

BSR INTERREG III B NEWSLETTER No 5 • 03.2006-1

Content:

- News: Calls For Proposals
- Calendar of info events
- Information activities for 4th Call for Proposals
- List of approved projects

.....
The 4th Call for Proposals

The 4th Call for Proposals of the INTERREG IIIA Priorities North and South is open from 27 February 2006 with the deadline for project submission on 2 May 2006!

Please see more detailed description about available funding in the North and South sections.

.....
Information and consultations

Individual consultations will be available to the potential applicants that develop INTERREG IIIA projects and would like to discuss their project ideas with the Project Managers in the Joint Secretariat Riga.

Consultations are taking place every Wednesday from 23 February to 2 May at the premises of JS Riga, located at the address: Elizabetes iela 19, Riga, Latvia.

Individual consultations and information seminars are available in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus and Russia to the potential applicants that develop projects for INTERREG IIIA Priorities North and South.



Info seminars will take place:

13-14 March Lead Applicant seminar and consultations for Priority North in Gulbene, Latvia

15 March- seminar-training Utena, Lithuania

16 March- seminar-training Vilnius, Lithuania

20 March- information seminar-individual consultations Siauliai, Lithuania

22 March- seminar-training Utena, Lithuania

23 March- seminar-training Vilnius, Lithuania

27 March- individual consultations Siauliai, Lithuania

27-28 March info seminar in Pskov, Russia

30-31 March Lead Applicant seminar for Priority South in Latvia

10 April (individual consultation) in Tartu, Estonia

18 April (individual consultation) in Tartu, Estonia

18 April- individual consultations Vilnius, Lithuania

24 April (individual consultation) in Tartu, Estonia

24 April- individual consultations Vilnius, Lithuania

16-17 May 2006 "Baltic Sea INTERREG III B project conference - setting regions in motion" will take place on, Malmö/Sweden

26-27 June – SC North meeting

29-30 June – SC South meeting Klaipeda/Vitebsk

end-July- Lead Partner seminar for the projects approved at 4th Call

.....
New application pack on the WEB

The application pack for the 4th Call for Proposals was amended and is published at www.bsrinterreg3a.net. The Programme Manual in English, Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian and Russian will guide potential applicants on project preparation, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

.....
Lead partner seminar

On 21-22 February 2006 BSR INTERREG III B Joint Secretariat Riga organised the seminar for Lead Partners of the projects approved at the 3rd Call for Proposals.

Seminar took place in Riga and was aimed at explaining to Lead Partners the project implementation requirements as well as providing the opportunity to meet with JS representatives and other approved projects.

In total 55 participants from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia representing altogether 31 projects took part in the event. On the first day of the seminar there were presented the provisions of the Subsidy Contract and Partnership Agreement, the principles how to put into practice the Lead Partner principle. Project partners were also informed regarding reporting and payment procedure and its requirements. Introduction was provided on the certification of

BSR INTERREG III B NEWSLETTER No 5• 03.2006-2

expenditure and financial controls in the framework of INTERREG. Finally, the requirements on information and publicity measures were explained to the projects.

On the second day the Joint Secretariat Riga gave individual consultations to the project Lead Partners.

It is possible to download the presentations of the seminar for Lead Partners of the 3rd Call for Proposals in www.bsrinterreg3a.net.

New colleagues

INTERREG Riga office is pleased to welcome and introduce new colleagues from Russia and Belarus. Olga Smirnova (Russia) and Dzmitry Sharko (Belarus) are Tacis experts.

Olga Smirnova

Tacis Project Manager (Russia)

Olga Smirnova graduated from the Foreign Languages Faculty (English, Dutch and German) of the Pskov Pedagogical University; studied Economics and Management at the Pskov Polytechnic Institute; was certified as a stock exchange market professional actor by the Federal Financial Markets Service.

