

## UNITED BY BORDERS

### Programme Conference

## INTERREG IIIA Priorities of the Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme

24-25 September 2007, Riga, Latvia



# Conference „United by Borders” Evaluates Achievements and Possibilities of Cross-border Cooperation

Achievements of cross-border cooperation in the Baltic countries, Russia and Belarus and opportunities for future cooperation were the topics of the Conference “United by Borders”, held in Riga on 24–25 September, 2007. Almost 400 participants from Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Russia shared their experience in implementing

cross-border cooperation projects supported by the European Commission Initiative INTERREG IIIA and discussed the cross-border cooperation programmes foreseen for 2007-2013.

The Conference was opened on 24 September by former Latvian Minister of Regional Development and Local Governments, Mr Aigars Štokenbergs. His welcome address was followed by a speech by European Commissioner for Regional Policy Prof. Danuta Hübner. Prof. Hübner stressed that borders hold back development and invited everybody to be “united by borders”, not separated by them. She recalled the long experience of cooperation the Baltic Sea Region and especially Riga have had, starting from the times of the Hanseatic League, when national borders played a subordinated role compared to shared commercial interests. The Commissioner acknowledged that the cooperation programmes between the Baltic Countries and the neighbouring regions of Russia and Belarus have already proved their value and that the future holds a high potential for further development.

Speaking from the point of view of the involved EU Member States, the representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania affirmed that they wish to take the initiative to improve the overall development in the regions and that the future financial perspective period will be

successfully used to promote the new cooperation opportunities of the countries.

Mr Štokenbergs stressed the importance of the programme for energizing activity of regional organisations and especially NGOs and attracting investments to sectors that contribute to employment and welfare.

Mrs Giedrė Švedienė, Undersecretary of the Lithuanian Ministry of the Interior underlined that projects not only contribute to a closer and more effective cooperation, but also foster growth, development, cohesion and reduction of disparities between neighbouring regions.

Mrs Einike Uri, Deputy Secretary-General for Population and Regional Affairs at the Estonian Ministry of the Interior acknowledged that the programmes have already made their impact on the development of the Estonian border areas and that many cross-border projects turned out a success – not to mention the increased number of contacts between regions and people they created.

All representatives asserted that previous cross-border cooperation has prepared the ground for even deeper cooperation in the future and that they are willing to work together.

## Danuta Hübner,

*Commissioner for Regional Policy*



*“The title of the Conference “United by Borders” catches the essence of European Cooperation. The Union’s external borders are of a more dividing nature than would be healthy for the regions in their vicinity. We need to continue reaching out to our neighbours, be they EU Member States or not. We must do everything to avoid that the external borders increase their dividing nature.”*

## Aigars Štokenbergs,

*Latvian Minister for Regional Development and Local Governments*



*“By using the cross-border cooperation instrument and the close location of territories, we will be able to use more effectively our common possibilities and solve joint problems.”*

## Einike Uri,

*Deputy Secretary-General for Population and Regional Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Estonia*



*"It is often easier to target similar problems together with one's neighbours, and a number of problems facing today the Estonian border areas can be solved in common action from both sides of the border. Estonia is well aware of the challenges it is facing, but also of the opportunities to overcome the existing problems in cooperation with our partners."*

## Giedrė Švedienė

*Undersecretary of the Ministry of the Interior, Lithuania*



*"I have no doubts that the partnership which has already consolidated over this short period of programme implementation will develop further and experience and lessons learned in 2004-2006 will give a good shelter for cooperation in 2007-2013."*

## Overview of Cross-border Cooperation 2004-2006

In 2004-2006, altogether 46 projects in the INTERREG IIIA Priority North and 53 projects in the INTERREG IIIA Priority South have been approved with a total financing from ERDF and EU Tacis funds of 26 mln EUR.

The first call for proposals was launched on October 1 2004. Altogether five calls for proposals were organised.

The most active partners in both priorities have been local public authorities, followed equally by NGOs and public equivalent bodies (schools, universities, municipal enterprises). Regional public authorities have also been involved.

