



**EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD INSTRUMENT
CROSS - BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME
LATVIA - LITHUANIA – BELARUS
2014-2020**

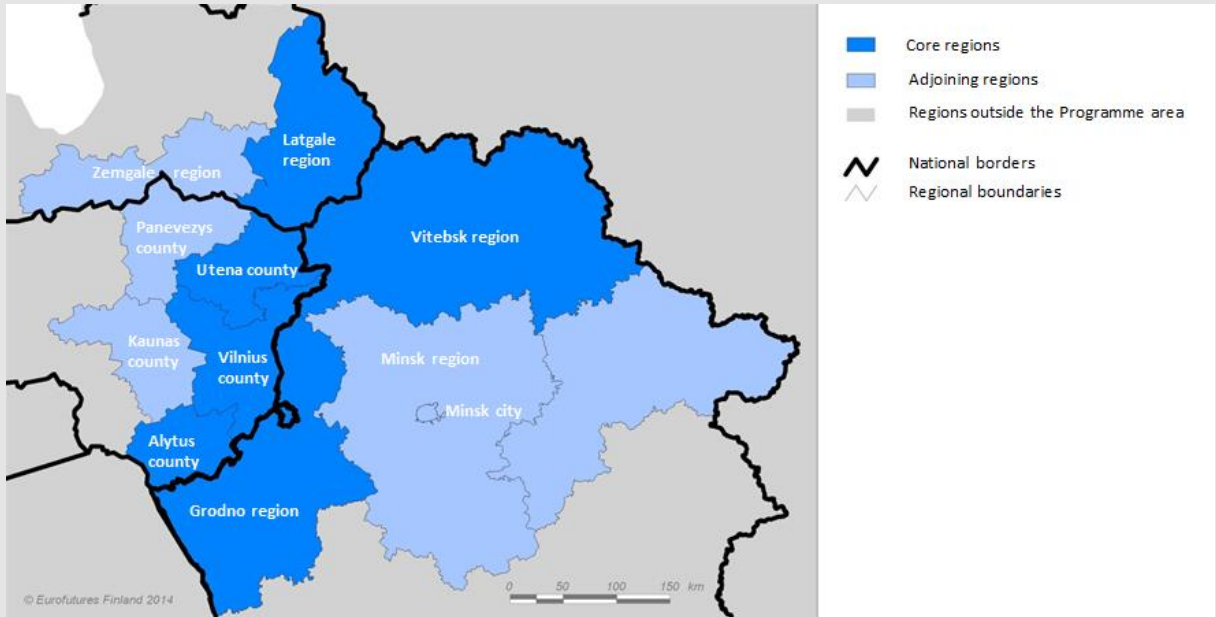
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

2015.05.12, Rezekne



The area of the Programme

Programme includes 2 regions in Latvia – Latgale and Zemgale, 5 Counties in Lithuania – Utena, Vilnius, Alytus, Panevezys and Kaunas, 5 regions in Belarus – Grodno, Vitebsk, Minsk, Mogilev and the capital city of Belarus – Minsk.





Strategic Environmental Assessment (hereinafter – SEA)

- Strategic Environmental Assessment is based on the Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes;
- SEA is mandatory for all types of programmes "*which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and **which set the framework for future development** consent for projects listed in Annexes I and II to Directive 2011/92/EU*" (EIA Directive);
- SEA procedures were performed in Latvia and Lithuania.



Cross-Border cooperation programme Latvia- Lithuania- Belarus 2014-2020

The Programme addresses the following Thematic Objectives (TO):

THEMATIC OBJECTIVES	PRIORITIES
TO1. Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty	1.1. Enhancing the access to social and other services for vulnerable groups
	1.2. Stimulating employment through entrepreneurship and innovations
TO2. Support to local and regional good governance	2.1. Increasing capacity of local and regional authorities to tackle common challenges
	2.2. Strengthening society
TO3. Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage	3.1. Promoting and preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage and traditional skills
TO4. Promotion of border management, and border security	4.1 Enhancing border-crossing efficiency



Large Investment Projects (LIP)

Priority 4.1. includes large investment projects (LIP). Lists of projects proposed for selection:

1. Improvement of Paternieki-Grigorovshchina border-crossing point **(Latvia-Belarus)**;
2. Bombel 4 **(Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus)**;
3. Modernization of Silene-Urbany border-crossing point **(Latvia-Belarus)**.
4. Modernization of Medininkai-Kamennyj Log border-crossing point (Lithuania-Belarus);
5. Modernization of Asylum Center in Pabrade (Lithuania-Belarus);
6. Development of infrastructure in Skorina Secondary School (Lithuania-Belarus);
7. Construction of an X-ray scanning control system for vehicles at the border crossing point „Urbany” of Vitebsk Custom House (Belarus).



The scope of SEA

The SEA report includes the following:

- Programme objectives and contribution to other strategies,
- Description of the territories that can be affected,
- Likely significant effects on the environment,
- Summarised results of strategic environmental assessment,
- Monitoring,
- Recommendations and conclusions.