Olga has acquired experience in international projects (BSR INTERREG III B NP, Sida, Sala Ida and Tacis) when working for the Pskov oblast Regional Development Agency.

Being employed as the Tacis expert in the Joint Secretariat (Riga) Olga is in charge of all issued regarding Tacis part of a Project and cooperation with Russian partners.

Tel: +371 735 73 69

Mob: +371 636 78 08

Fax: +371 735 73 72

olga.smirnova@bsrinterreg3a.net

Dzmitry Sharko

Tacis Project Manager (Belarus)

Dzmitry Sharko graduated from the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (Belarus) where he studied English and German. He earned a degree of Master of Arts during Contemporary European Studies at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom.

Dzmitry gained experience in Tacis projects and Neighbourhood Programmes during his internship at the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus and work for the International Affairs Office of the Yanka Kupala State University.

In the Riga office Dzmitry is responsible for involvement and participation of Belarusian organisations in the Tacis part of the joint projects

Tel: +371 735 73 69

Mob: +371 636 67 08

Fax: +371 735 73 72

dzmitry.sharko@bsrinterreg3a.net



BSR INTERREG III B NEWSLETTER

No 5 • 03.2006-3

SOUTH SECTION

36 applications received in the 3rd Call for Applications for INTERREG IIIA Priority South

The 3rd Call for project applications for the INTERREG IIIA South Priority was closed on 31 October 2005. Altogether 35 applications have been received.

18 of the received projects have Latvian Lead Partners and 18 – Lithuanian Lead Partners. In addition there have been involved 71 applied partners from Latvia, 71 applied partners from Lithuania and 10 applied partners from Belarus.

17 project proposals have been submitted for Topic 1 – large-scale cross-border actions and 18 for Topic 2 – small-scale co-operation across the borders.

The total amount of funding requested from the ERDF in the 3rd Call for Proposals is 9,08 M EUR. The total amount of ERDF funds available for projects after first two Calls for proposals – 6,77 M EUR.



Fifteen projects approved in the INTERREG IIIA South Priority

On the 17-18 January 2006 the Steering Committee (SC) of the Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme IIIA Priority South met in Daugavpils, Latvia to discuss the project applications submitted for the third Call for Proposals.

The Call was launched on the 5th September 2005 and was closed on the 31 October 2005.

Altogether 36 project applications were received.

The SC approved 15 projects to be co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), 14 of them have been approved under conditions.

Projects approved under Topic 1 (utilising the cross-border co-operation to enhance the competitiveness of involved regions and improve the access to markets across the borders) are:

(1) „*Better and safer roads in the LV/LT, LV/BY border territories*” (Lead Partner – Kraslava municipality Council, Latvia) - development of the road infrastructure by preparation of technical documentation for upgrading the transit streets in towns of Kraslava (Latvia) and Zarasai (Lithuania).

(2) „*Cross-border initiative for creation of emergency management system of disasters in neighbouring regions of Latvia and Lithuania*” (Lead Partner – Jelgava City Council, Latvia) -

creation of the cross-border risk management system in Jelgava (Latvia) and Siauliai (Lithuania) regions thus contributing to the safety in the border areas.

(3) „*Organising Latvian-Lithuanian cross-border basketball championships and streetball tournaments*” (Lead Partner – Daugavpils District council, Latvia) – establishment of a tradition of regular basketball championships and street ball tournaments among Latgale (Latvia) and Rytu Auskaltija (Lithuania) border area municipalities as well as improvement of the sports infrastructure.

(4) „*Cross-border Pilotproject of Teleradiology Network Development among Hospitals in Latvia and Lithuania*” (Lead Partner – Preiļi Hospital, Latvia) - ensuring of more effective and efficient patient care by provision of high quality diagnostic radiology services via the established cooperation network of Preiļi, Ludza, Zarasai, Pauls Stradiņš University in Riga and Kaunas Medical University hospitals.

