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## It is Harvest time

**In the second half of the year 2013** the Estonia-Latvia-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme reached a new phase – accomplishment of projects and presentation of results. All 2nd Call projects are in their most active stage implementing soft activities and investments. 4 of 1st Call projects have already closed their activities and have entered the reporting period.

**Social Project "PHOTO YOUTH"** was accomplished in June. 250 young photographers and 50 teachers from 22 correctional schools were involved in the Project; photos taken by young people have been exposed in several international photo exhibitions in Latvia and Russia.

Two projects finalized their activities in August. The outputs of **Tourism project "EBLER"** are 2 thematic tourism routes, booklet with road map and tourist information in 5 languages widely promoted and distributed during 9 international tourism fairs.

**Sports project "CROSSBO ACTIVE"** can boast organisation of 17 tournaments in 7 different fields of sports for disabled people, youth and elderly people with the aim to foster the life quality and access to sports and health facilities for socially excluded community groups.

In October **Culture project "Border light"** has successfully finalized its activities – two 5-day international theatre festivals, 4 educational visits for art school students, pedagogues and 6 training seminars for amateur theatre actors and directors, several publications about amateur theatres. Two plays were staged

and presented to public in framework of the Gatchina theatre festival.

**The year 2014 will be showing more and more results**, as not only infrastructure works will be finishing, but implementation of soft activities will bring its fruit as well. Already now we have **the impact of the projects work quite visible**.

The Project **"Cross countries through football"** opened after reconstruction **Football ground in Pechory, Russia**. The opening ceremony contributed to the chain of events marking the ECDay 2013, showing the results of cross-border cooperation in promotion of sport.

The Project **"Via Hanseatica"** introduced to the local citizens **Avinurme Wood Park and playground in Avinurme Rural Municipality, Estonia**. The opening was supported by children from a kindergarten, who had previously taken an active part in elaboration of the design of the playground.

**The Large Scale Project "Common Peipsi"** presented **Harbour pavilion in Rāpina Harbour, Estonia**. It was the first large scale infrastructure object in Estonia finalized within the Programme. Russian partners of the project are finalizing the work on the **water treatment plants and facilities** in the Peipsi lake basin, and the first of them, in Gdov District, is due to be ready after adjustment works by the end of 2013.

**In Sigulda Sports and Active Leisure Centre, Latvia, first in Eastern Europe cooled ski track of 1, 25 km was opened for cross-country skiing by the Project "SVS Activetour"**. The track will

be used also in summer for skateboarding, Nordic walking and jogging due to wood mulch cover path along the paved road on the whole length of the track.

Much work has been done within the Project **"EstRusFortTour-2"**. In **Narva Castle Park** works on drainage system, walkways pavement and street lighting as well as landscaping works are close to an end. At present the fountain reconstruction and access road pavement are in process and will be finished in spring 2014. Construction works in **Ivangorod fortress** on the road, pedestrian walkway, parking area and street lighting are also on-going, access stairs to the fortress are close to being ready.

Two projects are presenting their results and achievements themselves on page 6 of this Newsletter.

And we hereby express our kindest regard to the project implementers and wish them good luck with completion of their projects!  
**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

**JTS Team**

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## Annual Event 2013 in Sigulda, Latvia on 10–11 June



During the first day of the Annual Event on 10 June the Conference “Support to the Cross Border Cultural and Active Tourism in Latvia, Estonia and Russia” gathered more than 220 participants from all over Programme territory.

**The achievements of the Programme** and more – sustainability of achieved results is the focus of attention of the Programme at this stage of its work; this matter was as a key note in many speeches. The role of the Programme to reach this aim was outlined by the Head of the Joint Managing Authority of the Programme Ms Dace Grūberte.

One of the aspects of sustainability – potential to use the historic ties of the Programme territory and cultural heritage – was shown throughout the conference.

