



**Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (NDPC) implementation:
Call for external expertise to develop a process model for the “Incentive
mechanism” as a part of the BSR Cultural Pearls project**

**Request for expertise proposals
21/09/2023**

BSR Cultural Pearls

The [BSR Cultural Pearls](#) project, co-funded by the EU’s Interreg Baltic Sea Region program, aims to strengthen social resilience in Baltic Sea Region municipalities, towns and cities by harnessing the potential of culture and creativity. The BSR Cultural Pearls project’s objective is to enable smaller cities and regions to increase their social resilience and maintain the quality of life with local assets in an innovative way. Project target groups are local public authorities (towns, cities, municipalities, regions).

The BSR Cultural Pearls project aims also to foster the development of cultural and creative sectors (CCS) across the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). Recognizing the pivotal role of municipalities in supporting and promoting cultural initiatives, the project seeks to establish partnerships between CCS practitioners and local government entities. By facilitating effective collaboration, the project goal is to support the use of cultural means for added social resilience in the communities.

The project contains several components such as the BSR Cultural Pearls Award and the peer-mentoring program to support municipalities to develop social resilience through cultural means. As part of this program the “Incentive mechanism” is introduced, an element of support to encourage new practical pilots that showcase how the local CCS can contribute to social resilience.

Read more: <https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/bsr-cultural-pearls/>

Incentive mechanism in project BSR Cultural Pearls

The development of an “Incentive mechanism” is managed by NDPC and aims to support the awarded “Cultural Pearls” to pilot new practical activities. The mechanism provides educational and financial support to local pilots implemented by CCS practitioners as part of the BSR Cultural Pearls Title. The overall goal is to encourage the awarded “Pearls” to collaborate with their local CCS in new strategic manners and for the Pearls to use available services of the CCS to demonstrate in practice how cultural means can be used to develop social resilience.

With this “Incentive mechanism” in total 8 awarded “Pearls” in two years can be provided a maximum sum of 5000 EUR for their pilots implemented by the local CCS service providers. The NDPC is responsible for developing this tool or mechanism to educate and guide this collaboration process “step-by-step” for a smooth collaboration with clear aims. This means that the mechanism includes criteria by which the Pearls can receive this financial means, basis for needed agreements and administration procedures to support the pilots, and framework for the expected documentation and evaluation of the practical pilots enabled with the support of the “Incentive mechanism”.

Goals of the “Incentive mechanism” in the BSR Cultural Pearls project:

- Financially enable 8 practical pilots in the local “Awarded Pearls”;
- Support new formats of collaborations between local authorities and local CCS stakeholders;
- Enable practical examples of how the CCS contribute to social resilience in local settings;
- Encourage risk-taking in a controlled manner, and promote experimentation and learning;
- Explore alternative methods for the development of social resilience through culture.

Outcomes:

- “Incentive mechanism” framework to be transmitted further, including elements like:
 - Step-by-step process model /roadmap to support and educate future collaborations of similar kind;
 - Established criteria for the use of the “Incentive mechanism”;
 - Template of agreements between CCS and local authority (in the project framework);
 - Guidelines of documentation and evaluation of the pilots of CCS driven activities for development of social resilience.

Scope of needed expertise

NDPC is seeking external expertise to enhance the understanding of participants (cities, towns, municipalities) involved in the BSR Cultural Pearls project regarding the inclusion of CCS practitioners in innovative actions aimed at fostering culture-driven social resilience. This open call aims to engage experienced professionals who can provide firm strategic guidance and take responsibility for the overall development of the “Incentive mechanism” process. The development is done in close collaboration and support from the NDPC, serving as the link between the expert and the BSR Cultural Pearls project. The development of the “Incentive mechanism” requires a comprehensive understanding of the cultural landscape, local governance structures and stakeholder dynamics.