(5) „*Traditional Crafts and Arts for Promoting Entrepreneurship and Tourism along Kurši Coastline of the Baltic Sea*” (Lead Partner – Ventspils City Council, Latvia) - cooperation between Ventspils (Latvia) and Klaipeda (Lithuania) city municipalities and culture organizations in promotion of traditional crafts.

(6) „*Enriching Cultural Life on Latvian-Lithuanian Border by Sharing Traditions – Way of Balts Across the Borders*” (Lead





BSR INTERREG III B NEWSLETTER No 4 • 09.2005-4

SOUTH SECTION

Partner – Daugavpils District Municipal Council Center of Folk Education and Culture, Latvia) - strengthening of cultural co-operation among Latvian and Lithuanian cultural organizations and amateur collectives.

(7) „*Cross-border cooperation on integrated nature and water resource management between Bauska and Biršai districts*” (Lead Partner – Bauska District Council, Latvia) – strengthening of cooperation among Bauska and Biršai regions for better nature and water management through integration of the nature elements into planning processes.

(8) „*Revival of Curonian Traditions in Stone Sculptures and Traditional Crafts*”

(Lead Partner – Skuodas region municipality administration, Lithuania) – strengthening of cooperation between Skuodas (Lithuania) and Liepaja (Latvia) regions in order to promote Curonian traditional crafts, soldiery and cultural heritage.

(9) „*Cross-border Cooperation of Universities of Latvia - Lithuania - Belarus in Environmental Protection*” (Lead Partner – Daugavpils University, Latvia) – improvement of cooperation of universities from Daugavpils (Latvia), Siauliai (Lithuania) and Novopolock (Belarus) in the field of environment protection.

Projects approved under Topic 2 (supporting the development and strengthening of co-operation on a people-to-people level and between the institutions located in border regions) are:

(1) „*Community Involvement in Energy Efficiency Training and Projects to Promote Good Neighbourhood Practice in Border Areas of Latvia, Belarus, Lithuania*” (Lead Partner – Preiļi County Council, Latvia) - development and strengthening of cooperation between residents and organisations located in the Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarusian border regions through community activation and training on energy efficiency issues.

(2) „*Elaboration, implementation and development of innovative products of Latvian and Lithuanian small and medium enterprises*” (Lead Partner – Preiļi County Council, Latvia) – utilisation of the cross-border cooperation in order to facilitate socio-economic development by arranging training and networking activities for micro and small businesses in border areas of Latvia and Lithuania.

(3) „*Cooperation between Lithuanian and Latvian regions schoolchildren and schoolteachers in developing sports tourism Cooperation LT and LV*” (Lead Partner – Lithuanian Youth Tourism Centre, Lithuania) - strengthening the cooperation among schoolchildren and teachers in

Latvian and Lithuanian regions by means of involving them into sports tourism activities.

(4) „*Strengthening Organisational Skills of Hearing Impaired Youth and their Families*” (Lead Partner – Lithuanian Association of Families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children PAGAVA, Lithuania) - creation of a network of organizations for hearing impaired Latvian and Lithuanian young people and their parents.

(5) „*Development of Cultural Activities of local Communities and NGOs Two states-one community*” (Lead Partner – Auri parish council Dobeļe district, Latvia) - cooperation of local communities and NGOs on immediate Latvian and Lithuanian borders by implementation of joint cultural and leisure events.

(6) „*Establishing cooperation network of Latvian and Lithuanian flax growers and facilitating development of flax growing industry*” (Lead Partner – Preiļi County Council, Latvia) - increasing the competitiveness of Lithuanian and Latvian flax industry through facilitating cooperation of cross border regions in Latvia (Latgale) and Lithuania (Utena, Vilnius, Kaunas).

The total requested ERDF funding amounts to 4 million EUR. However, the allocated funding may be different due to the fact that some projects have been approved under conditions, i.e. certain improvements are required, including budget changes.



BSR INTERREG III B NEWSLETTER

No 4 • 09.2005-5

SOUTH SECTION

.....

