

Assessment of the fulfilment of the programme result indicators in 2018.

For assessing the fulfilment of the result indicators in 2018, **we used the same questionnaires, respondents/sample and methodology for gathering the data** as we did for setting the baseline values (please see the description and respective survey and excel files below) to have comparable data.

Six out of eight result indicators demonstrate the increase in 2017/2018 (see the green numbers in the table below) compared to the baseline value in 2014/2015.

Priority 1 "Active and attractive business environment"

The result has dropped (see the red numbers in the table below) compared to the baseline value for the indicators **1.1 "Share of entrepreneurs and new businesses in the region (not older than 3 years), which are ready for cross-border cooperation"**, and **1.2 "Share of entrepreneurs carrying out joint product or service development"**. We can assume that as the first projects that contribute to these indicators started only in 2017 and are in the middle of implementation, their impact is still too early to measure.

Priority 2 "Clean and valued living environment"

The number of visitors to the natural and cultural heritage sites, result indicator 2.1, was determined by asking the yearly visits from the same 187 sites in Estonia and Latvia as in 2014. There were a few sites that did not have the data or that are out of business, but the total number shows an increase.

Result indicators 2.2.1 "Awareness of people about resource efficiency with a focus on waste and energy saving" and 2.2.2 "Cooperation intensity between institutions on management of water bodies and coastal areas" show a growing trend.

Interestingly, people in Latvia consider themselves to know statistically more about energy saving than Estonians, 50% and 43% respectively, but Estonians consider themselves to act more towards saving energy. In waste sorting, Estonians consider their awareness to be higher than that of Latvians - 77% and 62% respectively. The most widely sorted waste categories are paper and carton 57%, glass 51%, plastic packages 49%.

The intensity of cooperation between institutions on the management of water bodies and coastal areas have raised stronger. The survey report identifies 15 different modes and purposes for cooperation, including fishing resource protection, railroad influence on environment evaluation, Baltic Sea coastal planning and evaluation of State Environmental Services tasks and efficiency.

We are glad to see that more people consider Valga (EE) and Valka (LV) as joint town (**indicator 2.3 "The share of inhabitants of Valga and Valka considering Valga and Valka as a joint entity"**). 24% of inhabitants consider that Valga and Valka are rather grown together with some separate elements while 5% consider Valka and Valga as one town. People's preferences in joint activities are medical treatment, transport connections between the towns, creation of workplaces and joint businesses.

Priority 3 "Better network of harbours"

The data for the result indicator 3.1, visiting vessels in small harbours, we gathered from the harbours and official data available at the webpage of the [Maritime Administration of Estonia](#). Until 2020 the numbers showed a slow, but steady increase.

Priority 4 "Integrated labour market"

The number of people crossing the border (**indicator 4.1 "Work commuters crossing the border"**) has significantly increased compared to the year 2014. The survey presents the commuters into two categories: people living in Estonia, who go to work in Latvia and people living in Latvia, who go to work in Estonia. According to the survey, there was 1266 frequent commuters from Estonia to Latvia and 2566 frequent commuters from Latvia to Estonia. The growth of daily and other frequent commuters doubled, while the number of weekly frequent commuters increased only by 10%. Based on the survey it cannot be concluded whether the increase was because of the free labour movement or the effect of the border trade, as sometimes the goods in another side of the border are cheaper.