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SB YCGN – SOUTH BALTIC YOUTH CORE GROUPS NETWORK

STHB.05.01.00-28-0117/17

## PROJECT SB YCGN South Baltic Youth Core Groups Network

Project dedicated to: Cooperation for the participation of young citizens.

**The overall objective of the project is to build a network of South Baltic partners to promote / facilitate local youth participation.**

Preparation and submission date - 30 June 2017.

**Project duration: 24 months – starting 2018**

**Start of the project: 01.01.2018**

**End date: 30.12.2019**

### **Background:**

This project is a development of the concept created during the implementation of the seed money project "LYC SB - Local Youth Councils in SB - An Effective Way to Promote Youth Participation", which was implemented from September 2016 to January 31, 2017, under which they were developed by partners (Association Polish Communes Euroregion Bałtyk, Civis Polonus Foundation and Public Establishment Samogitia Community Foundation (Lithuania)), based on analyzes and consultations carried out, assumptions of the current application meeting the needs and requirements of international partners. The general objective of the project is to build a cooperation network for the partners of the South Baltic region in favor / enabling the increase of civic participation of young people at a local level. Pursuant to the intention and purpose set for the YCGN network, it is to be international, not limited only to the partners indicated in the application. It is to be a tool for supporting open-source young people enabling the participation of all interested entities creating added value for the benefit of civic participation of young people

On November 8-9, 2017. in Gustrow (Germany), the 5th meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg South Baltic 2014-2020 program was held. One of the Committee's tasks was to approve projects submitted in the 4th call in the program. Among the programs approved under the program axis (SO 5.1) related to building the cooperation capacity, there are three projects under which the role of Lead Partners is held by Elbląg institutions:

- SB YCGN - South Baltic Youth Core Groups Network implemented by the Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Bałtyk
- UMBRELLA - Boosting cross-border cooperation capacities in South Baltic Sea - implemented by the Permanent International Secretariat of Euroregion Baltic
- FilmNet - South Baltic Film and Culture Network - implemented by the Światowid European Meeting Center

Implementation of the above projects is not only an opportunity to implement practical and substantive activities among entities involved in international cooperation, but



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also an advantage in the form of knowledge transfer for the other member communities of the Association. In the YCGN project alone, the participation of both large and smaller municipalities is envisaged, including five representatives: Elbląg, Gdynia, Iława, Dzierzgoń, Nowe Miasto Lubawskie, and other beneficiaries of beneficiaries covering all the member municipalities of the Association.

Main Aim:

**The project respond:**

- Thematic axis 5 of the South Baltic Program: Enhancing the institutional capacity of local actors in the South Baltic area for blue and green growth;
- Specific Objective 5.1 Improve the institutional capacity of local actors in the South Baltic area by participating in international networks;

**Brief description:**

The **project involves** 8 partners and 6 associated partners from all South Baltic countries. The core partners represent local communities, an international association of communities (EUROREGION), academic sector and two foundations working with the local community and support of youth engagement.

The **overall idea** of the project is to increase youth participation in decision making on the local level and strengthen the capacities of local and regional actors in the South Baltic Programme area in youth policy and sustainable development. In its lifetime the project has the ambition to create cross border network with joint capacity building events, based on analysis and research of partner countries with following international participatory campaign.

**The project includes following activities:**

- Preparation of report based on analysis, quantitative and qualitative research; adaption of questionnaire to find out youth participation expectations, barriers, tools, examination of resource needed for improvements of situation;
- Developing rules and standards for cross-border networks, participatory process examples, case descriptions based on experience from each municipality, establishing youth core groups;
- Organizing international conferences, individual consultations, focus group discussions; competitions, trainings, seminars, monitoring visits, public speaking by young people campaigns;
- Presentation of lessons learned regarding youth participation in local governance; preparation of youth identify portfolio, video materials, cross-border publicity campaign, internet portal.

The main **target groups** are municipal youth councils, youth NGOs, and community organizations, NGOs, youth and people dealing with youth issues.



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### Detailed project objectives:

1. Increasing cross-border cooperation, exchange of experience and competences of partners on young citizens' participation (learning from each other and building capacity for cooperation);
2. Increasing the capacity and competencies of local government units and their representatives to engage in civil dialogue with young people, thus increasing the participation of young citizens;
3. dissemination of lessons learned and experiences, and joint analysis and reflection on the future of young people participation in the South Baltic area.

This project is an extension of the concept developed during the "LYC SB - Local Youth Councils in SB" initiative, which was implemented from September 2016 to January 31, 2017, under which they were developed by partners (Association of Municipalities of the Euroregion Baltic Sea, Civis Polonus Foundation and the Public Establishment Samogitia Community Foundation (Lithuania)), based on the analyzes and consultations conducted, the assumptions of the current application meeting the needs and requirements of international partners.

### Project budget:

Project Budget

ERDF co-financing [EUR]:	468 640,70
National co-financing [EUR]:	97 001,30
Total eligible budget [EUR]:	565 642,00

### Partnership:

Project Leader: Association of Municipalities of the Republic of Poland Euroregion Baltic (acting as an umbrella organization for the Association's Municipalities - 41 communes from two voivodships: Warmińsko-Mazurskie and Pomerania)

### Project Partners:

- LP - Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic - Poland
- PP2 - Civis Polonus Foundation - Poland
- PP3 - Public Establishment Samogitia Community Foundation - Lithuania
- PP4 - Telsiai District Municipality Administration - Lithuania
- PP5 - Municipality of Køge - Denmark
- PP6 - Gdansk University of Technology (GUT), Faculty of Management and Economics (FME) - Poland
- PP7 - Klaipeda University - Lithuania
- PP8 - Vimmerby Municipality - Culture and Leisure department - Sweden

### Affiliates:

- AP1 - Municipality of Hässleholm - EU office Skåne Nordost Sweden
- AP2 - Municipality of Nowe Miasto Lubawskie Poland
- AP3 - Town and Commune of Dzierzgon Poland
- AP4 - Municipality of Gdynia Poland



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AP5 - Municipality of Town of Iława Poland

AP6 - Municipality of City of Elbląg Poland

**NETWORK:**

- The network of YCGN and created during its development network connections allows organizations (involved actors: municipalities, academic institution, supporting organization participating in project activities) to learn from each other and will be an important source of innovation.
- The YCGN network can be defined as long-term cooperation relationships undertaken by equal partners (municipalities, involved institutions, scientific institutions and other relevant actors from the Baltic countries) in an environment of mutual understanding and trust supported by specialized organizations.
- This network, in brief will be an informal system consisting elements and connections between partner institutions (also from outside the project partner team), and could be characterized as constant flow of information between its members/links and joint actions undertaken by all/or just only parts of the members - depending on the real needs.

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