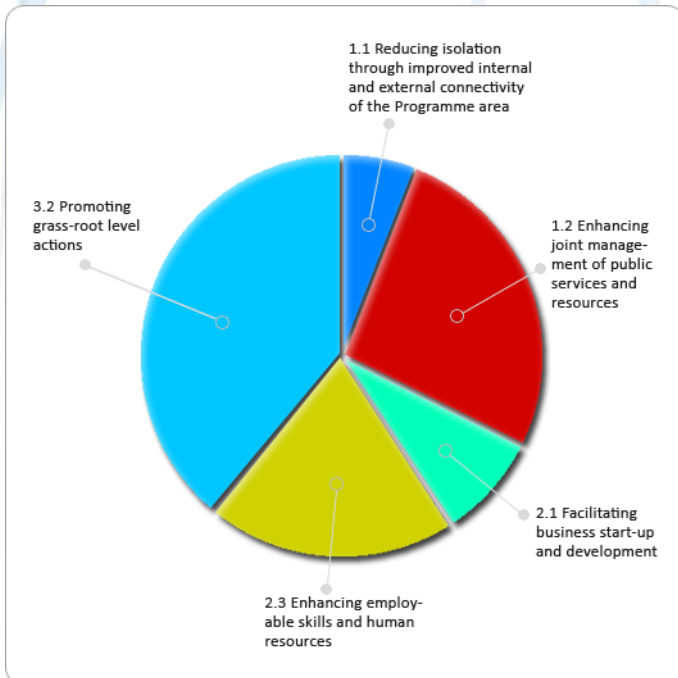


## 47 applications received within the recent call for proposals

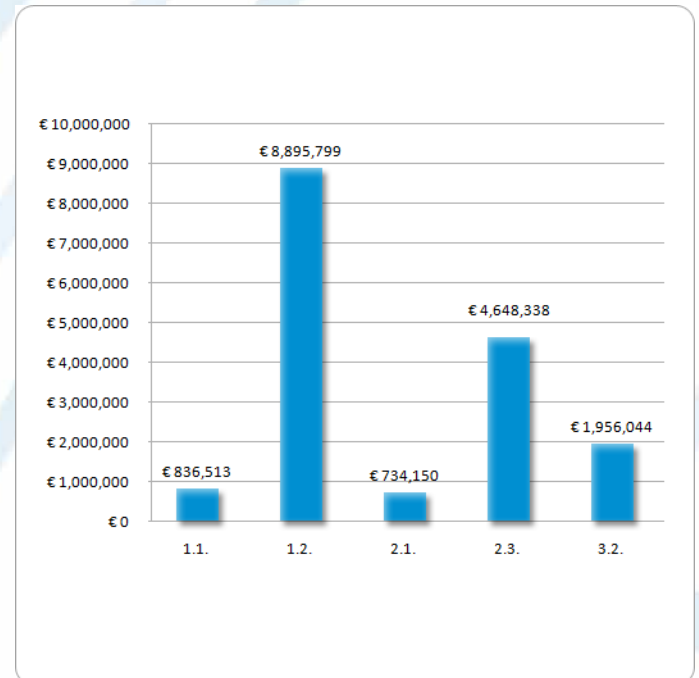
Within the recent call for proposals that closed on February 19, the Estonia – Latvia Programme received 47 new project applications.

The submitted projects are rather equally distributed among the three Programme’s priorities, with the most popular directions of support being 3.2 “Promoting grass-root level actions”, 1.2. “Enhancing joint management of public services and resources” and 2.3. “Enhancing employable skills and human resources”. The total requested ERDF funding amounts to nearly 18 million Euros. 30 of the projects are submitted by lead partners from Latvia and 17 by lead partners from Estonia.

### Projects submitted per direction of support:



### Funding requested per direction of support:



**We thank all the applicants for their initiative and ideas!** The project assessment has now started, and the final decisions will be made during the Monitoring Committee meeting at the end of June 2010. Please follow the news on our website.

The next call for proposals for the Estonia - Latvia Programme is planned to start in autumn, with the deadline for project submission in January 2011. Precise information about the next call and the available directions of support will be announced after the Monitoring Committee meeting at the end of June 2010. Please follow the information on our website [www.estlat.eu](http://www.estlat.eu).

