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Linking Estonia and Latvia

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Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area

1.1 Reducing isolation through improved internal and external connectivity of the Programme area

BayLink

Baltic Small Harbours Network

Lead partner: Mērsrags Port Authority (LV)

Partner(s): ADA Ltd. (LV) Island Lines Ltd. (Saarte Liinid) (EE) Kurland Ltd. (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area, 1.1 Reducing isolation through improved internal and external connectivity of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2010-01-01 - 2010-12-30

Description:

The small harbours of Mērsrags, Ringsu in Ruhnu and Roomasaare in Saaremaa carried out major technical improvements in their harbors in order to ensure small passenger ship connections between these harbors in future. Due to the relatively close locations, such passenger services are planned to be both time- and cost-efficient.

During the project, the harbors were deepened, quaysides were reconstructed and various other adjustments made following the needs of each harbor. In Mērsrags, bridge has been reconstructed for larger passenger ships and yachts, floating quaysides installed, as well as parking place and access road built for the passengers. This has already enabled the harbor to start yacht tourism, which was not possible before. In Roomassaare rainwater system has been installed in addition to quayside reconstruction. Ringsu harbor has also been deepened and prepared to receive larger boats.

To promote the new opportunities for marine connections, partners have organized two large yacht races between Mersrags – Ringsu – Roomassaare harbours with few hundred participants from both countries.

Budget: 1 857 080.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 1 360 805.00 EUR

Estonian - Latvian, Latvian - Estonian Dictionary

Development of Estonian – Latvian and Latvian – Estonian dictionary

Lead partner: The Institute of the Estonian Language (EE)

Partner(s): The Latvian Language Agency (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.1 Reducing isolation through improved internal and external connectivity of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2012-10-01 - 2015-04-30

Description:

As a result of the future co-operation report between Latvia and Estonia, adopted by parties concerned and represented by both Prime Ministers – Valdis Dombrovskis (Latvia) and Andrus Ansip (Estonia) in conference, held in Riga, December 10, 2010, the most significant priority and area for future co-operation was concluded to be mobility and human communication. One of the tasks in this area is the development of Estonian-Latvian and Latvian-Estonian dictionary (hereinafter dictionary).

Taking into account that both countries share historical and cultural heritage and face similar financial, economic and other challenges, the dictionary is a great benefit for a wide range of users – translators, borderland inhabitants, public institutions and organizations, entrepreneurs, participants of cross-border co-operation projects, those employed in culture, education and other fields, and many others. This dictionary forms a substantial basis for enhancing cross-border co-operation between Latvia and Estonia.

Budget: 480 828.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 349 994.70 EUR

ICT DCNet

Unified ICT Network for Innovations

Lead partner: Riga Technical University (LV)

Partner(s): Latvian IT Cluster (LV) Tartu Science Park (EE) University of Tartu (EE)
Ventspils High Technology Park (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.1 Reducing isolation through improved internal and external connectivity of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2010-10-01 - 2012-09-30

Description:

The project is connecting Tartu, Riga and Ventspils information and communication technology (ICT) demonstration centres in a Demo Centre network similar to ones existing in Scandinavia. The participating centres provide rotating exhibition of ICT hardware prototypes and software applications. Synchronizing of the study program module "Artificial intelligence" is also among the project objectives. In result of these activities, regional competitiveness and economic growth is increased, while more university and also school students get important experience exchange and develop higher interest in the field of ICT mechanics.

Budget: 632 330.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 537 481.00 EUR

Reconstruction of Ape-Mõniste Road

Improvement of traffic conditions on Ape-Mõniste connection road between Riga-Pskov and Võru-Valga-Valmiera transport corridors

Lead partner: Estonian Road Administration (EE)

Partner(s): Ministry of Transport (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.1 Reducing isolation through improved internal and external connectivity of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2014-04-01 - 2015-06-30

Description:

South-East region in Estonia and Vidzeme region in Latvia are strategically important regions for transport and logistics due to their geographical position in Baltic States using large and/or heavy motor vehicles. Two important transport corridors in the area are Pskov-Riga and Võru-Valga-Valmiera highways, which are actively used for haulage of goods in EU, West-East direction, and between South- Estonia and North-Latvia.

The average traffic density in Pskov-Riga highway is 600 vehicles per day, in Võru-Valga-Valmiera highway 520 vehicles per day. These two roads are connected by Ape-Mõniste cross-border road, which is actively used for transportation and haulage of goods from Võru and Põlva counties to Vidzeme region in Latvia, and vice versa. The average traffic density in that road is 250 vehicles per day, 20% of them are heavy trucks.

Ape-Mõniste road is the most direct connection between Võru/Põlva counties and Vidzeme region. At the same time the poor condition of roads sets limits for usage, especially for heavy trucks.

Budget: 5 400 000.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 4 200 000.00 EUR

Reconstruction of Road Karksi-Nuia – Seda River

Eliminating the Infrastructure Barriers on Development of Border Areas

Lead partner: Estonian Road Administration (EE)

Partner(s): Ministry of Transport (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.1 Reducing isolation through improved internal and external connectivity of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2010-04-09 - 2012-01-08

Description:

The project is helping to diminish the physical barrier between Latvia and Estonia by reconstructing the cross-border road from Karksi-Nuia to Rūjiena.

Previously, connections between Karksi-Nuia in Estonia and Rūjiena in Latvia 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. Also the local businesses benefit from the improved infrastructure, which is very important for economic development of this remote border area.

The reconstruction works involved the state road nr. 54 from Karksi-Nuia–Lilli to Latvian border, and Latvian state road P17 Valmiera – Rūjiena – Estonian border in the sections between Koņi - Estonian border and Seda River - Rūjiena.

Altogether 14 km long dust-free road was built in Estonia and 7,8 km - in Latvia. In addition, 6,4 km of old asphalt road was reconstructed in Latvia.

Budget: 3 194 787.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 2 715 569.00 EUR

Reconstruction of Road Killingi-Nõmme – Mazsalaca

Eliminating the infrastructure barriers in Estonian-Latvian border areas

Lead partner: Estonian Road Administration (EE)

Partner(s): Ministry of Transport (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.1 Reducing isolation through improved internal and external connectivity of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2011-12-01 - 2013-06-30

Description:

The project intends to solve the problem of limited accessibility of the border region by reconstructing and paving the road from Killingi-Nõmme (Estonia) to Mazsalaca (Latvia) significantly improving the situation for the local inhabitants, who were suffering from the dust and bad road conditions, and make the region more attractive and accessible for tourists and cargo carriers.

Budget: 3 164 822.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 2 626 802.00 EUR

Valga - Valka railway station renovation

Valga - Valka railway station renovation

Lead partner: Valga Town Government (EE)

Partner(s): Valka Municipality (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.1 Reducing isolation through improved internal and external connectivity of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2012-08-06 - 2014-02-05

Description:

Riga-Pskov railway line was officially opened in 1889, had Riga as main station. Pskov and Valga operated as second-class stations. At the same year Valga railway junction was opened, which was seriously damaged in WWII. The new station building that Valga town has today was completed in 1949. On the border of Estonia-Latvia there are 2 railway stations. One is in Valga (Estonia) and the second in Lugaži (Latvia), but today primarily inhabitants on both sides of the border use the Valga Railway Station, from where there are trains in both directions - to Tallinn on the Estonian and Rīga on the Latvian side. The project has set the aim to renovate the station, upgrade it to today's standards and improve services for Estonians and Latvians, using the station.

Budget: 481 927.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 399 999.00 EUR

Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area

1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Active Through Passive!

Promotion of the Use of Sustainable and Low Energy Buildings and Constructions in Latvia and Estonia

Lead partner: Valga Town Government (EE)

Partner(s): Green Homes (Zaļās Mājas) (LV) Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LV) Passive House Latvia (LV) Strenči Regional Council (LV) University of Tartu (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area, 1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2010-02-01 - 2011-07-31

Description:

The overall objective of the project is to help to reduce the use of energy, thus contributing to a larger energy independence of Latvia and Estonia via using sustainable and low energy building principles. This is achieved by sharing of know-how among the professionals of both countries, joint tools and standard technical solutions for energy efficient building.

One of the major goals of the project is raising of professional capacity regarding the low energy consumption buildings. A special training module on low energy and passive house building for architects and engineers has been developed, including elaboration of a model building that is in line with the architectural design and climate conditions shared on both sides of the border. This training module has been already applied during six three-day pilot training courses/workshops for the specialists from both countries.

