



PARTNER SEARCH

Programme:	Project within the framework of the Interreg V-A Poland – Denmark – Germany – Lithuania – Sweden (South Baltic) Programme 2014-2020
Deadline:	April 1, 2017 – End of partner searching process May 2017 – Submission of a full project under the 4 th call for proposals
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Project Partners:	<p>Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic – The Association of Polish Communes (STG ERB) is non-profit cross-border cooperation organisation from Poland with member's municipalities from Pomorskie and Warmia-Mazury voivodships. It consists over 41 members - communes, counties and both self-governments acting as supportive members. Our activity is aimed at the development of international cooperation in different fields. It is contributing to the development of cross-border cooperation on a territory of Warminsko-Mazurskie and Pomorskie regions. The Association carries out its functions through professional services provided to its members. Association was held on 17 November 1997</p> <p>Civis Polonus Foundation - Civis Polonus Foundation (CPF) will serve as an expert in the area of youth civic participation (YCP) and young people's engagement in decision-making processes in their communes via Youth Councils (YC) and other forms of civic formal and informal involvement. CPF has 12 years of experience working in this issue area and in supporting other forms of youth engagement. We support districts', communes' and municipalities' YC in many ways. We facilitate work of particular YC and encourage local authorities to create conditions for youth involvement in decision-making processes. More than 40 Polish local communities have taken part in the organization's workshops and consultation activities. We also integrate people who are interested in YCP and YC via conferences and seminars where they have opportunity to exchange their experience - over 500 members of local authorities, NGO, teachers and youth have taken part in our events.</p> <p>Public Establishment Samogitia Community Foundation - operates in the west of Lithuania and covers four regions – Telsiai, Mazeikiai, Plunge and Rietavas. The foundation's purpose is to attract donors for NGO activities, strengthen the community and improve its quality of life. The Foundation regularly analyses needs of the regions, and works together with local</p>



	<p>authorities looking for optimal solutions to various problems. The major focus of the foundations activities targets young people and marginalized social groups. The foundation annually organizes grant-giving competitions for county NGOs, performs various campaigns (e.g., to celebrate the International Children's Day) to attract public attention towards issues of domestic violence, youth unemployment, youth participation, the needs of the elderly, and problems of the disabled, to help individuals or families in times of trouble.</p>
<p>Background of the project</p>	<p>The future project is a continuation of a smaller project (LYC SB - Local Youth Councils in SB – An Effective Way to Promote Youth Participation STHB.05.01.00-28-S066/16) which was submitted and has been financed from the first call for proposals under the Seed money facility of the Interreg South Baltic Programme. The current project is one of total 19 projects accepted by the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg Programme South Baltic 2014-2020.</p> <p>Realization period of LYC SB: 1.09.2016-31.01.2017 Partners engaged in the current project: LP (Lead partner): <i>Association of Polish Communes of Euroregion Baltic</i> PP (Project partner): Public Establishment Samogitia Community Foundation (NGO, Lithuania) PP (Project partner): Civis Polonus Foundation (NGO, Poland)</p> <p>Outcome of the current project: a draft of a larger application for the Interreg South Baltic Programme which will be devoted to youth participation and development of civil society in the South Baltic area by building a network of cooperation actors (partners) working to enable young people's involvement in decision-making processes at a local level.</p>
<p>Resources:</p>	<p>Programme Priority: 5 – Increasing the possibilities cooperation with local actors in the South Baltic area for the growth of blue and green</p> <p>Specific objective: 5 - Improve the ability to work with local actors of the South Baltic area through participation in cross-border networks</p> <p>Main Challenges according to the Programme Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive network of partners, organisations and institutions in the South Baltic Area, but with a limited number of organisations taking part in joint activities and reaping the benefits of cross-border cooperation for local development policies. <p>A need to increase the capacity and know-how of local South Baltic area actors through participation in cross-border networks.</p>
<p>Budget for</p>	<p>South Baltic programme intensiveness – up to 75-85% of a required project</p>



