



RESEARCH *for* BUSINESS

BALTIC TRAM

What?

The international project Baltic TRAM (Transnational Research Access in the Macroregion) seeks to strengthen the relationship between analytical research institutions and business, by establishing structures for cooperation between companies and researchers and linking expertise to concrete industrial needs. The project will develop a “Smart Cooperation” strategy, to be formulated on the basis of national research strategies and fed into the regional research and innovation agenda. Baltic TRAM builds on the findings of the previous project *Science Link*.

Why?

The overall objective of the project is to boost innovation, secure the implementation of smart specialisation strategies, and encourage entrepreneurship by supporting small and medium size enterprises – thus contributing to the regional effort of making the Baltic Sea Region innovative, sustainable and competitive.

The specific objective is to secure sustainable demand for research infrastructures, to address the concept of open data access, and ensure the existence of cooperation structures between analytical research institutes and companies at national, regional and international level.

How?

The project will establish national Industrial Research Centers to serve as interfaces between analytical research institutes and companies. Invited companies will be provided with consultations and access to research facilities to test their ideas and products. Furthermore, the project will provide a benchmarking analysis on the national roadmaps for research infrastructures and smart specialisation strategies, and provide recommendations to policymakers.

When?

The project runs from March 2016 until the beginning of 2019.

Where?

The project has a transnational character and is being implemented by partners from all EU member states in the Baltic Sea Region. The establishment of industrial research centers will be realised in all eight participating countries.

Who?

The project is led by DESY, Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, in close dialogue with fifteen project partners and five associated organisations from the entire Baltic Sea Region.

Project Transnational Research Access in the Microregion (Baltic TRAM)

summary

The project **Transnational Research Access in the Microregion (Baltic TRAM)** financed by **Interreg Vb Baltic Sea Region** programme, has established a network consisting of universities and research institutes that have undertaken activities to cooperate with industry, with particular emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Eleven of fourteen partners (plus one associated partner) declared their willingness to continue cooperation after the end of the project and signed the [Memorandum of Understanding](#).

The pilot activities within the project offered free scientific research to improve the products offered by the company or improve their quality. Three calls for applications were announced. The [Evaluation Committee](#) was created and chaired by Prof. Krystyna Jablonska from IP PAS, and the principles of its operation were set up. The [evaluation form](#) was elaborated together with the [service agreement form](#). Pilot activities carried out during the project implementation resulted in 68 companies' requests for measurements. This has shown the need to extend the offer for industry in institutes and universities. Especially small and medium enterprises - with a share of 94 % - have used the offer. The [summary and conclusions from pilot activities](#) are collected in the dedicated document.

70% of all measurements were taken in the applicant's country. Other applications required measurements in other countries demonstrating the need for international cooperation. International exchange has shown a balance between the countries of the former Eastern Bloc and the countries of Western Europe. This may limit the flow of scientists from east to west if it is possible to carry out scientific measurements in their home research centre. The needs and potential of further cooperation in macro-regions resulting from the project were collected in a document [Review on regional resources](#). The Baltic TRAM project:

- stimulated innovative solutions and research intensity across the local, regional and national research and business landscapes through guiding companies to RPOs.
- enabled knowledge transfer on a transnational and transregional scale by "tapping" international expertise.
- supported the aspirations of the European Research Area and strengthens the Baltic Sea Region.

[Research vouchers](#) or SMEs could address the need of SMEs to get access to state-of-the-art scientific services through government programs and support SMEs' access to research institutes and universities. The idea of introducing a system of research vouchers is supported by most of the flagship projects in Policy Area Innovation. Policy Area Innovation will start a Greenfield initiative for further discussion of this idea with responsible stakeholders.

Other documents resulted from the Baltic TRAM project:

- The [letter of intent](#) for open access model
- The [Term of Cooperation of Network of Industrial Research Centers](#) (IReCNet) after Baltic TRAM project (without partner signs)
- [Brochure](#) summing up the Baltic TRAM project results