



ENPI cross border
cooperation programme

part-financed by
the European Union

united by borders

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

Regional voices of the Programme



The role of the Estonia-Latvia-Russia cross border cooperation Programme for the regional development of the Narva-Ivangorod border area can hardly be overestimated. This role is extremely significant as at present it is the only practical possibility to receive financing for preservation and development of the unique trans-border ensemble of Narva and Ivangorod fortresses that are the main tourist magnet of

the region. The Programme support gives an impetus to tourism development in the region, increasing competitiveness of the cross border cities, and at the same time being an essential part of sustainable socio-economic development of the region on the whole

Tarmo Tammiste
Mayor of Narva



"The Estonia - Latvia - Russia Programme has given a possibility to the Vidzeme Planning Region to develop the Via Hanseatica tourism route that connects cities and towns of several countries – St. Petersburg, Narva/Ivangorod, Tartu, Valka/Valga, Valmiera and Sigulda.

The project „Via Hanseatica” that was approved by the EST-LAT-RUS Programme, will promote a sustainable development of remote territories in Estonia, Latvia and Russia. Our municipalities have already been involved in a number of cooperation projects with partners from Estonia and Russia – we have developed several tourism routes, we have facilitated business contacts, as well as organised joint culture events. The main mission of the Vidzeme Planning Region is to promote a balanced regional development; therefore, the EST-LAT-RUS Programme is an important partner that helps us to implement our aims."

Nikolajs Stepanovs
Chairman of Development Council of Vidzeme Planning



Pskov Region is actively involved in the Estonia-Latvia-Russia cross border cooperation Programme within ENPI 2007-2013. According to the results of the 1st Call projects more than 50% of applications were elaborated together with partners of Pskov region. Implementation of 4 LSPs is planned on the territory of Pskov region.

Projects refer to different spheres, economic and social. Infrastructure component is foreseen in 9 of 12 projects. Main investments will be directed to the development of road infrastructure and improvement of border crossing possibilities; preservation of cultural heritage and tourism development; improvement of ecological situation in Peipsi Lake area. P.S. Full text in Russian can be found in Annex 1 to this Newsletter.

Dmitry Ravickovich
Chairman of State Committee of Pskov Region for economic development, industry and trade

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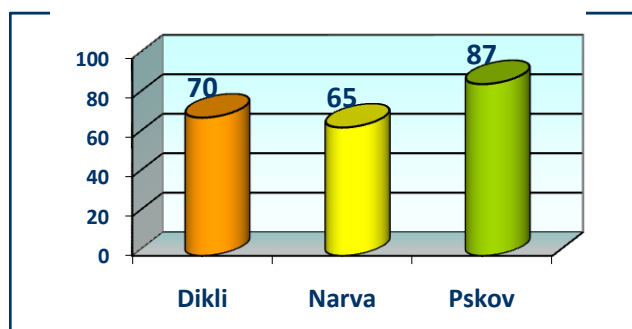
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Seminars for Beneficiaries and Partners strenghtens partnerships

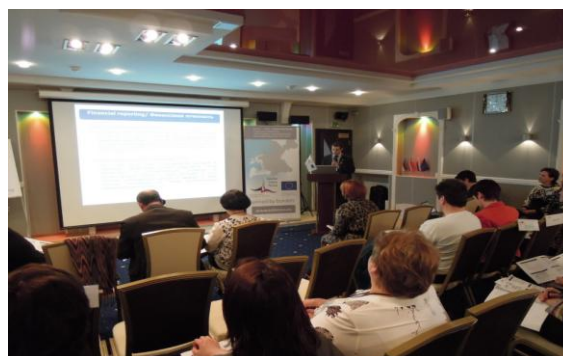
Year 2012 started with speedy signing of the Grant Contracts and Projects could begin with implementation. For getting „know-how” for the successful implementation and in order „to get to know” all partners within the Projects **three identical 2 day seminars were organized** by the Joint Technical Secretariat in cooperation with RCBI.

