

Environmentally Driven Business Development

Call for partners for EUSBSR Seed Money Project 2013

Environmentally Driven Business Development (EDBD) and Environmentally Sustainable Innovation (ESI) is not just limited to businesses and innovations within the Clean Technologies, Energy, and Environment sectors. We wish to address the issue of EDBD with a broad approach, investigating methods of supporting development and innovation export regardless of business sector.

The County Administrative Board of Östergötland (Länsstyrelsen Östergötland), Sweden, and its associate partners are looking for partners to join in a project to develop useful methods to support Environmentally Driven Business Development of Small and Medium- Sized Enterprises (SMEs). The seed money project will be the first step to prepare a greater EU-funded project within the new long term budget period (2014-2020).

The main project will focus on the exchange of experiences, best practices and methods utilised by public and private business support / regional development organisations in the Baltic Sea region that can be used to address common challenges in Environmentally Driven Business Development and Environmentally Sustainable Innovation. More specifically, the partnership will be aimed towards the methods that regional support organisations (public or private) can use to stimulate commercialization and export of innovations with an environmental focus.

We are looking for:

- Public regional actors or universities in the BSR.
- Preferably, partners are part of national or regional projects within Environmentally Driven Business Development and Innovation.
- Partners should have experience of legislation / regulation on regional, national and / or European level.
- Preferably, partners have a good idea of what has been done within its own region and what has been done in neighbouring regions in the field of EDBD and ESI.
- Partners should have an interest in how to help SMEs achieve EDBD and export ESI.

Deadline for partnership applications: 02-09-2013

Questions and partnership applications can be sent to the contact person of the County Administrative Board of Östergötland.

Lead partner

[The County Administrative Board of Östergötland](#) is the national government's representative office in the county of Östergötland, Sweden, and as such constitutes an important link between people and municipalities as well as the government and central authorities.

Associate partners

[Almi](#) is owned by the government and regional public owners, and is near their customers at 40 locations around the country. Almi's business support activities are not limited to any specific sector and is organised into four business areas: Advisory service, Loans, Venture capital, and Incubation.

[InnovationskontorEtt](#) is a part of the University of Linköping. InnovationskontorEtt encourage and support researchers and students to commercialize their ideas and their knowledge - either by starting new companies or by incorporating them into existing operations.

[Linköpings Universitet](#) is a research-based university with excellence in education. With an interdisciplinary and problem based approach, environment and sustainability researchers at LiU deal with questions from the highest level, international climate negotiations, to how the residents of a local neighborhood can be encouraged to save energy.

[Cleantech Östergötland](#) is a non-profit business-oriented arena in East Sweden. The organisation brings together and promotes the region's business and development opportunities within the cleantech sector and highlights regional expertise and applications. The association has more than 100 member companies and is the result of a triple helix approach to EDBD.

Experience of project leadership

The County Administrative Board of Östergötland has a long experience of project leadership, having been the lead partner in multiple INTERREG projects (to name a few, [BECOSI](#), [BENCH](#), [Wood Energy](#), and [W2E](#)). The County Administrative Board has also been a partner in the [BACES](#) and in the [B2N](#) projects. All the projects mentioned have focused on the environment / sustainability and / or business support.

Synergies between levels

The associate partners are part of a Swedish regional project, which they intend to take to the next level in a regional project called VÄXTHUS (green-house). This project will function as a regional workshop with the intention to support SMEs in their development and commercialization of environmentally sustainable products and innovations.

The County Administrative Board and its associate partners intention is that the international project for EDBD and regional projects, like VÄXTHUS, can draw upon each others knowledge and experiences. This would allow the EDBD project to focus on the export side of the issue and the collection of international experience of support for Environmentally Driven Business Development.

Contact Person

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