Estonia-Russia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020

Annual Report 01.07.2018-30.06.2019

Citizen's Summary

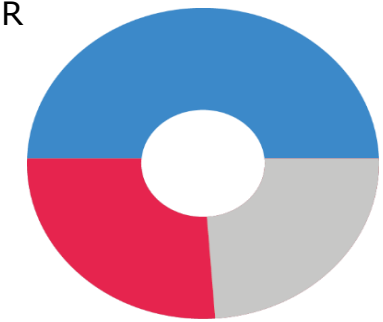
EST | RUS
Cross Border Cooperation Programme

Co-funded by the European Union, the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation

General overview

Estonia-Russia CBC Programme 2014-2020 is one of the 7 cross-border cooperation programmes operating along EU borders with Russia fostering cooperation across the borders between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation.

The Programme total amount of funds is MEUR 34,2.



The Programme area includes St. Petersburg, Leningrad and Pskov regions in Russia and Kirde-Eesti, Lõuna-Eesti, Kesk-Eesti regions in Estonia and Põhja-Eesti region (incl. Tallinn) as an adjoining region.

Programme's areas of cooperation are covered by 4 Thematic Objectives (TOs):
TO 1 – Business and SME development;
TO 5 – Support for local & regional good governance
TO 6 – Environmental protection, and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
TO 10 – Promotion of border management and border security, mobility and migration management.

Programme implementation period 01.01.2017 – 31.12.2022.

For more information https://estoniarussia.eu/

OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Joint Monitoring Committee(JMC) and Selection Committees (SC)

During the reporting period 6th JMC meeting was held on 25 April 2019 in Gatchina, Russia, where key decisions were taken related to the overall Programme implementation and specific issues of the 1st and 2nd calls for the standard and Large Infrastructure Projects. JMC has taken 19 decisions via written procedures – 9 decisions during the period July-December 2018 and 10 during the period January-June 2019.

In line with the Programme's requirements the quality assessment of the projects' Applications was performed by the SC within the course of 3 meetings.

Managing Authority (MA) and Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)/Branch Offices (BOs)

The 3rd annual report from the period of 01/07/2017 to 30/06/2018 was submitted by MA to the European Commission (EC) on time on 14 February 2019.
The incurred expenditure for technical assistance budget covering the period of 01/03/2017 until 30/06/2018 was verified and received a confirmation from the Certifying Authority (CA).
The JTS, including staff of BOs in St.Petersburg and Pskov was operational, worked on overall management of the JTS tasks, team development, as well as overall management of the process of implementation of the Estonia-Russia CBC Programme 2014-2020.
The reporting period also included transfer of the MA and JTS to the State Shared Service Centre as of 1 September 2018.

National Authorities (NAs)

Main activities of NAs were focusing on approval of documents via written procedures; chairing and co-chairing the JMC meetings; preparation of Financing Agreements.

OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Progress achieved in implementing the Programme and its Priorities

Projects for the 1st Call for proposals concluded the first Grant contracts in February-March, 2019 and four Large Infrastructure projects (LIPs) till the deadline of 30 June 2019 as it is stated in Commission Implementing Regulation.

The 1st Call Project´ selection related JMC decisions were made during summer of year 2018, however the contracting could start only in the beginning of year 2019, due to ratification of the Financing Agreement by the Russian Federation in December 2018.

Within the period February-June 2019 Grant Contracts of 16 projects were signed and 12 pre-payments to projects done. Those projects which managed to start implementation from February-April of 2019 had fast beginning and delivered some outputs already by the end of summer 2019.