In Priority North roughly the same percentage of project partners have come from Estonia (38%) and Latvia (33%). The Estonian partners were more active as lead partners, with 58% of all lead partners coming from Estonia. Russian partners were involved in 63% of Priority North projects.

Within INTERREG IIIA Priority South the most project partners have been from Latvia, closely followed by Lithuania. Almost 60% of the lead partners came from Latvia, and about one third of the projects included Belarusian partners.

## Pictures and Facts



*The Conference was moderated by Mr Ansis Bogustovs, EU and International Affairs journalist, Latvian State Television.*



*Altogether, 389 participants attended the Conference. The majority of them were from Latvia, as the Conference took part in Latvia and Latvian territory was covered by both INTERREG IIIA Priorities.*



*Most Conference visitors were partners of INTERREG projects or are planning to apply for funding for cross-border cooperation projects in the future.*



*Project Managers from EU neighbour countries also showed much interest. Together almost 100 participants from Russia and Belarus attended the Conference.*



*Altogether, the participants ate 43 kg of cake.*

# Regions Discuss Achievements and Lessons Learned 2004-2006

The plenary session in the morning 25<sup>th</sup> of September was devoted to the achievements of INTERREG IIIA cross-border cooperation projects since the start of the programme in 2004. Regional representatives from Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia shared the experiences of their countries with the audience. Speaking on behalf of the Vitebsk Oblast Executive Committee of Belarus, Mr Kanstantsin Chorny presented Northern Belarus as a region with "more than 1000 years of cross-border experience". He stressed that the rich nature, history and human capital of Vitebsk Oblast serve as a solid basis for cross-border cooperation projects in tourism, culture and education.

Mr Margus Lepik, member of the Estonian Parliament and former Mayor of the Estonian border town of Valga, presented the various INTERREG programmes which have helped Valga get closer to its Latvian twin city Valka. He presented his vision of overcoming cultural and bureaucratic barriers to accomplish unhindered movement and cooperation between the two towns in the future.

Experience made in project implementation in Latvia was summed up by Mr Māris Bozovičs, Director of

Latgale Region Development Agency. Being part of the eligible territory of both INTERREG IIIA Priorities, Latgale Region has participated in 11 different projects and cooperated with partners from all countries involved in the programme.

Šiauliai Region in Lithuania was represented by Šiauliai County Governor Mr Alvydas Šedžius. He introduced the audience to various cross-border cooperation projects in which Šiauliai Region participated and highlighted the similarities his county shares with neighbouring regions like Zemgale in Latvia.

Representing Russia, Mr Igor Semenov, Chairman of the Investment Committee of Pskov Region Administration, presented an overview of the 17 projects implemented within INTERREG IIIA Priority North by Pskov Oblast – the only Russian region to share borders with three different countries.

Finally, on behalf of the Programme, Project Manager Ms Birute Markevičiūtė gave an overview of the management structure of the 2004-2006 Programme, presented project implementation statistics and outlined the most common challenges and opportunities encountered in cross-border cooperation.



*"All these projects testify the necessity to cooperate and address problems together."*

*(Kanstantsin Chorny)*



*"Europe is not ready yet. We have to go on with cross-border cooperation."*

*(Margus Lepik)*



*"In Latgale region we have found good and reliable partners with whom to cooperate."*

*(Māris Bozovičs)*



*"Borders are a setback for socio-economical development."*

*(Alvydas Šedžius)*



*"Pskov Region has for the first time demonstrated such active involvement in international project activities. The results are strong partnerships and networks which are now working on new ideas."*

*(Igor Semenov)*



*"So what do the INTERREG projects stand for? I would sum it up into these main objectives: overcoming physical and mental barriers, creating a favourable living environment, winning supporters and friends, being innovative and making business together."*

