

FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Estonia

Research and Education

Programme short name	EE-RESEARCH
Programme Operator	Ministry of Education and Research - Estonia (EE)
Host Programme Area	PA02 Research
Financial Mechanisms	EEA Grants
Programme grant in EUR	€ 6,885,901.62
Programme co-financing in EUR	€ 1,215,159.11
Final incurred amount in EUR	€ 7,859,484.50
Final incurred rate %	97.02 %

PROGRAMME RESULTS

Programme Objective: Enhanced research-based knowledge development

Eligible expenditure: € 8,101,060.73 Amount incurred: € 7,859,484.50

Issues the programme aimed to address

The Baltic Research Programme (BRP) addressed critical national challenges, including limited international collaboration, insufficient research funding, and underutilized human resources in the Baltic States. These issues hindered scientific excellence and innovation. BRP directly targeted these problems by enabling partnerships between Baltic researchers and their counterparts in donor countries, increasing funding opportunities, and supporting 146 researchers in Estonian projects, including PhD students and postdocs. The importance of these efforts also aligns with national and EU strategies for enhancing research performance and addressing societal challenges.

Without international exposure and contacts, higher education cannot be competitive. It lags behind in terms of quality. The evaluation of national and international mobility programmes has accentuated the importance of promoting institutional cooperation between higher education institutions, involving higher education institutions in cooperation projects, and exchanging academic staff and experts. The creation of new international partnerships was essential to enhance the competitiveness of higher education institutions and to support the professional development of academic staff.

By its very nature, research is an international endeavour. This necessitates a corresponding international perspective within higher education, which forms its foundation. Institutions of higher education that lack international exposure and contacts are at risk of becoming uncompetitive and falling behind in terms of quality.

Evaluations of national and international mobility schemes have highlighted the importance of encouraging institutional cooperation between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). This includes engaging HEIs in collaborative projects,

facilitating the exchange of academic staff and experts, and raising general awareness of potential cooperation opportunities. Internationalisation activities can demonstrably contribute to improvements in the quality of teaching within HEIs. This is achieved through the exchange of best practices and knowledge in areas such as curriculum development, innovative teaching and learning methods, and the effective use of digital technologies. The creation of new cross-border partnerships enhances the competitiveness of HEIs and fosters the professional development of academic staff.

In Estonia, several schemes support student mobility, including the Erasmus+ programme and national schemes. However, there was a lack of targeted schemes specifically designed to support transnational projects aimed at improving the quality and relevance of higher education. Additionally, there are limited resources for facilitating the professional development of academic staff through mobility initiatives.

Within higher education, the overall objective of the programme's education strand was to support the internationalisation of Estonian higher education. This was achieved by facilitating the exchange of best practices and innovative approaches, as well as the creation of collaborative networks. Ultimately, these initiatives aimed to improve the quality and relevance of higher education.

The education component demonstrably contributed to the host programme area (research) both directly and indirectly. Directly contributed to diversifying higher education and creating new opportunities for students. Indirect contributions stemmed from the wider benefit that strengthening the quality of higher education provision has on research itself.

Programme contribution to overall objectives

The Baltic Research Programme (BRP) played a significant role in reducing economic and social disparities within the EEA. Additionally, a key objective was to strengthen bilateral relations between the Donor States and Estonia in the field of research and higher education.

The programme objective “Enhanced research-based knowledge development” is attained through three outcomes/activities: 1) enhanced performance of Baltic research internationally; 2) improved skills and competences of students and staff in higher education and 3) competence of educational staff increased, related to working with special education needs (SEN).

A total of 7 research cooperation projects, scientifically very high-level, initiated by Estonian researchers were implemented in collaboration with Latvian, Lithuanian and Norwegian researchers. The supported projects are all geared to the challenges facing society in a very timely manner. Several projects dealt with environmental impacts and climate change, also with renewable energy and health issues. One of the projects focused on heritage-related processes in rural areas and another analysed cultural differences in academic writing. All projects addressed at least one of six thematic priorities set by the Programme Committee.

All 7 projects were led by two of Estonian biggest universities - University of Tartu - UT (5 projects) and TalTech (2 projects). Four universities from Norway and University Hospital Oslo/Cancer Registry of Norway were engaged as well as Universities from Latvia and Lithuania.

A total of 13 educational projects, initiated by Estonian HEIs, were implemented with programme support. These projects can be categorised as follows:

*** Cooperation projects (10 projects):** Through these projects, 23 HEIs from Estonia (10), Norway (9), and Iceland (4) collaborated to improve curriculum quality and teaching methods. Notably, five companies participated as project partners, bringing valuable private-sector's expertise to project implementation. Electronic Workbook of Cross Border Assignments (E-CBA): A project led by TalTech, developed a reusable teaching material for undergraduate engineering students, which includes 40 real-life case studies from 20 Estonian and Icelandic companies. This initiative exemplifies how cooperation can enhance curriculum relevance and prepare students for the demands of the international marketplace. Beyond strengthening HEI capacity, the programme improved student employability prospects. Participation in international projects fostered intercultural understanding and honed the skills necessary for working in an international environment.

*** Mobility project (1):** This project focused on increasing staff exchange opportunities between Estonia and donor countries.

*** Pre-defined projects (2):** Projects addressed the teaching of Norwegian language and culture at the University of Tartu (UT), and the development of inclusive education curricula.

The programme provided funding for the teaching of Norwegian language and culture at the UT. The introduction of a native-speaker lecturer in 2020 significantly boosted student motivation in language learning and engagement with Norwegian cultural events. This initiative lays a solid foundation for further bilateral cooperation between Estonia and Norway.

The programme also supported the project "Developing and enhancing the teaching quality of inclusive education curriculum." This project aimed to train teachers in effectively applying inclusive education principles within Estonian schools and kindergartens.

By fostering collaboration, enhancing curriculum quality, and promoting the development of students' international skills, the programme played a significant role in strengthening Estonian higher education and has contributed to the creation of a more competitive and inclusive Estonian education system.

Sustainability

The programme's achievements demonstrate a strong foundation for sustainability. Many project promoters have expressed their intention to continue collaborating with their partners, albeit to varying degrees.

For instance 4 joint applications for further funding were granted for the established partnerships. Three applications funded by EU source and one non-EU source.

In educational part, the Estonian Free Church Theological Seminary is actively planning new initiatives with its Norwegian counterpart, the Norwegian School of Leadership and Theology. This continued engagement exemplifies the programme's success in fostering long-term partnerships. Furthermore, the Universities of Tartu and Tallinn have established new master's programmes in Inclusive Education. These programmes are directly linked to the training courses developed during the EEA grant-funded projects. This demonstrates the programme's direct impact on curriculum development within Estonian higher education. Similarly, the project "Development of Curricula via International Collaboration" has fostered ongoing scientific collaboration between the project team and the University of Iceland. This collaboration, initiated during the project's mobility windows, is set to continue.

In conclusion, the programme's actions have demonstrably fostered sustainable outcomes that extend beyond the programme's timeframe. The established partnerships, curriculum enhancements, and ongoing research collaborations serve as a testament to the programme's enduring impact.

Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Baltic research internationally

Amount incurred: € 5,853,886.77

Results

All funded projects **achieved the results that were highly rated by international experts** in project final evaluation reports. Some examples of feedback given by reviewers:

- *The evaluators strongly agree that the project has achieved its main objectives and even gone beyond them, despite having had to work during the pandemic. /.../The evaluators agree that project has succeeded splendidly. /.../ To do so across national borders deserves a congratulatory bow. (EE-RESEARCH-0007 Re-Storied Sites)*
- *The reviewers admired the amount of work performed, especially given the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. /.../ The project addressed an important research topic, in an innovative way, which is useful for other research fields as well. The combination of various backgrounds and research fields resulted in a scientific result of high quality, that can be used to identify the next steps for risk-based cervical cancer screening in the Baltic region and beyond. (EE-RESEARCH-0008 Cancer)*
- *The project's results are significant, with considerable potential to impact the Baltic states and the broader region across multiple dimensions. Developing sustainable bio-based technologies is timely, aligning with the European Green Deal's objectives and the regional focus on environmental sustainability and economic diversification. /.../ This initiative not only enhances local research capabilities but also positions the Baltic academic community at the forefront of sustainable material science, potentially leading to further innovative breakthroughs and research collaborations. (EE-RESEARCH-0013 GreenPolymers)*
- *The projects focus on soil, and especially soil fungi, has taken work in the boreal region in new and important directions, as the world grapples with the intersection of challenges from negative biodiversity and climate change. Transfer of the results conclusions to other ecosystems will be possible, thus the project has well delivered on its aspirations. /.../ The evidence base from the project will help policy development across the Baltics states, but also globally in the boreal realm. (EE-RESEARCH-0009 SUCC)*
- *The project's achievements were remarkable in terms of quality, quantity, and dissemination, making substantial contributions to the field of small-scale residential energy storage systems. Its adaptability and resilience in overcoming obstacles, along with its effective outreach and collaboration, establish a solid foundation for future research and industry practices. (EE-RESEARCH-0010 ORBES)*

- *This impressive project has achieved its overarching objective – to analyse academic writing conventions and features in Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian to determine which ones are universal across the three languages and which are language specific. To this end, a large corpus was compiled. /.../ Reviewers affirm that the project results are of scientific merit and innovative, with the reported outcomes aligning well with the two major objectives. (EE-RESEARCH-0011 BWrite)*
- *This has been a truly successful project. The reviewers agreed that all major objectives have been met or exceeded, and results have been disseminated to fellow scientists, stakeholders, and journalists via a variety of communication channels, including many presentations to various audiences and the publication of 29 peer-reviewed journal articles, which is very impressive for a project of this magnitude. /.../ In addition to the original objectives, there are some bonus results, such as a novel technique to identify ships based on their signatures in wave pressure sensor data. (EE-RESEARCH-0012 SolidShore)*

Achievements based on three indicators are as follows:

- **46 joint peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted (target value 50).**

The best example - **ORBES project with 20 joint publications**. In the light of COVID-19, the project promoter underlined its positive impact – as working in the lab was more difficult, writing papers was prioritised. Intensive publication exceeded initial expectations, and a total of 47 peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted within the project have already garnered **over 540 citations**, demonstrating its strong impact in the field (source: Google Scholar data, Jan 2025).

