



PA Education

Funding opportunities for projects

Guide to funding opportunities provided by the European Union for project initiatives in the policy areas of education, youth and labour mobility within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.



EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY
FOR THE BALTIC
SEA REGION



**PRIORITY
AREA EDUCATION**

Priority Area (PA) Education

Guide to funding opportunities provided by the European Union for project initiatives in the policy areas of education, youth and labour mobility within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Increased prosperity presupposes access to good education and training for all, an effective and inclusive welfare system and a well-functioning labour market supporting geographical, professional and socio-economic mobility. With multi-level-governance as a guiding principle PA Education involves policy at all levels. This document provides support to stakeholders with project ideas and with an interest in joining forces with others in the Baltic Sea Region addressing our common challenges in the policy areas of education, youth and labour mobility. For further information on PA Education please visit, <http://groupspaces.com/eusbsr-education/>.

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The authors consider this to be a living document, to be updated as necessary, based on user experience and notified changes in procedures or processes.

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EU Strategies and funding

Europe 2020 in a nutshell

Europe 2020 is the European Union's ten-year growth and job strategy. While European economies are now gradually recovering, Europe 2020 aims to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This strategy sets **common goals**: creating growth and jobs, tackling climate change and energy dependence, and reducing poverty and social exclusion. Read more [here](#).

The objectives of the Strategy are also supported by 'flagship initiatives' providing a framework through which the EU and national authorities mutually reinforce their efforts in areas supporting the Europe 2020 priorities such as innovation, the digital economy, employment, youth, industrial policy, poverty, and resource efficiency. A flagship project is a term commonly used in the new programme period. It is intended as an approach to planning and implementation of the project, based not only on the long-term success of the project but also its societal impact.

The EU objectives, to be reached by 2020, in five main areas are:

- Employment - 75% of the population aged 20-64 should be employed
- Innovation - 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in Research & Development
- Climate change - The "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right)
- Education - The share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of 30-34 years old should have completed a tertiary or equivalent education
- Poverty - Reduction of poverty by aiming to lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty or exclusion.

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

There are already three macro-regional strategies of which EUSBSR is one. The eight Member States in the Baltic Sea Region (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden) face several common challenges which are reflected in the jointly-agreed Action Plan for the Strategy. The three overall objectives are **to save the sea, to connect the region and to increase prosperity**. The Action Plan is divided into 17 Priority Areas and 5 Horizontal Actions - each accompanied by flagships (development processes) as well as by clearly identified targets and indicators. The Strategy is mobilising stakeholders with multi-level-governance as a guiding principle. Stakeholders are at EU, macro-regional, national, regional or local levels representing both public and private sectors.

Trends in funding period 2014-2020

- The simplification of procedures and the application of common principles for funding
- The decentralisation of the management of funds, with an increased role given to executive agencies
- Funding in the new programme period is granted to those projects that are supporting sustainable cooperation between the partners and where there is a possibility to design and maintain the impact of the project
- A decrease in the number of separate thematic programmes, reached by grouping the 2007-2013 programmes:
 - The Erasmus+ programme will include all branches of the 2007-2013 Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Comenius, Leonardo, etc.) and the Youth in Action programme

- The 2007-2013 Culture and Media programmes will be grouped together in the 2014-2020 Creative Europe
- Finally, Horizon 2020 will be the consolidated programme dedicated to research and innovation (former FP7).

Cohesion Policy

Overall, the reformed cohesion policy will make available up to €351.8 billion to invest in the regions of the EU, in cities and in the real economy. It is the EU's principal investment tool for delivering the Europe 2020 goals.

The Cohesion Policy provides the necessary investment framework, Common Strategic Framework (CSF) and system to deliver the Europe 2020 objectives. The CSF is a new approach to align five EU funds: [European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\)](#); [European Social Fund \(ESF\)](#); [Cohesion Fund \(CF\)](#); [European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development \(EAFRD\)](#); [European Maritime &](#)

[Fisheries Fund \(EMFF\)](#). In 2014-2020 they will be implemented in a more complementary way supporting the sustainable growth and competitiveness of the EU. Read more about Cohesion Policy [here](#).

Multi-level governance

In the new Programme period, the focus is on strengthening regional and transnational cooperation through a multi-level governance approach. The European Union is a political system with a European layer (European Commission, European Council and European Parliament), a national layer, a regional layer and a local layer. These layers interact with each other in two ways: first, across different levels of governance (vertical dimension) and second, with other relevant actors within the same level (horizontal dimension). Multi-level governance within the EU is about participation and coordination between all levels of governance both in the decision making process and in the implementation or evaluation of European policies.

Relevance for PA Education

PA Education

This guide gives an overview of the funding programmes provided by the European Union within the three policy areas education, youth and labour mobility. The funding programmes presented are relevant for project applicants in the countries of the Baltic Sea Region. Besides relevant EU funds, presented in this guide, EUSBSR is mobilising, regional, national, local funding, private sources.

The European Commission has announced a significant increase in the EU budget for the programme period 2014-2020, targeting investments in education, youth and creativity - for example a 46% increase in research & innovation funding. Improving education and training, thus helping people acquire the right skills, are crucial for meeting future job needs and fighting poverty. Investing more in the creative industries, representing 4.5% of EU GDP and 3.8% of employment, will also boost job opportunities in an important sector.

