

Interreg Estonia-Latvia programme
CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

**ANNEX TO THE ANNUAL
IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

2020



GENERAL OVERVIEW

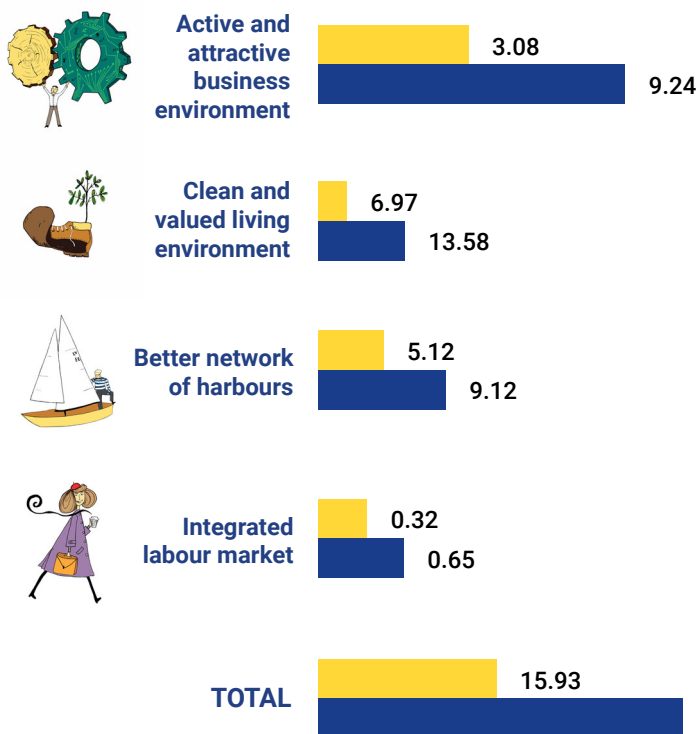
Interreg Estonia-Latvia programme is one of the 60 cross-border cooperation programmes operating along EU internal borders. By the end of 2020 altogether 52 projects were financed.

For more efficient and strategic use of the unused programme funds the [Programme document](#) was changed to reallocate more funds to the priority 2 and introduce new specific objective 2.4. Three pre-defined projects were submitted in the end of the year to be selected for funding of 1.5 MEUR in the beginning of 2021 – with this, all the programme funds have been allocated. Thirty nine projects had finished their activities and the majority of the programme funds – 71 % – had been paid out to the partner organisations.

