

Swedish Institute Baltic Sea Cooperation

Application for the Swedish Institute financial support

Project Description

Applicant organisation: Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic (ERB)

Project Acronym: UMBRELLA 2.0

Project Title: UMBRELLA 2.0- Boosting transnational cooperation capacities for multilevel actors in the Baltic Sea Region

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Project partners:

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)

Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC) - Associated partner

CONTENTS

1. Aim
2. Context
3. Composition of the partnership
4. Summary: Objectives, activities, indicators and expected outputs
5. Work plan
6. Communication
7. Sustainability
8. Risk analysis

1. AIM

The overarching goal of the project is to increase awareness and knowledge of transnational cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. More specifically, the project aims at initiating a process for the development of strong multi-actor and multilevel governance partnerships that can undertake cross-sectoral sustainable solutions while following the principles and objectives of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, EU Green Deal and UN SDG.

The aims concerning the Baltic Region are :

- To raise awareness of opportunities and benefits of transnational and cross-border cooperation and increase regional stakeholders' interest in it;
- To empower stakeholders to build strategic and long term-partnerships, support networking, and straighten community of practitioners in different sectors;
- To improve knowledge of the EU, its financial instruments and relevant strategies, with particular focus on the EUSBSR;
- To explore the opportunities and benefits of being part of EUSBSR and offer practical guidelines on how to engage in long-term;

- To help build competencies, i.e. knowledge and skills necessary to run projects with benefit to the Policy areas, and build specific networks of interest in different sectors in a cross-sectorial manner focusing on a shift and transformation by our beneficiaries (activating them for a sustainable transnational cooperation).

The aims concerning the EU:

- To create an understanding of the strategic importance, long-term goals, action plans and interrelations between the EUSBSR, EU Green Deal and UN SDGs;
- to initiate a process that will establish cross-sectoral partnerships which in turn will commit to the implementation of the EUSBSR, EU Green Deal and UN SDGs.

2. CONTEXT

Our project proposal addresses the need to build capacities of small and local actors, mostly "newcomers", to widen their participation in the Baltic Sea regional cooperation. The need was identified in the "Needs analysis", conducted in the frame of Umbrella project which Euroregion Baltic has been the lead partner of "Umbrella Boosting cross-border cooperation capacities of local actors in South Baltic Sea" project (www.umbrellaproject.eu). The analysis was based on quantitative and qualitative questionnaires made among the small and medium-sized municipalities, NGOs, local action groups from the 5 South Baltic Sea states. The assessment report "Mapping stakeholders and analysing barriers in the South Baltic Sea" provided information about specific gaps that should be addressed by the SBP in future. Recommendations were also provided, including the need to focus on newcomers, small-organisations also, for instance, sports associations, associations dealing with social affairs, and schools. These are today almost absent as project partners in the current programming period, for several various reasons but most commonly for their lack of capacity. The report points out that "micro-scale" is a relative concept and can vary between regions and sectors of activity. Our definition of newcomers includes actors related to the governance layer that is closer to citizens (local authorities), as well as to horizontal subsidiarity (civil society's initiatives).

The Umbrella project was launched at the beginning of 2018. It resulted from the realisation that the South Baltic Programme (SBP) was hard to access for small organisations, mainly because of their insufficient institutional and financial capacities. SBP stakeholders in general and small local actors specifically still experience communication barriers, limited English language skills, as well as lack of competences and capabilities in project development and implementation. To address these challenges, the Umbrella project committed to developing know-how capacities for small local and regional actors and civil society organisations in the South Baltic Programme area to improve their participation in cross-border cooperation. To achieve this goal, Umbrella implemented a significantly more comprehensive approach, determined by a strategic decision of the partnership to address different levels of capacity building processes – from a single institutional capacity of potential project partner, via micro-activities addressed to the micro organisations till strategic capacity building on the programme macro level where we cooperated with EUSBSR HA Capacity coordinators (our Associated Partner).