1st Call for proposals implementation schedule

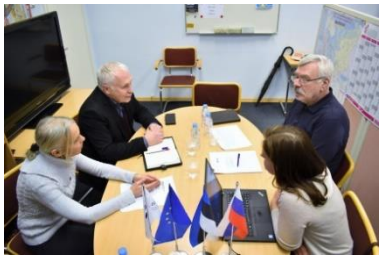
2nd Call for proposals implementation schedule

OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Assistance to the projects' applicants and beneficiaries

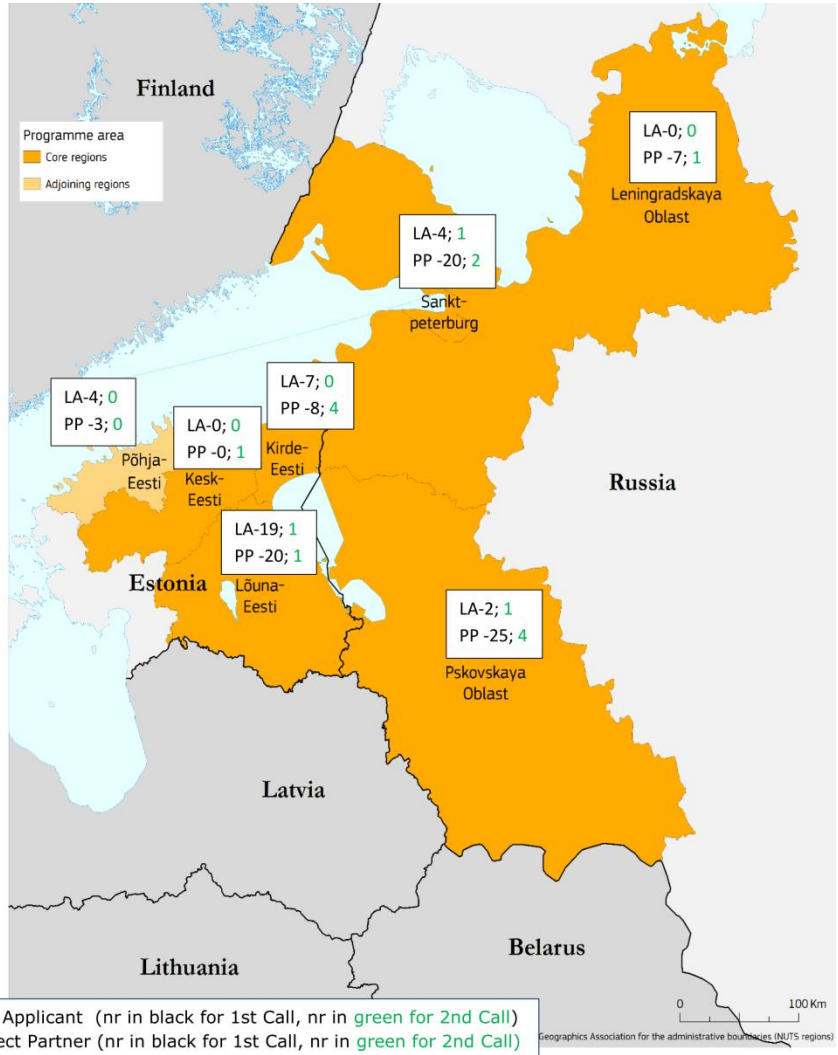
JTS had delivered different kind of assistance to the project's applicants and beneficiaries, including 3 seminars for beneficiaries of the 1st call for proposals with the total of 157 participants (127 from Russia and 30 from Estonia), out of over 95 % of respondents evaluated events as very useful and useful; consultations for the 2nd call applicants and partners on Full Application Form (FAF) preparation; individual/group consultations on project reporting in eMS.

On daily bases JTS supported projects for the preparation of the Partnership Agreements and the Grant Contracts, as well as assisted projects started in the 1st half of 2019. Consultations for the applicants for filling-in documents and other eMS features were provided on daily bases by the JTS staff - eMS administrator and programme consultants.