2. Payments by priorities (million EUR total)

■ Certified by the programme in 2020
 ■ Certified by the programme in 2017-2020

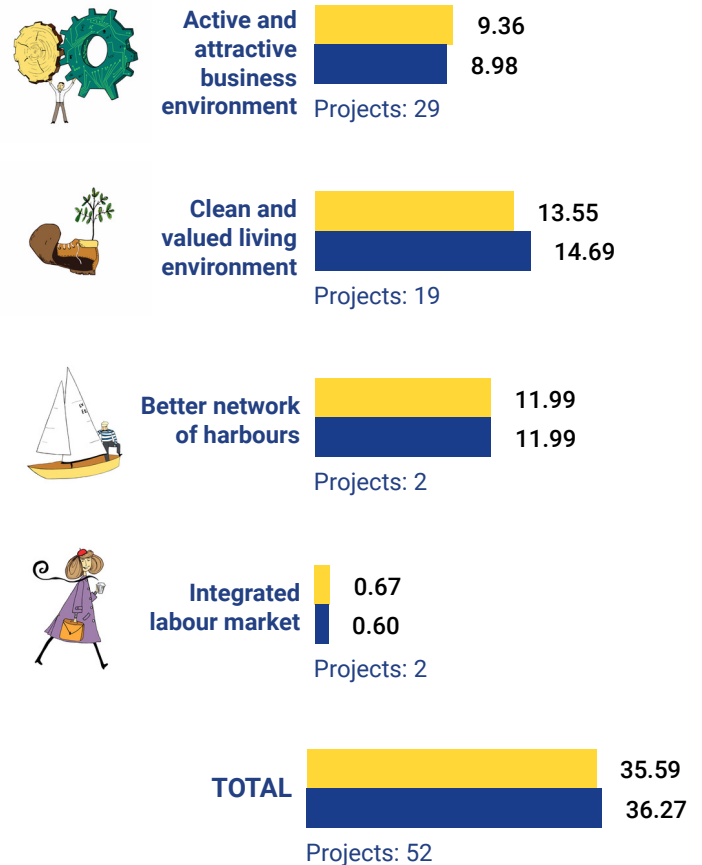
PRIORITY



1. Financial commitments and number of projects by priorities (million EUR ERDF)

■ Committed
 ■ Budget

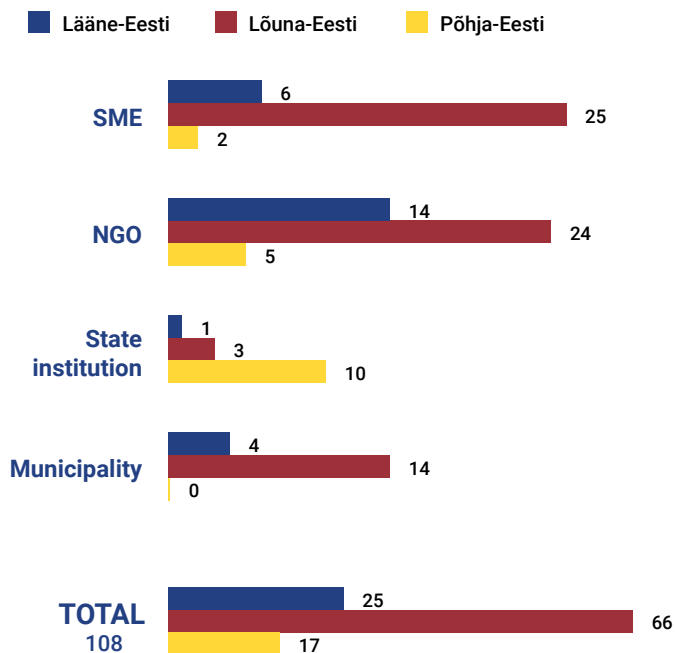
PRIORITY



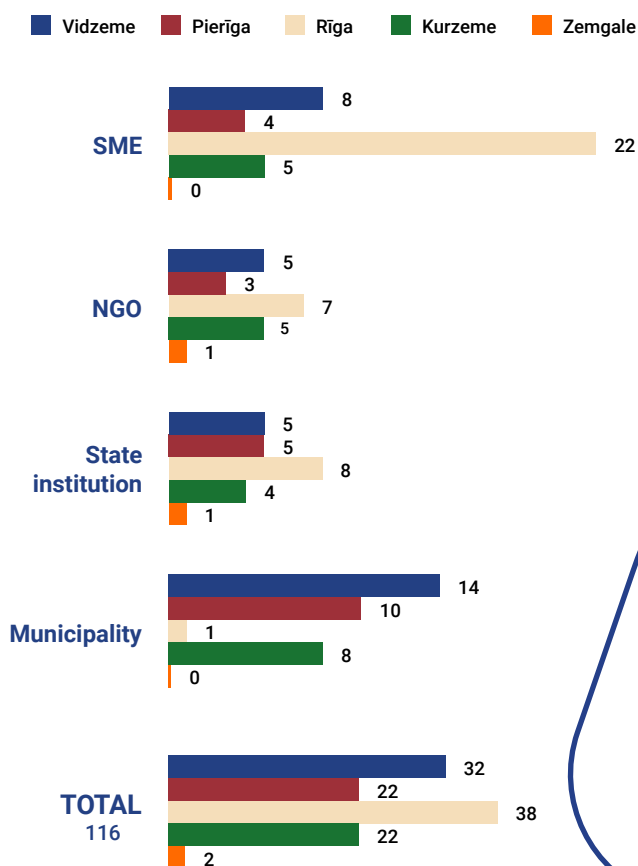
3. Partners and lead partners by countries

Lead Partners: 27  , 25 

ESTONIA



LATVIA



ESTONIA & LATVIA TOTAL: 224

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 territory of the Estonia-Latvia programme is part of the area covered by the **European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBR)**. The projects whose impact reaches beyond the programme territory and contribute to the EUSBR, are Hiking Route along the Baltic Sea coastline in Latvia and Estonia ([Coastal hiking](#)), Integrated Nitrogen Management System for the Gulf of Riga ([Gurinimas](#)), Improvement of sailing infrastructure and yacht harbours network building in Estonia and Latvia ([ESTLAT harbours](#)), Improvement and promotion of the East Baltic Coast harbours Network ([EASTBALTIC HARBOURS](#)) and Daily Allowable Maximum Loads to decrease nutrient load to the Gulf of Riga ([DAML](#)).



