



APPLICATION FORM

Central Baltic

INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013

The excel protection must not be removed

Damaged application forms will be deemed ineligible

5TH CALL FOR PROJECT APPLICATIONS

Application Form to be filled in and returned by email to:
application@centralbaltic.eu

Confirmation letter to be signed and mailed to:
Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013
Joint Technical Secretariat
Regional Council of Southwest Finland
P.O. Box 273, 20101 Turku, FINLAND

1. Project identification	REFERENCE OF THE APPLICANT	UTARTU-BALTICDIVERSITY02						
1.1. Project title:	Towards transboundary access of nature observation data							
1.2. Project acronym	BALTICDIVERSITY							
1.3. Duration of the project	Start: beginning of	05	2011	Closure: end of	12	2013	Duration	32 months
1.4. Project budget								
Project budget					1 554 000 €			
ERDF funding applied for					1 165 500 €			
Amount of eligible national funding					388 500 €			
1.5. (Sub)Programme and priority applied within								
(Sub)Programme								
Central Baltic Programme								
Priority								
1. Safe and healthy environment								
Direction of Support								
Environmental awareness raising and expertise								



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1.6. Summary of the project and its work packages

The project will promote transboundary access to nature observation data in three Central Baltic countries: Finland, Sweden and Estonia. Our goal is to use the joint potential of the national nature observation databases, including those covering the museum collections, and make their contents accessible to interested target groups in all the project countries. The project supports the development of national data bases in similar platforms and developing data exchange formats for common display of the data. The target groups who benefit from this project are teachers and students, naturalists (bird watchers, entomologists, geologists), and also civil servants working in the field on nature conservation or planning.

The goal of the project is to support and encourage the knowledge of biological and geological diversity and to strengthen the basis for transboundary co-operation on nature conservation and environmental education. Common data sets are not only valuable for those interested in nature, but they also support the transboundary social networks interested in studying and observing the natural diversity. The observations of grassroot level naturalists are valuable for analysing the patterns of migration of the organisms. Alongside the field observations, the museum collections provide a valuable insight to natural diversity. By attracting the interested people to follow the variability in the nature, there is better chance to communicate how science works, and how and why the fragile nature should be conserved.

The three work packages focus on project management (WP1), data base development (including structure and contents) and IT support (WP2) and outreach and publicity activities (WP3). The overall management will govern and co-ordinate all the project activities and outsourced services. The development of data base structure and contents in WP2 will give outputs that will be promoted by the outreach activities of WP3, step by step. The planning is coordinated by project meetings, and permanent communication between the WP-s.

Maximum amount of characters in these input fields is 3000.

Number of characters in input fields 1. 725 2. 818 3. 528

1.7. Previously submitted applications for funding in the Central Baltic Interreg IVA Programme

yes

Has this application been previously submitted to the Central Baltic INTERREG IVA Programme and been rejected

If yes, please provide the acronym(s) of the project(s) and specify the time(s) when the application(s) was/were submitted

BALTICDIVERSITY (UTARTU-BALTICDIVERSITY01), 4th Call, June 9, 2010

2. Origin of the project

2.1. Specific problem or development area to be addressed

The major natural history museums who are the partners of this project are the largest producers, aggregators, and providers of biodiversity data in the region. The development of national nature observation data bases, including the field observation and museum collection data in the three countries participating in the project has reached to the crossroads: the museums have found out that they host and plan to develop their nature observation and collection databases in a closely similar manner, and that their starting position is very similar. In all these countries, the development started from several small separate data bases, which still exist. Still, the data bases of the major museums differ in aiming to an open access to the nature observation data and have an ambition of national coverage of most of the known species. The developments in all these countries, including the data base platforms, contents and attempts to share the data, are in close phases.

