



Questions and Answers

Interreg South Baltic 3rd Seed Money Facility

QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE SEED MONEY PROJECTS

1. How many countries from the South Baltic Area has to join the seed money project?

The minimum requirement for the seed money project partnership is two partners from two countries of the South Baltic Area. However, the Programme welcomes larger partnerships with more regions represented.

2. Is it possible to apply for seed money call for institutions outside of the Programme Area? If yes, what is the co-financing rate?

Yes, it is possible in justified cases. Please refer to section 2.1 and 2.2 in chapter 2 of the Programme Manual. However - with a few exceptions - only partners located in the South Baltic Area can act as lead partners of the project. The co-financing rate is 85% for all organisations from Germany, Lithuania and Poland and 75% for all institutions from Denmark and Sweden.

3. Is there a limit of applications sent by one institution (like University)?

There is no limit of project applications in which an institution can participate. Nevertheless, it must be emphasized that each seed money project proposal shall be a separate idea and shall stand on its own, even if there is overlapping between the partnerships.

4. Does each partner's project activities have to contain the same elements?

The project should be based on cooperation, partners cannot work in complete separation. However, different roles may be defined for the partners within the cooperation.

QUESTIONS ABOUT CO-FINANCING AND ELIGIBILITY OF COSTS

5. How much is the EU co-financing rate?

The EU co-financing rate is 85% in case of partners from Germany, Lithuania and Poland and 75% in case of partners from Denmark, Sweden or from countries other than Programme Member States.

6. Will be possible for institutions outside of the Programme eligible area to apply in regular calls during the next Programming period 2021-2027? What will be the co-financing rate?

Institutions outside the Programme Area will be eligible in the Interreg South Baltic Programme 2021-2027. The detailed rules of participation and the applicable co-financing rate will be defined in the final Programme documents to be published later.

7. How much is the co-financing rate for partners from Programme Member States, but outside the Programme area?

The co-financing rate is defined on country level, thus the co-financing rate is the same for every organization in the respective country. The co-financing rates are presented under Question 5.

8. The real costs of my organisation are higher (a) or lower (b) than the share from the lump sum.

- a) **Can I claim additional costs?**
- b) **Do I have to decrease the claimed amount?**

By nature lump sums may undercompensate (a) or overcompensate (b) the project partners. Therefore, the planned amount of the lump sum shall be claimed, regardless the real costs.

9. Are investment costs eligible?

Investment costs are not eligible in the Seed Money Facility. The seed money projects shall be focused on joint cooperation in order to prepare future regular projects. Therefore, the outcome such projects shall be a workshop and a concept paper.

10. Closure phase and closure costs – will those costs be reimbursed and how?

No, the reimbursement is made on lump sum basis only. Therefore, no actually incurred costs (and no closure costs) can be claimed.

QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE CROSS-BORDER WORKSHOP

11. What are the minimum requirements of the cross-border workshop?

The workshop should involve representatives of institutions relevant for the subject tackled in the seed money project, representing different types of institutions related to the problem (practitioners, industry experts, academia, innovators, local authorities, socio-economic partners, NGOs, etc.). The aim of the workshop is to exchange opinion on the issues included in the project concept paper and the proposed form of the workshop should ensure possibility for active participation of all the members.

12. In the seed money project we plan to organise on-site workshop and an online event. Does it mean that total budget related to Cross-border workshop in my project is 22 000 EUR (on-site event 15 000 EUR and online event 7 000 EUR)?

No. The total budget related to delivered outputs is independent from the number of workshops to be organised by the project. The total budget of a seed money project is 40 000,00 EUR if organising on-site workshop or 32 000,00 EUR if organising online meeting. We expect the partnership to organize one Cross-border workshop that will be verified as a project output. The partnership may organize more workshops and other events that are necessary to prepare the project concept paper, but these events will not be verified as project outputs and additional co-financing cannot be claimed connected to them.

13. In case I would like to implement a hybrid cross border workshop (part of participants will connect virtually, the rest would meet on site) which lump sum amount should be taken under account?

The relevant amount is as for an on-site event (15 000 EUR).

14. Who can be invited to the workshop? Only future project partners can participate? From what countries can participants attend the workshop?

The cross-border workshop in the seed money project shall address not only possible future partners in the future regular project, but also the target groups of the project, experts and other stakeholders. Therefore, the Programme expects workshops with diverse audience. Participants can come from countries outside the Programme Area (e.g. possible future partners or experts of a certain topic), but the event shall focus on the challenges and needs of the South Baltic Area addressed by the seed money project.