The territories that can be affected

- Totally the Programme area (with adjoining regions) covers a territory of 198.221 km²
- of which 25.289 km² are located in the territory of Latvia, 38.327 km² in Lithuania and 134.605 km² in Belarus. 39.43% of the territory are situated inside and 60.57% outside of the European Union.
- The majority of territorial units are predominantly rural, over 50 per cent of the total population lives in the rural areas.
- The territories are rich of natural resources, forests and fresh water, as well as protected areas and Natura 2000 areas. The Programme area is rich in both tangible and intangible cultural heritage and UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



Likely significant effects on environment

The supported actions are mostly based to a large extent on process designs, includes mostly „soft measures“ like events, training or joint marketing and the **direct environmental effects of such activities are assessed as insignificant.**

In general actions to be supported under this Programme will have positive effects on environment, by:

- a) increased accessibility to basic social and other services in the Programme area,
- b) preservation and adaptation of cultural heritage.
- c) Enhancing the capacity of security and safety in the region could potentially have indirect significant positive environmental and human health effect in short and long term perspective.
- d) Reduction of time spent in cross-border point which cause positive effect on air quality in relation to traffic and transport emissions reductions.

The complex investigation of the TO as well as proposed LIPs shows that the Programme has no negative impact on environmental aspects investigated by the SEA process.



Priority 4.1 Enhancing border-crossing efficiency

	LIP	Activities	Environmental issues
1	Improvement of Paternieki-Grigorovshchina border-crossing point (Latvia-Belarus).	reconstruction of road - enlarging the passage into 3 driving lanes; reconstruction of engineering communications; erection of walking passages; fencing; construction of a fenced parking lot with modern facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- positive impact to a safety issues;- Reduction of time spent in cross-border point which cause positive effect on air quality in relation to traffic and transport emissions reductions.- can be a subject of EIA procedures.
2	Development of Telecommunication Infrastructure at the Belarus-Lithuania Border (BOMBEL-4).	mostly small scale infrastructure activities such as IT equipment, communication lines, local area networks, as well as workshops for the best practice exchange.	-



Priority 4.1 Enhancing border-crossing efficiency

	LIP	Activities	Environmental issues
3	Improvement of infrastructure of border crossing point "Silene" (the Republic of Latvia) and "Urbani" (the Republic of Belarus).	Reconstruction of road section between "Silene" and "Urbani" enlarging the passage into 3 lanes; reconstruction of engineering communications; other small scale infrastructure as well as improvement of transport management infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- positive impact to a safety issues;- Better border cross point capacity;- Reduction of time spent in cross-border point which cause positive effect on air quality in relation to traffic and transport emissions reductions.- can be a subject of EIA procedures.
4	Modernisation of Medininkai border crossing point.	renovation of existing office building; 300 places parking for heavy vehicles; checkpoint is extended from 18 to 27 lanes; The A3 road is expanded to 6 lanes instead of existing 3 lanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- better working conditions for the inspection officers, passengers and drivers traveling over the border; increased throughput (6100 vehicle / day);- Reduction of time spent in cross-border point;- can be a subject of EIA procedures.



Priority 4.1 Enhancing border-crossing efficiency

	LIP	Activities	Environmental issues
4 5	Reconstruction and building of Pabradė Foreigners' Registration Centre and creation of a modern ethno-cultural environment in Vilnius Pranciškus Skorina gymnasium and Lida state secondary school No. 4.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Positive impact due energy efficiency;- encourages the cultural aspects- the projects has positive local impact on environmental aspects, cultural heritage, as well as human health (quality of life).
7	Construction of an X-ray scanning control system for vehicles at the border crossing point „Urbany” of Vitebsk Custom House.		-



Assessment matrix on the LIPs

No.	Title of the LIP ↓	Environmental aspects →	Biodiversity, fauna and flora	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air and climatic factors	Material Assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape
1	Improvement of Paternieki-Grigorovshchina border-crossing point (Latvia-Belarus);	Potential impact	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+	0	0
		Possible criteria for monitoring	-							
2	Development of Telecommunication Infrastructure at the Belarus-Lithuania Border (BOMBEL-4)	Potential impact	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
		Possible criteria for monitoring	-							
3	Improvement of infrastructure of border crossing point "Silene" (the Republic of Latvia) and "Urbani" (the Republic of Belarus)	Potential impact	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+	0	0
		Possible criteria for monitoring	-							
4	Modernisation of Medininkai border crossing point	Potential impact	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+	0	0
		Possible criteria for monitoring	-							
5	Reconstruction and building of Pabradė Foreigners' Registration Centre	Potential impact	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
		Possible criteria for monitoring	-							
6	Creation of a modern ethno-cultural environment in Vilnius Pranciškus Skorina gymnasium and Lida state secondary school No. 4	Potential impact	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0
		Possible criteria for monitoring	-							
7	Construction of an X-ray scanning control system for vehicles at the border crossing point „Urbany“ of Vitebsk Custom House	Potential impact	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0
		Possible criteria for monitoring	-							



Recommendations of SEA:

- Required environmental permits or documentation (if applicable) shall be requested with the application for project financing or before issuing construction permit.
- Depending on the scope some of LIP can be a subject of EIA procedures (parking lots, reconstruction of roads, etc.). In this case detailed environmental assessment should be executed before the project implementation with the aim to prevent the negative impact to environment.
- Before planning activities in NATURA 2000 areas, it is recommended to consult national authority responsible for NATURA 2000 protection. If necessary special prevention measures for biodiversity shall be applied on case by case basis.
- All projects and activities shall have appropriate solutions for avoiding, minimising and proper management of waste and wastewater.
- If applicable, it is recommended to include environmental/ sustainability criteria among other project's selection criteria for financing.



Thank you.