ACTIVE AND ATTRACTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

How The Shammies learned

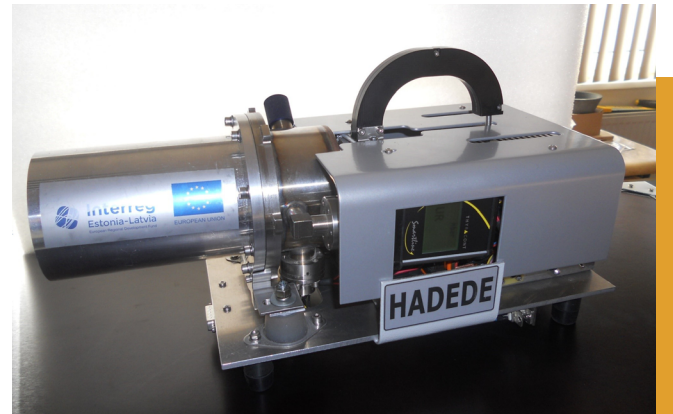
Two SME-s sought to improve the effectiveness of the children's learning and efficiency of the learning process. They produced **five interactive books, a game and the Teacher's book**. The achieved innovation brought together the best of old-fashioned storytelling and the new digital technology, a **digital Smart Pen** to learn about well-loved characters - the Shammies.

The project partnership involved also universities from both countries, teachers and educational experts in learning methodologies to ensure the quality, get practical solutions and feedback.

The books have been introduced at local workshops, social and other media, but also at Bologna, London, Frankfurt and China Shanghai International Children's Book Fair. Lead partner – Digital Learning Systems LLC.



Hand-held spectrometer design



The goal of the project was to **jointly develop a hand-held spectrometer** with improved cooling solution based on the Stirling principle. To achieve this, it was crucial to minimize heat losses in the vacuum chamber of cryostat accommodating the germanium detector allowing the use of a low-power Stirling cooler, a major power consumer in the device.

Now there is a new jointly developed design for the hand-held gamma spectrometer that is 5.6 kg lighter than a basic portable one, allowing for more ergonomic use and longer, especially field operation times.

The project team disseminated the results actively to their target groups at several meetings and conferences like the 77th International Scientific Conference of the University of Latvia, "New Generation Nuclear Energy in Estonia" etc. There are two scientific articles based on the achieved results of the project published.

Lead partner – Estflow Consulting OÜ.





ID Future

The ID card is widely used and its potential should be fully utilized. The project partners created a set of **linked ID card based services to help reduce the use of many customer cards**: central loyalty platform „Go4Bonus“, marketing platform „Go4Post“ for SMEs and a multi-platform mobile applications for the operation of loyalty and marketing platforms.

Lead partner – Ltd „ID Karte“.

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Ticketer

The software development and hardware development expertise was joined to create an **all-inclusive bus ticketing system**. An integrated ticket management solution is the package of affordable and practical software and hardware to small transport operators offering inter-city and long-distance fares. There is implemented a responsive web and mobile application for B2C travel pass and ticket sales. All the technical components are integrated into a unified system via cloud services.

The project partners **marketed the product at major industry events** such as Transport Ticketing Global and The Global Public Transport Summit.

Lead partner – Turnit OÜ.

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MyTree Alert Service

The developed service www.forestman.eu provides forest application with integrated satellite monitoring allowing automated analysis of land use changes for individual forest owners and forestry companies. The new service provides 1) the best forest data - application has integrated access to available forestry data and maps; 2) it covers Estonia and Latvia to manage your forests and share forestry data with your partners easily; 3) integrated satellite monitoring 4) mobile application of the service accompanied with the use of GPS-position and navigation while in the field, which allows the user to know the exact location in the forest and create on-map notes.