In addition, **173 other types of peer-reviewed scientific publications** were submitted. Thus, the dissemination of project results has been much wider than the achieved target value reflects.

- **4 joint applications for further funding were granted (target value 10).**

All funding applications were submitted by different projects (EE-RESEARCH-0007 Re-Storied Sites); EE-RESEARCH-0008 (Cancer); EE-RESEARCH-0009 (SUCC); EE-RESEARCH-0012 (SolidShore).

Best example: The Latvian and Norwegian partner of project **EE-RESEARCH-0008** submitted a joint application for the EU4Health Programme Joint Actions 2023 focusing on the implementation of cancer screening programmes. Notably, Latvia took the role of the leading partner. In addition, the Latvian partner applied for

funding to the Latvian National Research Programme in Biomedicine, Medical Technologies ('Modernizing Cancer Prevention and Screening in Latvia') and the Estonian promoter was a part of team that applied for 'HPV-FASTER IMPLEMENT' in response to the HEU call 'HORIZON-HLTH-2024-CARE-04-04-two-stage.'

The proposed projects will build on the joint results received in the BRP project, increase visibility in the realm of cancer screening and continue ongoing efforts to eliminate cervical cancer.

- **2 jointly registered applications for Intellectual Property Protection (IPP)**
– (target value 3).

Both applications were obtained from the project **ORBES**.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

The main challenges influencing the achievement of results, also concluded in the BRP Final Evaluation Report (p. 2; 24), are the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the specifics of the selected projects, the strict definitions of the indicators, and the time constraints.

Main challenges for joint peer-reviewed publications:

- **Delays caused by COVID-19**, in some cases further exacerbated by publishing delays for non-COVID research.
- **Deviations from the initial work plan**, incl. COVID-19, changes in personnel or *force majeure* (e.g. SolidShore lost its equipment in autumn storm in 2021).
- **Project timeline** if the donor partner started contributing at a later stage of implementation. Several manuscripts are still under preparation.
- **Project promoters did not aim for maximum numbers of papers, but highest impact.** The project promoter of the project GreenPolymers noted that they combined two publications into one, submitting a total of 3 joint publications, all with a high impact factor (IF 11-12).
- **Biases in the review process** due to novel nature of their research. Project BWrite received comments from the reviewers of international journals that often indicated the need to compare with English, even though the main part of the work was comparing Baltic languages and thus a kind of push against the English language research narrative.
- **The strict definition of indicator.** In case of multilateral consortia, several publications were submitted jointly, but without involvement of donor partner.

Main challenges for joint application for further funding:

- **COVID-19 pandemic** did not encourage new commitments related to international cooperation.
- **Absence of suitable call.** The project ORBES aimed to continue towards a cooperation with industry, but the biggest challenge was to find a suitable call for industrial project with funding opportunity for four academic partners.
- **The donor partner was replaced by another (Norwegian) partner**, based on their potential to contribute to the planned research. Project SolidShore submitted two proposals, but without donor partner Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) (Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, with three Baltic partners and the University of Bergen; CET Partnership, with Institute of Energy Technology).

The main challenges for joint IPP applications:

- **A limited number of research fields** where the IPP application is relevant.
- **Patents vs freely available IP.** Project promoter of project GreenPolymers noted that they chose not to apply for any patents, but to make the developed processed and polymers freely available instead.

Outcome 2: Improved skills and competences of students and staff in higher education

Amount incurred: € 1,084,409.20

Results

Ten cooperation projects, one mobility project and one pre-defined project was financed under this outcome. Despite challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, all projects were successfully completed, and most programme indicators were met. However, mobility figures fell short of initial goals.

The COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions significantly hindered student and staff exchanges. Even as restrictions eased, uneven rules across countries and outbreaks disrupted mobility further. Safety concerns also reduced willingness to travel, and the ongoing war in Ukraine made Estonia seem less secure to some. Despite these challenges, the programme demonstrated resilience, with projects meeting key objectives.

The aim of the institutional cooperation projects between Donor states and Estonia was to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation via long-term projects and

therefore, to improve the quality of higher education in teaching and learning. The activities were for example curricula development initiatives, including development and rollout of innovative teaching methods and materials, etc. The projects also involved the exchange of students and HEI staff at all levels of higher education. There was also a possibility to involve entrepreneurs, local communities, or NGOs in the cooperation activities. The target group was Estonian higher education institutions.

10 joint intellectual outputs created in the framework of cooperation projects. For example, Estonian Aviation Academy collaborated with UiT the Arctic University of Norway (EE-RESEARCH-0014) created digital simulations (models) using SIMIO software as digital learning instruments in the teaching process of aviation-related subjects. These models, integrated into academic courses, taught students to design simulations, enhancing their understanding of aviation processes and boosting creativity and digital skills.

The Estonian Business School partnered with the University of Iceland, BI Norwegian Business School, Creative Estonia NGO, and Creativity Lab OÜ (EE-RESEARCH-0004) created teaching materials about the creative industries and CCI entrepreneurship, i.e. the “CCI Learning Module Toolbox”. This resource helps universities and creative business incubators develop courses on creative industries and entrepreneurship, including flipped classroom models. The toolbox also includes study videos on the impact of COVID-19 on creative industries.

The sudden lockdown of COVID-19 pandemic forced project promoters to be creative and flexible to execute the workplans. For instance, the University of Tartu started implementing the project “Development of curricula via international collaboration” (EE-RESEARCH-0005) in collaboration with the University of Iceland (Háskóli Íslands) in the end of 2019 when the pandemic was escalating. The aim of the project was to provide unique research opportunities to medical undergraduates and at the same time expand their medical curricula by providing ECTS for successful completion of the work. Students travelled to the partner universities to complete short research projects in basic science. Hence the travel restrictions the student mobility was not possible, therefore the project had to postpone activities. Nevertheless, the project was implemented a planned and 11 students had the valuable research and study experience during mobility window.

Mobility projects for academic and non-academic staff in higher education institutions staff focused on teaching exchanges and professional development. During the programme period only one mobility project was financed. Estonian Free Church Theological Seminary with partner Norwegian School of Leadership and

Theology (Høyskolen for Ledelse og Teologi) executed the project “Staff Mobility in higher education” (EE-RESEARCH-0020) to improve and diversify teaching quality and international experience for both schools involved. As the exchange experience was excellent, the project promoter and partner will continue their cooperation as an international network.

The programme also funded a predefined project contributing to the indicator for ECTS credits awarded. A total of 682 students received ECTS credits. The project “Visiting lectureship of Norwegian language and literature at Tartu University” (EE-RESEARCH-0001) 307 students received ECTS credits. At first the lecturer recruitment process was longer than expected and project promoter had to postpone the beginning of the project. Nevertheless, the lecturer was found and recruited lecturer, Øyvind Rangøy has positively proven. The impact of the project on Norwegian language and literature majors has been positive. In 2022, nine students graduated from the bachelor's program and six continued their studies at the master's level. Additionally, 19 students were accepted into the program in 2022, and 15 of them are continuing their studies into the second year. These results demonstrate the effectiveness and sustainability of the teaching program, and the high number of admissions suggests a significant interest in Norwegian language and literature as a major. The visiting lecturer has also developed cooperation both inside and outside the university. In collaboration with the Latvian House of Languages, an online platform for Norwegian language grammar and pronunciation are being prepared. Furthermore, Norwegian, and Danish visiting lecturers are experimenting with co-teaching both languages in the same class in the Department of Scandinavian Studies. The high number of students taking Norwegian language and literature as a major is an excellent indicator of the quality of teaching, and the impact of the project has been significant.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

The programme's implementation highlighted several key lessons and challenges:

- Limited interest in Mobility Projects: as mobility was not possible at the beginning of the programme period, the interest of higher education institutions in mobility projects became a challenge. During the application round, projects were received, but their quality was lower compared to the cooperation projects.
- Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic: The COVID-19 pandemic, which began as most projects were due to commence activities, presented a significant obstacle. Pandemic-related restrictions severely disrupted the organisation of

project meetings and activities involving student and staff mobility. Even with some easing of travel restrictions, variations in regulations and outbreaks across countries continued to impact study migration. Additionally, the pandemic dampened individuals' willingness to travel abroad, as safety concerns regarding travel to foreign countries heightened in many cases.

- The war in Ukraine further exacerbated these concerns, leading to a perception of Estonia as an unsafe travel destination. It is worth noting, however, that project implementers demonstrated commendable ingenuity in adapting their project plans to these unforeseen circumstances.
- **Insufficient Subsidy Rates:** Based on the programme's established unit prices, the subsidy rates proved insufficient to meet the full needs of beneficiaries. This issue was compounded by significant cost-of-living increases over time. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the issue by driving up airfare prices. As a result, the provided subsidy was often inadequate to cover all project expenses.
- Managing across different systems was a challenge in implementing the program. The programme's implementation necessitated the use of multiple databases, including the institution's own document management system, the Structural Funds operating system, and the Grants Administration and Collaboration Environment (GrACE) programme environment. Managing data across these disparate systems inevitably led to extended program implementation timescales.