Transnational component

The majority of the funding programmes offer opportunities to include transnational components in one or several of the project phases. The transnational component may be included at the planning stage and can be added in the course of project development work or even in the implementation phase of the project. The key distinguishing aspect of transnational cooperation projects is the additional benefit generated by cooperation with an international partner i.e. objectives, specific products and results that have been made possible only through cooperation across the borders.¹

The experience of Member States, to date, is that transnational cooperation increases effective integration and understanding of legal conditions. Furthermore, this type of cooperation enhances the quality of partners' activities; develops a European way of thinking; and builds formal and informal cooperation networks. Finally, transnational cooperation facilitates better promotion of innovative activities and the transfer of project results into policies and practice.²

Inclusion of transnational components (TNC) in the projects is supported by several programmes. In the current programme period 2014-2020, transnational cooperation projects in the Baltic Sea Region are being incorporated into mainstream activities of the European Social Fund (more information under ESF funds). There are also growing opportunities for cross-border cooperation within other funding programmes, such as the ERDF, Baltic Sea Programme, etc. The majority of the programmes could include TNC but some are directly linked to or supporting the EUSBSR, while others are not.

It is important to highlight that there are two options for transnational cooperation within EU funded projects: partners may include a transnational component in their application from the outset (Model A) or they may apply for a supplement to an ongoing project to facilitate some form of transnational cooperation (Model B).³

The work on implementation of this model is in the development phase. National agencies await guidelines from the Commission on how the regulations should be interpreted. Updates on what collaboration will look like in practice will be presented in the coming months.

1. The Principle of Transnational and Interregional Cooperation in the New ESF Programmes (2007-2013) (http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/equal/data/document/200606-reflection-note-trans_en.pdf)
2. Added Value of Cross-Border and Transnational Cooperation in Nordic Regions <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:700328/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
3. <http://eu.tillvaxtverket.se/planera/grundlaggandeforutsattningar/eusstrategiforostersjoregionen.4.7fbf-624914b100155a62ad39.html>

Funding of projects within PA Education

Relevant funding programmes can be divided into two main groups - those with a specific thematic focus and those that cover particular geographical areas.

The figure below gives an overview of funding programmes, presented in this guide. Funds are structured from top to bottom on a geographical and thematic basis.

Thematic programmes: Horizon 2020, EaSI, Erasmus+, Creative Europe, European Social Fund.

Geographical programmes (relevant to the Baltic Sea Region): Interreg Europe (IVC), Baltic Sea Programme, Central Baltic Programme, Nordplus, South Baltic Cooperation Programme, Bonus Programme, Seed Money Facility.



Thematic coverage

The tables below give an overview of the thematic areas covered by each funding

programme having regard to the three policy areas covered by PA Education - education, youth and labour mobility.

	Policy Area	I Education						
		General Education	Higher Education	VET Upper secondary	VET Post secondary	Research	Research and Innovation	Adult Education
European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)								
Creative Europe								
Baltic Sea Programme							X	
Horizon 2020 (research prospective)			X			X	X	
Interreg Europe								
Erasmus+		X	X	X	X	X		X
ESF		X	X	X	X			X
Central Baltic Programme				X	X			
Nordplus		X	X	X	X			X
Bonus						X	X	
Swedish Institute								
CBSS - Project support facility		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

	Policy Area	II YOUTH					
		Creative Industry	Youth Employment	Youth Exchange	Culture	Media	Sport
European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)			X				
Creative Europe		X			X	X	
Baltic Sea Programme							
Horizon 2020 (research prospective)			X				
Interreg Europe							
Erasmus+			X	X			X
ESF			X				
Central Baltic Programme							
Nordplus							
Bonus							
Swedish Institute							
CBSS - Project support facility					X		

	Policy Area	III LABOUR MOBILITY					
		Internationalisation of LM	Social Inclusion	Employment	Seed money EU projects	Exchange of Experience	Regional Policy
European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)		X	X	X			
Creative Europe							
Baltic Sea Programme					X		
Horizon 2020 (research prospective)			X	X			
Interreg Europe						X	X
Erasmus+							
ESF			X	X		X	X
Central Baltic Programme			X	X			X
Nordplus				X			
Bonus			X				X
Swedish Institute			X	X	X		X
CBSS - Project support facility					X		

Financial programmes

THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

Horizon 2020

Objective

Horizon 2020 is the Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation, which, from 2014, covers all research and innovation funding formerly provided through the Framework Programme for Research (FP7), the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

Thematic priorities

Horizon 2020 is divided into three main pillars:

- **Excellent Science** to boost top research in Europe through competitive funds provided by the European Research Council, the Research Infrastructures and Future and Emerging Technologies programmes/activities and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions
- **Industrial Leadership** to foster industrial leadership to speed up the development of technologies that will support business and innovation, including for SMEs
- **Societal Challenges** to fund research in areas of major societal concern, such as health, climate change, food, transport, energy, demographic change and well-being.

Besides that, Horizon 2020 includes the following types of projects: **Euratom - Fusion and Fission, Spreading excellence and widening participation; Science with and for Society.**

The ability to better address cross-cutting issues has been one of the key concerns in the design of Horizon 2020. Such issues can play a major part in ensuring the relevance and overall impact of the activities being supported. In many cases interdisciplinary solutions are needed, cutting across multiple specific objectives of Horizon 2020.

