



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

Regional Voices of the Programme



A new cross-border cooperation project "Archaeology, authority & community: cooperation to protect archaeological heritage" was launched on the 1st of May 2012. The project, led by University of Tartu (Estonia), involves nine institutions from Estonia, Latvia and Russia. In the past, many present-day border areas formed a region with tight cultural contacts or, in some periods, even parts of common cultural space. In this light the cooperation of three countries plays a significant role for achieving better results in popularizing and protection of archaeological heritage, as well as in research. *Estonia-Latvia-Russia* cross border cooperation Programme unfolded an opportunity to create a tight and lasting network of contacts and to intensify the cooperation between the three neighboring countries in the field of archaeology in the coming years and in more distant future.

Professor Valter Lang
Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy
University of Tartu



Estonia – Latvia – Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme provides a lot of opportunities to our regional and local public authorities, Non-governmental and educational organizations and entrepreneurs of the region. Due to it the traffic system of Latgale region is going to be improved. The implementation of the project "ESTLATRUS TRAFFIC" started in April, 2012.

One of the priorities of Latgale region is the development of tourism sector, the quality of which evolves every year. Thanks to ESTLATRUS project „Tour de Latgale & Pskov”, the infrastructure of water based tourism of Latgale is going to be improved, and the marketing and advertising campaign will be run on the biggest tourism markets and trade fairs. Another project is „Promotion of Healthy Life-Style Organizing Sport Events in Latgale and Pskov Regions”. People are the main value of every territory, therefore healthy population is more important than anything else.

Gunārs Upenieks
The chairman of Latgale Planning Region Development Council



The role of the Estonia-Latvia-Russia ENPI cross-border cooperation Programme for the restoration of economic, cultural and scientific ties between our countries can hardly be overestimated. 6 projects implemented with participation of organizations from St.Petersburg are launched as the result of the Programme's 1st Call and are covering this broad area of cooperation opportunities.

Taking into consideration objectives of Strategic Plan for St.Petersburg we do expect important results from the projects developing different ICT-based public services for the people of our city.

Dr. Sergey S. Nikolaev
Deputy Head of International Cooperation Department
Committee for External Relations
Saint-Petersburg Government

Table of Content

Regional Voices of the Programme	1
First LSP Grant Contracts signed	2
2nd Call for Proposals in progress	3
Partnership is cornerstone for success	4
Sharing Borders – Growing Closer	5
Northern regions of the Programme	6
Annex 1: Small Portfolios	7



Contacts

Joint Technical Secretariat

Phone: +371 6750 9520

Fax: +371 67509523

E-mail: info@estlatrus.eu

Ausekļa Street 14

3rd Floor, app. 3

Riga, LV-1010, Latvia

www.estlatrus.eu

First Grant Contracts being signed with Large Scale Projects

Since May the **contracting phase for Large Scale Projects** has speeded up and resulted with signing of first Grant Contracts. 4th week of July was highlighted with long-expected events: **LSP-1 signed Grant Contract on 26 July in Tartu, LSP-6 on 27 July 2012 in Narva.**

The 1st Grant Contract was countersigned with Estonian Road Administration and assigned budget **6 463 356,20 EUR for LSP SAFE ROAD** will work for improvement of traffic possibilities in Värskä-Pechory Monastery road, including border crossing in Koidula/Kunichina Gora frontier point. The project forsee **road sections' renovation** and creation of **foot/cycle ways** both in Estonia and Russia; construction of **parking areas** for trucks and cars near Kunichina Gora frontier point and for tourist buses near Pskovo-Pechorsky Monastery. **Tourism information system** will be also improved in border areas.

