

Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020

How to take advantage of the Programme?

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consisting of several overlapping, wavy lines in shades of blue and green, creating a sense of movement and flow.

6th ERB Annual Forum, 2 November 2015

Jakub Fedorowicz

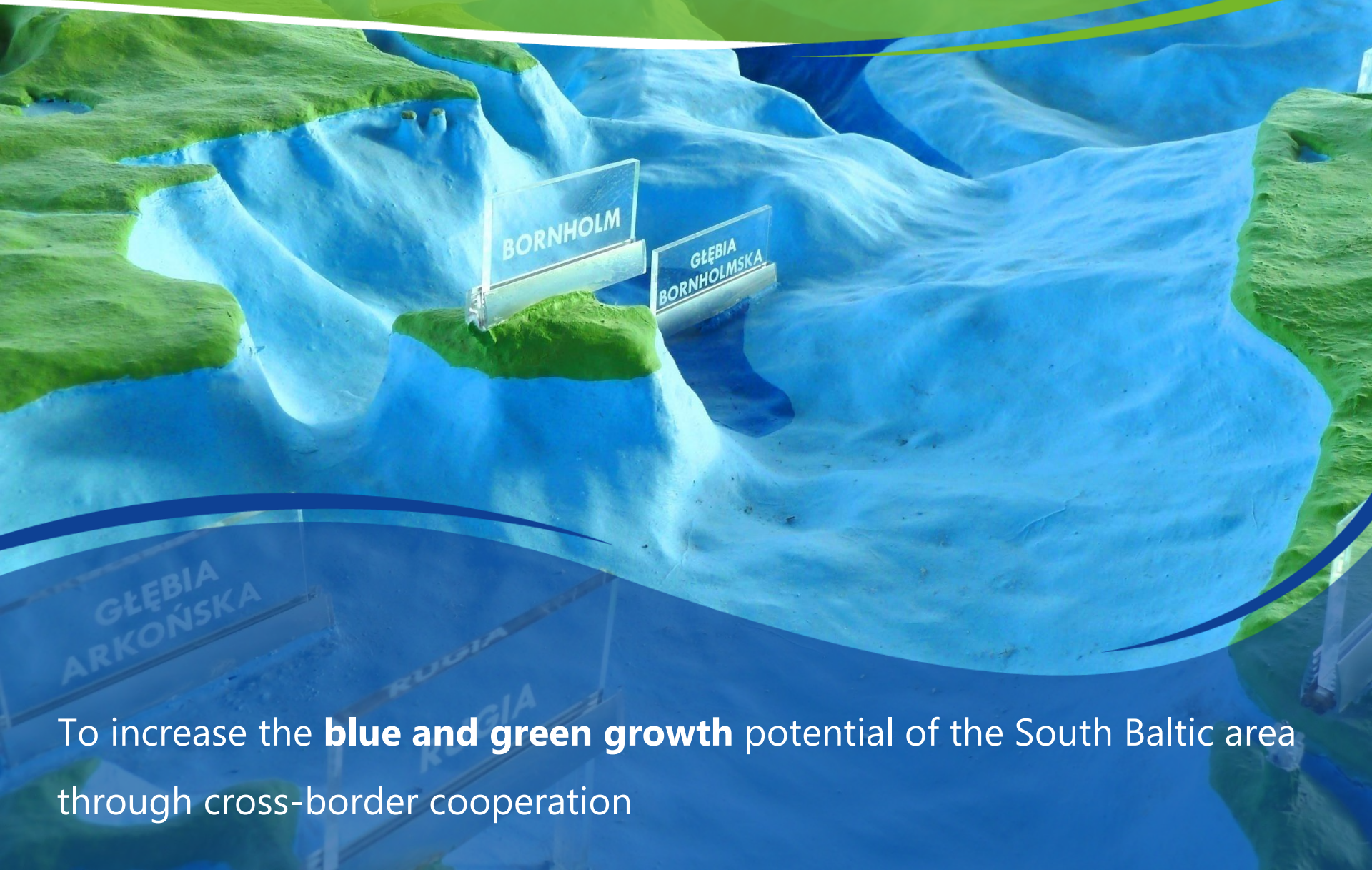
Joint Secretariat of the Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020

What needs to be considered?