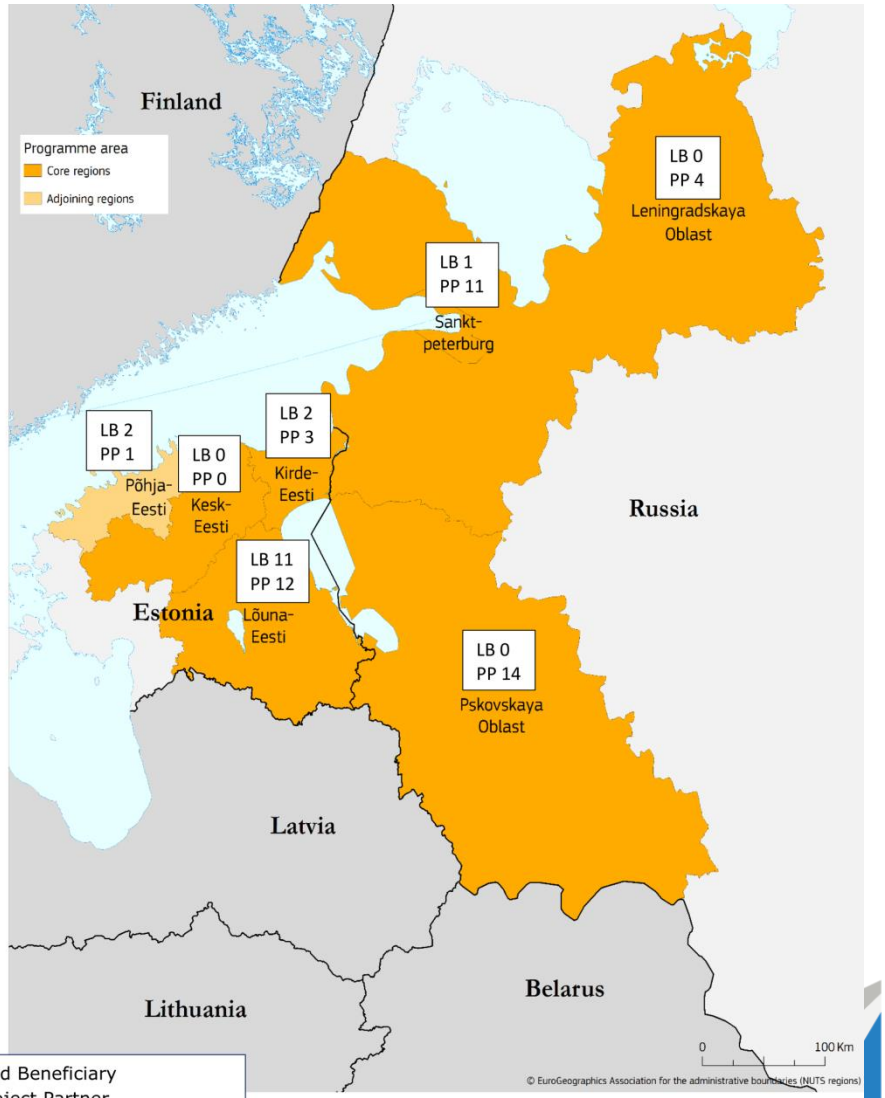
The responsible programme consultants actively participated in kick-off meetings of projects, by their presentations reminded programme requirements, informed on financial flow, answered to questions. In total 7 projects' kick-off meetings were visited.

Organisations involved in projects proposals submitted for funding *(Full Application Stage)*



LA –Lead Applicant (nr in black for 1st Call, nr in green for 2nd Call)
PP – Project Partner (nr in black for 1st Call, nr in green for 2nd Call)

Organizations involved in grant contracts



LB –Lead Beneficiary
PP – Project Partner

Large Infrastructure Projects (LIPs)

LIPs application forms were submitted in September 2017 and approved by the EC in December 2018. Due to that some changes were needed in the projects before contracting – mostly reallocations of activities with minor budgetary implications.
Four LIPs were preparing Partnership Agreements with the thorough assistance of JTS. Consultations were provided to different projects´ partners in Estonia and Russia.

The first Grant Contract was signed on 28 March 2019 with ER1 "SME ACCESS" and project launched from 1 April 2019.

ER2 "Common Peipsi 2" project signed Grant Contract on 20 June 2019 with starting date as 1 July 2019. This is a LIP with the biggest partnership – 6 partners from Estonia and 3 from Russia.

ER3 "Narva-Ivangorod Castles" project signed Grant Contract on 21 June 2019 and started on 2 September 2019.

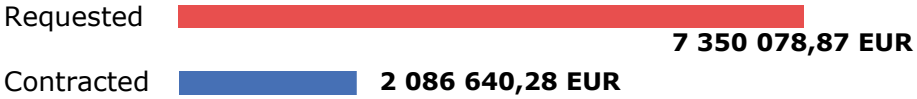
ER4 "River Promenades III" project signed Grant Contract on 29 June 2019 with starting date as 1 July 2019.

Project ER5 "Complex reconstruction of border crossing points in Shumilkino (Russia) and in Luhamaa (Estonia)" was not contracted. On 31 July 2019 Managing Authority submitted a request to EC for revision to amend the JOP taking into account withdrawal of the project ER5 and need for reallocation of funds to other LIPs.

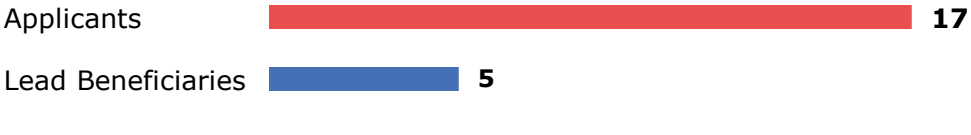
Standard projects by Thematic Objectives

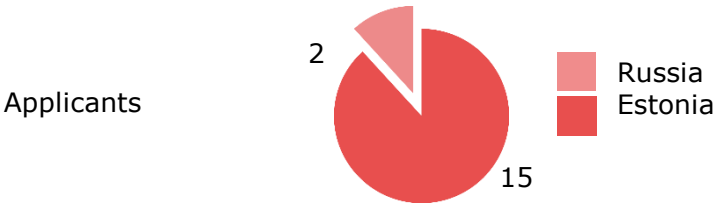
Thematic objective 1
Business and SME development

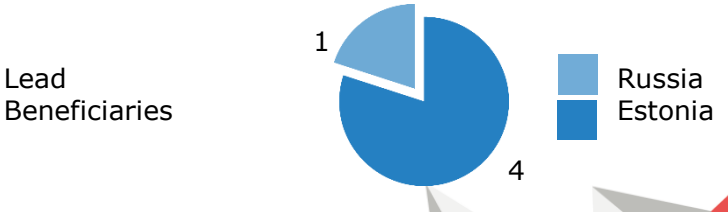
Volume of grants requested and contracted



Number of Applicants and Lead Beneficiaries







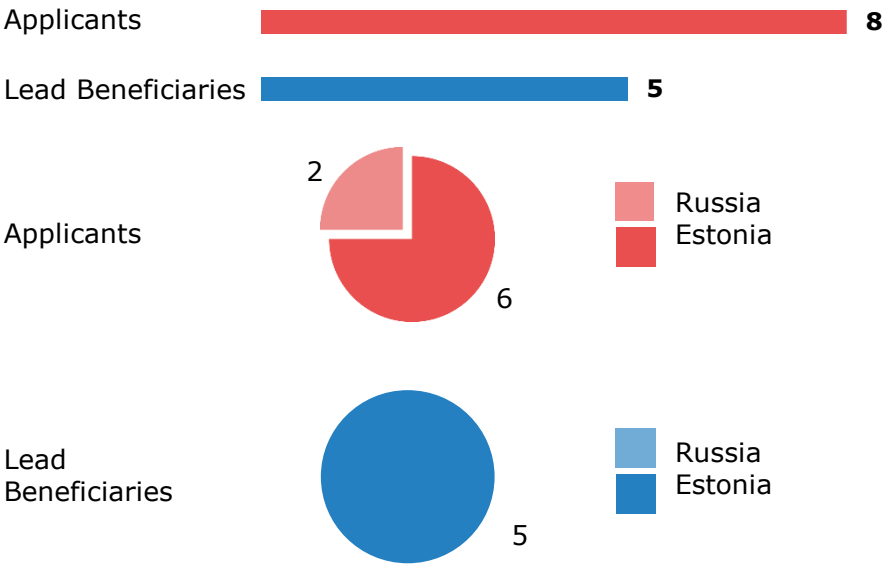
Standard projects by Thematic Objectives

