



**Estonia – Latvia – Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme within European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007-2013**

**First Call Results in brief**



Dear friends,

Another year of the Programme implementation has almost passed. There have been challenges and success, and I am pleased to share with you the results of our common work achieved in 2011.

Russian Federation was chairing our Programme in 2011.

The Joint Monitoring Committee of the Programme has been successfully presided by Mr Mikhail Vinogradov, the Deputy Director of the Department of International Relations and Development of Cross Border Cooperation of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation. Two Programme events – the Joint Managing Committee meeting and the Annual Conference of the Programme - have been organised and proved to be useful for fruitful cooperation. In the year 2012 Latvia will be in charge of chairing the Programme.

In total 226 Project Applications were submitted within the First Open Call of Proposals. The JMC during its meeting in June has taken favourable decisions for 25 Project Applications. Eight Projects have signed the Grant Contracts and are ready to start implementation. Other Projects are finalising the fulfilment of the conditions set by the JMC and Grant Contracts will be signed in coming months.

Great progress has been achieved in preparation of the Large Scale Projects within the Programme and now LSP Full Applications are expected to be submitted soon.

In 2012 the Joint Managing Authority will continue to put its best efforts in order to stimulate the successful implementation of our Programme and to ensure further positive results.

Let me wish you prosperity and success in our joint efforts to implement the Programme for the Year 2012!

Yours sincerely,

Arina Andreicika

Head of the Joint Managing Authority

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## Annual Conference and Contact Forum „Strategic Cooperation – United by Borders” took place in Saint-Petersburg on 16 November

**150 participants** gathered for the Annual Conference and Contact Forum „Strategic Cooperation – United by Borders” of the Programme. **About 80** of them **participated in the Partner Search Point** activities organised by Regional Capacity Building Initiative.

The conference gathered representatives of national, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, educational, culture and business organisations as well as representatives of the European Commission.



The **aim** of the Conference was to promote the Estonia - Latvia – Russia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007 – 2013 as a tool for strategic cross border cooperation between European Union and Russian Federation and its coherence with regional development strategies of participating countries. The audience was introduced with Large Scale Projects highlighting the real need of the Programme area for infrastructural investments.

The Joint Technical Secretariat and Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) representatives invited potential Applicants and Partners to a **Partner Search Point** to meet other organisations and share project ideas at round tables per priorities and measures of the Programme. Many project ideas were presented during the meeting. At the event the content of the Partner Support Pack was presented in order to have project proposals well prepared and submitted by the deadline for the 2nd Call for Proposals. Participants showed great interest in the event: about 80 people represented three participating countries.



**First 3 Grant Contracts** with Projects approved within the 1st Call of Proposals have been countersigned by the Head of the Joint Managing Authority of Estonia - Latvia – Russia ENPI CBC Programme Ms Arina Andreičika and project’s Applicants in the presence of the representatives of the National Authorities from Estonia, Latvia and Russia during the Conference.



All three signed cross-border cooperation Projects are approved under the Programme’s **Priority 3 – „People to People”** and **Lead Partners** (Applicants) are from Programme participating countries - **Estonia, Latvia and Russia.**



## First Grant Contracts signed within the 1<sup>st</sup> Call of Proposals

### Title: Improving availability of medical information and counseling

*Measure 3.1* Development of local initiative, increasing administrative capacities of local and regional authorities

*Beneficiary:* Estonian Advice Centres  
*Budget:* **333 330,00 EUR**  
*Duration:* 27 months



The Project aims to increase the availability of medical advice via telephone, internet and other means by using ICT solutions (algorithm-based counselling software and Counselling Centre) in the border areas of Estonia and Russia. In Estonia, new forms of medical counselling via internet and other means will be developed. In Russia, the medical consultation system via telephone, internet and other means will be developed and launched.