The 4th Call for Proposals for the Priority South

.....

The 4th Call for Proposals for the Priority South will be open from February 20 to May 2, 2006

Funding available in the ERDF budget for the projects to be submitted within the 4th Call projects amounts - about EUR 2.7 million. Tacis funding available from Action Programme 2004 is EUR 0.8 million.

The priority at this call of the Priority South will be given to projects covering the following fields:

Topic 1 (enhancing competitiveness and improvement of access to the markets across borders):

- Development of businesses along the transit corridors;
- Establishment of cross-border contacts/ networks;
- Development of cross-border services.

Topic 2 (cross-border co-operation on the people-to-people level):

- 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.

.....

Calendar (South)

.....

20 February – launch of the 4th Call for Proposals

21-22 February- Lead Partner seminar for projects approved in 3rd Call

9-10 March – seminar for Lead Applicants

2 May – deadline for the submission of applications

8 June – assessment documents sent to SC

29-30 June – SC South meeting Klaipeda/Vitebsk

end-July- Lead Partner seminar





BSR INTERREG III B NEWSLETTER

No 5 • 03.2006-6

NORTH SECTION

48 applications received for the 3rd Call for Applications for INTERREG IIIA North Priority

The 3rd call for project applications for the INTERREG IIIA North Priority was closed on 14 November 2005. The applicants have shown great interest to the event, 48 applications have been received in total.

24 of the received projects were presented by Latvian Lead Partners, 23 – Estonian Lead Partners and one project submitted has a Russian Lead Partner. In addition 76 applied partners from Latvia, 96 applied partners from Estonia and 41 applied partners from Russia are involved in the event (tender). ?

18 project proposals have been submitted for Measure 1 – cooperation on border between Latvia and Estonia and 30 proposals for Measure 2 – cooperation on the EU external borders with Russia.

The total amount of funding requested from the ERDF was EUR 11,716,331. The total amount of ERDF funds available for projects was is EUR 4.3 million.

In this round projects also could apply for Tacis funding. The funding allocated for this call from Tacis fund is EUR 1 million. The total amount of funding requested from the Tacis is EUR 2,723,414.

16 projects approved in the INTERREG IIIA Priority North

On the 26-27 January 2006 the Steering Committee (SC) of the Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme IIIA Priority North met in Pärnu, Estonia to discuss the project applications submitted for the third Call for Proposals. The Call was launched on the 5th September 2005 and was closed on the 14 November 2005. Altogether 48 project applications were received.

The SC approved 16 projects to be co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF); all of them have been approved under conditions.

Projects approved under Measure 1 (cooperation on borders between Latvia and Estonia) are:

(1) „*Velo tourism route 'Barons'*” (Lead Partner – Latvian Olympians Club) – development of cycling tourism route from Tartu (Estonia) to Dundaga (Latvia).

(2) „*Tuned management and monitoring of the transboundary protected areas in North-Livonia as a support for local development*” (Lead Partner – Nigula Nature Reserve Administration, Estonia) – cooperation on management of cross-border wetlands in Estonian – Latvian border area.

(3) “*Youth activation in rural regions*” (Lead Partner - Pure Rural Municipality, Latvia) - development of cross-border net-

works in the field of social education of youth and teenagers, organizing joint summer camps.

(4) “*Promoting exchange of cultural heritage and educating teachers and students of Gaujiena and Alatskivi Art Schools*” (Lead Partner - Gaujiena municipality, Latvia) – development of professional skills of teachers and students by organizing joint events for promotion of music and arts.

(5) “*Mire habitat restoration planning*” (Lead Partner - Estonian Fund for Nature) - strengthening the relations and knowledge transfer in mire habitat protection from Latvia to Estonia.

(6) “*Livonia Maritima - Riga Gulf Joint Co-operation Region*” (Lead Partner - Pärnu Town Government, Estonia) - cooperation in the field of planning among the regional and local authorities situated on the shores of the Gulf of Riga.

