



2012 was an important year marked by first activities implemented by the Projects and Estonia-Latvia-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme reached the middle of its implementation. Already at this stage we can confirm that cooperation within Estonia-Latvia-Russia Programme plays a significant role in stimulating cross border cooperation. Being challenging, the Programme successfully contributes to mutual benefits of all parties. We believe that implemented projects will achieve not only short term results, but in long term perspective will facilitate growth of competitiveness and sustainable development of the whole region of the Programme.

One of the most awaited news of 2012 was launching of the 2nd Restricted Call for Proposals. After the finalisation of assessment, it is expected that the selected Projects will become an integral part of the Programme as well.

Strategic investments within three signed Large Scale Projects will improve cross border road and tourism infrastructure, and environmental conditions in border areas of Estonia and Russia. Grant Contracts of other two Large Scale Projects to improve border crossing points in Estonia, Latvia and Russia are expected to be signed by the end of 2012.

Projects are the human face of the Programme – their activities, achievements and first results in Project Sites were presented at the Annual Event of the Programme in the end of October in Narva, Estonia. During the European Cooperation Day in September 2012 wide public in Latvia, Estonia and Russia was introduced with the Programme, its directions of support, sources of financing and supported Projects. 25 Projects presented themselves via diverse Local Actions throughout Programme territory and by taking part in different thematic Conferences. By now all involved parties have gained the first experience of reporting and the first evidences of the Programme results are tangible.

The year 2013 will be crucial for the Programme implementation – the financing for the Projects within Estonia-Latvia-Russia Programme will be committed. We believe that Estonian, Latvian and Russian partnerships established on this stage will continue with the next stage of financial instrument implemented under European Neighbourhood Instrument, which will continue its main mission to help regions to overcome the challenges of their beneficial but still defiant location on external borders.

Being aware that ahead there is a very tight schedule of Events in the year 2013, I wish to everybody a lot of inspiration, positive energy and fruitful cooperation!

Yours Joint Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat.

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Friendship within Estonia-Latvia-Russia Programme

Main conclusion of the workshop about "Good Partnership as a base of success of the Project" was, that it is the friendship and trust that helps successfully implement cross border cooperation Projects. This message was addressed to **more than 160 participants** from Estonia, Latvia and Russia, who attended the grand **Annual Event of the Programme "Cross Border Cooperation. Advancing Partnership. Bridging together."** organized for the first time in Estonia on **31st October** in a new built modern Narva College of the University of Tartu. Event gathered representatives of national, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, project implementers, as well as other stakeholders active in the Programme area.

Honoured speakers **Mr Siim-Valmar Kiisler**, the Minister for Regional Affairs at the Estonian Ministry of the Interior, **Mrs Dace Grūberte**, the Head of the Joint Managing Authority of the Programme and **Mr Alexander Tsybulskiy**, Head of Department for International Relations and Cross-Border Cooperation of the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation opened the Event with friendly hand shake. Representatives of the Programme National Authorities and Managing Authority focused in their welcome words on **future perspectives of the cross-border cooperation** between EU member states and Russian Federation.



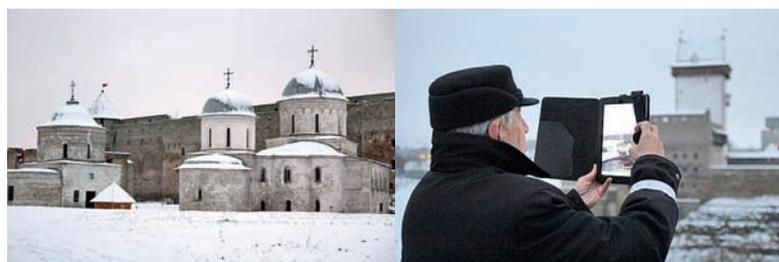
A special attention was paid to the progress of overall implementation of the Programme. The **"Programme Implementation in Facts"** presented by **Mrs Unda Ozoliņa**, Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat, introduced participants with updated facts of the state of play of the Programme. The Team of Information Managers has made a follow up of the **European Cooperation Day 2012: Sharing borders, Growing Closer** through having insight into Local Actions throughout the Programme territory.