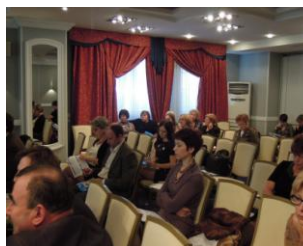


The 2nd Grant Contract signed with Narva City Government **NARVA-IVANGOROD** aims at conservation and **reconstruction** of Narva-Ivangorod **fortifications** (Narva Victoria bastion and Ivangorod fortress Small Powder Granary and Quadrangular fortress of 1492), foot-paths, grounds and access roads, external illumination. Necessary **tourism infrastructure** will be developed (expositions, visitors centres, info signs) within the project. To **improve** quality and accessibility of **tourist information** it is planned to train guides and museum staff, to install touch-screen-computer, develop tourist materials. Budget allocated for the project is **6 871 455,00 EUR**. As a result competitiveness of cross-border region will be improved.

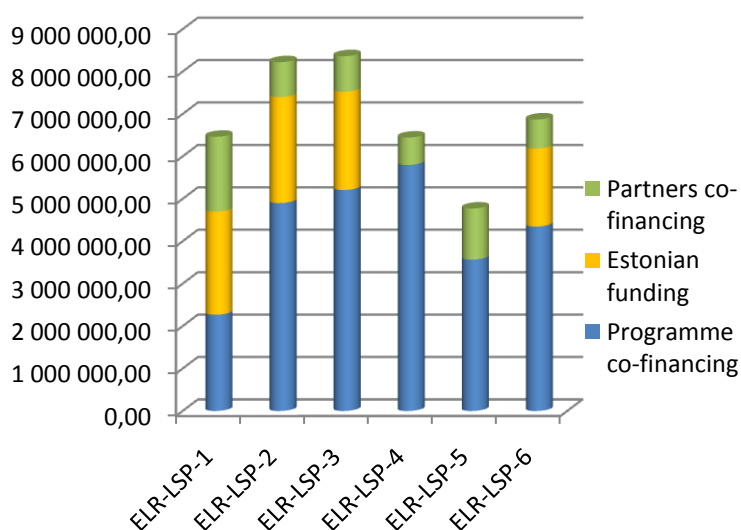
While two Grant Contracts are being signed **Full applications of ELR-LSP-3 and 4** were approved by the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Programme by the beginning of June and on 5th of July were **approved by the European Commission** already. **ELR-LSP-4** involves partners **from Latvia and Russia**. Onwards the projects pass to the phase of contracting procedure.

To ensure smooth starting process and develop partners' knowledge on Programme requirements for successful implementation of Large Scale Projects JTS with the assistance of Interact and RCBI organized a **two-day seminar for Beneficiaries and Partners of Large Scale Projects** in 14 and 15 May 2012 in Pskov (Russian Federation).

Partners were introduced with specific **implementation details** regarding Grant Contract, legal framework, contractual obligations, eligibility of expenditure, specific requirements for implementation in Russian Federation, procurement rules and reporting details, visibility requirements. After the seminar LSPs were provided with the opportunity to have individual consultations with their project managers and have face to face discussions. All seminar presentations can be downloaded at: http://www.estlatrus.eu/eng/programme/large_scale_projects1/seminar_downloads



Co-financing by LSP in Euro



LSPs are not selected through calls for proposals, but are selected and contracted through the **direct award procedure**. **Total financing** going to the Large Scale Projects is **35 178 301,80 EUR**, which includes: Programme funding which is 26 096 743,80 EUR; additional financing to the LSPs with Estonian partners 1, 2, 3 and 6 from the Estonian State budget 9 081 558 EUR.

2nd Call for Proposals well in progress

The 2nd Restricted Call for Proposals, which was launched on 10 January 2012, was finalized at the end of June and now the Call has moved into 2nd Phase – submission of Full Application Forms. Initially **333 Concept Notes** were submitted at the beginning of the year and all went through the administrative check and quality evaluation according to the Guidelines for the 2nd Call for Proposals during the first quarter of 2012. The corrected available **budget for the projects** of this Call is **EUR 7 150 893, 00**.



Further on - 278 Concept Notes were considered as eligible **after the Administrative check**. And only **38 project Concept Notes** were shortlisted **after the Quality Evaluation** carried out by the Selection Committee. Shortlisted projects opened the way to start the 2nd Phase of the 2nd Call to submit Full Application Forms. Shortlisted applicants were informed in the beginning of July and invited to develop Full Application Forms (FAFs). The set deadline to submit FAFs is **12 September 2012**. Total indicative budget of preselected applications is EUR 15 789 722, 63.

