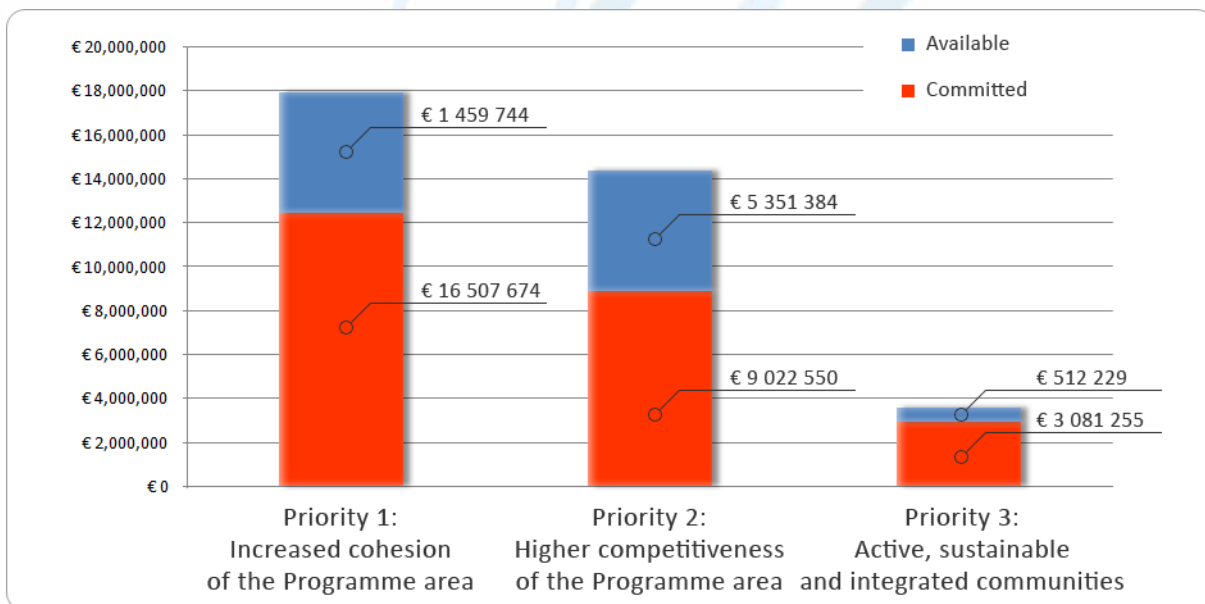


In late spring the Estonia – Latvia Programme committed approximately 5.5 million euro to new cross-border projects. During the Monitoring Committee meeting on 26-27 May in Jūrmala (Latvia) 14 different projects were approved, ranging from small community exchanges to large-scale strategic cooperation to develop better first aid services and improve the transport connections.

Read more about the new projects in the next pages!

Financial overview of Programme's funding after the last financing decisions:



The call for proposals is now open for project applications under the priority 3, which is aimed at smaller-scale community cooperation projects. The deadline for project submission is at **13:00 on 14 October 2011**. The programme especially encourages participation of municipalities in project applications, which would implement project activities in rural areas.

Read more about the open call on the next page!

Read in the next pages:

Open call for proposals (2)

Recently approved projects (3-4)

Other news (5)



Open call for proposals

Criteria of project submission:

Projects can be submitted **under priority 3**, directions of support 3.1. and 3.2., and they have to correspond to the following criteria:

- maximum request for funding is 150 000 EUR;
- no construction or reconstruction works are allowed in the projects;
- maximum amount of the budget line „Investments“ can be up to 1/3 of each partner’s budget;
- the Programme does not support projects in the field of sports, as large amount of priority 3 funding has been committed to sport projects.

Co-financing rate from the Programme for public and third sector partners will be up to 85%.

Maximum duration of a project is 18 months.