Extensive marketing has resulted with hundreds of customers from Estonia and Latvia already registered to the service account.

Lead partner – Modul Ltd.

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The jointly built [cloud-based IT platform Aihen for poultry flock management](#) meets the requirements and needs of poultry industry enterprises from the programme area, Baltic region, EU, and beyond. In the process, different IT competences were combined and poultry industry enterprises involved. Additional **mobile application** is essential for on-site use in poultry houses and barns.

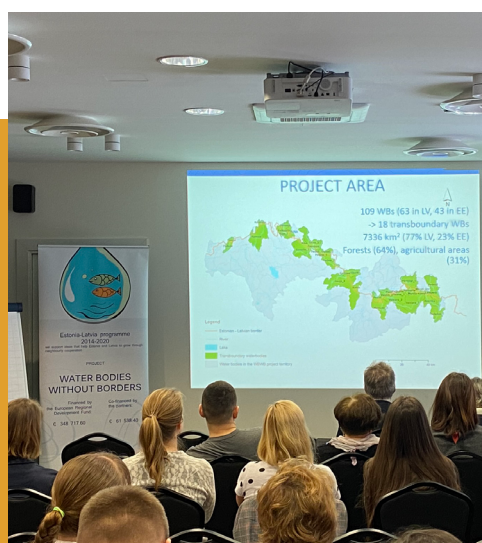
All the partners combined their experience to identify the user interface requirements. The service was validated and tested with the organisations in the industry to be compliant with different operational models, levels of technology used within the organisation and other specific needs like different species of birds, different types of business (e.g. egg production, hatchery eggs, etc), different ways of keeping the birds: caged, free range, barn, etc. and other factors.

Lead partner – WeAreDots LLC.



CLEAN AND VALUED LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Water bodies without borders



Seven institutions established a strong partnership for improving the water quality of shared waters. They assessed the situation of Gauja/Koiva river basins, developed **the joint monitoring programme and action plan for Gauja/Koiva and Salaca/Salatsi river basins and exchanged knowledge and good practices**. This in turn lays the foundation for sustainable cooperation for their implementation in the future: there will be decrease in resource expenditures on both sides of the common border through harmonized principles of monitoring works and better planning of measures.

Lead partner - The Estonian Environment Research Centre.



Ground Eco

The transboundary Gauja-Koiva river basin has a joint water cycle, including its subterranean part - **the groundwater**. In this project, the cooperating institutions tackled the issues related to the groundwater dependent ecosystems. Project enhanced cooperation between different institutions holding different knowledge and responsibilities – universities, ministries, managing authorities and planning region, that is the only way how successfully plan and protect groundwater resources and associated nature in long term. As a result they developed the **joint methodology for the identification and assessment of groundwater-dependent terrestrial ecosystems** in the Gauja-Koiva river basin, and recommendations for the future monitoring.

Lead partner - Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre.



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Photo by Inga Retike

Garden Pearls



By combining 76 attractive gardens and parks of Estonia and Latvia into one joint cross-border tourism product – [Garden Pearls](#), the partners jointly diversified and expanded the offer of garden tourism. The partners set principles for product and service design, carried out trainings and mentoring for garden owners and guides, equalized the quality and attractiveness of Garden Pearls' sites by implementing minor improvements in parks and gardens and increased visibility using joint branding. The **created strong network of garden and park owners and managers** continue to promote and further develop the joint product.

Lead partner – Vidzeme Tourism Association.



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PROGRAMME IMPACT EVALUATION

In 2020, the Institute of Baltic Studies carried out the most substantial evaluation of the programme. The aim was to assess whether the funds contributed by the programme caused positive changes in the programme area and possibly outside it. In total 126 persons involved in project implementation responded to the survey, representing all the priorities and specific objectives.

Main conclusions:

In broad terms the programme is **relevant, achieving its intended objectives and introducing impactful and effective projects**. The programme is important and well accepted by the project partners. The least relevant measure was the support for the labour commuting.

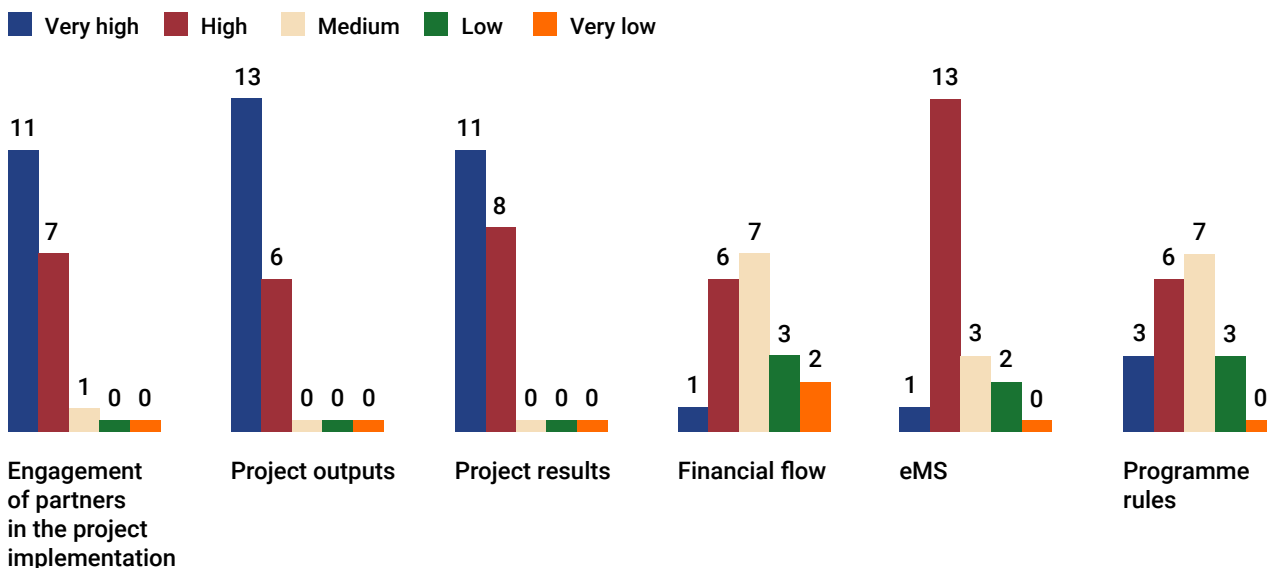
Success:

Programme measures have high relevance and added value for the participation partners. The programme has been especially successful with support for tourism and small harbours where the spill-over effect is identified. Also the business organisations and companies appreciated the programme indicating it widened their scope in terms of new products and business connections.

Recommendation:

To have less priority areas in the future programme, smaller amount of thematic objectives. To simplify the procedures and reporting of the expenditure. To continue with good practice supporting SME-s and tourism development.

Partner satisfaction with programme activities (N=19 final reports)



Added value of the programme is clear, projects are contributing to sustainable activities and partnerships are being created that value cross-border cooperation. The Estonia-Latvia programme is a relevant source of funding for projects in the border area and project activities have made a positive impact in the programme area.

30 YEARS OF INTERREG

Interreg represents European Territorial Cooperation across borders at the regional and national levels for the benefits of the citizens. Launched in 1990, it has proven that **borders are not barriers and have brought Europeans closer together** by helping to tackle common challenges and creating new opportunities for cooperation across borders. The Estonia-Latvia programme supported 67 cross-border projects in 2007-2013 and 55 projects during the current programming period of 2014-2020. The year 2020 was different and unexpected circumstances deprived us much of personal contacts, but through the year we celebrated 30 years of Interreg and cooperation in different formats to highlight the achievements of the programme and our projects.



Products supported by the programme were represented and promoted at **Vidzeme Innovation Conference “Responsible innovation”**



Interreg30 beach flags welcomed visitors in ESTLAT harbours in Estonia and Latvia.



Quiz of 30 questions “In the celebration of Interreg30” on Facebook put the brains of fans and friends to work in September.

