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**The Interreg South Baltic Programme aims at unlocking the potential of the southern shores of the region for developing the so-called blue and green economies. This is chiefly to be done by a means of diverse cross-border cooperation between partners from Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden. Currently, the Programme is gearing towards a new call for proposals, with substantial funds allocated for developing new green technologies, introducing sustainable transport solutions, and improving peoples' skills in order to meet the requirements of these future-oriented models of economy.**

**B**uilding on the rich maritime character of the region – the blue part – the Programme wants to address new economic opportunities for job creation, among other things; while the green growth element underlines the importance of aligning these developments in line with taking care of the environment. Here, a particular focus is put on providing sustainable transport accessibility across the South Baltic Sea region, as well as increasing the market penetration of green and energy-efficient technologies in for instance, waste management, water treatment, and soil protection. Moreover, increasing the preparedness to react accordingly in the event of eco-hazards at sea is vital.

In the upcoming calls, the Programme is likely to seek projects revolving around green technologies and sustainable transport, simultaneously continuing to strengthen the region's maritime economy by investing in people and their talents.

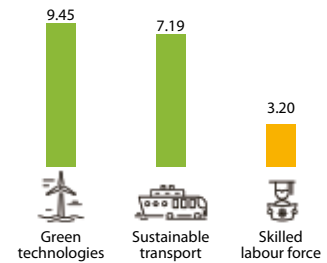
#### Who, how, and why

The Programme provides co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for cooperation activities involving two or more organisations from

at least two participating EU Member States. Various entities – such as public authorities, educational and R&D institutions, governmental agencies, along with companies dealing with communal and municipal environmental and energy management as well as with public transport or transport infrastructure administration – are welcome to form partnerships and submit their applications.

Participating in a South Baltic project gives the opportunity to investigate best practices and exchange know-how in order to optimise the development of new green solutions that go hand-in-hand with the blue economy. It is also a very effective international co-op networking platform for engaging with other like-minded partners to jointly develop environmentally-sustainable quality services for the benefit of the maritime and transport sectors – locally, region-wise, and worldwide.

Fig. 1. The remaining funds for specific objectives [million EUR]



#### Following an example

Over the years, the Interreg South Baltic Programme has built up a rich portfolio of successful projects. One of them is the LNG cross-border supply chain created by MarTech LNG, which helped the Lithuanian floating LNG terminal, moored in the Port of Klaipėda, with tenders for allocating capacity at the *Independence*. Moreover, the very same project unlocked a EUR 46 million investment in LNG infrastructure that includes a bunker station on the Danish Island of Samsø.

The project DredgDikes is another great example of cooperation that combined business and engineering expertise. This initiative introduced the practice of using dredged sediments from ports and navigation channels in dike construction (flood protection).

Yet another project, SB OFFER, set up a political discussion that eventually led to changing the Polish maritime law. This, in turn, made it possible to release the first offshore wind farm concessions for the country's waters.

#### Get involved

What we're looking for are strategies, measures, and tools that will improve the standard, efficiency, interoperability, and environmental performance of transport services, as well as pilot investments in transport and green technology in the maritime sector.

Come and join the Interreg South Baltic Programme in improving the quality and environmental sustainability of the transport industry by increasing the rate of green tech uptake in the South Baltic Sea region. The 5<sup>th</sup> call for proposals closes on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, while the 6<sup>th</sup> starts on May 7<sup>th</sup>, and closes on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. ■



The Interreg South Baltic Programme is an EU-backed initiative focused on five priority axes: strengthening international active-ness and innovation capacity of the South Baltic blue & green economy; exploiting the environmental and cultural potential of the area for blue & green growth; improving cross-border connectivity for a functional blue & green transport area; boosting human resource capacities for the area's blue & green economy; and increasing cooperation capacity of local actors. For more info on the Programme, available funding, and open calls for proposals, please visit [www.southbaltic.eu](http://www.southbaltic.eu)