The current status of the nationally localized data bases, without transboundary access, appears to be a dead end perspective in the context of the data exchange and joint application opportunities. Up to now, there have not been successful attempts in developing the data exchange and joint platforms between the national data bases. However, the consultations and negotiations between the key partners in Sweden, Finland and Estonia have allowed to define the common interests and to outline the co-operation perspectives in this field.

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2.2. Objectives of the project

The goal of the project is to connect data holdings of the major natural history museums in the region an interoperable whole, so that these data can better be used for decision making about nature conservation, research, education, and in serving the general public across borders. The objective is to open up through Internet and in coordinated fashion selected databases about organism groups that are commonly used for environmental indicator development such as birds and butterflies, or are otherwise critical for nature conservation and public awareness and environmental education, such as insects, amphibians or fossils. Comprehensive species distribution datasets from wide geographic areas over the Central Baltic Sea region of these will be built, and made publicly available. This helps to address transboundary problems, like impact of climate change on biodiversity.

The museum databases will be enhanced in functionalities and with modern integrated solutions and open source developments. This will also speed up digitisation of collections. Citizen scientists that provide the majority of new observation data will be supported with better tools that enhance the quality of data and increases its volume. Communication between observers even in different countries will be enhanced.

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2.3. Expected results

The main result is free and open availability of biodiversity data across the Central-Baltic area.

Access by environmental authorities to the large museum databases will be made more effective. This concerns in particular implementation of the birds and habitats directives of the EU. Authorities do no longer need to request certain data to be digitised and extracted from databases and wait for the results. They can directly access the standards based open interfaces of the databases. This will make public sector working more efficiently.

New data gathering portals for citizen scientists will further motivate them to report their observations. Awareness of general public to nature will increase when user friendly tools become available. Enhanced communication between observers will lead to increased interest to nature, observation, and consequently nature protection.

Connections and cooperation between the major museums in the region will be strengthened when they share database technologies and development efforts. Better database tools will speed up digitisation of collections. The joint development of the databases is a clue for enhancing the exchange of experiences and cooperation on a wide spectrum of museum services, including the database-supported collection management.

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2.4. Chosen methods

Development and adoption of a new generation of software for museum database management and digitisation of collections is the most important method to achieve results. A new software architecture needs to be designed following the best practices from the worldwide biodiversity informatics community. Open source software solutions will then be developed or components adopted from other existing projects in other parts of the world. Use of data gathering portals by citizens will be promoted.

Positioning on map, image upload, commenting and validation of sightings of other observers help to improve data quality and make connections between observers. Large datasets will be put together of selected organism groups, such as birds, butterflies, dragonflies, other insects, amphibians, fossils, etc. will be made freely accessible for scientists and environmental authorities, and their use for solving transboundary problems will be demonstrated in promotional events.

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2.5. Location of activities

The museums and universities promoting the project are located in three capitals: Stockholm, Helsinki and Tallinn, and in the Estonian university town, Tartu. The web-based distribution maps of nature observation data promote their use in the whole Central Baltic area. The promotion events will be carried out in the locations of the project partners - in Stockholm, Helsinki, Tallinn and Tartu. Attracting people to study interactive databases will be also used for introducing and explaining the relevance of the museum collections and the data locked in the specimens.

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Number of characters in input fields 1. 2.

Does the project include activities that are targeted to the adjacent areas?

yes

If yes please fill in the relevant parts in [Annex3 "Budget"](#)

Does the project include activities / actors outside the programme area (but within EU)?

no

If yes please fill in the relevant parts in [Annex3 "Budget"](#)

Does the project include activities / actors outside European Union?

no

If yes please fill in the relevant parts in [Annex3 "Budget"](#)

2.6. Work packages and Milestones

[Please go to Annex 2 and fill in relevant sections](#)

2.7 Indicators and Policy Objectives

[Please go to the Annex4 Indicators and Policy objectives and fill in the section relevant to the chosen part of the programme and priority](#)

3. Overall programme objectives and links with other programmes

3.1. Cross-border added value

The project has a stimulating cross-border impact on environmental awareness. It promotes the advancement of the biodiversity data exchange in commonly understandable way and enhances contacts between the communities of naturalists in different countries. It also promotes the transboundary cooperation of major museums and other institutions hosting natural history collections and databases. As the databases will be compiled on a sound scientific basis, they have cross-border value for education and nature conservation, and for solving larger regional questions that require the knowledge on distribution patterns of various species. Many distribution patterns of species make sense when analyzed in a wider territory than one country. For example, northern countries have experienced invasions of southern species in the context of the pulses of warmer climatic conditions.