Outcome 3: Competence of educational staff increased, related to working with special education needs (SEN)

Amount incurred: € 404,310.95

Results

The policy of inclusive education following the Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act, implemented in Estonia since 2010, stated that students with special educational needs (SEN) should be able to attend a regular class at the school nearest to their home together with their peers. But the main obstacle for more inclusive approach in education as reported by the schools are associated with teachers' abilities to notice and skills to support SEN students, with availability of resources, and access to as well as lack of coordination of support services at school and local level.

To address these issues, the University of Tartu (UT) and Tallinn University (TLU), with support from experts at the University of Oslo and the University of Stavanger, carried out the predefined project "Developing and enhancing the teaching quality of inclusive education curriculum." (EE-RESEARCH-0002).

The project aimed to train Estonian teachers to implement inclusive education more effectively in schools and kindergartens. To achieve this, the capacities of research groups at the UT and TLU in inclusive education were also developed. Five in-service teacher training programs were created and attended by 129 participants. Based on these programs, master's programs in Inclusive Education were launched at UT and TLU, enrolling 183 students. These unique programs were the first in Estonia to award master's degrees and senior teacher qualifications, recognizing specialized competencies in supporting students with special educational needs.

The project targeted two main groups: teachers in Estonian schools and kindergartens, and research groups at UT and TLU. Teachers who graduated from the different in-service training courses or university master's programs increased their competencies related to implementing inclusive education in their everyday work. While all graduates from the in-service training programs carried out an action research project related to inclusive education and completed different assignments related to supporting inclusive education, graduates from the master programs have additionally proven their competencies related to implementing inclusive education in their portfolios. In UT all master students prepared portfolios to show that they have senior teacher competencies and specific competencies related to supporting students with special educational needs, in TLU parts of the portfolio are prepared based on the parts of the assignments in different courses and some competencies which have not been sufficiently dealt with in the course need to be addressed additionally by the students.

Research group members at both universities also benefited significantly. They developed expertise in conducting inclusive education research, resulting in one defended PhD dissertation and ongoing work on others. Findings from the research have been shared through articles and presentations, and new project applications focusing on inclusive education have been developed. The project has also encouraged new PhD students to focus on this field, with project researchers serving as supervisors. Both universities have strengthened their capacity in inclusive education. Master's programs continue to run, and research groups are successfully securing additional funding for further studies. Collaboration between UT and TLU has also deepened, which is critical given the high demand for expertise in inclusive education in Estonia.

The role of Norwegian experts in achieving the above-described project results was very important. Firstly, all three experts were very committed to the project and gave a lot of guidance in planning project activities and in reflecting on the implementation and results of different stages. Estonia has a strong special education tradition, and inclusive education practices and principles were relatedly less explored before the project in the Estonian context. Therefore, the guidance to focus on the participation of all learners and finding ways to eliminate exclusion and separation were extremely important. This was important for developing the in-service training programs as well as supporting PhD students. Experts made recommendations regarding important literature to include and important journals to consider.

As a result of this project, both universities developed master's programs in Inclusive Education for experienced teachers. The project also prioritized staff development and recruiting new candidates for teacher education. At the UT, four graduates from the master's program were hired as teaching assistants, with one joining the faculty. Similarly, TLU hired one graduate as a university teacher. The project has significantly contributed to staff succession and sustainability at both universities.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- A funding model based on cost documents proved to be a challenge during implementation, which increased the administrative burden of both the implementing agency and the project promoters.
- The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the project's implementation. This was because the originally planned courses were designed for on-site delivery. As a result, online courses had to be developed and implemented.
- The programme's implementation necessitated the use of multiple databases, including the institution's own document management system, the Structural Funds operating system, and the GrACE programme environment. Managing data across these disparate systems inevitably led to extended program implementation timescales.

Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme

Results

BRP with three beneficiary countries in its research component was **unique and offered various benefits as well as challenges** to its implementation. That was covered in depth in the BRP Final Evaluation Report (pages 29-39). The overall conclusion made by all stakeholders is that BRP multilateral partnerships

undoubtedly contributed to both regional and international cooperation, and increased the competencies of researchers, their research productivity and visibility. Also the active involvement of young researchers was underlined.

Joint activity gave an invaluable impetus not only to the research carried out within the project, but also to academic work in general. For example, at the University of Oslo (UiO), the undergraduate course on Europe's cultural history now features Baltic history and perspectives, inspired by the project **EE-RESEARCH-0007**, which are re-shaping narratives about Europe for a new generation of students.

In each project, all partners contributed to the successful execution of the project. Project promoters emphasised the **role of the Norwegian partner in providing valuable expertise**:

- **The case studies** conducted by the UiO in project **EE-RESEARCH-0007**, highlight the factor of a highly institutionalised and centralised cultural heritage sector in its impact on the understanding, management, and use of religious and historical sites, which allowed the Baltic partners to calibrate their analyses of top-down and bottom-up dynamics in the making of place.
- In project **EE-RESEARCH-0008**, it was imperative to have a donor partner (Cancer Registry; Simula Research Lab), as they brought invaluable competences in **AI modelling** and prior experience in studying similar data in Norway.
- In project **GreenPolymers**, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) analysed the **environmental impact (LCA) of processes and polymers** developed in Estonia and Lithuania which was crucial as it directed the development towards a lower environmental impact, and such expertise was not available.
- It was crucial to have UiT team in the project **SUCC** because of their **expertise in plant ecology and statistics related to community ecology**. This secured proper experiment planning, detailed identification of plants and sound statistical analyses.
- In project **ORBES**, the NTNU was solving one of the most complex tasks - **multi-objective optimization and development of specialized components** - and thereby shifting IMC technology to a new level.
- In project **BWrite**, the University of Bergen (UiB) team provided **data analytical know-how and data analysis procedures across the selected data and data coding**, which was a vital component in supporting the language-specific and across-language analysis.

- In project **SolidShore**, the specific contribution of the NTNU team addressed **calculations of local wave loads in high resolution**, in which there was a lack of competence in the Baltics.

Also, **organizing and participating in conferences, seminars, study visits, training courses, etc.** contributed to the achievement of joint results.

- For example, **EE-RESEARCH-0007** project jointly presented the results at numerous conferences, giving presentations and organising special panels, through which all partners gained high visibility in the study of religions, folkloristics and ethnology.
- Project poster presented by Norwegian partner of project **GreenPolymers** won the best poster award at the 31st European Biomass Conference & Exhibition, Bologna (June 2023).
- Lithuanian team of SUCC project received a **certificate of appreciation** for international cooperation and for a scientific publication with the highest citation index (IF) in LAMMC in 2021.
- The project **ORBES** organised annual events (*Estonian i3DC Innovation Workshops*) with over 40 international participants, including **industry** representative, where all team members presented their results.

In several project, **young researchers were trained**. For instance, in project SUCC, three Lithuanian participants did an internship at the University of Tartu in 2021.

Higher education projects focused on **curriculum development, teaching methods, and mobility programs to enhance student and staff exchanges**. 11 Estonian project promoters collaborated with 9 institutions from Norway, 4 from Iceland, and 5 enterprises, including 3 from Estonia and 2 from Norway.

Three projects **integrated private companies to reduce economic inequality**. For example, TalTech partnered with NTNU and a private sector participant on the "Digiman" project (EE-RESEARCH-0018), benefiting from industry insights. Similarly, the UT worked with TTK University of Applied Sciences, Norwegian partners, and private companies to study local wool quality, creating materials for textile students and piloting a wool study program to promote local wool as a premium textile material.

Another collaboration, led by the UT and the University of Iceland (EE-RESEARCH-0005), **established mobility windows for medical undergraduates**. Students conducted month-long research projects in basic science, with 6 students

from Tartu and 5 from Iceland participating, gaining academic and intercultural experience.

A pre-defined project EE-RESEARCH-0002 was a successful example of national collaboration. Led by the UT in partnership with TLU, the **project involved leading Norwegian experts in the field.**

The project's overall goal was to equip both current and future teachers with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to promote inclusivity and reduce the segregation of pupils with SEN. Activities included organising seminars and workshops in Estonia, publishing scientific articles, and conducting dissemination activities. As a result, curricula were developed at both UT and TLU. 28 participants graduated from the extensive program for school teams, and 57 participants completed the preschool staff programs. Feedback from participants indicated a high level of satisfaction with their learning experiences.

The involvement of Norwegian experts, who are leaders in promoting inclusive education and have extensive experience in the field, proved to be an important asset to the project. Their guidance was invaluable in planning project activities, reflecting on implementation, and analysing results at different stages.

The project's second main aim was to **establish research groups focused on inclusive education** within UT and TLU. As a consequence, four PhD students enrolled in relevant PhD programs and undertook research projects related to inclusive education. In total, 14 scientific peer-reviewed articles were prepared. Project activities were presented at 38 national and international events, reaching diverse audiences. The project successfully combined teaching and research activities, allowing the project team to develop a deeper understanding of how teachers learn from the developed courses.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

The external and internal factors which hindered the implementation of projects were described in depth in the BRP Final Evaluation Report (pages 31-33). The biggest external negative factor was the **COVID-19 pandemics**. The restrictions on personal meetings hindered the implementation of workshops and in-depth interviews and resulted in delays in the project delivery. Also, the investigation and experimentation process were disrupted due to pandemic-related difficulties such as complications in the supply chain and long logistics (e.g. the project ORBES).