### Title: Reduction of social consequences of an HIV spread in Estonia and Leningradskaya oblast of Russia

*Measure 3.1* Cooperation in sphere of culture, sport, education, social and health

*Beneficiary:* Social support and public health Foundation "Positive Wave"  
*Budget:* **364 943,48 EUR**  
*Duration:* 24 months

The project provides HIV-related long-term socio-medical assistance and support, development and introduction of joint measures for reduction of negative impact of HIV on the society as regions are characterized by a high level of stigma demonstrated by social workers toward PLWA. Better socialization of HIV+ population will be organized.



The level of awareness with problems attributed to HIV spread and life with HIV will be raised in border territories of Estonia and Russia.

### Title: Border light

*Measure 3.1* Cooperation in sphere of culture, sport, education, social and health

*Beneficiary:* Valka Municipality Council  
*Budget:* **161 602,00 EUR**  
*Duration:* 18 months

Popularization of Russian dramatist works, quality improvement of staging, exchange of experience. Two famous Russian dramatist plays will be staged with theatre actors involved. Jointly staged plays will be performed during festivals in Russia and Latvia. To improve theater work both, theater directors and actors will get extra knowledge via training seminars.



### Title: Enjoy the best in Latvia, Estonia and Russia

*Measure 1.3* Tourism development

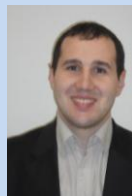
*Beneficiary:* Latvian Campsite Association  
*Budget:* **289 440,00 EUR**  
*Duration:* 18 months



It is planned to draft and offer ready thematic routes through 3 countries, including not only particular tourist sites but also all the necessary service offers. The project will contribute to the development of the region as it will attract more tourists and will make them want to linger in the region for a longer time. This will further the commercial activity of the local people.



**A new Office Manager Eva Koka joined JTS in September.** She gained master degree in international relations in Riga Stradiņš University and has more than three year experience working at the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia as a secretary/assistant. Her professional duties were mainly related to administrative and organisational area.



**A new Financial Manager Assistant has joined the JTS team from the 28th of November, 2011. Sergejs Dubčaks** studied economics and management and graduated from Riga Technical University. He gained an experience in Phare, Transition facility, EEA/Norway financial mechanisms and EC Public Health Programme.

**Title: Advancing remote areas by development of cross-border VH tourism route on basis of local resources**

*Measure 1.3* Tourism development

*Beneficiary:* Vidzeme Planning Region  
*Budget:* **1 803 966,30 EUR**  
*Duration:* 36 months



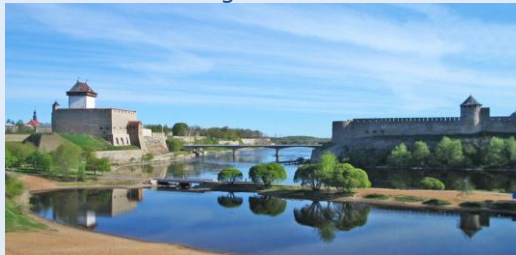
The project plans to make maximum use of the international Via Hanseatica (VH) tourism route in the territories of Estonia, Latvia and Russia to apply the potential of pre-defined cross-border tourism product and provide an incentive for sustainable regional and local development of those adjacent areas. Joint VH tourism package and modules including at least 90 VH tourism products, objects, services will be offered.

**Title: Unique Estonian-Russian fortresses ensemble development as a single tourist product. Stage II**

*Measure 1.3* Tourism development

*Beneficiary:* Narva City Government, Department for City Development and Economy  
*Budget:* **1 824 564,85 EUR**  
*Duration:* 28 months

Development of the Narva and Ivangorod fortresses ensemble as a single tourist product will ensure fast development and regional competitiveness of the Narva/Estonia - Ivangorod/Russia cross-border region as a united tourism destination and the main centre of tourist attraction by means of development of the area's unique historical heritage. Tourism infrastructure of Ivangorod and Narva fortresses will be improved including reconstruction of access territories thus attracting more tourists and visitors.