Number of participants in seminars



70 participants representing **10 approved projects** attended the seminar in **Dikli** (Latvia). **87 participants** representing **16 approved projects** participated in the seminar in **Pskov** (Russia). Presentations were provided by JTS Project managers, Financial manager and Information manager and RCBI key expert Mrs. Karine Leroy. **65 participants** representing **11 approved projects** attended the seminar in **Narva** (Estonia). Presentations were provided by JTS staff and RCBI expert Mr. Albert Sorrosal. Presentations of the seminars in English and Russian are published on the Programme website:

http://www.estlatrus.eu/eng/programme/project_implementation/seminar_downloads



As admitted by participants, given possibility to meet all partners within the Project and learn about each other, was very valuable. **Strong partnership** is a great part of the success of the Project. Specific **implementation details** regarding Grant Contract, financial issues and reporting details, procurement and communication and visibility requirements were presented by JTS staff and RCBI key experts. Responsible Project Manager and Information Manager from JTS were available for **individual consultations** in all seminars.



Additional funding for Latvian beneficiaries and partners

In order to encourage Latvian partners in the implementation of joint projects within Estonia-Latvia-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme within European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument 2007-2013, special mechanism of financial support from Latvian State Budget is established for approved projects with signed Grant Contracts.

5% national co-financing for:

- Municipalities and their established organizations;
- Municipality and state enterprises;
- Non-governmental organizations.



Application for 5% national co-financing should be submitted to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Republic of Latvia (the MEPRD) once and **within 3 months after signing of the Grant Contract**. The MEPRD evaluates the application and takes the decision on the allocation of national co-financing. After signing of Financing Agreement on national-co-financing with the relevant project partner, the MEPRD transfers advance payment 90% of allocated amount and remaining 10% - when project final report is verified by the audit.

N.B.!: Each **Latvian** Project Partner (within each Project) who would like to receive national co-financing should apply separately in accordance with relevant national framework and procedure.

Questions on 5% support please **send directly to Irina Brasle**, ph. +371 67026462, Irina.Brasle@varam.gov.lv

High activity for the 2nd Restricted Call for Proposals of the Programme

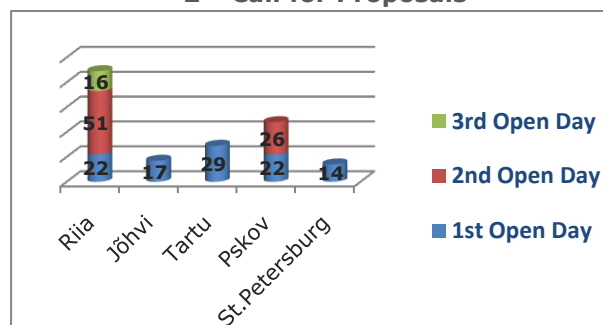
332 Concept Notes have been submitted by applicants under the 2nd Restricted Call for Proposals till the set deadline 27 February 2012.

As informed before, **the 2nd Restricted Call for Proposals** of the Estonia – Latvia – Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme within European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007-2013 was launched on 10 January 2012. All priorities of the Programme were open for submission of proposals. The indicative amount made available under the 2nd Restricted Call of Proposals is **6 014 639 EUR**.

In order to increase the quantity and quality of the project proposals, in January and February of 2012 the Programme started to carry out informational sessions in Latvia, Estonia and Russia – **Seminars and Open Days for consultations**. Consultations were provided by **all JTS offices**, including Branch Offices during Open Days, via phone and e-mail.



Participation at Open day consultations during the 2nd Call for Proposals



Information seminars were organized in St. Petersburg and Pskov (Russia), in Rēzekne and Valka (Latvia), in Viljandi and Rakvere (Estonia) to ensure essential information about requirements for the preparation of the Concept Note. Within the seminar framework participants were introduced with information how to write and submit Concept Note, what financial rules should be observed and assessment procedure.

Additional project preparation workshops in February were held by RCBI in St. Petersburg and Pskov to assist potential applicants and partners in their efforts prepare the Concept Note.

The administrative check is performed by the JTS and after the Selection Committee start to carry out the quality assessment of the Concept Notes.

Large Scale Projects – Full Application Forms submitted

By the set deadline 2 March 2012 **five Full Application Forms** have been submitted in the Joint Technical Secretariat's Main Office in Riga and Branch Offices in Jõhvi, Tartu and Pskov. Verification of Applications was started immediately and **already 3 Applications have been sent to the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Programme (JMC) for approval**.

First two Full Applications were approved by JMC on 21 and 22 March respectively. Further on Applications **of the Large Scale Projects** "Development of the unique Narva-Ivangorod trans-border fortress ensemble as a single cultural and tourism object" and "Improvement of traffic and border crossing possibilities in Värskä-Pechory monastery road" ("Safe Road") will proceed **to the European Commission** for final approval.

