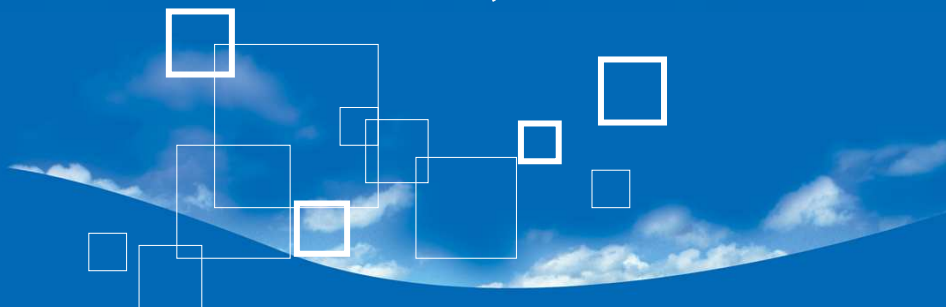


Objective 3 Territorial Cooperation (-ex INTERREG) as a Financing Instrument for NGOs

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Contents of the Presentation

- 1. Overview on the Objective 3 Territorial Cooperation Programmes of the European Union**
- 2. Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007 - 2013: Contents and funding framework**
- 3. What has to be considered if you as a NGO want to create or participate in a Territorial Cooperation project?**



Objective 3 “Territorial Cooperation”: Basic Ideas

International cooperation creates better solutions

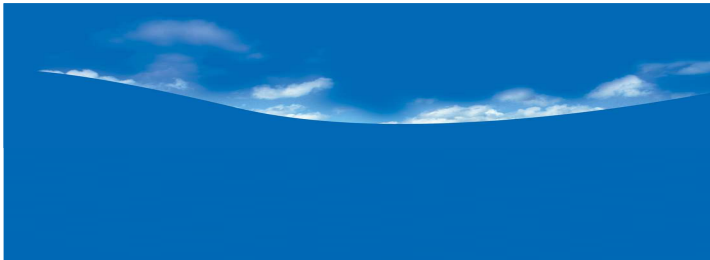
- ▶ Some problems can only be solved within international cooperation
 - ▶ e.g. to improve the water quality of the Baltic Sea, to manage a cross-border nature protection area
- ▶ An exchange of experience among „advanced ones“ can contribute to even better solutions, strategies and policies
 - ▶ they can generate model solutions that can be used by others afterwards and be an input / reference for future policy making
- ▶ The transfer of knowledge from „advanced ones“ to „not so advanced ones“ enhances problem solving capacities and decreases differences within Europe
 - ▶ to disseminate successful approaches throughout Europe by creating “advice partnerships”