Priority 3 – Active, sustainable and integrated communities – is aimed at improving the sustainability of the Programme area by promoting vitality of the local communities and supporting cross-border social and cultural interactions. It is divided into two directions of support:

3.1. Improving the environment for active and sustainable communities

Eligible activities under this direction of support include, but are not limited to:

- Long-term and sustainable planning activities Development of cooperation between bordering municipalities, including common infrastructure and services
- Community projects: development of skills (regional speciality), study trips, initiating joint activities
- Improving (rural) life environment, availability and quality of services, including leisure activities
- Preserving the cultural value of settlements, co-operation of towns for the preservation of unique architecture, milieu value; preservation and popularisation of historical and cultural heritage

3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Eligible activities under this direction of support include, but are not limited to:

- People-to-people activities, including social areas, culture exchange, exchange of professional experience, village societies, folklore groups, etc.
- Supporting youth work activities, including child and youth exchange (camps, vocational education, and applied higher education), hobby activities, and development of the relevant infrastructure
- Joint cultural events, festivals and cooperation of cultural groups
- Learning the language of the neighbouring country: language schools, summer schools, camps and competitions
- Activities supporting sustainable lifestyle, raising public environmental awareness
- Environmental learning and education

The success of the Priority 3 is measured against the following indicators, which the Programme is trying to fulfil:

- 10 projects improving services for the communities;
- 10 projects increasing the activity of local communities;
- 80 rural municipalities involved in project implementation;
- 40 non-governmental organisations involved in project implementation;
- 40,000 participants benefiting from joint social and cultural activities;
- 300 people participating in joint education or training activities (at least 50% female).

To see the previously supported projects under priority 3, please visit the Programme website, section “Supported projects”. Please note that Programme is interested to fulfil the above mentioned indicators, as well as to support thematically diverse projects, therefore it welcomes new and innovative project ideas.

Recently approved projects

Reconstruction of the Road Killingi-Nõmme – Mazsalaca

The project plans to solve the problem of limited accessibility of the border region by **reconstructing and paving the road from Killingi-Nõmme (Estonia) to Mazsalaca (Latvia)**. This will significantly improve the situation for the local inhabitants, who currently suffer from the dust and bad road conditions, and will make the region more attractive and accessible for tourists and cargo carriers.



Best Teams

In order to **improve and harmonize the emergency medical services in the Estonian – Latvian border region**, a cooperation project will be carried out between the Estonian Health Board, State Emergency Medical Service of Latvia, Vidzeme Hospital (LV) and Valga Hospital (EE). Managerial cooperation for harmonizing procedures and joint trainings for medical personnel will enable EMS crews to provide services of equally high quality to residents throughout the region.

Gauja/Koiva

Joint standards and plan for **managing the water quality and resources of the Gauja/Koiva river**, shared by Latvians and Estonians – this is the goal for cooperation among Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology, Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Biology Institute of Latvian University, Baltic Environmental Forum in Estonia and Latvia, Tallinn Technological University and Estonian University of Life Sciences.



Smart Gardens

Improved services for the visitors of the botanical gardens will be insured through cooperation between the Latvian National Botanic Garden, Tartu University Botanic Garden and its Society of Friends (EE) and the Environmental Development Association of Latvia. The project will provide an interactive map for visitors, topographic maps, plant database, as well as important experience exchange for personnel of the Latvian and Estonian botanic gardens.

Green Corridor

In a joint project of the Latvian Nature Conservation Agency and Estonian Environmental Board Põlva-Valga-Võru region administration it is planned to **identify and map key ecosystems, habitats, and species in the border areas** and develop a joint plan for protection of the biological and landscape diversity in the border region.



Eagles

Latvian Fund of Nature will cooperate with Estonian Ornithology Society to carry out a **joint research and monitoring of the White-tailed Eagle and Osprey in both countries**. Project will also educate the relevant stakeholders, students and general public on these eagle species.

DELBI

In order to **help the small and medium enterprises and start-ups access the cross-border market**, as well as **facilitate cross-border partnerships in different fields**, a joint project with wide range of activities will be carried out in cooperation between the Latvian Chamber of Commerce, Estonian Business Chamber in Latvia,



Tartu and Valga municipalities (EE) and Vidzeme Regional Vocational Education Development and Competence Centre (LV).

BaltOrgPotato

Seven actors of the organic farming field plan to jointly **facilitate the competitiveness of the Estonian and Latvian organic potatoes and create a joint production chain**. The project partners are Ltd. Aloja Starkelsen (LV), Potato Growers and Producers Association (LV), Association of Latvian Organic Agriculture, Estonian Biodynamic Association, State Plant Breeding Institute of Priekule (LV), Jõgeva Plant Breeding Institute (EE) and **Institute of Economics of the Academy of Science of Latvia**.