QUESTIONS RELATED TO PROJECT MONITORING AND REPORTING

15. What will be checked by the FLC if the whole project budget is based on lump sums?

The FLCs will check the correct application of lump sums, i.e. the claimed amount is in line with the Subsidy Contract and the Application Form.

16. In the project we are planning to externalise certain tasks. How should we implement and report the public procurement since only the correct application of lump sums are checked within the financial part of the report?

Indeed, during the verification of the project progress report expenditures incurred will not be verified against the eligibility rules. However, project partners are obliged to observe and follow EU and national regulations regarding the financial management of the project and implement the public procurement in line with them. The underlying documentation shall be stored by the project partners.

17. Are all project partners required to choose First Level Controllers?

Despite being granted reimbursement on the lump sums basis, project partners are required to cooperate with the First Level Controllers in order to approve their partial reports. Partners from countries with decentralised First Level Control systems (Denmark, Germany and Lithuania) should plan subcontracting of a FLC in advance of submitting the partner progress report. Partners from centralised FLC system (Poland, Sweden) fall under designated control institution. More about the FLC system can be found in the Programme Manual section VI Project implementation, point 8 Audit and control.

18. Will all project partners have the access to SL2014?

Yes, all project partners shall authorise their representatives to work in SL2014 system in order to report the seed money project implementation.

19. How to understand the implementation period? What should be the project start or end date?

The maximum project duration is 4 months and the latest possible end date of the project is 31st October 2022. The project may start its implementation period after the Monitoring Committee decision on project approval, that is envisaged for the 7th February 2022. However, we recommend not to plan earlier start date than the beginning of March 2022. Therefore, in the

application form the project shall define its implementation period (up to 4 months) within these dates. The tasks related to project clarifications and conclusion of the Subsidy Contract are envisaged for the period March-May 2022.

QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE FUTURE REGULAR PROJECT

20. The seed money project should be developed under the SOs of the current Programme, but contribute to the Measures of the next Programme. Are the SOs paired with the future Programme Measures or the project should define the relation?

Pairing the SOs of the current Programme is not pre-defined. When developing the seed money project, the partnership should select the 2014-2020 Specific Objective and the 2021-2027 Programme Measure under which the identified challenge can be addressed.

21. Specific Objective 3.1 (Improve the quality and environmental sustainability of transport services in the South Baltic area) is open for funding in the seed money call, but the future Programme does not have a Measure addressing transport issues. What type of seed money projects are expected under SO 3.1?

Seed money projects under SO 3.1 may focus on transport issues that are addressed under different Measures by the future Programme (e.g. digitisation of ports under M 1.1 or promoting the use of green energy in vehicles under M 2.1).

22. Can the partnership in the new Programme work on the adoption and implementation of the know-how of one partner by another?

Adoption and implementation of existing know-how can be an activity of regular projects in the new Programme. However, while developing the concept of the future regular project, the expected indicators in each Programme Measure shall be checked since the project outcomes have to contribute to at least one of these indicators. This indicator in many cases is "jointly developed solutions" that implies that the project outcome has to be developed jointly within the framework of the project.

23. Is SO 5.1 focused more on building new networks or strengthening already existing ones? Or it does not have any relevance for the Application Form/project?

Considering the 2014-2020 Programme, SO 5.1 focuses on improved cooperation capacity that includes networks, but not necessarily. However, in the future Programme the corresponding Programme Measure 4.1 will focus on creating new formalized ways of cooperation (please see the planned indicators for this Programme Measure in the Cooperation Programme 2021-2027). This should be considered by the seed money projects that will focus on developing regular projects under Programme Measure 4.1.

24. Knowing that the Interreg South Baltic Programme 2021-2027 is not finalized yet, do you have a qualified guess when the first regular call will be published?

The first call for proposals in the Interreg South Baltic Programme 2021-2027 can be expected in late 2022.

25. What if a project receives funding from the "Seed Money" facility but the regular project is not selected for funding later under the new Programme?

In this regard the seed money project is independent from the future regular project. In case of successful implementation, the seed money project will be reimbursed independently from the approval or rejection of the future regular projects. On the other hand, building on a project concept developed in a seed money project will not guarantee the approval of the future regular project. In addition, future regular projects that are based on a seed money project implemented in the South Baltic Programme or on seed funding from other resources will not be able to claim additional preparation costs in the future regular project.

26. If the project decides not to apply in South Baltic Programme 2021-2027 with the developed project concept, how the partnership should describe the outputs in the project concept paper?

In this case, the partnership should define the outputs that are needed to address the main challenge. If the partners already know that they will apply under other funding sources the concept paper should include a description of the links between defined outputs/identified challenges and other funding schemes.