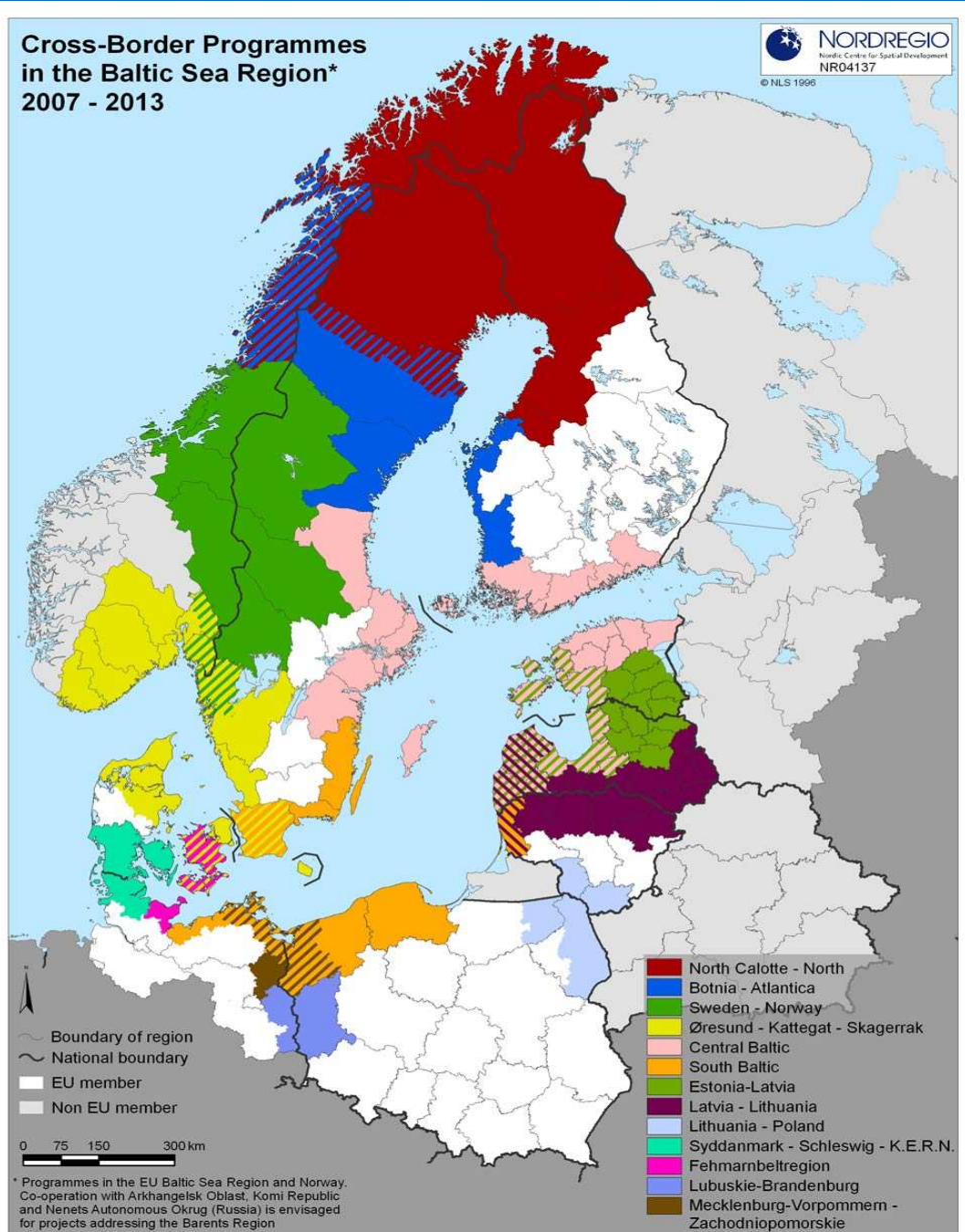
Objective 3 “Territorial Cooperation”: Strands

The three “strands” of territorial cooperation

- ▶ **A “Cross-border cooperation”**: joint projects along land and (new!) sea borders up to 150 km distance
 - ▶ focussing on border-specific, local issues
 - ▶ example: bicycle track around the Szczecin Bay in DE + PL
 - ▶ rather narrow programme areas along borders (~ county level)
 - ▶ but 10% of funds can be used in neighbouring region, 20% even outside EU territory
- ▶ **B “Transnational cooperation”**: solving problems in the common interest of cooperation areas (e.g. Baltic Sea Region, Central Europe)
- ▶ **C “Interregional cooperation”**: EU-wide knowledge exchange and transfer, drawing on best practice for the benefit of all regions
 - ▶ thematic foci: innovation, environment and risk management
 - ▶ no EU funding for partners from Russia and Belarus



The “Programme Mosaic” in the Baltic Sea Region





The Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013

The Baltic Sea Region Programme has some special features that may make it particularly interesting for you

- ▶ It is the only Territorial Cooperation Programme that has an **integrated programme area, thematic priorities and implementation rules for partners from within and outside the European Union**
 - ▶ it integrates ERDF (for EU partners) with ENPI (for RU, BY) funding
 - ▶ 20 % of project budget can be spent outside the programme area
 - ▶ equal participation of partners from Russia and Belarus (and probably Ukraine in the project is possible, funded by the EU

- ▶ “The Baltic Sea Programme **aims to involve several pan-Baltic networks** for better policies towards an integrated development of the Baltic Sea Region and for its better identity within Europe”
 - ▶ The Coalition Clean Baltic network can look at this as an invitation to contribute to the implementation and to use it for own actions



Eligible area of the programme

- EU Member States: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and northern parts of Germany
- Norway
- north-west regions of Russia
- Belarus



■ EU regions/member states
■ non-EU member states





Thematic Priorities of the BSR Programme

Priority 3: Management of the Baltic Sea as a common resource

- ▶ **Water management** with special attention to challenges caused by increasing economic activities and climate change
- ▶ **Economic management of open seas and sustainable use of marine resources**
- ▶ **Enhanced maritime safety**
- ▶ **Integrated development of off-shore and coastal areas**

Further fields of support

- ▶ **Priority 1: Fostering innovations** across the Baltic Sea Region
- ▶ **Priority 2: External and internal accessibility** of the Baltic Sea Region
- ▶ **Priority 3: Promoting attractive and competitive cities and regions**



To be achieved: “Transnational added value”

Projects funded within the Baltic Sea Region Programme have to **contribute to a sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region**, i.e.