Thematic objective 5

Support to local and regional good governance

Volume of grants requested and contracted

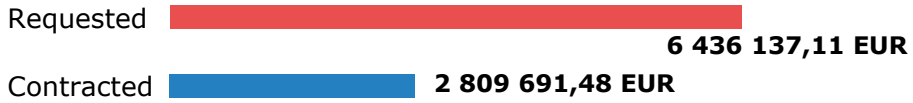
Number of Applicants and Lead Beneficiaries



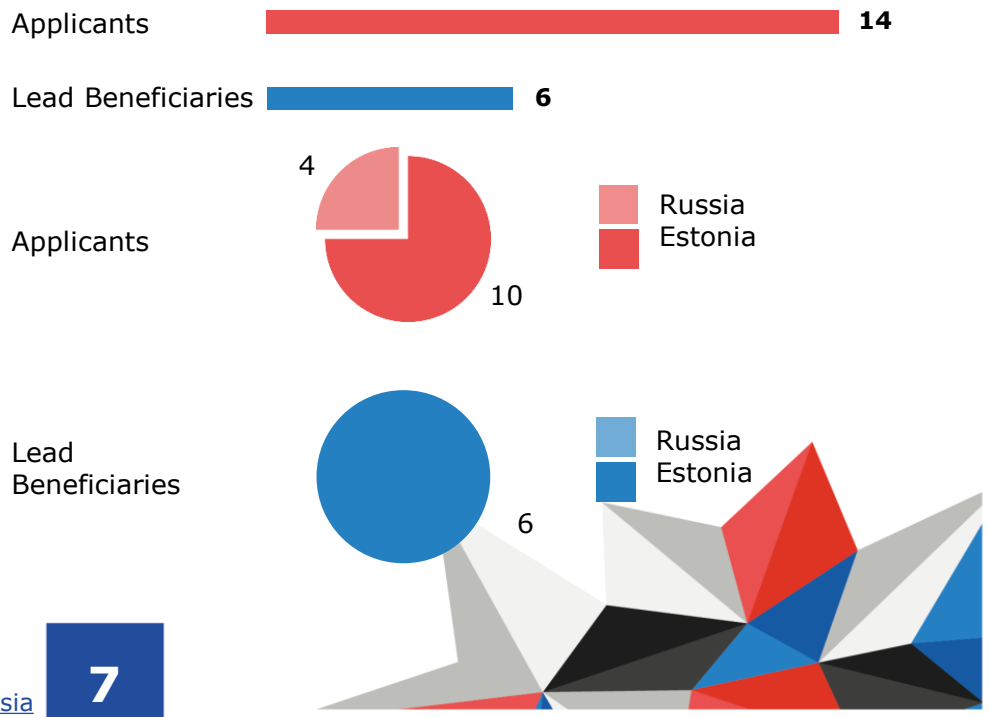
Thematic objective 6

Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation

Volume of grants requested and contracted

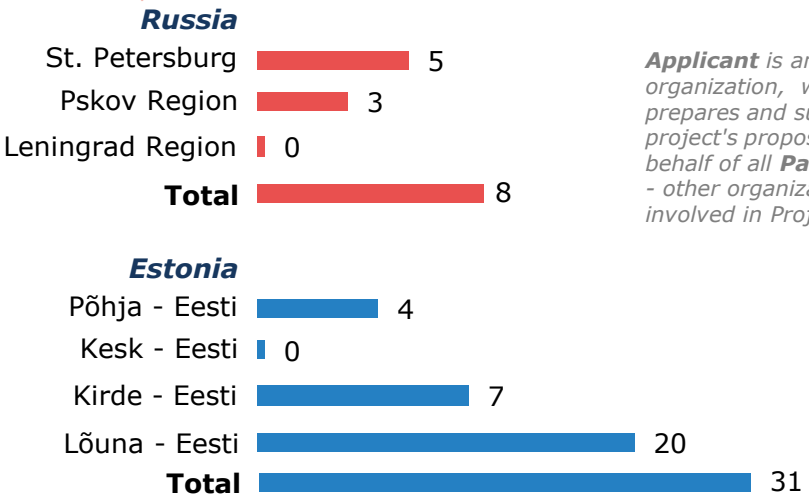


Number of Applicants and Lead Beneficiaries



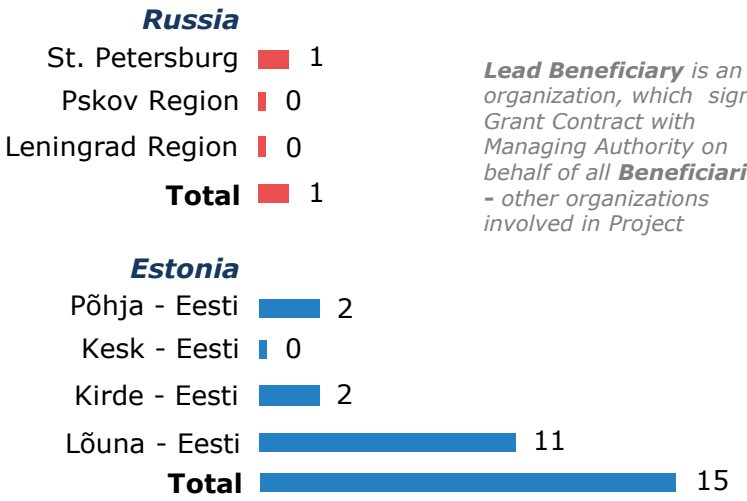