- Strategic goal of the Programme,
- Strategic focus - Blue & Green concept,
- Partnership element,
- Cross-border approach,
- Intervention logic,
- Project generation process,
- Programme timeframe



Programme overall objective



To increase the **blue and green growth** potential of the South Baltic area through cross-border cooperation

Blue growth

Blue growth addresses the economic potential of the oceans, seas and coasts for sustainable tourism and growth:

- blue energy (OWE; tidal/ wave power)
- maritime, coastal and cruise tourism
- aquaculture
- marine biotechnology
- deep-sea and short-sea shipping
- coastal protection

Green growth

Green growth utilises natural resources in a sustainable manner, minimising the impacts on natural assets:

- renewable energies
- food manufacturing and processing
- green/ eco-tourism
- environmental management
- clean transportation and sustainable mobility
- green construction

Strategic orientation of the Programme

- multilateral cooperation between local and regional actors
- maritime and „soft“ cooperation
- emphasis on the joint development and testing of innovative solutions
- increased result-, impact- and change- orientation
- contribution to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
- active project development support by the Secretariat and Contact Points

Project types

Regular projects

- Recommended duration: 24 – 36 months
- Recommended total budget: between EUR 1 000 000 and EUR 2 000 000

Small-scale projects

- Recommended duration: up to 24 months
- Recommended total budget: up to EUR 300 000 (EUR 500 000 for Priority 5)

Possibility to support seed money projects

Who can participate?

Institutions with legal personality under one of the categories:

- national, regional and local authorities
- bodies governed by public law
- other entities established under public or private law operating for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character
- associations of one or several regional or local authorities
- associations of one or several bodies governed by public law
- European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)
- SMEs associations and clusters
- chambers of commerce, trade unions and NGOs.

Partnership

- **Lead Partner** principle
- **Minimum: 2 partners** from **2 different countries**, but
 - European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) if set by at least 2 public bodies across the border can implement project individually
 - Bilateral projects eligible in other ETC programmes only with a high model value and/or extended partnership consortium
- Complex, multilateral, **cross-sectoral partnership is an asset**

Partnership (cont.)

- Associated partners
 - important stakeholders / key target groups / end users of the project results
 - cannot claim ERDF co-financing
 - cannot be subcontracted by the project partners to carry out parts of their activities in the project
 - e.g. SMEs, organisations outside Programme area or outside EU

Co-financing rates

- PL, LT, DE – up to 85%
- SE, DK – up to 75%
- EU Partners coming from other than the Programme Member States – up to 75%

Geographical location of the project's activities

- in general, activities should be implemented in the Programme eligible area
- if for the Programme benefit - some activities may be implemented outside the Programme eligible area and on the territories of other EU Member States

20% eligibility rule – activities implemented outside Programme eligible area (monitored at the Programme level)

Cross-border approach

- subject to the quality assessment under the cooperation criterion
- four cooperation criteria (**all 4 criteria must be applied by the projects**):
 - joint development
 - joint implementation
 - joint staffing
 - joint financing
- projects should demonstrate **added value of the cross-border approach**

Cross-border approach in projects [3]

