

BSR INTERREG III B NP NEWSLETTER NO 16 • 09.2004

Highlights:

- SIXTH CALL FOR PROJECT APPLICATIONS IS OPEN!
- NATIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE IN FINLAND
- SEED MONEY SIXTH ROUND
- FIRST CALL FOR IIIA PRIORITIES TO COME
- NEW COLLEAGUES IN JS

NATIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE – SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATION IN FINLAND

According to the BSR INTERREG III B programme documents "each participating state shall establish a national sub-committee in order to involve the regional and local authorities as well as the relevant sectoral authorities and institutions and non-governmental organisations". National sub-committees are organised in different ways, but they always ensure the information flow between the regions and programme administration.

In Finland national sub-committee is an important part of the BSR INTERREG III B entity. Regional and local authorities carry the main responsibility of implementing the projects. Each of the four Finnish regional alliances appoints two members as representatives of the regions. The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities appoints one member. Relevant ministries are also represented. Especially the ministries of interior and environment play an important role.

Mr Martti Ahokas from the Regional Council of Central Finland is the chairman of the Finnish national sub-committee and represents the Finnish regions at the Steering Committee. Furthermore, a part-time (approx 1 day/week)

advisor/secretary supports the national sub-committee in its tasks:

- Discussion on the Finnish national positions concerning programme development
- Contacts between the programme administration and Finnish national, regional and local actors
- Following BSR INTERREG III B project ideas, assisting in partner search
- Generating and encouraging project ideas
- Guidance to the project applicants and partners
- National preparation of the Monitoring and Steering Committee meetings
- Co-ordination of national co-financing

Communication and co-operation with the Joint Secretariat and other national sub-committees are most essential for our work. An opportunity – and a challenge – for the last programme years is to support the programme administration to generate project ideas so far missing from the project portfolio. To be pro-active!



Matti Lipsanen

Advisor/secretary of the Finnish national sub-committee

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SIXTH CALL FOR PROJECT APPLICATIONS IS OPEN!

The sixth call for project applications is open as from 23 August 2004 and will be closed on 24 September 2004. The Applicant's Pack (application form, co-financing statements and other accompanying documents) is available for download at www.bsrinterreg.net/toapply.html. The approval decisions on sixth round project will be made during the Steering Committee meeting in December 2004.

FOCUSED CALL FOR SEED MONEY APPLICATIONS – SIXTH ROUND

The 6th call for applications for the Seed Money facility (2.1., 2.2. & 3.) will be launched on 6 September and closed on 4 October 2004. Funding decisions will be made on 1 November 2004. The 6th Seed Money call is designed as an opportunity for project promoters to advance their ideas at an initial stage in order to prepare applications for the forthcoming 7th main call for BSR INTERREG III B projects in spring 2005.

The Programme has attracted great interest from a broad variety of municipal, regional and national partners in the Baltic Sea Region, coming from both the public and

private sector. Due to enlargement of the European Union and its implications for the region, additional funds have been allocated to the programme, resulting in a remaining budget of almost € 58 million. To date, funds have been committed to a total of 68 projects, altogether amounting to € 70 million. The programme has been very successful in meeting its objectives and priorities. However, as some measures of strategic importance to the BSR have not been fully addressed, the Steering Committee Task Force decided to concentrate on certain themes and to limit the 6th Seed Money call. The focus lies in Measure 2.1. (balanced polycentric settlement structures), Measure 2.2. (sustainable communication links) and Priority 3. (institutional capacity building).

FIRST CALL FOR IIIA PRIORITIES TO COME

Since this year our programme includes two new priorities aimed at cross-border cooperation (INTERREG IIIA strand): priority North shall support cross-border cooperation on the borders between Estonia, Latvia and Russia, and priority South will support cross-border cooperation between Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus.

The IIIA cross-border cooperation priorities will support projects aimed at minimising effects of the physical borders and promoting cooperation between people and institutions in the border regions.

At the moment the IIIA team in Joint Secretariat is finalising the documents and procedures required for the first call for

proposals and implementation of the new priorities. The Steering Committees for the IIIA priorities shall meet on 15 September in Vilnius (South) and 17 September in Riga (North). During these meetings the timeframe for the first call for project proposals and the related documents shall be discussed and approved.

It is planned that the first call for project proposals for the IIIA priorities will be launched on 1 October 2004 and closed in mid-November 2004. The second call is provisionally scheduled for spring 2005.

Please visit www.bsrinterreg.net/3a for IIIA related documents and further information.

PRO-ACTIVE TEAM IN THE JOINT SECRETARIAT

In the middle of this summer a new approach to BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme implementation has been given a start through the establishment of a Pro-Active Team. The team members are old and new colleagues from three Joint Secretariat offices: Roman, Kirsi, Marta, Rostislav, Wiktor, Vineta, Matthias W. and Joanna. The mission of the Team is to constantly enhance programme quality based on the management of the entire project cycle.

