

Highlights:

- 20 REGULAR AND 8 TACIS UPGRADE PROJECTS APPROVED IN THE 8TH CALL
- NO FURTHER REGULAR ERDF CALLS IN THE BALTIC SEA PROGRAMME
- PROJECTS: EHEALTH FOR REGIONS
- EX-ANTE EVALUATION – CALL FOR TENDERS OPENED

20 REGULAR AND 8 TACIS UPGRADE PROJECTS APPROVED IN THE 8TH CALL

The Steering Committee approved 20 project proposals out of 52 regular projects submitted in the eighth application round. In addition, out of 10 submitted Tacis upgrade projects, eight proposals were approved, which together with regular projects will consume all the Tacis funds currently available in the programme under the Tacis Action Programme 2004 (EUR 3.8 million). The majority of projects are approved under conditions (in particular budget reductions) and will have to apply the required changes in their setups

as well as provide relevant clarifications before they can be contracted.

Lead Partners of projects approved in the 8th call met in Rostock for the information seminar on the 19th January. More than 50 representatives of 20 regular projects and 8 Russian/Belarusian upgrades took part in the meeting. The aim of the seminar was to give practical information concerning the implementation and reporting of the joint projects (having ERDF and Tacis component) under the frames of new fully open-



At the information seminar

rational Neighbourhood Programme in the BSR INTERREG III B.

The eighth call for applications was closed on 23 September 2005. The approval decision was taken by the Steering Committee on 9 December 2005 in Øyer. •

BALTIC SEA INTERREG III B NP EVENTS

	Date	Place
Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation – meeting of funding programmes	10 February 2006	Rostock, Germany
Lead Partner seminar on Financial Management and Auditing (for projects approved in eighth call)	27 April 2006	Rostock, Germany
Baltic Sea INTERREG III B project conference – setting regions in motion	16-17 May 2006	Malmö, Sweden

NEWS FROM RUNNING PROJECTS: eHealth for Regions

Integrated Structures in the Baltic Sea Area – A model for developing eQualities in health

Imagine you are travelling on business or as tourist to another country in the Baltic Sea region and suddenly you need urgent medical treatment. Today the necessary information for the local medical doctors about your clinical history is not available right away across national borders. To improve such medical care of cross-border commuters and tourists the Interreg III B project "eHealth for Regions" aims at utilising existing e-health processes. Thereby the partners contribute to optimise the cross-border medical care and to improve the quality of medical care and raise patients' quality of life in the European Union in a more general perspective.

The European healthcare systems have to deal with the rising demand for services in addition to limited budgetary

conditions. Additionally, the gap between rural and urban areas in the Baltic Sea Region regarding accessibility to and quality of health care provision lead to unbalanced living conditions. Therefore, the regions need to ensure that citizens in both urban centres and peripheral areas have the same access to health care services. The project „eHealth for Regions" therefore focuses on the joint effort to solve these problems through promoting eHealth as an instrument for regional development. The project partners advance the integration of Information and Communication Technology in health care structures and processes in the partner countries and across borders. According to the basic idea to "move the information and not the patient" eHealth allows the connection of all involved actors in health care and patients with each other over distances in a more cost-effective way.

The project is structured into the four work-packages: Structures and processes (WP1), Network and business model (WP2), Technical aspects (WP3) and Pilot implementation in the field of telecardiology (WP4). Within the framework of "eHealth for Regions" the partners exchange knowledge and best practice experiences, develop trans-regional strategies, test and implement eHealth technologies. The findings and solutions can be transferred to other European regions and contribute to the modernisation of European health systems.



Since the project start in June 2004 the 17 project partners from regions covering almost the whole Baltic Sea area agreed to co-operate in the fields of telecardiology, eRadiology, eUrology and cross-border patient information exchange. As support of the project "eHealth for regions" a political strategic board was formed in November 2005. This board consists of representatives of the highest political level in the partner regions in eight Baltic Sea countries. The members of the political strategic board signed a Letter of Intent in Viborg, Denmark, to strengthen the cooperation between the Baltic Sea Regions in the healthcare sector. Until the project finalisation in May 2007 the project partners focus on intensifying the collaboration in the defined fields to safeguard the co-operation network in the long term and to pave the way to a "European eHealth Area" as demanded by the European Commission. •

Political Strategic Board, Signing of the Letter of Intent in Viborg, Denmark, 4th of November 2005

EX-ANTE EVALUATION – CALL FOR TENDERS OPENED

A call for tenders for the ex-ante evaluation of the Baltic Sea Programme 2007 – 2013 was opened. The exante evaluation will also include environmental assessment of the new programme. The call for tenders will be closed on Friday, 24th February 2006.

In case you are interested in participating the tender, please contact our website (www.bsrinterreg.net/news.html) for further information. •

More information: www.ehealthforregions.net



EUROPEAN UNION

NEWS FROM THE JOINT SECRETARIAT

New colleagues in the Joint Secretariat



Erja Lehtikoinen
External Relations Manager

Erja graduated and obtained PhD degree in Russian language and culture at University of Joensuu, Finland. She has work experience on public administration, educational planning, teaching and research, project development, coordination and implementation.

Erja deals with implementation of EU Tacis funding for Russian and Belarusian projects (Neighbourhood aspect), cooperation with the Russian and Belarusian advisors, advising EU applicants on how to include Russian/Belarusian partners in joint projects and assessment of joint project applications.

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Chiara Bearzotti
Financial Manager

Chiara graduated in international economics and continued with a master in web marketing and in European project management. She has been working with EU-funded projects, both for private companies and public administration.

Chiara provides support to project partners on budgetary, financial monitoring and control requirements.

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Bo Storränk
Project Manager

Bo is a biologist, and he graduated from Helsinki University in 1995. His background is mainly in management and monitoring of international projects, especially within the framework of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Bo worked also for the Finnish environmental administration.

Bo's main responsibility is monitoring the progress of the projects.

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Secretariat's Karlskrona office closed

As from December 2005 Karlskrona office of the Joint Secretariat for the Baltic Sea INTERREG III B program-

me is closed. If you need any assistance please contact Rostock office at info@bsrinterreg.net.

NO FURTHER REGULAR ERDF CALLS IN THE BALTIC SEA PROGRAMME

All ERDF funds in the Baltic Sea INTERREG III B programme are committed, therefore no regular ERDF calls for projects are planned to be organised in the future. Altogether there are 120 projects approved. •

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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