In support to successful Applicants Joint Technical Secretariat is organizing **2 Open Consultation Days** simultaneously in all Programme countries: in Riga (Latvia), Tartu and Jõhvi (Estonia), St. Petersburg, Leningradskaya oblast and Pskov (Russia) on 7 and 24 August 2012.

Besides open days JTS will conduct **4 identical consultation seminars** for Applicants and Partners of the 2nd Call in all Programme countries **during August 2012**. The main goal of the mentioned events is to provide the participants with detailed information regarding the rules of the Call and preparation of the Applications. Project Managers, Information Managers and Financial Manager of the Joint Technical Secretariat will make presentations and give answers on submitted questions during the seminars on topical issues. Exact information about **the venue and the Agenda** of the seminars are published on the Programme web-site and **on-line registration** to these seminars was open at the end of July.

The Full Application Form and documents to be completed for the 2nd phase are available [here](#). All potential applicants and partners are invited to visit our Programme web-site www.estlatrus.eu where they can find necessary information and documents for applying.

*With the reference to requirements of the Rule of Origin, PRAG, applied to procurement procedures, the European Commission granted the derogation from the above mentioned Rule to those project beneficiaries and partners, who are **public bodies of the Member States**.*

They can **use their national legislation** to carry out **procurement procedures**, provided that:

- the national rules in question do not restrict the conditions of eligibility and origin as defined in Article 21.1 of the ENPI Regulation [Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006];
- the project in question is co-financed by a public body from a Member State. Evidence of this is to be submitted by the JMA to the Commission upon request.



Partnership – the cornerstone for the success of the Project

128 partners presenting different institutions from Latvia, Estonia and Russia **are involved in crossborder cooperation and considerable co-financing floats into Programme territory in Estonia, Latvia and Russia.** Programme co-financing for Estonia is 7 324 261, 14 Euro, for Latvia is 7 204 891, 21 Euro, while for Russia the co-financing is 9 538 565, 67 Euro due to the bigger number of partners. **Partnership is a cornerstone for the Project to be accepted and successfully implemented.** Almost half of 25 Projects are **trilateral**, which means all three participating countries are involved in implementation of the Project in their territories.



Programme's main requirement is that each Project involves at least one Partner from Russia and among 46 Partners within 1st Call Projects there are 12 Municipalities, 8 Municipal organizations, 5 universities and several NGOs, foundations, associations from Russia. Three Lead Partners from Russia have taken full responsibility for Project implementation and these are - **Non-Commercial Partnership North-West Funding Service Centre, NGO "Lake Peipsi Project, Pskov"** and **Social Support and Public Health Foundation «POSITIVE WAVE».**

Out of 41 partners from Latvia 13 are Lead Partners in bilateral and trilateral Projects. Lead partners take whole responsibility for the implementation of the Project. Vidzeme planning region and Latgale planning region are among them. As well 17 Municipalities from Latgale, Vidzeme and Pieriga, Riga are partners in Projects.

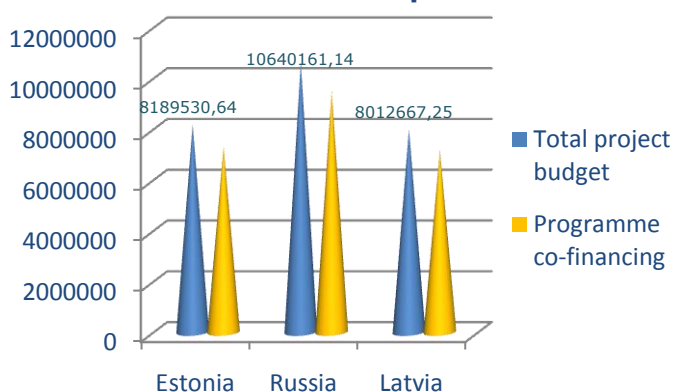
As well 41 partners are coming from Estonia and 9 of them are Lead Partners. The Projects in Estonia are implemented by 13 Municipalities (8 from Lõuna-Eesti, 1 from Järvamaa and 4 from Ida-Virumaa), 2 universities and several NGOs, foundations, associations.