Latvian conversation festival LAMPA in Cēsis draw much attention with **conversation “Hiking as an antidepressant”** and attracted general public to **LAMPA Interreg Hike of 16km and Interreg30 Anniversary Hike of 30km** on 5-6 September. Participation in LAMPA was prepared in cooperation with [Interreg Latvija](#) and Interreg programmes operating in Latvia.



Photo by Andra Marta Babre



The moderated panel discussion on 5 October in Tartu: **“#Interreg30 – the entrepreneur’s challenges in cross-border cooperation”**, organised together with the Central Baltic Estonian NCP, at annual Estonian Entrepreneurship Week. Four panellists represented both programmes, different types of organizations, experience and roles in the projects.

COMMUNICATION

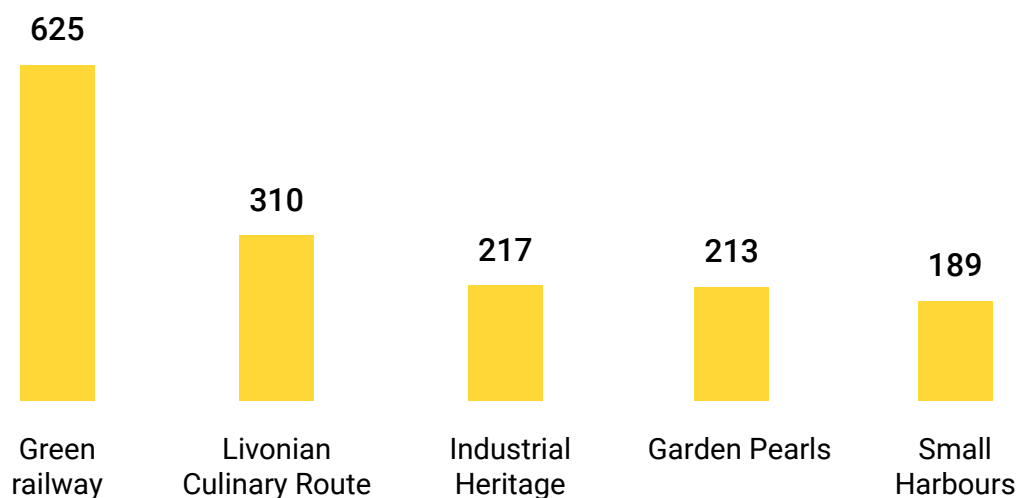


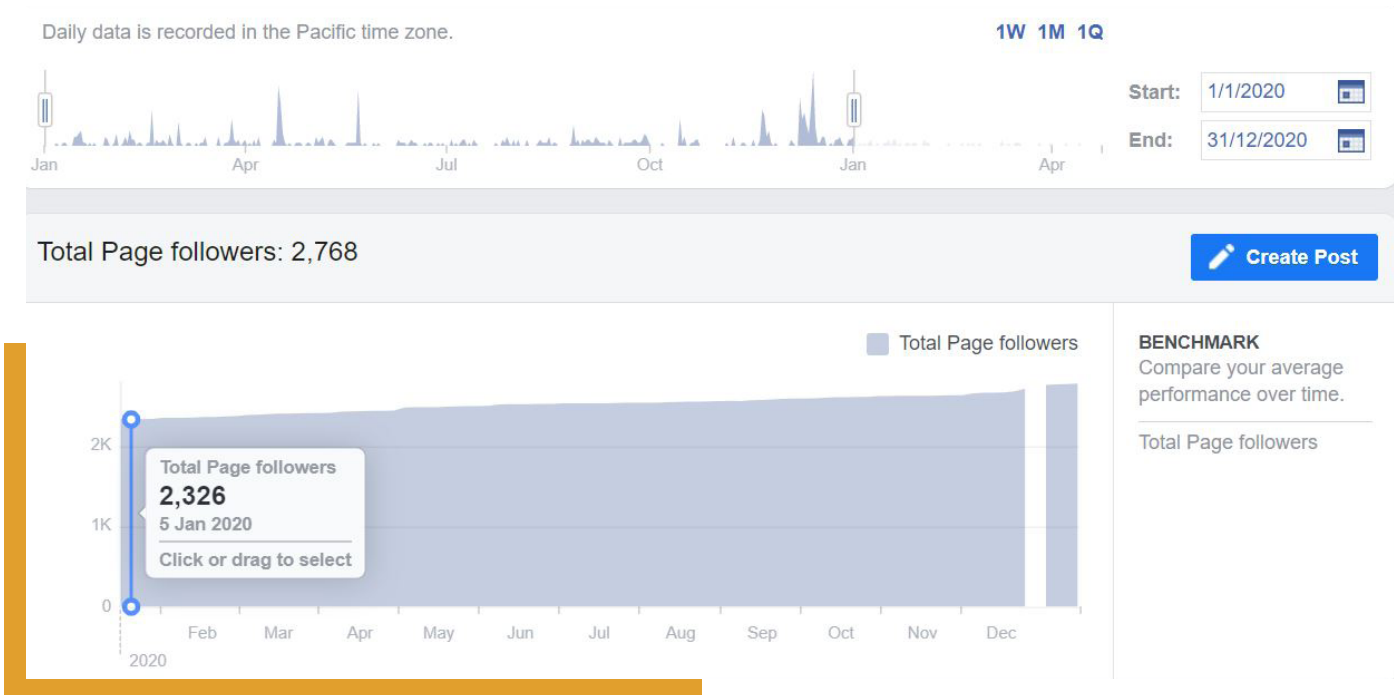
How the network of 23 small harbours with good services was developed? What difference the programme has made with support of 9 MEUR? Selected six small harbours – Pāvilsta, Engure, Ventspils, Mõntu, Kõiguste and Varbla – are featured in [6 episodes](#) to tell the story.

