RIGA city project proposal

PROJECT TITLE: Creating the STEAM ecosystem in the Baltic Sea Region.

Evaluating Europe's achievements in the field of innovation and technology in 2022, the region's performance is not flattering, out of the TOP 10 transversal technology areas, Europe is the leader in only 2 – green technologies and the development and production of new generation materials. According to a study by McKinsey Global Institute («Securing Europe's competitiveness: Addressing its technology gap, McKinsey & Company» (2022)), Europe has the potential to significantly improve development and its performance in the <u>field of innovation and technology</u> - it should be more open to cooperation, give the opportunity to experiment, provide experimental infrastructure at different levels, and the first of these is preschool and school.

<u>The project will address the STEAM teaching gap</u> to unite the parties involved in a single community (academic sector, STEAM industry companies, organizations and municipal structures) for the promotion of the development of STEAM education in order to provide technology and work-based learning. To promote industrial companies and organizations participation in the learning process and further education of teachers, synergy of general and interest education in the learning of STAEM subjects, as well as ensuring significant investments in the improvement of STEAM infrastructure in educational institutions.

AIM OF THE PROJECT:
To inspire and develop in students the skills and knowledge that are necessary for the labour market requirements in the future in rapidly growing industries, including engineering, creative, digital industries, and natural sciences.

WHAT WE WILL ACHIEVE:
- ✓ The number of students who choose to take advanced courses in the STEAM field has increased significantly.
- ✓ Continuing education of teachers, teaching content and materials in the field of STEAM are regularly improved.
- ✓ Involvement of students in STEAM Baltic Sea region-wide events.
- ✓ Significantly increased investment in infrastructure and learning environment.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES:
- ➢ Toolbox for fostering STEAM teaching and learning - a set of readily available tools for inspiring students and young researchers to explore STEAM.
- ➢ The activities include stakeholder needs analysis, joint preparation of workshops piloting the end solution, developing a final form of a toolbox based on the findings and providing wide dissemination of project results.
- ➢ STEAM laboratories (in schools, preschools), science centers of cooperation partners, advanced programs for learning, regular study visits, activities of experts in related fields in schools.
- ➢ Development of infrastructure related to STEM learning in educational institutions.
- ➢ Demonstrations of companies in related industries, student competitions, lectures for students and teachers about news, job opportunities in related industries, other motivational and educational events for educators.

PRPOSED RESOURCE OF FINANCE:
<u>Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme (2021-2027)</u>

Programme area:
Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany (the States (Länder) of Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein and Niedersachsen (only NUTS II area Lüneburg region)), Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Norway (the Regions of Trøndelag, Møre og Romsdal, Vestland, Rogaland, Agder, Vestfold og Telemark, Viken, Innlandet, Oslo).
<u>Project partnership with organisations from at least three Programme countries.</u>

PRIORITY 1: INNOVATIVE SOCIETIES
Objective 1.1 Resilient economies and communities

In this objective, the Programme supports actions that make <u>both economies and societies more resilient.</u>
Better <u>connect research and regional innovation systems</u>
<u>Pilot actions</u> solving specific challenge in building resilience through better connections between research and regional innovation systems.

<u>The Programme co-finance at the level of up to 80% (EU partners) and 50% (Norwegian partners).</u>

<u>Project duration:</u> up to 24 months

<u>BUDGET:</u> up to EUR 500,000

Small projects
Small projects aim at facilitating easier access to the Programme, in particular for those partners that have not previously participated in the Programme. Applying for a small project and implementing a small project is much simpler when compared to the core projects. For example, the budget of a small project is smaller than a regular project. The work plan consists of one work package and it may be implemented by small partnerships.

In small projects, partners are encouraged to develop practical and durable outputs and solutions for challenges in the region. These challenges need to correspond to one of the Programme objectives. Small projects should increase capacity of the target groups to deal with the identified challenges during and after the end of the project implementation. The development of solutions is not obligatory in small projects. However, activities need to go beyond pure networking and knowledge exchange.

<u>3rd call for small projects is under discussion for 2024/2025 – it could be opened in the fall of 2024.</u>

We invite you to join our project idea by sending an e-mail: ilze.spunde@riga.lv
We will be happy to answer your questions.
The project idea is not ready yet, your suggestions will be very helpful.