with specific focus on integration with the statutory physical planning, and on public participation and ownership among stakeholders.

The project objectives are implemented through four work packages: Classification and Assessment of Water Bodies, Water District Planning, Public Participation in Water District Planning, and the BERNET Conference on "Water District Management and Public Participation". So far the BERNET CATCH has made an analysis of typology and reference conditions for water bodies in the pilot catchments, and cross regional analysis of typology and reference conditions among the partners. In addition, the project has produced a basic description of the pilot catchments pursuant to the Water Framework Directive, i.e. pollution sources, pressures and impacts. In addition a stakeholder analysis in the

Partner Regions and cross regional analysis of stakeholders has been finalised. The BERNET partners represent both the "old" and "new" EU-Member States as well as Kaliningrad in Russia. The Lead partner of the project is the Fyn County in Denmark and more information about the project can be obtained from www.bernet.org.

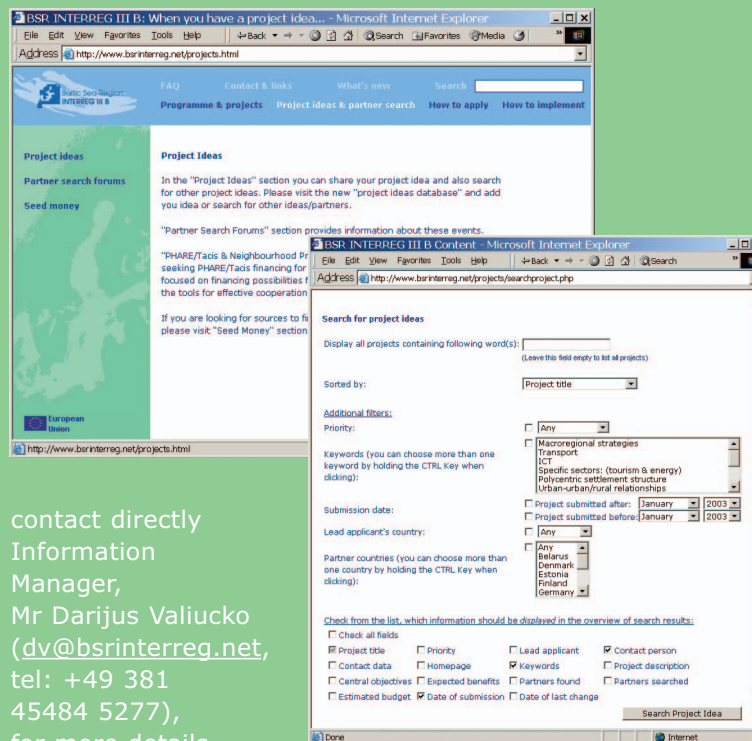
BROCHURE ABOUT PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

The second brochure presenting projects approved in the 3rd and 4th call is now printed and available. If you would like to get a copy of the brochure (free of charge), please contact Mr Darijus Valiucko (dv@bsrinterreg.net).

WHAT CAN YOU FIND ON WWW.BSRINTERREG.NET

The "Project ideas & partner search" section offers plenty of useful information and contact data for those who develop their project ideas. Here you can add your idea to the project ideas database or look for other ideas.

Many are looking for partners – maybe you are just the right one? When the idea is already more concrete, you can apply for seed money in order to prepare thoroughly your main project application. In seed money section you will find all the necessary documents. Though if you miss some information on the web, please do not hesitate to



contact directly Information Manager, Mr Darijus Valiucko (dv@bsrinterreg.net, tel: +49 381 45484 5277), for more details.

BSR INTERREG III B NP EVENTS

	Date	Place
Lead Partner information seminar (for projects approved in the 6 th call)	13 January 2005	Rostock, Germany
Seventh call for project proposals	1 February – 7 March 2005	Rostock, Germany
The INTERACT NP seminar	27 – 28 January 2005	Warszawa, Poland
Individual Project Consultations	26 – 28 January 2005 2 – 4 February 2005 7 – 9 February 2005	Riga, Latvia Karlskrona, Sweden Rostock, Germany
Partner Search Forum	May 2005	Vilnius, Lithuania

For **FURTHER INFORMATION** please go to www.bsrinterreg.net or feel free to contact the BSR INTERREG III B Joint Secretariat.

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