
INTERREG IIIB BSR Measure 2.2

A concept of a thematic workshop on transport and ICT measures in transport

Context

1. After five calls for proposals launched in the BSR INTERREG IIIB Programme, the financial residue in the Measure 2.2 is over 14 million euro, which provides room for 14 average-size transnational projects to be approved upon three forthcoming calls.
2. In its Action Plan for Priority 2, the BSR INTERREG III B Joint Secretariat identified missing themes in the Measure 2.2, which need to be tackled by prospective projects. They include: safety at sea, motorways of the Baltic Sea, improved access to and more efficient use of ICT, interregional and hub-bound air traffic and finally – a pan-Baltic multimodal transport strategy.
3. There is an evident interest of pan-Baltic organisations in applying for INTERREG funds in the field of transport and ICT. Over the time span of the recent months the Joint Secretariat held consultations with CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, Baltic Development Forum and Union of the Baltic Cities on their conceptual ideas. Transport-related ideas are also being developed by the Baltic Motorways Task Force (chaired by the Finnish Ministry of Transport) and Region Blekinge (mandated by SydSam to develop a transnational project on 'Maritime Safety').
4. In the light of the adopted new orientation of the pro-active approach, the Joint Secretariat is willing to facilitate the pipeline process in the Measure 2.2 through co-ordination of individual actions and adequate advice on themes appropriate for being developed by relevant organisations. Several instruments have been discussed to achieve a better coverage of the measure's content, with a thematic workshop among them.

Purpose of the thematic workshop

5. The workshop should provide a platform for discussion and agreement of the scope of actions, which would respond to:
 - expectations of the VASAB Committee towards strategic transport initiatives in the BSR to be highlighted at the forthcoming ministerial conference in October 2005;
 - request from the BSR INTERREG IIIB Steering Committee on projects covering missing themes in the Measure 2.2.

The main outcome of the workshop is **to pinpoint 2-3 project ideas mature enough** to be submitted for the prospective call for proposals in February 2005.

6. Both BSR INTERREG IIIB Joint Secretariat and VASAB 2010 Secretariat will stand as organisers of the workshop. Practical arrangements will be handled with the assistance of the marketing department of the Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein as the Managing Authority for the BSR INTERREG III B Programme.

7. The audience should be restricted to not more than 30-40 experts in transport and spatial planning representing:
 - pan-Baltic organisations, including: BSSSC, CMPR (Baltic Sea Commission), Baltic Development Forum, Council of the Baltic Sea States (ad hoc Working Group on Transportation), Baltic21 Transport Sector;
 - interested members of VASAB 2010 Committee on Spatial Development and BSR INTERREG III B Steering Committee;
 - representatives of national ministries responsible for transport in the BSR countries, including national transport administration;
 - representatives of regions as potential project leaders (feedback from the BSSSC Annual Conference in Malmö, 21-23 October).
8. In order to secure attendance of participants from E-BSR countries, a reimbursement option for travel and accommodation costs is considered.
9. In order not to interfere with a planned Swedish seminar on future territorial co-operation under the ERDF Objective 3, and to synchronise the event with the BSR INTERREG III B Steering Committee meeting - it is proposed to hold the workshop on **8th of December 2004**. The suggested place is Lübeck, Germany.

Provisions for the thematic workshop

- First announcement of the event at the BSSSC Annual Conference in Malmö, 21-23 October – overview of existing project ideas within the pan-Baltic organisations active in the field of transport. First discussion on the probability of achieving a mature stage of project proposals by the BSR INTERREG III B call for proposals in February 2005.
- Preparation of a Call for Papers - inviting project promoters and important stakeholders or groups of interest in the BSR to submit their project ideas or proposals, or respectively their statements and position papers (targeted! see 7. Audience).
- Compilation of a handbook on 'Transport and ICT in Transport – Issues in the Baltic Sea Region' as preparatory document for participants.
- Design of the workshop mirroring the positions and perspectives of the invited parties, as well as the thematic scope on the basis of the papers submitted (topics of special interest to be highlighted, key notes/speakers, composition of working groups and project development sessions etc.).
- Report on the thematic workshop, including elaborated project outlines and partnerships to be envisaged.