the future project:	budget. 500 000 euro – a provision calculation of the total budget for 24 months.
Time Frame:	24-months duration. Project will start November 1, 2017.
Participants/ beneficiaries:	<p>Currently looking partners in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Denmark – Regional Municipality of Bornholm and Region Zealand (subregions: Østsjælland, Vest- og Sydsjælland); - Germany – districts (Landkreise) of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: Nordwestmecklenburg, Rostock, Vorpommern-Rügen, Vorpommern-Greifswald and district-free city (kreisfreie Stadt): Rostock; - Sweden – Skane lan, Blekinge lan; Kalmar lan, Kronobergs lan. <p>One of the main challenges of our future project is developing a consortium which would involve some new actors (local government authorities and/or public institutions, universities, and NGOs - youth organisations in particular) in the future soft cross-border activities. The cooperation would cover some purposeful joint activities by new-comers and current actors within operating youth boards, as well as other forms of formal and informal youth participation in the South Baltic Area.</p> <p>No secret, that we Polish and Lithuanian organizations – participants of a Seed money project - can develop a more sophisticated project targeted at the improvement of the scope of cooperation among institutions, as well as extension of various opportunities for the residents of the countries in the South Baltic Area, only by way of dedicated international collaboration among various partners from the other three South Baltic countries, i.e., Denmark, Sweden and Germany. In the process of the development of the future project we would gladly utilize our new partners' experience, initiatives, ideas, and proven measures relating to enhancing youth commitment and its more purposeful civic participation in the concerned part of Europe.</p> <p>We have been looking for additional partners in Lithuania and Poland too. However, our major concern is identification of potential partners in Denmark, Germany and Sweden. We are more than sure that most of institutions in the concerned countries can boast of the extended international cooperation experience in the concerned issue areas, i.e., - youth participation, development of youth policy, etc.</p>
Project idea: (Aim)	<p>The project to be generated under the Interreg South Baltic Programme aims at increasing the impact of youth civic participation.</p> <p>So far, one of the major obstacles for full exploitation of youth potential is</p>



	<p>lack of international cooperation of various institutions or youth issue stakeholders.</p> <p>The future project is therefore expected to focus on building a network of South-Baltic partners who would be willing and dedicated to share their experience and otherwise contribute to developing relevant means and promoting the role of young people in the development of a democratic society, in particular in local and regional public life.</p>
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>Project objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To contribute to response to new challenges of the 21st century (such as urban society, information society); - To increase young people's awareness of all forms of participation in society; - To enable local and regional authorities with guidelines for how to conduct policies affecting young people in a number of areas; - Implementing tools and improving institutional conditions for furthering young people's participation.
<p>Activities</p>	<p>Provisional activities in the project could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An innovative pilot study based on an experiment related to civic participation of youth in communities - relies on giving to consult to young people (members of youth councils or youth community members) chosen by municipalities selected projects / documents / activities for resolving; - Spreading universal tool to communicate with the youth people - use of Lupp tool among communities (methodology of conducting local youth policy) - The creation of an informal network by sharing contacts, exchange of experience between participants of the project – f2f contacts, study visits; - Establishment of formal groups and connecting them to the ones existing on the local level in different countries – municipal youth councils, NGOs, individual young people in different countries at a local level; - Internalization of local actors (especially youth members) by including (choosing representatives from this new local networks) in the activities of the existing Youth Board of ERB; - Developing participation training for young people; - Support for and improvement of existing information and counselling centres for young people through information and communication technologies; - Support the creation and the functioning of the media (radio, television, the written and electronic press, etc.) developed by and for young people; - Promoting young people's organizations; - Development of a system of decision-making in a local government's partnership with young people and/or their organizations in policy areas of relevance to young people; - Promoting young people's participation in political parties (e.g.,



	<p>trainings on democratic decision-making structures and procedures, involvement in the party political system in general);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Putting in place structures or arrangements enabling the participation of young people in the decisions and debates affecting them; - Organizing “debates” or public hearings to involve youth; - Youth forums, councils, youth parliaments, structured dialogues, etc.; - Organizing forums where projects involving young people are developed and evaluated; - Capacity building activities - improving skills of actors by participation in thematic workshops, seminars, conferences; - Strengthening international cooperation by creating a regional platform for communication - joint international website, open-space online tool for voting; - Several youth mobilities; - Etc.
Results	<p>Short-term: Better understanding of youth participation needs (based on results on the LYC SB conducted analysis)</p> <p>Mid-term:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Networks and clusters created which link youth with local authorities, and youth organizations from local territories of the Member States of South Baltic; 2. Application of the survey “Lupp in municipalities of ERB” in order to create a knowledge-based strategies and actions aimed at young people - and provision of materials and the results of the research project among stakeholders [Luppe - Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society created Luppe (methodology of conducting local youth policy) in consultation with representatives of municipalities and scientists. This study is the basic model of the knowledge and the development built on the youth policy of municipalities]; 3. Practical experiment in communities, which will make young people’s voice heard - devotion to consult by youth a particular /document / action; 4. Practical and scientific results on civic participation actions - Creation of a guide, recommendations, publications (e-books). <p>Long-term:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth better informed on participation means, techniques, possibilities, importance, etc.; 2. Increased youth involvement in decision-making processes; 3. More youth retained in the region or more youth persuaded to return from “emigration”; 4. Acknowledgement of the importance of young people and their unique contributions they make or can make to their communities;



	<p>5. Young people's engagement impacts on their lives and their communities; 6. Youth councils work more effectively with and for young people; 7. A tool for comparing youth "situation" in the South Baltic region on a larger scale.</p>
Questions	<p>1. What are your organization's or country's challenges / needs regarding increased international cooperation regarding youth participation? 2. What are your strengths in youth civic participation or other related subjects that you would like to communicate and/or further develop and explore within the concerned project? 3. What is your experience in transnational (cross-border) EU projects, if any?</p>