Project has also formed a working group developing evaluation guidelines and criteria for sustainable and low energy buildings, rating system for sustainable and low energy buildings and adjusted special procurement criteria for the design and construction of such buildings. These project specialists are also developing master solutions and draft drawings for three public buildings with low energy use (Tartu Technology Park in Estonia, kindergarten building in Strenči and Ērgļi vocational school in Latvia).

Read more under www.activethroughpassive.eu!

Budget: 340 617.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 289 524.00 EUR

Back to Nature

Elaborating Joint Tools for Environmental Education as Efficient Mean of Management of Protected Areas

Lead partner: Tartu Environmental Education Centre (EE)

Partner(s): Estonian Environmental Board (EE) Gauja National Park Foundation (LV) Nature Conservation Agency - Kõmeri National Park Administration (LV) Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area, 1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2009-06-16 - 2011-02-28

Description:

Within this project, five institutions dealing with nature conservation carried out numerous creative activities to educate students and raise public awareness on environmental issues, focusing specifically on the bogs and wetlands of our region. Project activities included field studies, trainings and joint camps for Latvian and Estonian students, as well as exhibits and developing of a large variety of attractive study materials to be used at class as well as in nature.

The volume of work carried out by the project is quite impressive – 15 outdoor education programs, 17 creative print or video materials for nature education, 57 outdoor classes and study trips, plus several international camps, student competitions and travelling exhibits.

If anyone thought that bogs and wetlands were just a boring reality of our geographic location, then this project forced to change the mind. It invited children and parents to follow the fairy-tale adventures of Kalli and Modris in wetlands, brought school children into exciting trips to bogs, while the comfort lovers got table and floor games to puzzle their minds about the bogs and wetlands while sitting inside. The secret life of bats is now revealed in an educational video. And anyone can still attend the travelling exhibit to test the healing effects of the different soil and flora samples.

All the various creative materials are available at the local school libraries, as well as online:

Tartu Environmental Education Centre:

<http://www.tartuloodusmaja.ee/?nodeid=357&lang=et>

Estonian Environmental Board: <https://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/et?id=10780>

Latvian Nature Conservation Agency:

https://www.daba.gov.lv/public/lat/vides_izglitiba/materiali_nodarbibam/

Peipsi Centre for Transboundary Cooperation: <http://www.ctc.ee/kaimasolevad-projektid>

Budget: 652 659.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 554 760.00 EUR

Best Teams

Bringing Estonia and Latvia Together on Emergency Ambulatory Medical Services

Lead partner: Estonian Health Board (EE)

Partner(s): Valga Hospital (EE) Vidzeme Hospital, Ltd. (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2011-10-26 - 2013-04-25

Description:

In order to improve and harmonize the emergency medical services in the Estonian – Latvian border region, a cooperation project has been 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 enable EMS crews to provide services of equally high quality to residents throughout the region.

Budget: 115 000.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 95 450.00 EUR

Coastal and maritime spatial planning

Coastal and maritime spatial planning in Pärnu Bay area in Estonia and coastal municipalities of Latvia

Lead partner: Estonian Ministry of the Interior (EE)

Partner(s): Engure Municipality Council (LV) Kurzeme planning region (LV) Pärnu County Government (EE) Pāvilosta Municipality Self-Government (LV) Roja Municipality Council (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area, 1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2012-07-09 - 2015-06-30

Description:

Sea space, including the Baltic Sea, is a limited resource. Conflicts arise on marine areas because of a large number of users of this limited resource with competing interests. Maritime spatial planning is a tool that helps solve conflicts on marine areas, integrate different sector-based interests and co-ordinate spatial use of the sea. The use and impact of the sea does not end on the shore line. Coastal areas are interdependent with the sea in both human use and nature conditions. Many human activities on marine areas are functionally linked to the shore. For example, off shore wind parks and connection to the terrestrial electricity grid. In order to ensure the functional linkage between marine and terrestrial areas, minimize coastal erosion and its effects and ensure nature conservation and overall coastal development, spatial planning of marine and terrestrial parts of the coastal areas can be used.

The VASAB (Visions and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea) Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) states that protecting the Baltic Sea environment and securing sustainable use of the sea resources requires integrated planning and management actions by all BSR countries and relevant sectors of economy. It requires a pan-Baltic approach, based on a clear vision, goals and principles for planning and management of the sea space. In June 2011, the Baltic ministers responsible for regional development in the Baltic States put together an expert group in spatial planning. One of the main subjects of this expert group is maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea. A co-ordinated and cross-border process for maritime and coastal spatial planning is the best tool to further the idea of the Baltic Sea space with its coastline as a shared interest between Estonia and Latvia.

Budget: 518 072.29 EUR

ERDF contribution: 430 000.00 EUR

Cultural Heritage

Unknown Cultural Heritage Values in Common Natural and Cultural Space

Lead partner: State Forest Management Centre (EE)

Partner(s): Nature Conservation Agency - North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve Administration (LV) State Forest Service (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2009-03-01 - 2011-04-28

Description:

Cultural heritage is much more than just castle ruins and manor houses – this was the general idea underlying the project. The numerous other objects of cultural heritage, such as cult springs, ancient clay mines, smithies, homesteads, stone fences, old forest trails, historic landmarks or wells also deserve their recognition and protection. Cultural heritage objects of this type tell important stories about the life of the previous generations, local culture and national identity.

A group of ethnographers, archeologists, foresters and other experts, as well as the local people with their local knowledge from various regions of Latvia and Estonia got involved in revealing and mapping such previously unidentified objects. The focus was primarily on cultural sites found in nature. Therefore the field researchers had to use GPS equipment and receive special training beforehand.

After a comprehensive field work, altogether around 20 000 cultural heritage sites were revealed in both countries. These objects were inserted in an electronic database, and their protection was further discussed with the relevant institutions responsible for cultural heritage preservation. Over 9 100 heritage cultural sites in Estonia (Põlva, Tartu, Valga and Võru Counties) and more than 10 800 sites in Latvia (Valka, Valmiera, Alūksne and Limbaži regions) can be viewed in a public database of the geo-website of the Estonian Land Board <http://xgis.maaamet.ee> and Latvian State Forest Service website <http://mkt.vmd.gov.lv/cultural/>.

Various public activities were organized to increase people's environmental awareness and knowledge on local cultural heritage. A special exhibit was developed based on the new findings, introducing people to the project results.

Budget: 947 495.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 805 371.00 EUR

DELMA

Developing Estonian-Latvian Medical Area

Lead partner: University of Tartu (EE)

Partner(s): Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital (LV) Põlva Hospital Ltd. (EE) South Estonian Hospital Ltd. (EE) Valga Hospital (EE) Vidzeme Hospital, Ltd. (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2010-10-01 - 2012-09-30

Description:

A project aimed to increase cohesion in the management of public services and resources in the health care sector. Among various activities related to closer cooperation and experience exchange, the hospitals are working on developments in the area of regenerative medicine. The long term goal is to generate tissues for transplant operations and cells for biopharmaceutical products.

Budget: 1 790 867.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 1 522 237.00 EUR

Demo Farm

Development of Latvian-Estonian Network for Demonstration of Environmentally Friendly Farming Practices

Lead partner: Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre (LV)

Partner(s): Estonian Fund for Nature (EE) Latvian Fund for Nature (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area, 1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2009-10-01 - 2011-09-30

Description:

The project is aimed at development of Latvian – Estonian network for demonstration of environmentally friendly farming practices.

Following an open competition in both countries, a network of economically most successful and environmentally friendliest farms has been established. Altogether 20 successful farms (10 in each country) were selected and further provided with training and necessary practical adjustments to serve as demonstration farms for visitors. The status of a demonstration farm means that the farm can be visited as a good example by other farmers, field experts, as well as general public and media.

The selected farm owners got a chance to engage in series of joint practical training, as well as received farm management plans prepared by experts for each individual farm, providing economic and environmental analysis and suggesting new practices towards even more sustainable farming. Demonstration capacity was strengthened for the farms through trainings on environment, nature protection, economical aspects and visitor treatment, as well as basic Estonian and Latvian language lessons. There have been exchange trips organized for the Latvian farmers to Estonia and Estonians to Latvia, during which the participants could already apply their new knowledge - also ask about the farm animals in the other language. Networking activities have been very crucial part of the project.

Apart from the selected demonstration farms, the project "Demo Farm" has also collected the best experience in the field of nature friendly and economically sustainable farm management in Latvia and Estonia, to be distributed in a published format as recommendations for sustainable farming.