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Number of characters in input fields 1.

3.2. Relevance of the project for the (sub)programme

The project focuses on one priority area of the Central Baltic programme: environmental awareness raising and expertise. It addresses the theme of enhancement of the cross-border information exchange, using the tools of ICT for advancing the contacts of naturalists and for promoting environmental awareness of a wide range of target groups. The activities of the project also enhance the transboundary communication of experts and institutions responsible for nature observation data and natural history collections. The transboundary communication supports the interest towards nature and exchange of cultural values supporting nature conservation and sustainable development. In perspective, the results of the joint data base development may offer new understanding of the dynamics of the biodiversity patterns and may be helpful to environmentalists and policy makers by offering new tools for the prognosis of ecosystem services.

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Number of characters in input fields 1. 935

3.3. Links with other programmes

3.3.1. Links with projects implemented under Interreg IIIA Southern Finland and Estonia programme, Interreg IIIA Skärgården programme, Baltic Sea Region INTERREG IIIB Neighbourhood Programme 2000-2006 or Phare programmes

Does the project and its partnership follow on any of the projects implemented under Interreg IIIA Southern Finland

no

- Estonia, Interreg IIIA Skargarden, Baltic Sea Region INTERREG IIIB Neighbourhood Programme 2000-2006 or Phare programmes?

If yes please describe what is the difference between the project implemented earlier and the current application.

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3.3.2. Links to other relevant programmes (e.g. Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013, South Baltic Cross-border Co-operation Programme, Estonia – Latvia Programme 2007-2013, Structural Fund's mainstream programmes or other relevant programmes)

Various projects in the programmes named above have addressed and are expected to address different aspects of environmental conservation and education. Without indication of specific projects, it is expected that many environmental conservation and education projects can benefit from the web tools and representative integrated data base access to be developed by major museums and other institutions hosting natural history collections.

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3.4. Relevance of the project for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

One of the four focuses of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is environment, alongside with the economy, accessibility and security. The focus of the project on the knowledge of the biological and geological diversity is relevant for many priorities of the strategy. First, it raises the environmental awareness of many target groups, making thus a social impact towards better attitudes to nature. Second, through providing the knowledge, it supports nature conservation and sustainability of ecosystem services - a cornerstone for sustainable environment and economy. Third, it promotes overall interest towards education and science, with the added value of creating co-operative networks of people, from experts to amateurs.

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Number of characters in input fields

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4. Communication and publicity

4.1. Target groups of the communication activities

The primary target groups of this project are naturalists, educators, university and school students whose interest towards nature will be supported by adequate online information on the living organisms of their homeland and neighbouring countries in the Central Baltic area. Except of them, anyone interested in the diversity and open access to the nature observation data can benefit. In this respect, the developments gained with the project, will support both formal and informal education, life-long learning, and naturalists who have developed a special interest towards nature. It is hoped and expected that these developments wil help to bring more people to join the museum and nature observation activities.

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4.2. Communication and publicity

he development of the open access to the data bases via multilingual web support will enhance the knowledge of the biological and geological diversity in the participating countries. The web opportunities will be supported by outreach events and seminars promoting the open access to the nature observation data. When the public data base access will be ready, the new transboundary opportunities to access the nature observation data will be promoted in the national media of the participating countries.

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Number of characters in input fields 1.