The Umbrella project has offered a tailor-made set of solutions and reached the following objectives:

- It mapped stakeholders in the South Baltic Region and delivered a report with an assessment of needs and potential project themes, as well as project barriers to addressing in the South Baltic Programme and its future programming period (2021-2027). It invited mapped stakeholders to 2 awareness-raising events on EU financial possibilities, programmes, cross-border cooperation networks;
- It organised 3 Cross-border conferences with EUSBSR Policy Area panels on: Bioeconomy, Energy and electromobility and sustainable tourism;
- It held micro-activities to "meet-your-neighbours": networking thematic meetings to initiate cooperation;
- It delivered 12 national trainings in national languages on project management in Sweden, Denmark, Poland and Lithuania;
- It invited mapped stakeholders to Umbrella's "Rent-an-Expert" service to help them learn how to write meaningful project applications;
- It delivered a training and coaching pack on project management: from ideation to implementation of EU financed projects, including and 1 "train-the-trainers" session;
- All the training materials and stakeholders are collected in the Moodle platform <http://umbrellaproject.eu/moodle/> ;
- The project helped writing more than 5 new projects in SBP, Swedish Institute and Erasmus +;
- Umbrella will be finalised in December 2020, and it is going to organise 4 Cross-border workshops in the form of focus groups to discuss the upcoming SBP programming period. It will deliver a "Meet-your-neighbours success stories" book, and it will end with a final conference;
- No. of local actors involved in cross-border activities: 240 organisations of which:
 - ✓ 90 were involved in cross-border micro-activities and raising awareness events developing knowledge capacity about the South Baltic Programme.
 - ✓ 100 were involved in CBC conference with EUSBSR PA panels and training
 - ✓ 150 were involved in basic cross-border cooperation level (scouting actions). These are organisations (newcomers) with lack of capacity to take part in regular projects, and relevant bodies involved in SBP implementation (directly and indirectly) were also collected and presented in the form of on-line platforms.

Umbrella proved to be an optimal mediator among different stakeholders. Therefore, starting from the presumption that the EUSBSR and the local actors are completely detached one from the other, the project objective would be to develop know-how capacities for local organisations in the field of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, harmonising local needs and actions and upper strategic lines.

While the local actors are focused on objectives in their local sphere of influence, the strategy provides guidelines that are not known at the local level. A bridge between local actors and the strategy needs to be set to enhance the interaction among all the levels of governance to start a process that can facilitate the implementation of EUSBSR but also other sustainable policies matching with EU Green Deal and SDGs.

Umbrella 2.0 would act as a means to mediate the communication between the strategies and the local level, raising awareness and providing practical knowledge and tools for implementation.

Target group and recruitment

The target group is composed of representatives of local authorities and civil society organisations that are interested in starting transnational cooperation and/or projects but have little or no experience in the field so far. We are looking for the "newcomers" from institutions that are not active in a transnational project co-funded by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme or Interreg CBC programmes available in the Baltic Sea Region. These "newcomers" would be all on the same level of knowledge/experience, as they require the capacity boost. The goal to involve them in a EUSBSR process.

There's a cooperation gap between the upper strategic level and the local territories.

More on the NEWCOMERS

Who are they? Representatives of small NGOs and municipalities, practitioners, working in those institutions from all sectors who need to build their knowledge, understanding and skills of how to work effectively in EUSBSR partnership. Also, they are EUSBSR actors with some experience who wish to complement and formalise their learning with the latest EU/EUSBSR frameworks, innovative and practical tools etc.

In Interreg Baltic Sea Region Orientation Paper for 2021-27 they are called the "first-timers" in opposition to the "Usual suspects club", so those who are well-known project partners, consortium leaders and strategic processes developers.

Newcomers constitute a very heterogeneous group of different kinds of organisations (regarding size, strategic orientation, business model, funding streams, target groups, etc.), which makes it challenging to distinguish, characterise and identify them among EUSBSR cooperation actors. We need them on board in the EUSBSR cooperation, as they neither follow the logic of academia (characterised by excellence in scientific disciplines) nor the logic of typical business actors (shaped by competitiveness and profit). Their modus operandi focuses on solving societal problems (usually they are mission-driven), and they aim to influence the policymaking process, or they are more service-oriented and try to improve the situation of their primary target group.