## Read in the next pages:

How interested are Estonians and Latvians in cooperation? Some interesting findings from a recent survey done by the Programme (2-3)

Activities of our running projects (4-5)

Other news (6)



## How interested are EE and LV organizations in cross-border cooperation and participation in our Programme?

During the last summer and autumn, the Estonia – Latvia Programme carried out a comprehensive survey, the aim of which was to get the feedback from the potential applicants. The survey assessed the general awareness about the Programme, the general interest in cross-border cooperation, as well as interest and obstacles regarding participation with projects in our Programme. Altogether 500 organizations from different sectors were surveyed in Estonia and Latvia.

Full report of this survey is published on our website, under [www.estlat.eu/news/programme-news/survey](http://www.estlat.eu/news/programme-news/survey). Meanwhile, we would like to show you some most interesting findings.

### Is cooperation only about funding?

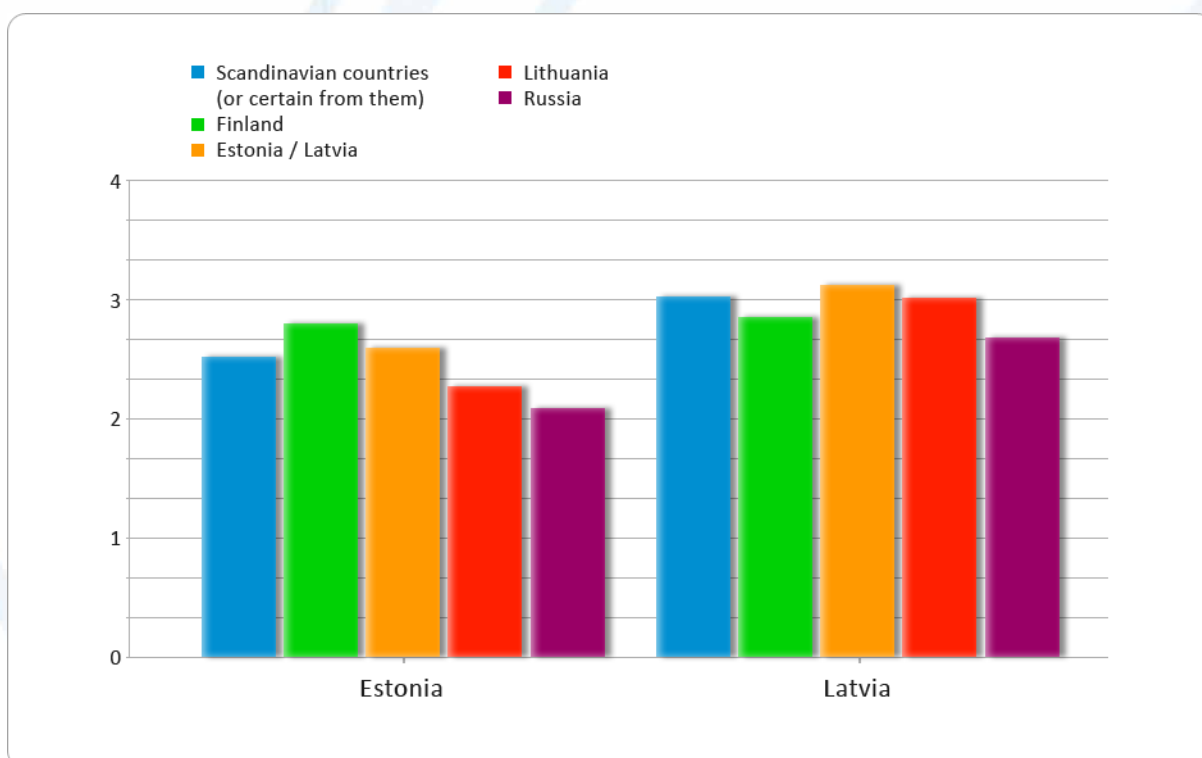
Before any hints regarding the Programme, respondents were asked to share their general associations with the “cross-border cooperation between Estonia and Latvia”. It is interesting that people most often think immediately in terms of projects and funding, even though the phrase itself does not imply any projects or help from some supporting institution. Large part of the respondents had no associations at all, while only a smaller part talked about some particular field-specific cooperation, business or personal contacts.