*(Birute Markevičiūtė)*

# Experience Exchange Workshops- everybody has something to say!

## Lessons Learnt from Project Implementation

The purpose of this workshop was to discuss and exchange experiences gained within project implementation. The main topics being debated were implementation of project activities, absorption of the project budget, reporting and auditing and activity and financial management. After an introductory presentation by the Joint Secretariat and representatives from projects financed within INTERREG IIIA priorities, participants worked in small groups to identify problems within project implementation and solutions to these problems. They stressed the need to clearly define responsibilities among project partners and

elaborate a proper time schedule in the beginning of project implementation, but to keep it flexible with possibilities to re-plan afterwards. Workshop moderator Ms Inga Goldberga, Director of the Department of Development in Daugavpils City Council and Member of INTERREG IIIA Priority South Steering Committee, presented the results of the workshop to the plenary session. She suggested to elaborate harmonized rules for reporting and auditing and stressed the importance of the lead partner's role in communication among project partners.

*"All project activities are limited by time and money and we should not forget what will happen after the projects are finalized. Never forget about sustainability."*

*(Inga Goldberga)*



## Development of Hereditary Cancer Prevention Measures in Estonia and Latvia (HeCaPrev)

**Partners:** Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital (Latvia, Lead Partner), Estonian Genome Project Foundation (Estonia), Tartu Oncology Clinic (Estonia)

**Objective:** The project improves life quality in Latvia and Estonia by developing effective population based hereditary cancer screening and management system model and combating hereditary cancer in border regions.

### Outcomes:

- 28 674 families cancer histories collected;
- more than 95 general practitioners trained in hereditary cancer prevention;
- 1564 persons under hereditary cancer risk identified and consulted (including blood DNS investigations);
- HC data base elaborated (in Latvia) and improved (in Estonia);
- magnetic resonance imaging device and stereotactic biopsy device for breast purchased
- information material for research participants and general public (in Estonia).

# Traditional Crafts and Arts for Promoting Entrepreneurship and Tourism along Kurshi Coastline of the Baltic Sea

**Partners:** Ventspils City Council (Lead Partner, Latvia), Ventspils Craftsmen Union (Latvia), Klaipeda Culture Communication Centre (Lithuania), Klaipeda City Municipality Administration (Lithuania)

**Objective:** The project promotes development of craft industry in Kurzeme (Latvia) and Klaipeda (Lithuania) regions, thus also contributing to tourism development and culture heritage preservation in the respective regions.

## Outcomes:

- places and opportunities for craftsmen and applied artists to sell their goods and obtain information and training in Ventspils and Klaipeda created;
- Reconstruction of Northern Kurzeme Craft Centre and Klaipeda Arts and Craft Quarter done. Equipment for Northern Kurzeme Craft Centre and Klaipeda Arts and Craft Quarter purchased;
- experience between craftsmen from both regions transferred;
- traditional Kurshi craft and art goods promoted in Latvian and Lithuanian markets;
- new sights and events based on traditional Kurshi craft created for the society and tourists.

## Workshop II Experience of Cooperation with Russia and Belarus

This workshop concentrated on projects in which the EU organisations cooperate with partners from Russia and Belarus. The aim of the workshop was to identify the issues which were crucial for success of joint projects with Russian and Belarusian partners. Working in groups, the participants identified the problematic issues of such cooperation, examined their reasons and suggested solutions and recommendations for developers of ENPI cross-border cooperation programmes with Russia and Belarus. The results of the group work

were presented to the plenary session by workshop moderator Mr Sergey Balanov, senior expert of the Regional Capacity Building Initiative. The presentation included recommendations for improving cooperation of programmes and projects with authorities in Russia and Belarus, measures to overcome shortage of resources for project development, suggestions for the selection of relevant partners and ideas of improving financing mechanisms for EU, Russian and Belarusian partners.

*"It is very important to have concrete people in public authorities to work with on the project and programme level."*

*(Sergey Balanov)*



## Project “Business Meets Culture in Setomaa”

**Partners:** The Union of Setomaa Rural Municipalities (Estonia, Lead Partner), Administration of Pechory district (Russia)

**Objective:** The project supports development and promotion of the entrepreneurship in Setomaa based on local cultural traditions through training courses, summer schools and workshops, development of trademark of Seta traditional handicraft, creation of catalogue and etnomap and a development plan of Seto traditional handicraft.

