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AMENDING THE PROGRAMME

The BSR INTERREG III B Community Initiative Programme (CIP) is being amended due to:

- EU enlargement
- Inclusion of two new IIIA priorities
- Findings of the Mid-term evaluation
- New Neighbourhood process

The Monitoring Committee discussed the CIP at its

meeting in Stockholm on 16-17 October 2003.

Currently the CIP is being redrafted and will be sent for the written procedure to the Monitoring Committee. Intention is to send the amended CIP to the Commission in mid-November 2003. For more information about the amendment process please contact Mr Bo Löwendahl (bol@balticinstitute.se).

UPGRADING OF THE PARTNERS FROM THE NEW MEMBER STATES PARTICIPATING IN PROJECTS APPROVED IN THE 4TH ROUND

In the view of the upcoming enlargement of the EU in 2004, the projects approved in 2003 (i.e. fourth call) are given the possibility of including partners¹ from the new Member States retrospectively as financial partners, eligible

for receiving ERDF funding as from 2004. Applications for upgrading the partners are already sent to the concerned projects. The deadline for sending in the completed applications is set for 10 November 2003.

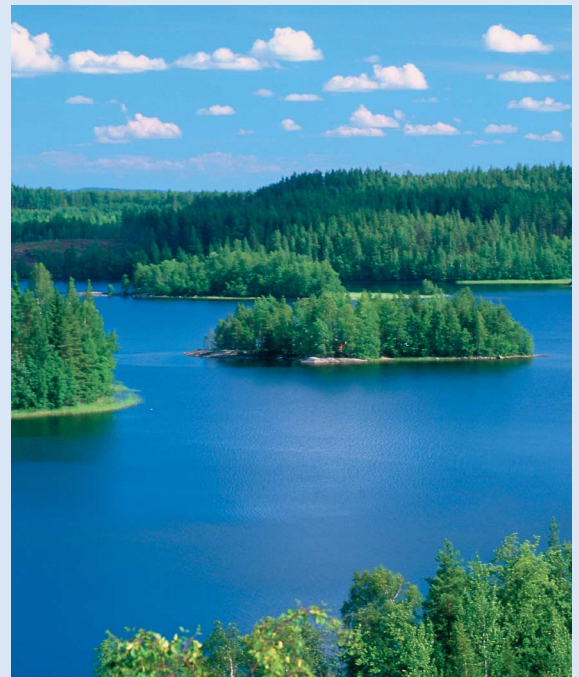
PROJECT CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH THE JOINT SECRETARIAT IN JANUARY 2004

Applicants applying for funds from the BSR INTERREG III B programme in the fifth call (Winter 2004) are welcome to make an appointment for one hour individual project consultation with the Joint Secretariat during weeks 3-5 in 2004.

The meetings will take place in Karlskrona and Rostock and will cover issues related to the

development of the project rationale (main focus and content) and the various work-packages as well as budgetary and financial matters.

For more information please contact Mr Bo Löwendahl (bol@balticinstitute.se) or Mr Roman Kozlowski (rk@bsrinterreg.net).



FIFTH CALL FOR PROJECT APPLICATIONS

The fifth call for project applications will be open on 12 January 2004 and will be closed on 27 February 2004. From the fifth call on, the four BSR Accession Countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania & Poland) will be eligible for full participation in ERDF funded projects, both as Lead Partners and project partners.

The decision on approvals will be made during the SC meeting that is scheduled for June 2004. The Applicant's Pack will be updated and available for download on the www.bsrinterreg.net at the beginning of January 2004.