The NDPC acknowledges the need for external expertise to support the successful implementation of the “Incentive mechanism” in BSR Cultural Pearls project and strengthen the understanding of participating cities, towns, and municipalities. Engaging external expertise offers several advantages such as:

- a) **Specialized knowledge:** External experts possess in-depth knowledge of CCS practices, and innovative approaches;

- b) **Strategic guidance:** External experts can provide strategic guidance on how to effectively integrate CCS practitioners into innovative actions;
- c) **Stakeholder engagement:** External experts excel in engaging diverse stakeholders, fostering dialogue, and facilitating collaborative processes;
- d) **Best practices and lessons learned:** Leveraging their experience from comparable initiatives worldwide.

The selected external expert(s) will need to provide expertise to the “Incentive mechanism” in BSR Cultural Pearls project Pilot period (from 10.2023 till 10.2024) in following areas and tasks:

Process development:

1. **Lead the development of the “Incentive mechanism” concept and outline the process phases and requirements.** Assist NDPC (October-December 2023) with development of practical and administrative frameworks of the mechanism and share the outlines with project consortium.
2. **Support the implementation of the mechanism:** Provide guidance to the implementation of the mechanism (until October 2024), ensure effective coordination of the implementation, evaluate the functions, and make necessary adjustments to the final outcome.

Workshops:

1. **In collaboration with the NDPC expert have an input in a BSR Cultural Pearl workshop to be held in October 2023.** The target group of the workshop is the BSR Cultural Pearls candidates (cities, towns, municipalities). The expert input of ca 50 minutes introduces topics as:
 - What is CCS and CCS potential as service providers for cities, towns, municipalities;
 - How CCS can support social resilience development;
 - Share best practices and lessons learned, inspiring stakeholders, and guiding them towards successful implementation.
 - Present the overall approach of the “Incentive mechanism” as part of the BSR Cultural Pearls project.
2. **In collaboration with the NDPC, organise online a comprehensive workshop aimed at fostering an in-depth understanding of the work carried out by CCS practitioners in innovative activities, and to present the “incentive mechanism” as a practical opportunity for the awarded Pearls.** This 120 min online workshop informs about the “Incentive Mechanism” tool for the awarded four BSR Cultural pearls. The workshop will be held during February-March 2024 supporting the awarded pearls in their abilities to implement the “incentive mechanism” in practice. The workshop, part of the BSR Cultural Pearls peer learning program, covers:
 - Raise awareness about CCS potential in development of social resilience and share success stories for inspiration;
 - Provide support in abilities to engage with local CCS practitioners for culture-driven resilience actions;
 - Introduce the “Incentive mechanism” in practical terms (roadmap);

- Support creation of strategic frameworks to acknowledge and further support the integration of CCS in local innovation and development policies.

Timeframe and budget

The budget for the expertise work is in the region of **EUR 4,000 – 6,000** (incl. all applicable taxes, also VAT).

Phases of work:

10/2023	Outlining the collaboration, expectations and timeframe, planning and implementing the 1st workshop;
11-12/2023	Development of the Incentive mechanism;
1/2024	Feedback from project partners; Iteration of the mechanism;
2/2024	Incentive mechanism model ready for implementation & input to workshop: introducing mechanism to awarded Pearls representatives;
3-7/2024	Support to the implementation process;
8-10/2024	Feedback of the mechanism, adjustments to the framework.

Application proposal submission

The expert for the work will be selected according to their profile, the quality of their proposal and the financial offer made. In the selection process, the following qualities will be emphasized:

- Proposed methodology and practical approach to develop the “Incentive mechanism” in this project;
- The proposed budget should encompass comprehensive details, providing a thorough breakdown of individual stages of the service along with all associated costs, including any additional expenses.

In your proposal, please clarify the estimated time investments for the different tasks and their price in euros. Where applicable, please add VAT to the proposed total sum.

The proposal is also available to the public on the NDPC website.

We will take in consideration all proposals that arrive by 04/10/2023, 23:59 CET at the latest to e-mail liva@ndpculture.org.

Further information

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About the NDPC

The Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (NDPC) is a governmental partnership of 10 countries covering Nordic countries and countries around the Baltic Sea. The NDPC is a focal point for policymakers and authorities, practitioners from cultural and creative sector (CCS) and experts. It works towards a stronger, more competitive, and more resilient CCS that contributes significantly to the sustainable development of the Northern Dimension region. The Secretariat is based in Riga, Latvia. More info: www.ndpculture.org