



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

FACT SHEET, September 2013

European Cooperation Day 2013 – public tree planting in 3 countries

European Cooperation Day in Estonia-Latvia-Russia cross border cooperation Programme was celebrated with similar symbolic tree planting actions in all three countries. Trees planted in parks of three near border capitals – Tartu, Rēzekne and Pskov - are the symbol of cooperation and its long lasting durability, as well nicely complementing the green environment. Mayors of all three cities acknowledged the importance to increase urban green areas, as well as the role of the cross border cooperation in socio economic development of near border cities.

Nine grown-up pine trees were planted in Pskov, Russia on 5 September in a remarkable place, Dendropark near Mirozhsky monastery. **Next 10 different species of trees were planted in Vipinga Forest Park in Rēzekne**, Latvia on 10 September. **Finally, 10 mountain ash trees were planted in Tartu**, Estonia on 14 September during world biggest Kids` Cross-country Cycling Marathon race in Tähtvere Leisure Park and together with young marathonists.

Some **other remarkable local actions** were also organised by the project partners jointly in different cities, like **workshops** in Tartu Tähtverepark **and lectures** at two universities in St.Petersburg, at Riga Technical University, at Narva College of the University of Tartu. Then, **planting lilacs and opening of the information plate** by Balvi Museum (Latvia) and **Exhibition of Children's drawings 'Narva and Ivangorod: United by borders'** in the Leningrad Region government were organised. Further details about Projects' activities will follow in the Fact Sheet, October issue.

Fifth Large Scale Project (LSP) signed the Grant Contract

On 19 September the JMA of the Programme and Mr Leif Kalev, the Secretary General of Estonian Ministry of the Interior, **countersigned the Grant Contract** for financing LSP **"Complex reconstruction border crossing points in Ivangorod (RU) and in Narva (EE)"**. Programme co-financing is MEUR 7,4 including additional Estonian State contribution MEUR 2,5 for the Estonian partners of the project. Reconstruction works will start next year and the project shall be implemented till the end of year 2014.

The aim of the project is to reconstruct the border crossing points (BCPs) in Narva and Ivangorod in order to improve overall capacity of border infrastructure. It is planned to reconstruct the BCPs for pedestrians as well as for auto transport on Estonian and Russian side. By implementing planned activities project establishes preconditions for smooth border-crossing and in the long term contributes to the socio-economic development and competitiveness of the border regions.

„Project helps to increase the throughput of the border crossing points significantly and therefore has positive impact on overall socio-economic development of the region and whole Estonia” said the **regional minister of the Republic of Estonia Mr Siim Kiisler** and expressed his satisfaction that despite of occasional difficulties in project preparation phase there has been reached consensus with partners which enables to realize the large scale investment project within a deadline.

One more project is drawing to a close in September

Culture project "Border light" has contributed to improvement of intermediate culture relations between Valka Municipal Council (Latvia) and Gatchina City Administration (Russia) and organised 2 5-day international theatre festivals, 4 educational visits for art school students, pedagogues and 6 training seminars for amateur theatre actors and directors from Valka and Gatchina, as well issued several publications about amateur theatres. Two Russian dramatist plays (1 in Valka, 1 in Gatchina) were staged and presented to public in framework of the Gatchina theatre festival.

Programme co-financing of 145 441,80 EUR has been allocated for the project implementation. Project's duration is 18 months.



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IX CBC Conference held in Petrozavodsk – Programme represented

On 20 September in Petrozavodsk (Republic of Karelia, Russia) **the ENPI CBC Estonia-Latvia-Russia Programme took part in IX Annual Conference "Cross border cooperation: the Russian Federation, the European Union and Norway"**. This Conference traditionally became a unique platform for a dialogue between the interested parties where they are able to discuss all the key issues on cross-border and interregional cooperation at all levels. Representatives of local, regional and state authorities, international organizations, business and expert community of Russia, neighbouring European countries (Lithuania, Poland, Estonia, Norway, Sweden, Latvia, Finland) and the European Union took part in the conference.

Programme at highest level has been represented at the Conference in Petrozavodsk. The **Head of the Joint Managing Authority of the Programme Ms Dace Grūberte representing also the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia** addressed the broad audience of the Conference. Ms Gruberte stressed the wide possibilities for the joint development of the border regions, which are provided by the cross border cooperation: for example, increase in production, trade and transit volumes, using logistics services, creating new jobs, attracting investments in the border regions. In the new period 2014-2020 the bilateral programme between Latvia and Russia will be introduced. Ms Gruberte announced that the new programme will be based on strengthening the economic cooperation and using potential of the programme area.

In several panels of the Conference the national authorities of the programme - **Mr Sergey Vahrukov, Deputy Minister** from the Ministry of Regional Development of the Russian Federation, **Ms Iruma Kravale, the Director of the Department of Development Instruments**, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia, **Mr Priidu Ristkok, Head of Regional Development Department**, and **Ms Silja Lipp, Adviser of European Territorial Cooperation Bureau** of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Estonia reviewed current state of cross-border cooperation, possible trends and models of its further development, ways of joint planning of border areas development. Special attention was paid to the results of the ENPI CBC Programmes 2007-2013.

Added value of the Conference was **live and visual presence of 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. Latest publications, visuals of the European Cooperation Day like posters and bookmarks, magnets, all programme candies – all being prepared specially for the Conference, were offered to the participants of the Conference in the joint ENPI exhibition, which was organized under the sign of the European Cooperation Day 2013.

Programme twitter is on!

Programme twitter account was opened in the end of August in testing regime and began working in September with coverage of ECDay activities. Some of the tweets were retweeted by the official ECDay twitter and were reflected on the ECDay web site.

All Beneficiaries, Project Partners, Associated Partners and interested parties are most welcome to read Programme and Project news and announcements about Programme events on twitter: https://twitter.com/ESTLATRUS_ENPI. We invite Projects with twitter accounts to follow and will be happy to retweet the most interesting Project news.

Your JTS Team.