
October 2013

Proposal for common themes for synchronized calls in the ESF linked to the EUSBSR in the Baltic Sea Region

In order to establish *a feasible number of common themes for calls for proposals* in the ESF in the Baltic Sea Region, linked to the EUSBSR, the Baltic Sea Network-ESF (BSN-ESF)¹ has agreed on seven themes. They are reflecting the priorities in the Operational Programmes for ESF (2014 – 2020) in some *or* all of the Member States concerned. The themes are also particularly selected for representing problem areas/clusters which are common for the Member States in the macro region and where *transnational cooperation will give an added value*. They will continuously be fine-tuned and when needed readjusted.

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

For the Swedish case there will also be a close link to the Swedish Institute, providing *seed money for project promoters* in order to make the preparations needed for a potential flagship project in the EUSBSR. The possibility to link seed money projects to ESF will be announced in the calls from the Swedish Institute and from the ESF in the new programming period in Sweden. For all Member States there is also the seed money facility provided by EC.²

In due time the BSN-ESF will draw a more elaborate picture (in cooperation with the PACs concerned and the Managing Authorities) when it comes to the links between the themes here presented and the priorities in the Operational Programmes (OP) and the specific Priority Areas (PA) and subthemes in the EUSBSR. There will also be a precise time table and mechanisms for partner search/matching as well as for selection and assessment procedures (“implementation package”).

Gender mainstreaming is proposed to be considered as an additional (horizontal) theme. Contacts are already established with the EC funded learning network on Gender mainstreaming.

Transnational cooperation in the ERDF, as well as complementarity between ESF and ERDF, will be facilitated by the Swedish proposal for a *Transnational Component to support the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in the ERDF* (see annex).

¹ *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 the transnational cooperation and the social dimension in the European Social Fund. The network is funded by the Swedish Institute and lead by the Swedish ESF Council.

² In both funding facilities a lump sum (approx. 50 000 euro) can be provided in order to develop a project idea and make the preparations needed for a larger project in the macro regional context of the Baltic Sea, potentially supported by the ESF or other relevant EU programmes.

Table on themes agreed and priorities indicated by Member States³

Theme	Member State	OP investment priority/thematic objective	PA EUSBSR Action plan	PAC (contact)	Comments
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	A Flagship project has been launched in the PA and is foreseen to be supported by the ESF 2014/15
2. Mobility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth • Labour • Informal labour/ Informal economy and grey sector 	All	Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility; ... enhance transnational labour mobility	Education and Youth	Norden Association Hamburg Ministry of Education	Also a sub theme in ESL and included in other PAs
3. Capacity building in social economy	DK, SE, PL	Promoting the social economy; ...Promoting social inclusion	HA Involve ? Health		Includes issues on involvement of civil society and community lead development
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	Theme 4 also linked to theme 6; LV only people with mental disabilities and children in theme 6; SE theme 6 and 7
5. Support for SMEs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building • Business environment/ infrastructure 	LV, LT, SE, PL	Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises; Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation	SME	Denmark	SE included in Enhancing access to LLL; complementarity ESF-ERDF foreseen
6. Active inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Important future (and strategic) priority area for transnational cooperation in the ESF in relation to the EUSBSR: <i>strengthen the social dimension</i>
7. Healthy working life/well-being at work	FI, SE, EE, PL	Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change	Health and its social aspects	NDPHS	

³ Themes and priorities/objectives still indicative (October2013); changes may occur.