The largest partnerships belong to projects : **People with Nature** -11 partners, **ESTLATRUS TRAFFIC** – 14 partners, the most numerous **Via Hanseatica** joins 18 partners.

European Commission issued a Note regarding „the rule of origin and nationality” on 15 May 2012. The explanation of the Note applicable for Russian public entities:

- **"The Russian public entities** carrying out procurement procedures on the territory of the Russian Federation under the national legislation of the Russian Federation, **can apply national rules of origin and nationality**, as long as goods, works or service providers of the Russian origin do not prevail over those goods coming from a foreign state and services/works performed by foreign natural and legal persons".

Financing by country - 1st Call for Proposals



Before the summer started JTS organized seminars in April and May in all Programme countries **to support financial managers, accountants and auditors** in financial issues. **JTS with the assistance of RCBI and Interact experts** provided opportunity to be aware of implementation details regarding contractual obligations, eligibility of expenditure, expenditure verification, procurements rules and requirements for accounting in accordance with national legislation and reporting details. **Presentations of the seminars** in English, Latvian, Estonian and Russian are published on the Programme website.

Short Portfolios of last 9 Projects signed are attached to this Newsletter.



“Sharing Borders – Growing Closer”

Cross Border Cooperation becomes more popular and in regards to this INTERACT invented **European Cooperation Day** (ECDay) with the slogan “Sharing Borders-Growing Closer” on **21 September 2012** to promote CBC by means of joint communication activities on local, national and European levels. **The aim** of European Cooperation Day is to improve visibility of CBC, disseminate its outcomes and show its impact on quality life. **75 Programmes** are now on board to implement activities on the same days in all areas of the participating countries. After Interact collects all local actions and flagship stories there will be issued country specific information pack and general press pack in different Programme languages.

Six Programme Projects are involved into **three** EST-LAT-RUS Programme **Flagship stories** to be promoted on European Level and are published in ECDay website – www.ecday.eu



Flagship story ‘told’ by Project ESTLATRUS TRAFFIC is in the sphere of **traffic safety**. Project plans to hold traffic safety campaigns during September with **distribution of flyers** to drivers with traffic regulations in Programme countries. **Visits of policemen** in animal costumes to **schools and kindergartens** and opening of **Traffic Educational Parks** in Karsava, Võru, Krasnogorodsk and Pytalovo are also planned.



ECDay Video Clip

www.youtube.com/cooperationday

Facebook

www.facebook.com/cooperationday

Twitter

www.twitter.com/cooperationday

Youtube channel

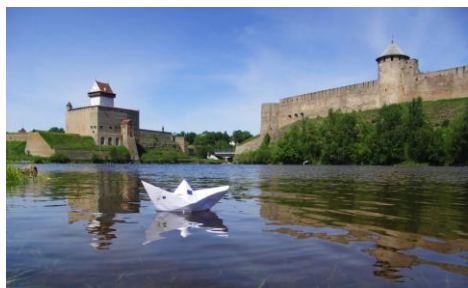
www.youtube.com/cooperationday

Flagship story ‘told’ by Project Baltic ICT Platform covers theme of **innovations** and Project will create new modern **e-services both to citizens and business communities in the Programme territories of Estonia, Latvia and Russia**. European Cooperation Day actions of the Project are participation in joint discussions related to innovations and an Exhibition stand together with other ENPI CBC Programmes cooperating with Russian Federation during the Annual St.Petersburg International Innovation Forum in September 2012.



Flagship story or Narva-Ivangorod Story involves **3 projects** directed to **develop tourism infrastructure** of Narva and Ivangorod fortresses and **1 LSP** which will contribute **to tourism development making border crossing easier**, increasing the capacity of the Road and Pedestrian border crossing points.