Budget: 888 554.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 755 270.00 EUR

Eagles

Eagles cross borders

Lead partner: Latvian Fund for Nature (LV)

Partner(s): Estonian Ornithological Society (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2011-07-01 - 2013-06-30

Description:

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

Budget: 360 502.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 299 217.00 EUR

Gauja/Koiva

Towards joint management of the transboundary Gauja/Koiva river basin district

Lead partner: Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology (LV)

Partner(s): Baltic Environmental Forum - Estonia (EE) Baltic Environmental Forum - Latvia (LV) Estonian University of Life Sciences (EE) Institute of Biology, University of Latvia (LV) Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development (LV) Tallinn University of Technology (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area, 1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2011-07-01 - 2013-10-31

Description:

The river basin district Gauja/Koiva is transboundary, shared between two countries - Estonia and Latvia. Even a majority of the basin lies in Latvia, the waters from Latvia flow into Gulf of Riga, which is also shared by both countries. Due to stream directions, the waters from Latvia are brought to Estonian coasts, then to the open Baltic. Thus, it is essential to cooperate for agreeing on environmental objectives. Also, it is important that people living in the river basin know the waters, which they share and know how they can improve situation by using the resource better.

In the project "Gauja/Koiva", partners from Estonia and Latvia united efforts aiming at enhancement of the management of Gauja/Koiva river basin by implementing several joint actions and producing important outputs. For example, joint GIS maps for the whole Gauja/Koiva river basin district were created; an overview of existing methods on the water quality status and typology was produced, new data from monitoring and investigatory activities were obtained to assess the quality status, proposals for necessary changes to harmonize typology and quality classification were elaborated etc.

During the project a closer cooperation of Estonian and Latvia scientists was established in particular in development of the common classification system for biological elements of river and lake water bodies. Due to performed intensive investigations in lakes, rivers and coastal waters, the project obtained needed knowledge on the status of the transboundary water bodies shared between two countries, for which sufficient information has been lacking so far. Thus in long-term the inhabitants and business of the Gauja/Koiva basin will have more economical water management system.

The project provided very valuable results for state authorities for elaboration of the river basin management plan of Gauja/Koiva river. The project delivered proposals on coordinated and harmonised methodologies and tools for river basin management planning.

More information on project website: <http://gauja.balticrivers.eu/>

Budget: 865 585.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 718 435.00 EUR

GORWIND

Gulf of Riga as a Resource for Wind Energy

Lead partner: Marine Systems Institute at Tallinn University of Technology (EE)

Partner(s): Estonian Fund for Nature (EE) Estonian University of Life Sciences (EE) Latvian Fund for Nature (LV) Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology (LV) University of Latvia (LV) University of Tartu (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area, 1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2010-11-01 - 2012-10-31

Description:

The project carries out a comprehensive research for the future wind parks in the Gulf of Riga through analyzing the wind energy policies in both countries, obtaining reliable marine wind information, considering the environmental aspects, and involving in the discussions the relevant authorities, business partners and local people.

During the project, research institutes of both countries have been analyzing in detail the legislation and strategic plans for the wind parks in the Gulf of Riga, current situation with the use of wind energy, regulations related to building, environment, sea management, fishery and territorial planning. Private and public stakeholders from different fields have been brought together in policy forums and started a more active discussion and cooperation for effective wind energy use in future.

The project also includes research on wind measurements, tracking of the wintering and habitat areas for seals migrating and breeding birds. It is planned to use the thorough results of the relevant studies and also involve the local people and various authorities in the process of selecting the most suitable areas for wind parks.

Read more on the project website <http://gorwind.msi.ttu.ee/home/info!>

Budget: 1 444 612.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 1 227 920.00 EUR

Green Corridor

Tuned nature management in transboundary area of Estonia and Latvia

Lead partner: Nature Conservation Agency (LV)

Partner(s): Estonian Environmental Board (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2011-11-01 - 2013-10-31

Description:

In a joint project of the Latvian Nature Conservation Agency and Estonian Environmental Board Põlva-Valga-Võru region administration, partners 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.

Budget: 331 056.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 274 776.00 EUR

JATE

Building Cross-border Capacity to Perform Joint Activities in Tough Environment

Lead partner: State Fire and Rescue Service of Republic of Latvia (LV)

Partner(s): Estonian Rescue Board (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2014-01-01 - 2015-06-30

Description:

State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia and Estonian Rescue Board are seeking to improve first responders' efficiency and effectiveness regarding response time to an emergency and at the same time develop capacity and capability to work in rough environment such as areas with a difficult or limited access and remote areas with a shortage of water resources. The main identified problems for such territories in the border area are grass wildfires, bush fires and open peat and forest fires.

Budget: 3 047 560.59 EUR

ERDF contribution: 1 199 996.16 EUR

Smart Gardens

Smart Botanic Gardens

Lead partner: National Botanic Garden of Latvia (LV)

Partner(s): Environmental Development Association (LV) Society of Friends of the BG of the University of Tartu (EE) University of Tartu (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 1. Increased cohesion of the Programme area,
1.2 Enhancing joint management of public services and resources

Start date and end date: 2011-09-01 - 2014-03-31

Description:

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

Budget: 506 200.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 399 487.00 EUR

Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area

2.1 Facilitating business start-up and development

BaltOrgPotato

Baltic Organic Potato for the World Markets

Lead partner: Aloja Starkelsen, Ltd. (LV)

Partner(s): Association of Latvian Organic Agriculture (LV) Estonian Biodynamic Association (EE) Institute of Economics, Latvian Academy of Science (LV) Jõgeva Plant Breeding Institute (EE) Potato Growers and Producers Association (LV) State Plant Breeding Institute in Priekuļi (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.1 Facilitating business start-up and development

Start date and end date: 2011-07-01 - 2013-06-30

Description:

Seven actors of the organic farming field jointly facilitate the competitiveness of the Estonian and Latvian organic potatoes and create a joint production chain. The project partners are Ltd. Aloja Starkelsen, Potato Growers and Producers Association, Association of Latvian Organic Agriculture, Estonian Biodynamic Association, State Plant Breeding Institute of Priekuļi, Jõgeva Plant Breeding Institute and Institute of Economics of the Academy of Science of Latvia. More information: www.baltorgpotato.com.

Budget: 354 576.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 254 488.00 EUR

Boost BioBusiness

Boosting Estonian-Latvian Cross-border Entrepreneurship in Life Sciences & Medicine Related to Biotechnology and Medical ICT

Lead partner: Entrepreneurship Development Centre for Biotechnology and Medicine (EE)

Partner(s): Archimedes Foundation (EE) Business Innovation Centre of Latvian Electronic Industry (LV) Latvia Technology Park (LV) University of Latvia (LV) University of Tartu (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.1 Facilitating business start-up and development

Start date and end date: 2010-02-01 - 2011-07-31

Description:

With the goal to boost business in the areas of biotechnology and IT focused life sciences, the project is forming a regional cluster of the relevant SMEs and research & development institutions in both countries. These relevant stakeholders are brought together in thematic seminars, cross-border matchmaking and experience exchange events. The international competitiveness of the regional biotechnology and IT focused life science businesses have been raised with the help of better cross-border networks and public-private partnerships.

Budget: 328 331.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 279 081.35 EUR

Buy Local

Sustainable Use of Local Natural Resources and Cultural Heritage for Business Development in Setomaa and Ape Regions

Lead partner: Union of Setomaa Rural Municipalities (EE)

Partner(s): Ape Regional Council (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.1 Facilitating business start-up and development

Start date and end date: 2009-08-01 - 2011-12-31

Description:

The needs and socio-economic circumstances of Setomaa and Ape regions are quite similar - therefore cooperation is the best way to discover new perspectives for the local producers and increase sustainability and competitiveness of the common region. With this idea, the project has been actively researching the demands for the local production, revealing the potential of the local natural, renewable energy and human resources, and accordingly developing of skills and technologies to use these resources.

In co-operation with research institutions, partners have assessed the various types of local resources and selected 5 fields for further analysis - clay products, wood processing, sheep and goat farming, gardening products and use of renewable energy resources in public houses. Comprehensive analysis of each of these fields have been further carried out, drawing the perspectives for the local producers in the specific region.

A joint competence centre was developed in Obinitsa, Setomaa (EE), where the locally activated entrepreneurs, NGOs and municipality representatives from both countries have been meeting on a regular basis and discussing the results of the economic feasibility studies. Joint trainings have been provided for the local producers in the same premises and during field trips to Gaujiena, Vireši, Trapene and Ape. Also a joint wood processing incubation centre is being developed for the local producers in Ape, to enable them applying their skills in the fields marked as promising by the timber sector feasibility study.

Besides the local training and networking activities, the local producers from Setomaa and Ape have participated in a field trip to food, wool and timber manufacturers in West Scotland, where they found various good examples of how to develop the local businesses.