In 14 and 15 May 2012 in Pskov (Russian Federation) JTS with the support of Interact and RCBI plans to organize seminar for Beneficiaries of LSPs and **in 16 May** (Pskov) seminar for Auditors and Financial managers/Accountants of LSPs.

As informed before, 6 Project Summary Forms were shortlisted by the JMC and submitted to the European Commission for the relevance check. 5 of them were approved by the European Commission already in 2011.

It is planned that first LSP Grant Contracts will be signed **in summer 2012**.

8 Grant Contracts signed during the year 2012

Title: Development of the centres for culture and creative industries in Rāpina, Vilaka and Pechory

Measure 1.3 Preservation and promotion of cultural and historical heritage and support of local traditional skills

Beneficiary: **Rāpina Municipality Government**
 Budget: **2 200 067,85 EUR**
 Duration: 24 months

The project will provide the inhabitants of the border regions of Estonia, Latvia and Russia with Centres for preservation of historical heritage, preservation and rehabilitation of cultural traditions and skills. Two Centres will be reconstructed and equipped in Rāpina, Estonia and Pechory, Russia and one Centre established in Vilaka, Latvia.



Centres will serve also for application of the skills into business development in cross-border regions of Russia, Estonia and Latvia, maintenance of know-how and local traditional skills thus attracting local people and tourists.

Title: Creating access to the art of photography for young people with disabilities

Measure 3.1 Cooperation in spheres of culture, sport, education, social and health

Beneficiary: **Education, Culture and Sports**
 Department of Riga City Council
 Budget: **293 028,00 EUR**
 Duration: 18 months



Skills to take photos and treat them by using computer software can foster integration of young people with disabilities in society and give them new chance of development.

To achieve this, Partners will organize teachers' seminars to exchange the experience and elaborate new teaching method of art of photography for young people with different kind of disabilities. The photographers-experts' consultations will be organized in each partner city.

The joint summer Photo camp will be organized to exchange teaching methods and achieved results.

Title: Development of historical riverside protection area in Narva/Estonia and Ivangorod/Russia II stage

Measure 1.3 Tourism development

Beneficiary: **Municipality of Narva, Department for City Property and Economy**
 Budget: **1 742 338,67 EUR**
 Duration: 26 months



The implemented studies showed that riverside area being located in historical medieval city parts is in poor condition, needs improvement of landscaping, access ways and basic infrastructure.

With construction of promenades in historical medieval parts in Narva and Ivangorod riverside zones will become attractive recreation areas that will give strong impetus for further development of promenades as tourist products.

Title: Baltic ICT Platform

Measure 1.2 Transport, logistics and communication solutions

Beneficiary: **Non-Commercial Partnership North-West Funding Service Centre**
 Budget: **1 625 080,00 EUR**
 Duration: 36 months

The Project is aimed to set up the effective network of Demo Centres in cooperating regions in order to increase the usage of modern ICT technologies by governments of cooperating regions to serve businesses and citizens in cross-border areas.

Accounting that cooperation between EU and Russia is rapidly growing up, the Project will bring for final beneficiaries the new possibilities on obtaining the services electronically not only locally but in neighbouring countries in future. The companies and organizations are able to participate in public procurement in neighbouring countries already now.



8 Grant Contracts signed during the year 2012

Title: **Integrated Intelligent Platform for Monitoring the Cross-Border Natural-Technological Systems**

Measure 2.1 Joint actions aimed at protection of environment and natural resources

Beneficiary: **Riga Technical University**
 Budget: **989 356,00 EUR**
 Duration: 24 months



Nowadays, monitoring and control methods are applicable only to specific Natural Technological System (NTSSs). As a result, the statistical information about existing systems is not well coordinated. The project addresses the topical problem of integrated real-time monitoring and control of cross-border natural-technological systems in normal and emergency situations based on heterogeneous data received from space and ground-based facilities.

The project idea is to develop a universal common intelligent platform in order to unify efforts of specialists from Russia and Latvia to protect the environment, based on integrated space-ground monitoring.

Title: **Exploring the history of narrow gauge railway**

Measure 1.3 Tourism development

Beneficiary: **Türi Rural Municipality**
 Budget: **261 285,00 EUR**
 Duration: 18 months

The project idea is to promote narrow gauge railway thematic tourism field which covers developing joint tourism goods and services, commonly accepted strategy of tourism and creation of co-operation networks in the field. In the light of tourism the history of railway transportation has not been presented in a very attractive manner. Nevertheless the history holds out a lot of interest making it possible to take a look back to the shaping of cultural history, development of society and many events with historical importance.