- ▶ to take up **concrete** development **problems** or potentials and to solve / make use of them with competent stakeholders and experts
- ▶ to elaborate **innovative and transferable solutions** in an **international dialogue**, preferably in a **cross-sector approach**
- ▶ to **process + disseminate the new solutions** for the use by others

A **typical “transnational” working process** might involve

- ▶ a **joint definition of the problem**, **international exchange** on existing ideas how to solve it, and to derive a **common, innovative way of action** out of this
- ▶ (probably also...) to carry through local **pilot action** in order to test and further develop these approaches in practice
- ▶ to derive **transferable recommendations** for an implementation by others and/or **policy recommendations** for the national level in the Baltic Sea Region from the results of the project



Character of the Projects

In terms of contents...

- ▶ refer to topics identified under the priorities of the programme
- ▶ go clearly beyond local/regional/national actions > transnational
- ▶ show an innovative and cross-sector approach

In terms of partnership and organisation...

- ▶ involve partners from at least 3 countries contributing financially
- ▶ involve different kinds of partners (public authorities, NGOs, research institutions,...) and different fields of expertise (cross-sector partnership), strategic and local partners
- ▶ have a “Lead Partner” that takes over the overall administrative and financial management of the project and communicates with the programme secretariat on implementation issue on behalf of all partners

In terms of budget and time frame...

- ▶ project usually have budgets from 500.000 to some millions of EUR,
- ▶ last up to 3 years



Funding Framework

Funding is available for

- ▶ Public authorities and
- ▶ Public equivalent bodies (e.g. non-profit organisations / NGOs)

Co-financing rates

- ▶ 75% for partners from the old member states
- ▶ 85% for partners from the new member states
- ▶ 90% for partners from Russia and Belarus
- ▶ 50% for partners from Norway

Reimbursement Principle

- ▶ Partners have first to pre-finance costs for the implementation of their activities (expertise, travel costs, etc.)
- ▶ the EU share on the expenditures are reimbursed only, i.e. paid back after they have been actually paid by the partners and reported to the EU
 - ▶ this can be up to 12 months after the costs have incurred!



Schedule of the BSR Programme 2007-2013

Programme Initialisation

- ▶ Opening conference in Hamburg on 10/11 May 2007
- ▶ Technical aspects of application and implementation procedures to be defined in more detail and published in the next months
- ▶ Project development has already started
 - ▶ first exchange of project ideas at opening conference
 - ▶ website with project idea database is launched (<http://eu.baltic.net>)
 - ▶ several thematic “Partner Search Forums” are planned for 2007 (e.g. on climate change + bio energy in Turku/FI on 13/14 Sept 2007)

Application rounds

- ▶ usually 2 calls for project proposals per year
- ▶ First call to be launched in late 2007 / early 2008
 - ▶ Start of first projects can be expected for ~June 2008



Recommendations for NGOs

If you want to join or create a “Territorial Cooperation” project...

- ▶ do not **start from** the programme document but from your **own ideas**, what you need and what you want to achieve
- ▶ **use** your **international network** for promoting and discussing your ideas, adding to them an international perspective and finding the right partners
- ▶ **search for projects** that you can **join** before you develop own ones
 - ▶ Do they want to implement local pilot actions?
- ▶ **consider** carefully your **financial capacities**
 - ▶ you can generate your national co-finance by bringing in working hours of your permanent staff and even voluntary work “in-kind”
 - ▶ **but:** you need also cash for the pre-financing
 - ▶ if you are too weak alone, there might be other sources who can help you with this (national umbrella organisations? funds from national programmes and initiatives?)
- ▶ **contact other NGOs** that have successfully taken part in INTERREG projects, **they can tell you** how to arrange your participation!



Further Information on the BSR Programme

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Thank you very much for your attention!

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