### Whom do we prefer to cooperate with?

One of the questions asked the respondents to indicate their cross-border cooperation interest with different countries or country groups, to see what country preferences respondents have. Despite the notion that more interest in cooperation with partners in Lithuania and Finland could diminish potential applicants’ interest in our Programme, this survey proved the opposite. It was interesting to find out that those, who had interest in cross-border cooperation at all, basically had interest in cooperation with any country. In other words, these survey findings show that the cross-border cooperation interest is not so much geographically, culturally or historically determined as it might be assumed.

A somewhat surprising finding was that the general interest in cross-border cooperation significantly differs between Estonia and Latvia, Latvian respondents being interested in any cooperation more than Estonian respondents (except for cooperation with Finland, where the interest was approximately the same). However, it is important to note that the survey included only respondents in the Programme area, which is not really balanced in the sense that it covers Rīga, but does not cover Tallinn. Understandably, many of the more internationally focused organizations in Estonia, as well as just larger public bodies and associations, are based in the capital outside the Programme area, and have therefore been excluded from the sample.

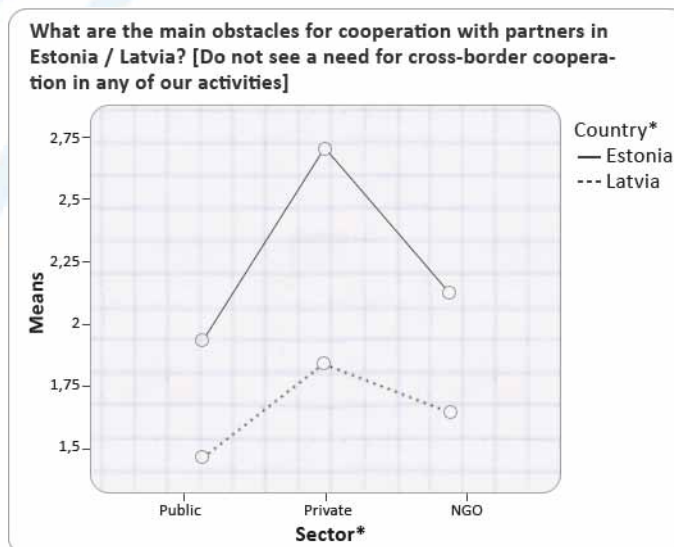
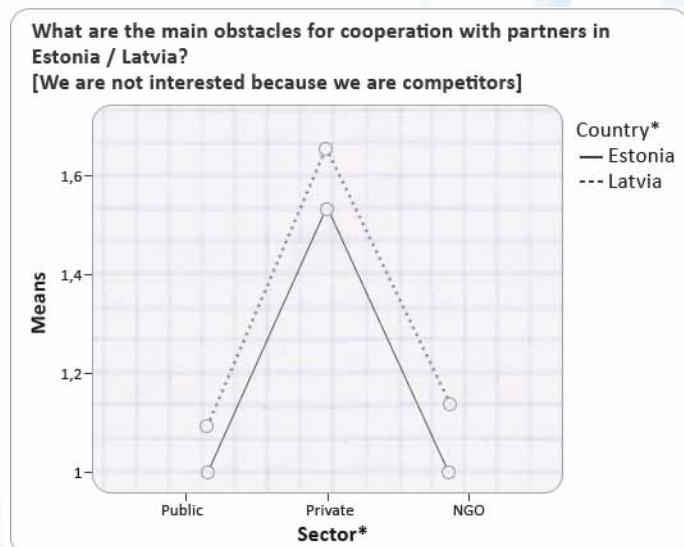
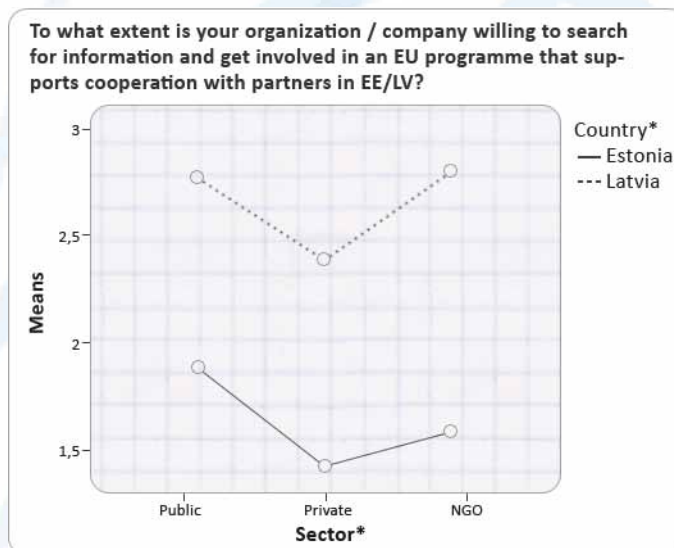
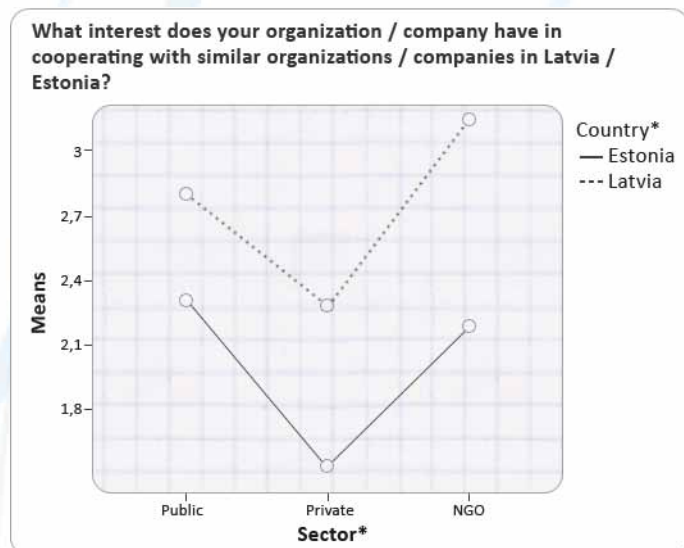
The chart below shows the interest (measured in scale 1 - 4, “1” meaning no interest, “4” – high interest) in cooperation with different countries and country groups for the respondent organization in both Estonia and Latvia.



