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E-LETTER OF THE LATVIA, LITHUANIA AND BELARUS CROSS
BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME WITHIN THE EURO-
PEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT

2007-2013

OUR STORY

E - L E T T E R

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Hi!

This is the 3rd issue of the E-letter of the Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus Cross Border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007-2013. You will normally be receiving this E-letter once every three months.

You will also be receiving periodical E-shots once there will be important news related to the Programme.

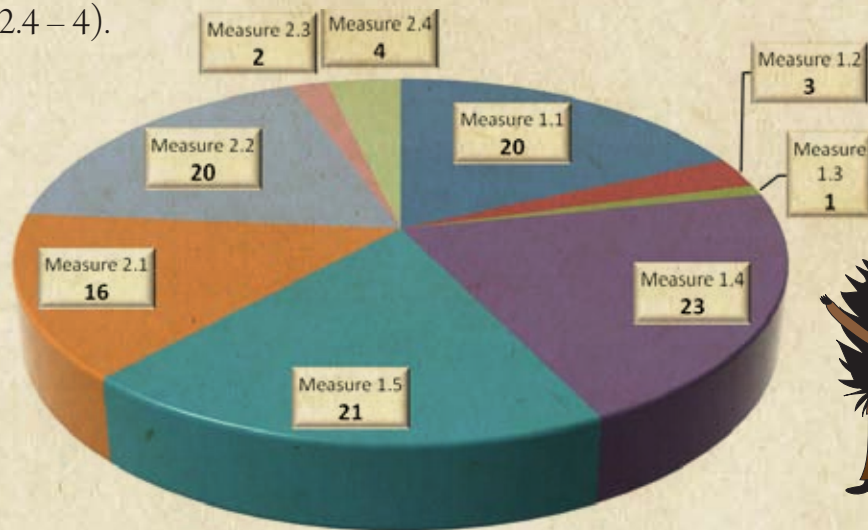
If you want to be on the recipients' list, please, send an e-mail to stating "News, please" in the "Subject" field (**if you have not done so yet**). If you do not want to receive the news about the Programme, please, send an e-mail to stating "No news" in the "Subject" field.



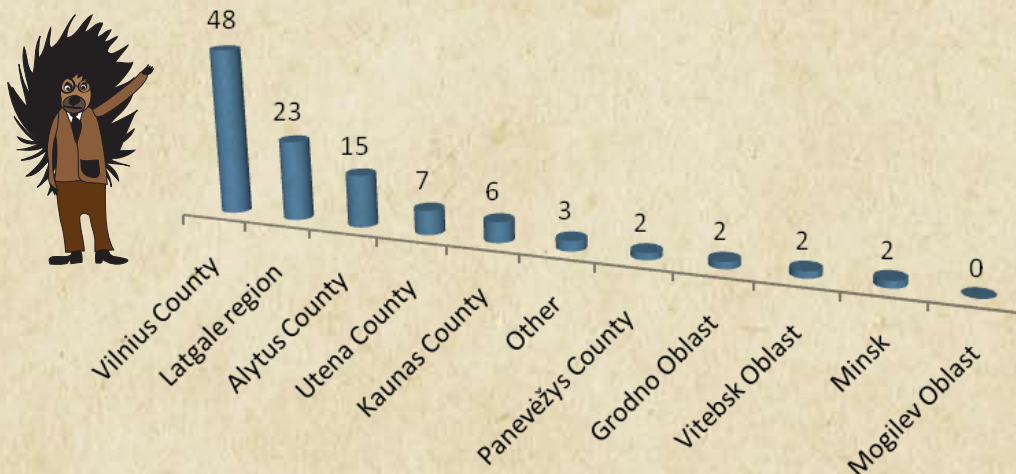
1. 110 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

110 applications were submitted during the 1st Call for Proposals, which ended on the 2nd of April, 2010. The total sum of the EU funding requested by these applications slightly exceeds 55 million euro.

