

## Estonia – Russia cross-border cooperation programme 2021-2027

# Online discussion about the proposed activities and indicators for supporting entrepreneurship

12 November 2020, Zoom  
13:00 – 14:30 Estonian time / 14:00 – 15:30 Russian time

New Estonia – Russia programme is being prepared and the programme document that sets the strategic framework for the programme is scheduled to be finalised in 2021.

The Joint Programming Committee (JPC) has preliminarily agreed on the potential policy objectives and specific objectives that could be supported by the next cooperation programme.

Among other topics the JPC would like to support entrepreneurship. It will be supported in the frames of policy objective “A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation” and more specifically in the frames of two specific objectives:

- “Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies” (specific objective 1 for the discussion);
- “Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs, including by productive investments” (specific objective 2 for the discussion).

Based on desktop research, stakeholder consultations, JPC discussions and collection of ideas that have taken place in Estonia and Russia in 2020, joint challenges, lists of activities and indicators have been proposed for both specific objectives.

### IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

1. Both, Estonia and Russia see potential benefits in intensifying cooperation in the fields of development of knowledge intensive entrepreneurship, commercialisation of innovations and results of R&D, and in contact and network building between enterprises and business support structures. Especially, as the programme area has substantial research, scientific, expert, and know-how potential that could be applied in entrepreneurship and a number of economic sectors that look for cross-border partnerships.
2. More widespread uptake of advanced technologies and approaches, and commercialisation of the results of applied research are clear challenges of the programme area, concerning enterprises regardless of their size – from micro to large enterprises. It would require more intensive interaction between academic and applied science institutions, and businesses for practical application of scientific knowledge and concepts available in the region.
3. Healthy networks of micro enterprises and SMEs, both on a regional and cross-border level, are an important factor for the sustainability of the programme area. Such networks are especially important in areas, which have been dependent on large industries and respectively have an underdeveloped ecosystem of SMEs, and rural areas with low population density. The programme could provide valuable support for promoting business diversification and the development of new businesses in the regions through cross-border cooperation and networking.

**On 12 November the following questions are put for joint discussion:**

1. What is your opinion on the identified challenges? Would you like to bring out additional challenges?
2. Do you think the activities of specific objectives 1 and 2 are realistic and meet the challenges and needs? Are those activities appropriate for strengthening the cooperation links and networks in the border regions?
3. Are the indicators of specific objectives 1 and 2 realistic and relevant to the planned activities?

Questions, additions, amendments, corrections and any other feedback are most welcome.

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies**

Under specific objective 1 the programme aims to support interaction between academic and applied science institutions, and businesses for practical application of scientific knowledge and concepts.

**Activities** that may increase cooperation between universities, competence centres, technology development centres, R&D institutions and other similar institutions of the programme area in the name of more active technology and knowledge transfer to enterprises, include, but are not limited to:

- 1.1. collaborative applied research of technologies relevant for the needs of the programme area;
- 1.2. adjusting the scientifically proven solutions to regional and local scale;
- 1.3. piloting technology and knowledge transfer at companies;
- 1.4. analysing and fine-tuning the performance of modernised processes and solutions at companies;
- 1.5. training of business staff to handle modernised systems;
- 1.6. making necessary investments in R&D sector and companies for technology transfer and practical application of R&D works.

Although the capacity to carry out R&D activities is mostly located in the universities and research institutions that are located in bigger towns further away from the border, the programme will aim at applying the results of the R&D works, commercialising the ideas and supporting technology and knowledge transfer to companies in the less developed regions by the border.

**Output indicator 1.1:** pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects.

**Output indicator 1.2:** enterprises supported by grants

**Result indicator 1.1:** small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs, including by productive investments**

Under specific objective 2 the programme aims to encourage networking and clustering of entrepreneurs and cooperation and experience exchange between business support organisations.

**Activities** that may support creation and strengthening of cross-border business-to-business cooperation and cooperation between business support organisations (business and science parks, industrial areas and parks, industrial and business incubation centres, hubs and centres of cultural and creative industry, software and hardware accelerators, technology development centres, regional development centres, etc), include, but are not limited to:

- 2.1. Creating new and strengthening existing clusters and networks;
- 2.2. Organisation of events aimed at networking, experience exchange, partner search, contact making, idea generation, brainstorming, etc;
- 2.3. Training and competence building activities for businesses and business support organisations;
- 2.4. Development of services offered by business support organisations;
- 2.5. Equipment and small-scale investments for business support organisations.

**Output indicator 2.1:** participations in joint actions across borders.

**Output indicator 2.2:** organisations cooperating across borders.

**Result indicator 2.1:** organisations cooperating across borders after project completion.