



Lithuania, Poland and Kaliningrad Region of Russian Federation Neighbourhood Programme

Part-financed by the European Union

E-LETTER

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Periodic edition disseminated to the members of the Joint Monitoring and Steering Committee, the Managing Authority, the National Authority, European Commission Delegation to Russia, Joint Technical Secretariat, Polish Regional Contact Points, regional and local authorities, international organisations, public institutions, similar organisations and bodies in other INTERREG and Neighbourhood programmes, journalists, potential applicants and final beneficiaries.



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Activities

IXTH JMSC MEETING APPROVED 12 TACIS PROJECTS

The 9th meeting of the Joint Monitoring and Steering Committee (JMSC) of the Lithuania, Poland and Kaliningrad Region of Russian Federation Neighbourhood Programme (Neighbourhood Programme) was held in Kaliningrad, Russian Federation on the 20-21st of February, 2007. The members of the Steering Committee approved co-funding for 12 projects benefiting Kaliningrad region. The part-financing from the European Union will reach

to the 12 were approved with conditions they would be funded if the Neighbourhood Programme still had funds left.

The implementers of the projects approved will work on the improvement of the ecological situation and business conditions in Kaliningrad region. They will also preserve and promote the historical heritage of the Region and engage in various trainings of adults and youth.

As well decision for allocating additional ERDF amounts to priority 1 and priority 2 projects ending till July 2007 was taken by the JMSC. About 590.000 Euros were allocated for infrastructure or services which had grown since

Lithuania. 68 participants from Poland and Lithuania took part in the seminar.

The Deputy director of the



Regional policy department of the Lithuanian Ministry of the Interior Ms Irena Šimėnienė and the Deputy governor of the Alytus county of Lithuania Ms Ona Balevičienė greeted the participants.

The participants of the seminar were instructed about the general and financial project implementation, as well as the publicity and engineering requirements. You can find all the presentations at: http://www.interreg3a.org/intereg/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=144&Itemid=78 (in Lithuanian) or http://www.interreg3a.org/interegpl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=109&Itemid=53 (in Polish).



the Neighbourhood projects project approval through the TACIS programme.

IVTH LEAD PARTNER SEMINAR TOOK PLACE

Approximately 3 mln. Euros of TACIS funds have been allocated to the projects. As far as the final sum available for the projects was not clear (contracting of previously approved projects is not yet finalised), 2 projects in addition

On the 7th of February, 2007 the INTERREG JTS organised the fourth Lead Partner Seminar of the Neighbourhood Programme. The seminar was held in Druskininkai,

Special attention was paid to practical implementation issues, as INTERREG JTS project managers noticed that the



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project implementers are Interior. As well issues of Programme. Also, the mostly interested in these national co-financing perspectives of the co-operation issues. However, the seminar in guaranteed by the Republic of between the INTERREG JTS in Druskininkai was the last Lead Lithuania (50% of total Vilnius and the INTERREG Partner seminar as all ERDF required co-financing for Joint Technical Secretariat in funds allocated to the project implementation) to the Riga were discussed.

VISITS TO THE INTERREG JTS

On the 12th of February, 2007 the minister of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, Mr Raimondas Šukys, Undersecretary to the Minister Ms Giedrė Švedienė and representatives from the Regional Policy Department visited the INTERREG JTS of the Neighbourhood Programme. The minister heard the report about the activities of the INTERREG JTS and the results of the Neighbourhood Programme. The minister was especially interested to hear about the project implemented by the Police departments of both countries and State Fire and Rescue services projects implemented in both countries, as these units are in the sphere of activity of the Ministry of



On the 23rd of February, 2007 the delegation of the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government of the Republic of Latvia led by the Deputy State Secretary Zanda Kalnina-Lukasevica visited the INTERREG JTS of the Neighbourhood Programme. During the visit the delegation was informed about the activities of the INTERREG JTS and the results of the Neighbourhood

MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE FOR 2007-2013 PROGRAMMES

On the 13th of February, 2007 the meeting of the Task Force for the 2007-2013 European Territorial Cooperation Objective Lithuania-Poland Cross-Border Cooperation Programme took place in the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania. The Lithuanian and Polish delegations in principle agreed on the draft version on the programming document. This gives hope that the Programme of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective Lithuania-Poland Cross-Border Cooperation Programme will soon be presented for the approval of the European Commission.