Regarding the internal negative factors, one of main challenges to be dealt with was a situation when **composition of project team changed**, e.g. due to paternal leave,

change of workplace, or other reason. The loss of a co-project promoter like in project BWrite or a work package leader like in a cancer project definitely affected both the timely delivery of results and mental well-being of team members.

Another limitation concerned **time**. In the (post)pandemic work life, projects had to catch up to initial plans and cope with various other engagements (e.g., other projects, administrative tasks, lectures). In terms of outcome indicators, this affected the **joint application for further finding** as the project promoters availability to actively search and apply to other funding programmes was constrained. Therefore, it can to some extent help to explain the underachievement of the indicator's target value. In this regard, some project promoters also mentioned that a **suitable call has not been yet available**, e.g. the project ORBES has been looking for call for industrial project that will allow the involvement of four current academic partners.

In highlighting the main challenge of establishing bilateral relations in higher education, the project promoters pointed out the difficulty of making contact with partners from Donor States. This is because there are many other interested parties who also want to collaborate with higher education institutions in Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein. As a result, the easiest route to creating cooperation projects was for those with existing contacts, as it facilitated reaching a joint agreement. Unfortunately, establishing cooperative relations with Liechtenstein proved unsuccessful.

The cost of living in the Donor States presented a challenge during the partnership and this impacted the organisation of project meetings and study visits to some extent, as the project implementer had to contribute more of their own funds to cover the travel costs.

IRREGULARITIES

Case Id	Reporting level	Nature of irregularity	Case opened	Status	Estimated final input to the FMO for cases not closed	Decision	Amount of financial correction
IR 37	EE-RESEARCH-0002	Deviation from public procurement rules/principles	27/08/2020	Closed	-	Irregularity remedied. No further action needed. Project grant amount reduced. Amount linked to irregularity paid back/deducted from payment.	€ 845.65
IR 45	EE-RESEARCH-0002	Deviation from public procurement rules/principles	05/01/2021	Closed	-	Project grant amount reduced. Amount linked to irregularity paid back/deducted from payment.	€ 327.77
IR 69	EE-RESEARCH	Deviation from public procurement rules/principles	19/07/2021	Closed	-	Irregularity remedied. No further action needed. Amount linked to irregularity paid back/deducted from payment.	€ 110.55
IR 163	EE-RESEARCH	Deviation from public procurement rules/principles	27/10/2022	Closed	-	Amount linked to irregularity paid back/deducted from payment.	€ 43.20
IR 164	EE-RESEARCH-0007	Deviation from public procurement rules/principles	27/10/2022	Closed	-	Project grant amount reduced. Amount linked to irregularity paid back/deducted from payment.	€ 303.00
IR 301	EE-RESEARCH-0002	Deviation from public procurement rules/principles	06/10/2023	Closed	-	Project grant amount reduced. Amount linked to irregularity paid back/deducted from payment.	€ 1,311.11
IR 422	EE-RESEARCH	Error in financial report	04/02/2025	Ongoing	03.2025	-	-
IR 439	EE-RESEARCH	Error in financial report	04/02/2025	Closed	03.2025	Wrongly reported.	-

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

		Number of projects contracted	Number of projects completed	Project grant contracted (EEA Grant + national co-financing)	Project grant incurred (EEA Grant + national co-financing)	Project Eligible Expenditure contracted (Includes project co-financing)	Project Eligible Expenditure incurred (Includes project co-financing)
Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Baltic research internationally	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
	Contracted through open calls	7	7	€ 6,000,000.00	€ 5,853,886.77	€ 4,931,191.15	€ 5,853,886.77
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
	Total Outcome 1	7	7	€ 6,000,000.00	€ 5,853,886.77	€ 4,931,191.15	€ 5,853,886.77
Outcome 2: Improved skills and competences of students and staff in higher education	Pre-defined	1	1	€ 178,936.42	€ 177,404.88	€ 184,501.08	€ 184,500.78
	Contracted through open calls	11	11	€ 1,006,134.00	€ 907,004.32	€ 907,819.05	€ 907,004.32
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
	Total Outcome 2	12	12	€ 1,185,070.42	€ 1,084,409.20	€ 1,092,320.13	€ 1,091,505.10
Outcome 3: Competence of educational staff increased, related to working with special education needs (SEN)	Pre-defined	1	1	€ 420,588.18	€ 404,310.95	€ 404,310.95	€ 404,310.95
	Contracted through open calls	0	0	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
	Contracted through small	0	0	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00

Iceland 
 Liechtenstein
 Norway grants


 Norway
 grants

	grants scheme						
	Total Outcome 3	1	1	€ 420,588.18	€ 404,310.95	€ 404,310.95	€ 404,310.95
Total programme costs (Excluding programme management costs)		20	20	€ 7,605,658.60	€ 7,342,606.92	€ 6,427,822.23	€ 7,349,702.82

FINAL BALANCE

Overview of programme expenditure

Programme area (PA)	Budget Heading	EEA Grants	Total grant	Programme eligible expenditure	EEA Grants contribution incurred	Total grant contribution incurred	Programme co-financing incurred	Total eligible expenditure incurred
PA02	Programme management	€ 482,999.75	€ 482,999.75	€ 568,235.00	€ 439,345.94	€ 439,345.94	€ 77,531.64	€ 516,877.58
PA02	Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Baltic research internationally (EEA Grants)	€ 5,100,000.00	€ 5,100,000.00	€ 6,000,000.00	€ 4,975,803.75	€ 4,975,803.75	€ 878,083.02	€ 5,853,886.77
PA03	Outcome 2: Improved skills and competences of students and staff in higher education (EEA Grants)	€ 945,401.92	€ 945,401.92	€ 1,112,237.55	€ 921,747.82	€ 921,747.82	€ 162,661.38	€ 1,084,409.20
PA03	Outcome 3: Competence of educational staff increased, related to working with special education needs (SEN) (EEA Grants)	€ 357,499.95	€ 357,499.95	€ 420,588.18	€ 343,664.31	€ 343,664.31	€ 60,646.64	€ 404,310.95
	Total	€ 6,885,901.62	€ 6,885,901.62	€ 8,101,060.73	€ 6,680,561.82	€ 6,680,561.82	€ 1,178,922.68	€ 7,859,484.50

Description of budget spending

Programme management

Programme management costs were used for personnel costs related to the implementation of the work plan, programme coordinator's salary and taxes. Evaluation of the project proposals in the beginning of the programme period and evaluation of the projects' final reports in 2023 and 2024. Remuneration of programme committee members, planning and conducting of the PC and CC meetings every year. PO and IA participation in PO's meetings organised by DPPs. A promotional video introducing BRP and projects were covered from management costs. Total use of budget - 90,96%.

Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Baltic research internationally (EEA Grants)

A total use of budget - 97.58%. Three projects used 100% of the budget (EE-RESEARCH-0007, EE-RESEARCH-0017, EE-RESEARCH-0019) and one project 99,996% (EE-RESEARCH-0011). Unused budget: € 55,099.40 (EE-RESEARCH-0010) and € 75,926 (EE-RESEARCH-0008). The slightly higher underspending of these projects can be explained by the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that both ended earlier than other projects and did not request an extension (30 July 2023 and 31 Dec 2023, respectively).

Outcome 2: Improved skills and competences of students and staff in higher education (EEA Grants)

The utilization of project budgets was quite good. COVID-19 had a significant impact, necessitating a review of action plans, as cross-border activities, study visits, and business trips were cancelled during certain periods. However, the projects adapted well and responded swiftly to changes. A total use of budget - 97,49%.

Outcome 3: Competence of educational staff increased, related to working with special education needs (SEN) (EEA Grants)

During the project's implementation, the action plan was reviewed annually, and adjustments were made to activities and budgets as needed (in coordination with the Cooperation Commission). The project was originally scheduled to be completed by 31.01.2023. However, to successfully implement all planned activities and maximize its impact, an extension was necessary. Accordingly, the Cooperation Committee approved the continuation of the project until 31.01.2024. This extension also provided an opportunity to review budget utilization and make necessary adjustments. A total use of budget - 96%.

Calculation of the final balance

	EEA Grants
Total reported eligible expenditure of the programme	
Total eligible expenditure incurred	€ 7,859,484.50
(-) Total (national) programme co-financing incurred (15.00 % rate)	€ 1,178,922.68
(=) Total grant contribution incurred (85.00 % grant rate)	€ 6,680,561.82
Amounts to be deducted from the total grant contribution¹	
(-) Total advance and interim payments to the programme from the Donors	€ 6,809,380.18
(-) Any co-financing from sources other than the Donors/national ²	€ 0.00
(-) Total interest earned reported	€ 22,260.97
Final balance	
(=) Final balance payable to the Programme Operator	€ 0.00

¹ Any funds reimbursed from Project Promoters to the Programme Operator, not paid to other projects or reimbursed to the FMO (ref. Article 9.4.1(b)(iv) of the Regulation) should be reported as negative adjustments in the Financial report for the last reporting period (Annex 1). In this case, such funds will be subtracted from the "Total eligible expenditure incurred" of the programme.

² For example, financing from EU structural funds or other EU sources, from the Swiss contribution, etc. This row includes only the financing incurred during the programme eligibility period.