## Are all our businesses competitors?

The Programme aims at sharing the efforts and promoting the economic development of the whole region together, yet how do the organizations and business companies in Estonia and Latvia feel about it?

The findings of this study show that there are differences between the sectors. The private sector companies generally see much less need for cooperation in any of their activities than organizations of other sectors, and they also see themselves much more as competitors than other sector organizations. Consequently, the interest to share things and cooperate is generally low in private sector, and so is the following interest in developing contacts with similar organizations, as well as searching for information and getting involved in a Programme like ours. You can see it reflected in the charts below (scale 1-4 measures interest and significance of the particular obstacles from “1” – low to “4” – high).



## What are the main obstacles for submitting projects?

The survey showed 3 general groups of obstacles that potential applicants face:

- 1. Lack of interest** - in the Estonia - Latvia Programme compared to other programmes, in cross-border cooperation in general and in cooperation with Latvians or Estonians specifically;
- 2. Various financial obstacles** – pre-financing, co-financing, investment support, financial commitments in the current situation;
- 3. Technical, informative and human resource barriers** – lack of time and human resources to write and implement project, lack of information and partners, lack of project writing and English skills.

## Maybe it is still worth to try out?

There is also significant link between the interest and cooperation experience. This can be easily explained by the fact that organizations with higher interest are more likely to get cooperation experience, but it can also suggest that cooperation leads to successful experience that increases the interest to cooperate further - and we certainly hope that this is also the case. To convince yourself, read about our already approved and running projects in the next pages.

## Within the running projects...

By now, we have already quite large variety of projects implemented under the Estonia – Latvia Programme. Please take a look at the calendar of their activities this spring and summer!

If you are interested in any events and want to learn more, please look up the news under the project partners' web sites – you can find them along with the project descriptions under [www.estlat.eu/supported-projects](http://www.estlat.eu/supported-projects).