5. Sustainability

5.1. Sustainability and follow-up actions

The joint development of some data base platforms and communication between the databases will provide synergies that enhance the current data base developments by the institutions hosting natural history collections. Networking and sharing the information will support the sustainability of these developments, and increase the chances for continuous funding of the most relevant activities in this field. To a certain extent, the collections and databases will be state-supported and this ensures that they will be maintained without discontinuation. At the same time, the opportunities of fast development supported by the projects will increase the chances of these databases to become an important part of the cultural environment.

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Number of characters in input fields 1. 2.

5.2. Institution implementing the results of the project

The project results will be implemented by all the partners, with the co-ordination of the lead partner, the University of Tartu. All partners will benefit from the communication of the data and will become more visible in the region. It is expected that the networks of the institutions with common interests in developing the access to the nature observation data will be maintained after the project.

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Number of characters in input fields 1.

5.3. Sustainability of the project results through investments

Maximum amount of characters in this input field is 1000

Number of characters in input fields 1.

6. Project management

6.1. Project coordination

Institution University of Tartu

Legal status

Please mark the category that best matches the institution of the partner in the dropdown box below

National public authority

Address Ülikooli 18

Postcode 50090

Town Tartu

Country Estonia

Region Lõuna – Eesti

Contact person Urmas Köljalg

Phone (office) +372 53412829

Mobile

Fax

Email Urmas.Koljalg@ut.ee; Ivar.Puura@gmail.com

Describe experience of the institution in management of cross-border EU-financed projects

The University of Tartu is taking part in several cross-border EU-financed projects, including those of INTERREG IVA. The Museum of Natural History promoting this project has been participating in an INTERREG IIIA project and is involved in INTERREG IVA project COBWEB, as a partner. The museum took active part in project application. With the experience of implementation of these projects, and different other initiatives, including structural funds, and other instruments, a wide experience has been gained for promoting this project as the lead partner.

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Number of characters in input fields

1. 558

6.2. Financial management

Institution University of Tartu

Legal status

Please mark the category that best matches the institution of the partner in the dropdown box below

National public authority

Address Ülikooli 18

Postcode 50090

Town Tartu

Country Estonia

Region Lõuna – Eesti

Financial Manager of the project:

Kadi Külm

Phone (office) +372 7375334

Mobile

+372 5056242

Fax

Email Kadi.Kulm@ut.ee

Describe experience of the institution in financial management of cross-border EU-financed projects

The University of Tartu is taking part in several cross-border EU-financed projects, including about ten INTERREG IVA projects. The financial department has a special section dealing with the cross-border projects. The financial managers participate regularly in the INTERREG information events. The university has a strong experience in cross-border projects and is often consulted by other organizations in case of non-standard situations.

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Number of characters in input fields 1. 444

6.3. Overall co-ordination and management of the project

The steering committee will be formed and it will take its traditional role for an INTERREG project in following the budget and management, and also evaluate the course of the project and give feedback to the Lead Partner. The representatives of some project partners will take part of the steering group, but also some representatives from the ministries of environment and education and/or academies of science. The project manager and project coordinators are closely cooperating in the management issues according to the working plan of WP1, and the project manager is in contact with the persons responsible for the key activities in data base development (WP2) and outreach and publicity (WP3), for strategic planning, monitoring the course of the project and for discovering early eventual declinations from the planned course of the project, and for finding the solutions for adjustments.

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Number of characters in input fields 1. 900 2. 0

6.4. Administrative and financial management of the project

The administration and financial management proceeds from the Lead partner principle. The Project partners report to the Lead Partner and the Lead Partner is responsible for compiling the reports after each milestone. The project manager and the financial manager will be hired by the Lead Partner and will carry out their work in co-operation with the project co-ordinators of the project partners, under Work Package 1 (WP1). The development of the structure, tools and contents of the data base (WP2) and the outreach and publicity activities (WP3) will be planned hand in hand - after a specific module is ready for a test launch or opening for the public, the publicity activities follow. Via the activities of WP3, the seminars are arranged to the target groups interested in the access to the nature observation data.

