

Fostering Nordic-Baltic Innovation for Sustainability in the Russian speaking market (Central Asia)

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Background

- Needs for city sustainability in Central Asia
 - Waste management, water treatment, energy efficiency, other
- Developing the concept of Nordic Built Cities
 - Nordic Innovation - <http://nordicbuiltcities.org/>
- Trying to find Nordisk-Baltisk nytte
 - Nordic scale of city solutions
 - Baltic solutions + Russian language

Project Goals

- Enhance exportability of Nordic - Baltic SMEs to Central Asia
- Foster trans-national and trans-regional (Nordic Baltic) cluster collaboration for joint innovation purposes
- Increase awareness and know-how on sustainable and smart city solutions in Central Asia markets, thus, decreasing the negative effects of urbanization on environment
- Transfer practices of good governance from Nordic Baltic region to Central Asia markets by wider stakeholder involvement in urban planning processes
- Strengthen general innovation capacity in the Nordic Baltic region by greater trust between the institutions at various levels of governance
- Strengthen public awareness of Nordic and Baltic capacities in sustainability innovation (story-telling)
- Increase the usability of NOPEF feasibility program of NEFCO among Nordic SMEs

Project Limitations

- SMEs, which are participants in clusters are supported
- Co-financing available
- Only Nordic-Baltic match

EVALUATION

Project partners - Nordic

Partner Institution	Roles & Contribution
Nordic Innovation	Sees the Project in synergies with their existing projects: 1) common Nordic branding (story telling), 2) joint expos in India and China (also elsewhere outside the EU) 3) Nordic systemic solutions, 4) public diplomacy especially within the project Nordic Built Cities
NEFCO/ NOPEF	NEFCO and NOPEF are very interested to boost the number of feasibility studies in Central Asia. Last year only 1 application – for Astana Expo 2017. NEFCO is developing a new strategy, it will be made public in June 2017. Suggests to involve in the project also FinPro.
The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment , Finland	Information dissemination, and Finland's SME & cluster involvement in the project
Ministry of Higher Education and Science, Denmark	Information dissemination, and Denmark's SME & cluster involvement in the project
Innovation Norway	Information dissemination, and Norway's SME & cluster involvement in the project

Project partners - Baltic

Partner Institution	Roles & Contribution
Ministry of Economics in Latvia, Latvia's Investment and Development Agency	MoE manage the EU funds, as well as Norwegian bilateral funds for innovation, exportability and trade capacity strengthening for Latvia in cooperation with LIDA. During early 2017 there are several activities in cluster visit program, Latvia's clusters and SMEs visiting Norwegian counterparts. Their interest is to link these visits to Central Asia project.
Cleantech Latvia	One of the central partners in the project with representations in Central Asia (Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan), manages Interreg project, involving Latvia's and Finland's joint exportability of cleantech solutions to Central Asia.
NCM Estonia	NCM Estonia is managing involvement of Estonian clusters and SMEs in the project, currently identifying two participants: Reach-U and Tendensor International

Project Activities

2017

- 1 workshop in Riga & B2B meetings
 - Increased awareness of Central Asia city sustainability issues
 - Financial instrument identification for innovation project implementation in partnership to Central Asia partners
 - Nordic Baltic clusters & SMEs matchmaking
- 3 workshops in Central Asia
 - Kazakhstan – 3-7 July, 2017
 - Uzbekistan – Sep-Oct, 2017
 - Kyrgyzstan - Sep-Oct, 2017

2018

- 1 conference in Riga
 - Aiming to improve knowledge, demonstrate good experience, and increase ideation level to CA participants: e.g. water management companies, waste management companies, alternative energy companies, city councils etc.

Preliminary Project Activities' Timeline 2017

Nr	Activity	Involved	Apr	Mai	Jul	Sep	Oct
1	First workshop in Riga At least 60 project participants selected (out of which at least 5 clusters from Nordic countries and 2 clusters from Latvia) B2B meetings	All project partners, 60 SMEs & clusters	19-20				
2	Astana Expo and related events (e.g. conference on Waste management in cooperation with KAZWASTE and Cleantech Latvia)	20 SMEs & clusters			3-7		
3	Matchmaking in Stuttgart in collaboration with Innovation Express	20 SMEs & clusters					20-21
4	Workshop in Central Asia (Uzbekistan & Kyrgyzstan)	20 SMEs & clusters					23-29

Thank you and looking forward to
cooperate with you!

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