Event also focused on activities and visible achievements of Projects, providing two Exhibitions – 30 Projects and "European Cooperation Day 2012 in retrospect". Projects **"Unique Estonian-Russian Fortress Ensemble Development as a Single Tourist Product. Stage II"**, **"Cross Border E-Archive"**, **"Cross Countries through Football"** have prepared presentations in keywords, thus introducing participants with their activities in Programme territory and especially Narva in field of tourism, archiving and sports.

Plenary session culminated with the performance of the Estonian Art Studio "Joy".



Participants had the unique opportunity to explore Projects Sites. Visits to Narva Castle in Estonia and to Ivangorod Fortress in Russia demonstrated works that have started on both sides of the border and are related to the implementation of several cross-border Projects in the surrounding of Narva – Ivangorod Fortresses Ensemble.



The event closed at the Narva Castle with the goodbye words by **Narva Vice Mayor Mr Aleksander Ljudvig** and Joint Technical Secretariat awarding projects for their involvement into European Cooperation Day activities, accompanied by the live music performance by the Estonian saxophonist Mr Raivo Tafenau.



VIII Annual International Conference "Cross-Border Cooperation: Russian Federation, European Union and Norway"



The North-West Federal District of the Russian Federation due to its **unique geographical location** is of a great importance for **development of the Russia-EU relations**. The North-West Federal Region has direct border with states – members of the European Union and that is why over the years hundreds of specialists working in the field of cross-border cooperation take part in the conferences longing **to build pragmatic and mutually beneficial relationship across their borders**.

This year VIII International Conference "Cross-Border Cooperation: Russian Federation, European Union and Norway" was held in Pskov, Russia on September 6–7, 2012 and **was co-organized by Estonia-Latvia-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme**. **More than 260 participants** took part in the Conference this year. Among them are the representatives of Federal Authority of Russian Federation, regional and local authorities of the North-West Federal District of Russia, national, regional and local authorities of the border states, NGOs, NPOs, business, institutions and international organizations of the European Union.



Participants of the Conference discussed current state of cross-border cooperation, possible trends and models of its further development, ways of joint planning of border areas development. Like the previous years, **the experience of cross-border cooperation of the host region – the Pskov region was emphasized. Estonia-Latvia-**

Russia Programme introduced the participants with the progress in Programme implementation, results of Calls for proposals, Large Scale Projects, which mostly involve Pskov partners, indicative schedule on further implemented activities.



During the Conference the following issues were raised:

- prospects of the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument after 2013, search for an optimal model of cross-border cooperation programmes development;
- cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. Agenda and priorities of the presidency of the Russian Federation in the Baltic Sea States Council in 2012–2013;
- particularities of cross-border cooperation: tourism as the main priority, ecology, transport and logistics projects and development of border infrastructure.
- cooperation between local authorities and between businesses in border regions.



Plenipotentiary Envoy of the President of the Russian Federation to the North-West Federal District, **Nikolay A. Vinnichenko**, opened the Conference with welcome words underlining the importance of cross-border cooperation for socio-economic development of the territories on both sides of the border. **Andrey Turchak**, Governor of Pskov oblast, **Michael Webb**, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Russia, **Hans Skov Christensen**, the Chairman of Baltic Development Forum welcomed participants at opening session.

ENPI Estonia-Latvia-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme was promoted during:

1. The V Annual International Conference "TRILOGY" (Transport. Investments. Logistics), 7 September 2012, Pskov, Russia;
2. Round table "Experience of the Cross-Border Cooperation the EU and Russia within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument: Achievements, Challenges and Prospects", 19 October 2012, European University in St. Petersburg, St. Peterburg, Russia;
3. International Conference of the Estonia-Latvia CBC Programme on Border Areas "Joint Experiences – New Challenges", 18–19 September, 2012, Võru, Estonia.