### Outcomes:

- 30 trainees created a business plan (using the help of experienced mentors) and will start (or have already started) new business using traditional handicraft skills;
- Handicraft studio in Obinitisa - 6 new jobs ;
- Strong network between Estonian and Russian masters and entrepreneurs;
- Marketing support offered by project team.

## Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity in Lake Druksiai: Transboundary Wetland Complex of International Importance / Conservation, Cooperation, Biodiversity

**Partners:** Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University (Lead Partner, Lithuania), Institute of Zoology National Academy of Sciences (Belarus); Institute of Botany (Lithuania); OMPO Vilnius (Lithuania).

**Objective:** The project safeguards and enhances biodiversity of Lake Druksiai through conservation and sustainable management in this trans-boundary wetland of international importance. Key activities include data collection on important natural values and features, meetings with partners and local stakeholders to discuss the problems region, planning and public information.

### Outcomes:

- Report including description and mapping of key habitats of Lake Druksiai (Drisviaty) and adjacent wetlands supporting vulnerable species;
- Special database which includes records of all key habitats and rare species, and conservation recommendations;
- Development of the joint management plan of the Lake and adjacent region;
- Publications about biodiversity of the site;
- Elaboration of conservation recommendations for Belarusian part of the site.



## Workshop III *Economic Development and Tourism*

The focus of this workshop was on the experience made by the 31 projects dealing with economic development and tourism. The moderators presented the achievements made by these projects in 2004-2006, among them business support structures and networks, joint tourism strategies and development of infrastructure. To elaborate further on these results of cross-border cooperation, three exemplary projects - *Business meets culture in Setomaa*, *PRODEMET* and *NICE* - were described in more detail. Participants then discussed which steps

should be taken next, how to further develop economic and tourism projects and how to overcome challenges. They identified a number of best practice solutions and recommendations which were presented to the plenary session. Workshop moderator Ms Silja Lehtpuu, INTERREG IIIA project coordinator and financial manager, emphasized the need to think beyond the project's duration and involve different partners, such as universities, researchers and businesses in economic and tourism activities to increase their durability.

*"Think about long term financing – what will happen when the project ends and beyond INTERREG? This approach is needed for economic development and tourism."*

*(Silja Lehtpuu)*



### ***North Livonia Coastal Region Initiative for Cross-border Socio-economic Development (NICE)***

**Partners:** Ainazi Town Council with Rural Territory (Latvia, Lead Partner), 3 partners from Estonia, 6 partners from Latvia

**Objective:** The project improves cross-border cooperation in North Livonia Coastal Region and neighbouring regions by creating joint space for economic and social activities. Activities included training courses and seminars, reconstruction of tourist centre and preparation of 24 small-scale investment projects.

**Outcomes:**

- New cross-border tourism services and products developed
- Preconditions for implementation of joint tourism infrastructure assured
- Cross-border institutional capacity building system established and implemented
- Partnership networks established

## Joint Planning and Management of Services and Resources

In the beginning of the workshop, moderator Mr Peeter Unt, Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Estonia-Latvia 2007-2013 programme, presented an overview of the 28 approved and implemented projects in the field of joint planning, management of services and resources in both INTERREG IIIA priorities. This presentation was succeeded by concrete examples of three projects dealing with such issues: *Livonia Maritima*, *Conservation of the natural site of EU importance* –

*Lake Druksiai* and *Virtual Community*. Participants then developed projects ideas for the future and discussed which of the 2007-2013 programmes would be most suitable for implementation. Six of these ideas, including such projects as “Sea of friendly harbours” or “More bikers than car drivers by 2015” were presented to the plenary session by the workshop moderator. Mr Unt encouraged participants to share their ideas with each other: “There is no copyright on project ideas!”

*“In cross-border cooperation, 1+1>2. Adding one partner’s human and financial resources to another one’s doesn’t only result in doubled resources, but there is an additional element.”*

*(Mirje Auksmann,  
project Livonia Maritima)*



## Virtual Community of the Valga-Valka Region

**Partners:** Association of Local Authorities of Valgamaa (Estonia, Lead Partner), Valka District Council (Latvia)

**Objective:** The project focuses on setting up a broadband internet network, which would reach the majority of inhabitants in sparsely populated counties of Valga (Estonia) and Valka (Latvia). Its goal is to decrease the Digital Divide by providing 80% of the area and 90% of the population in Valga-Valka region with broadband Internet access.