Of PA Education Interest: When applying for Horizon 2020 funding, the educational and training element can be a part of any of the thematic pillars if it is relevant for the specific call and corresponds to the expected results of a particular project.

Of particular relevance to the PA Education are projects in the following pillars: Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions; Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective societies (under Societal Changes); Science with and for society. See the working programme for more details [here](#).

Features of the Programme

Each section of Horizon 2020 (H2020) has a work programme for a two-year period (currently 2014-2015), which contains a detailed description of each call. This gives more precise information on the questions that the Commission would like applicants to address in their proposals. In an effort to promote collaboration between scientists, to avoid duplication and to generate a greater return on public investment - open access is mandatory for all scientific publications produced with funding from Horizon 2020 and the costs will be eligible for reimbursement.

Budget and co-financing

The reimbursement model for universities will be based on a single funding rate of 100% of direct costs and a flat rate of 25% of direct costs to cover indirect costs. The European Commission has announced that it is developing guidelines to allow beneficiaries to cover indirect costs for large infrastructure, in addition to the flat rate.

- Research and Innovation Actions (100% of actual costs)
- Close-to-market activities/innovation actions (70% of actual costs). *Exception:* non-profit legal entities max. 100%
- Indirect eligible costs: flat rate of 25% of the total direct eligible costs.

The new programme will also look to reduce “time-to-grant” (the time between the deadline for bidding for funding and the signing of a grant) which is 8 months in H2020, compared to previous funding time scales.

Maximum amount granted

Grants vary. See working [programme](#) for more information on amount granted for particular calls for project applications.

Duration of financial instrument

Two year [work programmes](#) (currently for 2014-2015) indicate the specific areas that will be funded during this period. For details, see working programme for particular pillars.

Geographic coverage

Horizon 2020 is open to participants worldwide; however, there is a revision to the list of countries which receive automatic funding.

Eligible applicants

Educational institutions: universities, research institutions and colleges; public sector

institutions; SMEs and larger companies; civil society actors, non-governmental organisations.

Application procedure

Depending on the thematic pillar and sub-pillar, project actions may vary: research and innovation, innovation action, coordination and support actions, SME instruments, co-funded actions, direct funding. Conditions of the particular call for project applications include the following information: opening dates, deadlines, budget, eligibility and admissibility, evaluation criteria.

Pre-study funding

Applications for funding, pre-study will not be considered. Specific calls have a two-stage application process. Applicants firstly submit a simplified concept which is considered, before a full application is made.

More information

[Horizon 2020](#)

The EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

Objective

EaSI aims to promote a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions. EaSI funding is used to test ideas for reform “on the ground”, evaluate them and then upscale the best ones across Member States. The concept of social innovation, which has a special focus on youth, is at the heart of EaSI.

EaSI brings together three EU programmes, managed separately between 2007 and 2013, and called PROGRESS, EURES and PROGRESS Microfinance. Together they pursue common goals for promoting employment, social inclusion and labour mobility. EaSI forms a coherent set of EU programmes that are aimed to achieve a greater policy coherence and coordination as well as increase efficiency in the delivery and management of the projects.

Thematic priorities

EaSI is designed to support the development of policies and legislation at EU level. Its actions should be complemented at national, regional and local levels.

These programmes form the three axes of EaSI:

The PROGRESS axis (61% of the total budget) of EaSI helps the EU and its Member States to improve policies in three thematic sections in **employment**, in particular to fight youth unemployment; in **social protection, social inclusion** and the reduction and prevention of **poverty**; and in **working conditions**.

EURES axis (18% of the total budget) has as its aim to strengthen the European job mobility network that provides information, guidance and recruitment/placement services to employers, jobseekers and any citizen wishing to take advantage of freedom of movement for workers.

It covers three thematic sections: transparency of job vacancies, job applications and any related information for applicants and employers; development of services for the recruitment and placing of workers in employment; and cross-border partnerships.

The Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship (MF/SE) axis (21% of the total budget) supports actions in two thematic sections: microcredit and microloans for

vulnerable groups and micro-enterprises; and social entrepreneurship. Until 2016, **Progress Microfinance** will run alongside the new MF/SE programme.

Budget and co-financing

The total budget for 2014-2020 is €919 469 000. The programme will provide €10-14 million per year for social innovation activities.

Note: The European Commission does not directly finance entrepreneurs or social enterprises, but enables selected **microcredit providers** and social enterprise investors in the EU to increase lending. The Programme will complement other European Union programmes. Synergies will be developed between EaSI, other EU programmes (e.g. Rights and Citizenship or Horizon 2020) and the Structural Funds, especially the ESF and the Youth Employment Initiative.

Geographical coverage

EU countries; EEA countries and EFTA countries; EU candidate countries and potential candidate countries, in line with the framework agreements concluded with them on their participation in the Programmes.

Eligible partners

The **PROGRESS axis** will accept applications from: public and private bodies established at national, regional or local level and providing microcredit for persons and micro-enterprises and/or financing for social enterprises.