Joint competition of children creative works (drawings, essays, rhymes) are planned for the ECDay within the project. Simultaneous **Paper ship floating, Launch of balloons, Light installation** "Linking Fires" will be launched on both sides of border in order to attract attention of local population and tourist to CBC historic area.



Already 20 Projects of the 1st Call for Proposals will organize locally aimed events during September. As a South-East Finland's and our Programme's initiative, cooperation in Russian Federation among ENPI CBC Programmes operating in the territory of Russia **has been agreed and 5 ENPI CBC Programmes will organize an Exhibition stand and participate in the Conference** within the St.Petersburg International Innovation Forum in Saint Petersburg in **26-28 September 2012**. This joint action will **consolidate 5 ENPI CBC Programmes**, including ESTLATRUS. More precise information about it will be published in special edition of the Newsletter in September 2012.

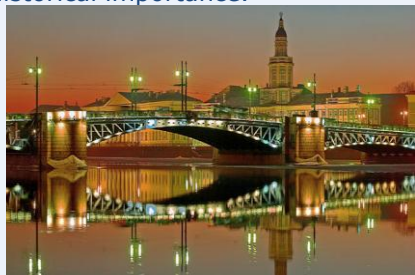
In parallel it is planned to hold **thematic lectures in Educational Institutions** in regions of whole Programme territory to promote the Programme and impact of Project results on life of the local community in Programme countries.

Northern Regions of Programme countries

Welcome to Saint-Petersburg! St. Petersburg is the second largest economic, transport, academic, cultural, and tourism center in Russia as well as a growing economy with a thriving private sector and an attractive business environment.



Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great as his "window on the West", today St. Petersburg is a major European cultural center with some of the most beautiful architecture in Europe, and an important Russian port on the Baltic Sea. The historic center of the city and its monuments constitute a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and are recognized all the over the world for its architectural splendour and historical importance.



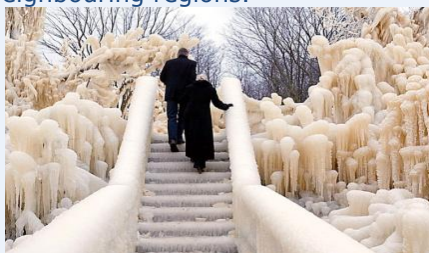
From the mysterious twilight of the **White Nights** to world-beating opera and ballet productions on magical winter evenings, this city chances and entices in every season. **Bridges** are an essential part of St. Petersburg's architectural make-up, unsurprisingly considering that the city is built on **over 100 islands**. Among the city's **over 500 bridges**, there are numerous architectural and technological masterpieces. Whether you want to get acquainted with the rich Russian history or start your business in Russia, St. Petersburg with a favourable economic and geographical location is the best place to do it.

East-Estonia, the region named Ida-Virumaa is one of the most valued tourist regions in Estonia. Ida-Viru County is bordered by coastline of about 70 km to the north, over 50 km of Lake Peipus to the south and around 48 km of the Narva River and Narva Reservoir to the east. The third biggest town in Estonia- **the border city Narva**, is located here. On the banks of the Narva River **the Hermann Castle** stands with its tower from which it is possible to peek at the Russian Ivangorod fortress across the river.



Mineral resources, mines, mining and energy industry cannot be overlooked in Ida-Viru County. Here one can see excavators, visit the mining museum or conquer the peaks of the "ash mountains". Historical castles, industry towns, heavy industry, manor heritage as well enchanting natural sites are located side by side.

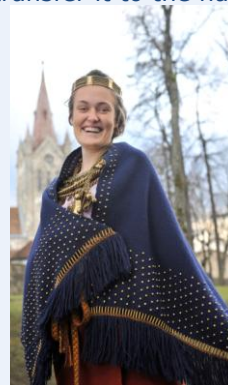
Valaste Waterfall (ca`30,5m) in Ontika is the highest in Estonia and neighbouring regions.