Read more about the project [here](#) (in Latvian and Estonian).

Budget: 474 047.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 402 940.00 EUR

DELBI

Integrated Business Development in South Estonia and North Latvia

Lead partner: Estonian Business Chamber in Latvia (LV)

Partner(s): Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LV) Tartu City Government (EE) Valga Town Government (EE) Vidzeme Region Vocational Education Development Competence Centre (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.1 Facilitating business start-up and development

Start date and end date: 2012-01 - 2014-03

Description:

In order to help the small and medium size enterprises and start-ups to access the cross-border market, as well facilitate cross-borders partnership in different fields, a joint project with wide range of activities was carried out in cooperation between the Latvian Chamber of Commerce, Estonian Business Chamber in Latvia and Tartu and Valga Municipalities (EE).

Project noticed that on both sides of the border companies lack necessary contacts to act adequately in the neighbouring market, therefore a virtual joint contact point (one-stop-shop) for business support in Estonia and Latvia was established. Virtual platform helped to facilitate the activities of Latvian businesses in Estonia and vice versa. Altogether 29 events were organized with the aim to raise general awareness of the need of networking and general knowledge of the neighbouring country's economic and business culture. Events included informative seminars as well as training models.

During the project a survey about Estonia-Latvia cross-border small and medium size enterprises' cooperation for expansion to neighbouring markets was carried out in order to map companies' needs and challenges concerning their competitiveness, development and internationalization. Also now the survey with participation of 150 and 154 Latvian companies could serve as a good basis for understanding the business environment's situation better and developing network services based on the needs of enterprises.

Budget: 277 083.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 229 979.00 EUR

EstLat Pharma

Promotion of cross-border partnership between Estonia and Latvia for development of antiviral drugs

Lead partner: TBD-Biodiscovery (EE)

Partner(s): Grindeks, AS (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.1 Facilitating business start-up and development

Start date and end date: 2011-08-01 - 2012-07-31

Description:

This was a cooperation between two private companies: an Estonian contract research company TBD-Biodiscovery experienced in synthesis of chemicals for pharmaceutical markets, and a Latvian pharma company Grindex with extensive experience in pharmaceutical market and big scale production. This cross-border partnership allowed to combine the complementary competences promoting the development of innovative product - new generic antiviral drug, that is now available. The project contributed to the increased export sales of the region, originated from the economic activities with higher value added. Also the competitiveness and experience of the regional companies allowing to start projects for production of other niche pharmaceuticals for EU and other international markets increased. Success and remarkable results made it possible to create knowledge based and highly paid jobs in the region (e.g. 15 positions by 2015 for TBD-Biodiscovery).

Budget: 279 800.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 139 900.00 EUR

FoodArt

Developing rural food businesses competitiveness by cross-border artisan food networking

Lead partner: Sigulda Regional Council (LV)

Partner(s): Estonian University of Life Sciences (EE) Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre (LV) Põlvamaa Development Center (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.1 Facilitating business start-up and development

Start date and end date: 2011-09-01 - 2013-08-31

Description:

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. Joint trainings and experience exchanges for rural producers, as well as networking events with gourmet sector representatives have been organised.

Budget: 379 156.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 314 700.00 EUR

GoodFruit

Increasing Competitiveness of Estonian and Latvian Food Industry Based on New and Improved Local Fruit and Berry Product Development

Lead partner: Estonian University of Life Sciences (EE)

Partner(s): Berry Farming LLC (EE) Farm Lāses (LV) Farm Pīlādži (LV) Partnership of Kandava (LV) Püre Horticultural Research Center (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.1 Facilitating business start-up and development

Start date and end date: 2008-07-01 - 2011-08-31

Description:

Partners of this project have been sharing their efforts and knowledge to raise the general competitiveness of the local fruit and berry businesses that form an important agricultural industry in both countries. To achieve this, project partners concentrated on both upgrading their infrastructure and building contacts with enterprises. The project introduced novel storage methodologies, upgraded infrastructure in both countries, as well as carried out active networking with enterprises (Estonian and Latvian SMEs), offering them know-how and various product development and storage related services.

Estonian-Latvian Fruit and Berry Product Development Competence Centre was established to address the common problem – failure of local fruit and berry producers to ensure accessibility and competitiveness of their production in the market due to obsolete technologies of storage and processing. In addition, a product development centre was opened in Polli and a modern storage centre in Püre - for the use of both Estonian and Latvian producers.

A row of seminars on processing and storage issues have been held in both Latvia and Estonia alongside with field trips to local fruit and berry enterprises. These events were actively attended by local producers from both countries. To gain knowledge and international experience, project partners visited also international trade fairs "Interpoma" in Italy and "Fruit Logistics" in Germany. In the result of these intense cooperation activities, leading Estonian and Latvian horticultural researchers and experts (Püre and Polli centres, their industrial partners, relevant public institutions and NGOs) have developed a strong cross-border network.

Enterprises have started to actively use the upgraded services provided by this network. To promote these services, project has organized local cross-border fruit and berry fairs in Püre (Mikelji Bazaar) and Polli (Apple Blossom Festival) and presented the Goodfruit Network in various thematic trade fairs.

Budget: 1 000 000.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 720 500.00 EUR

Protolab Network

Increasing Competitiveness of Estonian and Latvian Mechatronics Sector

Lead partner: Tartu Science Park (EE)

Partner(s): Ogre Business and Innovation Incubator (LV) Ventspils University College (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area,
2.1 Facilitating business start-up and development

Start date and end date: 2008-12-23 - 2010-12-22

Description:

During the project, a strong cross-border integrated network of Protolabs (Product Development, Training and Testing Centres) was created. These centres support development of relevant industries, helping to shift their focus from the traditional routes to more high tech and higher value added sectors for the benefit of the local entrepreneurs.

The partnership and the strong need for this kind of network arose from the common interests, yet distinctive strengths of the partners. The institutional and regional industry profiles were similar to some extent (metal and machinery industry, electronics industry), however, each organization had specific competence from the more advanced mechatronics-related sectors in their region.

During the project, local protolabs in Ventspils, Ogre and Tartu have been developed and equipped to provide various advanced mechatronics services to the local companies. Thanks to the special technologies and consultations provided by the protolabs, companies specializing in different technological fields are able to test and develop more competitive products.

The services provided by the protolab network have been widely promoted via professional circles and regional fairs. By the end of 2010, already more than 40 businesses had used them.

Visit also the project website: <http://www.protolab.io/>

Budget: 1 068 100.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 907 885.00 EUR

SIB-Net

Small Innovative Business Promotion Network

Lead partner: Riga Planning Region (LV)

Partner(s): Institute of Baltic Studies (EE) Stockholm School of Economics in Riga (LV)
Tartu Science Park (EE) Ventspils High Technology Park (LV) Ventspils University College (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area,
2.1 Facilitating business start-up and development

Start date and end date: 2010-06-01 - 2012-05-31

Description:

The aim of the project is to promote new innovative high growth firms, e.g. "gazelles", by encouraging entrepreneurial creativity, providing the necessary support and evaluating needs for early stage risk finance. Project aims to solve the common market failure in the region to release innovative spinouts from regional research centres and higher education institutions.

The project is carrying out a complex activity package to increase creativity and readiness to start entrepreneurship. It also works on developing financial schemes for the support of perspective business ideas. During the project, already a number of creativity fostering seminars have been organized for potential business idea developers and relevant intermediaries.

As one of the main project activities, innovative business idea contest was carried out in two stages. It especially focused on various technological ideas with good business potential. The authors of the most promising ideas were awarded and provided with special training to carry their plans further.

Read more under project website www.sibnetwork.eu!

Budget: 561 788.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 477 520.00 EUR

Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area

2.2 Increasing the attractiveness of the Programme area

Active Tourism - attractive feature of Madona and Põlva

Lead partner: Madona Regional Council (LV)

Partner(s): Põlva Municipality (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.2 Increasing the attractiveness of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2009-06-19 - 2010-11-19

Description:

The project addressed the challenges faced by the traditional winter recreation providers due to climate change and the increasing demands for modern tourism services.

One of the goals was to strengthen the co-operation network among different stakeholders dealing with active tourism in cross-border regions and eventually come up with a joint strategy and marketing plan. In addition, the activities included experience exchanges and joint trainings for tourism sector specialists, thematic camps for youth, and various other winter-tourism related events for wider public.

Important aspect of the project was enhancement of the technical basis for active tourism in the winter season. New snow machines were purchased to ensure continuity of the provided winter recreation services in the partner municipalities.