The **EURES axis** is open to: national, regional and local authorities; employment services; social partner organisations and other interested bodies.

For **Microfinance axis**: public and private bodies established at national, regional or local level and providing microcredit for persons and micro-enterprises and/or financing for social enterprises.

Application procedure

The activities to be funded are defined in a **work programme** adopted by the Programme Committee. To apply for funding, eligible organisations must respond to a **call for tender** and/or to a **call for proposals**.

Pre-study funding

Applications for funding pre-study will not be accepted.

More info

EaSI

Erasmus+

Objective

Erasmus+ is the EU Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. The aim is to contribute to the reduction of early school leaving rates and increase the number of 30-34 year-old students who have completed higher education. The target is to get around 5 million people involved in mobility actions.

Erasmus+ is the result of the integration of the following European programmes implemented by the Commission during the period 2007-2013: Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Comenius, Grundtvig), International programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, EduLink and bilateral programmes) and the Youth in Action Programme.

The main features of Erasmus+ are to promote synergies and cross-fertilisation throughout the different fields of education, training and youth; to foster new ideas; to attract new actors from the world of work and civil society and to stimulate new forms of cooperation. Erasmus+ aims to become a more effective instrument to address the real needs of human and social capital development in Europe and beyond.

Thematic priorities

Three Key Actions are split into subtopics: each of them has a specific focus group, and a yearly “requests for proposals” aspect that provide more details on the application process and application qualification criteria.

The principal key actions - with some detail on collective rather than individual actions - are:

Key Action 1: Learning Mobility of Individuals, supporting international study, training, teaching and volunteering opportunities. Action includes mobility projects for individuals: students, teachers, scholars, young workers in various fields of education and training. For more details see [work programme](#).

Types of projects

Mobility projects in the field of education, training and youth; higher education students and staff; VET learners and staff; school education staff; adult education staff; young people and youth workers. Other types of project: Large scale European Voluntary

Service events; Joint Master Degrees; Master student loan guarantee.

Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, supporting cross-institutional and cross-sectorial exchange and partnerships between education and training institutions and the world of work.

Types of projects

Strategic Partnerships in the field of Education, Training and Youth; Knowledge Alliances; Sector Skills Alliances; Capacity Building in the field of youth.

A Strategic Partnership is transnational and involves a minimum of three organisations, from three different countries. *Duration of partnerships: 2 or 3 years.*

Note: Strategic Partnerships in the youth field must have a duration of between 6 months and 2 years.

Knowledge Alliances are transnational and involve a minimum of six independent organisations from at least three Programme Countries, of which at least two are higher education institutions and at least two are enterprises. *Duration of project: 2 or 3 years.* The duration must be chosen at the application stage, based on the objective of the project and on the type of activities planned over its lifetime.

Maximum grant awarded for a 2-year Knowledge Alliance: €700 000; for a 3-year Knowledge Alliance: €1 000 000.

Sector Skills Alliances aim to tackle skills gaps, enhancing the responsiveness of initial and continuing VET systems to sector-specific labour market needs and demand for new skills with regard to one or more occupational profiles.

The eligible sectors under this Action are those which have constituted a European Sector Skills, such as textile/clothing/leather; commerce; advanced manufacturing; information and communication technologies; environmental technologies (Eco-Innovation); the cultural and creative sectors.

Duration of project: 2 or 3 years.

Youth Capacity Building projects are transnational cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations

active in the field of youth in Programme and Partner Countries. These projects involve a minimum of three participating organisations from three different countries, of which at least one is a Programme Country and one is an eligible Partner Country.

Applicants must - at the specified deadline for submitting their proposals - have been a legally registered organization for at least one year.

Duration of project: from 9 months to 2 years.

Key Action 3: *Support for policy reform*, promoting the implementation of EU transparency and recognition tools, and continuing the policy dialogue with European stakeholders in education and training. Erasmus+ also foresees financial support for extra-European mobility, as well as a new Erasmus Student Loan Guarantee Facility, which will make loans available to students undertaking second-cycle studies in another European country.

Type of project Meetings between young people and decision-makers in the field of youth.

Duration of project from 3 to 24 months.

Jean Monnet Activities *Thematic Actions:* Promoting excellence in teaching and research in the field of EU studies worldwide. Actions foster the dialogue between the academic world and policymakers in particular, with the aim of enhancing governance of EU policies. You can find more in [the Erasmus+ Guide](#).

Actions in the field of sport. Actions are expected to result in the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices at European, national, and at regional and local levels.

At the systemic level, sport actions are expected to contribute to the development of the European dimension in sport, in line with the general objective of the Programme in the sport field.

Budget and co-financing rate

Global budget: €14.774 billion. The co-financing rate depends on the key action and the particular type of project/mobility. Please see the details at [Erasmus+ programme guide](#).

Geographic coverage (general)

EU countries; EEA countries and EFTA countries; EU candidate countries and potential candidate countries, in line with the framework agreements concluded with them on their participation in the Programmes.

Some Actions of the Programme are open to any Partner Country worldwide. For some other actions the geographical scope is narrower. For more information, please consult the detailed description of the Actions of the Programme in Part B of this Guide.

Eligible applicants (general)

The specific conditions for participating in an Erasmus+ project depend on the type of Action supported by the Programme. In general terms, the Programme is open to any organisation active in the fields of education, training, youth or sport. Several Actions are also open to participation by other actors in the labour market.