A distinguished place in the tourist region of Ida-Virumaa belongs to **Narva-Jõesuu**. This is a holiday resort that has been blessed with the **longest beach in Estonia**. Already during the tsarist rule, Narva-Jõesuu was a popular summer holiday destination among the Russian gentry. Now the seaside pine forest is full of spa hotels.

The way to Vidzeme leads upwards. Vidzeme is the highest region of Latvia and it perfectly corresponds to its place in the national economy and culture. Vidzeme is one of the regions that are **very rich in forests**; the **industries** of forestry and wood processing are **growing**.

Clean environment, high biological diversity, **picturesque landscapes** and initiative, knowledge and cooperation of people are bases for further development of the Vidzeme region. The Vidzeme **University of Applied Sciences** together with other regional research centres generate new knowledge and transfer it to the national economy.



In Vidzeme, **ecological production** is being developed in food processing and other branches, and new competitive products are created.

Vidzeme is called **the cradle of Latvian culture** because a great number of outstanding Latvian writers, poets, musicians and public figures come from the region; the **Latvian song festival** and theatre traditions originated in Vidzeme.



Tidy households, respect for nature and cultural heritage and the Latvian culture are the first connotations that come to an outsider's mind when he thinks about Vidzeme. Vidzeme has always promoted development, positive economic and social changes and it refers to the future as well. When you go to Vidzeme, the only way is up.

Last 9 Grant Contracts signed in 2012

Title: Cross countries through football

Measure 3.2 Cooperation in spheres of culture, sport, education, social and health

Beneficiary: Estonian Football Association

Budget: 332 602,50 EUR

Duration: 24 months

The project is expected to contribute to strengthening local sports clubs in border regions through experience and know-how received by participation in this project. Improvement of football grounds is foreseen: Narva Kalevi Stadium (EE) an artificial lawn of football field will be installed. The football ground in Narva can be used also in winter season. In Pechory stadium (RU) the football field will be covered with natural lawn.



The investments on both sides are accompanied with the numerous activities. About 600 matches will be organized within two years in Estonia and Russia and 60-70 teams (totally 2250 people) will participate. This will give an opportunity to improve training conditions of existing teams and for youngsters to be newly engaged in sports.

Title: Exchange of cross-border experience to enhance the quality of special education

Measure 3.2 Cooperation in spheres of culture, sport, education, social and health

Beneficiary: Integration and Migration Foundation Our People

Budget: 197 462,60 EUR

Duration: 24 months



The main aim of the project is to raise the quality of special education (speech therapy) through organizing training to speech therapists working with Russian-speaking children and to University students studying special education for raising the qualification of working speech therapists. As a result the conditions of helping the Russian-speaking children with educational needs will be improved and children will cope more efficiently with the learning outcomes set by each school.

Title: Increasing traffic system's capability within EE-LV-RU international importance transport corridors

Measure 1.2. Transport, logistics and communication solutions

Beneficiary: Latvian Office of Euroregion "Country of Lakes"

Budget: 1 876 570,00 EUR

Duration: 24 months



There are several European highways, crossing the most remote border territories of Estonia, Latvia and Russia. The international transport corridors with increased traffic intensity are a threat for young traffic participants' lives and have caused the deterioration of public streets and roads. EE, LV and RU have joined to improve transport infrastructure and increase public awareness including teaching school children of the traffic safety. To achieve this traffic safety campaigns for traffic participants will be organized; transport and road information infrastructure improved (roads and pedestrian roads reconstructed; traffic signs installed; marking streets, crossings with lightening organized).

Title: Establishment of Environment in Võru (EE), Sigulda (LV), St.Petersburg (RU) for development of tourism

Measure 1.3 Tourism development

Beneficiary: Sigulda District Council

Budget: 1 700 000,00 EUR

Duration: 26 months

Sigulda, Võru and St.Peterburg are attractive places for tourists during summer time, but significant improvements should be done for winter time, so it is essential to create an infrastructure which would be used for active tourism in winter and summer.



Recent active tourism development is often associated with sports tourism and the solution is that new infrastructure has to be created for development of active and sports tourism in all cross-border regions: ski tracks, stadium, soccer field, sports and playgrounds, equipped service houses on ski tracks will be developed.