The calendar of project activities is also published on our web site under [www.estlat.eu/supported-projects/project-calendar](http://www.estlat.eu/supported-projects/project-calendar) and will be regularly updated. All the projects are kindly asked to share their activities with others!

March	April	May
<p><b>19.04:</b> Communication seminar for all Latvian partners of the approved projects in Riga, Latvia</p> <p><b>22-24.03:</b> Project “Back to Nature” – travelling educational exhibition focused on bogs and wetlands: opening through series of events in Tartu, Valga and Võru, Estonia</p> <p><b>25.03:</b> Project “Cultural Heritage” – conference at the University of Tartu, Estonia</p> <p><b>25-29.03:</b> Project “Tolerance” – joint Estonian - Latvian winter camp in Otepää, Estonia, for integration of children with and without special needs</p> <p><b>29.03:</b> Project “Tolerance” – internal meeting of the Estonian and Latvian central and local government officials (project steering committee) to discuss social integration policy for children and youth with disabilities and their families</p> <p><b>30.-31.03:</b> Project “Cultural Heritage” – trainings for the project inventors (researchers) on use of the GPS in mapping of the cultural heritage objects. Northern Vidzeme, Latvia</p> <p><b>Within March (to be specified):</b></p> <p>Project “Cross Border Ball” – five day football training youth camp in Liepna, Latvia</p> <p>Project “Cultural Heritage” – informative events carried out by project “inventors” (trained researchers) in cooperation with local schools, libraries, NGOs etc. various regions</p>	<p><b>7-8.04:</b> Project “Cultural Heritage” – trainings for the project inventors (researchers) on use of the GPS in mapping of the cultural heritage objects. Northern Vidzeme, Latvia</p> <p><b>13.04:</b> Communication seminar for all Estonian partners of the approved projects in Viljandi, Estonia</p> <p><b>During week 19-23.04:</b> Project “FireSafe” - Open Doors event in Ainaži, Latvia</p> <p><b>21 – 28.04:</b> Project “ViSoEst” – training for tourism entrepreneurs on velo-tourism in Ogre, Latvia (21.04), Ape, Latvia (27.04) and Valmiermuiža, Latvia (28.04)</p> <p><b>24.04:</b> Project “Beach Hopping” – public clean-up event for Carnikava beach, Latvia</p> <p><b>25.04:</b> Project “SDF”: dancing competition “Põlva tantsib 2010”, Põlva, Estonia</p> <p><b>Around 30.04:</b> Project “Goodfruit” – practical seminar ‘GoodFruit Weekend’ on how to store different berries and fruits, introduction of the latest storage technology, degustation of local fruit and berry products. Püre Horticultural Research Centre, Latvia</p>	<p><b>Around 17.05:</b> Project “FireSafe” - Open Doors events in Latvia: Staicele, Rūjiena, Mazsalaca, Valmiera, Tukums, Saldus, Ventspils, Valka, Riga, Liepāja</p> <p><b>22.05:</b> Project “SDF” – singing and dancing event in Rõuge, Estonia</p> <p><b>Within May (to be specified):</b></p> <p>Project “Beach Hopping” - water safety trainings in schools of Carnikava, Latvia</p> <p>Project “Cross Border Ball” – football competitions in Alsviķi and Zeltiņi, Latvia</p> <p>Project “Back to Nature” – publishing and launching of audio and DVD on bats (in LV and EE)</p>
	<p><b>April/May:</b></p> <p>Project “Back to Nature” – opening of educational exhibition focused on bogs and wetlands at the Visitor Centre of Līgatne Nature Trails, Latvia. Part of exposition to be shown also at the schools through travelling exhibits</p> <p>Project “Back to Nature” – launching of the fairy-tale book on wetlands (in LV and EE)</p> <p>Project “Back to Nature” – publishing and launching of practical nature interpretation guides/ handbooks (in LV and EE)</p> <p>Project “FireSafe” – informative campaign on fire safety issues in schools in Estonia</p> <p>Project “Back to Nature” – public spring clean-up events in Estonia and Latvia. All green thinking people are very welcome to join!</p>	