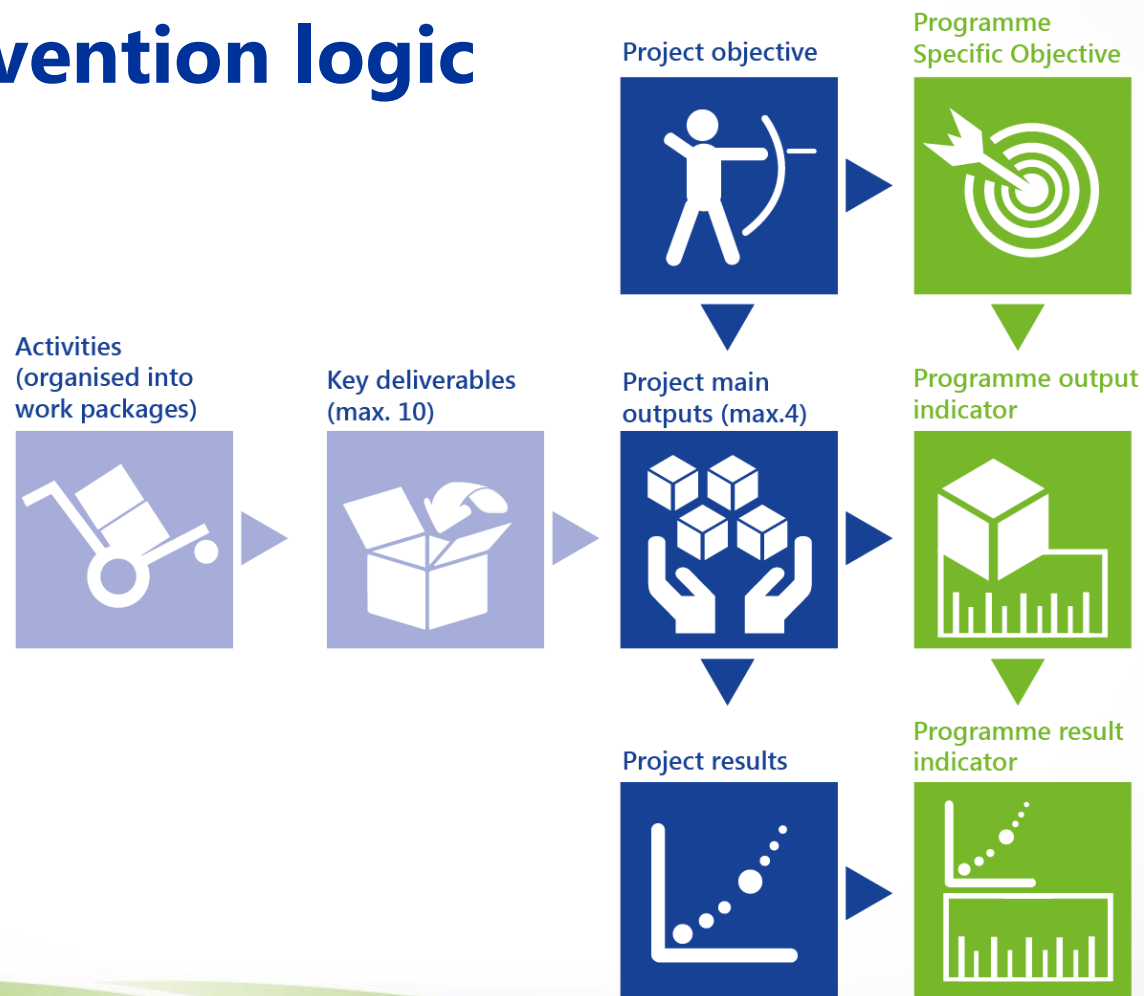
Project example 1

- **Project aim**
to induce intermodal passenger traffic **across borders** (public transport+ferry+public transport)
- **Clear challenge**
establishing a cross-border passenger traffic link is impossible if coordinated actions on both sides of the border are not ensured.
- **Cross-border effect**
the project addresses a genuine cross-border challenge that cannot be solved without cross-border actions.

Cross-border approach in projects [4]

- **Project aim** – to invent innovative waste water treatment procedures.
- **Project work plan**
 - invention of technological device in a municipal facility in one of the countries
 - revision and test of the device by experts of all participating countries
 - adjustment of the device according to recommendations and findings of the experts
 - adjusted and advanced technology is introduced and tested in one pilot facility in each of the participating countries
 - transfer workshops, recommendations introduce project's results
- **Cross-border approach** – the project improves local actions by making the most of exchange and transfer of successful practices across borders

Project intervention logic



Project intervention logic – Programme output indicators

- **SO2.1 – Increased development of the South Baltic area's natural and cultural heritage assets into sustainable tourist destinations.**
 - Size of pilot investments co-financed by the Programme in blue and green tourism infrastructure and services,
 - No. of delivered blue and green tourism services, products and tools,
 - Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions

Project intervention logic – Programme output indicators

- **SO4 – Boosting human resource capacities for the area's blue and green economy.**
 - No. of delivered cross-border employment schemes (i.e. services, model solutions, tools and programmes) and joint training supporting employment in the blue and green economy of the South Baltic area,
 - No. of stakeholders involved in the implementation of cross-border employment schemes and joint training,
 - No. of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training,
 - No. of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders

Project intervention logic – Programme output indicators

- **SO5 – Increasing cooperation capacity of local actors in the South Baltic area for blue and green growth**
 - No. of local actors involved in cross-border activities,
 - No. of joint capacity-building activities/events involving local actors.