Budget: 475 990.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 404 592.00 EUR

Beach Hopping

Towards the Blue Flag on Baltic Beaches

Lead partner: Saulkrasti Regional Council (LV)

Partner(s): Audru Municipality (EE) Carnikava Municipality (LV) Häädemeeste Municipality (EE) Jūrmala City Council (LV) Salacgrīva Regional Council (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.2 Increasing the attractiveness of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2008-09-01 - 2011-06-30

Description:

The project has been implemented by 7 coastal municipalities situated around the Gulf of Riga in the Baltic, which decided to join their efforts and make the beaches along the coast of the Gulf of Rīga safer and more attractive.

Using the Blue Flag as a benchmark, municipalities worked to improve the lifeguard services and beach safety. Water safety seminars were held at the local schools, posters with basic water safety tips produced and posted in relevant places. A lot of effort was put into developing quality lifeguard services – a lifeguard training programme was developed, and certified trainers were prepared to lead further trainings. During series of outdoor and indoor trainings carried out within the project, a video training material was produced to serve the future training needs. Also the special equipment for lifeguards was provided by the project.

Numerous beach facilities were installed during the project, such as changing cabins, lifeguard towers, sport ground, parking lot, and public toilets. Project team also organized a number of clean-up campaigns, collecting the garbage from the beach and nearby woods jointly with the local inhabitants.

Through cooperation between the municipalities, all the different beaches represented in the project have been promoted as attractive destinations for the visitors of each local area.

Thanks to the overall improvements, people can enjoy nicely developed beaches along the coastal line from Jūrmala to Audru, which in turn helps the local businesses and further development of the area.

Budget: 1 894 194.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 1 610 065.00 EUR

IAVV

Increasing Attractiveness of Valga and Valka

Lead partner: Valga Town Government (EE)

Partner(s): Valka Municipality (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area,
2.2 Increasing the attractiveness of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2008-10-01 - 2010-12-31

Description:

The project has been implemented by the twin-towns of Valga and Valka to increase the attractiveness of the common areas and provide larger choice of public services for tourists, businesses, and local Latvian and Estonian communities.

During the project, public areas along the Pedele River were significantly improved, providing pleasant recreation places for inhabitants and visitors. A newly built children's playground has made the common area more family friendly, while a new cycling path attracts the active recreation lovers.

Among the project benefits are also technical projects for larger objects planned in future: joint Valga-Valka Visitor's Centre, ice hall for inhabitants from both sides of the border, as well as military bunkers reconstructed as a tourism object.

Budget: 2 318 194.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 1 970 465.00 EUR

One Vacation - Two Countries

Raising the Attractiveness and Competitiveness of Northern Kurzeme in Latvia and Saaremaa Island in Estonia

Lead partner: Ventspils City Council (LV)

Partner(s): Kuressaare City Government (EE) Talsi Region Tourism Information Centre (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.2 Increasing the attractiveness of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2009-06-01 - 2011-05-31

Description:

The project has been promoting the tourism offer in North Kurzeme and Saaremaa Island and emphasizing the natural advantages of the coastal municipalities. Beaches of the participating municipalities were improved during the project, allowing to meet the requirements for Blue Flag certificates. Joint visibility of the North Kurzeme region and Saaremaa Island was raised by various promotional activities. A special Baltic Sea related environmental competition between the schools of Ventspils and Kuressaare was organized in March 2011 as a way to reach out to the young audience (see the pictures below).

Budget: 839 876.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 713 895.00 EUR

Riverways

Development of water tourism as nature and active tourism component in Latvia and Estonia

Lead partner: Kurzeme planning region (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.2 Increasing the attractiveness of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2013-01-15 - 2015-06-14

Description:

Rivers, lakes and coastline are important resources of the Programme area, which supports water tourism development. Both – in Latvia and in Estonia water tourism is part of active and nature tourism with high development potentials. Existing tourism offers so far is limited to the local market and is concentrated in most popular areas, but the number of rivers suitable for boating is larger, accessible starting from early spring till late autumn, decreasing also problem of seasonality. Lakes as water tourism elements are quite popular already, while sea kayaking is getting more and more popular and this requires corresponding infrastructure to be developed.

Domestic target market has great potential to grow. Focused offer, packages for different target groups (Families with children, 1-day leisure boaters, 2-5 day boating trips etc.) and joint marketing and cooperation between the boating tourism operators and other tourism stakeholders is precondition to attract foreign tourists to the area. Main target markets for the active tourism products, including boating, are Lithuania, Finland, Russia and Germany.

While planning increase of tourism flow and wise management of it, it is necessary to plan also proper infrastructure, in order to reduce negative impacts and load on nature resources and to ensure sustainable use of resources. This would also support growing needs of tourists for safety and qualitative services and would increase also spendings of tourists in local economies.

Nature and active tourism tourists interested in exploring nature values will benefit from developed infrastructure and will be target of marketing activities of the project.

Separate niche market segments will ensure effective use and load of developed infrastructure and bring benefit to the Programme area:

(1) Incentives, for which special packages are developed to enjoy and explore nature products; (2) Fishermen; (3) Rivers and lakes cruise leisure tourists; (4) 1 day -5 day boating tourists (families with children, adventure seekers, leisure tourists etc). Targeted marketing activities will be elaborated to address above mentioned niche segments.

Budget: 2 168 674.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 1 800 000.00 EUR

ViSoEst by Bike

Go Cycling Through Vidzeme and Southern Estonia

Lead partner: Vidzeme Tourism Association (LV)

Partner(s): Amata Municipality Council (LV) Ape Regional Council (LV) Gulbene Municipality Council (LV) Latvian Tourism Development Agency (LV) Madona Regional Council (LV) Mālpils Regional Council Ogre Regional Council (LV) Sigulda Regional Council (LV) Valga County Government (EE) Valka Municipality (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.2 Increasing the attractiveness of the Programme area

Start date and end date: 2009-04-01 - 2010-12-23

Description:

To strengthen cycling tourism in the region of Vidzeme and Southern Estonia, this project connected the bike roads and smaller routes in both countries and developed an impressive cross-border route *Tour de LatEst*. This route goes through both countries and its length is 1075 - 1296 km (with shorter and longer options). It is very versatile - by taking this route, one can learn about the heritage of cultural history of Latvians and Estonians, visit the most popular tourism objects, and see the daily lives of the local inhabitants. The route crosses several protected natural territories of European importance – national and nature parks, scenic areas, and the biosphere reserve.

The project involved comprehensive route preparation and testing work, as well as lots of technical adjustments - over thousand special road signs for *Tour de LatEst* route were installed in both countries, around 60 informative stands were placed throughout the whole route, and almost two hundred bicycle parking places and more than thirty resting places were created. Technical projects were made for improving also the road quality in future.

Tour de LatEst route has been widely promoted by route-map and guiding brochure in LAT, LIT, EST, ENG, FIN, RUS, GER languages. These materials have been distributed in tourism info centres and municipalities, as well as during route presentations in variety of international thematic events in Helsinki, Utrecht, Tartu, Riga, Hamburg, Tallinn and Vilnius. *Tour de LatEst* was officially launched with an opening marathon in July 2010, where around 100 participants tested the whole route. There has been extensive publicity for the route, as well as for its notable opening marathon. Also a promotional video material was made to show the whole route to the potential cycling tourists (watch below).

At the end of the project, a conference was organized to discuss the future of the cycling tourism in the region and find good ideas to develop it further.

Read more: <http://tourdelatest.vidzeme.com/en/>

Budget: 1 703 139.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 1 447 668.00 EUR

Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area

2.3 Enhancing employable skills and human resources

Skills Centre

Increasing Competitiveness of Estonian and Latvian Mechatronics Sector

Lead partner: Ogre Business and Innovation Incubator (LV)

Partner(s): Tartu Science Park (EE) Ventpils University College (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 2. Higher competitiveness of the Programme area, 2.3 Enhancing employable skills and human resources

Start date and end date: 2011-01-01 - 2012-06-30

Description:

The project aims to increase the local competitiveness in the industrial field of mechatronics. This is being achieved by creating strong cross-border Skills Centre for analysis, knowledge transfer and consulting, raising the competence of entrepreneurs, staff and students of vocational & higher education institutions in the field of product development. Skills Centre is being established to offer specialized trainings and provide the target industries with relevant know-how in different stages of the product development process.