**Prominent guest speakers added a great value to the Conference.**

Expert of the Council of Europe Ms. Kseniya Khovanova–Rubicondo introduced the audience with the ideas of the analysis of the socio-economic impact of European Cultural Routes.



More photos of the great Conference and Exhibition, as well a short film can be viewed in newly created **Photo Gallery** of the Programme website and under **Publications in Videos section**.

Dr. eoc, Assoc. Professor of the University of Latvia Mr Viesturs Karnups informed about the development of Hansa route and Hansa ties through history.

COE of “Via Hansa” corporation Mr. Ēriks Lingebērziņš told about the Hansa brand as it is understood nowadays.

The same topic was added by the representative of the Association of Russian Hanseatic cities that develops the Hansa traditions on the Russian side of the border. The presentations gave the auditory deeper insight into cultural and historic background on which tourism projects are working now and the connections with the past that help to invest in the future.



**Project managers of three tourism Projects – “Via Hanseatica”, “Tour” and “EBLER”** demonstrated outputs of their activities showing how historic heritage reflects in the work of the cross-border cooperation projects.





The second day of the Annual Event on 11 June was marked by the Project Exhibition in the open air – “Enjoy the Hansa Route through Latvia, Estonia and Russia!”

The Exhibition took place in the Castle of Livonian Order and attracted not only local tourists, but also guests from China, South Korea, South Africa, USA, France, Belgium, Germany, Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania.

18 participating projects, including 3 large scale projects, had a chance to demonstrate the outputs of their work and achieved results to the widest possible auditory of about 200 people.

Guests of Sigulda from all continents visited simulated **Via Hanseatica Tourism Route** in one place by the tunes of folkgroup “Auļi” and tried their hands at workshops. National costumes of Estonia, Latvia and Russia, authentic food created great atmosphere of cooperation across borders

The exhibition added “practical” dimension to the “theoretical” ideas expressed during the conference. Unique character of the Programme territory, combining reach history of the Hanseatic Cities and cities with Hansa communities from the past with the Hansa routes, gives all tourism projects excellent opportunities to flourish and be sustainable, linking historical heritage with modern technologies in the field of tourism.

**8 tourism projects of the Programme united in the exhibition** and demonstrated synergy both between the projects and inside them. It was vividly shown how capital acquired by the projects can be used for the benefit of all project partners and the Programme territory as a whole.

Tourism projects map elaborated specially for this exhibition by the Programme was the example of capitalisation in action; the projects proved that they are capable of following this example at the highest level, presenting their own publications and tourism products.



**The realisation of three Projects within the Programme in Sigulda and its surroundings contributed to the attractiveness of this Latvian city as a touristic destination.**

Participants of the Annual Event witnessed the progress of implementation of the “SVS Activetour”, “Via Hanseatica” and “People with Nature”. The projects presented to the interested participants of the event real attraction sites in three guided tours.

**Active Tourism Project “SVS Activetour”** offered to the attention of interested active tourism possibilities – skiing track “Laurenči” and climbing tower “Eži”, attraction parks – “Mežakaķis” and Tarzāns.

**“Via Hanseatica” Heritage Tourism Project** brought its guests to the places with rich historical background – Livonian Order Castle, Turaida Castle, and renovated railway station with Tourism information centre and first Info terminal which will be soon equipped with touch screens in the frame of the project.

A visit to Pauguri Forest School in the Līgatne Nature Park, which is one of nature education centres, established within the project, was organized by **Nature Tourism Project “People with Nature”**. First station of senses out of six planned within the project, allowed to feel different natural surfaces under bare feet of participants.



## European Cooperation Day 2013

**The European Cooperation Day 2013 was widely celebrated by EstLatRus community throughout cross-border territory. Joint Programme actions were supported and followed by Project events.**



The ECDay activities started early in September with a **Joint tree planting action in three partner countries**. This activity was chosen as most suitable to commemorate cooperation and partnership, as it allows many people of different ages, nationalities and social status to be united in doing one common business for the benefit of the local community, contributing at the same time to better future for all. One of the Flagship Projects of the Programme – “Green man” co-organized these public events, which helped to make remarkable parks of three near border cities greener.

