

BSR INTERREG III B NP NEWSLETTER NO 15 • 06.2004

Highlights:

- Fifth call for project applications – 19 projects Approved
- Sixth call for project applications to be open in August
- Neighbourhood
- Database with info on running projects launched
- Amending the programme

FIFTH CALL FOR PROJECT APPLICATIONS – 19 PROJECTS APPROVED

The fifth call for project applications was closed on 27 February 2004. Altogether 39 projects sent their applications to the Joint Secretariat. One project withdrew its proposal and two projects did not pass the technical eligibility check. 36 project applications were assessed by an Assessment Team comprising 6 experts in regional development, project management and finances. At its meeting in Riga on 3-4 June the Steering Committee approved 19 projects (some under conditions). Altogether Steering Committee committed 21 million EUR from the ERDF funds and 0.7 million

EUR from the Norwegian national funds. For more information please contact Mr Roman Kozlowski (rk@bsrinterreg.net).

The approved projects have already received approval letters and their Lead Partners have been invited to the Lead Partner information seminar. The seminar took place in Rostock on 15 June 2004. The aim of the seminar was to give practical information concerning implementation and reporting of the BSR INTERREG III B NP projects. For more information please contact Ms Kirsi Laitio (kl@bsrinterreg.net).



SIXTH CALL FOR PROJECT APPLICATIONS TO BE OPEN IN AUGUST

The sixth call for applications will be launched on 23 August and closed on 24 September 2004. The Steering Committee will make funding decisions at its meeting in December 2004 in Hamburg. The updated Applicant's Pack for the sixth call will be available for download at www.bsrinterreg.net/toapply.html on 23 August at the latest. There will be no major changes in the Applicant's Pack from the 5th call. The „old“ approved Programme and Programme Complement will continue to be in force.

NEIGHBOURHOOD

The European Commission's Guidelines for implementing Neighbourhood programmes have not been published yet (expected in June). They will however not solve all practical issues of coordinating INTERREG and Tacis funds still governed by different legal frameworks. The Joint Secretariat has asked the programme committees to set up a working group including also representatives of DG Regional Policy and DG External Relations. The objective is to provide clear guidance to Lead Partners of how to apply for and how to

implement INTERREG and Tacis financing for Russian and Belarusian partners simultaneously. The Steering Committee decided at its last meeting in Riga that due to the existing uncertainties, calls for project applications including the new Neighbourhood aspects will not be launched before 2005.

DATABASE WITH INFO ON RUNNING PROJECTS LAUNCHED

The new database with information on approved BSR INTERREG III B NP projects was launched at www.bsrinterreg.net/programme.html in

section **Approved projects**. There you will find plenty of useful information, namely:

- summary description of the projects & achievements so far (updated by the projects each reporting round)
- duration & budgets
- list of partners with contact info
- co-operation area map and other files from projects for download

The search interface allows search by multiple parameters like project title, Lead Partner's country, measure, partner's country or town, application round.

All persons responsible for databases containing information about projects in the Baltic Sea Region are welcome to visit the database for updated information.

AMENDING THE PROGRAMME

The Monitoring Committee approved the draft amended BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme at its meeting on 20 April 2004. The Programme was sent to the European Commission on 30 April 2004. The main changes in the programme include: EU-enlargement (4 new Member States), two new cross-border IIIA priorities in the III B management framework, neighbourhood topics in a revised priority 3, bilateral cooperation with Kaliningrad, St Petersburg and Leningrad oblast as a new measure 3.2. Approval of the new programme is expected in June.

In parallel, the Programme Complement, providing further descriptions of the envisaged priorities and topics, is being updated.

19 SEED MONEY PROJECTS APPROVED IN THE FIFTH CALL

The fifth call for seed money projects was closed on 8 March 2004. Joint Secretariat received 44 seed money project applications. Especially measures 2.3. and 1.2. were popular. The project applications were assessed against eligibility and quality

criteria. Approval decision was made on 23 April. On behalf of the BSR INTERREG III B Steering Committee, the Joint Secretariat approved 19 seed money projects. For more information please contact seedmoney@balticinstitute.se.

STEERING COMMITTEE TASK FORCE TAKES INITIATIVE TO STIMULATE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The Steering Committee's Task Force for Programme Development, chaired by Wilfried Görmar, Germany, met on 10 June in Copenhagen to discuss new initiatives for speeding up programme implementation. Following EU enlargement, additional ERDF funding was allocated proving new opportunities for more projects. The programme's committees would like to see more actions from projects tackling energy, transport but also maritime safety issues. The Task Force proposed to launch a tender based on a detailed description of requirements.

National ministries as well as pan-Baltic institutions should be actively involved. JS will start actions in July.

Furthermore, the Task Force stated that the monitoring of outputs and results of projects needs to be improved. Projects are required to prove that the funds received have produced measurable and quantifiable products. At programme level, a new set of indicators will be defined to underline that the programme has produced a real impact on developing the Baltic Sea region.

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The Agreement between the Investitionsbank S-H as MA/PA and the State Regional Development Agency of Latvia as the host of the Riga office was official signed on 1 June 2004. A new office of the Joint Secretariat was officially opened by Ms Ilze Kukute, State Secretary, Latvian Ministry of Regional Development and Local

Governments on 3 June in Riga/Latvia. The Riga office is mainly responsible for implementation of the two new cross-border priorities in the Baltic States but hosts also III B JS colleagues responsible for project development. Five new colleagues started their work for INTERREG programme in the Riga office.