RECRUITMENT: Umbrella 2.0 aims at building a strong partnership with UBC and BSSSC. Beneficiaries of Umbrella 2.0 would be chosen among Umbrella's, ERB's UBC's and BSSSC's networks.

FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)	Specific objectives/actions relating to different policy areas or horizontal actions.	https://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/
The EU Green Deal	Action plan	https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)	https://sdgs.un.org/goals

3. COMPOSITION OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Please indicate how this project relates to the main applicant's other activities and strategies/goals. Please also reflect on the main applicant's commitment to the project.

<p>1. Name and country of the organisation: Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic (ERB)</p> <p>Type of organisation: Non-governmental organisation</p> <p>Competence of organisation to be used in this project: capacity building experience based on several initiatives undertaken since 2013 incl. Umbrella project and Capacity Building project (Interreg South Baltic Programme), strong networking experience, expertise in engaging beneficiaries to the EUSBSR processes.</p> <p>Via International Permanent Secretariat of the Euroregion Baltic, established in the Association of the Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic we will engage in the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Region Blekinge - Region Kronoberg - Region Kalmar County - Skåne Association of Local Authorities - Regional Council in Bornholm - Kaliningrad Region - Pomorskie Region - Warmia and Masuria Region - Association "Klaipeda Region". <p>Role of organisation in this project: Lead Partner</p> <p>Added value this organisation gains from participating: capacity building to the beneficiaries being part of the ERB network or reached directly by the ERB members, capacity building, closer cooperation with the UBC and BSSSC on issues related to EUSBSR, SDGs and the EU Green Deal.</p>

Established in 1998 **Euroregion Baltic (ERB)**, is a politically-steered and well-anchored cross-border cooperation platform in the south-east of the Baltic Sea region, representing regional authorities and associations of local authorities of nine regions in five countries. It was the first euroregion to have formally included a partner from Russia. ERB offers an excellent cooperation framework with a focus on improving awareness, competence and capacity among various actors in the South Baltic Sea. Our emphasis is placed on small and local

organisations from the peripheral regions where the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) serves as an essential reference. Our goal is to see more engagement in macroregional collaborations on the part of these small and local actors, coupled with the attraction of newcomers to transnational cooperation.

As a result of this, Euroregion Baltic (ERB) will propose a concept of a 1-year long capacity-building programme aimed at stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region with little or no experience in transnational cooperation, and specifically in the activities implemented within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

International Permanent Secretariat (IPS), run by the Head of the IPS, would be responsible for the proper execution of the Umbrella 2.0 project, working daily with ERB Secretariats located in: Poland, Denmark, Sweden, Lithuania and Russia, to engage them and their beneficiaries in project activities and use each of the 10 ERB members' networks to reach out to the small and local actors. Hybrid/physical events planned in the project and designed for the ERB to organise would take place in different ERB countries and engage their stakeholders incl. Russian participants.

Project partners:

<p>2. Name and country of the organisation: UBC Type of organisation: Non-governmental organisation Competence of organisation to be used in this project: capacity building (co-coordinators of the EUSBS HA CAP), strong networking experience, expertise in engaging beneficiaries to the EUSBSR processes. We wish to cooperate with UBC to expand our project to the whole BSR area thanks to their well-known and established network and engage participants from countries outside the ERB area like; Germany, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia. Role of organisation in this project: partner Added value this organisation gains from participating: capacity building to the beneficiaries being part of the UBC network or reached directly by the UBC member cities, capacity building, closer cooperation with the ERB and BSSSC on issues related to EUSBSR, SDGs and the EU Green Deal</p>
<p>3. Name and country of the organisation: BSSSC (associated partner) Type of organisation: network Competence of organisation to be used in this project: capacity building, strong networking experience, expertise in engaging beneficiaries to the EUSBSR processes. We wish to cooperate with BSSSC to expand our project to the whole BSR area thanks to their network and engage participants from countries outside the ERB area like; Germany, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia. Role of organisation in this project: associated partner Added value this organisation gains from participating: capacity building to the small and local beneficiaries being part of the BSSSC network or reached directly by the BSSSC members, capacity building, closer cooperation with the ERB and UBC on issues related to EUSBSR, SDGs and the EU Green Deal.</p>

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is the leading network of cities in the Baltic Sea Region with around 100 Member Cities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden. Founded in 1991 in Gdańsk, UBC is a voluntary, proactive network mobilising the shared potential of its member cities.

