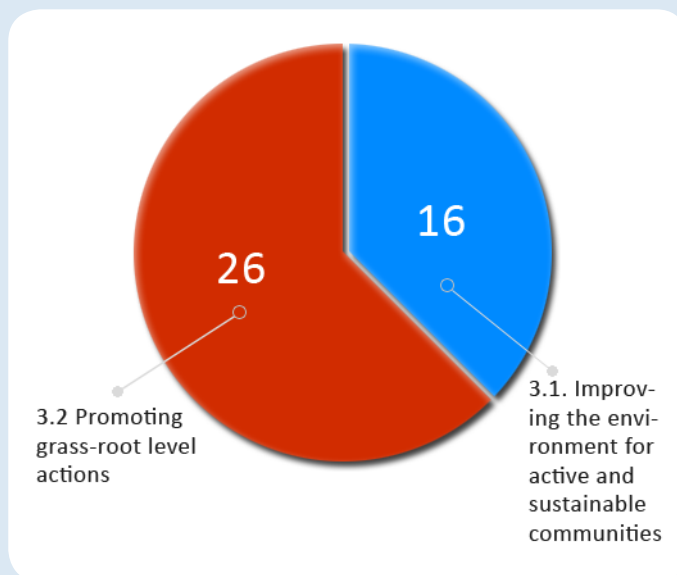


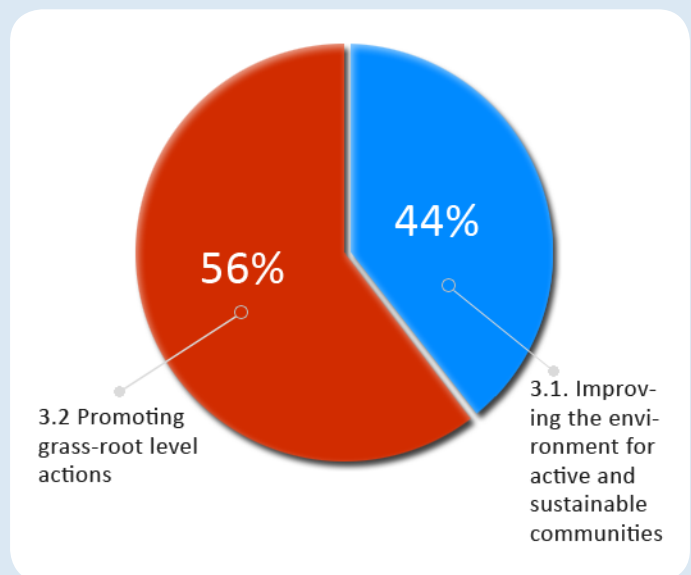
## 42 project applications received in Programme's latest call for proposals

The Programme's recent call for proposals for the 3rd priority projects closed on 14 October. The Programme thanks all the applicants for the work invested in the project writing. The Secretariat received altogether 42 project applications. The charts below show the distribution of the submitted projects and of the requested funding among the Programme's directions of support:

*Project distribution per direction of support*



*Requested funding per direction of support*



In total, all the submitted projects have requested ERDF funding in the amount of almost 4 million EUR. Available ERDF funding in 3<sup>rd</sup> priority is 602 852 EUR.

Altogether 120 organizations from both countries are involved in the submitted projects. 20 of the projects are submitted by lead partners from Latvia and 22 by the lead partners from Estonia.

The Programme has started the project assessment, and the final decisions are expected after the next Monitoring Committee meeting, which is planned in mid-December.

## Read in the next pages:

**New road, new networks... insight into recently finished projects (2-3)**

**Other news (4)**



## Opening of Karksi-Nuia – Rūjiena Road

With songs and greetings from both countries, the newly reconstructed cross-border road from Karksi-Nuia (EE) to Rūjiena (LV) was officially opened on 17 October.

Before the project, connections between the two places were possible only by dusty gravel road, which was especially challenging in bad weather conditions. Now the local inhabitants, visitors and transit cars can enjoy a smooth drive on freshly laid asphalt.

With Programme's support, altogether ~22 km dust-free road was built and ~6 km of old asphalt road reconstructed. The total budget of the project "Reconstruction of the Road Karksi-Nuia – Seda River" was 3 194 787 EUR, from which 85% were financed by ERDF.

Project partners were the Estonian Road Administration (former Road Administration of the Western Region of Estonia) and Latvian Ministry of Transport, represented by Latvian State Roads (State Joint Stock Company).



Road before reconstruction

Road during reconstruction

Road after reconstruction

## Closer contacts for families of children with special needs

Another project, which is reaching its finishing line, is "Tolerance" – cooperation to build parent networks and jointly make the society more tolerant towards people with special needs.