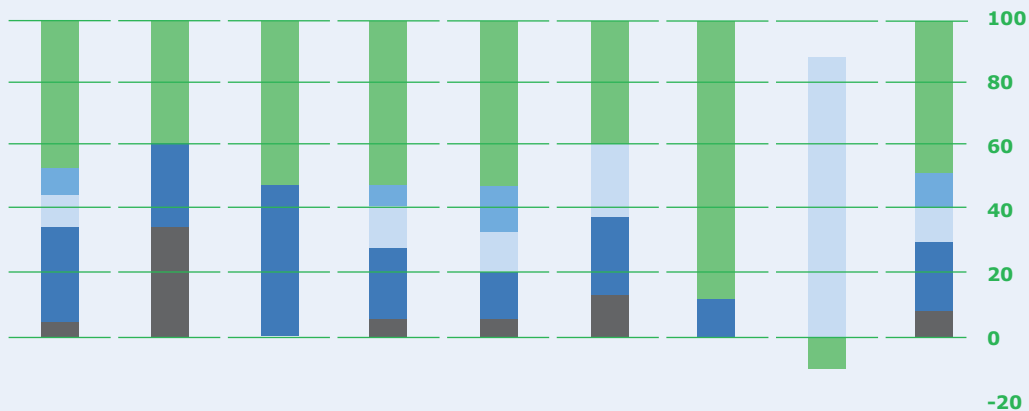
¹Only partners listed in the approved application form.






COMMITTED & REMAINING FUNDS

Macro-regions
Sustainable development of specific sectors
Integrated development
Polycentricity
Communication links
Cultural and natural heritage
Institution building

1.1 1.2 1.3 2.1 2.2 2.3 3 4 Total %

The following table gives an overview of committed and remaining funds (per measure) in the BSR INTERREG III B programme after 4 application rounds.



	Total available ERDF budget:	8.374.800	2.348.400	3.275.100	11.028.000	10.609.000	3.905.600	12.095.000	-568.290	51.068.000	Euro
	Approved projects - fourth round	1.608.000	0	0	755.709	2.611.000	0	0	0	4.974.700	
	Contracted projects - third round	1.604.500	0	0	2.052.500	2.313.300	2.249.400	0	3.518.000	11.737.000	
	Contracted projects - second round	5.375.201	1.539.956	2.574.815	4.531.724	2.920.962	2.400.877	1.804.500	0	21.148.035	
	Contracted projects - first round	587.419	1.961.500	0	1.115.900	1.029.100	1.186.000	0	0	5.880.000	

SEED MONEY

The fourth call for seed money applications was closed on 8 September 2003.

21 seed money projects applied in this call. Project applications are being assessed by the JS and decisions are expected on 31 October 2003.

For more information on seed money please contact Mr Mattias Alisch (ma@balticinstitute.se).

MID-TERM EVALUATION

Rambøll/PLS delivered the draft mid-term evaluation (MTE) of the BSR INTERREG III B programme on 1 October 2003.

The Monitoring Committee examined the draft evaluation and discussed the changes in the programme, necessary to reflect the findings of the mid-term evaluation. The final MTE report will be available by the end of 2003.

UPCOMING BSR INTERREG III B EVENTS

	Date	Place
INTERREG Information Day for Objective 1 areas	7 November 2003	Rostock, Germany
„Upgrading NMS partners“ round closing date	10 November 2003	Rostock, Germany
Fifth call for project applications	12 January - 27 February 2004	Rostock, Germany
Project consultations	week 3-5 2004	Karlskrona/Rostock
Steering Committee meeting (preliminary)	January 2004	
Monitoring Committee meeting (preliminary)	February 2004	
Steering Committee meeting	June 2004	

INFO-ACTIVITIES IN NEW MEMBER STATES

A series of info-activities regarding INTERREG programmes will be organised in new Member States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland) in Autumn/Winter 2003/2004.

The info-activities (info-seminars, workshops, trainings and publications) aim at increasing awareness on INTERREG programmes and development of project ideas.

For more information about the info-activities please contact Ms Marta Plichta (mp@bsrinterreg.net).

More NEWS FROM THE JOINT SECRETARIAT

Ms Corinna Pankow joined the JS team on 1 September 2003 as Accountant – MA/PA Assistant. Corinna is responsible for providing efficient service to Managing Authority (MA) and Paying Authority (PA) as well as supporting both secretariats in running the day to day accounting business and other regular administrative work.

Ms Eeva Rantama started her work in JS on 1 October 2003 as Project Manager. Eeva is responsible for monitoring of the approved projects.

For more details about the JS staff please go to www.bsrinterreg.net/contacts.html.

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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