In the final years of the programme it is time for **“Talking results”!** The programme is developing [series of videos](#) to capture the **essence of the cooperation experience and achieved results**. The inspirational round table and panel discussions about **heritage and maritime tourism** and **business** offer valuable insight for the new applicants in the 2021-2027 programming period and the joy of recognition for the experienced ones.



Media: The activities and achievements of the cooperation projects supported by Estonia-Latvia programme have been noticed and brought to the wider public by national and regional media. The programme and projects made over **3400 appearances** in the media **in 2018-2020**, more than 3/4 of that in Latvian channels. Tourism projects and small harbours’ network received the most coverage.

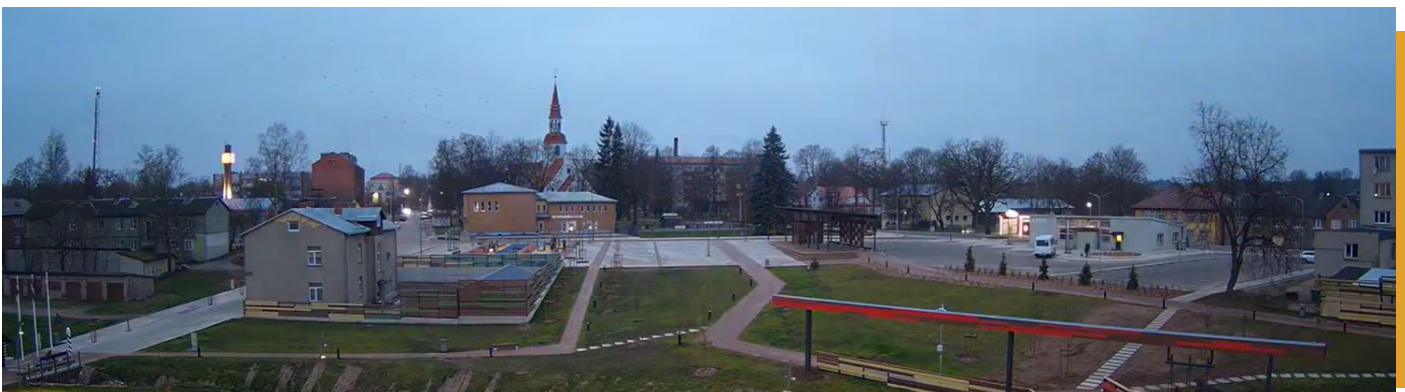




More and more people find the programme interesting and attractive – **fan base on Facebook** was steadily growing in 2020.

