

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

### Online discussion on environmental issues

30 March 2021, Zoom  
9:00 – 11:00

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 fields of action that could be supported by the next cooperation programme.

Among other topics the JPC would like to support tackling of various environmental issues.

Based on desktop research, stakeholder consultations, JPC discussions and collection of ideas that have taken place in Estonia and Russia in 2020, joint challenges and list of activities have been proposed.

#### IDENTIFIED MAIN CHALLENGES

1. Joint management of the Narva River basin, including Lake Peipus/Chudskoye and Lake Pskov. The challenges are primarily related to eutrophication, sustainable management of the fish stock, wide spectrum of waste and alien invasive species.
2. Joint management of the Gulf of Finland, including the problems related to eutrophication, wide spectrum of waste and alien invasive species.
3. Lacking cooperation regarding management of protected areas, restoring and protecting the habitats.
4. Lack of systematic approach regarding development of green infrastructure and low-carbon public transportation systems.
5. The increasing amounts of municipal waste, low circular material use rates and modest recycling rates of municipal waste.
6. Insufficient initiatives for addressing the issues of energy efficiency and energy saving.

#### POSSIBLE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES TO BE SUPPORTED

##### **Management of transboundary waters, environmental protection and green infrastructure.**

1. Investments in waste water treatment facilities of the Narva River basin (including Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe basin).
2. Joint research, monitoring and exchange of experience regarding the shared waters (Gulf of Finland, the basin of the Narva River (including Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe basin)) in order to develop practical mitigation measures for the common environmental

problems (eutrophication, macro- and microwaste, pharmaceutical residues, invasive alien species, residual pollution, etc) and carry out pilot actions.

3. Joint research, monitoring and exchange of experience regarding management of the protected areas, restoration and protection of habitats, protection of species with shared population on both sides of the border, invasive alien species, airborne pollution, and implementation of pilot actions.
4. Awareness raising initiatives regarding environmental challenges and involvement of inhabitants, businesses and other organisations into environmental monitoring actions and implementation of alleviating measures.
5. Research, exchange of experience and carrying out pilot actions in the field of urban green infrastructure (solutions for stormwater management, decreasing heat stress, improving urban air quality, raising biodiversity, new recreation options, low-carbon transportation systems, etc).

#### **Waste, circularity and energy saving.**

1. Awareness raising initiatives and trainings about sorting of waste, re-using, recycling and upcycling, and creation of necessary materials.
2. Experience exchange about sorting of waste, re-using, recycling and upcycling.
3. Development and implementation of methods and technologies to reduce the waste and increase the re-use, recycling and upcycling.
4. Small-scale investments into facilities and systems that promote and/or facilitate sorting of waste, re-using, re-cycling and upcycling.
5. Exchange of experience and carrying out pilot actions in the field of energy saving and use of renewable energy sources.

#### **On 30 March the following questions are put for joint discussion:**

1. What is your opinion on the identified challenges? Would you like to bring out additional cross-border challenges?
2. How would you prioritise the proposed challenges?
3. Do you think the proposed activities are realistic and meet the challenges and needs of cross-border area? Are those activities appropriate for strengthening the cooperation links and networks in the border regions?
4. Are there organisations that have interest and capacity to implement proposed activities in the cross-border area?

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