More Projects expected to join the Programme soon

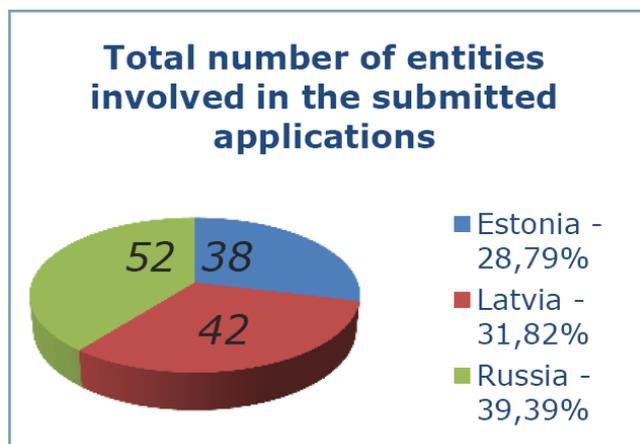
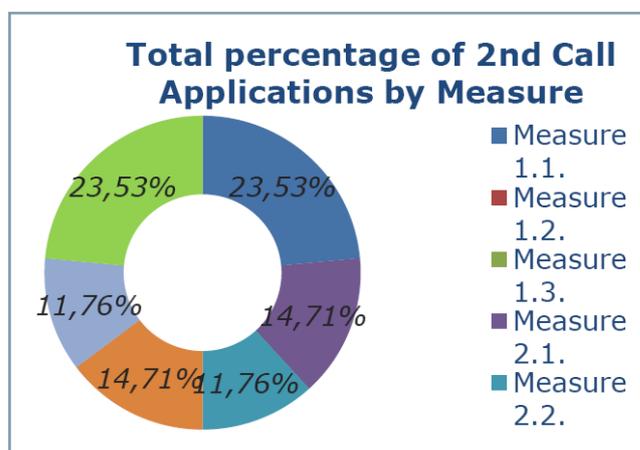
After submitting Full Application Forms under the 2nd Restricted Call for Proposals till the deadline of 12 September 2012, the responsible Programme bodies started the evaluation process of the proposals while in the meantime continued to manage the Projects that are under implementation.

Status of the implementation of the 1st Call Projects

Projects are facing **first reporting** and in order to discuss issues related to preparation of Narrative and Financial Reports special identical **seminars for the Beneficiaries and partners** of the 1st Call for proposals **on reporting issues** were organized by JTS in Riga (Latvia), in Tartu (Estonia), Pskov and St. Petersburg (Russia) in the second half of November. The hold **seminars gave an opportunity for all-together around 160 participants** to be reminded about important issues to be taken into account while preparing the Report. After the seminars the participants were also provided with the opportunity to consult with JTS staff and meet Project partners.



Please find below some statistical data regarding the applications received.



Evaluation of submitted Applications is in process and it is planned to communicate final results of the selection process to the Applicants by the end of December 2012.

Status of Large Scale Projects

Third LSP Grant contract was countersigned on **5 November 2012** by the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Estonia for implementation of **the Large Scale Project "Common Peipsi"**. Project involves 11 partners and with the allocated budget 8.362.897,00 euro is the biggest among other LSPs.



Status of the 2nd Call

Seminars were organized also in August 2012 in Tartu (Estonia), Riga (Latvia), Pskov and St. Petersburg (Russia), to support shortlisted 2nd Call Applicants and their partners. JTS staff introduced Applicants with the specific requirements for preparation of the Full Application. 34 Full Applications were submitted to the JTS by 12 September 2012.

INTERACT ENPI is actively involved in the **preparation of the documents for the programming period 2014–2020** and now assists with the preparation of the future "ENI CBC Programming Framework" and the ENI Implementing Rules. In regards to the future of Cross-Border Cooperation INTERACT raised discussions **at 5th Annual Conference on 16–17 October at the Dead Sea in Jordan.**

85 participants from 30 different countries discussed the preparation of the new programmes under the Cross Border Cooperation component of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI CBC) during the INTERACT ENPI Annual Conference. The conference represented the official kick-off of the programming process and ensured a platform for discussion and exchange of views on the next programming period with a particular focus on those key features needed in order to ensure a quick start of the 2014–2020 programming process.