Depending on the action, eligible applicants can be following actors: participating individuals; participating organisations; [research centres](#); [local, regional and national authorities](#) in the educational sector; [schools](#), companies and organisations working in relevant sector; [training centres](#); [administrations states](#); [universities](#); non-profit organisations.

Application procedure for Erasmus+ project (general):

1. Register in the Participant Portal
2. Check compliance with the Programme criteria
3. Check the financial conditions
4. Fill in and submit the application form
Please see Part C of Erasmus+ Guide for more details on how to apply and other application conditions.

Pre-study funding

Applications for funding pre-study will not be considered.

More info

[Erasmus+ Erasmus+ programme guide Erasmus+ work programme 2014-2015](#)

Creative Europe

Objective

Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework programme to support and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and to strengthen the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors.

Thematic Priorities

The programme consists of two sub-programmes:

Culture aims to support organisations in the cultural and creative sectors to adjust to digitalisation and globalisation; and to promote cross border mobility by internationalising professions in the creative and cultural sectors. It promotes cooperation projects, European networks, translation and the spreading of literature.

MEDIA aims to give financial support to the European film and audiovisual industry through education, development, distribution and promotion; to help the European film and audiovisual sector to reach the market outside their own country and the EU borders. The sub-programme also offers support for development of computer games. Besides these, the programme contains sub-topics that target other actors in the cultural and creative sector.

Budget and co-financing

The overall budget of the programme is €1.46 million. The amount per project depends on the sub-program and the particular. On average, the programme finances 50-60% of the total project expense.

Geographic coverage

EU countries; EEA countries and EFTA countries; EU candidate countries and potential candidate countries, in line with the framework agreements concluded with them on their participation in the Programmes. The programme's duration is from 2014 to 2020. It is also formally open to actors in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) on condition that they sign a specific agreement with the European Commission. An updated list with

information on all participating countries in the Creative Europe sub-programmes Culture and MEDIA is available at the [Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency's \(EACEA\) website](#).

Eligible applicants

Culture sub-programme: [Local and regional authorities](#), educational institutions, SMEs and larger companies; civil society actors, non-governmental organisations. Organisations that are active in the creative industries such as: architecture, archive and library, art, design, festivals, music, scene art, publishing, radio and photo art.

Note: Only legally established bodies can apply.

MEDIA sub-programme: Legally established bodies in the film, tv and computer games sectors.

Partnerships

Partnerships vary. Check the two sub-programmes to identify the type of project. In the Culture sub-programme, smaller scale European cooperation projects require partners from a minimum of three countries and larger scale projects require participants from a minimum of six countries.

Project duration

Duration of European cooperation projects in the Culture sub-programme can be up to 4 years.

Duration of other types of partnerships depends on the sub-programme and project. See particular call for project proposals.

Pre-study funding

Applications for pre-study funding will not be considered. Some regions and local authorities offer funding for the development of Creative Europe projects.

More information

[Creative Europe](#) - European Commission
Creative Europe - EACEA (link to: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/funding_en)

European Social Fund (ESF)

Objective

The new 2014-2020 programme provides grants in the framework of national, sectoral or regionalised programmes to support improving employment and social inclusion. In this period, the ESF focus is: to train people and help them get into work; to promote social inclusion; to improve education & training, to improve the quality of public services in each EU country.

Objective specifics

Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility; promoting social inclusion and combating poverty; investing in education, skills and life-long learning; enhancing institutional capacity and efficient public administration.

Of PA Education interest

ESF - Youth Employment Initiative (2014-2020) (YEI)

The Youth Employment Initiative is open to all regions whose level of youth unemployment is above 25%. This initiative targets all young persons under the age of 25, not in employment, education or training, residing in eligible regions, who are inactive or unemployed (including the long-term unemployed), and whether registered as seeking work or not. The Initiative is fully integrated into the ESF programming framework. All ESF funding should be co-financed from national resources. At Member

State level, the YEI would be programmed within the ESF. The overall budget is €3 billion.

Common themes in the Baltic Sea Region

The Baltic Sea Network-ESF (BSN-ESF) is a network of Managing Authorities for the ESF in the Baltic Sea Region, aiming at improving and enhancing transnational cooperation and the social dimension of the European Social Fund. The network is funded by the Swedish Institute and is lead by the Swedish ESF Council.

In order to establish a manageable number of common areas for calls for proposals in the ESF in the Baltic Sea Region, linked to the EUSBSR, the Baltic Sea Network-ESF (BSN-ESF) has agreed on seven themes (see table below). They reflect the priorities in the Operational Programmes for ESF (2014-2020) in some or all of the Member States concerned. The themes are particularly selected as representing problem areas/clusters which are common for the Member States in the macro region and where transnational cooperation will give an added effect. They will continuously be fine-tuned and restated, when required.

Application procedure

When preparing calls, contact should be made with the relevant *Priority Area Coordinators in the EUSBSR* in order to take into account EUSBSR specifics and to use and mobilize the extensive network of potential project promoters already connected with the Priority Area and known by the coordinator (PAC).

