

Development of project ideas

Experiences from a Capacity Building project cross-border workshop in Klaipeda Oct 2010

From October 21st - lunch - till October 22nd - lunch, the first Capacity Building Project cross-border workshop took place in Klaipeda, Lithuania. The workshop gathered 29 participants from all countries in the area of the South Baltic Programme; beneficiaries that wanted to have their project ideas assessed and discussed by a panel of experts and Partners from the Capacity Building project.



Participants and in the foreground one of the experts, Mr Torbjörn Lind

Before the workshop:

The work for the participants had started prior to the workshop itself. The beneficiaries had worked with their project ideas, presented them in writing and prepared a 10 minute presentation. Most had used the template for structuring a project idea provided by the Capacity Building Project.

The expert panel, Eva-Lisa Ahnström, SE, Jurgita Cinskiene, LT and Torbjörn Lind, SE read and reflected on the project ideas before the workshop

and had a joint meeting the day before the event to discuss each project and agree on what additional questions they had.

Day 1:

After a short introduction by the moderator of the workshop, Eva-Lisa Ahnström from the Capacity Building Project, each project had their maximum

10 minutes to present itself to the whole group. Twelve projects were presented. Project by project, from puppet theatre festival to business cooperation between female entrepreneurs, made interesting and clarifying presentations. Short additional questions by the panel followed each presentation. Already at the first coffee break it was clear that the concept to listen to other project ideas, and to hear the questions asked by the panel, was very appreciated by participants.

- It makes me look on my own project idea from a different point of view, as one participant expressed it.

When all projects had had the chance to present themselves, concrete work with further development of specific ideas took place.



Presentation of project idea by Ms Ida Tjalve

The participants sat in groups, project by project, and worked on their project while the facilitators from the Capacity Building Project walked between the groups, assisted and answered questions. During the same time the expert panel went to a separate room to conclude impressions of each project, and prepare feedback to be delivered next day. A joint dinner ended the day and discussions between participants could continue.

Day 2:

All participants were eager to have their feedback. The experts pointed out both strengths and weaknesses with the presented projects, one by one and also made recommendations.



Feedback from the three experts: Ms Eva-Lisa Ahnström, Mr Torbjörn Lind and Ms Jurgita Cinskienė

It became obvious that many projects had similar weaknesses; some comments could be expressed more in general. Quite a few also needed to extend their partnership, and thanks to the fact that all participants had listened to all projects some projects got offers from other participants that knew organizations back home that probably would be interested to join. Contact details were exchanged.

Some projects did not fit into the South Baltic Project at all, mainly because they were more local, had no cross-border value. These projects were recommended other funding possibilities to start with, and later on extend, in many cases interesting scopes, to include a wider geographical area.

To make a budget is not always easy. Therefore Cecilia Appelgren, Capacity Building Project, delivered a presentation on how to plan your budget in a good way. The presentation was followed by a question and answering session.

After a summary with general remarks and tips for how to proceed the moderator closed the workshop by thanking all participants for their active participation and also to thank the local organizers in Klaipeda, Rasa Viederyte and Giedre Straksiene for very good organization of venue and all practical issues you have to deal with when organizing this kind of events!

By the end of the day the result from the workshop is:

- Participants valued the discussions and feedback that has taken their ideas several steps further

- Approximately half of the presented projects are prepared to submit an application in the 6th call, or if they can't manage in time, for the 7th call. Several others will go for the 7th call, and some will look closer into other funding opportunities.
- 4 - 5 projects got good contacts for partnership as a result of the workshop
- Two of the projects with similar field of interest have initiated discussion on merging into one project.



Listening to presentations