During the past couple of years, active organizations and parents from Latvia and Estonia have organized special camps, exchange seminars and educational events aimed at increasing public acceptance of children with special needs, especially with mental disability. The cooperation took place in various levels – individual families, who got the chance to build wider and stronger support networks, specialized NGOs and medical centres, as well as policy makers in both countries.

As a bigger closing event, joint conference "Mentally Disabled Child Among Us" took place at the end of August, where parents and specialists shared their experience on such topics as medical care, rehabilitation, family relationships and needs, and education. The cross-border dimension proved to be particularly important, as it gave new perspective for all the involved people. For example, it was interesting to learn that in Estonia parents of disabled children participate in teaching the prospective doctors. The new knowledge gained during the project and conference was as much appreciated by the parents as the feeling of stronger support network.

In addition, special guiding materials for families were developed together by Estonian and Latvian specialists. The project was carried out in cooperation among the Estonian NGO "Anni Playground" (Anni Mängumaa), Tartu University Hospital Genetics Centre and Latvian NGO "Wings of Hope" (Cerību Spārni).



## Network established for demonstration farms

Estonian and Latvian farms, selected as best examples to demonstrate sustainable and environmentally friendly farming practices, have established a strong network and prepared to receive more visitors in future.

Through open competition, 20 farms were selected in both countries – “Jaun-Ieviņas”, “Kurzemnieki”, “Lejas Kleperi”, “Lejašķerzēni”, “Lielkrūzes”, “Mauriņi”, “Silkalni”, “Valti”, “Vekši”, “Vīksnas” (Latvia), “Alt-Lauri”, “Kanarik-Jakobi”, “Kurese”, “Koivakonnu”, “Viraito”, “Pajumäe”, “Riido Ökotalu”, “Sepa”, “Sürgavere”, “Väike-Nakatu” (Estonia).

Owners of these farms were engaged in series of joint practical training, to build their demonstration capacity – on topics including environment, nature protection, economical aspects and visitor treatment, as well as basic Estonian and Latvian language lessons. Exchange trips were organized for the Latvian farmers to Estonia and Estonians to Latvia, during which the participants could already apply their new knowledge, including asking questions about the farm animals in the other language. In addition, each network farm received an individual management plan prepared by experts, providing economic and environmental analysis and suggesting new practices towards even more sustainable farming.

Thanks to all the networking activities, the selected farms developed good contacts and lasting cooperation. The owner of the selected farm “Lielkrūzes”, Guntars Dolmanis, admits that by now the participating farmers have become “inseparable company” with ongoing communication. Even though the tourism farms technically compete with each other for visitors, this competition is regarded by the farmers as only positive, making them eager to learn each other’s experience and share ideas. Many of the participants are planning to organize private exchange visits also beyond the project. “Often such experience exchange helps to go on with ideas you already have, but feel somewhat unconfident to put into practice. It is very important to see how others have started from almost nothing. Plus often it means you don’t have to invent the wheel again,” admits Zeltīte Kaviere, owner of the network farm “Silkalni” in Latvia.

In addition to the established network, the project “Demo Farm” also collected the best experience in the field of nature friendly and economically sustainable farm management in Latvia and Estonia, which is planned to be distributed in a published format.

The project partners were Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre and Estonian and Latvian Funds for Nature.



## Other news

- Next **Programme's Monitoring Committee meeting** is planned in mid-December 2011. During the meeting, decisions will be made regarding the newly submitted projects, as well as allocation of the remaining Programme's funding. There are currently no calls for proposals planned, and the Programme is considering different options for allocating the remaining funding.
- **Seminars for the recently started projects** took place in Riga and Tartu in September. Partners of the new projects were informed about the administration requirements and could discuss various issues with the representatives of the first-level control and Programme's secretariat. More events for the running projects are planned next winter – there will be trainings provided on procurement issues, as well as communication.
- The Programme has announced competition for temporary **information manager** position (replacement from January 2012 to autumn 2013) at the Joint Technical Secretariat in Tartu. For description of the position and required qualifications, please visit [www.estlat.eu](http://www.estlat.eu). Application deadline: 26 October (3:00 PM).

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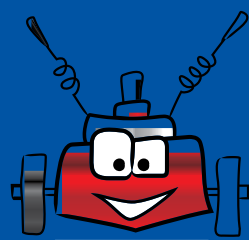
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## Project events to attend:



*"FoodArt" project presentation (in Estonian) on Friday, 21 October 13:00 at the Centre for Creative Industries (Loomemajanduskeskus), Tartu, Kalevi 13.*



*Robot construction seminar (in Latvian) on 31 October and 1 November in Valmiera State Gymnasium, L. Paegles 40. Registration by 19 October under [www.robotika.lv](http://www.robotika.lv).*



Follow the project events online:

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

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