UBC works through seven Commissions: Cultural Cities, Inclusive and Healthy Cities, Planning Cities, Safe Cities, Smart and Prospering Cities, Sustainable Cities, and Youthful Cities.

The aims of the UBC are to:

- Promote cooperation and exchange of experiences between cities in the BSR to advance and deliver sustainable urban solutions and quality of life, and so to bring added value for them;
- Promote cities as drivers for smart, sustainable, green and resource-efficient growth;
- Advance cities as inclusive, diverse, creative, democratic and safe hubs, where active citizenship, gender equality and participatory policymaking are promoted;
- Advocate for common interests of cities and their citizens, act on their behalf and further the interests of the BSR.

The UBC and its Member Cities work in close cooperation with other partners and participate actively for the implementation of regional strategies, notably the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region EUSBSR.

In Umbrella 2.0 project, we would mostly cooperate with:

UBC Secretariat - coordinates the UBC daily work and activities. It is responsible for smooth communication, administration and organisation of UBC events. The Secretariat offers assistance to Commissions and other UBC bodies. The Secretariat is located in Gdańsk, Poland.

UBC Communications Network was established in January 2015, alongside with the renewal process of UBC commissions.

The network consists of 37 cities' communications representatives and UBC commissions' Communications Officers. They would be key players engaged in reaching to the project stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Main aims of the network are:

- Improve communication between UBC and its member cities so that we can utilise all the potential and benefit that we can have of the cooperation within UBC and its member cities.
- Share best practices and tools and provide a network for consultation and collaboration.
- Make sure that the UBC member cities can receive the best benefit out of their membership, also in terms of communications and marketing.
- Each town can contribute to the network with the resources and time.

Skills and experiences

The Secretariat has a very well-experienced staff when it comes to organising and coordinating international events and depending on the task ahead the Secretariat has direct access to several hundreds of local-level experts in each commission and member city.

Associated partner (due to lack of the formal/legal entity representing the network):

The Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) is a political network for decentralised authorities (subregions) in the Baltic Sea Region.

The organisation was founded in Stavanger, Norway, in 1993. Its participants are regional authorities (level directly below the national level authorities) of the 10 Baltic Sea littoral states: Germany, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Russia.

The BSSSC is a political network whose main organisational bodies are: the Chairperson (elected by the Board on a rotational basis for two years), the Board consisting of two representatives of each of the BSR countries, the Secretariat, that follows the Chairperson and ad hoc working groups. The main BSSSC event is the annual conference held each year in early autumn (September - October).

The BSSSC cooperates closely with other key Baltic Sea Region and European organisations and institutions. The BSSSC has renewed its Declaration of Common Interest with the Committee of the Regions in 2012 and opened its network for other BSR organisations on the local and regional level to become participants (B7, UBC).

For the Umbrella 2.0, project BSSSC is a crucial partner, as they strive for bottom-up approaches – promoting the interests of local and regional authorities and youth – in national and EU policy. BSSSC strongly advocates the principles of good governance – the rule of law, participation, transparency, efficiency, equity, accountability, responsiveness and consensus. Based on solidarity, understanding, cooperation and joint approaches BSSSC seeks to optimise its work through synergies with other organisations and structures – taking into account the Baltic 2030 Action Plan, initiated by CBSS, based on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and the Northern Dimension (ND).

In 2020-21 BSSSC is under the Pomorskie Chairmanship, the BSSSC Board is Chaired by Mr Mieczysław Struk and the Secretariat is established in Gdańsk.