Budget: 594 500.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 475 600.00 EUR

Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities

3.1. Improving the environment for active and sustainable communities

(D)rain for Life

Promoting Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in Estonia-Latvia Cross-border Area to Improve the Environment for Active and Sustainable Communities

Lead partner: Latvian Association of Spatial Planners (LV)

Partner(s): Estonian University of Life Sciences (EE) Society Technologies Foundation (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.1. Improving the environment for active and sustainable communities

Start date and end date: 2012-09-01 - 2013-08-31

Description:

The project explored the best ways to develop sustainable urban drainage systems in Estonia and Latvia. Joint feasibility studies in Baldone (LV), Tartu (EE), Rīga (LV) and Pärnu (EE) have been carried out looking for the most efficient ways to drain surface waters back into the environment in ecological ways without expensive piping works. The local community groups have been actively involved in discussions and educated about these issues.

Budget: 114 010.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 96 908.50 EUR

AHU

Activating Vital and Healthy Community by Promoting Winter Sports in Alüksne-Haanja Uplands

Lead partner: Haanja Municipality (EE)

Partner(s): Alüksne Regional Council (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.1. Improving the environment for active and sustainable communities

Start date and end date: 2008-09-03 - 2009-09-02

Description:

Local governments of Alüksne and Haanja have been strengthening the ties between Latvians and Estonians through the winter sport activities. Both places have traditionally become the centres for the winter sports thanks to the climate specifics in this border region. The project helped to further develop the skiing and biathlon traditions. Through joint efforts, the sport and training facilities were improved, meanwhile promoting the overall idea of healthy lifestyle in both communities. Winter camp for young sports fans, training course for beginner skiers and People's Ski Run were organized to activate community and promote vital and healthy lifestyle. On the level of professional sports, project held a camp for young biathletes, Study Day for biathlon referees and International Biathlon Competition. In addition to personal cross-border contacts and sharing of skills among the athletes and instructors the project ensured better material and technical standards of the sports centres.

Budget: 338 100.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 287 385.00 EUR

Art School "Walk"

Development of Valka Art School as Common Cross-border Cultural Education Centre

Lead partner: Valka Municipality (LV)

Partner(s): Valga Town Government (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.1. Improving the environment for active and sustainable communities

Start date and end date: 2012-03-01 - 2013-08-31

Description:

The project allows Estonian youth from Valga (EE) to study in the Valka Art School (LV). As there is no separate art school in the twinning town Valga, and Valka Art School is now developing as a joint arts education centre, offering educational programs in addition to Latvian also in Estonian and Russian languages. In 2013./2014. academic year there are 256 students at Valka Art School, 70 of them are from Valga on the Estonian side. 23 of them study in Estonian and 47 in Russian language. During the 1st milestone of the project several important activities have taken place. Most importantly the project team has decided to translate the Latvian art education programmes into Estonian and use them from September 1, 2012 in Valka Art School. The Ministry of Education of Estonia has given the "green light" for the project and for Estonian language programmes in Valka Art School to be implemented, and have insisted that no licence should be received from them to start the educational process in Valka Art School in Estonian language.

Budget: 144 035.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 122 429.75 EUR

Connecting Stende and Võhma

Promoting the Local Communities of Stende and Võhma

Lead partner: Talsi Regional Council (LV)

Partner(s): Võhma Town Council (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.1. Improving the environment for active and sustainable communities

Start date and end date: 2011-01-06 - 2012-12-31

Description:

Stende and Võhma have been Twinning Towns since 2001, and the project aims at strengthening their cooperation through thoroughly planned cultural exchange activities. The project involves different types of cultural exchange events - series of workshops for local singers, dancers and craftsmen, specially organized Latvian Days in Võhma and Estonian Days in Stende. These activities introduce the local people to the culture of the neighbouring country, meanwhile vitalizing the community life in both towns.

Budget: 324 312.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 275 665.00 EUR

Cross Border Ball

Promoting the Ball Sports Tradition in the Border Region

Lead partner: Alūksne Regional Council (LV)

Partner(s): Ape Regional Council (LV) Lasva Municipality (EE) Lasva Society of Recreational Sports (Lasva SRS) (EE) Võru Municipality (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.1. Improving the environment for active and sustainable communities

Start date and end date: 2009-07-14 - 2011-09-30

Description:

A project promoting the ball sports tradition in the border region has been carried out in cooperation of a number of municipalities. It aimed to develop the necessary conditions for the healthy lifestyle with the help of improved sports facilities - renovated sports halls, basketball and valleyball courts, new sports equipment. The renovated facilities are all located in the border area and used by both Estonian and Latvian communities.

Different types of sport events have been organized in all the participating municipalities during the project. Football, basketball and valleyball competitions, camps and general sport days have involved altogether a few hundred participants.

Budget: 343 500.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 291 975.00 EUR

House of Sounds

House of Sounds - Renovation of Instrumental Music Traditions in Vidzeme and South Estonia

Lead partner: Pārdaugava Folk Music Society (LV)

Partner(s): Traditional Accordion Society (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.1. Improving the environment for active and sustainable communities

Start date and end date: 2012-09-14 - 2013-11-13

Description:

The project aim to renew skills of creating and playing old traditional instruments (diatonic accordion "Ieviņa" and many-stringed instrument *kokle / kannel*) during trainings for interested musician groups in Krape (LV) and Põlva (EE). Trainings are accompanied by folk music festival with concerts, special workshops and exhibits. Traditional playing methodology are also be distributed via broadcasts and made available online.

Budget: 135 062.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 114 802.70 EUR

Seto-Suiti Renaissance

Supporting the renaissance of Seto and Suiti ethnic cultures

Lead partner: Sihtasutus Seto Instituut (EE)

Partner(s): Alsunga municipality (LV) Ethnical Cultur Center Suiti Foundation (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.1. Improving the environment for active and sustainable communities

Description:

Seto and Suiti are small ethnic groups, who share common problems and challenges related to the teaching of culture and traditions to new generations, to preservation traditional architecture and to making information about their history and culture available for different target groups. Partners together are looking for the best solutions and ideas for dissemination of information about heritage culture, for preservation and promotion of traditional architecture and for integration of heritage culture teaching to the educational programmes. Project supports social and cultural interaction of two communities.

Budget: 126 247.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 107 309.95 EUR

Sportborder

Towards Cross-border Sports Communities

Lead partner: Ape Regional Council (LV)

Partner(s): Rõuge Municipality (EE) Sports Society Skystar (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.1. Improving the environment for active and sustainable communities

Start date and end date: 2008-09-02 - 2012-03-01

Description:

Local governments of Ape and Rõuge and Sports Society Skystar have been working together on a project improving the accessibility and infrastructure of sports and recreational services for the rural communities on both sides of the border. Ice rinks and other joint facilities have been provided to the local Latvian and Estonian communities to bring them closer and develop further cooperation. Various thematic sports events and trainings have taken place within the project, involving schools, local authorities, sport societies, clubs and sport managers from both countries.

Visit also the website (<http://sportborder.rauge.ee/>) with pictures and more detailed descriptions (hosted by Rõuge Municipality).

Budget: 336 000.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 285 600.00 EUR

Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities

3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Artists for Development

Local Artists for Regional Development

Lead partner: Cēsis Culture and Tourism Center (LV)

Partner(s): Art Education Center "Trīs Krāsas" (LV) Tartu Centre for Creative Industries (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2011-09-01 - 2013-01-31

Description:

Cēsis Culture and Tourism Centre (LV), Tartu Centre for Creative Industries (EE) and NGO *Trīs krāsas* (LV) work together to strengthen the role of artists in the community life. Estonian and Latvian activists of various creative fields have been 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.

During the project, series of trainings have been provided for the artists and creative entrepreneurs in Tartu and Cēsis. These trainings have been led by a number of popular artists, who have obtained relevant experience in Denmark. Also several joint cultural events are taking place during the year 2012 - concerts, exhibits and creative workshops in Cēsis and Tartu, involving also students from the local art and music schools. The project also aims to compile recommendations for the policy makers to improve the development of creative industries in both towns.

Budget: 137 075.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 116 514.00 EUR

Cooperation for Sustainability

Through Youth Cooperation Towards More Sustainable Societies

Lead partner: Jaan Tõnissoni Instituut (EE)

Partner(s): Radošās iniciatīvas centrs (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2014-01-01 - 2014-12-31

Description:

In Latvia and Estonia there are 4 million people altogether. The youth is making around 20-25% of them. It is an ambitious, dynamic and energetic social group. Bringing together the young people from Latvia and Estonia in the frame of a grass-root project will generate the best interpersonal relationships allowing the participants understand each-other better. Mutual understanding of the neighbours will build bridges for cooperation not only in the interpersonal sphere but also nationally in wider that could serve as a supporting factor for the regional development beneficial for the EU at large.