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants

Norway
grants

(=) Final balance payable to the Donors	€ 151,079.33
---	--------------

ANNEXES

*The Annexes are intended **for internal use only** and will not be published.*

Annex 1: Financial report for the last reporting period

	Programme eligible expenditure as per Programme Agreement	Programme eligible expenditure after the flexibility measures have been applied
Programme management	€ 568,235.00	€ 568,235.00
Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Baltic research internationally (EEA Grants)	€ 6,000,000.00	€ 6,000,000.00
Outcome 2: Improved skills and competences of students and staff in higher education (EEA Grants)	€ 1,112,237.55	€ 1,112,237.55
Outcome 3: Competence of educational staff increased, related to working with special education needs (SEN) (EEA Grants)	€ 420,588.18	€ 420,588.18
Total	€ 8,101,060.73	€ 8,101,060.73

Part A - Statement of actual expenditure incurred and interest earned

Incurred expenditure - summary

Start date of incurred expenditure period 01/07/2024

End date of incurred expenditure period 31/01/2025

	Previously incurred expenditure	Incurred this period	Total to date	Total Budget	Available balance
Eligible expenditure	€ 7,402,712.60	€ 456,771.90	€ 7,859,484.50	€ 8,101,060.73	€ 241,576.23
<i>EEA Grants</i>	€ 6,292,305.72	€ 388,256.10	€ 6,680,561.82	€ 6,885,901.62	€ 205,339.80
Co-financing	€ 1,110,406.88	€ 68,515.80	€ 1,178,922.68	€ 1,215,159.11	€ 36,236.43

Incurred expenditure - details

Title: Programme management

	Previously incurred expenditure	Incurred this period	Total to date	Budget	Available balance
Eligible expenditure	€ 437,763.42	€ 79,114.16	€ 516,877.58	€ 568,235.00	€ 51,357.42

Brief description of actual expenditure incurred

Programme management costs were used for personnel costs related to the implementation of the work plan, programme coordinator's salary and taxes. Evaluation of the projects' final reports. Remuneration of Programme Committee members, planning and conducting of the Programme Committee (PC) and Cooperation Committee (CC) meetings in autumn 2024. PC meeting related expenses in Tallinn and Tartu in September 2024 (transportation costs, accommodation of PC members in Tartu, thank you gifts, etc). Programme Operator (PO) and Implementing Agency (IA) participation in PO's meetings organised by Donor Programme Partners (DPPs). A promotional video introducing BRP and projects were covered from management costs. PO and IA member participation in Baltic Research Programme final conference in Vilnius and participation in the Polish and Czech research programmes' final conferences at the invitation of the PL and CZ POs.

Eligible expenditures

Eligible expenditure - EUR

	€ 79,114.16
--	-------------

Total

	€ 79,114.16
--	-------------

Title: Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Baltic research internationally (EEA Grants)

	Previously incurred expenditure	Incurred this period	Total to date	Budget	Available balance
Eligible expenditure	€ 5,476,228.63	€ 377,658.14	€ 5,853,886.77	€ 6,000,000.00	€ 146,113.23

Brief description of actual expenditure incurred for the outcome

Final payments to 5 projects as described in the project agreements were made in October 2024.

Eligible expenditures

Project	Eligible expenditure - EUR
EE-RESEARCH-0007	€ 91,020.50
EE-RESEARCH-0013	€ 71,050.40
EE-RESEARCH-0009	€ 35,140.41
EE-RESEARCH-0011	€ 89,722.28
EE-RESEARCH-0012	€ 90,724.55

Total

	€ 377,658.14
--	--------------

Title: Outcome 2: Improved skills and competences of students and staff in higher education (EEA Grants)

	Previously incurred expenditure	Incurred this period	Total to date	Budget	Available balance
Eligible expenditure	€ 1,084,409.60	€ -0.40	€ 1,084,409.20	€ 1,112,237.55	€ 27,828.35

Brief description of actual expenditure incurred for the outcome

All projects have been completed and no disbursements were made during this period.

Adjustments

Project	MM/YYYY adjusted	Eligible expenditure - EUR	Adjustment Type	Description
EE-RESEARCH-0006	03.2025	€ -0.20	Other	adjustment of previous amounts
EE-RESEARCH-0003	03.2025	€ -0.20	Other	adjustment of previous amounts

Total

	€ -0.40
--	---------

Title: Outcome 3: Competence of educational staff increased, related to working with special education needs (SEN) (EEA Grants)

Brief description of actual expenditure incurred for the outcome

Project has been completed already and final payment has been made.

Interest Earned

Interest generated on accounts established by the Programme Operator for funds intended for regranting for 2024

EEA Grants	Total
€ 10,993.96	€ 10,993.96

Interest generated on accounts established by the Programme Operator for funds intended for regranting for 2025 (from 1 January until the submission of the Final Programme Report or until an earlier date if reporting until the Final Programme Report date is not possible)³

The date until which the interest is reported for 2025: 30/04/2025

EEA Grants	Total
€ 2,719.11	€ 2,719.11

Cumulative Interest generated on accounts established by the Programme Operator for funds intended for regranting

EEA Grants	Total
€ 22,260.97	€ 22,260.97

Comments

Interest-bearing bank accounts for the programme established by CA.

³ In line with Article 9.4.5 of the Regulations, any interest earned on the bank account of the Programme Operator between the date of the Final Programme Report and the reimbursement date (i.e. final balance payment either to the Donors or to the Beneficiary State) will also be included in the reimbursement. The FMO will contact the Certifying Authority before making the payment or issuing a debit note to request information on the remaining amount of the accumulated interest.

Programme Operator

Full legal name: Ministry of Education and Research - Estonia (EE)

Programme Operator signature

I certify that I am duly authorised to sign this financial report for the last reporting period and the final balance of the programme. I have thoroughly reviewed the actual expenditure incurred declared in Part A and the calculation of the final balance of the programme, and confirm that the information provided is accurate. I confirm that this programme is carried out as described in the Programme Agreement and that the incurred expenditure is correctly represented.

Overall implementation status (including milestones):

The overall implementation of the projects has gone according to plan. All the projects have progressed as planned and there are no significant deviations in the implementation of the projects. All the projects have been ended. 5 projects under outcome 1 have received their final payments (after submission of their final project reports, on the second half of 2024) as described in their project agreements. Projects under outcomes 2 and 3 has been ended and final payments has been done on the first half of 2024.

Question	Answer	Comment
Management and control systems of the Programme Operator set up fulfilling the general principles set out in the Regulation and approved by the National Focal Point (Art 5.7)	Yes	Management and control systems were accepted by auditor in January 30, 2019. In connection with the consolidation of state institutions in Estonia, from 1st August 2020 the higher education part of the programme implemented by the Archimedes Foundation was transferred to the Estonian Education and Youth Board. Due to the change of the implementer of the educational programme, the process of updating the overview of Management and Control System has been modified and updated document was adopted in February 2022.
Separate interest-bearing bank accounts dedicated to the funds intended for regranting established and maintained (Art 5.6.1 (m))	Yes	Interest-bearing bank accounts for the programme established by CA in the beginning of the programme.

Information and publicity obligations fulfilled (Art 3.3)	Yes	Usual communication tools and channels were used in the communication work. Promotional video about the programme and projects was widely distributed in 2024. Video about research projects: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xze8OfLJcVg&t=4s and higher educational projects: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwyEA_bBMcYHubKQVIqRps5ujrGJ1nGgH .
Monitoring and verifications conducted to ensure quality and/or regularity of implementation (Art 5.6.1 (g) and Art 5.6.2)	Yes	Payments are monitored constantly. Final reports of the projects have been evaluated by experts.
Annual monitoring of a sample of projects conducted (Art 5.6.1 (i))	Yes	Result based monitorings, compliance-based monitorings and risk-based monitorings were carried out by IAs and PO.
Project-specific statistical data is entered and up to date in the reporting database (Art 5.6.1 (s))	Yes	Data is updated regularly.
Special conditions and Programme-specific rules set out in the programme agreement fulfilled (Art 5.6.1 (x))	Yes	Programme specific rules are fulfilled.
All irregularities, their investigation and any remedies taken	Yes	Overpaid amount will be withheld from the budget.

reported (Art 5.6.1 (v))		
-----------------------------	--	--

For the Programme Operator

Signed in on

.....

Certification of actual expenditure incurred and co-financing

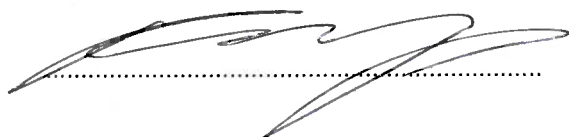
Start date of incurred expenditure period	01/07/2024
End date of incurred expenditure period	31/01/2025
Actual expenditure incurred this period	€ 456,771.90
Co-financing committed to date	€ 1,178,922.68
Co-financing for incurred expenditure paid	€ 1,178,922.68
Interest earned 2024	€ 10,993.96
Interest earned 2025	€ 2,719.11

In relation to the Financial report for the last reporting period and the calculation of the final balance of the programme, the Certifying Authority hereby certifies that:

- (i) the summary of eligible expenditure submitted by the Programme Operator is in full conformity with the supporting documents;
- (ii) the supporting documents have been examined and found to be authentic, correct and accurate;
- (iii) the summary of eligible expenditure is based on verifiable accounting which complies with generally accepted accounting principles and methods;
- (iv) the summary of eligible expenditure falls within eligible expenditure under the Regulation for the implementation of the EEA / Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021;
- (v) the summary of expenditure is incurred as part of the implementation of the Programme in accordance with the Programme Agreement;
- (vi) sufficient audit trail exists;
- (vii) co-financing committed to date has been made available;
- (viii) co-financing in relation to incurred expenditure has been paid;
- (ix) when relevant, that the interest earned at Programme Operator account is correct.