**Title: Development of Hereditary Cancer Prevention Measures in Pskov Region**

*Measure 3.2* Cooperation in sphere of culture, sport, education, social and health



*Beneficiary:* Riga Stradins University  
*Budget:* **297 176,00 EUR**  
*Duration:* 24 months

Through this project, the researchers from Latvia - Hereditary Cancer (HC) Institute of Riga Stradins University intend to transfer a broad spectrum of knowledge on HC to colleagues in Russia, Pskov Onkological Dispensary. The best knowledge and HC management practices will become available to the colleagues in Russia, and will be put to use during and long after this project to ensure the most up-to-date HC management in Pskov region. Improvement of life quality in Russia and Latvia by developing effective population based hereditary cancer screening and management system model and combating hereditary cancer in border regions will be provided.

**Title: Tour de Latgale and Pskov**

*Measure 1.3* Tourism development

*Beneficiary:* Latgale Planning Region  
*Budget:* **1 681 815,20 EUR**  
*Duration:* 24 months

The project is aimed to develop cooperation and establish permanent network in tourism sector among Latgale Region and Pskov Region in order to increase attractiveness and recognisability of both regions in the European Union and Russia. It will raise capacity of regional administration and tourism professionals, improve quality of services, and develop infrastructure in interregional tourism routes.



It is planned that 19 water-based tourism sites and 7 water-based infrastructure sites will be improved in Latgale and Pskov Regions and provided with buoys, information stands and signs. Common Latgale and Pskov tourism destination will be promoted at exhibitions and by tourism information centers.



## Large Scale Projects preparing Full Application

Total financing foreseen for the **Large Scale cross-border Projects** (hereinafter referred to as "LSPs") is **35 178 302, 50 EUR**, which includes Programme funding and additional financing **9 081 558 EUR** from the Estonian State budget for large-scale cross border projects involving partners from Estonia and Russia. LSPs are not selected through calls for proposals, but are selected and contracted through the direct award procedure.

Potential beneficiaries have jointly prepared Project Summaries with their partners and five received final approval from European Commission. LSP "Economically and environmentally sustainable Lake Peipsi area" with total budget 8 362 897 euro was finally approved by EC in June. The overall objective of it is to promote sustainable socio-economic and environmental development of Lake Peipsi area.

Currently the LSP Application Form is sent out to LSP Applicants and published on the Programme website. Until **2 March 2012** LSP Applicants will have to submit it together with other necessary documentation.

To support LSP Applicants and partners in the process of preparation of the Full Application **3 consultation seminars** were organized by JTS in all Programme countries.

*First consultation took place in **Riga (Latvia) on 30 November** and was mainly for the Applicant of the LSP 4 „Reconstruction of border checkpoint „Vientuji“ (the Republic of Latvia) and arrangement of the border checkpoint „Brunishevo“ (the Russian Federation). Questions adressed to the JTS staff and representative of the JMA were focused on how detailed should be the Partnership agreement and financial issues.*



*Second consultation seminar with 30 participants of 4 LSP Applicants and partners from Estonia took place in **Tartu (Estonia) on 6 December**. JTS staff and INTERACT expert introduced with requirements for the Large Scale Projects within Estonia-Latvia-Russia CBC Programme, with the Application form to be filled in, its specific contents and documents (f.e. Feasibility study) that have to be submitted with the Application form. Communication and Visibility guidelines for LSPs were presented.*



*Third consultation seminar with more than 30 participants of all 6 LSPs partners from Russia took place in **Pskov (Russia) on 7 December**. JTS staff made presentations on general introduction with LSP within Estonia-Latvia-Russia CBC Programme, how to fill the Application form with specific focus on information to be provided by partners and documents to be signed by partners. Communication and Visibility guidelines for LSPs were presented.*



**The budget for the LSP's in the Programme is fixed and agreed there is no funding available for new LSP applications!**



### A new Project Manager for LSP has joined the JTS team from 28 November, 2011

**Aleskejs Šāforostovs** has Master's degree in European Studies from Faculty of Economics and Management in the University of Latvia and Lawyer qualification from Police Academy of Latvia, but now continue studying PhD of Law Science in School of Business Administration Turība. He has extensive experience in different EU financial instruments and has gained an experience in the five European Territorial Cooperation Programmes.