June	July	August
<p><b>4.06:</b> Est-Lat partner day for all the approved projects!</p> <p><b>11-12.06:</b> Project "SDF" – Music group for disabled people taking part in Singing Festival of Valga-Valka, Latvia and Estonia</p> <p><b>26.06:</b> Project "SDF" – Ape Song and Dance Festival, Latvia</p> <p><b>27.06:</b> Project "Singing Neighbours" - joint festival of Estonian and Latvian youth choirs in Baldone, Latvia</p> <p><b>Within June (to be specified):</b></p> <p>Project "Cross Border Ball" – Summer Sport Festival: streetball competitions for two days in Ape, Latvia</p> <p>Project "Cross Border Ball" – five day volleyball training youth camp and volleyball competition in Lasva, Estonia</p> <p><b>June / July</b></p> <p>Project "Cultural Heritage" – seminars for various interest groups on cultural heritage objects: mapping methodology, object management, use in tourism, public training etc. issues</p>	<p><b>10.07:</b> Project "SDF" – celebration of Misso 81 with a village party called "Misso rahvapidu", Estonia</p> <p><b>11.-14.07:</b> Project "ViSoEst" – cycling marathon opening the newly developed "Tour de LatEst" route, Estonia and Latvia</p> <p><b>30-31.07:</b> Project "SDF" – Contact trip for the disabled people of Valga to Northern Latvia</p> <p><b>Within July (to be specified):</b></p> <p>Project "Tolerance" – weekend training/ experience exchange for Estonian and Latvian parents with disabled children, doctors, rehabilitation specialists, psychologists and other experts</p> <p>Project „BayLink” – opening event for the new yacht club building on the harbour of Mērsrags, Latvia</p>	<p><b>14.08:</b> Project "SDF" – Song and Dance Festival for disabled people in Smiltene, Latvia</p> <p><b>14-19:</b> Project "Tolerance" – joint Estonian - Latvian summer camp for families raising both children with and without special needs</p> <p><b>20-21:</b> Project "FireSafe" – conference in Ainaži on work of the voluntary firemen, current challenges and solutions</p> <p><b>Within August (to be specified):</b></p> <p>Project "Beach Hopping" – Lumprey Festival in Carnikava</p> <p><b>End of summer/ beginning of autumn:</b> Project "FireSafe" – chimney-sweepers' conference in Estonia</p>
	<p><b>29.07-02.08:</b> Project "Cross Border Ball" – five day basketball training youth camp in Võru, Estonia</p> <p><b>July / August (to be specified):</b> Project "Back to Nature" – international nature monitoring camp in Estonia</p>	

# Discover North Latvia and South Estonia at one go!

Opening  
of the long-distance  
cycling route



**11<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2010**      **1000 km**

## 14-day cycling marathon

Note: Cyclists on tandem bikes – accommodation and catering during the marathon - free of charge

## Programme news and developments

- **All partners of the approved projects – please mark June 4 in your calendars for a joint EstLat partner day!** The event will take place near the Estonia – Latvia border, and it will be an opportunity to meet all the other projects and discuss different kinds of questions regarding the project implementation. More information will be sent to all the partners over email.
- The partners of the approved projects will have seminars on communication and publicity issues on March 19 in Latvia and April 13 in Estonia.
- The first-level control institutions of both countries had one of the regular meetings on March 12 to share and discuss various auditing aspects and procedures in both countries.
- Next meeting of the Programme's Monitoring Committee is planned in the last week of June.

## In other programmes...

**Estonia – Latvia – Russia Programme** has just opened its joint technical secretariat in Riga and will soon launch the opening of the Programme and first call for proposals. Please follow the information on the website [www.estlatrus.eu](http://www.estlatrus.eu)

### **Baltic Sea Region Programme**

<http://eu.baltic.net>

The call for proposals is closing on March 22, 2010

### **Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme**

<http://www.centralbaltic.eu>

Next call for proposals to start on May 1 and close on May 31, 2010

### **Latvia – Lithuania Programme**

<http://www.latlit.eu>

The call for proposals has been recently closed.

The links to the other European Territorial Cooperation programmes operating in the Baltic Sea region is available under <http://www.estlat.eu/links>

## Did you know... the winter was just as generous on the other side of the border!



Photos from Est-Lat resources and Kaarel Mikkin / [www.headpead.com](http://www.headpead.com)