

INTERREG LATVIA-LITHUANIA 2021-2027 AID SCHEME

1. Legal basis

The Interreg Latvia-Lithuania 2021 – 2027 aid scheme (“Scheme”) operates under Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Article 107 and 108 of the Treaty, as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1084 of 14 June 2017, Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/972 of 2 July 2020, Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/452 of 15 March 2021, Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021, Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/917 of 04 May 2023 and Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1315 of 23 June 2023 (“GBER”). The legal basis for the scheme is the European Territorial Cooperation programme Interreg VI-A Latvia-Lithuania cross border cooperation programme 2021-2027 CCI 2021TC16RFCB026 (“Programme”), approved by the Commission Implementing Decision C(2022)7183 of 4 October 2022.

2. Objective

The objective of this Scheme is:

- aid for costs incurred by undertakings participating in European Territorial Cooperation projects financed by the Programme (Article 20 of GBER);
- limited amounts of aid to undertakings for participation in European Territorial Cooperation projects financed by the Programme (Article 20a of GBER).

3. Eligible area

This scheme is available in the EU Member States participating in the Programme: Latvia and Lithuania.

4. Duration

01.04.2024 –31.12.2029, respecting that the final date of granting the aid under the Scheme is 30.06.2027 in accordance with Article 59 of GBER and respecting Article 58, point 4 of GBER

5. Annual expenditure indicatively expected under the scheme

Up to EUR 1 million.

6. Definitions

The definitions set out in Article 2 of GBER apply to this Scheme.

7. Exclusions

This Scheme will respect exclusions set out in paragraphs 2 to 6 of Article 1 of GBER.

The compliance of the aid applicant with the requirements of Article 1(4)(c) of GBER shall be assessed at the level of the enterprise group, taking into account the definition set out in Article 2(18) of GBER.

If the aid applicant operates also in the excluded sectors, it will ensure the separation of activities or costs, in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 1(3) of GBER.

8. Categories of aid/aid measure

This Scheme will provide the following categories of aid as set out in Chapter III of GBER:

- Article 20 Aid for costs incurred by undertakings participating in European Territorial Cooperation projects;
- Article 20a Limited amounts of aid to undertakings for participation in European Territorial Cooperation projects.

9. Aid intensity

Maximum aid intensity for aid granted to undertaking under Article 20 of GBER is 80% of eligible costs and the maximum aid amount is equal to the maximum ERDF amount per project under the respective priority stipulated in the Programme Manual for respective Call for Proposals, approved by the Monitoring Committee of the Programme. The maximum aid amount per undertaking per project granted under Article 20a of GBER is EUR 22 000.

Threshold of aid for an undertaking is counted on level of enterprise group if the aid beneficiary belongs to such group.

10. Form of aid and eligible costs

This Scheme shall offer only forms of aid that are considered transparent. Aid awarded under the Latvia-Lithuania 2021 – 2027 aid scheme will take the form of a grant. Aid will be awarded exceptionally for the eligible costs for European Territorial cooperation projects as set out in Article 20 and Article 20a of GBER.

11. Date of granting of the aid:

- The date of granting of the aid under Article 20 of the GBER is a date of the Managing Authority's decision on awarding Programme's financing to the Project.
- The date of granting of the aid under Article 20a of the GBER is a date when the competent authority that is granting the aid (i.e. the respective institution of lead partner or project partner) provides to undertaking a firm legal entitlement to receive the aid (e.g. acceptance of undertaking's registration to participate in respective activity, decision or notification letter, signed agreement etc.).

12. Incentive effect

When relevant conditions of Article 20 and Article 20a are fulfilled, in line with provisions of Article 6 of GBER, aid to undertakings participating in the Programme's projects falls under categories of aid which are not required to have or shall be deemed to have an incentive effect.

13. Economic sectors and types of undertakings

Assistance is available across all economic sectors which are eligible to receive aid in European Territorial cooperation projects under the GBER. Aid under this Scheme is open to undertakings, given that all relevant provisions of GBER and of the Programme are respected.

14. Cumulation

Aid granted under this Scheme shall not be cumulated with other State aid for the same eligible costs.

15. Granting body

The granting body is the Managing Authority of the Programme:

Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. Address: Peldu Str. 25, Riga, LV-1494, Latvia

16. Publication and information

Member State where the Programme Managing Authority is located shall comply with publications and information requirements as set out in Article 9 of GBER and the Managing Authority will assure the compilation and transmission of the data required to fulfil these requirements.

17. Reporting

The Programme Managing Authority will ensure the compilation of the data on aid granted in accordance with Article 20 of GBER, required for transmission to the Commission, as listed in Article 11 of GBER.

18. Monitoring

The Managing Authority of the Programme will ensure the maintenance of detailed records on aid granted in accordance with Article 20 of GBER with the information and supporting documentation necessary to ensure that all the conditions laid down in GBER are fulfilled. Such records shall be kept for 10 years from the date on which the aid was granted under this Scheme. The Managing Authority will ensure to provide all the requested information and supporting documentation which the Commission considers necessary to monitor the application of GBER regulation within the terms set in Article 12 of GBER.