Programme-co-organized actions began **on 5 September in Pskov, Russia, with Public tree planting in Dendropark near Mirozhskij Monastery**. 9 pine trees were planted with the help of the students from Pskov University and support from project partners across the border, from Tartu City Administration. The interest of the Local Authorities to the action was really high – the Head of the City and the Head of Pskov Administration were present, accompanied by some heads of departments.

The event attracted interest of the local media, it was reported on two main internet news portals of Pskov and reflected in official web sites of Regional and City Administrations, as well as in the number of other portals.

The next tree planting took place on **10 September in Rezekne, Latvia, in Vipinga Forest Park**, where 10 trees



of different species were planted thus restoring Dendropark, destroyed by a storm some years ago. The action was supported by the students from Youth Centres and Rezekne High School, including guest students. The participants were greeted by the Mayor of Rezekne. Cross-border spirit of cooperation was stressed by entertainment from Estonian folk ansamble and supported by Russian snack offered to the auditory. The action was filmed and reported on in a programme of the Latgale television, the link to the report is available here:

<http://youtu.be/bOqWHB8yzDI>



The last event happened **on 14 September in Tartu, Estonia, in Tahtvere Leisure Park**. 10 mountain ash trees were planted during the cross-country cycling marathon race. Young cyclists were much interested in the planting as well as in the Programme souvenirs, snacks and folk dance performed by the singers of Estonian folk songs. The Mayor of Tartu attended the event supporting the initiative.

Tree planting initiative of the Programme was liked so much that some Project partners in Balvi, Avinurme and some others took it up and planted trees during their own events.



**The celebrations of the ECday were jointly supported by the Project partners all over Programme territory. Remarkable local actions were organized in different cities and gathered local people of all ages and positions.**

More than 15 Project activities undertaken within the ECday International Campaign ranged from info-sessions for school children in Valmiera and Pskov to lectures and quizzes for Students in Daugavpils and St.Petersburg, from opening football ground in Pechory to opening of Harbor Pavilion in Rāpina, from the exhibition of children's drawings to participation in scientific exhibition "Researchers' nights". Activity cleaning of water bodies by the Project "AQUA LIFE", joining 10 project



partners in 10 cities, gave an idea for the next year ECday Programme campaign.

• **"People with Nature" Project – Nature education lesson**



• **"INFROM" Project – "Flood Room"** introduced during "Researchers' Nights "



• **"EstRusFortTour -2" Project – Children's drawings exhibition**



• **„Common Peipsi" Project – Opening of Harbour pavilion**



**The Programme not only organised its own fruitful ECday Campaign, but also participated in several joint initiatives, aimed at focusing the attention of the wide auditory on the aims, and outcomes of international cooperation**

**Youth creative poster campaign – "ECday cooperation in the Baltic States"** started in summer of 2013 and joined representatives of four Programmes operating in the Baltic States. Catchy and inspiring slogans about cross-border cooperation were created and in the beginning of September shared with the public in different neighbourhoods of Riga, Latvia. The slogans invite people to think for the second time about common things and find another perspective in the matters of living nearby and cooperating across borders. This action has been filmed and captured by photographers and resulted in the video release and the brochure – Get to know yourself through your neighbour!



**Five ENPI CBC Programmes with participation of Russia–Estonia–Latvia–Russia ENPI CBC, South-East Finland–Russia ENPI CBC, Lithuania–Poland–Russia ENPI CBC, Karelia ENPI CBC and Kolarctic ENPI CBC joined to organize ECday ENPI Exhibition** in the frame of **IX Annual International Conference "Cross-border Cooperation: the RF, the EU and Norway"** in Petrozavodsk, Russia. The valuable input of the Exhibition was demonstration of tangible results of cooperation over borders reflected in publications and promo-materials.