The lead partner (LP) will follow the rules of the project according to the programme documentation, and consults Joint Technical Secretariat, when necessary. LP will be also responsible for timely reporting for the whole project. The project partners will ensure the timely presentation of data for the first level control. The payments to the partners will be made after each report will be accepted and the funds are transferred to the lead partner account. The relationships between the Lead Partner and other partners will be agreed upon in detail in the project contracts.

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Number of characters in input fields 1. 824 2. 578

7. Additional information

Please provide any other information that you find relevant for your application.

This is the second submission of the project under new conditions. Prior to the first submission to the 4th call, the Finnish partner, the University of Helsinki (Partner 2) applied successfully for the Finnish national co-financing in the amount of 166200 EUR.

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Number of characters in input fields 1. 262 2. 0

8. Project budget

ERDF funding	1 165 500
<i>ERDF Support rate</i>	0,75 %
National co-financing(total)	388 500
Central Baltic INTERREG IVA Project Budget	1 554 000

9. Lead Partner confirmation of the Application Form information

9.1. Confirmation of no complementary EU funding

9.1.1. By signing the confirmation letter the Lead partner hereby confirms that the project, neither in whole nor in part has or will receive any complementary EU funding during the Central Baltic INTERREG IVA project period.

9.1.2. By signing the confirmation letter the Lead partner hereby confirms that none of the partners have received funding under the Deminimis rule over 200 000€ including the amount applied for in the current application during the three year period before the submission of this application .

9.2. Confirmation on the permits needed for the project implementation

9.2.1. By signing the confirmation letter the Lead partner confirms that all the partners are aware of the permits possibly needed by legislation for the project implementation and the permits have been granted.

9.3. Confirmation on applying the Public Procurement regulations during the project implementation

9.3.1. By signing the confirmation letter the Lead partner confirms that during the project implementation the European and national public procurement rules will be followed.

9.4. Confirmation of all partners' compliance with the rules regarding eligible partners

9.4.1. By signing the confirmation letter the Lead partner confirms that all partners in the partnership comply with the rules on final beneficiaries as defined in the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013.

9.5. Confirmation of all partners' commitment to the project

9.5.1. By signing the confirmation letter the Lead partner confirms that all partners listed in Annex 1 of the application form are committed to take part in the project's activities.

Date and place of signing the confirmation letter	15	12	2010	Tartu
	dd	mm	yyyy	Place
Person signing the confirmation letter	Kristjan Haller			
Position in the institution	Vice Rector			
Lead Partner institution	University of Tartu			

The Application Form is valid ONLY if it is accompanied by a signed confirmation letter.

Annex1: Partnership

FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE PLEASE SEE THE PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR FILLING IN THE APPLICATION FORM

	Institution	Country	Partner budget			
Lead Partner	University of Tartu	Estonia	ERDF	Nat. Public	Nat. Private	Total
Partner 2	University of Helsinki, Museum of Natural History	Finland	ERDF 277 500	Nat. Public 92 500	Nat. Private	Total 370 000
Partner 3	Swedish Museum of Natural History	Sweden	ERDF 315 000	Nat. Public 105 000	Nat. Private	Total 420 000
Partner 4	Institute of Geology at Tallinn University of Technology	Estonia	ERDF 157 500	Nat. Public 52 500	Nat. Private	Total 210 000
Partner 5	Estonian University of Life Sciences	Estonia	ERDF 115 500	Nat. Public 38 500	Nat. Private	Total 154 000
Total Project Budget			1 165 500	388 500	0	1 554 000
ERDF funding						1 165 500
<i>ERDF Support rate</i>						75,00 %
National co-financing(total)						388 500
<i>Public National co-financing</i>						388 500
<i>Private National co-financing</i>						0
Central Baltic INTERREG IVA Project budget						1 554 000