For that reason the 'core team' based in the Karlskrona (Wiktor, Matthias W., Joanna) and Riga offices (Vineta) are

to establish a consistent supervision process on all stages of projects. These include: (1) early stage project ideas scattered around the Baltic Sea, (2) more mature proposals entering the programme pipeline, (3) project applications bidding for INTERREG co-financing, (4) projects approved and contracted, and (5) projects completed. Promotion of mid-term and final outcomes of the projects in the latter stages (numbered 4-5) aims at benchmarking of the BSR Programme against programmes in other co-operation zones. It should also demonstrate positive effects of the INTERREG co-operation for spatial cohesion and sustaina-

ble development of the Baltic Sea Region, by means of its linkages to future large-scale investments.

A principle of working for the sake of the pro-active approach implies parallel support of the bottom-up co-operation in the BSR, and activation of new project ideas based on the programme request (promotion of missing topics and match-making of interested partners) through the so-called thematic intervention. Emphasis will also be placed on promotion of activities across INTERREG co-operation zones (e.g. joint actions with North Sea Secretariat).

More NEWS FROM THE JOINT SECRETARIAT

New colleagues started their work in the Joint Secretariat of the BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme in Summer 2004.

Below you will find brief presentations of Ms Leena Anttila (Rostock office), Mr Wiktor Szydarowski (Karlskrona office) and Ms Joanna Przedzimirska (Karlskrona office).

Leena Anttila – Programme Manager



Leena Anttila has graduated in agricultural sciences, land use economy and development studies and has post-graduated studies in EU project management. She has worked in the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture, dealing with regional rural development programmes and as managing authority of LEADER+.

Leena is responsible for overseeing and organising the overall implementation of the III B programme.

Wiktor Szydarowski - Programme Development Manager

Wiktor's background is geography and regional planning.



He graduated and obtained a PhD at Gdansk University. He has an extensive experience with theory and practice on local and regional development issues in public administration, including programme development and management of INTERREG funds. Recently he managed the INTERREG III B project 'Baltic Gateway'.

Wiktor is responsible for the project generation processes and the development of the programme. He is also a leader of the "pro-active team".

Joanna Przedzimirska - Project Development Manager



Joanna graduated in physical oceanography from Gdansk

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAMME (2004-2006) IMPLEMENTATION

In the sixth call for proposals only EU and Norwegian project partners can apply for the INTERREG funds.

The financial possibilities for Russian and Belarusian partners are foreseen only for the coming calls in 2005. Though in the application the activities and contribution to the joint project should be described.

The Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat of the BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme submitted a Position paper to the European Commission in July 2004 as a reply to the NP Implementing Guidelines (published by the Commission in June 2004). The discussion between the INTERREG and Tacis stakeholders on introducing joint management structure is planned during autumn 2004. The coming NP events are listed in the events table.

University. She has experience in research and managing projects on water and natural resources management.

Joanna is supporting project partners in development of their projects ideas as well as facilitating the partnership building.

A new **IIIA team** has been established at the Riga office. The team is mainly responsible for management of the two IIIA priorities Estonia – Latvia – Russia and Latvia – Lithuania – Belarus.

**Ieva Kalniņa -
Head of Riga Office**



Ieva has broad practical experience in the areas of project management, public administration and regional development. She has been involved in managing the ECOS-Ouverture, Phare CBC, as well as in development of the INTERREG III B, IIIC and IIIA LT – PL–RU (Kaliningrad) programmes.

Ieva is responsible for overall management of the IIIA priorities and efficient work of the office.

**Iveta Puzo –
IIIA Project Manager**



Iveta has graduated from the University of Daugavpils, whe-

re she studied German and English. Iveta has experience of working in regional development projects in Latgale region.

Iveta is responsible for the implementation of the IIIA priorities, having a particular focus on co-operation with the Latvian, Russian and Belarusian authorities involved.

**Birutė Markevičiūtė -
IIIA Project Manager**



Birutė graduated in international relations and political science at Vilnius University. She completed EU training course programme and worked at the Regional Policy Department of the Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania.

Birutė is mainly responsible for the management and administration of INTERREG IIIA Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus cross-border priority.

**Peeter Unt -
IIIA Project Manager**



Peeter worked as a project manager of several national, cross-border and pan-Baltic environmental projects dealing mostly with water management and public participation.

Peeter is responsible for implementation of the new INTERREG III A priority Estonia-Latvia-Russia.

**Signe Raikstīņa -
Programme Assistant**



Signe is studying Law at the University of Latvia. Signe is responsible for general administration and other regular administrative work.

BSR INTERREG III B NP EVENTS

	Date	Place
INTERREG IIIA information seminars	August – September 2004	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
Sixth call for project applications	23 August – 24 September 2004	applications to be sent to Rostock, Germany
Individual project consultations with the Joint Secretariat	1-3 September 2004 6-8 September 2004	Karlskrona, Sweden Rostock, Germany
Sixth call for Seed Money applications	6 September – 4 October 2004	applications to be sent to Karlskrona, Sweden
Steering Committees IIIA South priority meeting	15 September 2004	Vilnius, Lithuania
Steering Committees IIIA North priority meeting	17 September 2004	Riga, Latvia
Neighbourhood Programme Info Seminar (organised by the Commission)	15 september 2004	St.Petersburg, Russia
Neighbourhood Programme Info Seminar (organised by the Commission)	17 September 2004	Minsk, Belarus
Steering Committee III B priorities 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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