On 17 September two Programmes with the Programme territory in St. Petersburg –South-East Finland–Russia and Estonia–Latvia–Russia organized **ECday lecture for the students of St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University**. The students were introduced to the history of cross-border cooperation between Russia and western countries, state of play of the on-going Programmes and the future perspectives.





### **"Safe Road" opens renewed road**

**As the result of the works the road safety is significantly improved, as the road is now wider and the road marking is in place. Additionally built footways was in KoidulaBCP and Värskas borough are actively used by pedestrians, roll skaters and cyclists, who now can be safe**

29 November 2013 was an important day for the partners of the Large Scale Project "Improvement of traffic and border crossing possibilities in Värskas-Pechory monastery road" (Safe Road), because the first part of planned construction works was ended on the territory of Estonia. The construction works were ordered by project Beneficiary - Estonian Road Administration. During the work the 14,6 km long Reha-Koidula road section was renovated and 2,4 km long Värskas-Reha road section got dust-free cover. This road section is very important for all road users who pass through Koidula/Kunichina Gora border-crossing point to get from Southeast-Estonia to Pskov region and otherwise. 200-300 cars and 100-150 heavy trucks use the border-crossing point every day besides numerous pedestrians. On one half of Reha-Koidula road section single-layer coating of asphalt concrete was stationed on the bitumen-stabilized base. On the other half the single-layer asphalt coating with screed was built.

The construction works were implemented from 1 November 2012 till

15 November 2013 by the contractors AS Kagu Teed and OMJ Teede Tehnokeskus AS. The cost of the construction was 4 488 000 EUR from which 2 407 590 EUR was financed by ESTLATRUS Programme and Estonian Ministry of Interior.

The implementation of the project "Safe Road" will continue in Pechory city, Pskov region, where the capital renovation of 2,1 km of streets is started. Construction works will be implemented from Jurjevskaja street till the Pechory monastery square. The deadline for the construction is 30 of September 2014. By the end of June 2014 the parking space will be constructed by the side of Pskovskaja street, there the tourist's buses and cars can be safely parked.

Besides the investments to the roads and streets 2 seminars and 2 trainings were organized by the project in which Estonian and Russian specialists exchanged experiences in the field of road safety and education and were introduced to newest technologies used in the road construction.

Silja Lehtpuu,  
Project Manager



### **"ITC Baltic" opens new horizons**

**Since the very beginning all Demo Centres got the flag-ship positions in their countries, uniting the most up-to-date IT technologies, including e-services for G2B, G2C, B2B sectors, mobile applications and other innovations in ICT field in the Programme countries.**

The main objective of the project was formulated as fostering the economic development in cooperating regions by better communication between the business and government by using modern ICT technologies.



By now a network of 4 Demo Centres is being established within the project. Tallinn DC (launched before the Project), Tartu DC (launched in May 2012) and Riga DC (started in July 2012). St. Petersburg DC is operating now at the European-Russian InnoPartnership facilities with its permanent premises to be launched in spring 2014.

Although all centres are young, they have attracted great attention by many actors not only of the IT sector but at the level of regional and state authorities. All centres are open to public - since the project start they hosted over 230 delegations, performed over 50 training sessions, seminars and specific public events. The Centres are constant participants of the most known

IT conferences in the Programming countries.

The partners are working based on a set of feasibility studies developed for each Demo Centre, which are now being consolidated into the joint Feasibility Study for the ICT Demo Centres Network (the Baltic ICT Platform).

Although the partners deal with virtual ideas, they also strive for practical outputs. The result of this are 7 demo versions of new e-services (with 5 more coming) that will be tested within the project and launched for external users. Information about all new products developed will be available at the Network web-platform, which will be among others a virtual exhibition of such e-services.

The partners have one more project year ahead, but they have achieved already an important result: their virtual network is now a partnership of real experts, companies, and above all - friends, united by common ideas. And we hope that this Platform will start new locomotion in the cross-border international ICT cluster.

Elena Kuznetsova,  
Project Manager