Participants shared their experience in plenary and panel discussions and in nine workshops. Within the meeting there was presented the state of play of ENI CBC programmes stressing the major achievements and raising questions to be treated with special attention next year.

The plenary session of the first day focused on the innovative event of year 2012 – **European Cooperation Day**, in which 11 out of 13 ENPI CBC programmes participated. Estonia-Latvia-Russia Programme was the only Programme involving almost all projects in participation of celebrating of ECDay and was invited to share success of this approach.



Kick-off of the Programming for the future

Conference was the **strategy for cross-border cooperation in the European Neighbourhood for 2014-2020**. It was planned to **finalize** and approve **ENI CBC in 2013**. Some new features of ENI CBC will include the application of full shared management, greater coherence with other EU external assistance instruments and more alignment with ETC and IPA CBC programmes. In addition, ENI CBC programmes will be requested to strengthen their cross-border added value. Concerning geographical eligibility, there are no plans for radical change from the current set-up.

Discussions about the directions, objectives were on the top of the Conference agenda thus encouraging a dialogue between high-level representatives from European and national politics, programmes and stakeholders.



Ms Bodil Persson from DG DEVCO outlined the main features of the ENI Implementing Rules and expressed her idea that the role of National Authorities, both from Member States and Partner Countries, should be better specified in the future Implementing Rules.

The second round of consultations on the issues raised during the conference will take place in Brussels in spring 2013. Until then, the programmes are invited to start programming process with the support of the European Commission.



European Cooperation Day Key Events Thrill Programme Countries

Europe and neighboring countries have been working and developing **cross-border cooperation for 20 years**. ENPI CBC Programmes also were invited to celebrate **European Cooperation Day (ECDay)** which was elaborated by Interact and supported by European Commission as **innovative initiative** of raising public awareness of the European cross-border cooperation.

Key Event in Latvia

As a great example of cooperation Key Event in Latvia, in Sigulda was organized by 3 Programme supported Projects as an additional Action especially for the European Cooperation Day. Under the slogan **"SIGULDA THRILLS AND COOPERATES!"** Sigulda experienced unusual snow on a sunny day of the 21 September. Latvian participant of the Olympic Games Raivis Zimelis and Project Manager Inga Pole introduced inhabitants and visitors of Sigulda with the Latvian part of the trilateral **Project "SVS Activetour"** – Laurenči skiing route and active sports centre future opportunities. Real winter snow was brought to the newly reno-

vated square of the railway station and many tried skiing and touched the snow.

In the framework of **the Project "People with Nature"** both adults and children were involved in Educational exercises to get new knowledge about Nature. **Project "Via Hanseatica"** was installed into newly opened Tourism Information Centre. Programmes information materials, ECDay souvenirs and blue balloons were distributed to all visitors of the Local Action in Sigulda.



Key Event in Estonia

"Two cities – Two Friends" - Narva River riverbanks near Narva (Estonia) and Ivangorod (Russia) fortresses ensemble on 21 September 2012 gathered local public for celebrities of the European Cooperation Day! In the framework of European Cooperation Day four Projects organized drawing competition for children called «Narva and Ivangorod: United by Border», launch of balloons and soap bubbles, paper

ship floating along Narva river. In the evening lightening installation called "Linking Fires" was launched on the both sides of the Narva river banks.

Apart from projects' teams and administrations' representatives, **more than 100 young people from both Narva and Ivangorod sides have taken part in the European Cooperation Day. More than 160 works have been sent to the drawing competition.**



Key Event in Russia

“Russia-EU cross-border cooperation – a tool to promote innovations”– Joint Exhibition Stand of 5 ENPI Programmes which cooperate with Russian Federation was installed and **the Conference** was held in the **V International Innovation Forum** in St. Petersburg, Russia on September 26-28, 2012.