In COVID19 pandemic situation, we see this as a positive thing, that all 3 Secretariats of ERB, UBC and BSSSC are established in Poland, and they cooperate closely daily. Even in case of problems with travel, the core group of project leaders may meet and work unaffectedly.

Our partnership reflects a cross-sectoral and multilevel governance perspective, as we include different types of actors and cooperate directly or indirectly with bottom-up beneficiaries.

We contribute to the cross-sectoral cooperation, as civil society organisations and small, local NGOs are mentioned as a target group together with local authorities. We also underline the multilevel governance, as the representatives from other local authorities will have the ability to meet and engage in the discussion and co-creation labs with the representatives of the EUSBSR Policy Area Coordinators (regional and state level), who will be involved in "Meet-your-Flagship" and maybe other activities as well.

4. SUMMARY: OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES, INDICATORS AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Short-term objectives	project	Activity/ Operation	Indicator	Expected output
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<p>Raising awareness of opportunities and benefits of transnational cooperation, increasing the stakeholders' interest in the EU and its financial instruments</p>	<p>1 Awareness Raising Event</p> <p>1 Communication campaign on social media, LMS platform (Moodle), Newsletters</p>	<p>50 ORGANISATIONS participating in the Awareness Raising Event and informed about the opportunities and benefits of transnational cooperation</p> <p>300 bottom-up actors can be informed via Umbrella newsletter and / or reached through Moodle platform</p>	<p>Increased awareness of opportunities and benefits of transnational cooperation and EU financial instruments Increased interest of stakeholders for transnational cooperation</p>
<p>Establishing new relations, strengthening already existent networks and strategic relations with partners;</p>	<p>1 Report + List of EUSBSR Flagships and their "entry points" for the small and local actors;</p> <p>1 List of participants for the training and their letters of commitment</p> <p>3 two-day "Meet-your-Flagship" events</p>	<p>1 report, min. 20 pages, 14 interviews with each PA Coordinator conducted and results presented in the document.</p> <p>40 ORGANISATIONS signing a letter of commitment to take part in a training process</p> <p>40 ORGANISATIONS taking part in the events and entering the Flagships networks</p>	<p>Strengthened and enlarged networks Strengthened strategic relations among partners</p>
<p>Improving knowledge about EU relevant strategies and their field of application</p>	<p>3 thematic training sessions on: EUSBSR SDGs EU Green Deal</p>	<p>40 ORGANISATIONS organisations taking part in the 3 thematic training sessions</p>	<p>Increased knowledge about EU relevant strategies and their field of application</p>
<p>Building competences (knowledge and skills to run projects and influence the</p>	<p>2 webinars on project management based on Umbrella's material (knowledge about the EU and its</p>		<p>Enhanced competences to run projects and influence the area, Increased</p>

area, opportunities to build the network with stakeholders in the area).	financial instruments and strategies, and their competences in building new networks, running projects and have an impact on local territories.)		opportunities to build the network with stakeholders in the area).
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NB all the activities proposed before can be carried out in a digital version.

MAIN OUTPUT 1:

50 ORGANISATIONS are invited to the Awareness Raising Event and are informed about the opportunities and benefits of transnational cooperation

MAIN OUTPUT 2:

40 ORGANISATIONS sign a letter of commitment and take part in the training process (3 thematic training sessions + webinars on project management)

MAIN OUTPUT 3:

1 Report + List of EUSBSR Flagships and their "entry points" for the small and local actors

MAIN OUTPUT 4:

4 informative and "co-creation" events (1 ARE+ 3 Meet your Flagship)

MAIN OUTPUT 5:

5 training sessions (3 thematic + 2 webinars)

WORK PACKAGE 1- MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

1.1- Internal project coordination

The signing of partnership agreements

Detailed activity plan and timetable of activity

1.2- Online and face-to-face partners meetings (on-line 1/month and 3 face-to-face meetings - January, June and November 2021)

1.3- Project quality evaluation

1.4- Project reporting

WORK PACKAGE 2- COMMUNICATION

2.1- Communication campaign related to ERB and Umbrella project, intertwining + promotion of the EUSBSR, EU and Swedish Institute tools and activities available for our beneficiaries.