More info

[ESF](#)

Common areas for call for proposals Baltic Sea Network - ESF

Theme	Member State	OP investment priority/thematic objective	PA EUSBSR Action plan	PAC (contact)
1. Early School Leavers (ESL) and NEETs; transition from school to work	All	Sustainable integration of young people; Reducing early school-leaving; Enhancing access to lifelong learning	Education and Youth	Norden Association Hamburg Ministry of Education
2. Mobility - Youth - Labour - Informal labour/ Informal economy and grey sector - Reconciliation of work/family life	All	Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility; ... enhance transnational labour mobility	Education and Youth	Norden Association Hamburg Ministry of Education
3. Capacity building in social economy	DK, SE, PL	Promoting the social economy; Promoting social inclusion	HA Involve Health	
4. De-institutionalization and restructuring in health, social and elderly care sectors; skills development	(LV), (SE), LT, PL, EE	Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, including health care and social services	Health and its social aspects	NDPHS
5. Support for SMEs - Capacity building - Business environment/ infrastructure - Female entrepreneurship	LV, LT, SE, PL	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises; Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation	SME	Denmark, Danish Business Agency
6. Active inclusion - Combat poverty - Welfare systems restructuring	All	Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty; Capacity building for stakeholders delivering employment, education and social policies	Health and its social aspects	NDPHS
7. Healthy working life/well-being at work - Reconciliation of work/family life	FI, SE, EE, PL	Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change	Health and its social aspects	NDPHS

GEOGRAPHICAL PROGRAMMES

INTERREG Europe

Objective

INTERREG IVC provides funding for [interregional cooperation](#) across Europe. The programme aims to contribute to the economic modernisation and competitiveness of Europe.

The overall objective of the INTERREG IVC Programme is to improve the effectiveness of regional policies and instruments. A project builds on the exchange of experiences among partners who are ideally responsible for the development of their local and regional policies. It is implemented under the EU territorial cooperation objective and financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Thematic priorities

The areas of support are; Research, technical development and innovation; Competitiveness of SMEs; Low Carbon Economy; Environment and Resource Efficiency.

Budget and co-financing

The total budget is €359 million euro and it is equally divided between four priority axes. The budget per project depends on the priority axis and call.

Geographic coverage

Targets the whole EU territory including Norway and Switzerland.

Eligible applicants

Public authorities (national, regional and local authorities). Bodies governed by public law: universities, regional development bodies that are working with regional and national policy questions. Private actors can participate in the project at their own expense. Further details on eligibility are outlined in the programme manual.

Partnerships and types of projects

The programme supports two types of projects: [Regional Initiative Projects](#) and

[Capitalisation Projects](#). In line with the operational objectives, the programme supports two types of action to allow partners from the EU partner states to work together on a shared regional policy issue in the field of innovation infrastructures and capacities: [Interregional Cooperation Projects](#) and [Policy Learning](#).

In [Regional Initiative Projects](#) partners work together to exchange experiences in a policy field of their interest. They can choose between three levels of intensity for their cooperation. These vary from simple networking to the development of policy instruments or the establishment of mini-programmes.

In [Capitalisation Projects](#) partners build on already identified good practices. Capitalisation projects are set up to transfer these good practices into mainstream programmes of EU Structural Funds. This is done by developing action plans and involving relevant policy makers. The European Commission offers additional expertise to some of these projects, named [FAST-TRACK Projects](#).

Partnerships should cover as many regions as possible. At least half of the participating EU regions must address the implementation of their Operational Programme (e.g. for a project with 4 regions, a minimum of 2 would need to have this direct link; for a project with 5 regions, a minimum of 3 would need to have this direct link).

Of PA Education interest

Priority Axis 1: Research, Technological Development and Innovation are selected through regular calls for proposals. These calls can be open to proposals addressing the full thematic scope of the specific objective.

Implementation of programmes is realized under the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal, and when relevant the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) goal.

Pre-study funding

There is no possibility to apply for funding pre-study.

More info

<http://www.interreg4c.eu/>

Baltic Sea Region Programme

Objective (overall)

The Programme supports cooperation projects working for a more innovative, more accessible and sustainable Baltic Sea region, where partners look for joint solutions to common issues.

Note: The Programme will group thematically linked projects into clusters. Clustering will help to coordinate activities and increase the impact of individual projects. Project clusters will run in parallel to “regular” projects.

Thematic priorities

Priority 1: *Capacity for innovation*, will offer support for e.g. development of innovation infrastructures, implementation of smart specialisation strategies and development of non-technological innovations

Priority 2: *Efficient management of natural resources*, highlights the need to manage natural resources more efficiently. Resource efficient blue growth, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and clear waters are examples of the areas that will receive support

Priority 3: *Sustainable transport*, focus on such themes as accessibility of remote areas, maritime safety, environmentally friendly shipping and urban mobility will attract project proposals

Priority 4: *Assistance to the Priority Area Coordinators and Horizontal Action Leaders* offers support to the stakeholders of the EUSBSR, seed money projects of the EU Strategy, organisation of Strategy Forums and other implementation tasks will be co-financed

Budget and co-financing rate

Overall budget is €264 million (ERDF), the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and Norway €6 million. The co-financing rate is 75% (for Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Germany) and 85% (for partners from Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia); 50% for Norway (for ERDF funds).

