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Date 01/06/2017

Ref.: Better Efficiency for Industrial Sewage Treatment - BEST / approval letter

Dear Esa Nikunen,

Dear Lotta Ruokanen,

Thank you for your participation in the 2nd call for project applications of Interreg Baltic Sea Region. The Monitoring Committee of the Programme met in Helsinki (Finland) on 24/05/2017. At its meeting the Committee selected projects for approval. We are pleased to inform you that your project application BEST is among the selected ones. The Monitoring Committee based its choice on the outcome of the quality assessment and on joint strategic considerations.

Your project was selected by the Monitoring Committee with the following requirement(s):

Technical correction:

1. Project partner no. 11 - Limited company E-Piim Tootmine carries out State aid relevant activities in A2.1, A4.1, A4.2 in WPs 2 and 4. Project partner no. 15 LATVIJAS PIENS LTD from Latvia carries out State aid relevant activities in A2.3, A3.1,4.1 and A4.3 in WPs 2 and 4.

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Programme co-financing to these activities could be granted as de minimis aid. However, before the Programme can grant such aid, the project partners need to provide a confirmation of their national State aid expert that they are not primary producers of agricultural products, but only involved in marketing and processing of such products. The partners also need to complete a de minimis declaration.

In case the project is not able to provide the required confirmations and documents or the project partners carrying out the State aid activities have already received the allowed amount of de minimis aid from Germany or the activities do not meet the requirements of the de minimis regulation the MA/JS shall investigate whether the General Block Exemption Regulation can be applied. If not, the State aid relevant activities shall be excluded from the project.

Please note that the technical corrections must be fulfilled before the subsidy contract can be concluded.

In the coming weeks you will receive a clarification form via the online monitoring system (BAMOS – available at <http://ba.bamos.eu/>) listing the above mentioned requirements as well as additional technical corrections and request for clarifications relevant for contracting. Please be aware that this might lead to adjustments in the project setup (e.g. budget, work plan, management structure, etc.).

The Monitoring Committee's decision will be legally effected through the subsidy contract that will be submitted to the lead partner as soon as this clarification procedure is satisfactorily completed.

Costs to be co-financed by the Programme are eligible starting with 25/05/2017, which is the day following the selection of projects by the Monitoring Committee. However, before the subsidy contract is concluded, the implementation of project activities will be done at partners' own risk. Russian partners have to note that Russian/ENI co-financing can be made available to the project only after the Financing Agreement has been concluded between the European Commission, Russia and Germany.

Further information related to the Russian/ENI co-financing will be provided soon in a separate guidance.

Furthermore, we are happy to let you know that the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat has foreseen a seminar for lead partners to support you in the start-up and implementation phase of your project. This **lead partner seminar** will take place on **10-11 October 2017 in Rostock/Germany**. The official invitation and the practical information for the seminar will be sent to you at a later stage.

11 October 2017 in Rostock/Germany. The official invitation and the practical information for the seminar will be sent to you at a later stage.

Please note that starting from now on all correspondence between your project and the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat will take place via the Messaging Center of the online monitoring system BaMoS.

In case you require further information please do not hesitate to contact: Fiona Woo, telephone: 49 381 454 845 285, email: fiona.woo@eu.baltic.net

Yours sincerely,



Susanne Scherrer

Director of Interreg Baltic Sea Region Managing Authority/ Joint Secretariat
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