EstLat Pharma

Two experienced **local companies operating in the field of synthetic chemistry and pharmacy plan to cooperate to develop a new antiviral drug**. The Estonian company *TDB-Biodiscovery* is competent in synthesis and scientific research, whereas Latvian company *Grindeks* is experienced in drug production. Merging the competence through cross-border partnership will promote the development of pharmaceutical business in the region.

FoodArt

The project aims at **strengthening the ties between the rural food producers and gourmet restaurants**, promoting quality local products and culinary heritage in restaurants and *gourmet* sector. It will be achieved through joint trainings and experience exchanges for rural producers, as well as networking events with *gourmet* sector representatives.



Youth Initiatives and Co-operation

Ventspils Youth Council (LV) and Leisi parish supported NGO *Triigi Adventure Beach* in Saaremaa (EE) will jointly organize **informal and interest education activities for youth, focusing on various social and economic topics** – youth employment and entrepreneurship, youth media, health and social responsibility and cooperation in various creative fields.

Est-Lat Urban Activists

Active **community cooperation** will start between the activists in Tartu and Riga, interested in **participation in the planning of the urban living environment**. There will be number of people to people cooperation activities and active networking among several non-profit organisations, including the main implementers - Estonian Urban Lab and Society Technologies Foundation in Latvia.



Artists for Development

Cēsis Culture and Tourism Centre (LV), Tartu Centre for Creative Industries (EE) and NGO *Trīs krāsas* (LV) will work together to **strengthen the role of artists in the community life**. Estonian and Latvian activists of various creative fields will be engaged in cultural exchange, as well as jointly trained to get more actively involved in cooperation with businesses, regional development and solving of various locally important social issues.

Hobby Slot Car Racing

The project will build up ties between the youth from Sindi (ee) and Limbaži (LV) neighbourhoods, who are united by the hobby of slot car racing. Within the project, the municipalities of Sindi and Limbaži will develop slot car tracks and organize **joint experience and cultural exchange camps for the youngsters**.



Other news

- On 10 June, a **partner day** for all the partners of the Programme's running and completed projects took place in Ķoņu Dzirnavas, northern Latvia. Around 50 Estonians and Latvians came together to meet each other and discuss the project implementation. JTS and first-level control representatives from both countries took active part in the event, answering questions and explaining various project implementation related issues. Partners shared their project experience, were informed about the latest updates in administrative procedures and discussed more in detail the most complicated aspects they had faced during implementing their projects.
- In relation to the **open call for proposals in priority 3**, Programme will:
 - Organize special training **seminars on 13 September on how to fill the application form** (find more information and register on our website www.estlat.eu!)
 - **Review draft applications and provide feedback** before submission of the final application. Feedback from JTS will help applicants to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the project and allow making improvements before the final submission. Such review is possible one time for each project during the call, and the draft application has to be submitted **until 23 September 2011, 13:00**.
 - Provide **individual consultations** at the JTS office in Tartu and Information Point in Rīga (please contact us to make an appointment).
- **Seminars for the newly approved project partners** will take place in Riga and Tartu at the end of September. More information will be sent to all the partners over email.

Attend our project events!



Est-Lat Urban Activists

Summer days in Kabli beach resort, Pärnu county, Estonia (20-21.08)



Still Active

Conference "Active, Collaborating Grass-roots - Promoters of Regional Development" in Taagepera, Helme parish, Estonia (23.08)
Open door events in Ape, Latvia and Varstu, Estonia (27.08)



Young Sailors

Championship in Mangaļsala and Rīga Bay (3-4.09)



Demo Farm

International project closing seminar, Valmiera, Latvia (15-16.09)
National project closing seminar in Latvia (27-28.09, place to be determined later)



SIB-Net

Public master classes in Ventspils, Latvia and Tartu, Estonia in September / October (follow the information at www.sibnetwork.eu!)



Follow the project events online:

<http://www.estlat.eu/supported-projects/project-calendar> !

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