

**Asunto:** Partner search for Interreg Europe projects - Latvia - Smiltene local municipality

Dear colleagues,

from Latvia is searching for the project partners for cooperation projects in the INTERREG EUROPE 2021-2027 programme regarding policies of **sustainable community gardening in urban areas** and **local social governance**.

We would appreciate very much if you could distribute this information to the potential project partners in your country.

Project idea description as well as contact details of the project partner from Latvia is in the e-mail below.



Best regards,

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## 1) Sustainable Community Garden in urban environment

Project idea

The aim of this project is to improve the implementation of local policies to empower, educate and promote organic suburban agriculture for the wellbeing of our community, the environment and inhabitants. Participation in the gardening activities may improve wellbeing through increased social contact, culturally valued activities and mitigation of food poverty.

The Community gardening can be more than just a set of raised vegetable beds; rather it can be an open and welcoming space that encourages inhabitants to not just sew the seeds of herbs and vegetables, but to sew the seeds of community and creativity. A community garden can help transform people who happen to live in the same place into a united community. It celebrates diversity in individual plots while creating opportunities for people to work together and learn from each other—about gardening, food preparation and more. They learn to respect each other's' differences and to appreciate what they have in common. Community gardens can build relationships that last beyond the growing season.

By working together in this project partnership and through the improvement of existing policies, we are planning to share experience and create common guidelines, which stimulate development of community gardens. In order to achieve this, regional authorities will partner in each region and work with other regional stakeholders to share and exchange our expertise in community gardening during a series of peer reviews and interregional learning activities.

Policy instrument/s

As part of the project, we would like to share with partners good practices/policy instrument from our region, which has law-making competence in the area Smiltene Region - Development Program for 2022 (Development Program) - a medium-term spatial development planning document, which sets out medium-term priorities and actions that the municipality is committed to implementing for the purposes of sustainable, integrated and coordinated development of the region. The development program includes the biggest mid-term spatial development challenges for Smiltene municipality:

- balanced development of the territory, which includes the balance between the development of society, economy, infrastructure and protection of natural resources and promotes equal services and development throughout the municipality;
- The projects and activities, habits and lifestyle changes implemented in the region within the framework of the green course promote adaptation to climate change and climate resilience.

We would like to host the pilot case as partner.

We are looking for project lead partner and partners in accordance with the program regulations.

## **2) Local Social governance in other region experience**

The project results in planning and sectoral co-operation in all areas of local social support, introducing a sustainable and operational module in the local region based on regional co-operation and experience. Its quality can significantly affect the provision of public needs and interests and is implemented and improved taking into account the impact of the Municipal Administrative Territorial Reform and the planned results. We look at policy improvement and partnership in a wider geographical context.

Improving the local policy's instrument:

- the needs of different groups in society will be identified;
- the new potential resources and opportunities available in region will be evaluated;
- certain relationships between Sectoral resources;
- common values, development vision and strategic goals will be identified, which would be the basis for planned actions in the Sectors;

- certain areas and directions of co-operation in the region between the Sectors in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and achieve synergies.

Policy instrument addressed to - Development Program for 2022 (Development Program) - a medium-term spatial development planning document, which sets out medium-term priorities and actions that the municipality is committed to implementing for the purposes of building a socially secure society, development of effective governance, development of economic environment and cooperation, balanced development of the environment and infrastructure.

We would like to work on project as partner.

We are looking for project lead partner and partners in accordance with the program regulations.

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**Vita Grigule**

Projektu vadītāja,

Attīstības un plānošanas nodaļa, Smiltenes novada pašvaldība



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