

**Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) Fund
March 2019**

Eligibility criteria for new projects - update, 2019

1. Introduction

Under the “Baltic Sea Action Plan Fund” (BSAP Fund) grant financing can be awarded for project preparation and institutional support aimed at project preparation in the Baltic Sea catchment area, in order to speed up the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP). Financing can be awarded to a commercial or non-commercial partner (public institution and non-profit organisations) which are considered to be in need of technical assistance and investment grants for institutional support, demonstration purposes, project development and preparation, or project implementation. Selected proposals may receive grant financing from EUR 30,000 to EUR 200,000 subject to certain co-financing requirements. The BSAP Fund is financed by the governments of Sweden and Finland. It is administered by NEFCO - the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation and NIB - the Nordic Investment Bank (“BSAP Fund Managers”).

2. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants and partners

The Lead Partner (“Applicant”) should be a legal entity. It is possible to involve in the project one or more partners from another country (“Partners”). Applicants can be public or private.

Funding opportunities will be open to projects aiming to improve and/or restore the ecological state of the Baltic Sea, in accordance with the objectives and scope of activities of the BSAP Fund. The geographical area for the projects is the catchment area of the Baltic Sea.

Both new applicants, as well as applicants who previously have received a BSAP Fund grant are eligible to apply.

Eligible Applicants and Partners are both commercial or non-commercial and non-profit organizations such as private companies, NGO’s, regional and municipal authorities and entities (including research and educational institutions, nature reserves, etc.). The involved organizations should be registered legal entities and should have the necessary technical, financial and institutional capacity to carry out projects.

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Eligible project activities and components

Projects financed by the BSAP Fund should show clear positive environmental benefits in the Baltic Sea and additionality. The final outcomes of the projects should be concrete and give measurable results. The main focus is on innovative projects to fight eutrophication.

Grant financing can be awarded for

- Institutional support
- Demonstration purposes
- Project development and preparation
- Project implementation

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

- Activities to reduce external nutrient load and nutrient recycling
- Internal load and restoration activities, using the pre-cautionary principle and in line with the declaration from HELCOM's ministerial meeting in 2018.
- Hazardous substances
- Marine litter

The BSAP Fund can finance both new initiatives and support activities that build on initiatives previously developed. All projects are obliged to present equal opportunities for men and women.

This does not constitute an offer and accordingly NEFCO reserves right to accept and refuse any proposal at its sole discretion. Additionally, the selection of project proposals is subject to individual approval by Sweden and Finland as donors to the BSAP Fund: