

Interreg Estonia-Latvia programme
Citizen's Summary

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ANNEX TO THE ANNUAL
IMPLEMENTATION REPORT



Interreg
Estonia-Latvia
European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Interreg Estonia-Latvia programme is one of the 60 cross-border cooperation programmes operating along EU internal borders. By the end of 2019 altogether 51 Estonian-Latvian cooperation projects, representing 107 Estonian and 116 Latvian companies and organizations, were granted financial support from the **European Regional Development Fund**. As a result, 32.64 million euros were committed out of 36.27 million that were available for financing the cooperation in the framework of the programme. Contracts by the end of 2019 were concluded with 46 projects for a total amount of 29.68 million euros.

TERRITORY OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme area includes Hiiu, Jõgeva, Lääne, Põlva, Pärnu, Saare, Tartu, Valga, Viljandi and Võru counties in Estonia and Kurzeme, Pierīga, Rīga and Vidzeme regions in Latvia.

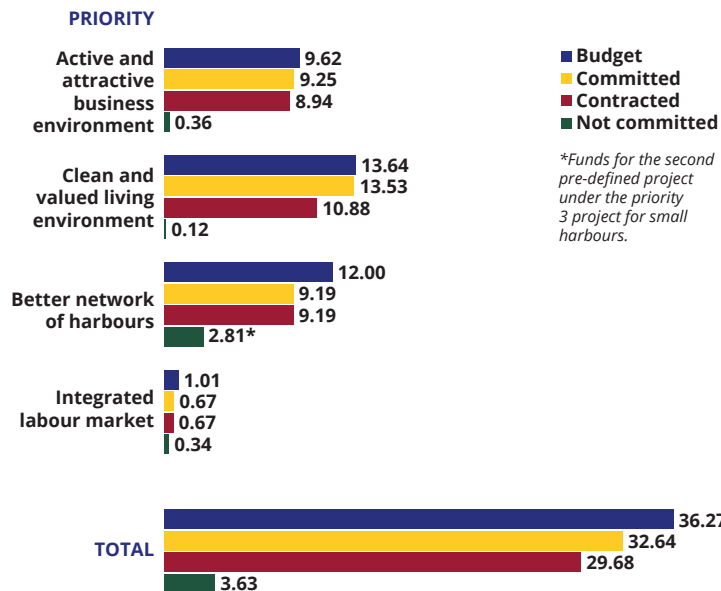
The programme plays a significant role in bringing together the programme's area Estonian and Latvian border regions and socio-economic partners which also contributes to addressing and resolving cross-border obstacles.

Through its support for a number of projects, the programme has helped to amplify existing national measures with additional cross-border investments to create integrated solutions that benefit both sides of the border.

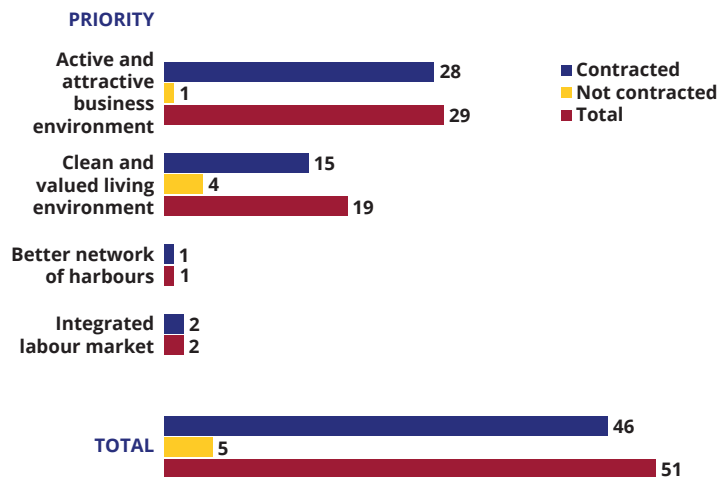


Interreg
Estonia-Latvia
European Regional Development Fund

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW, million EUR



PROJECTS



ACTIVE AND ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT



Wood and Furniture

Partners established cross-border wood and furniture sector network of Võru County and Vidzeme Planning Region to innovate industry. **329 participants took part in 11 joint project events and 30 SMEs benefited from the project activities.** [Design and export guidelines](#) help to understand product development processes and [videos](#) promote the regions and sectoral companies in the area. Lead partner – Vidzeme planning region. [🔗](#)



Social&Creative

Project partners created an informal network that includes entrepreneurs and municipalities from Estonia and Latvia. **206 participants benefited from 9 joint project events** like matchmaking seminars, contact-making trips, trade fair and the joint training program “To be the cross-border starter”. 6 new business ideas formed during the project lifetime. Lead partner - Riga planning region. [🔗](#)

EstLat Accelerate

Project partners carried out the pre-acceleration programme in three rounds. The first time entrepreneurs in each round went through 4 phases - involvement, hackathons, mentoring and graduation. **434 participants attended 28 joint pre-acceleration events** and 38 teams pre-accelerated through mentoring programmes. Partners also published a brochure [Quick guide to acceleration](#). Lead partner – the Baltic Innovation Agency. [🔗](#)

COOP Local

Project partners established 4 networks in berry and fruit, meat and milk, vegetables, herbs and plant, and handicraft sectors. In addition, they created a joint cross-border network that consists of sectoral network leaders with 20 members. **232 SME-s and 521 participants took part in 43 project events.** Web-based application [COOP Local catalogue](#) contains information about 66 businesses. Lead partner – the Union of Setomaa. [🔗](#)



ACTIVE AND ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT



PET Diagnostics

Companies TBD-Biodiscovery (Estonia) and PharmIdea (Latvia) created a **final dosage form of the PET-product** used in Positron emission tomography-computer tomography (PET-CT) for cancer, Alzheimer or Parkinson diagnostics. Partners also developed a full package of documentation, necessary for its implementation in nuclear medicine centres and hospitals. [🔗](#)

Capsules

Companies Mayeri Industries (Estonia) and Field and Forest (Latvia) developed a **laundry washing capsule** containing organic essential oils as natural fragrances in a water-soluble film. The new capsule is an innovative and environmentally friendly product for households. The use of organically grown local plants reduces the consumption of synthetic chemicals while encapsulating them in water-soluble film decreases the amount of waste produced. [🔗](#)



Baltic Geodata Marketplace

Companies Jāņa sēta Map Publishers (Latvia) and Reach-U (Estonia), leaders in the Baltic geospatial services, have created a unique set of solutions **GeoDataHub**. This self-service portal and geospatial API service usage platform allows companies and their technology consultants to create tailor-made geospatial digital tools to enhance company competitiveness. [🔗](#)

Whey valorisation

Companies Center of Food and Fermentation Technologies (Estonia) and Smiltenes piens (Latvia) developed production technology of syrup from lactose solution separated from the whey. Partners used a hydrolyzation of lactose into **galactose and glucose syrup (GGS)**. GGS offers a possible alternative to sucrose and glucose-fructose syrup in confectionery and bakery products or preparing ice cream. [🔗](#)





CLEAN AND VALUED LIVING ENVIRONMENT



Green Railways

Green Railways is a new non-motorized tourism route that is located on the old narrow-gauge railway causeways in South-Estonia and North-Latvia. Altogether, the route is ca 700 km long and includes original parts of narrow gauge railway lines, re-routing parts, Alūksne-Gulbene narrow-gauge railway and segments of bicycle route "Tour de LatEst". Lead partner – Vidzeme Tourism Association.



Coastal Hiking

Baltic Coastal Hiking is a long distance hiking route, part of E9, along the Baltic Sea coast and around the Gulf of Riga. The hiking route starts at the Lithuanian-Latvian border in the village of Nida in Latvia and finishes at the Port of Tallinn in Estonia. The length of the route is ca 1200 km, in Latvia 580 km and in Estonia 620 km. Lead partner – The Latvian Country Tourism Association „Lauku Ceļotājs”.



Livonian Culinary Route

Centuries back parts of Estonia and Latvia made up a historical region Livonia. **Flavours of Livonia** is a culinary route based on historical background and culinary traditions of Livonia and focuses on the promotion of locally grown and produced food. Project partners established strong regional co-operation networks between tourism and catering businesses and local food producers and farmers.

Lead partner – The Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce.



UNESCO tourism

'Living Cultures – United by the Unique' is a uniting slogan for 4 ethnic regions in Estonia and Latvia – Setomaa, Kihnu, Suiti and Livi coast, where local people still use cultural heritage in daily life. Setomaa, Kihnu and Suiti regions are already on the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO, but Livi coast applied. Project partners created a joint tourism offer that features the uniqueness of each region.

Lead partner – NGO Setomaa Tourism.



CLEAN AND VALUED LIVING ENVIRONMENT



SAFE SEA

Standard Operational Procedure and training materials, developed by the Estonian Rescue Board and the State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia, will improve environmental security in marine and coastal waters in the Gulf of Riga and Irbe Strait. Rescue services participated in joint trainings and acquired equipment for localisation of oil spill. 4 driveways to the beaches are built on the Latvian coasts. Lead partner – Kurzeme planning region.



GURINIMAS

Integrated nitrogen management system for Estonian and Latvian authorities, includes an integrated approach to reducing nitrogen pollution across sectors. Creation of the system involved an inventory and identified sectors that have the greatest impact of the nitrogen flows to the Gulf of Riga. But **virtual tool GURINIMAS** will help farmers understand the nitrogen cycle and nitrogen that is generated in their farm. Lead partner – Estonian Ministry of Environment.



Smart Energy Community

More than 24000 people were reached in Estonia and Latvia because of school and community campaigning on energy saving. The two campaigns included promotion activities, like energy days in Rõuge (Estonia) and Alūksne (Latvia), 8 seminars and 4 study visits. A range of educational real-life trials on demo-units helped to test different ways on how one can behave in energy efficient way. Partners created and published Energy workbooks and Household manual. Lead partner – Tartu Regional Energy Agency.



