



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



Table of Content:

1st Call for Proposals	2
The Launching Conference	3
Information seminars	4
Consultations	4
Partner Search Forum	5
Contacts	5

Dear Partners and Friends,

On behalf of the Joint Managing Authority of the Estonia – Latvia – Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme within European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007-2013 I am very glad to present to you this first edition of our Programme Newsletter.

The first Call for Proposals will be closed in a week on 29 November, so for project applicants the initial step of project idea generation will be passed and taken over by our team as one of the most substantial exercise – the assessment of the project proposals.

We hope to receive joint projects of high quality encouraging more efficient management of common resources and strengthening the competitiveness of the whole region at the same time creating long-term cooperation and smooth neighbourhood in border regions.

Sincerely,

Arina Andreičika

Head of the Joint Managing Authority of the Estonia – Latvia – Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme within European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007-2013



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1st Call for Proposals

The 1st Call for Proposals of the Programme was launched on 23 August, 2010.

The deadline for submission of project proposals is 29 November 2010.

Priorities

Within the 1st Call of Proposals supported sectors and themes are following:

1 Priority: Socio-economic development

- 1.1 Fostering socio-economic development and encouraging business and entrepreneurship,
- 1.2 Transport, logistics and communication solutions,
- 1.3 Tourism development.

2 Priority: Common challenges

- 2.1 Protection of environment and natural resources,
- 2.2 Preservation and promotion of cultural and historical heritage and support to local traditional skills,
- 2.3 Improvement of energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy sources

3 Priority: People to people cooperation

- 3.1 Development of local initiative, increase administrative capacities of local and regional authorities,
- 3.2 Cooperation in spheres of culture, sport, education, social and health.

Programme territory

Eligible areas of the Programme are following:

- Estonia: Kirde-Eesti, Lõuna-Eesti, Kesk-Eesti; adjoining area: Põhja-Eesti,
- Latvia: Latgale, Vidzeme; adjoining areas: Riga City and Pieriga,
- Russia: Leningrad region, Pskov region, St.-Petersburg City.

Eligible organisations

Eligible partners for the projects are national, regional and local public authorities, associations, public equivalent bodies, NGOs, educational organisations, small and medium enterprises (only under Priority 1).

Partnership requirements

There are several partnership requirements for the project applicants:

- each project shall involve at least two project partners,
- at least one project partner shall be located in the Programme area of Estonia and/or Latvia,
- at least one project partner shall be located in the Programme area in Russian Federation,
- the partnership based on the Lead Partner principle.

Funding

Available EU funding for the 1st Call for Proposals is 23 648 491 EUR.

In order to apply for the grant:

- public and non-governmental organizations have to ensure at least 10% co-financing for the project,
- SMEs have to provide at least 50% co-financing for the project.

Size of projects

Priority	Minimum (EUR)	Maximum (EUR)
1	50 000	2 million
2	50 000	2 million
3	10 000	300 000

The Application Form, Guidelines for Grant Applicants and all other relevant documents are available in the Programme web-site: www.etslatrus.eu.

Submission of Grant Applications

- Application and its annexes (except few documents listed in the Guidelines) have to be filled and submitted in **English**;
- all documents of the Application must be signed by the **authorised person**;
- Application should be submitted **both**:

- in paper version (original & copy)	- to the Joint Technical Secretariat in Riga or its Branch Offices in Tartu, Johvi, St. Petersburg or Pskov: • by hand or courier - not later than at 16.00 local time, 29 November 2010, • by post - postal stamp of 29 November 2010.
- electronically (identical to the paper version)	- completed Application Form must be sent to the e-mail address: project@estlatrus.eu not later than by midnight of 29 November 2010 (local time of JMA).

Should an applicant submits several different applications, each one has to be sent separately.



Programme's Launching Conference **"United by Borders"**

The Programme launching Conference took place in Riga on 14 July 2010. More than 200 delegates from all the Programme territory in Estonia, Russia and Latvia took part in the conference. It was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the Programme and discuss ideas for future cross border cooperation projects.



Conference delegates in the plenary session

The conference was opened by Ms. Dagnija Stake, at the time Latvian Minister for Regional Development and Local Government highlighting the importance of cross border cooperation.