68 applications were submitted under Priority 1 (measure 1.1 – 20, 1.2 – 3, 1.3 – 1, 1.4 – 23, 1.5 – 21) and 42 applications under Priority 2 (measure 2.1 – 16, 2.2 – 20, 2.3 – 2, 2.4 – 4).

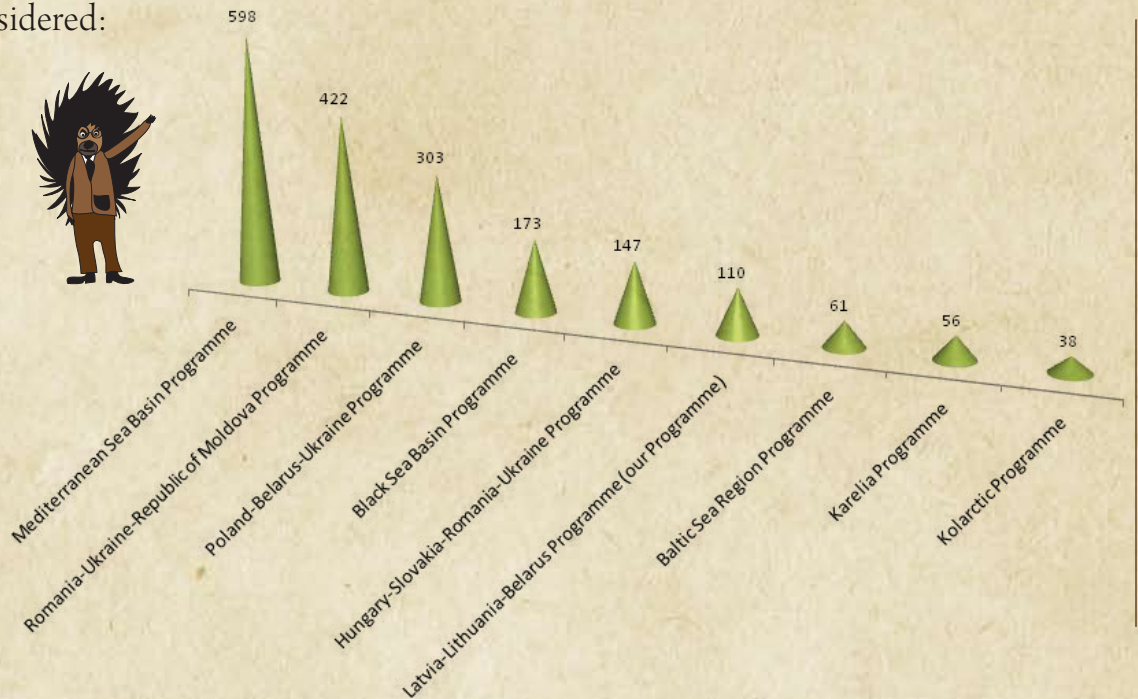


The champion region what regards the number of applications submitted is Vilnius County (Lithuania). 48 applications were submitted by beneficiaries coming from this region. 23 applications came from Latgale region (Latvia), 15 – from Alytus County (Lithuania), 7 – from Utena County (Lithuania), 6 – from Kaunas County (Lithuania), 3 – from the territories outside Programme area (Latvia), and 2 – from Panevėžys County (Lithuania), Grodno, Vitebsk Oblasts and Minsk (Belarus). No applications were submitted from Mogilev Oblast (Belarus).



In comparison to other programmes

In comparison to other cross-border cooperation programmes of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, the result of our Programme ranks around the middle, yet it is rather high if proportion of Programme area and number of applications is considered:



Next call

The 2nd Call for Proposals should be launched in the autumn of 2010. Before the opening of the call, the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Programme will organise the 2nd trilateral partner search forum, where potential applicants from Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus will be able to find partners. Please follow the information on our Programme website. The subscribers will receive the news regularly.



2. PROPHET OF THE PROGRAMME IS...

In the 2nd issue of "Our story", we invited you to guess how many applications would be submitted during the 1st Call for Proposals. We promised to call the person, who would guess right the Prophet of the Programme.