2.2- Moodle: maintenance of the platform (webinars + manuals and extra material+ funding opportunities)

2.3- Newsletters: min. 4 newsletters (1,2,3,4th quarter of 2021)

Outputs:

- 2-3 graphic posts/month shared on ERB/UBC/BSSSC and Umbrella 2.0 social media and websites (incl. information about the SI support);
- Umbrella LMS platform (Moodle) promoted to the Umbrella 2.0 beneficiaries
- 4 project newsletters disseminated through ERB/UBC and BSSSC networks, as well as the Umbrella 2.0 project network
- 4 visual infographics to explain key points from the 3.2 Report to the bottom-up stakeholders, disseminated by 3 project partners on their websites and Social media accounts
 - min. 50 organisations are invited to the Awareness Raising Event and informed about the opportunities and benefits of transnational cooperation
 - min. 300 bottom-up actors can be informed via Umbrella newsletter and / or reached through Moodle platform
 - 40 organisations invited to "Meet your flagships" events
 - 40 organisations are invited to 3 thematic training sessions and 2 webinars.

WORK PACKAGE 3- AWARENESS RAISING, BONDING&BRIDGING

3.1- Organisation and holding of Awareness Raising Event.

Networking events or conferences to raise awareness among stakeholders on the EUSBSR Action Plan and communication, UN SDGs, EU Green Deal. These are the major topics that need to be investigated by the beneficiaries to make them create a connection between the upper strategic level and the bottom operative level. The latter is the one that actually can have a relevant impact on a local level, especially in terms of sustainable development.

3.2- List the EUSBSR Flagships and mapping and information on their "entry points" for the bottom-up stakeholders.

Currently, in the EUSBSR, we have over 150 active, finalised or emerging flagships - cooperation platforms for transnational, cross-sectoral cooperation based on multi-level governance. Multiple actors are invited to develop solutions, new approaches and policy recommendations collectively. Within the EUSBSR, we believe that the flagships have proved their consolidative role, as they offer processes which enable multiple actors from different levels to work together on challenges and opportunities in the chosen area. The most experienced, and usually engaged actors represent regional or national authorities and academia. They are aware of the opportunities posed by the flagship processes and often engage in them. Yet we still rarely see local and rural local entities like municipalities, local socio-economic actors and institutions, and NGOs. Therefore, the aim is to make sure they are as adequately informed as to the others and foresee the same possibilities for their cross-border and transnational cooperation within the EUSBSR and other relevant EU agendas.

An external expert would be in charge of contacting all 14 EUSBSR Policy Areas Coordinators, hold an interview with each and based on that conduct a study grouping Flagships into major cooperation areas, suggest and/or develop areas-related networks, point out the entry point for the local and regional actors and the NGOs. The scope of the work shall concentrate on bottom-up actors, not the regional/national stakeholders. The expert shall prepare concise info on the "entry points" to each Flagship process that would be tailored-made for the bottom-up

stakeholders (NGOs, smaller municipalities, small and local actors who are new to cross-border/BSR cooperation). The expert shall prepare an easy-to-read report/booklet of around 20 pages on how they can include smaller actors in the EUSBSR process, tips for the smaller beneficiaries on how they could be engaged in the existing and planned flagships etc.

Scope of Umbrella 2.0 would be to organise micro-meetings to get stakeholders from the "bottom" to get in touch with upper strategic levels and – based on the study – share the info on the EUSBSR "entry points" directly with the RB, UBC and BSSSC networks to increase the number of the new entities engaged in the EUSBSR from 2021 and beyond.

Output: 1 report with the List of EUSBSR flagship "entry points" for the bottom-up stakeholders, min. 20 pages, 14 interviews with each PA Coordinator conducted and results presented in the document.

3.3- List of participants to the activities and their "letter of commitment" for the educational part of the project.