Project generation process

How to prepare a project? (cont.)

- set a **start and end date**
- shape the **budget** (bottom up approach is recommended)
- set realistic **spending targets**
- plan adequate **dissemination and communication** activities
- prepare the **application form**, using Programme's support services (guidelines, consultations); make yourself familiar with relevant Programme documents and requirements

Project main outputs

- contribute to the Programme output indicators
- direct outcomes of the supported projects
- measure the achievement of project objective
- achieved by key deliverables

Project main outputs by the character:

- **product/service** main outputs - illustrate the direct, material effect of the project activities, measured, directly connected to incurred costs (i.g. developed IT system)
- **target-group** main outputs - illustrate direct effects of the implemented activities and launched products, are measured by their usage by end users (i.g. participants in the training scheme, enterprises involved in the network)
- Max. 4 main outputs, at least 1 target-group oriented

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Project generation process

How to prepare a project?



Project generation process

How to prepare a project? (cont.)

- specify your **idea**, clearly fitting to the Programme thematic scope and objectives
- define **results and impact** you want to achieve and check if **cross-border cooperation** can help you to achieve your objectives
- build up an appropriate **cross-border partnership**, that have a common understanding about the planned activities
- define **project activities**

Work packages

- demonstrate project structure
- group of activities leading to achieve key deliverables
- max. 6 work packages in the project (2 compulsory: WP1 'Management and coordination', WP2 'Communication and dissemination', at least one-max. four content-related WPs)
- lump sum for the work package 0 „Preparation” (if applicable) – no WP0 if the project received seed money from the Programme

Rules on cost eligibility

- EU rules
- Programme rules
- National eligibility rules

Eligible expenditure [1]

- related to the activities planned in the application form
- incurred within the period specified in the Subsidy Contract
- complies with the EU, Programme, national rules

Eligible expenditure [2]

- related and necessary to the project implementation
- follows publicity rules
- appropriately documented, entered in accounting system
- specified in the payment claim

Examples of ineligible expenditure [1]

- fines, financial penalties and expenditure on legal disputes and litigation
- costs of gifts, except those not exceeding EUR 50 per gift if related to promotion, communication, publicity or information
- cost of awards, except those not exceeding EUR 50 per award
- costs related to fluctuation of foreign exchange rate

Examples of ineligible expenditure [2]

- costs/expenditure resulting from statutory obligations of an institution and its current tasks
- costs of commissions incurred in relation to exchange operations
- costs of loans or credits
- success fee

Project budget structure

- 1 – staff costs
- 2 – office and administration
- 3 – travel and accommodation
- 4 – external expertise and services
- 5 – equipment
- 6 - infrastructure and works

Project costs – specific rules

- Shared costs not allowed in the SB Programme 2014-2020*,
- Flat rates (staff & administration),
- Voluntary work,
- Preparation costs.

State aid

- applies to activities of an economic nature
- assessed in all projects:
 - project self assessment
 - Programme assesment (provided by external experts)

Application procedure

- 2 calls for proposals per year
- Application package
 - Application form (excel version)
 - Project partner declarations (for all partners, including lead partner)
 - Letters of commitment (for all associated partners)
 - Letter of dedication and support from EUSBSR policy area/ horizontal action coordinator (if applicable)

Application procedure

- Formal and eligibility assessment
- Quality assessment
 - Strategic assessment criteria
 - Operational assessment criteria
 - New! - State aid assessment

- Strategic assessment criteria
 - Projects' context (relevance and strategy)
 - Cooperation character
 - Contribution to the Programme's objectives
 - Partnership relevance

- Operational assesment criteria
 - Management
 - Communication
 - Work plan
 - Budget

Projects selection

- Decision of the Monitoring Committee after 14 weeks from the call closure (can be prolonged)
- Final approval after meeting conditions and clarifications (if applicable)
- Complaints

How to join the SB project?

