



Purpose

This BSR-Resilience Culture (BSR-RESCU) proposal brings together public and private actors to shape the Baltic Sea region to build innovative resilience measures to increase climate-neutrality in the region.

This initiative will offer joint responses by partners from several countries in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR), who will cooperate across borders to develop, test, and put into practice smart solutions that will benefit a wide range of people the BSR.

Challenge

This initiative will enhance disaster preparedness through active engagement of actors at various levels, and especially increasing the engagement and empowerment of civil society. The aim is to improve societal resilience culture, safety, and security, while building the collective ability of BSR societies to respond effectively to extreme weather events (e.g., droughts, floods) and other disasters.

Improved societal resilience will help safeguard the well-being and safety of BSR communities, by introducing best practices and micro services that address the needs of all citizens, including vulnerable populations, while tailored to the needs of selected regions and their populations. Providing support to businesses undergoing transition will bridge resilience building efforts by the region and its municipalities, their critical infrastructures, and services, and those that empower people to increase their own and collective resilience against change, adversity, and possible disasters.

Partnership

BSR-RESCU project partners come from different countries of the Programme area. Lead partner Laurea University of Applied Sciences comes from Finland. Together, the project partners have the competencies to achieve the expected results. **The cooperation includes representatives of the specific target groups: most notably BSR municipalities, which are represented by The Union of Baltic Sea Cities (UBC).**

Work plan

BSR-RESCU will explore and develop state-of-the-art procedures, technologies, and tools in the management of public services in the form the development and deployment of:

1. Regional Resilience & Readiness Living Lab and Center (R-LC)
 - The R-LC concept will advocate increased citizen agency, where it operates as a Living Lab:
 - Living Labs as open innovation ecosystems connect partnerships between relevant stakeholders including all quadruple helix actors (government, academia, private sector, and citizens) within the ecosystem.
 - Multi stakeholder participation and active user involvement throughout the whole innovation lifecycle brings relevant diverse viewpoints that may cover resilience and security issues for sustainable solutions.
 - During crisis the R-LC will aid the municipality or relevant authority that initiates the response and directs the operations of the R-LC with guidelines derived from the situational picture.
 - The R-LC operates as a readiness center that coordinates and provides volunteer services to the population in support of survival in societal disruption situations.
 - The R-LC situation room staff directs and coordinates volunteer readiness operations and citizen participation and creates a local situational picture.
2. R-LC can be coupled with Regional Help centers



- R-HELP centers apply a trauma informed approach (R-HELP), first train-the-trainer and second, ramp-up as pilot service
3. Regional Early Warning Systems (R-EWS)
 - Human sensor-based R-EWS, with communications solutions for monitoring of potential threats, to swiftly identify challenges, and to enable collective, rapid, and effective responses → Digital R-EWS
 4. Regional Resilience workbook (R-RW)
 - Aid municipalities/regions strengthen resilience with business continuity methodologies
 - Based on the Mesensei VARA-service platform this workbook will:
 - Help municipalities themselves build resilience,
 - Bring them together with their critical infrastructure and services providers, and
 - Help any area business ensure their business continuity.
 - Bring together needed information needed for citizens to build family and individual resilience.
 5. Regional Crisis communication planning tool (R-CC)
 - Build internal and external crisis communication.
 - With counter narratives against possible dis/misinformation
 - Dis/misinformation narratives / gamification
 - Teacher training to build resilience through the educational path (preschool; primary and secondary school; higher education)

These innovations support the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) objectives: Connect the Region and Increase Prosperity. BSR-RESCU will be a core project and prepare, pilot and transfer the above practical and durable solutions to the challenges, which are deemed to be aligned with the focus of the funding call. The main results will increase the capacities of the target groups, mainly municipalities and their critical infrastructures and services, but also area businesses, to deal with these defined challenges.

This BSR-RESCU proposal in part works to ensure professionals responsible for civil security from countries in the Baltic Sea Region exchange information, and establish the conditions for successful coordination on critical issues, and increased citizen agency, which are fully in line PA Secure mission.

These selected target groups are selected because they are organizations that have competencies to influence these challenges and are interested in the resulting solutions. BSR-RESCU has reached out to members of the target groups to involve them in the preparation, piloting, and transfer of the solution to ensure the success of this BSR-RESCU project.

Budget

TBC

Deadlines

The first stage is to describe 1. Challenge, 2. Partnership, 3. Draft work plan and 4. Planned budget in a project idea form (PIF), which must be sent in no later than **17 April 2024**.

The project application and all further documents and forms must be completed and submitted via the online submission system BAMOS+ by the **21 June 2024 16:00 CEST**.