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Holder of information: State Shared Service Centre

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No 11.1-4/25/2682

Interreg Programme VI-A – Estonia-Latvia Monitoring Committee decision about project application HydroScope

The 3<sup>rd</sup> call for proposals for the submission of project applications within the Interreg Programme VI-A – Estonia-Latvia was open from 2 September 2024 and closed on 5 December 2024 at 14.00. The project application *EE-LV00250 Protecting cross-border groundwater resources and dependent ecosystems from extreme climate events and pollution with real-time monitoring and digital springs (HydroScope)* was submitted by the deadline and after the technical eligibility and loose quality check was passed on to the quality assessment.

The quality assessment was carried out by the Joint Secretariat according to the quality criteria as stated in the Programme Manual, chapter 6.3.2 Quality assessment. After quality assessment the Monitoring Committee carried out the strategic assessment of submitted project applications as described in the Programme Manual chapter 6.4 Decision-making. Based on the quality assessment and strategic assessment, the Monitoring Committee selects projects for support from the programme funds.

On 28-29 May 2025 at its meeting the Monitoring Committee decided with its decision to select the project HydroScope for financing with the ERDF allocation up to €878,966.00.

Additionally, specific conditions stipulated by the Monitoring Committee must be fulfilled before the Subsidy Contract can be signed between the Lead Partner and the Managing Authority. These conditions are provided in Annex 1 of this letter.

Please prepare a cover letter listing all the conditions and your reply to the conditions and send it to toiv.joul@estlat.eu. The signed cover letter must be uploaded and the required changes in the application form in the Jems system must be made only after the final content of the cover letter has been agreed with the Joint Secretariat.

The conditions must be fulfilled within 1 month as of the receipt of this selection decision. If a reasoned request is provided, the Joint Secretariat may extend the time limit for fulfilling the conditions. The Managing Authority, assisted by the Joint Secretariat will verify the fulfilment of the conditions. The Joint Secretariat will inform you on the fulfilment of the conditions.

In case of questions please turn to the Joint Secretariat: Tõiv Jõul, toiv.joul@estlat.eu, +372 56500727. Please notice that the Programme Consultant is away during the period 4-9 June 2025 and can reply to your questions after return.

The selection decision of the Monitoring Committee may be disputed in accordance with the Programme Manual chapter 7.16 Submission of the complaint procedure.

(signed digitally)

Anu-Maaja Pallok Head of the Managing Authority Interreg Programme VI-A – Estonia-Latvia

## Annex 1 to the Interreg Programme VI-A – Estonia-Latvia Monitoring Committee decision about project application HydroScope

## **Conditions for the project HydroScope:**

- 1. Please explain whether and how the planned activities described under Activity 2.5 are linked to the defined output indicators. If those activities do not contribute to and support directly the planned jointly developed solutions, they must be removed from the application form and the budget reduced accordingly. In the case of latter, please also review the related aspects of Activity 2.4 and either provide justification on keeping them or remove from the application.
- 2. Please address the inconsistency between Output 1.1 and Activity 1.4 by clarifying whether a single unified early warning platform will be developed for both countries or if a separate platform is planned for Estonia and Latvia. Please ensure a consistent description throughout the application form.
- 3. Please explain how the two planned pilot actions are jointly developed between Estonian and Latvian partners.
- 4. Please explain and if necessary, include corresponding information on planned system setup activities in Latvia under Activity 1.2 to complement the Estonian example in Saaremaa.
- 5. Please indicate the number of digital spring sites planned in Estonia and Latvia under Activity 2.2.
- 6. Please explain how the guidelines developed under Activity 2.4 will be practically integrated into the platform's operation and use.
- 7. For Activity 3.1. please define what types of technical documentation and user guidelines will be made public and which will be tailored specifically for participating municipalities. Also, please specify the content and materials planned to be developed for capacity-building seminars.
- 8. For Activity 3.1 and 3.2 please provide a clearer structure distinguishing the various planned materials (e.g., stakeholder-friendly guides, reports, roadmaps) and explain how they complement one another.
- 9. For Activity 3.3. please indicate the number, format, and expected audience of knowledge-sharing sessions. Please also justify the participation in the EGU General Assembly, including the need for two representatives per country and its relevance for reaching the project objectives.
- 10. Please explain why only 5 organisations are expected to continue cross-border cooperation post-project, despite 7 that are represented in the project partnership.
- 11. The budget related conditions:
  - In the budget of LP1 please justify the number of working hours planned for the financial manager. In case of insufficient justification, the costs must be reduced.
  - In the budget of LP1 please provide cost-breakdown and justify the costs allocated for communication and awareness materials. In case of insufficient justification, the costs must be reduced.
  - Please justify the needed for participation in the EGU 2026 conference. Please clarify what is included under the membership fee and abstract submission, and how these expenses directly contribute to the project's objectives. In case of insufficient justification, the costs must be reduced.
  - In the budgets of LP1 and PP2, please justify the quantity and cost of the digital spring monitoring equipment, ensuring it is necessary and proportionate to the pilot activities.

- Provide justification for the number of hours allocated to web-based application development and clarify whether this refers to the same platform described in other sections of the application form. In case of insufficient justification, the costs must be reduced.
- Please justify the planned catering costs for LP1, PP3, PP4, PP7, ensuring they are appropriate and clearly linked to project events or activities. In case of insufficient justification, the costs must be reduced.
- Please justify the costs for the high-performance computer for PP3 by specifying its use in relation to "the study areas" and its necessity for project implementation. In case of insufficient justification, the costs must be reduced.
- PP4 and PP7 listed equipment and related staff costs needs to be justified, ensuring they are directly linked to pilot activities and necessary for achieving the intended outcomes. In case of insufficient justification, the costs must be reduced.
- Please clarify whether bus rental costs are intended for project staff or external participants, and how they support specific project activities. Please note that the travel and accommodation costs for project staff fall under cost-category Travel and accommodation.