

16 December 2021

Questions and answers

Question 1

The program does not include the problem of "health" of the forests. At the same time, forest ecosystems are a key factor in ensuring the ecological stability of border regions. The penetration of new invasive species of pests and pathogens that cause diseases of woody plants, as well as outbreaks of mass reproduction and spread of pests and diseases leads to catastrophic consequences. Climate change aggravates the situation. In 2021, the introduction of the Emerald Ash Borer into the territory of St. Petersburg was discovered. The bark-beetle Ussuri polygraph has already been found in Estonia. Hymenoscyphus fraxineus and other pathogens continues to spread. We have discovered new types of fungi that cause wound canker in the spruce.

In connection with the above, does it make sense to apply in the direction: "Outbreaks of pests and the spread of diseases of woody plants, due to climate change - a threat to the existence of forests and green spaces in cities and their environs"?

Answer 1

The Programme Document under Policy Objective 2 identified as challenge a need for additional research and data sharing between Russian and Estonian institutions monitoring shared land and water-based ecosystems.

In Priority 4 "Improved ecological status of the programme area" it is foreseen among *possible project activities* to tackle this challenge: *Sharing and developing practices that support natural biodiversity and minimize negative impacts of the endangering factors.*

Question 2

Is it possible to add under Priority1 activities that support growth of entrepreneurship attitude among students (14+ years old until 30 years old).

Answer 2

The proposed activities can support to smoothen the challenge of retaining talent and specialized labour force within the programme area and correspond to activities listed in **Priority 1 "Increased cross-border business cooperation and innovation in the programme area"**:

Training and competence building activities for businesses and business support organisations.

Creating new and strengthening existing clusters and networks, including cross-border and cross-sectoral cooperation frameworks, by organising events aimed at networking, experience exchange, partner search, idea generation, brainstorming, etc.