For this purpose the preparations such as necessary work projects, plans and studies will be made to create a museum and exposition in Türi (Estonia) and St. Petersburg (Russia).

Title: **Cooperation in the theatre and the music arts development**

Measure 3.2 Cooperation on sphere of culture, sport, education, social and health

Beneficiary: **Limbazi Municipality**
 Budget: **301 267,26 EUR**
 Duration: 24 months

The population in project region should have the possibilities to spend their free time and relax. The project offers different activities, increase of person's skills and spending free time interesting.



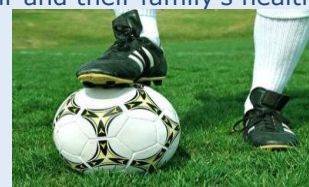
There are specific features characteristic to the culture at every municipality of the project partners, for example, for Russians is the development of more active way of playing different music or drama, but for Latvians it is more reserved. In Russia jazz and Dixieland is developed but in Latvia good accordionists are. These special features and such cooperation possibilities will contribute to the inhabitants desire to try something new and take part in it.

Title: **Promotion of Healthy Life-Style Organizing Sport Events in Latgale and Pskov Regions**

Measure 3.2 Cooperation on sphere of culture, sport, education, social and health

Beneficiary: **Latgale Region Development Agency**
 Budget: **315 672,88 EUR**
 Duration: 18 months

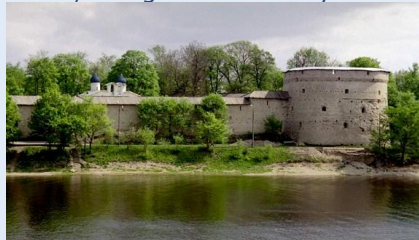
One of the most urgent problems in the cross-border region is unhealthy lifestyle of inhabitants that may cause different illnesses. It is planned to organize joint cross-border sports contests in several sport fields for all target groups. Participation in the events will make cross-border region more active, socially integrated and mobile, will encourage for doing sports and improving their and their family's health.



Activities will help to tackle problems of social exclusion, social immobility, lack of integration, lack of cross-border cooperation.

Southern Regions of Programme countries

Pskov (Russian Federation) has a remarkable history as **one of the oldest** and picturesque Russian cities with the walls of its medieval fortress, rising above Velikaya river.



Pskov was first mentioned in Russian chronicles **in 903** on the occasion of the wedding of Kiev **prince Igor**, the son of Rurik and the future **princess Olga** who was a native of Pskov. However the settlement at this place existed long before that as evidenced by the results of archeological researches.

Pskov is an administrative center of Pskov Region in North-Western Russia. From north to south it extends for **380 km**.

Pskov land amounting over **300 monuments of architecture** of the XII-XX centuries offers also the place where one can relax. Pskov region is surrounded by more than **3700 lakes**; the third largest in Europe is **Pskovsko-Chudskoye Lake**. Delicacy fish – **smelt** – caught in Pskov lakes is a distinguishing sign of the region. Hills changed by mixed forests, lots of lakes and rivers are favorable for **sport fishing** and water tourism. Those who like downhill **skiing** are welcome to “**Malskaya Valley**” in Pechory district where you can go skiing, snowboarding, roll down in air sledge from the equipped ski slope – the beautiful places for recreation.

What is **Latgale? (Latvia)** It's an ancient part of Latvia, almost a quarter of the whole country. Historically, Latgale was the region of Latvia from the River Daugava in the East to the borders of the Livian and Slavic tribes. Ancient Latgale (nowadays Vidzeme and Latgale) was under Polish rule in 16th century, and was called “**Pardaugavas hercogiste**”. One hundred and fifty **castle mounds** in Latgale still show where the region's **fortified castles** stood, where the aristocratic land-lords and local rulers held sway in prosperity and wealth.

Nowadays Latgale comprises the districts of Balvi, Daugavpils, Kraslavas, Ludzas, Preili and Rezeknes, and two of Latvia's larger cities – Daugavpils and Rezekne. Latgale is rightly called the **Land of Blue Lakes**. The largest lake in Latvia – **Lubans** (82,1 km²), the second largest lake – the **Raznas Lake** (located near Rezekne), the deepest Lake **Dridzis** (max. depth – 63 m), which is the deepest in the Baltics are all found in Latgale.



