

Annual Implementation Report 2015

Citizen's summary



Kick-starting the new programme

The programme was approved on 16 December 2014 and the first call was opened for applications on 18 December 2014. The programme had been in active implementation since the summer of 2014, when preparations and communication activities for the first call started.

The first call was opened simultaneously for small projects and regular projects. In total 177 applications were received. Based on the assessment made by the JS, the Steering Committee selected projects for funding in its first meeting in April 2015. In total 7 small projects were approved and 42 regular projects were approved to the second step. Of the 42 projects, finally 35 projects could be selected for funding by the Steering Committee in June 2015. The approved projects represent a financial allocation of more than 47 MEUR of the 115 MEUR reserved for projects, meaning that 41% of the programme funds have been allocated.

2015 was a relevant year to make the new result orientation approach work for Central Baltic programme. The new logic has been extensively explained to applicants in programme events and individual consultations.

The 42 projects approved in the first call have started their active implementation. The first projects started already in May 2015, whereas the majority of projects started during the autumn of 2015. Each project has been designated a contact person, responsible for support to and monitoring of the projects.

The second call was launched on 24 August, 2015 and in total 148 applications were received. The assessment of these applications was made by the end of the year in view of the Steering Committee meeting in January 2016.

Active communication

Programme communication has been effective in the whole programme area with the new setup of national Contact Points (CPs) in all Member States (and Åland). The main principle has been that the JS sets up the strategy and tools for communication and the CPs implement the majority of the day-to-day communication activities in their respective MS. The CPs give consultation for initial project ideas and support in partner search. The

detailed applicant guidance is in the hands of the JS.

The programme website, graphic guidance, templates, general information materials and social media accounts were produced and launched in 2014 and are now in active use.

A large number of projects are active in social media which makes it easy for anyone to follow their ongoing activities.

Going online

The Central Baltic programme decided already in 2013 to join the Interact eMonitoring System (eMS) initiative. Since this time the programme staff have participated in ongoing discussions and testing of the system.

The eMS is a complete system, which allows for all programme bodies to do its work in the system. Also applications are received in the eMS directly. Following application submission, the JS assess the projects in eMS. The Steering Committee decisions are recorded in eMS and projects selected for funding will report their costs and activities in eMS. Project reporting is done by partners and will then be transferred to the FLC, LP and JS/MA. The eMS also allows for the Certifying Authority tasks to be completed, both in relation to projects and towards the European Commission.

There are to date almost 30 ETC programmes that have taken the eMS into use. These programmes are represented in the eMS user group, coordinated by Interact. The eMS will be further developed by Interact but also as a joint effort of the eMS user community.

Priorities - from words to action

In the priority Competitive economy, the programme has managed to attract professional organizations from fields of new business development (for SO 1.1), youth entrepreneurship (for SO 1.2) and existing clusters interested in going to new markets.

In the priority Sustainable use of common resources, the programme has received a high number of applications especially for activities to develop natural or cultural resources into sustainable tourist attractions (SO 2.1). Projects dealing with better urban planning (SO 2.3) and reducing nu-

trients, hazardous substances and toxins' inflow into the Baltic Sea (SO 2.4) are also being implemented.

The Priority 3 Well-connected region deals with issues that are new in the Central Baltic programme setting. There are already several projects dealing with improved transport flows of people and goods (SO 3.1) and with improved services of small ports (SO 3.2). The current projects' target is to improve 38 transport corridors/nodes and 30 small ports.

Through Priority 4 projects in SO 4.1 are targeting different communities, some of the most important ones being elderly, children, Estonian immigrants in Finland and youth in danger of social exclusion or deal with the alignment of vocational education and training programmes in the region (SO 4.2).

The 1st call projects have started the implementation. Based on applications the projects would fulfil the result indicator Share of aligned VET programmes in the CB region already to a very high degree. It is thus likely that the result indicator and Output indicator of the SO will be fulfilled already by the projects from the first two calls.

All approved projects have been carefully screened for their contribution to the programme's result or output indicators. The new programme logic requires of all projects to produce something concrete and really contribute to change in the region.

As the first call projects have mostly started in May or September 2015, the first deliverables or results are starting to emerge from the projects.

Looking ahead

During 2015 the second call of the programme was launched. Decisions on project funding will be taken in 2016. The third call will be launched in 2017, taking into account the lessons learned and the funding situation so far.

Projects from first call are already going strong!



MASAPO - Development of Maritime Safety in the Small Ports in the Baltic Sea Region



GreenAgri - Environmentally-friendly Management of Organic Fertilizers in Agriculture



RIBS - Rolling Images in Business Startups