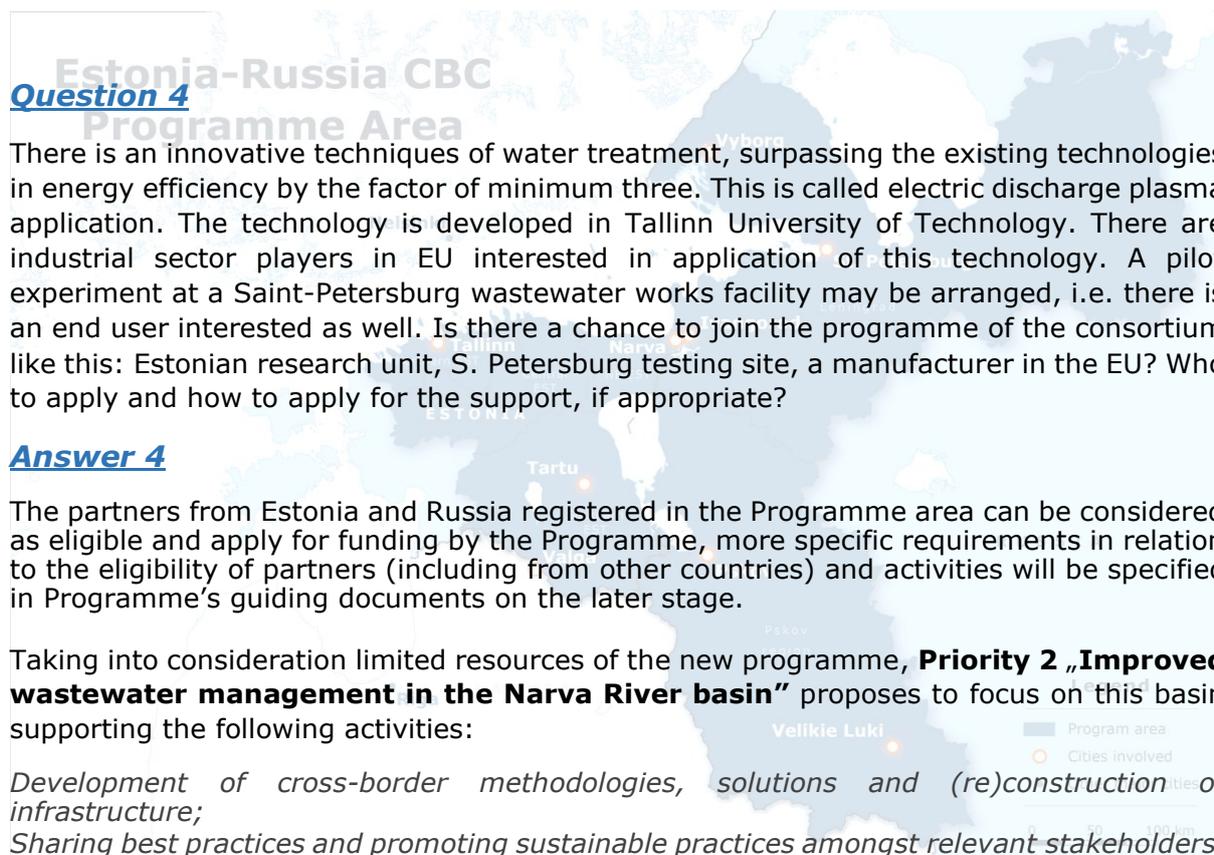
Question 3

Does the Narva river area have a map to be sure where the Priority 2 area is exactly? In the internet I found only KIK map

Answer 3

Narva river basin is in the focus of Estonia-Russia of cross-border cooperation stipulated in the Programme Document as follows:

“Shared bodies of water between Estonia and Russia are a prominent feature of the programme area; these include the Narva Bay (Baltic Sea), the Narva River and the 3-lake system of Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe, Lämmi/Tyoploye, and Lake Pskov, all of which are a part of the Narva River basin.”



Question 4

There is an innovative techniques of water treatment, surpassing the existing technologies in energy efficiency by the factor of minimum three. This is called electric discharge plasma application. The technology is developed in Tallinn University of Technology. There are industrial sector players in EU interested in application of this technology. A pilot experiment at a Saint-Petersburg wastewater works facility may be arranged, i.e. there is an end user interested as well. Is there a chance to join the programme of the consortium like this: Estonian research unit, S. Petersburg testing site, a manufacturer in the EU? Who to apply and how to apply for the support, if appropriate?

Answer 4

The partners from Estonia and Russia registered in the Programme area can be considered as eligible and apply for funding by the Programme, more specific requirements in relation to the eligibility of partners (including from other countries) and activities will be specified in Programme’s guiding documents on the later stage.

Taking into consideration limited resources of the new programme, **Priority 2 „Improved wastewater management in the Narva River basin”** proposes to focus on this basin supporting the following activities:

Development of cross-border methodologies, solutions and (re)construction of infrastructure;
Sharing best practices and promoting sustainable practices amongst relevant stakeholders.

Question 5

Why is in PO5 development of infrastructure is limited by Lake Peipsi? And Gulf of Finland is not included? Narva river infrastructure, that can strongly affect tourism in Lake Peipsi, is also not included? What are the reasons for that limitation and how it corresponds with the programme area.

Answer 5

Estonia-Russia CBC Programme consider the Gulf of Finland as the equal part of the Programme territory. However, this is covered by other EU programmes: Baltic Sea Region, Central Baltic and South-East Finland-Russia Programmes with sufficient budgets to be addressed for tackling ecological and other challenges of this water basin.

Estonia-Russia CBC Programme is the only resource available to meet the CBC challenges of the Narva river basin, that is the reasoning to put this area in the focus.

Question 6

Sport activities are very good ground for establishment and development of CBC cooperation, sport is important part of culture. What kind of support measures are planned in new programme period on this side?

Answer 6

Within the process of the Programme preparation the whole set of cooperation areas supporting development of mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions was considered, including sport.

Priority 7 “Increased cross-border cooperation in the border areas” proposes for support the following activities:

Attracting new knowledge and adapting good practices from other programmes and areas. Exchange of knowledge, training and competence building activities in different areas, including health, social care, culture, sports.

Question 7

Does new programme foresee opportunities for study trips outside Programme area?

Answer 7

Trips outside Programme area for studying and sharing best practices and solutions can be considered as eligible activities being properly justified.

The requirements in relation to the eligibility of such activity will be stipulated in Programme’s guiding documents on the later stage.

Question 8

Please, clarify meaning „major cities“ in the list of actions in Policy Objective 4 Priority 5

Answer 8

St. Petersburg and Tallinn are considered as major cities of the Programme area.

