



# Newsletter of the Lithuania-Russia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020

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## ***A record number of participants in European Cooperation Run***

European Cooperation Day was commemorated by the European Cooperation Run which took place in Nida on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September. It was a part of the

traditional, already 20<sup>th</sup> Nida Half Marathon event. Lithuania–Russia CBC Programme 2014–2020 (hereinafter – the Programme) contributed to the organization of this event. A record number of runners participated in the event – more than 1000. The runners were supported by their families and friends. Even the rainy autumn weather did not spoil the great mood.

This year almost 200 children participated in the European Cooperation Run. The shortest distance of 200 meters gathered runners up to 6 years old, almost 100 children up to 12 years old took part in 0,5 km run and almost 50 runners up to 18 years old joined the 2 km run. While waiting for the results of the run, children were entertained by the animators. Every young runner received traditional Nida’s half marathon souvenir cup and the winners of I–III places received Programme’s gifts.

On that occasion a full minibus of children from Kaliningrad region has joined the event who participated in various distance runs. Photos of the event are available on the Programme [Facebook account](#) and in the [Photo gallery](#) on the Programme website.

### ***Informational seminar for approved projects of the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals took place in Marijampolė***

The Joint Technical Secretariat of Lithuania–Russia CBC Programme 2014–2020 has organised an informational seminar for project staff of all selected projects of the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals. The seminar was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October in Marijampolė, Lithuania. During the event the main information related to the implementation of projects was presented – main Programme requirements, principles and tips for the smooth start of projects, main requirements for visibility and communication on both sides of the border, main issues related to reporting, project budgets, finances and eligibility of expenditure were presented and discussed with the audience. Representatives of all the projects attended the seminar – in total 57 participants from all 12 awarded projects have joined the event.

### ***Our Programme was represented in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe***

On the 29<sup>th</sup>–31<sup>st</sup> of October in Strasbourg, France, the Lithuania–Russia CBC Programme 2014–2020 together with 6 other cross border cooperation programmes with Russian Federation had an opportunity to be represented during the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. During the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the representatives of all the programmes presented the

programme-financed activities in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia.

The culmination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Congress after the presentations in the morning session was the opening of the exhibition stand accompanied with the reception. The President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe Anders Knappe, Vice-President of the Chamber of Regions of the Council of Europe Karl-Heinz Lambertz, the governor of the Leningrad region Alexander Drozdenko and European Commission representative Simona Pohlova made their speeches. Three productive days at the Council of Europe gave the opportunity to the European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes to talk to ca. 300 participants of the Congress and to show the results of the common work being done in the European and Russian Federation border regions.

#### ***4<sup>th</sup> Joint Monitoring Committee was held in Palanga***

The 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) meeting of the Lithuania-Russia CBC Programme 2014-2020 was held on the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> of November in Palanga (Lithuania). During the JMC meeting 12 projects were selected for the Programme funding: 6 projects under Priority 1.1. aiming to support the conservation and adaptation of the historical and natural heritage for tourism and development of cultural networks, 4 projects under Priority 2.1. related to fighting the poverty and reducing social exclusion and 2 more projects under Priority 3.1. which focuses on cooperation between authorities and strengthening of local communities. These projects were selected for funding out of 46 project applications, received during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Proposals. The approved 12 projects involve 28 partners from Lithuania and Russia – 14 of them (including 6 lead project partners) are Lithuanian and 14 (including 6 lead project partners) are Russian authorities, budgetary institutions and non-governmental organizations.

However, the most interesting and awaited information is about the decision to launch the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals shall be launched on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2020. After the announcement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals information events for potential applicants shall be organized in the Programme territory. Do not forget to follow the news about the launch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call for Proposals and the information events on the [Programme website](#) and [Facebook account](#).

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