Unda Ozoliņa, Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat introduces the Programme

Representatives from Estonia, Latvia and Russia National Authorities and regions presented their visions for common cooperation directions and already on-going development activities.



Māris Bozovičs, Head of the Latgale Development Agency highlights the working directions

Second part of the conference was organised in three interactive working group sessions accordingly to the Programme priorities:

1. socio-economic development,
2. common challenges,
3. people to people cooperation.



1st working group session facilitated by JTS Project Manager Iveta Pužo and Interact expert Ieva Kalniņa



2nd working group session facilitated by JTS Project Manager Tarmo Pikner and Interact expert Dzmitry Korbut

In the working group sessions potential grant applicants and programme stakeholders had a chance to exchange already existing ideas and generate new ones for joint cooperation projects.



Andris Kužnieks, Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government in Latvia reads conference delegates wishes for the Programme

Information seminars for potential Grant Applicants

With 13th seminar held on 10 November in Tallinn, the Joint Technical Secretariat concluded its' marathon of information seminars for potential grant applicants.

Interest about the 1st Call has been huge as in average about 100 participants took part in each seminar, and more than 1200 participants took part in all 13 seminars.



Information seminar in Valmiera University of Applied Sciences, 30 September

First round of the seminars was aimed introducing potential grant applicants on most important issues regarding project development - supported activities, financial management, requirements for information and publicity, assessment of the submitted projects as well as very practical issues regarding filling in the Application Form, preparation of the budget and submission of grant applications. Seminars took place in Narva & Valga in Estonia, Līvani & Valmiera in Latvia, St. Petersburg, Leningrad Region & Pskov in Russia.



Information seminar in St. Petersburg, 15 September

Applying for the second round of seminars, potential grant applicants had a chance to submit their questions to be answered in the seminars. These seminars were based on the most frequently asked questions which were still unclear for grant applicants working with project applications. The interest still was great, the JTS received more than 100 questions for each seminar and it took few hours to answer to them all in the seminars. These seminars were organised in Tartu, Estonia, Cesis in Latvia, St. Petersburg, Leningrad Region & Pskov in Russia.



Unda Ozoliņa, Head of the JTS answers on the frequently asks questions

Consultations

The great interest from grant applicants was shown in public consultations that Joint Technical Secretariat ran all around the Programme territory. All together 29 consultations were organised of which 12 in JTS Main Office in Riga, 7 in the JTS Tartu Branch Office and 6 in the JTS Branch Office in Jõhvi. As the Branch Offices are not fully functional yet, the JTS organised 2 consultations in Russia for St. Petersburg & Leningrad region grant applicants, and 2 consultations in Pskov. As well project applicants received answers to their questions asked by phone and e-mails.



Consultation in St. Petersburg, 2 November

Good Project Partner is Harder to Find than a Wife

More than 190 participants took part in the Partner Search Forum in Daugavpils District Culture House on 5 October 2010. Underlining the importance of good project partners in the successful project implementation, Heldur Unt from Tallinn Technical University said that "good project partner is harder to find than a wife".

In first part of the Forum participants were introduced with partnership requirements of the Programme and issues important for building partnership within the project. Experienced project managers from Estonia, Latvia and Russia shared their experience on very practical aspects how to choose partners and their "lessons learned" implementing various cross-border cooperation projects.



The plenary session

Forum participants had many opportunities to share their project ideas and look for appropriate partner for all 3 partner countries of the Programme area. As well Forum participants visited Daugavpils Theatre, Olympic Centre and Concert Hall where various cross border projects have been implemented.



Delegates discuss their project ideas

Partner Search Forum was organised by the Programme Joint Technical Secretariat in cooperation with Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI).

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In the www.estlatrus.eu you can:

- ✓ download the Application Form, Guidelines and all other relevant documents in the section **How to Apply**,
- ✓ get answers to the most common inquiries in the **Questions & Answers** section,
- ✓ to find the project partner using the **Partner Search** tool,
- ✓ subscribe the Programme news,
- ✓ learn about the **information seminars** and **consultations**.