Duration of financial instrument

Between 2014 and 2020: Projects of 2-3 year's duration.

Geographic coverage

Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany (Northern part), Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden.

Participation must be financed from other than the Programme funds. Participation of Belarus and Russia (North-West region) is still under negotiation. Note: An allocation of €8.8 million was earmarked from the European Neighbourhood Instrument to support partners from Russia and Belarus in joint projects.

Eligible applicants

Public authorities at local, regional and national levels, research and training institutions, NGOs, sectorial agencies and associations. Note: A new development in this period is that enterprises may also take part in projects and receive funds.

Partnership

At least three partners from three countries in the region can form a project. The number of partners can vary. The most important factor is sustainable partnerships built with a view to make a success of the project.

Pre-study funding

The programme provides for possible pre-study funding not directly linked to the four priorities of the programme. Pre-studies are available for the all priority areas of the EUSBSR.

Note: The possibility exists to combine with pre-study from The Swedish Institute and CBSS (see further Seed Money Facility).

Application procedure

Application is a two-step procedure. Firstly, the – project idea “owners” submit a “concept note” to include a project summary, challenges anticipated and results required, the main activities and outputs, partnership details and the preliminary budget. If the concept note is accepted by the Monitoring Committee (the decision making body of the Programme), the applicant will be invited to develop the project idea further and submit a complete project proposal (second step).

More info

[Baltic Sea Region Programme.](#)
[About the priorities](#)

Central Baltic Programme

Objective

The Programme Document is approaching its final approval. The programme had its first call December 18, 2014 and February 9, 2015.

Thematic priorities

- Competitive economy
- Sustainable use of common resources
- Well-connected region
- Skilled and socially inclusive region.

Each priority is broken down to specific objectives. Each financed project will be implemented under one priority and one of its specific objectives.

In each specific objective an applicant can choose to use a small project approach or to apply for a regular project. Small projects mean that the ERDF contribution amount for one project is up to €200 000 and the project duration is up to 2 years. Moreover, the application and reporting process will be simplified. All other conditions are the same as for all other projects. Regular projects thus have a budget of more than €200 000 from ERDF and last more than 2 years. However, under specific objective 4.1, applicants can only use a small project approach.

Of PA Education interest:

Priority Axis 1 Competitive Economy (specific objective 1.2 more entrepreneurial youth).

Actions aim to motivate young people to establish student companies and create international teams, which can serve as a basis for future business partnerships within the Central Baltic region.

Actions supported: awareness raising, training/coaching/internships, advisory services, networking of teams of pupils/students, experienced entrepreneurs, investors, capacity building of teams and pupil/student firms, designing and creating of e-platforms and e-tools.

Target: A number of established joint student companies.

Priority Axis 4 Skilled and socially inclusive region targeting social issues: more people benefiting from the stronger central Baltic communities (specific objective 4.1); and development of VET programmes with a target of more aligned VET programmes in the Central Baltic Region (specific objective 4.2).

For more details on actions see Programme [here](#).

Funding

Altogether €115 million from the ERDF will be made available through the programme. The funding is available for cross-border cooperation projects where partners from at least two countries are cooperating.

Budget / Co-financing

Total budget for Priority Axis 4 is €11.5 million

Co-financing rate varies - e.g. Estonia/Latvia (85%), Sweden/Finland (including Åland) (75%)

Geographical coverage

Sweden, Estonia, Finland (including Åland), Latvia.

Eligible partners

Public authorities (national, regional and local) as well as bodies governed by public law and bodies governed by private law. Only large companies are excluded from acting as partners. For more details see particular priority axis [here](#).

Application procedure

The programme has a 2-step application procedure. However, a simplified application procedure has been put in place for small projects (up to €200 000 ERDF contribution). The project duration of a small project is up to 2 years, the work package (for preparation work) up to €10 000.

Note: Only for those projects that are finally approved by the Secretariat of the Programme.

More info

Contact points in every country [here](#).

Nordplus

Objective

Nordplus is the Nordic Council of Ministers' most important programme in the area of lifelong learning. The Nordplus Programme offers financial support to a variety of educational cooperation schemes between partners in the area of lifelong learning from the eight participating countries in the Baltic and Nordic regions.

Thematic priorities

Nordplus consists of the following sub-programmes:

Nordplus Junior

Grants for cooperation with schools in the region such as for project partnerships, pupil and teacher exchanges and work experience for pupils.

Nordplus Higher Education

Mobility and network programme in the higher education sector, on bachelor and master level. Grants for collaboration between the institutions that participate in the programme through exchanges, experience, good practice and innovative results.

Nordplus Adult

Mobility grants are aimed at the exchanges of adult learners, teachers, managers and others with responsibility for adult learning, herein also grants for preparatory visits aiming at preparation of projects and applications for future deadlines of the programme.

Nordplus Horizontal

It is cross-sectorial programme supporting innovative projects across traditional categories and sectors, as well as projects that address new, broad and complex challenges. Participation in the programme is open to all institutions and organisations willing to cooperate to develop education within a lifelong learning perspective.

Nordplus Nordic Languages

The Nordplus Nordic Languages Programme supports activities aimed at strengthening the Nordic neighbouring languages, and promoting knowledge about Nordic cultures, languages and ways of life.