The "letter of commitment" shall serve two purposes - once the organisation declares they wish to be included in our project framework they confirm they will participate in the events mentioned in the Letter (with commitment that is designated person cannot participate they will have the substitute for him/her, so at least 1 person per organisation has to participate and they should assure us that there will always be at least one representative of the organisation). Secondly, we would also use the networks of our Partners when reaching out to the beneficiaries, thus we would like to link our Partners with the institutions they bring on board. This means they would be responsible for contacting them and ensuring their commitment and participation (and in case having the backup organisation ready to participate).

Those beneficiaries, who see they could use more capacity building in WP4 to activate themselves better in the EUSBSR/SDGs/EU Green Deal/ frameworks, we could offer:

- more in-depth sessions with experts on EUSBSR, SDGs and EU Green Deal in the form of co-creation labs (possible live events, hybrid or on-line);
- transnational project management training based on Umbrella project outcomes. ERB has the training material, Moodle platform and train-the-trainers concept ready to replicate for the BSR stakeholders (webinar).

3.4 "Meet-your-flagship"

Three 2-day (lunch-to-lunch) transnational workshops (hybrid form, to assure the possibility to participate to every beneficiary from the BSR) in the form of co-creation labs would be organised as an "entry point" to major Flagship processes. Topics will cover some of the macro-areas established by an external expert in charge of contacting all the EUSBSR PAs and to group them into major areas of interest. – also based on the Flagships.

After each meeting an online survey will be sent to the participants to assess the event outcomes and collect their ideas for the follow-up.

Responsibility: ERB (1 event + 1 event with the BSSSC support), UBC (1 event).

Output: min. 40 organisations reached.

**In each local event at least 10 participants have to come from abroad.

WORK PACKAGE 4- EDUCATION AND TRAINING

4.1- Two Webinars on project management

On-line training courses on project management will be organised based on the training material produced in the Umbrella project. This is an additional voluntary training that we offer in the frame of Umbrella 1.0. The platform used for the material and the webinars is Moodle- already established and run for Umbrella.

4.2- Thematic training

Organisation of 3 training sessions on:

- 1) EUSBSR (action plan and topics, from the strategic to the operational level);
- 2) UN SDGs (how to brainstorm on your organisation directing your activities to the fulfilment of some of UN SDGs, mainstreaming SDGs in daily work and activities of small and local actors to stimulate capacity building, enable the exchange of good practises among BSR beneficiaries
- 3) EU Green Deal (to know the policy and connect with the local level and the activities of the small and local actors).

We aim at involving the local public and to broadcast the conference for the rest of international stakeholders.

After each meeting an online survey will be sent to the participants to assess the event outcomes and collect their ideas for the follow-up.

Output: min. 40 organisations take part in the online sessions building their capacities on EUSBSR, SDGs and EU Green Deal policies and informing them how to align better these policies with their daily work and activities.

The overall aim is to shift the paradigm from taking part in international projects to become an active player in the EUSBSR/SDGs/EUGreen Deal/ process.

Our goal is to share the knowledge on how to build a process for the implementation of EUSBSR, SDGs and Green Deal at the local level by local authorities and civil society organisations.

5. WORKPLAN

Period	Place/Country	Activity/Operation	Responsible	Invited stakeholders/ participants
January 2021	Gdańsk, Poland	1st Project partners physical meeting	ERB	ERB UBC BSSSC SI
January-March 2021		1 List of EUSBSR Flagships and their "entry points" to small and local actors / bottom-up actors	External expert	ERB UBC BSSSC to consult the expert
March 2021	Poland	1 Awareness Raising Event (digital or hybrid form)	ERB (organised in Poland)	Stakeholders of ERB, UBC and BSSSC
April May June 2021		1 List of participants for the trainings and their letters of commitment		
April May June 2021	ERB: Sweden (Kronoberg or Blekinge region) ERB with BSSSC: Stockholm, Sweden UBC: Finland + Project partner meeting during one of the events in June	3 two-day "Meet-your-Flagship" events (physical or hybrid)	ERB UBC BSSSC	Stakeholders of ERB, UBC and BSSSC
July or September 2021	All BSR stakeholders	2 webinars on project management	ERB	Stakeholders of ERB, UBC and BSSSC (who committed to be part of this project phase)
September October November 2021	ERB: Kaliningrad Region, Russia UBC: Lithuania (The event will if possible be held back-to-back with the Annual Forum of the EUSBSR in	3 training sessions on EUSBSR, SDGs and EU Green Deal (digital or hybrid)	ERB UBC BSSSC	Stakeholders of ERB, UBC and BSSSC (who committed to be part of this