For the Certifying Authority

Signed in Tallinn on 28.04.2025



Part-Eo Rannap
Head of the Certifying Authority

Annex 2: Communications

Best projects

Project title	Project code	Project promoter	Confirm the PLI is updated in GrACE
Creative Industries Learning Module (CCILM)	EE-RESEARC H-0004	Estonian Business School (EE)	Yes
Estonian and Norwegian local sheep wool- research and study materials for textile students in higher education	EE-RESEARC H-0017	Tartu University (EE)	Yes
Developing and enhancing the teaching quality of inclusive education curriculum	EE-RESEARC H-0002	Tartu University (EE)	Yes
Optimised Residential Battery Energy Storage Systems (ORBES)	EE-RESEARC H-0010	Tallinn University of Technology (EE)	Yes
Towards elimination of cervical cancer: intelligent and personalised solutions for cancer screening	EE-RESEARC H-0008	Tartu University (EE)	Yes

Communication activities

- Information related to all programs implemented in Estonia is published on the Facebook page of the State Support Services Center: <https://www.facebook.com/EEANorwayGrantsEstonia>
- Website of the BRP: <https://etag.ee/en/cooperation/baltic-nordic/eea-financial-mechanism-2014-2021-baltic-research-programme/>
- Opening conference and match-making event of the EEA Baltic Research Programme in Tallinn (25.10.2018) <https://etag.ee/en/event/launching-and-matchmaking-event-of-the-baltic-research-programme/>
- In 2022, a presentation of the BRP took place at the EARMA conference in Oslo. The event facilitated knowledge sharing and highlighted the achievements of the BRP to an international audience.
- Mid-term conference of the EEA Baltic Research Programme in Riga (18.-19.10.2023) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZO6LG7b1Jes>
- Final conference of the EEA Baltic Research Programme in Vilnius (19.-20.11.2024) <https://lmt.lrv.lt/news/success-story-of-baltic-research-how-25-million-from-eea-mechanisms-transformed-regional-science/>
- The "Closing Conference of Baltic Research Programme Higher Education Strand" (held on 27.09.2025) presented the program results and promoted cooperation. <https://harno.ee/en/news/benefits-and-threats-global-cooperation-discussed-tartu>

- Higher educational part website: <https://harno.ee/empnorra>, where information about the application rounds was initially found and later about the projects.
- Promotional video has been made to introduce HE projects: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kpqcS0Ygj4&list=PLwyEA_bBMcYGdNmWulw_x6CMXeQjLHP2G&index=10 and research projects: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xze8OfLJcVg>.

Project stories

15

Media coverage

Estonian National Broadcast (ERR) and its science news portal Novaator

- <https://news.err.ee/1609056974/coastal-engineer-estonia-is-not-a-paradise-with-pleasant-climate-change> - EE-RESEARCH-0012 SolidShore: Coastal engineer: Estonia is not a paradise with 'pleasant' climate change:
- <https://novaator.err.ee/1608277818/atko-remmel-ja-tonno-jonuks-millestraagib-eestlaste-enesekuvand-metsarahvana> - Estonian team member of EE-RESEARCH-0007 Dr Atko Remmel explained the outcomes of his ongoing research in the ERR portal Novaator.
- <https://novaator.err.ee/1608974081/tormakas-bioplastide-tootmine-voib-suvendada-keskkonnaprobleeme> - project promoter Lauri Vares (GreenPolymers) talking that the production of novel plastics from biomass can help solve environmental problems, but only if mistakes made in the development of petroleum-based plastics can be avoided.
- <https://novaator.err.ee/1609056230/soomere-kliimamuutus-on-hakanud-mereelustiku-korval-inimeste-pihta-looma> - Interview of project promoter Tarmo Soomere (SolidShore) about records of the ocean surface temperature, their impacts on the global ecosystem and mankind
- <https://novaator.err.ee/1016529/ttu-energeetikud-arendavad-eesti-esimest-energiasalvestit> - work of the project promoter (ORBES) in the residential storage field is introduced in the ERR video (20.12.2019)
- <https://novaator.err.ee/1608466049/tuleviku-elektriarveid-voib-vahendada-nutikas-algoritm> - dissemination of the results obtained in ORBES project (14.01.2022)

Postimees (biggest daily newspaper)

- <https://teadus.postimees.ee/7790834/uro-s-esitleti-eestis-valja-tootatud-tehnoloogiat-mis-ka-koige-markamatumad-laevad-ara-tunneb> - presentation of technology for vessel detection, localization and identification based on wake measurements to the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (5-9 June 2023, „New maritime technologies: challenges and opportunities“, UN Headquarters, New York) by Tarmo Soomere (SolidShore).
- <https://tervis.postimees.ee/7084678/tu-teadlased-kutsuvad-naisi-kodustes-tingimustes-tehtavale-emakakaelavahi-uuringule>; EE-RESEARCH-0008 (Cancer)
- <https://tervis.postimees.ee/6937735/tartu-ulikooli-teadlased-otsivad-teed-emakakaelavahi-riskipohise-soeluringuni>; EE-RESEARCH-0008 (Cancer)
- <https://leht.postimees.ee/7089811/professor-selgitab-millised-tunnused-viitavad-emakakaelavahile-ja-kuidas-seda-ennetada> - EE-RESEARCH-0008 (Cancer)
- <https://teadus.postimees.ee/7485195/kummitav-papilloomiviirus-tobi-millest-inimkond-voib-vabaneda> - an example of popular science articles published in Estonia's leading newspaper Postimees to explain the scientific key aspects in an accessible and engaging manner ('Ghostly Papilloma Virus: A Disease Humanity Can Eliminate'). EE-RESEARCH-0008 (Cancer)
- <https://arvamus.postimees.ee/7904449/tarmo-soomere-ranna-tuleviku-loovad-uheskoos-loodus-ja-inimesed> - Article written by Tarmo Soomere (SolidShore) about mature and mankind together steering the future of beaches.
- <https://tv.postimees.ee/7922102/aasta-2023-tarmo-soomere-see-et-loodus-veel-vastu-peab-on-ajutine> - interview given by Tarmo Soomere (SolidShore) - we cannot expect that nature is resilient with respect to human pressure
- <https://arvamus.postimees.ee/7923895/tarmo-soomere-oigus-ja-oiglus-sunnivad-teadmisest> - short history of climate change and associated challenges submitted by Tarmo Soomere (SolidShore)

Youtube

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fw7CfWKKkL0> - In 2024, the Lithuanian project team organized a popular research seminar “Restored

Places: Interactions of Mythical Imagery and Heritage”, both online and on site, presenting the results of the project and its impact. The seminar was organized within the cycle “New Research on Mythology and Folklore”, its participants Lina Būgienė, Andrius Kaniava, Lina Leparskienė, and Radvilė Racėnaitė presented the results of their research on placelore, including investigations of the sacred sites, such as the Hill of Crosses and Lopaičiai, the cultural topography of Vilnius, and the culture and ethnic identity of the Lithuanian Tatars.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgCHSPpQEPA> – presentation „Power electronic interface for small-scale battery storage systems“ given by Andrei Blinov (ORBES) during the TalTech webinar “High-Performance Power Electronic Solutions Simultaneously Applicable for DC and AC Grids”
- https://youtu.be/HnR_dWv8d3c - an informative video about the core experiment in 2022 of SolidShore project (“Projekta "SolidShore" darbi - straumju mērīšanas kampaņa Zvejniekciemā 2022.g. augustā”) about installation and retrieval 9 hydromasts and acoustic Doppler velocimeter (ADV) near the port of Skulte, Zvejniekciems, Latvia.

Norwegian media

- <https://www.gd.no/visste-ikkje-at-han-kjopte-heimen-til-einsom-las-tankane-til-folk/f/5-18-1544813> - the young researchers dissemination seminar and fieldtrip “Multilayered Heritage: Center and Periphery in Cultural History” was organized in 2022 in Norway by project EE-RESEARCH-0007, to introduce the ongoing research and results of the project.
- <https://khrono.no/det-har-vore-stunder-der-eg-lurte-pa-kva-eg-heldt-pa-med/726381> - Norwegian team member Hannah Lunde of project EE-RESEARCH-0007 gave a public lecture on pilgrimage (Pilegrim i lokalmiljøet) at Nordby library (4.5.22) and the newspaper Khrono made a feature about her research.

Latvian media

- <https://replay.lsm.lv/lv/skaties/ieraksts/ltv/269337/aglona-sak-ierasties-svetcelnieki> - The Latvian project promoter Agita Misāne was interviewed by the Latvian television news programme “Panorāma” concerning pilgrimage traditions to Aglona, broadcast on 13.08.2022 (Aglonā sāk ierasties svētcelnieki).