**Outcomes:**

- Deployment of radio internet network in Valga County and in Valka District;
- Launching “Valga-Valka Virtual Community” website;
- Comparative research about e-services in Valga-Valka region;
- Joint concept of Virtual Community in Valga-Valka region;
- Training of public servants of Valga County and Valka District about e-services.

# Cross-border Pilot project of Teleradiology Network Development among Hospitals in Latvia/Lithuania (RadiologyNet)

**Partners:** Preiļi Hospital (Latvia, Lead Partner), Pauls Stradiņš Clinical University Hospital (Latvia), Ludza District Hospital (Latvia), Kaunas Medical University Hospital (Lithuania), Zarasai Hospital (Lithuania).

**Objective:** The project results in more effective and efficient patient care in Preiļi Hospital, Ludza District Hospital and Zarasai Hospital by provision of high quality round-the-clock timely and precise diagnostic radiology services with the help of innovative teleradiology solutions. This helps to overcome the problem of lack of radiology personnel in these hospitals by assis-

tance rendered and competences transferred from academic medical centres.

## Outcomes:

- 5 hospitals equipped with up to date teleradiology equipment and data protection equipment;
- Co-operation network established among 5 hospitals and transfer of best practice on teleradiology from PSCUH to all project partners will be realised;
- More efficient and effective patient care services provided in 3 border area hospitals.

## Workshop V *Small Scale People to People Cooperation*

The specific features of small scale projects are relatively small budgets, more active involvement of NGOs as Lead Partners or project partners and their focus on creation of contacts and networks among people and institutions in the spheres of culture, education, business, social work, recreation, environment or municipal cooperation. Therefore, the projects' achievements presented in the workshop covered a variety of fields of cooperation. Afterwards the challenges and opportunities for small scale projects were discussed in groups. The main findings of that discussion, as presented to the plenary session by workshop moderator Mr Vytautas Stankevičius, were that the

projects' success depends much on active involvement of local people, reliable and motivated partners, simplicity in the preparation and flexibility in the implementation of projects. The recommendations proposed by workshop participants mainly concentrated on the need to simplify the application, implementation and financing procedures for small scale projects. It was also suggested to provide advance payment for public institutions and NGOs, to assist in partnership search and projects' applications preparation and to encourage NGOs and local authorities partnerships due to the smaller capabilities of these projects and partners.

*"The main measure for the quality of the project is its capacity to solve the problem."  
(Vytautas Stankevičius)*

*"Plan it in the budget and put effort to involve the right target group in the project implementation process."*

*(Ingrida Tatarūnė,  
„Rural and Urban Cross-border Cooperation Model” project coordinator)*



## ***Promoting Exchange of Cultural Heritage and Educating Teachers and Students of Gaujiena and Alatskivi Art Schools (Border Ship)***

**Partners:** Gaujiena Municipality (Latvia, Lead Partner), Alatskivi Municipality (Estonia)

**Objective:** The project enhances cross-border cooperation in the fields of education, arts and culture between the border regions of Latvia and Estonia.

**Outcomes:** As a result of project implementation joint concerts, masterclasses and art-camps between two schools in Gaujiena, Latvia and Alatskivi, Estonia were organized bringing together teachers and students and thus encouraging personal contacts and contributing to better understanding of different cultures.

## ***Promotion of Cross-border Cooperation between Daugavpils City and Zarasai District through Tourism Development (Rural and Urban Cross-Border Cooperation Model)***

**Partners:** Zarasai District Municipality (Lithuania, Lead Partner), Daugavpils City Council (Latvia)

**Objectives:** The project develops a new model for rural and urban cross-border cooperation by integrating natural countryside resources of Zarasai District, Lithuania and cultural possibilities in Daugavpils City, Latvia, located only 25 km away from each other across the

borders, in order to create an extra value for tourism sector.