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RESULTS OF THE POLL 2007

In the end of the year 2006 INTERREG JTS sent out the questionnaire to its 260 contacts. Only 27 answers were received (16 from Lithuania, 7 from Poland and 4 from Russia). They provided the following results:

Where did you first learn about the Neighbourhood Programme from?				
INTERREG JTS	Polish and Russian (TACIS Regional Contact Points	Regional and local government	Press, TV, radio	Other (internet, working with Neighbourhood Programme, partners, events)
10 (LT-8; PL-2)	6 (PL-2; RU-4)	5 (LT-3; PL-2)	1 (LT)	5 (LT-4; PL-1)
How do you estimate the quality of the www.interreg3a.org web site?				
Very good		Satisfactory		Poor
13 (LT-9; PL-1; RU-3)		11 (LT-6; PL-4; RU-		3 (LT-1; PL-2)
How do you estimate the quality of the information provided by the INTERREG JTS?				
Very good		Satisfactory		Poor
18 (LT-13; PL-1; RU-4)		8 (LT-3; PL-5)		1 (PL)
How do you estimate the quality of the information provided by the Polish contact points?				
Very good		Satisfactory		Poor
3 (PL)		2 (PL)		2 (PL)
How do you estimate the quality of the events organised by the INTERREG JTS?				
Very good	Satisfactory	Poor		Haven't participated
18 (LT-12; PL-2; RU-4)	6 (LT-1; PL-5)	1 (LT)		2 (LT)
How do you estimate the quality of the e-letter sent by the INTERREG JTS periodically?				
Very good	Satisfactory	Poor		Haven't seen
16 (LT-10; PL-2; RU-4)	7 (LT-5; PL-2)	3 (PL)		1 (LT)
Have you found information about the Neighbourhood Programme in press, radio or TV?				
Yes			No	
7 (LT-13; PL-4; RU-3)			7 (LT-3; PL-3; RU-1)	
Are employees of INTERREG JTS competent enough to answer your questions?				
Yes, they are very helpful	Satisfactory	They let me down		Haven't tried
18 (LT-12; PL-2; RU-4)	7 (LT-2; PL-5)			2 (LT)
Are employees of Polish Regional Contact Points competent enough to answer your questions?				
Yes, they are very helpful	Satisfactory	They let me down		Haven't tried
3 (PL)	4 (PL)			
Was Key expert in Kaliningrad competent enough to answer your questions?				
Yes, he was very helpful	Satisfactory	He let me down		Haven't tried
2 (RU)				2 (RU)

Diagrams: http://www.interreg3a.org/interregen/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=107&Itemid=67 .

We would like to inform that in future we will be sending some questionnaires and would kindly ask everybody to express their opinion actively, so that basing on the information provided we could improve our work.



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Upcoming events

REPORTING TRAININGS FOR PARTNERS OF APPROVED PROJECTS

Taking into account that the first reports submitted by the project implementers have already been verified in the INTERREG JTS and project managers already have experience what are the most common mistakes made, to which points of the reports attention should be drawn, it was decided to organise seminars devoted only to the reporting issues. In order to achieve better synergy, the seminars will be organised with the institutions performing 1st level controls in the countries (in Poland – relevant voivodship offices, in Lithuanian – auditors for the company “IDG auditas”). The events are planned for the second half of March and will take place in the Lithuanian (Alytus, Marijampolė and Klaipėda counties) and Polish (Podlaskie, Mazurskie, Pomorskie) voivodships. The exact place and dates of the events will be announced on the Neighbourhood Programme website in the nearest days, please check. The seminars

will be aimed at all projects partners, not only Lead Partners or Financial Partners. All partners will be informed individually by fax or e-mail. The representatives of the 1st level control will speak about the requirements to the reports submitted for verification, requirements to additional documents, and proving expenditure incurred. INTERREG JTS project managers will present the requirements for common reports. In both parts of the seminar the most common mistakes made by the project implementers will be analysed. .

Also, the updated and complemented guidelines for submitting the reports prepared by the INTERREG JTS will be presented. The amended version of guidelines was prepared taking into account experience obtained and contains the examples of most common mistakes made and how to correct such mistakes. The e-version of the guidelines will appear on the Neighbourhood Programme website.

TACIS CONFERENCE FOR APPROVED PROJECTS

The TACIS responsible partners of the TACIS part of the projects approved in the JMSC Meetings in Palanga (24th-25th of October, 2006) and Kaliningrad (20th-21st of February, 2007) will be invited to the 2nd TACIS launching conference, scheduled for the end of March or the beginning of April, 2007. The event will be organised jointly by the Commission Delegation to Russia in Moscow. Information about project implementation, reporting and information and publicity requirements to the projects part financed by the European Union will be provided in the Conference. The event will take place in Kaliningrad Oblast.

Its exact date will be announced after it will be agreed with the Delegation of the European Commission to Russia. All TACIS responsible partners will be informed individually.



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POLL ABOUT TOOLS OF COMMUNICATION FOR 2007-2013

In order to efficiently prepare for the activities of communication and information about the cross-border co-operation programmes in the 2007-2013 programming period, we would like to get your opinion on which information channels work best. We invite you to take part in the poll at: <http://www.interreg3a.org/interregen/>

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