NEW JOINT CENTRE OF VALGA-VALKA TWIN TOWN

New town centre



The municipalities of Valga and Valka - twin town on the Estonia-Latvia border - completed in December 2020 the reconstruction of the joint urban centre in the framework of the project [Valga-Valka Centre](#). It is the common interest and benefit of the twin town to improve physical connectivity, unite citizens, promote tourism and activate entrepreneurship. The official opening and other promotional activities will be carried out in 2021.

European Cooperation Day

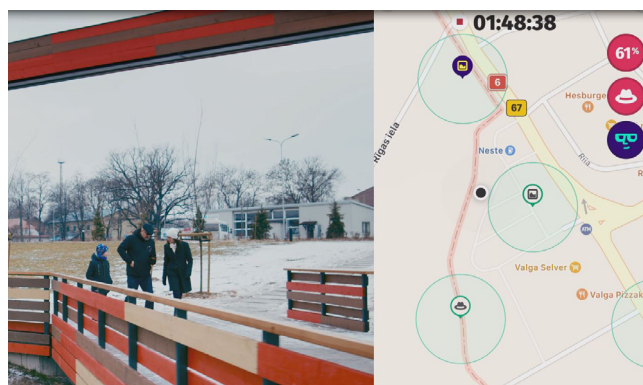
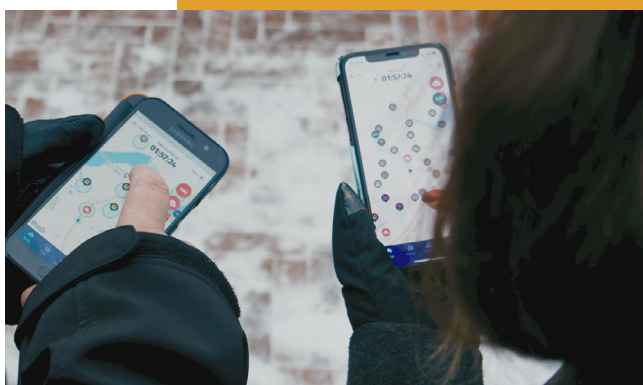
To celebrate the 30 years of Interreg and the European Cooperation Day we **planted 30 trees in the joint Valga-Valka twin city centre** on 19 September 2020. The invited programme authorities, guests and representatives from the project Valga-Valka Centre met in the newly constructed centre and contributed to the greening plan of the new urban and cross-border space with 155 trees on the Estonia-Latvia border and its surrounding area.



Adventure game “walk VVALK”

Usually the programme celebrates the European Cooperation Day with an event that includes our projects, dozens of participants and hands on activities. To some extent the 2020 was no different. We took into account the limitations for gathering and organised an outdoor adventure orienteering game “walk VVALK”. The game was open **in Valga and Valka from 12 to 27 December 2020** and it was played individually or in teams of 2-5 people. Altogether **116 players took the challenge, used the virtual platform Roadgames**, and played the game.

Participants had to collect as many points as possible by performing a variety of exciting tasks within the 2 hours that were available for the game. This was a great opportunity to get to know Valka and Valga from another point of view, to find out something new and interesting, and to spend time outdoors with friends or family. **The 5 most successful individuals and 5 most successful teams** received as prizes the **EstLat tourism experiences** - visits, services and/or products developed by the tourism projects.



PROGRAMME AUTHORITIES

The two member states are represented in the programme by the Ministry of Finance of the **Republic of Estonia** (MoF) and Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the **Republic of Latvia**. Also the Audit Authority is located in the MoF. The highest decision-making body in the programme is the Monitoring Committee that consists of the national and regional representatives and experts of supported areas of Estonia and Latvia. The programme is implemented by the Managing Authority (MA) and Joint Secretariat (JS), both located in the [State Shared Service Centre](#) in Tallinn and Tartu (EE). The MA bears the overall responsibility for the fair, correct and effective implementation of the programme. The JS is the main contact point for the applicants, beneficiaries and general public. Due to the approaching end of the programme and projects, the Consultation point in Riga, hosted by the Latvian State Regional Development Agency, was closed in the end of 2020. The communication activities are continuously implemented by the JS staff.