Lithuanian media

- <https://archyvas.lsmu.lt/lt/naujienos/naujienos/naujas-gimdos-kaklelio-vezio-prevencijos-projektas.html> - EE-RESEARCH-0008 (Cancer)
- The Lithuanian team (Klaipėda University) of SolidShore gave several comments in national TV, radio and other media channels related to the coastal evolution under high anthropogenic pressure, and wave-induced hazardous events at the Port of Klaipėda that included results from the project:

1. <https://www.lrt.lt/mediateka/irasas/2000255361/ryto-garsai-kaip-apsaugoti-papludimius-nuo-audringos-baltijos>
2. <https://www.lrt.lt/mediateka/irasas/2000289739/ryto-garsai-kaip-juroje-formuojasi-duobes-ir-kaip-jas-pazinti>
3. <https://www.lrt.lt/naujienos/lietuvoje/2/2055766/mokslininke-aiskina-poilsiautojams-kaip-pazinti-duobes-juroje-ir-ka-daryti-i-jas-patekus>
4. <https://www.15min.lt/verslas/naujiena/mokslas-it/klimato-kaita-palies-baltijos-jura-dazniau-isvysime-banginiu-bangos-lepins-banglentinkus-1290-2076646>
5. <https://www.15min.lt/naujiena/aktualu/lietuva/ku-mokslininke-kodel-juroje-susiformuoja-pavojingos-duobes-ir-kaip-is-ju-isplaukti-56-2088022>
6. <https://www.15min.lt/verslas/naujiena/mokslas-it/pajuryje-neitiketinos-bangos-tokiu-nemate-jau-penkerius-metus-1290-2093664>
7. <https://www.atviraklaipeda.lt/2023/07/26/mokslininke-juroje-saugiau-maudytis-bangose-nei-ten-kur-ramus-vanduo>
8. <https://ve.lt/aktualijos/klaipeda/ku-mokslininkes-komentaras-kodel-juroje-susiformuoja-pavojingos-duobes-ir-kaip>
9. <https://www.tv3.lt/naujiena/video/istyre-liuvos-papludimius-poilsiautojams-blogos-zinios-n1231497>
10. <https://www.tv3.lt/naujiena/video/jura-nusiaube-klaipedos-papludimius-kopa-virto-skardziu-n1213116>
11. <https://www.ziniuradijas.lt/laidos/pagauti-ideja/kaip-hidrodinaminiai-procesai-veikia-liuvos-pajuri?soundtrack=1>
12. <https://neringa.lt/gyventojui/naujienos/57/kodel-juroje-susiformuoja-pavojingos-duobes-ir-kaip-is-ju-isplaukti-atsako-klaipedos-universiteto-mokslininke:577?lang=lt>

13. <https://www.delfi.lt/mokslas/mokslas/mokslininke-isaiskino-kur-juroje-susiformuoja-pavojingos-duobes-ir-kaip-is-ju-isplaukti-5-taisykles-kurios-gali-igselbeti-gyvybe-94030517>

<https://harno.ee/uudised/tartus-arutleti-uileilmsete-koostoovoimaluste-kasude-ja-ohutude-ule>

Website and social media

Link to programme website		Total number of page views in the reporting year 2024	
https://etag.ee/en/cooperation/baltic...		459	
Platform	Specific link or handle for the account	Number of posts published in the reporting year 2024	Number of followers
YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kpqcS0Ygj4&list=PLwyEA_bBMcYGdNmWulw_x6...	1	1600
Other	https://harno.ee/empnorra	2	398
Other	https://harno.ee/en/eeagrants	2	127
Other	https://harno.ee/en/closing-conference-baltic-research-programme#agenda	1	959
Other	https://etag.ee/en/cooperation/baltic-nordic/eea-financial-mechanism-201...	3	459

Visuals

<https://eealibrary.org/asset/43294/Overview%20of%20EEA%20Baltic%20Research%20Programme%20in%20Estonia?returnTo=%2F&breadcrumbType=menu> - video introducing the research cooperation within the BRP with Ambassador Marius Dirdal promoting the EEA and Norway Grants.

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/56295/Re-storied%20Sites%20and%20Routes%20as%20Inclusive%20Spaces%20and%20Places%20Shared%20Imaginations%20and%20Multi-layered%20Heritage?returnTo=%2Fupload%2Fhistory&breadcrumbType=uploadHistory> - project story: EE-RESEARCH-0007 (Re-Storied Sites)

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/56288/Towards%20elimination%20of%20cervical%20cancer%20intelligent%20and%20personalised%20solutions%20for%20cancer%20screening?returnTo=%2Fcollections&breadcrumbType=collectionOverview> - project story: EE-RESEARCH-0008 (Cancer)

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/56294/Sustainable%20use%20of%20soil%20resources%20in%20the%20changing%20climate?returnTo=%2Fupload%2Fhistory&breadcrumbType=uploadHistory> - project story: EE-RESEARCH-0009 (SUCC)

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/43316/%20Optimised%20Residential%20Battery%20Energy%20Storage%20Systems> – project story: EE-RESEARCH-0010 (ORBES)

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/56296/Academic%20Writing%20in%20the%20Baltic%20States:%20Rhetorical%20Structures%20through%20culture%28s%29%20and%20languages?returnTo=%2Fupload%2Fhistory&breadcrumbType=uploadHistory> - project story: EE-RESEARCH-0011 (BWrite)

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/56293/Solutions%20to%20current%20and%20future%20problems%20on%20natural%20and%20constructed%20shorelines,%20eastern%20Baltic%20Sea?returnTo=%2F&breadcrumbType=menu> - project story: EE-RESEARCH-0012 (SolidShore)

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/56292/Novel%20high-performance%20polymers%20from%20lignocellulosic%20feedstock?returnTo=%2F&breadcrumbType=menu> – project story: EE-RESEARCH-0013 (GreenPolymers)

https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/56287/ORBES_TalTech%20Residential%20DC%20Innovation%20Hub_Research%20&%20Demonstration%20of%20Sust%20Electrification%20Tech-s?returnTo=%2Fcollections&breadcrumbType=collectionOverview – photo about unique research and demonstration center for sustainable electrification technologies developed at TalTech with involvement of ORBES project team (Residential DC Innovation Hub)

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/56289/Introducing%20the%20ORBES%20project%20results%20to%20the%20PC%20members%20on%2025.09.2025%20at%20TalTech,%20Estonia?returnTo=%2Fcollections&breadcrumbType=collectionOverview> – photo from Dr Andrei Blinov and PC member Prof Martin Eisemann (UiT – the Arctic University of Norway) talking about ORBES project results during PC meeting in Estonia (25.09.2024)

https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/56286/ORBES_PI%20Dr%20Andrei%20Blinov%20TalTech_25.09.2025?returnTo=%2Fcollections&breadcrumbType=collectionOverview – photo from Dr Andrei Blinov, introducing the results of ORBES project during PC meeting in Estonia (25.09.2024).

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/56291/Programme%20Committee%20members%20and%20observers%20of%20the%20EEA%20Baltic%20Research%20Programme?returnTo=%2Fcollections&breadcrumbType=collectionOverview> - group photo

from members and observers of the Programme Committee of the Baltic Research Programme

Annex 3: Evaluation report

Title	Date of report	Website link to the evaluation	Upload a copy of the report
Evaluation of the Baltic Research Programme under the 2014-2021 EEA and Norway Grants	31/01/2024	https://etag.ee/en/cooperation/baltic...	BRP Final Report.pdf

Annex 4: Final results

Objective: Enhanced research-based knowledge development € 8,101,060.73 € 7,859,484.50								
Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Baltic research internationally								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of joint applications for further funding	Cumulative number	0	3 (APR 2023)	-	-	4	10	Discrepancy can be explained by following factors: COVID-19 pandemic, time constraint, absence of suitable call, replacement of donor partner
<i>Donor State</i>								
Norway	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	-
Iceland	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Liechtenstein	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	1	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Funding source (applied for)</i>								
International source (non-EU)	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
EU source	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-
National source	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of joint articles submitted to peer-reviewed publications	Cumulative number	0	42 (APR 2023)	-	-	46	50	Discrepancy can be explained by following factors: COVID-19 pandemic; changes in personnel; project promoters did not aim for maximum numbers of papers, but highest impact; biases in the review

								process; strict definition of indicator
<i>Donor State</i>								
Norway	-	-	42	-	-	46	-	-
Iceland	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Liechtenstein	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								
Gold open access	-	-	17	-	-	24	-	-
Pending open access	-	-	3	-	-	0	-	-
Other	-	-	12	-	-	12	-	-
Not specified	-	-	10	-	-	10	-	-
Number of jointly registered applications for Intellectual Property Protection	Cumulative number	0	2 (APR 2023)	-	-	2	3	Discrepancy can be explained by 2 main factors: a limited number of research fields where the IPP application is relevant; patents vs freely available IP
<i>Donor State</i>								
Norway	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
Iceland	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Liechtenstein	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Output 1.1: Knowledge of Research Shared								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of researchers supported	Cumulative number	0	139 (IFR 2024)	-	-	146	25	Discrepancy can be explained by the fact that setting the targets it wasn't taken account such a large number of researchers will be employed in the

								implementation of the projects.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	74	-	-	78	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	65	-	-	68	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of graduate degree</i>								
<i>PhD</i>	-	-	66	-	-	73	-	-
<i>Postdoc</i>	-	-	15	-	-	15	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	58	-	-	58	-	-
Outcome 2: Improved skills and competences of students and staff in higher education								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of students with received ECTS credits	Cumulative number	0	662 (APR 2023)	-	-	682	150	It wasn't possible to take into account the high interest in the subjects when setting the goals in 2016/2017.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	487	-	-	499	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	175	-	-	183	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of joint intellectual outputs created in cooperation projects	Cumulative number	0	12 (APR 2023)	-	-	12	10	-
Output 2.1: Cooperation projects implemented in higher education								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of joint events (courses, summer/winter schools, workshops, seminars, etc.)	Cumulative number	0	26 (APR 2023)	-	-	28	15	12 not specified joint events due to COVID when all the events moved to web and were carried on

								through different virtual platforms (Teams, Skype, etc)
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	10	-	-	11	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	11	-	-	12	-	-
Output 2.2: Facilitated professional mobility of staff (HEI workers and academic staff) and students in higher education								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of students from Estonia in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	55 (IFR 2024)	-	-	59	100	In the beginning of COVID it wasn't clear, if a virtual exchange can be counted or not. Is this kind of exchange is an exchange or not.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	39	-	-	41	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	16	-	-	18	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	3	-	-	4	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	16	-	-	16	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	36	-	-	39	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	25	-	-	25	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	24	-	-	25	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	6	-	-	9	-	-

