

Regional Capacity Building Initiative

Supporting partner country participation in ENPI CBC Programmes 2007 - 2013

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<i>Name of the Project</i>	New cross border initiatives in management of cultural heritage sites in Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarusian border areas
<i>Regions Involved</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kraslava, Latvia • Švencionys, Lithuania • Braslav, Belarus
<i>Timeframe</i>	August 2006 – December 2007
<i>Budget</i>	€ 439,017
<i>Sources of Finance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERDF contribution: € 329,263 • National co-financing EU Member States: € 109,754.35 (no, there was no TACIS funding in this project)
<i>Project Partners</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kraslava Municipal Council, Latvia • Švencionys District Municipality, Lithuania • Association of Latvian Castles Palaces and Manors, Latvia • 'Kultur' Public enterprise, Lithuania • Braslav District Council of Deputies, Belarus
<i>Field of Intervention</i>	<p>People-to-people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • activities leading to durable cross-border contacts, establishment of networks or cross-border co-operation structures, initiating follow-up projects and carrying out joint events • development of strategies, initiatives, exchange of good experience for improvement of cross-border services to inhabitants
<i>Aims of the Project</i>	<p>Wider objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve integrated and efficient management of cultural heritage in the Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarusian border areas combining development of natural environment and cultural heritage sites with sustainable and balanced regional development using spatial planning as a tool. <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the institutional capacity and know-how of the target areas in the management of cultural heritage sites and efficient land use by complex cross border spatial planning research and the exchange of experience. • To increase public awareness and common responsibility for the preservation of cultural heritage sites as assets for territorial development by public involvement campaigns and promotional activities



<p>Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trans-national research on cultural heritage • Round tables on cultural heritage issues • Study tours to Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus • Feasibility studies and technical plans • Public clean-up campaigns • International artists workshops • Children's drawing contests • Development of an international route for the castles and manors of the “Baltic country of lakes” region • Development of promotional materials
<p>Results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced understanding of how to promote natural heritage as an asset for social-economic development of the relevant districts • Enhanced and coordinated use of spatial planning tools for protection and management of common heritage • Promoted international tourist route involving heritage on the different sides of the border • Improved efficiency in the implementation of Structural Funds within the partner organisations thus contributing to the sustainable development of participating municipalities and further development of new common projects in the future
<p>Cross Border Impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable cross-border contacts in the field of cultural co-operation • Stimulation of cross border tourism, leading to an increased number of visits to the other side of the border • Improved common understanding for the other side of the border through joint promotion of a single tourist product

Key Factors for Success

- Strong and well organised partnership of authorities of similar level from relevant eligible regions, public enterprises and not-for-profit sector
- Well-balanced budget that provides approximately similar opportunities for activities on every side of the border
- Mutual understanding among the partners as a result of long-term co-operation within the Euroregion “Country of Lakes”
- Reasonable diversity of activities allowing partners to test different opportunities of cross-border co-operation

