

Questions & answers about the Baltic Sea Action Plan Fund

The Baltic Sea Action Plan Fund (BSAP Fund) was set up in 2010 to help speed up the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, adopted by the HELCOM countries in 2007 and updated in October 2021. The aim of the Action Plan and the Fund is to restore the ecological status of the Baltic marine environment. Projects that could help improve the ecological state of the Baltic Sea can apply for grant financing from the BSAP Fund.

Do you have questions about the new call for project proposals for the BSAP Fund? Below are some answers to frequently asked questions regarding the BSAP Fund. In case of further questions, please send an email to bsapfund@nefco.int or contact:

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1. When is the application deadline?

Last day for sending the application is Friday 17 December 2021. Please send your applications to bsapfund@nefco.int

2. Who can apply?

Applicants and partners can be public or private entities. From private companies, NGO's, regional and municipal authorities and entities, research or educational institutions.

Applicants should be legally established entities with necessary technical, financial, and institutional capacity to carry out the project

Applicants and partners can come from any country, as long as the projects are situated in the Baltic Sea watershed and related to actions highlighted in the BSAP.

3. Can I apply for funding if I have already received a grant from a previous call?

Yes, you can.

The Fund can support activities that build on initiatives previously developed. However, the Fund does not re-finance already implemented projects.

4. How much is the funding per project?

Grant financing from EUR 30,000 to EUR 200,000 subject to co-financing of up to 50% of the project budget, with a possibility, on a case-by-case basis, to finance up to 70% of a project budget

Please note that funding from the BSAP Fund is paid out in accordance with EU:s de minimis regulation.

- (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid, OJ L 352/1, 24.12.2013 (Ceiling 200 000 euro).

- (EU) No 717/2014 of 27 June 2014 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid in the fishery and aquaculture sector (Official Journal L 190/45 28.6.2014) (Ceiling: 30 000 euro).
- (EU) No 1408/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid in the agriculture sector (Official Journal, L 352/9 24.12.2013) (Ceiling: 15 000 euro).

5. What kind of project is eligible for funding?

Grants can be awarded for:

- Demonstration purposes, referring to new technologies or solutions with the potential to be replicated
- Project development and preparation
- Project implementation
- Institutional support

6. What kind of activities are eligible for funding?

Projects financed by the Fund should address key challenges facing the Baltic Sea - as identified in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan¹. The main focus is on innovative projects showing additionality in implementing the BSAP. The project should include concrete measures benefitting the ecological status of the Baltic Sea, with tangible and measurable results.

Eligible project activities can include, but are not limited to:

- Fighting eutrophication
 - Measures to reduce land-based nutrient inputs
 - Measures to improve nutrient recycling
 - Measures to manage internal nutrient reserves (in coastal areas) in line with the pre-cautionary principle and HELCOM's Ministerial Declaration 2018
- Measures to address pollution by hazardous substances
- Measures to reduce marine litter

7. Who does the selection of the projects?

The fund is co-managed by Nordic Investment Bank (NIB) and Nefco, who evaluate and select project proposals for approval by the Fund's Steering Committee consisting of representatives of the governments of Finland, Sweden, and possible other donors to the Fund.

¹ Updated Baltic Sea Action Plan 2021: <https://helcom.fi/media/publications/Baltic-Sea-Action-Plan-2021-update.pdf>

8. When will the selected projects be announced?

The selected projects will be informed individually during the first quarter of 2022.

Selected projects will be publicly disclosed on www.nefco.int once they have been signed.



**Baltic Sea
Action Plan Fund**

Call for proposals

Grants to projects aiming to benefit the
ecological wellbeing of
the Baltic Sea.

Deadline: 17 December 2021

Eligibility criteria, application form
and all details on:

www.nefco.int/bsap