Number of students from Donor States in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	36 (IFR 2024)	-	-	46	50	Due to COVID it wasn't possible to fill this indicator.
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	22	-	-	27	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	14	-	-	19	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	11	-	-	21	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	21	-	-	21	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	6	-	-	6	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	30	-	-	40	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of staff from Estonia in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	41 (IFR 2024)	-	-	90	100	Due to COVID it wasn't possible to fill this indicator.
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	37	-	-	51	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	35	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	24	-	-	26	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	17	-	-	18	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	46	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
<i>Online</i>	-	-	19	-	-	51	-	-
<i>Physical</i>	-	-	22	-	-	37	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	2	-	-

Number of staff from Donor States in exchanges	Cumulative number	0	21 (IFR 2024)	-	-	65	50	An indicator was overfilled because the interest in meeting partners was high.
<i>Donor State</i>								
Norway	-	-	17	-	-	33	-	-
Iceland	-	-	4	-	-	4	-	-
Liechtenstein	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	28	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
Female	-	-	9	-	-	10	-	-
Male	-	-	12	-	-	17	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	38	-	-
<i>Type of exchange</i>								
Online	-	-	7	-	-	35	-	-
Physical	-	-	14	-	-	30	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Output 2.3: Increased quality of study programme in Norwegian language and literature								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of students taking part in Norwegian language and literature lecturers at Tartu University	Cumulative number	0	348 (IFR 2024)	-	-	348	30	The lecturer proved to be very popular among the students.
<i>Gender</i>								
Female	-	-	276	-	-	276	-	-
Male	-	-	72	-	-	72	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Outcome 3: Competence of educational staff increased, related to working with special education needs (SEN)								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		

Share of teachers who reported improved competencies in SEN	Percentage	N/A	92.25 % (APR 2023)	119	129	92.25 %	75.00 %	Out of 129 participants 119 teachers have filled all the requirements for graduating the training course on inclusive education and have obtained the certificated for improved competencies in SEN. In addition, 24 university staff members who are involved in the project have increased their competences related to supporting inclusive education.
Number of articles submitted to peer-reviewed publications	Cumulative number	0	21 (APR 2023)	-	-	21	4	At the end of the project no more articles have been added.
<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								
Gold open access	-	-	14	-	-	14	-	-
Pending open access	-	-	7	-	-	7	-	-
Other	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Output 3.1: Capacity building activities implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of training courses organized	Cumulative number	0	5 (IFR 2024)	-	-	5	4	Organised courses proved to be very popular.
Number of public lectures and seminars organized	Cumulative number	0	38 (IFR 2024)	-	-	38	4	It wasn't possible to take into account the high interest when setting the goals in 2017.

Number of researchers supported	Cumulative number	0	24 (IFR 2024)	-	-	24	10	It was possible to support more researchers than initially planned.
<i>Gender</i>								
Female	-	-	22	-	-	22	-	-
Male	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of teachers trained	Cumulative number	0	311 (IFR 2024)	-	-	311	150	Organised courses proved to be very popular and many more teachers could benefit
<i>Gender</i>								
Female	-	-	306	-	-	306	-	-
Male	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	-
Not specified	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Level of satisfaction with the partnership	Scale 1-7	6.67, Based on the survey carried out on behalf of the FMO	7 (APR 2023)	-	-	7	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value.	-
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Beneficiary States and Donor States	Scale 1-7	6.56, Based on the survey carried out on behalf of the FMO	6.88 (APR 2023)	-	-	6.88	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value.	-

Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	100.00 % (APR 2023)	100	100	100.00 %	50, Target is minimum 50 %.	-
Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between Donors and Beneficiary state facilitated								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of projects with a donor project partner	Cumulative number	0	20 (IFR 2024)	-	-	20	21	2 pre-defined projects, 7 research projects and 11 projects in higher education.

Annex 5: Contracted projects

Project code	Project title	Project Promoter	Implementation modality	Outcome	Number of donor project partners	Project grant contracted (EEA Grant + national co-financing)	Project grant incurred (EEA Grant + national co-financing)	Project contract status
EE-RESEARC-H-0009	Sustainable use of soil resources in the changing climate	Tartu University (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 1	1	€ 907,947.00	€ 852,763.15	Completed
EE-RESEARC-H-0011	Academic Writing in the Baltic States: Rhetorical Structures through culture(s) and languages	Tartu University (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 1	1	€ 907,947.00	€ 907,807.31	Completed
EE-RESEARC-H-0008	Towards elimination of cervical cancer: intelligent and personalised solutions for cancer screening	Tartu University (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 1	1	€ 907,847.00	€ 831,888.10	Completed
EE-RESEARC-H-0012	Solutions to current and future problems on natural and constructed shorelines, eastern Baltic Sea (SolidShore)	Tallinn University of Technology (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 1	1	€ 907,741.00	€ 907,691.45	Completed
EE-RESEARC-H-0007	Re-storied Sites and Routes as Inclusive Spaces and Places: Shared Imaginations and Multi-layered Heritage	Tartu University (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 1	1	€ 907,478.00	€ 906,996.05	Completed
EE-RESEARC-H-0010	Optimised Residential Battery Energy Storage Systems (ORBES)	Tallinn University of Technology (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 1	1	€ 750,536.00	€ 736,378.42	Completed
EE-RESEARC-H-0013	Novel high-performance polymers from lignocellulosic feedstock	Tartu University (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 1	1	€ 710,504.00	€ 710,362.29	Completed
EE-RESEARC-H-0001	Visiting lectureship of Norwegian language at Tartu University	Tartu University (EE)	Pre-defined project	Outcome 2	1	€ 178,936.42	€ 177,404.88	Completed
EE-RESEARC-H-0018	Multi-disciplinary knowledge integration for digital manufacturing (Digiman)	Tallinn University of Technology (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	2	€ 138,648.00	€ 117,239.80	Completed
EE-RESEARC-H-0004	Creative Industries Learning Module (CCILM)	Estonian Business School (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	2	€ 136,205.00	€ 104,433.00	Completed
EE-RESEARC-H-0017	Estonian and Norwegian local sheep wool- research and study materials for textile students in higher education	Tartu University (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	2	€ 128,657.00	€ 127,688.16	Completed

EE-RESEARC H-0015	Competent Child Protection Worker: Enhancing Child's Right for the Participation in Child Protection Assessment (COMPENCA)	Tallinn University (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 116,535.00	€ 99,025.97	Completed
EE-RESEARC H-0006	Hybrid curriculum in patient safety: integration of academic master's education and continuous professional education in Estonia and in Norway	Tartu University (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 107,492.00	€ 103,737.00	Completed
EE-RESEARC H-0016	Electronic workbook of cross border assignments from Estonian and Icelandic companies (E-CBA)	Tallinn University of Applied Sciences (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 95,004.00	€ 93,174.00	Completed
EE-RESEARC H-0014	Simulation Based Learning in Aviation	Estonian Aviation Academy (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 82,580.00	€ 76,952.00	Completed
EE-RESEARC H-0019	An innovative platform for Estonia-Norway research-based teaching in bioinformatics and gene editing	Tallinn University of Technology (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 77,550.00	€ 75,792.91	Completed
EE-RESEARC H-0005	Development of curricula via international collaboration	Tartu University (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 62,516.00	€ 59,264.48	Completed
EE-RESEARC H-0003	Teacher training programme and web-based materials pool for teachers of Swedish as the general language in Estonia and on Iceland	Tartu University (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 53,622.00	€ 42,372.00	Completed
EE-RESEARC H-0020	Staff Mobility in higher education	Eesti Evangeeliumi Kristlaste ja Baptistide Koguduste Liit (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 7,325.00	€ 7,325.00	Completed
EE-RESEARC H-0002	Developing and enhancing the teaching quality of inclusive education curriculum	Tartu University (EE)	Pre-defined project	Outcome 3	2	€ 420,588.18	€ 404,310.95	Completed

Annex 6: Partially completed projects

For partially completed pre-defined projects or other projects receiving a grant equal to or greater than EUR 2,000,000 (including national co-financing but excluding project co-financing)

No entries found.

For partially completed non-predefined projects receiving a grant of less than EUR 2,000,000 (including national co-financing but excluding project co-financing)

No entries found.

Annex 7: Conditions and special concerns

Description	Tracking	Marked as fulfilled in GrACE	Date of fulfilment	Briefly describe the measures taken
1. For the indicators related to Outcome 1, the National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that double counting of the achievements is avoided across the research programmes implemented in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.	Continuously tracking	N/A	-	<p>According to the conditions set in Annex I of the Programme Agreement (for the indicators related to outcome 1), double counting of the achievements across the research programmes implemented in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania must be avoided. In Estonia, only the achievements based on the projects implemented by Estonian promoters included in the Annual Reports can be taken into account. In all 3 Baltic countries, reporting on project activities, including results achieved, is based on the promoter's country of residence.</p> <p>The annual reports of the projects are also reviewed by the members of the joint Programme Committee. In terms of project theme and research staff, there were no overlaps between the projects funded by three calls (EE-LT-LV). Thus, measures have been taken to avoid double reporting.</p>