

Annual Implementation Report 2017

Citizen's summary



EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

What did the year 2017 look like?

The year 2017 in the Central Baltic programme has been characterised by busy project implementation and allocating the remaining programme funds.

In the third call, seven small projects were approved and 32 regular projects. By now, around 90% of programme funding has been allocated.

During 2017, 10 projects were finalised. The ended project are mostly small projects from the SO 4.1 (More people benefiting from stronger Central Baltic communities), but also one VET training project and two transport projects ended. Information about the results and deliverables of these and other projects can be found on our website in the section “Our projects”.

With a large number of projects reporting and funds being committed, our focus is shifting from information to applicants to information to beneficiaries. During 2017 several supporting events or materials were made available to projects.

The high number of implementing projects along with the allocation of most funds was also reflected in our communication.

In communication, we put focus on the use of our electronic platforms. This took place in social media and by developing our webpage and project database further. A particular achievement worth mentioning is the activation of the programme’s Facebook project communication group, where projects can share their events and visibility. In the group, there is now high activity. The feed is also displayed on our webpage.

Priority 1 - Competitive Economy

In the third call Priority 1 received in total 17 project applications, out of which six were approved. One small project was, however, not contracted. All three Specific Objectives (SO) received applications, but for 1.1 (new joint companies) none were approved.

The ongoing projects are generally achieving the indicator target values well, but there is a need for more projects contributing to SO 1.1 (new joint companies) and 1.3 (exports to new markets).

Priority 2 - Sustainable Use of Common Resources

In the third call Priority 2 received in total 29 project applications, out of which seven were approved. All four SOs received applications and at least one application was also approved for each of them.

Ongoing projects’ contribution indicates fully achieving the indicator target values set for Priority 2. A few more projects will be financed under SO 2.1 (tourism development) to secure this. Four projects have successfully acquired the EUSBSR flagship status.

Priority 3 - Well-connected Region

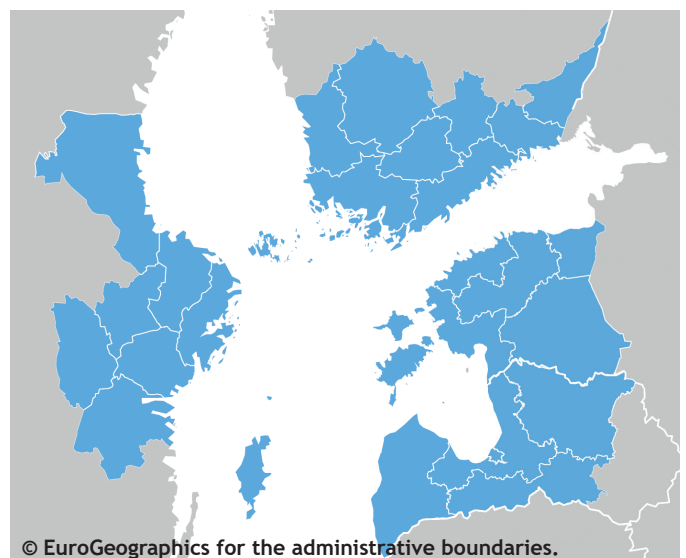
In the third call 12 applications were received in the priority and seven projects were finally approved. Both SOs received applications and projects were also approved for both.

Despite the relatively low number of applications compared with other priorities, Priority 3 is well on target to reach its quality objectives. Projects from two first calls already meet the programme indicator target values. SO 3.1 (Improved transport flows) will be open for applications in the fourth call.

Priority 4 - Skilled and Socially Inclusive Region

During the third call Priority 4 received 34 applications, out of which 12 were approved. One project failed to fulfil the conditions set by the Steering Committee and was not contracted. Projects were approved in both SOs.

Ongoing projects will otherwise fulfil the indicator target values, but applications for SO 4.1 (stronger Central Baltic communities) are still expected in the fourth call to secure sufficient contribution to expected programme results.



Some concrete examples from our great projects



Top: the WATERCHAIN project (01.10.2015 - 30.09.2018) tackles the inflows of nutrients and hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea from all types of land-based sources



Top: NutriTrade (01.09.2015 - 28.02.2019) With targeted fishing of cyprinid fish, the project pilot *Fish* aims to recycle a significant amount of nutrients from the marine ecosystem (Photo: Miina Mäki. Photo rights John Nurminen foundation).



Left: Plan4Blue (01.10.2016 - 31.12.2019) supports growth of the marine and maritime sectors by planning and managing Estonian and Finnish sea areas in the Gulf of Finland and the Archipelago Sea. This requires cross-border between various stakeholders and authorities.

Right: project Live Baltic Campus (01.10.2015 - 31.03.2018) worked on developing campuses as innovation hubs by creating better urban environment for businesses and residents and thus contributing to new job creation in the local economy.

