



Development of Local Communities in Jelgava District via INTERREG Initiatives

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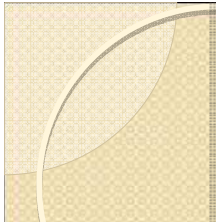
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LATVIA

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Jelgava District

- Situated in Zemgale region, border with Lithuania;
- Population – 37 495 (in Latvia – 2,3 million);
- Area – 1 603 km²
- Density – 23,3 inhabitants/km²
- 15 local authorities (862 to 8330 inhabitants)
- Rural territory (57% farmland)
- Administrative centre – Jelgava (66 000 inhabitants)



Republic of Latvia



Chronology



1994-2000	Bilateral co-operation with Sweden (APLAN)
1998-2004	Pre-accession instruments: PHARE (co-operation with Lithuania); SAPARD
2004-2008	INTERREG IIIA (co-operation with Lithuania), INTERREG IIIB (with Estonia)
2008	Latvia-Lithuania Cross-border co-operation; Baltic Sea Region programme; Interreg IVC



Benefits of INTERREG

- Various fields for problem solutions;
- Sharing of best practice among different countries and people;
- Promotes solidarity of European cultures and nations;
- Contribution of new democracies to older democracies – other experience, different point of view;
- Creates platforms for co-operation and strengthens partnerships;
- Support for innovative solutions and alternative approaches;
- Eligible costs include not only co-operation events and studies, but also investments.



Main Fields of Experience

- Research and studies
- Environment infrastructure

Research and Studies I

- Regional marketing programme for the Euroregion “Saule”
 - Interreg IIIA
 - Partnership: Jelgava district, Zemgale planning region, Šiauliai county
 - Implementation period: 2006 – 2007
 - Total budget: 37 240 EUR





Research and Studies II

- Feasibility studies and technical documentations for improvement of water supply and waste water treatment:
 - Interreg III A
 - Partnership: local authorities of Jelgava district (LV) and Šiauliai county (LT)
 - Implementation period: 2005 – 2007
 - Total budget: 211 644 EUR



Continuation

- Approved projects:
 - *“Improvement of water supply services in small settlements of Šiauliai and Jelgava Districts II”* (Latvia-Lithuania Cross Border Co-operation Programme 2007-2013)
 - Valgunde and Zaļenieki local authorities – infrastructure investments based on previously elaborated technical documentation (ERDF funding)



Research and Studies III

- Feasibility studies for improvement of road infrastructure in border areas:
 - Interreg IIIA
 - Partnership: Jelgava district (LV) and Pakruojis district (LT)
 - Implementation period: 2006 – 2007
 - Total budget: 127 400 EUR



Research and Studies IV

- Feasibility studies for improvement of waste management in Lielupe and Venta river basins:
 - Interreg IIIA
 - Partnership: Jelgava district (LV) and Šiauliai county (LT)
 - Implementation period: 2006 – 2007
 - Total budget: 33 903 EUR
 - Main results: action plan to improve the waste treatment system; research on waste logistics in Jelgava district; elaboration of models for waste separation.



Research and Studies V

- Feasibility studies for development of risk management system:
 - Interreg IIIA
 - Partnership: local and regional governments of Zemgale region, Riga Technical University, state services (LV) and Šiauliai county (LT);
 - Implementation period: 2006 – 2007;
 - Total budget: 1 310 850 EUR
 - Main results: strategy for risk and crisis management; technical documentation for strategic infrastructure objects.

Development of Baltic Tourist Network in Via Hanseatica Development Zone



- Interreg IIIB; 16 partners (Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Finland)
- Period: 2004 – 2007; total budget: 1 234 720 EUR
- **Main results:**
 - historical-cultural research in Via Hanseatica territory;
 - elaboration of technical documentation for parking places and culture monuments;
 - creation of tourism resource database and web-page;
 - development of visual identity and elaboration of logo;
 - road signs and information boards for tourists;
 - training and consultations for tourism entrepreneurs.

Challenges

- Administrative territorial reform in Latvia;
- Bureaucracy in project implementation;
- Political support for soft activities;
- Concentration on domestic and local needs instead of transnational;
- Sustainable vision in every activity;
- Continuity of the projects;
- Participation level, contribution and commitment of all the involved partners.





Future Expectations

- Co-operation between all the actors – government, local authorities, NGOs, private sector;
- Common identity of Baltic Sea Region;
- Competitive results;
- Ability to change;
- Enthusiastic people.

2009 – The European Year of Innovation and Creativity





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