(7) “*Haanja - Road to Future*” (Lead Partner - South Eastern Regional Road Office, Estonia) – covering the road from Suur Munamägi (highest peak of the Baltics) in southern Estonia to Latvian border.

Projects approved under Measure 2 (cooperation on EU external borders with Russia) are:

(1) “*Development and promotion of the entrepreneurship in Setomaa based on local cultural traditions*” (Lead Partner - Union of Setomaa Rural Municipalities, Estonia) – development of



BSR INTERREG III B NEWSLETTER No 5 • 03.2006-7

NORTH SECTION

entrepreneurship in Setomaa based on the traditional handicrafts.

(2) "Establishment of cross-border cooperation network of disabled people" (Lead Partner - Balvi District Council, Latvia) - widening and deepening cross-border co-operation contacts in the area of social work, organizing joint events for disabled people.

(3) "Cultural and historical heritage for sustainable social and economical development of fortress triangle area Aluksne-Vastseliina- Izborsk" (Lead Partner - Vastseliina Rural Municipality, Estonia) – renovating parts of three medieval castle complexes and joint marketing activities.

(4) "Integrated and sustainable development of Emajõgi-Peipsi-Velikaja waterway as a tourism destination" (Lead Partner - Association of the Local Authorities of Tartu County, Estonia) – laying ground for future investments along the waterway from Tartu to Pskov and planning a development zone on the shores of the Velikaja River.

(5) "Organising International Summer Camps For Young People From Border Regions" (Lead Partner - Aluksne Town Council, Latvia) – organising international creative and environmental camps for the youth from Latvian and Russian border areas.

(6) "Project on transboundary management of nature reserves at Lake Peipus area - Alam-Pedja,

Emajõe-Suursoo and Remidov nature reserves" (Lead Partner - Estonian Fund for Nature) – strengthening cooperation between three large wetland nature reserves on both sides of Lake Peipus.

(7) "Spatial planning - tool for cross-sectoral and cross-border integration of policies" (Lead Partner - Vidzeme Development Agency, Latvia) - integrating the territorial planning in Vidzeme region and Pechory district.

(8) "Fostering Business Development in Border Areas through Cooperation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Regional Development Agencies" (Lead Partner - Vidzeme Development Agency, Latvia) – supporting business cooperation in the border areas of Estonia, Latvia and Russia.

(9) "Cultural Integration on the New Frontiers of the EU" (Lead Partner - Aluksne District Council) – strengthening cultural cooperation between municipalities of Estonian-Latvian-Russian border area.

The total ERDF funding requested by these projects amounts to approximately 2.2 million EUR and 0.8 million EUR from Tacis funds.

The 4th Call for Proposals for the Priority North

The 4th Call for Proposals for the Priority North will be open from February 20 to May 2, 2006.

Funding available in the ERDF

budget for the projects to be submitted in the 4th Call for Proposal amounts to 2.1 million EUR. Tacis funding available from Tacis Action Programmes 2004 and 2005 will be about EUR 2.5 million .

The priority in this call of the Priority North will be given to projects in the following fields: *On the EU internal border* (cooperation between Estonia and Latvia):

- creation of networks of regional and/or local authorities;
- model solutions to existing problems in sustainable spatial development, environmental protection and resource management.

Projects on the external border (cooperation with Russia):

- creation networks of regional and/or local authorities;
- development of cross-border tourism services;
- joint development strategies for the improvement of economic structure and fostering of structural changes.

.....

Calendar

.....

20 February – launch of the 4th Call for Proposals

21-22 February- Lead Partner seminar for projects approved in 3rd Call

13-14 March- seminar and partner search forum in Russia

16-17 March – seminar for Lead Applicants

May – deadline for the submission of applications

26-27 June – SC North meeting
end-July- Lead Partner seminar