Last 9 Grant Contracts signed in 2012

Title: Promoting nature education as efficient mean of awareness raising

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

Beneficiary: Nature Conservation Agency

Budget: 1 499 977,00 EUR

Duration: 30 months

The main objective of the project is to unite ideas, capacity and tools for improvement of nature education situation and awareness of the society on sustainable development and integrated nature conservation in the border regions of Estonia, Latvia and Russia. During the project it is foreseen to promote exchange of experience between partners and target groups, elaborate advanced environmental education methods, inform general public about importance of integrated nature conservation.



The planned activities, aimed to reach wide part of society, are diverse like development of 14 nature education centres, new interactive exhibitions, innovative education materials, training and seminars for young people, teachers, municipalities, etc.

Title: Water management Project of Peipsi, Pihkva, Lämmijärve, Saadjärve and Veski järve Lakes

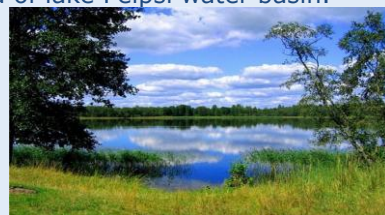
Measure 2.1 Joint actions aimed at protection of environment and natural resources

Beneficiary: AS Emajõe Veevärk

Budget: 1 869 912,45 EUR

Duration: 24 months

The project idea is to reduce cross-border pollution of towns and settlements situating by the lakes of Peipsi, Pihkva, Saadjärve and Veski järve. All these lakes are in the area of lake Peipsi water basin.



Investments will be made under this project to the renovation of Mustvee and Pskov wastewater treatment plants, as well as construction of new water and wastewater pipelines in Palamuse and water treatment facilities in Kasepää. Thus sustainable management and protection of freshwater resources on the lake Peipsi water Basin will be provided.

Additionally there will be made feasibility studies, environmental impact assessments, water and wastewater designs for Tartu, Lohusuu, Mustvee and Kasepää municipalities.

Title: Cross Border E-archive

Measure 2.2 Preservation and promotion of cultural and historical heritage and support of local traditional skills

Beneficiary: State Agency "Culture Information System"

Budget: 1 218 191,40 EUR

Duration: 24 months

Cross border E-archive will highlight significant information and materials related Estonia, Latvia and Russia and will form new collections based on state archives with unlimited access to all interests.

Under its web-platform a semi-professional social network will be created to unite historians, archivists, librarians, educators and other people interested in cross border cultural, historical, educational or personal contacts. Everyone in the relevant border area will have access to digitalized information to use the available digitalised data for any personal or professional lawful purpose.



Title: Archaeology, Authority and Community: cooperation to protect archaeological heritage

Measure 2.2 Preservation and promotion of cultural and historical heritage and support of local traditional skills

Beneficiary: University of Tartu

Budget: 1 714 515,66 EUR

Duration: 32 months

Archaeological data is the main source about the history of the Baltic Sea Region for early periods when written sources are scanty or totally missing.



Many sites will be forgotten, if their location is not recorded on maps. Therefore it is necessary to take urgent measures for saving the common archaeological heritage. The preservation and protection of archaeological heritage in the landscape will be carried out; field inventories on border area implemented to check archive data; database and maps of archaeological sites will be upgraded and presented to state and municipality authorities.

Last 9 Grant Contracts signed in 2012

Title: Tartu, Rezekne, Pskov: Green Management for Urban Development & Planning in EE-LV-RU Border Capitals

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

Beneficiary: NGO "Lake Peipsi, Pskov"

Budget: 1 948 194,78 EUR

Duration: 24 months

Project addresses sustainable management of green areas (landscapes) inside most populated cities in EE-LV-RU border area: Tartu, Rezekne, Pskov.



Within the project the inventory of urban green will be carried out, urban green management systems will be prepared, not less than 15 ha of urban green areas will be restored thus the attractiveness of the cities for the residents and visitors will be increased. Planning documents for future green areas will be developed.