**Outcomes:** As a result new cross-border historical, sacramental and multi-cultural tourism routes are prepared, contacts between bordering municipalities, tourism information centers and businesses in Latvia and Lithuania established for development of local economy.

## **Project Exhibition**



# Overview of 2007-2013 Programmes

The part of the Conference most anticipated by participants with regard to future opportunities was the overview of 2007-2013 Territorial Cooperation Programmes. Both in the plenary session and in the workshops representatives of the Joint Secretariat and the future Managing Authorities provided information about funding for cross-border as well as transnational and interregional cooperation in 2007-2013. The following types of programmes were discussed:

- Cross border cooperation on immediate borders (strand A)
- Trans-national cooperation between greater European regions (strand B)
- Europe-wide interregional cooperation (strand C)

In the future, regions will continue to have the possibility to improve overall development and cooperate with partners in neighbouring countries with the support of territorial cooperation programmes.

The basic requirements for cooperation projects financed from 2007-2013 programmes were explained. Each cooperation project shall cooperate in at least two of the following ways:

- Joint development
- Joint financing
- Joint staffing
- Joint implementation

Also in future the Lead Partner (beneficiary) principle will be kept.

To make participants aware of the upcoming financial perspectives and to promote the new cooperation opportunities in the geographical area covered by Priorities North and South, more detailed information about the following cross-border programmes was provided in separate workshops:

- Central Baltic (Sweden-Finland-Estonia-Latvia) Programme
- Estonia-Latvia Programme
- European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) Programme Estonia-Latvia-Russia
- Latvia-Lithuania Programme
- European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) Programme Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus

More detailed description of the future territorial cooperation Programmes is available on the BSR INTERREG IIIA website [www.bsrinterreg3a.net](http://www.bsrinterreg3a.net) in a separate section "Territorial Cooperation 2007-2013".

The possibilities for cooperation in the framework of the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 and INTERREG IVC Programme were explained. More information about the Programmes can be found at [www.eu.baltic.net](http://www.eu.baltic.net) and [www.interreg4c.net](http://www.interreg4c.net).



# Future Expectations

In the closing of the Conference "United by Borders", Dr. Klaus Rave, Member of the Managing Board of Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein, Managing Authority of the Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme, admitted that he was impressed by the sheer number of projects and expressed confidence that in this case most certainly quantity has led to a new quality.



*Mr Rave summarised the essence of INTERREG cooperation and linked them by means of an alphabet:*

- A** stands for **activities, actions** and **applications**;
- B** that is **borders** and **business**;
- C** reminds us of **cross-border co-operation** and we must not forget the **cultural** aspects of that;
- D** is **development** and **diversity** – and do not forget the necessity to **disseminate**,
- E** is **easy**, namely **examples** and **education**, the **ecology** as well as the **economy** and do not forget the **Euros** needed to do that;
- F** is therefore of course **financing** but the **finalisation** also and hopefully **friendship**;
- G** stands for **good government** and new **gateways**;
- H** refers to the much appreciated **hospitality** and the need for **hosts**;
- I** that is **ideas** and **innovation** and hopefully **investment**;
- J** could mean that these are ideas need **joint** implementation **just** in time;
- K** is the **knowledge** to be gained and the **know-how-transfer** to be organised;
- M** and the latter particularly with respect to the **municipal** level and all **member** states;
- N** that could lead to **new** visions for the **neighbourhoods** and the **networks**;
- O** and thereby **overcoming old thinking** and creating new **opportunities**;
- P** and **perspectives**, too, as well as making **plans** for the **people**, define **priorities** and organise **partnerships**;
- Q** leads us to "no more Baltic **questions**" and new **quality** of co-operation;
- R** and that with special attention to **rural** areas as well as **rivers** as a step forward for **regional** development;
- S** and that should be **sustainable** and a **step** forward for **spatial planning** with the **Baltic Sea** as our common heritage and always with **surprises** like cross-border **sport** events;
- T** therefore includes **tournaments** but do not forget **training** and do not exclude **tourists**;
- U** as we want to be **united** by borders, actually making them into a **unifying** force;
- V** that is the **value** added by interregional co-operation;
- W** and there will be no **watering** down but new **waterways** rather and may be even new **waste management**;
- X** **xenophobia** will therefore diminish;
- Y** as we run a **youthful** programme and care for the **young generation**;
- Z** must stand for **zero risk** meaning we take a common responsibility.