	Lithuania in 2021). Should this not be possible other options will be explored. BSSSC: Germany or Latvia + Project partner meeting during one of the events in November			project phase)
January 2021- December 2021	All BSR stakeholders	1 Communication campaign on social media, LMS platform (Moodle), Newsletter		Stakeholders of ERB, UBC and BSSSC

We would make sure to organise physical/hybrid events in different BSR countries - we plan to use the existing networks of ERB/UBC and BSSSC and whenever possible combine our events with the ERB/UBC/BSSSC/ annual events or Board meetings to ensure better recognition of our activities, broader audience and more in-depth discussion on EUSBSR level. We would start from Poland, as both ERB and UBC Secretariats are located there. Later events would take place in: Sweden, Russia, Lithuania, Germany, Finland – this would be agreed among the ERB/UBC/BSSSC partners (in close cooperation with the SI) in the 1st month of the project implementation.

At each project event we will promote the Swedish Institute and its tools and activities available for our beneficiaries like: SI Seed Money Funding and other opportunities. SI representatives will be invited to all the meetings to provide more in-depth knowledge on SI activities and possibility of personal communication to our project beneficiaries.

6. COMMUNICATION

See workpackage WP2- Communication

7. SUSTAINABILITY

The overall concept of Umbrella 2.0 has been developed on:

- the lessons learnt from the previous Umbrella project (especially tailor-made set of solutions, training methods, networking, management of newcomers and their inclusion in the networks;
- the good cooperation with EUSBSR, its involvement and networking with local and regional authorities
- the involvement of ERB in policy development (cross-border workshops in the format of focus group discussions to prepare reports to be held to the South Baltic Programme to influence its future shape (2021-2027 programming period)
- the capacity of reaching local stakeholders and newcomers.

Umbrella was the result of the capacity transfer from the previous "Capacity building" project. Umbrella has been able to continue the process with a new set of activities. Umbrella 2.0 aims to scale up at Baltic Sea Regional level using the tools already tested and spread within Umbrella. This would guarantee the project sustainability in a future optics of submitting an

application for a project that could cover at least a 2-3 year period in the Baltic Sea Region Programme.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

Risks associated with corruption	Probability (1 – 4)	Consequence (1 – 4)	Total risk	Risk management	Person responsible
Partners have no history of corruption risks and work on public funding with external revision	0	4	0	We have three partners engaged, but funds will be distributed among two (ERB will allocate the finances for the BSSSC events and will cover these expenses). Both organisations with the budget have experience of working with external finances and good routines to prevent corruption.	Project Leaders
COVID19 pandemic will enable us the meetings in person	3	2	2	From the beginning, we plan the on-line events and the others in hybrid form. If the hybrid meeting would not be possible, we will organise all events in an on-line way (and transfer the funds to the on-line events, i.e. for the ICT solutions, moderators etc.)	Project leaders
Partners won't get along and are not able to cooperate	1	3	1	All three partners have a great history of join cooperation, incl international projects (also currently running, i.e. Erasmus+). The 10 members of Euroregion Baltic have over 20 years of successful cooperation history; thus, we do not foresee there could be problems with them not being engaged or active.	Project leaders, ERB Secretariats
Partners will not be able to keep to the work plan and the budget	1	3	1	Each partner needs to inform their respective organisation about the project and what is expected. We had a very long preparatory phase, and we also formed this project based on the successful Umbrella Interreg South Baltic project realisation so that we will continue with the best practices gained there.	Project leaders, ERB Secretariats