Energy Advice

More than 46000 people, among them at least 4400 pupils of 6-9 grade, were reached in Estonia and Latvia because of campaigning on energy saving and energy efficiency. Campaign “Energy Advice” included a competition between teams, during which project partners carried out 172 technically creative workshops and 8 public events in schools and partner organizations in Estonia and Latvia. Lead partner – Foundation “Ventspils high technology park”



INTEGRATED LABOUR MARKET



Valka-Valga mobility

Project partners **created and improved services for job seekers and employers** in the Valka-Valga cross-border area. Services include the newsletter for job seekers and employers (8 editions), Liivimaa job fair with altogether 1100 participants, and networking events for entrepreneurs, such as study trips (40 participants), joint breakfast (160 entrepreneurs), and sports days (159 participants). 12 workshops and information days gathered 288 participants. Lead partner – The State Employment Agency of Latvia.



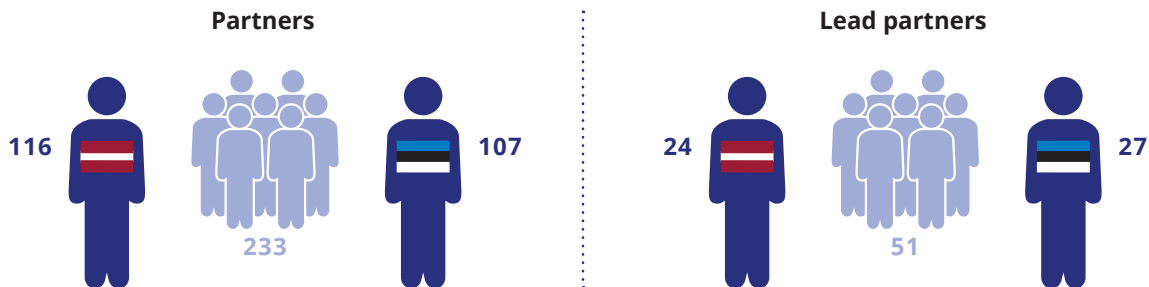
ESTLAT WBL

Project partners created a **work-based learning cross-border support service for vocational students and SME-s** to support cross-border mobilities in South-Estonia and North-Latvia. As a result of cooperation between vocational education and training schools and employers from Latvia and Estonia, already 75 students (38 LV, 37 EE), 21 teachers (9 LV, 12 EE), as well as 6 managers of traineeships in companies (3 LV, 3 EE) took part in mobility activities. 76 people (29 EE, 47 LV) benefited from the language support programme. Lead partner – Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



PARTNERS FROM ESTONIA AND LATVIA

In all selected projects there should be at least one partner from Latvia and one partner from Estonia. 233 unique partners participate in project implementation.

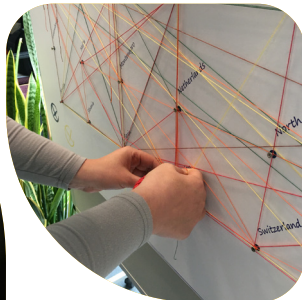


EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY

European Cooperation Day is an initiative of the European Commission

to celebrate and honour the achievements of the cross-border cooperation. In 2019 we celebrated the day on 21 September under the green label as the Green Space Tour. Ca 220 fans of the programme visited 4 sites and enjoyed participation in educational workshops of the environmental awareness project **WasteArt** in Estonia and Latvia. Through hands-on activities, they learned about waste sorting audits in Tipu (EE), reduction of waste and life of the landfill in Daibe (LV), the concept of reuse in Mooste (EE), and waste sorting in Tartu (EE). In Tartu participants also had an opportunity to visit an exhibition “NOT out of sight, NOT out of mind” that

art objects made of waste. The second part of the day at the Tartu Observatory was also dedicated to environmental awareness through activities and exhibitions by the projects **Energy Advice** and the **Green Public Events**. On the interactive panels' participants in one positive word revealed their associations with the European Union and demonstrated personal connections around Europe. In Tõravere the programme communicated a meaningful environmental message by installing an iconic rocket made by a Latvian artist out of items and material that no one uses anymore. The Green Space Tour was organized in cooperation with the Estonia-Russia cross-border cooperation programme.



PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITIES IN ESTONIA AND LATVIA

On a strategic, Member State level in Estonia the body responsible for the programme is the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Estonia, where also the programme's Audit Authority is located. In Latvia, the responsible authority is the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. The highest decision-making body of the programme is the Monitoring Committee consisting of the national and regional representatives and experts of supported areas. The programme implementing bodies, Managing Authority (MA) and Joint Secretariat (JS) are located in the State Shared Service Centre in Tallinn and Tartu (EE). The JS has an Information and consultation point in Riga hosted by the Latvian State Regional Development Agency. The MA bears the overall responsibility for fair and purposeful implementation of the programme. The MA is supported by the JS, which is the first contact point for the applicants, beneficiaries and public.

NEWS & FURTHER INFORMATION