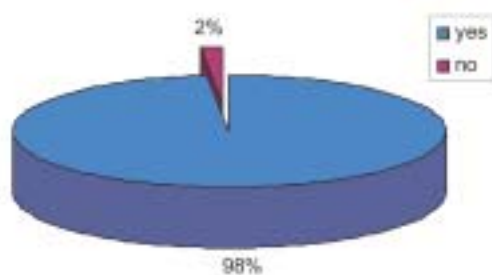
# Thank you!

Joint Secretariat kindly thanks Commissioner Hübner, Latvian Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government, Lithuanian Ministry of Interior, EC Delegations in Russia and Ukraine, Tacis Regional Capacity Building Initiative project, all INTERREG IIIA North and South projects and all participants of the "United by Borders" Conference for making it a success!



## Participants about the Conference

Would You attend similar event in future?



In order to give all Conference participants the possibility to provide feedback on the Conference, feedback questionnaires were distributed. The returned questionnaires indicate that all participants evaluated the Conference as useful or very useful. The Conference participants especially appreciated the workshops on future cross-border cooperation possibilities 2007-2013 and regarded the obtained information mostly as practical and very useful for future cooperation development. A strong desire to get more information on future cross-border cooperation programmes before the opening of the first calls for proposals was expressed. A significant part of the participants appreciated the possibility to exchange experiences in implementation of 2004-2006 cross-border projects.

*"For me it was useful to meet other project managers, deal, share and find new information, to hear and to see good cooperation and encouragement for the future."*

*"The information provided in the afternoon workshops was too general and no concrete answers were given."*

*"There was extremely useful information for potential applicants and good examples and chances to see difficulties of the past."*

*"The workshops were informative and fruitful. But there was not enough time and it was a bit difficult to discuss problems when there were so many people."*

*"It is very useful to attend the Conference where all the results are shown to participants, but it also would be useful to organise the Conference in the beginning of the new project period. There it should be discussed how to begin it, how to write the reports etc."*

*"I hope the workshops gave you some input as well."*

*"I'm a new one in the promoting of projects, so it was really interesting and understandable to get info about what was done. From exhibition I got a lot of fresh ideas."*

*"Most important is the cooperation between those who are managing the programme and those who are implementing projects"*

## What's Next?

### *INTERREG IIIA North and South Priorities*

December 2007	Closure of the majority of projects
December 2008	Closure of the Programme

### *Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme*

June 2007	Programme submitted to the European Commission
End 2007	Expected approval by the European Commission
	First call for proposals is planned as soon as possible after European Commission's approval

### *Estonia-Latvia Programme*

June 2007	Programme submitted to the European Commission
End 2007	Expected approval by the European Commission
February 2008	Launch of Programme with continuous project submission

### *ENPI Estonia-Latvia-Russia Programme*

Beginning 2008	Programme to be submitted to the European Commission
Summer 2008	Expected approval by the European Commission
Beginning 2008	Launch of first call for proposals

### *Latvia-Lithuania Programme*

September 2007	Programme submitted to the European Commission
End 2007	Expected approval by the European Commission
Spring 2008	Launch of first call for proposals

### *ENPI Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus Programme*

Beginning 2008	Programme to be submitted to the European Commission
Summer 2008	Expected approval by the European Commission
End 2008	Launch of first call for proposals

### *Baltic Sea Region Programme*

May 2007	Programme submitted to the European Commission
Autumn 2007	Expected approval by the European Commission
Early 2008	Launch of first call for proposals

### *INTERREG IVC Programme*

September 2007	Programme submitted to the European Commission
21 <sup>st</sup> September 2007	Call for proposals launched
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2008	Deadline for submission of applications.

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