Standard projects by regions and countries

Applicants by regions and countries



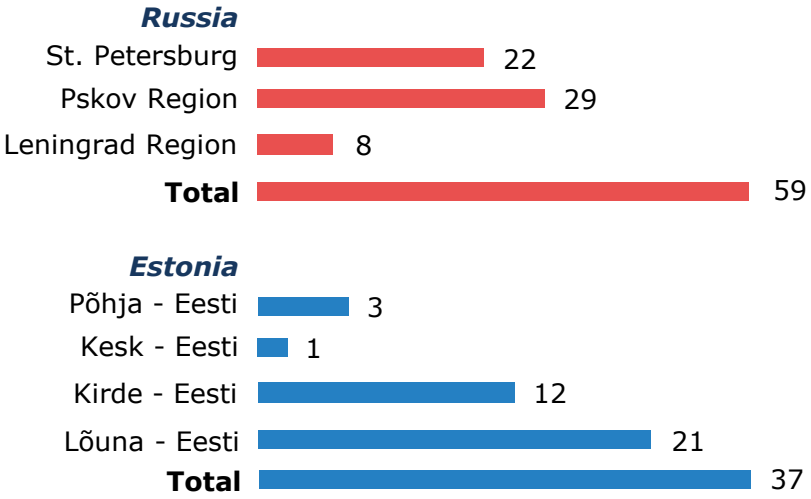
***Applicant** is an organization, which prepares and submits project's proposal on behalf of all **Partners** - other organizations involved in Project*

Lead Beneficiaries by regions and countries

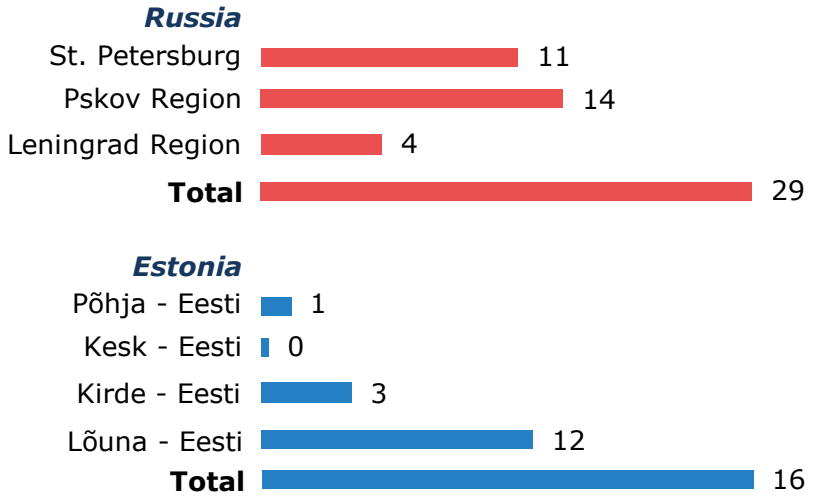


***Lead Beneficiary** is an organization, which signs Grant Contract with Managing Authority on behalf of all **Beneficiaries** - other organizations involved in Project*