Features of the Programme

Nordplus grants are considered as a contribution to total project cooperation. In general salaries cannot be funded by Nordplus grants (the only exception is for project activities in Nordplus Adult). See work programme for activities that programme is covering and for more exceptions.

Budget and co-financing

Note: Nordplus grants are considered as a contribution to total project cooperation. In general salaries cannot be funded by Nordplus grants (the only exception is for project activities in Nordplus Adult). Salaries are considered part of the self-financing of the institutions participating in Nordplus projects.

Maximum amount granted

The total yearly Nordplus budget is approximately €9 million.

Duration of financial instrument

2012-2016. Maximum duration of a Nordplus project is 3 years. See the sub-programme chapters for details about this and more information on which activities are supported.

Geographic coverage

Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden. Nordplus also covers the three autonomous regions Åland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, and these are considered countries in the Nordplus context.

Eligible applicants

The different sub-programmes under Nordplus are intended to cover all levels and participants that are involved in both formal and non-formal education and lifelong learning.

Applicants and partners to any Nordplus sub-programme must be an institution or an organisation - individual persons cannot apply to Nordplus.

Application procedure

All applications must be submitted electronically through the joint Nordplus application and report system (Espresso). Applications may be submitted in Danish, Swedish, Norwegian or English. Applications involving one or more Baltic participants must be written in English.

More information

Nordplus Handbook [here](#)
Nordplus web page [here](#)

Seed money facility

The table below was developed within the Baltic Sea Strategy and covers all political areas. In order to find out more about funding of pre-study, see the themes and visit web-

pages of the [Swedish Institute and Council of Baltic Sea States](#).

More info

For more details see [here](#).

Seed money facilities in the Baltic Sea region		
	Swedish Institute, Seed money	BSS - Project support facility
Rationale	To pre-finance and develop projects in line with the EUSBSR Action Plan and the Eastern Partnership. Can be used as co-funding and bridging	To develop projects, used as co-funding, bridging and pre-financing
Duration of the financial instrument	2014-2015	2012-2015. The next call for CBSS PSF Applications is foreseen for Spring 2015
Themes	Environment and Energy, Social issues and health, Civil safety and security, Innovation and regional development	Environment, Economic, Development, Energy, Education and Culture, Civil Security and the Human dimension
Geographical coverage	Sweden, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus. Georgia and Moldova (higher education)	Baltic Sea region
Requirements for partnerships (a public body/not public, number or partners)	Swedish lead beneficiary. A minimum of three partners and three participating countries.	Public or public equivalent body. At least three partners from three CBSS Member States
Maximum amount granted	Ca €50 000 (SEK 440 000)	€50 000
Co-financing rate? (money/"in kind"?)	90%	90%
Eligible expenses	Salary for staff, costs for external services, travel and meeting costs	Personnel costs, Travel and subsistence costs, Sub-contracting, Other direct costs, Administration / overhead
Submission (online/paper application?)	Online application	Online and paper application
Contact person with full details	Jacek Paszkowski, jacek.paszowski@si.se	Gertrude Opira, gertrude.opira@cbss.org Jekaterina Popova, jekaterina.popova@cbss.org
Lead partner requirements	Lead partner must be from Sweden	Lead partner must be from CBSS Member State
Eligible applicants	Municipalities, regions, regional and county councils, government agencies, institutions of higher education and research institutes, business and trade associations, companies and NGOs.	Public or public equivalent body from Baltic Sea Region
Website	http://eng.si.se/	http://www.cbss.org/project-support-facility/

Relevant open calls in 2015

Geographical EU Programmes

Interreg Europe (IVC) first call [Spring 2015](#)
Baltic Sea Programme first call [Winter 2015](#)
Central Baltic Programme first call 18
December, 2014-February 9, 2015 [open calls](#)

South Baltic Programme [middle of 2015](#)

Nordplus [deadline for all programmes 02 March 2015](#).

Thematic programmes

Horizon 2020 [open calls](#)

EaSI [open calls](#)

Erasmus+ open calls [education and training](#);
[youth](#); [sport](#)

Creative Europe [open calls](#)

Other relevant funds

South Baltic Cooperation Programme

The final draft of the South Baltic Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 was approved by the Joint Programming Committee in October 2014. In December 2014, the draft programme was officially submitted to the European Commission. The next decisive step towards the first call for proposals will follow by the end of May 2015, which is the time for observations by the European Commission. The draft cooperation programme is available [here](#).

Bonus Programme

The joint Baltic Sea research and development programme is for the years 2010-2017. The programme invites calls on ecosystem research and innovation for the scientific community and SMEs. The programme funds projects of high excellence and relevance 1) to produce knowledge, scientific evidence and innovation solutions needed by policymakers and 2) to engage end-users and society in knowledge-based governance of the fragile Baltic Sea. For more information visit their [web page](#).

Other funding opportunities in the BSR [here](#)

Useful links

[Bruges Communiqué: Education Ministers back Commission strategy for vocational training](#)

[A brief overview of past projects](#)

KEEP platform, designed by Interact, with co-financing by European Regional Development Fund provides access to a comprehensive database on Territorial Cooperation projects, project partner data and programmes. In other words, the user can discover: Who? Where? Which project? Who financed it?