

**ANNOUNCEMENT ON LAUNCH OF THE CALL FOR SMALL PROJECT FUNDS
(II STAGE)
OF THE CROSS BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME
LITHUANIA – POLAND**

The Call for Small Project Funds (SPFs) of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Lithuania - Poland (the Programme), supporting bilateral cooperation projects, will be launched on 2013-05-21, with the deadline for the applications submission on 2013-08-30, at 16:00 (GMT + 02:00). The applications must reach the Joint Technical Secretariat physically including the e-version of the applications on that time at the latest.

The overall strategic goal of the Programme is to foster the sustainable development of the border region through enhanced economic, social and territorial cohesion of the areas on both sides of the border.

There are approximately €2 000 000 available from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the SPFs in Priority 1. *Competitiveness and productivity growth of the cross-border region* and approximately €1 000 000 available in Priority 2. *Cross-border cohesion and enhanced overall quality of the cross-border area of the Programme*

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
for the SPFS**

1. Value of the SPF - maximum value is €1 000 000 ERDF
2. Duration of the SPF – maximum allowed duration is 12 months (but not longer than until 31st December 2014).
3. Supported activities under SPF – all activities which contribute to the sub-priorities 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, as well as 2.1 and 2.2 as indicated in the Programme Manual, excluding possibilities to finance preparation of feasibility studies and technical documentation. One SPF application can be submitted under one sub-priority only by the same applicant.
4. Expected SPF outputs and results – the Call for SPFs is open to SPFs, complying with objectives of the sub-priorities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1 and 2.2. However, SPFs, contributing to achievement of the result indicator under sub-priority 1.1 *No of towns / communities connected (covered) by new transport, public transport, energy, IT and communication networks*, are particularly welcomed.
5. Number of SPF partners: 2, one from each side of the border; one of the partners acts as a SPF Lead Partner, the other one as a SPF Project Partner.
6. Role of the SPF partners: both Lead Partner and Project Partner of SPF are jointly responsible for:
 - setting an objective of an SPF,
 - announcement of an open call for Small Projects (SPs),
 - establishment of a SPF Steering Committee,
 - assessment of SPs applications eligibility and quality and selecting from 5 to 20 SPs, which match the SPF and Programme objectives (at least 25% of selected SPs should be from one side of the border), for financing,
 - preparation of SPF Application Form basing on the selected SPs,
 - submission of the SPF Application Form to the JTS by the above mentioned deadline.
 - , day-to-day SPF administration during the SPF implementation (financial flows and preparation of SPF reports, visits on spots – if planned).
7. Requirement for the Lead Partner of SPF: The Lead Partner of SPF should have proper experience in managing at least one cross-border project of the total value not less than €150 000.

8. Requirements for Small Projects: a Small Project is a small operation / activity, indicated in the SP application to be implemented by the single (1) Small Project Beneficiary; the size of the SP is between €5 000 and €100 000 of ERDF co-financing. The works component is limited to 49% of the total eligible SP budget. SP should contribute to attaining the overall objective of an SPF.

For more detailed description and requirements for SPF and SP please refer to the document *Small Project Fund (II stage) Implementation Guidelines*.

Other conditions regarding Programme territories, eligible partners (both SPF partners and SP Beneficiaries) and partnership are in line with the Programme Document and Programme Manual:

The eligible area of the Programme covers the following territories:

- ❖ In Lithuania: Alytus, Marijampole counties as the main territory and Taurage, Kaunas and Vilnius (excluding Vilnius city municipality) counties as adjacent areas.
- ❖ In Poland: Białostocko-Suwalski and Etcki Subregions as the main territory and Łomżyński and Olsztyński Subregion as adjacent areas.

SPF applicants can be public authorities from national, regional and local level, public equivalent bodies, such as research and training institutions, foundations, schools, universities, municipal enterprises, agencies, associations, as well as NGOs and other non-profit organisations. For the specific provisions on Lead Partners please refer to the Programme Manual available on the website: www.lietuva-polska.eu.

85 % of the total eligible SPF costs are co-financed by the ERDF, the project partners have to contribute by 15% from their own resources.

Applicants can find the Application Form (AF) and other documents (Programme Manual, SPF (II stage) implementation guidelines, Guidelines on filling in the SPF AF, Digital SPF AF navigation guidelines as well SPs related forms) on the web site: www.lietuva-polska.eu.

For detailed information please contact the Joint Technical Secretariat: tel. +370 5 261 0477; info@lietuva-polska.eu.