The participants of the Forum learned about the **activities of 5 ENPI Programmes with Russian participation** as well as about number of **innovative projects** implemented in the framework of these Programmes on the exposition stand.

The Conference gathered about 200 specialists from North-West Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Lithuania and Poland representing cross-border regions

which in accordance with the Russia-EU Agreement participate in the realization of CBC ENPI projects. The main aim was to announce current results of the programmes' implementation from innovative point of view, to tell about challenges and their possible solutions, investment strategies. Estonia-Latvia-Russia Programme also shared with its success in projects having an innovative component: **ICT Baltic and Infrom**. Speakers also expressed optimistic opinions about perspectives within ENI frame.

Area of all five Programmes was exposed in an **99 piece Puzzle** and was an thrilling attraction not only for the visitors of the Forum, but also for INTERACT expert.



Great diversity of Local Actions by Projects



European Cooperation Day experienced many attractive Actions in many places that usually are not chosen for Programme Activities. Interaction with local public and creativity were the essence of the success of many Local Actions. Involvement of local public in the Action added a value in a way of new knowledge and emotions.

Why we know so little about cross border cooperation? Are there other Projects, where my institution is involved or are there other supported Projects in my region? – These were questions that were asked during activities throughout Programme territory.

25 Programme supported Projects were involved in 20 Actions at 30 addresses all around the Programme territory.

Other Local Events during September–October 2012:

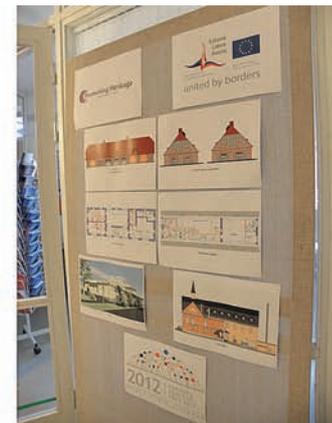


Joint Planting of Trees in the Friendship Alley, Tartu, Estonia

Popularization of the Tourism Routes Limbaži District, Latvia



Information Desk "Promoting Heritage", Rāpina, Estonia



Limbaži Orchestra "Lamisele" Concert, Limbaži, Latvia



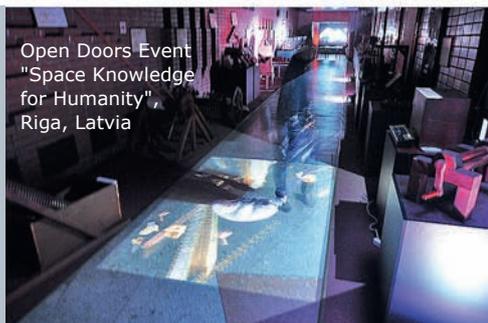
Traffic Safety Campaign "Sleep and Drive", Terehova, Latvia



European Cooperation Day Lectures, Latvia, Estonia and Russia



Girls Football Match, Pechory, Russia



Open Doors Event "Space Knowledge for Humanity", Riga, Latvia



Public Lecture, Tyri City, Estonia



Basketball Tournament "Crossbo Active", Velikije Luki, Russia



Traffic Safety Campaign "Father, mother and me - protected Family", Latvia, Estonia, Russia



Volleyball Tournament "Crossbo Active", Ludza, Latvia



Dance Performance, Concert and Sports, Riga, Latvia

Most liked Local Events during the Annual Event

Participants of the Annual Event of the Programme in Narva were invited to vote for the most attractive Local Action during the European Cooperation Day:

- **First place – Action "Two cities – Two friends"**, that took place in Narva, Estonia and Ivangorod, Russia got the most of votes from participants coming from Estonia, Latvia and Russia. **Congratulations!!!**
- **Second place – Joint Planting of Trees** in the Friendship Alley of Tartu, Pskov and Rēzekne, that took place on 12 September 2012, in Tartu, Estonia.
- **Third place – Girls Football Match** between FC Flora from Tallinn and Pechory children and youth sport school teams, that took place on 20 September 2012 in Pechory Municipal Football Stadium, Pechory, Russia.