The first call for applications for the BSR INTERREG IIIA priorities is planned to be launched in autumn 2004. The detailed information about the IIIA priorities should be available as from 1 September 2004 at latest. Please visit www.bsrinterreg.net/3a

for draft IIIA documents and further information.

To contact the Riga office please call +371 735 7375 or mail to iveta.puzo@vraa.gov.lv. This is provisional contact info. We will provide more information in the next newsletter and on the web ASAP.



Ms Ilze Kukute (left), Mr Klaus Rave and Ms Ieva Kalnina officially opening the Riga office

QUALITY WORKSHOP FOR TRANSPORT PROJECTS

A quality workshop for the running transport projects (measure 2.2.) took place on the 29 April 2004 at the JS's Karlskrona office. There are currently eight transport projects in the portfolio and one project has already ended.

The key questions raised during the discussions were how to enhance better syner-

gy between transport projects and create a sustainable transport network in the BSR, how to involve the private sector and attract investments in order to implement transport concepts developed and ensure the durability of project results. Also a representative from the Baltic Development Forum was invited to highlight the topical issue of public-

private-partnership and to present the organisation's interests in developing transport sector in the area. In the discussion following the presentation a seed for future co-operation between the Forum and INTERREG III B transport projects was already sown. For more information please contact Ms Kirsi Laitio (kl@bsrinterreg.net).

BUILDING CAPACITY IN THE NEW MEMBER STATES – 9 REPRESENTATIVES FROM NEW MEMBER STATES LEARNING ABOUT INTERREG



During the training session ...

In early May nine representatives from governmental institutions of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland participated in a one-week training on INTERREG in Rostock. The training was organised and provided by the Joint

Secretariat's team. Topics like management of the Programme, legal framework, assessment of applications and monitoring of projects were covered during training sessions. Participants were mostly interested in financial management, audit and control requirements at both, project and programme level. For the Baltic States, first level controls for project partners will be carried out centrally by the responsible

ministries. The systems are under construction. The training at the JS was positively assessed.

A follow-up for auditors and controllers from new Member States will take place still in June. The training week was the last part of the „INFO Activities” for the new MS organised by JS since autumn 2003.



... and after

BRIEF REPORT FROM THE JOINT INTERREG III B WATER FORUM

A joint Water Management Forum was held in Lüneburg, Germany on 10-11 May 2004. The event was the first joint INTERREG III B forum focusing on experiences on management of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in four various programmes areas (North Sea, Baltic Sea Region, North West Europe and CADSES). The primary aim was to share experiences

and elaborate methods and legal framework in connection with the implementation of the WFD in various countries, transnationally and in different types of water and coastal zone areas.

This cross-programme event attracted 41 transnational projects from 13 European countries, representing European funding of more than 129

million EUR. Over two days project representatives and interested professionals discussed issues of relevance to water management under three workshop groups: Coastal Areas Management and Protection; River Catchment Areas; and Water Quality. Further details are available on the website on the INTERREG North Sea Programme at www.interregnorthsea.org.

More NEWS FROM THE JOINT SECRETARIAT

The Joint Secretariat's team has been facing considerable changes of staff during the last year. After EU enlargement, several new jobs were created to provide services to partners from eight Member States instead of four Member States (plus Norway). A new IIIA team has been installed at the Riga office and will be presented in the next newsletter. In addition, the JS environment

seems to stimulate also the enlargement of families. We will present some of the youngest members of the JS (born in 2003+2004) in one of our next newsletters.

New colleagues started their work in the Joint Secretariat of the BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme. Below you will find brief presentations of Ms Vineta Griekere (Riga office),

Mr Rostislav Zatloukal (Rostock office) and Mr Matthias Woiwode (Karlskrona office). More new colleagues will join the JS team in July/August 2004. We will present them in the next issue of the newsletter. At the same time, Mr Bo Löwendahl, Mr Mattias Alisch and Ms Anne Krag Svendsen (all Karlskrona office) will leave the JS team in June/July 2004.

Ms Vineta Griekere – project development adviser



Vineta has graduated in environmental sciences, regional development and spatial planning and has done post-graduated

studies in urban management. She has four years experience working in the public administration dealing with regional policy and regional planning issues including matters related to EU enlargement.

Vineta is working in the Riga office. She is responsible for the project generation process, mainly assisting project candidates in further developing their project ideas for transnational cooperation projects in the BSR.

Mr Rostislav Zatloukal – financial project adviser



Rostislav graduated in entrepreneurship and management, and continued with postgraduate European Studies.

Afterwards he completed a 5-month in-service training at the European Commission. Before taking up the assignment within the INTERREG he has worked for the Phare Supplier Development Programme.

Rostislav provides support to project partners on budgetary, financial monitoring and control requirements in particular during the project development phase. He is working in the Rostock office.

Mr Matthias Woiwode – project development manager



Matthias studied Urban and Regional Planning. He worked as project

manager and as project assessment consultant. Matthias was also in charge of the development and implementation of projects, fund raising, international partnering activities and research.

Matthias is responsible for the project generation process, providing project applicants with information and advice on the development of successful projects. Matthias will work mainly from the Karlskrona office.

BSR INTERREG III B NP EVENTS

	Date	Place
Lead Partner information seminar (for projects approved in the 5th call)	15 June 2004	Rostock, Germany
Sixth call for project applications	23 August – 24 September 2004	applications to be sent to Rostock, Germany
Steering Committee meeting	9-10 December 2004	Hamburg, Germany

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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