Cooperation of the Latvian and Estonian youth hasn't been active during recent years. Institutions working with the youth are mostly engaged into in-country activities. Institutional and financial problems cause obstacles for developing cooperation of the youth from two countries, especially on the regional and local level. Lack of contacts between the youth of Latvia and Estonia has negative impact not only for the two countries but also for the EU causing difficulties to integrate into work life, weak knowledge and low interest about public policy, un-sufficient participation skills etc.

Objectives of the project are:

1. to increase the grass-root cooperation between the youth from Estonia and Latvia,
2. to promote the young people's environmental learning and education for bettering the awareness about sustainable lifestyle,
3. to enhance the youth skills to participate in the community life, to elaborate new necessary skills using unique project-work method that developswide range of social skills,
4. to establish sustainable personal contacts between the people enabling them to develop joint actions and other types of cooperation in the future.

Budget: 26 848.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 22 820.80 EUR

Cultural Cooperation for Intermediates

Continuous Cultural Cooperation in the Estonian-Latvian Border Area

Lead partner: Alūksne Regional Council (LV)

Partner(s): Haanja Municipality (EE) Rõuge Municipality (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2008-08-08 - 2009-11-07

Description:

The border area municipalities carried out a range of cultural activities to promote permanent ties and cultural exchanges between the Estonian and Latvian communities in their cross-border region.

The following joint events were organized during the project: Estonian day in Veclaicene, Day of Culture and Language in Ziemei, Song and Dance Festival in Rõuge, *Let's Sing and Dance Together!* in Märkalne and Celebration of Suur Munamägi in Haanja. These events brought together the performers from all partner municipalities, thus developing cultural cooperation among the active participants and audience in both countries. In addition, two training seminars were organized for people from partner municipalities on traditions in folk culture and image-building for cultural institutions. Partners also jointly visited Finland (Vesilahti municipality) to gain information about Finnish cultural management and establish new connections.

For improving the environment for joint cultural events, repairs and smaller renovation in local cultural centres was done (installation of electrical cable, renovation of hall, stage, windows, foyer and toilets), as well as necessary equipment obtained.

Budget: 343 500.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 291 975.00 EUR

Easy Together

Cross-border Knowledge Transfer of the Best Special Teaching Methods and Social Protection

Lead partner: Võru Järve School (EE)

Partner(s): Gaisma Special Boarding School (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2009-09-01 - 2011-06-30

Description:

The project helped to improve the situation for disabled people, especially young people with mental disabilities.

During the project, the two partners - specialized schools in Latvia and Estonia - organized a number of joint trainings and study tours for the disabled students and their parents. Experience was exchanged regarding specialized day centres, as well as villages created especially for young disabled people to help them develop independence, daily problem-solving and socialising skills.

Trainings and experience exchanges for teachers and parents helped to establish important networks, as well as come up with new jointly developed study materials, such as an easy-to-read self-help student handbook in both languages.

Budget: 49 930.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 42 441.00 EUR

Est-Lat Urban Activists

Improving Estonian-Latvian citizen education and urban development

Lead partner: Estonian Urban Lab (EE)

Partner(s): Society Technologies Foundation (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2011-06-17 - 2012-04-30

Description:

Active community cooperation starts between the activists in Tartu and Riga, interested in participation in the planning of the urban living environment. There have been 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.

Budget: 57 050.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 48 493.00 EUR

Est-O-Lat League

Improving Sustainability and Vitality of Orienteering on a Local Level

Lead partner: Estonian Orienteering Federation (EE)

Partner(s): Latvian Orienteering Federation (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2010-08-16 - 2012-08-15

Description:

Given the considerable experience of both Estonian and Latvian orienteering federations and local orienteering clubs, a joint project has been developed to improve the orienteering as sport and hobby for the people of both countries. Series of activities are taking place within the project - study days in 30 schools, training days for map developers, creating of new and high quality orienteering maps (covered area 110 km²) and 20 orienteering league competitions with nearly 12 000 participants.

Budget: 166 304.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 141 358.00 EUR

Festival "Friendship Through Football"

Lead partner: FC Santos (EE)

Partner(s): FB Gulbene 2005 (LV) NGO FK Abuls Smiltene (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2010-08-15 - 2011-02-14

Description:

Within this project, a group of local non-profit organizations from Estonia and Latvia organized joint football trainings and competitions for altogether approximately 1400 children from both countries. Using football as the main unifying theme, project also engaged youngsters in cultural and educational activities (including basic Estonian and Latvian language training) to develop closer ties between the Estonian and Latvian youth communities.

Budget: 59 525.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 50 596.00 EUR

FireSafe

Raising Awareness About the Work of Voluntary Firemen and Fire Safety Issues

Lead partner: State Fire and Rescue Service of Republic of Latvia (LV)

Partner(s): Aloja Regional Council (LV) Association of Latvian Voluntary Firemen Unions (LV) Häädemeeeste Municipality (EE) Salacgrīva Regional Council (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2009-12-01 - 2011-06-30

Description:

The overall objective of the project was to support the voluntary firemen services as important local initiative, and to raise fire-safety in Estonian and Latvian societies.

This was done by special informative events and materials developed for the general public and especially school students. Fire-safety seminars, open doors events at local fire and rescue services, special fire-safety trainings and camps were organized during the project.

Cooperation between Estonian and Latvian on voluntary firemen and chimney-sweepers was also developed through various joint events and conferences. In addition, the project developed museum expositions about the work of voluntary firemen unions in different historical periods and interactive public events.

Budget: 272 691.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 231 787.00 EUR

Hobby Slot Car Racing

Development of cooperation between Estonian-Latvian youth hobby modelists

Lead partner: Sindi Town Government (EE)

Partner(s): Limbaži Regional Council (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2011-09-14 - 2013-06-13

Description:

The project built 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 developed slot car tracks and organized joint experience and cultural exchange camps for the youngsters.

Budget: 33 970.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 28 875.00 EUR

Idea on the Border

Developing of Cross-border Trade Network

Lead partner: Ape Regional Council (LV)

Partner(s): Mõniste Municipality (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Description:

Closely located communities of Ape (LV) and Mõniste (EE) cooperated to maintain handicraft skills and promote joint craft markets on the Estonian-Latvian border, which were common in old times. While carrying out these initiatives, the local Estonians and Latvians actively networked and learned each other's language.

Budget: 71 377 EUR

ERDF contribution: 60 670 EUR

MLEDU

Media Literacy - 21st Century Approach to Education

Lead partner: Tartu Municipality (EE)

Partner(s): Madona Regional Council (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2010-09-23 - 2012-09-22

Description:

The project aims at increasing school students' media literacy and interest in local issues. This is done through improvement of media study programmes in local schools in the regions of Tartu and Madona, also attracting the media professionals. Seminars, practical workshops, study visits to media organizations and students' own creative activities are carried out within the project, and school exchanges help to improve the quality and attract higher interest of the Estonian and Latvian students in the media world. See also project coverage in Latvian National TV programme "iEspēja"

Budget: 58 756.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 49 943.00 EUR

MOTO

Improving Sustainability and Vitality of Local Communities by Developing Co-operation in Youth Amateur Motocross

Lead partner: Motorcycle Club K&K (EE)

Partner(s): Latvian Amateur Motosport Association (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2010-08-03 - 2011-08-02

Description:

This project helps two local motocross clubs to offer educative and interesting challenges like amateur training camps and competitions to youngsters (aged 5-16). The activities are targeted also to the local children living near the motocross tracks, as well as at improving the already existing contacts between the motocross clubs in both countries. In addition, the project is ensuring availability of easy and freely accessible, highly qualified and interactive study-materials of motocross.

Budget: 159 001.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 135 151.00 EUR

Radio Classics

Promotion of Youth Involvement in Professional Classical Music Performance

Lead partner: Latvian Radio (LV)

Partner(s): Estonian Public Broadcasting (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2012-05-01 - 2013-04-30

Description:

Cooperation between the classical music channels of the Estonian and Latvian national radios ensured wide public education - through series of special broadcasts and reportages, people expanded their knowledge about classical music life in various regions of the neighboring country. Young artists from local music schools have been particularly spotlighted via specially organized concert recordings.