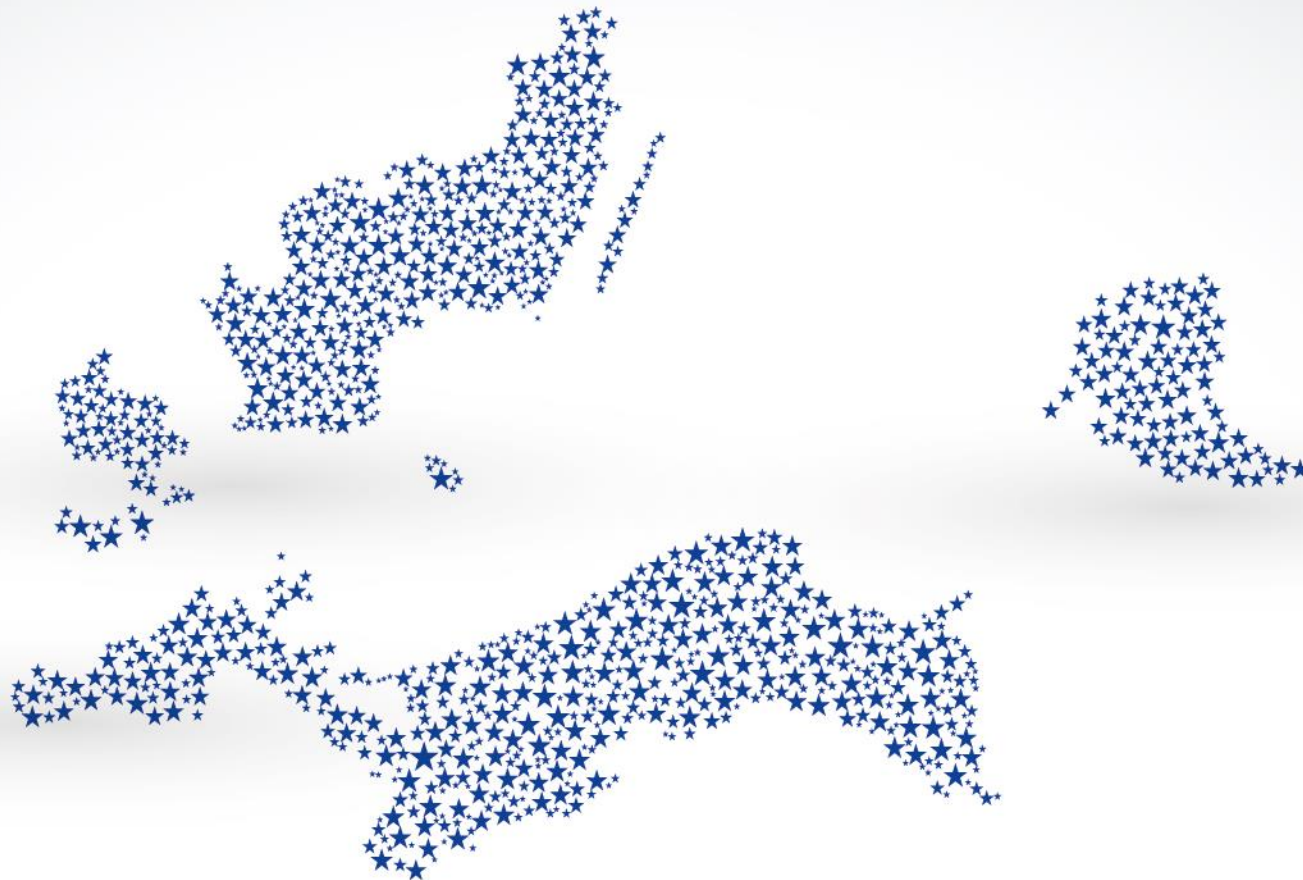
- Smart Alliance tool
- Knowledge Bank
- Seed money projects
- Contact Points
- Joint Secretariat

Practical recommendations

- min. 6 months for project preparation
- joint meetings to get common perspective
- clear understanding of the project intervention logic
- strong cross-border relevance
- solid communication strategy

Programme timeframe

- **1st Call for Proposals - 2 November – 18 December 2015**
 - Project consultations: 3-20 November
 - Assessment: April 2016
 - Decision: April 2016
 - Contracting: August 2016
- **2nd Call for Proposals - 9 May – 17 June 2016**
 - Project consultations: May 2016
 - Assessment : by September 2016
 - Decision: October 2016
 - Contracting: February 2017



Thank you!

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