

FACT SHEET, November , 2013

Public Hearings on coming programs in Russia

Public Hearings that had taken place on 5th November 2013 in St.Petersburg were organized to discuss priorities of Estonia-Russia and Latvia-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programmes for the period 2014-2020 with involvement of 38 participants from the Russian Federation, including representatives of St.Petersburg, Pskov and Leningrad oblast Administrations, Project partners of the current Estonia-Latvia-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme and sectoral representatives (education, science, healthcare, ecology, etc).

Thematic seminars on coming programs in Estonia

To explore the thematic priorities, main challenges, requirements for joint actions and positions of various stakeholders for cross-border cooperation in Estonian-Russian border region in the next budgetary period **4 Thematic seminars were held in Estonia: „Environmental protection and sustainable development“ in Tartu, „Rapid transport connections and smooth border crossing“ in Tallinn, „Economic development, entrepreneurship, employment and tourism“ in Pühajärve, „Social development (education, culture, sport, health care, social sphere, Administrative capability, cooperation of local municipalities)“ in Narva-Jõesuu.**

Participants of the seminars in Estonia were the experts in relevant fields of the country and representatives of Programme territory, potential Beneficiaries and associated partners from state, county, local government levels and NGO.

Latvia-Russia CBC Programme – 2nd JPC meeting held in Jurmala

2nd Meeting of the Joint Programming Committee of the Latvia – Russia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014 – 2020 had taken place on 8th November, 2013 in Jurmala, Latvia, chaired by **Ms Dace Grūberte**, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. The major topics for discussion during meeting: results of thematic seminars held in Latvia and public hearings in Russia, initial exchange of ideas for Large infrastructure projects, proposals for the Thematic Objectives/Priorities of the Programme, update on programming work plan and time-schedule.

Next meeting of the JPC will be hosted by delegation of the Russian Federation to **be held in February 2014 in Russia.**

First cooled ski track in Eastern Europe opened in Sigulda, Latvia

On Saturday, 30 November 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 before the snow came to Latvia. Within the cross border activities of the Project „SVS Activetour“ 570 600 EUR of ENPI Estonia-Latvia-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme co-financing were granted to build this cooled track. Cooled cross-country ski track with the refrigerating system under the cover allows maintain snow and begin cross-country ski season sooner, as well maintain its functioning at all times in changing weather conditions.

Auditors Seminars

From 25 to 27 November 2013 three identical seminars related to contractual obligations, eligibility of expenditure and expenditure verification, requirements for accounting and reporting one after other took place in Riga (Latvia), Tartu (Estonia) and Pskov (Russia). High interest from Project's Experts and Auditors was observed. Questions varied from how to deal with losses due currency exchange, how to distinguish if the changes in Project are minor or major, reporting issues, visibility requirements for book-keeping documents and use of logo on promotional items, as well questions related to agreements with external experts.