Budget: 122 600.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 104 210.00 EUR

Reviving Joint History

Reviving Joint History of Estonia and Latvia

Lead partner: War Graves Committee of Latvia (LV)

Partner(s): Eesti Sojahaudade Hoolde Liit (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2014-04-01 - 2015-06-30

Description:

"Brāļu kapu komiteja" of Latvia in cooperation with the Estonian "Brāļu kapu komiteja" aim to bring to awareness the joint cultural historical heritage of Latvia and Estonia by utilizing the cultural and historical proof of WWI and Freedom fights, namely the joint burial places. Project objectives are bring to awareness the joint cultural and historical heritage of EE and LV by utilizing the historical testimonials of war soldier memorial burial places and monuments. 1. To teach youth about the joint history of Estonia and Latvia in the youth camps. 2. To develop a webpage informing the participants, media, families of the fallen soldiers, who died for our joint freedom. The web content have been integrated into the social media: Facebook, draugiem.lv, twitter.com, Google, netti.ee 3. To clean up the memorial burial sites of the fallen Estonian and Latvian soldiers. 4. To issue a research publication.

Budget: 109 820.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 93 347.00 EUR

SDF - Song and Dance Festivals

Supporting the Song and Dance Festival Tradition in Estonian-Latvian Border Areas

Lead partner: Euregio Pskov-Livonia, Estonian Section (EE)

Partner(s): Euregio Pskov-Livonia, Latvian Section (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2009-03-01 - 2011-12-09

Description:

The project was implemented to activate the cultural life and stimulate cultural exchange in the Estonian-Latvian border area. It mainly targeted Alūksne and Valka districts in Latvia and Valga, Võru and Põlva counties in Estonia. Part of the activities were especially focused on people with disabilities.

Altogether around 3000 participants from both countries participated in various singing and dancing events organized in Smiltene, Alūksne, Valka, Valga, Jaunanna, Sõmerpalu, Põlva, Parksepa, Misso, Paistu. Thanks to the project, people from small villages and remote border areas were given the feeling of participation in cross-border activities, and many of them have established new contacts and friendships. Various amateur groups are continuing the cooperation also beyond the project.

Budget: 122 542.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 104 161.00 EUR

Singing Neighbours

Development of Cross-border Choir Singing Culture

Lead partner: Võru Municipality (EE)

Partner(s): Baldone Regional Council (LV) Jūrmala City Council (LV) Ogre Regional Council (LV) Võru Town Government (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2009-03-19 - 2010-11-18

Description:

This cooperation project helped to build many new cross-border contacts, meanwhile strengthening the local cultural identities and sustaining choral music traditions in Estonia and Latvia.

During the project, five children and youth choirs from Võru, Ogre, Baldone and Jūrmala developed a close cooperation. They spent time together in joint camps and rehearsals, where they learned both Latvian and Estonian songs, along with some basic things from each other's language. In the following joint concerts the Latvian children performed the Estonian music and vice versa with the same enthusiasm as when singing their own well-known songs.

Within the project, also workshops and trainings for conductors were organized, and a new Estonian-Latvian songbook was compiled and issued. The project closed with emotional [festival in Baldone](#), where all the choirs joined in a parade and large concert.

Budget: 330 100.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 280 585.00 EUR

Still Active

Development of Cross-border Cooperation Among the Grassroots for Development of Sustainable Latvia-Estonia Borderland Communities

Lead partner: Latvian Community Initiative Foundation (LV)

Partner(s): Ape Regional Council (LV) Community House of Varstu (EE) Helme Municipality (EE) Mount Kõni Life School (LV) Naukšēni Regional Council (LV) Support Club for Ape Development (LV) Taagepera Society of Volunteers (EE) Varstu Municipality (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2010-06-14 - 2011-09-13

Description:

Cooperation between community groups of people aged 45 and more in the border regions - this is what the project „Still Active” aims at. The respective Estonian and Latvian community groups are jointly engaging in various social, cultural and economic activities - creative applied arts workshops, computer classes, entrepreneurship-focused seminars. Thanks to the large number of partners, the project activities take place in different border-area towns and villages, allowing the local communities to build new contacts and cooperation networks.

Budget: 217 643.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 184 997.00 EUR

Tolerance

Mentally Disabled Child Among Us

Lead partner: Anni Playground (EE)

Partner(s): Tartu University Hospital (EE) Wings of Hope (Cerību Spārni) (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2010-01-01 - 2011-11-30

Description:

Enhancing the development of mentally disabled children and their integration in society, meanwhile increasing the tolerance of community members towards the disabled – this is the main goal of the project carried out by two active and highly experienced grass-root NGOs dealing with disabled children and their families and the Genetic Centre of the Tartu University Hospital.

The project involves wide range of activities, starting from joint camps and networking of the targeted families to high-level discussions between the policy makers and experts. A lot of efforts have been made to raise the public awareness of mental disabilities and increase social acceptance and self-confidence of the target families. Also various specialized materials have been developed together by the Latvian and Estonian partners, including a handbook for families with disabled children.

Among the major project activities several joint Estonian-Latvian camps took place. Part of these were integration camps that brought together "regular" and mentally disabled children. In the mixed groups, the children learned to do various things together – engage in musical activities, applied arts workshops (using natural raw materials), special games, plays and presentations, as well as joint trips and recreation activities. Different joint camps were organized specifically for the families of the disabled children and field professionals (doctors, rehabilitation specialists, psychologists) - during those the parents have received the necessary advice, as well as formed international support networks.

To find out more, please visit the websites of the project partners!

Budget: 170 232.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 144 697.00 EUR

Young Active Creative

Vital Communities by Promotion of Youth Skills and Involvement

Lead partner: Põlva Town Government (EE)

Partner(s): Munalinn (EE) Ogre Regional Council (LV) Ogre Youth Club "Project Workshop" (LV) Rotaract Club of Ogre (LV)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2012-02-01 - 2013-04-30

Description:

Youth from Põlva (EE) and Ogre (LV) have come together in this project to jointly learn cultural management skills for visual and performing arts events. Meanwhile the young Estonians and Latvians have actively networked and engaged in real organizing of two youth festivals.

The project has joined active and creative youth from Ogre and Põlva county areas to the joint learning-by doing process aiming to widen both young musicians and visual artists opportunities to learn and perform together as well as develop managerial skills to organise international youth events and festivals. Both, young people in Ogres Novads and Põlva County widening their opportunities in hobby-education, self-development and performing but also finding new contacts and making friends. Thus cross-border cultural ties are stronger.

More information on the festivals organized within this project:

In Estonia: <http://ueejastufestival.ee/>

In Latvia: <http://www.citavide.lv/>

Budget: 137 731.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 117 071.35 EUR

Young Sailors

Cooperation of Young Sailors and Coaches of Estonia and Latvia

Lead partner: LASER class association Latvia (LV)

Partner(s): Latvian Sailing Federation (LV) Pärnu Yacht Club (EE) Saaremaa Association of Marine Sport (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2010-08-01 - 2012-01-31

Description:

A project promoting and facilitating training and competitive activities of young yachtsmen from Riga, Saaremaa and Pärnu. Cooperation between young sailors, their parents and coaches in both countries is taking place in the form of joint training camps, regattas, seminars and public sailing events.

Budget: 152 501.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 129 626.00 EUR

Youth for Synergy

Development of Cross-Border Co-operation of Young People for Promotion of Sustainable Youth

Lead partner: Latvian Community Initiative Foundation (LV)

Partner(s): Naukšēni Regional Council (LV) Parksepa Keskkool (EE) Smiltenes ģimnāzija (LV) Varstu Keskkool (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities, 3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2014-04-22 - 2015-06-21

Description:

Cross-border regions will be able to develop only if young educated people want to live, work and participate in the socio-economic processes there. Target group of the project are young people - secondary school students - since it is they who will build and develop cross-border regions. The project aims at promotion of co-operation among schools and young people in the cross-border by creating new contacts, exchange of educational and cultural experience, training and activating young people and facilitating their stay in the cross-border regions.

The overall objective of the project is to create a synergy from co-operation of active youth in the Program's area and show that the results of co-operative interaction among schools and young people from Latvia and Estonia are greater than the sum of their individual performance. Sub-objectives are: 1. to facilitate young people's creativity, innovative approach in searching for opportunities, thinking without the borders; 2. to develop/strengthen ties of young people in cross-border; 3. to improve capacities of young people to initiate and implement cross-border initiatives.

Budget: 141 839.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 120 563.15 EUR

Youth Initiatives and Co-operation

Support to West Estonian-Latvian youth initiatives and co-operation

Lead partner: Ventspils Youth Council (LV)

Partner(s): Triigi Adventure Beach (EE)

Priority and subpriority: Priority 3. Active, sustainable and integrated communities,
3.2 Promoting grass-root level actions

Start date and end date: 2012-01-01 - 2013-10-31

Description:

Ventspils Youth Council (LV) and Leisi parish supported NGO Triigi Adventure Beach in Saaremaa (EE) jointly organized 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.

Budget: 176 466.00 EUR

ERDF contribution: 149 996.00 EUR