So, we received 7 guesses. The readers of "Our Story" guessed that 78, 84, 128, 137, 199 and ... 312 applications should be submitted.

And the winner of the competition is Ilze Stabulniece from Latvia, who thought that 123 applications will be submitted. This guess was closest to 110.

So, Ilze Stabulniece is the Prophet of the Programme! Congratulations! We shall send Ilze the promised prizes of the Programme by post.



3. PROCEDURE OF EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS



The Opening session of the applications, submitted for the 1st Call for Proposals, during which the application envelopes were opened was organised on the 26th of April.

The provisional evaluation and selection schedule is planned as follows:

1. By the end of May all the applicants should receive letters informing them about the results of the administrative check. Before that, some of the applicants may receive the letters asking them to submit certain clarifications. Please, check your post/fax regularly in order not to miss the deadlines set for submitting the clarifications.
2. By the end of June the letters informing about the results of the eligibility check should

follow. These letters will be sent only to the applicants of the action proposals, which have passed the administrative check. Again, you might be asked for some clarifications during the eligibility check.

3. The decisions on projects to be approved or rejected shall be made by the Joint Monitoring Committee, based on the quality assessment results and proposal of the Project Selection Committee, which is provisionally scheduled for September.

4. By middle of October the applicants, whose proposals have passed the eligibility check, should be informed about the final decision regarding the EU funding.

5. Finally, the applicants of the projects approved for funding will have 3 months to submit the technical documentation for construction works, if relevant, and 6 months to get the approval of their action by the Government of the Republic of Belarus. After this procedure will be finalised, the applicants will sign the Grant Contracts and become beneficiaries.

4. COMMUNICATION HANDBOOK FOR ACTION IMPLEMENTERS

The Joint Technical Secretariat has prepared the Communication Handbook for Action Implementers. Feel free to use it when preparing your applications in the future or while implementing the actions.



5. EUROPE DAY COMES

The traditional Europe Day will be celebrated in many European countries on the 9th of May. This day commemorates the fact that on the 9th of May, 1950 the then foreign minister of France Robert Schuman announced his declaration calling for united Europe and laying down the fundamentals for what we know today as the European Union. The Schuman Declaration provisioned the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community, which became the 1st European Community, later followed by the European Economic Community and Euratom.

- The main celebration of the Europe Day in Lithuania will take place in Druskininkai on the 8th of May (organised by the Representation of the European Commission in Lithuania).
- In Latvia the main celebration – week of Europe (from the 5th to the 9th of May) will take place in Riga.
- In Belarus, two actions related to the EU will be organised in May: the festival of the EU films (starting on the 10th of May) and the competition for journalists writing about the EU (since the 14th of May). For more information, please contact the EU Delegation to Belarus.

6. WELCOME, MR. COMMISSIONER!



We have decided to introduce to you the new commissioner for development in the European Commission Mr. Andris Piebalgs. Mr. Piebalgs is the representative of Latvia in the Commission. He was born in Valmiera. He acted as the commissioner for energy in the previous Commission of Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso.

Our Programme also falls under the field of competence of Mr. Piebalgs. Stepping into his position as the commissioner for development, Mr. Piebalgs named his main priorities:

- to achieve the Millennium Development Goals set forth by the United Nations;
- to ensure that EU Members States honour their commitments in regard to the Official Development Assistance (official international aid statistics compiled by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development);
- to make the EU's international aid more efficient.

8. www.enpi-info.eu information

New ENPI publication

A new short publication has been released, introducing all the programmes and initiatives of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. Do not miss your opportunities.

ENPI quiz



Have a minute of fun and rest! Take part in the interesting on-line quiz on the European Neighbourhood Policy.

The Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus Cross Border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument succeeds the Baltic Sea Region INTERREG IIIB Neighbourhood Programme Priority South IIIA programme for the period of 2007-2013.

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The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders. The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

