CITIZENS SUMMARY

The Cooperation Programme Interreg VA – EE-LV – Estonia - Latvia is a continuation of the Estonia - Latvia Programme 2007-2013.

The Programme has 5 priority axes:

1) **Active and attractive business environment**
   Under this priority axis the projects, which support business activities, creation of new businesses to be able cooperate across the border as well as the projects aiming and joint product and service development, joint marketing and training activities are expected.

2) **Clean and valued living environment**
   The aim of this priority is through the projects to support values and intelligent use of natural resources and tangible and intangible cultural heritage as well as promoting solutions for energy saving, sorting and re-use of waste, and improved cooperation in joint water resource management. One objective is also to develop the border area in the towns of Valga and Valka.

3) **Better network of harbours**
   The aim is to create a network of small harbours with improved services to promote tourism and activate sea travel along the coast of Gulf of Riga.

4) **Integrated labour market**
   The project activities should enhance and integrate cross-border employment instruments, systems and options that help to improve information, qualification and conditions for accessing and creating jobs across the border.

5) **Technical Assistance**

This period the programme is more focussed and not all themes qualify for the support, which was much the case during 2007-2013.

The total budget of the programme is 45,654,342.00 EUR of which the ERDF contribution is 38,020,684.00 EUR. All projects should be co-financed by the project partners. Public bodies, public equivalent bodies, private companies, non-governmental organisations and sole proprietors are eligible for funding and can act as project partners.

The Programme was adopted by the European Commission on December 4, 2015 and the first call for applications was launched on 23 February and is open till 22 April 2015. First, the project ideas should be submitted. Following ideas' assessment, the applicants whose idea gets positive recommendation, will be asked to submit the full application.

The main tool for applicants and project beneficiaries is the Programme Manual and its annexes, which include all relevant information for preparing the applications and implementing the projects. There is also always a possibility to turn to the JS for advice and ask for a consultation to test the suitability of the project idea and to learn more on the implementation requirements.