Partners by regions and countries



Beneficiaries by regions and countries



Information and communication activities

Celebration of the European Cooperation Day 2018

European Cooperation Day 2018 - **Cooperation and Art Buffet in Alatskivi, Peipsiääre Municipality, Estonia,** 15.09.2018. Photo gallery of the event HERE.

EC Day 2018 - **Hanseatic Business breakfast in Pskov, Russia,** 22.09.2018. Organized in cooperation with Latvia-Russia CBC Programme 2014-2020. Photo gallery of the event HERE

EC Day 2018 - **Festival "Cross-Border Cooperation – "Meeting Point of Cultures", Gatchina, Leningrad region, Russia,** 30.09.2018. Organized in cooperation with Latvia-Russia, SE Finland-Russia CBC Programmes 2014-2020. Photo gallery of the event HERE

The key audiences of all 3 events were schoolchildren and students – over 1 200 participants in total. General Consulates of the Programme's partner countries had attended celebrations.

Information and communication activities

The set of different Information and Communication activities

ENI-CBC Conference in Rome, Italy, 9-10.04.2019.

The Network meetings of the "Northern cluster": Tartu, Estonia, 22-23.08.2018. Kaliningrad, Russia, 04-05.06.2019.

Hansa Forum of CBC Programmes „Way Forward" in Pskov, Russia, 28-29.06.2019.

Interact Annual meeting, Bucharest, Romania, 22-23.05.2019.

XI St.Petersburg International Innovation Forum, 28-30.11.2018.

The EU week - European School seminar organized by the EU Delegation in Vyborg, Russia, 10.11.2018

XVII Annual Strategic Planning Leaders Forum, St.Petersburg, Russia, 22-23.10.2018.

Information and communication activities

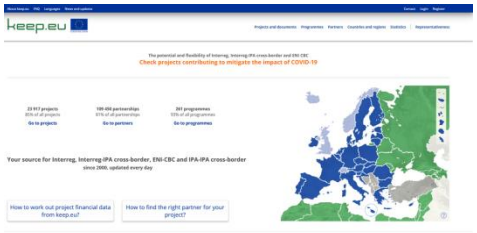
Publications

Programme's Newsletters

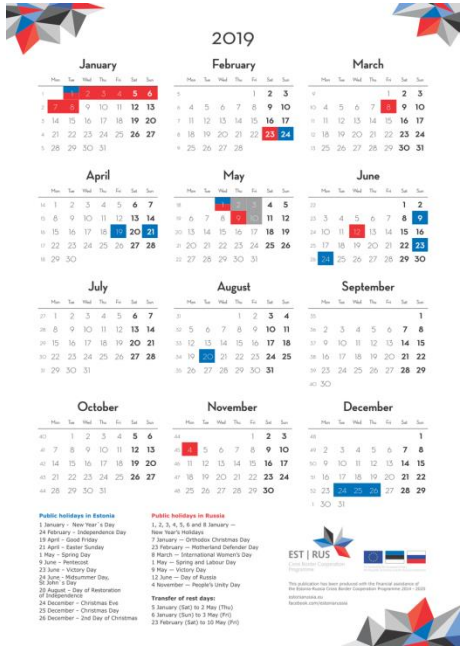
Programme's Newsletters issued quarterly in English, Estonian and Russian languages, reflecting key events and achievements of the Programme, published on Programme's website, submitted to the key stakeholders and wider audience:

Programme video clip

KEEP database



Printed calendar for the year 2019



Yours,
Joint Technical Secretariat