You will also find **ceramics** made by local potters: jugs, pots, vases, plates and candlesticks, glittering glaze in warm earthtone shades. **Patchwork**, different kinds of knitting, crochet, **wood**, wattle work are popular handicrafts in Latgale.

South-Estonia region (Estonia) consists of six counties (Jõgeva, Põlva, Tartu, Valga, Võru and Viljandi), which offer you an enchanting and wonderful, fairy tale land – the landscape becomes hilly, and climbing to the top of higher hills you can enjoy a beautiful view of untouched nature, valleys and the deep blue lakes hidden in this magnificent landscape. **Suur Munamägi** – the highest point of the Baltic States (318 above the sea level), **Peipsi Lake** – the fourth biggest lake in Europe, Lake **Pühajärv** (Holy lake) – one of the most beautiful lakes in Estonia are situated in South-Estonia.



Also, the local architecture, especially the **churches**, unique **manor houses** and **ancient fortresses** of Southern Estonia, are worth having a closer look at, in order to better perceive the flavour of the times gone past and of the people that lived here.

To the delight of travelers there are lots of diverse hiking trails. In no other region in Estonia is there such a huge **diversity of cultures** and **dialects**, with special impressions left by the local genuine and sincere people. You can experience it in the four major cultural regions: in Tartu County, in the Coast of Lake Peipsi, in the Seto region and in Mulgimaa.

Programme events calendar

1. **24 April** 2012, Riga (Latvia), seminar for auditors, financial managers and accountants of 1st Call projects from Latvia.
2. **25 April** 2012, Tartu (Estonia), seminar for auditors, financial managers, accountants of 1st Call projects from Estonia.
3. **14-15 May** 2012, Pskov (Russian Federation), seminar for Large Scale Projects beneficiaries.
4. **16 May** 2012, Pskov (Russian Federation), seminar for auditors, financial managers and accountants of 1st Call project from Russian Federation.
5. **June – July**, 2012, all Programme countries, 2nd Call seminar for preparation of the Full Application Form.
6. **6-7 September**, 2012, Pskov (Russian Federation), VIII Annual International Conference „Cross border cooperation: Russian Federation, European Union and Norway”.
7. **21 September**, 2012, all Programme countries, European Cooperation Day (European Territorial Cooperation Initiative).
8. **October**, 2012, Narva (Estonia), Annual Event of the Programme.

Интервью



С 2005 года Псковская область является целевой территорией реализации программ приграничного сотрудничества с соседними регионами Эстонии и Латвии.

В рамках программ ЕИСП 2007 – 2013 гг. наш регион - активный участник Программы приграничного сотрудничества ЕИСП «Эстония – Латвия – Россия».

В связи с этим, основная цель региональной власти как администратора программы – обеспечить участие максимального количества партнерских организаций региона в проектных мероприятиях, а также наиболее эффективное использование ресурсов Программы для развития области.

По итогам первого раунда подачи заявок в программу можно отметить большую активность партнеров Псковского региона. Более 50% заявок, поданных в Программу, были разработаны с участием партнеров Псковской области. По итогам процедуры отбора проектов в 12 из 25 проектов участвуют различные органы власти и организации нашего региона. На территории Псковской области в рамках Программы запланирована также реализация четырех крупномасштабных проектов. На текущий момент планируется привлечь на территорию региона грантовых средств Программы на сумму более 14 млн. евро.

Проекты реализуются в различных сферах, как экономических, так и социальных. Еще одной принципиально новой особенностью является прикладной характер и инвестиционная составляющая будущих проектов. В 9 из 12 проектов предусмотрен инфраструктурный компонент. Основные инвестиции будут направлены на развитие дорожной инфраструктуры и совершенствование условий перехода границы; сохранение культурного наследия и развитие туризма; улучшение экологической обстановки в ареале Псковско-Чудского водоема и прилегающих муниципалитетов.

Программа приграничного сотрудничества ЕИСП «Эстония – Латвия – Россия 2007 – 2013гг.» является привлекательным источником финансирования для реализации совместных проектов сотрудничества с соседними странами, а также для решения региональных проблем и задач социально-экономического развития Псковской области.

Но самый главный результат Программы в укреплении партнерских связей и единении регионов приграничья в реализации смелых и креативных идей! Приглашаем всех к сотрудничеству!

Дмитрий Владимирович Равикович

**Председатель Государственного комитета Псковской области
по экономическому развитию, промышленности и торговле**