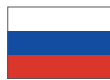


# Cooperating with the EU's neighbours

Insight into transnational cooperation of Russian regions within Interreg projects in the Baltic Sea region.



EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND



WITH FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT OF THE  
RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION

**Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2014–2020  
is a unique funding programme that connects  
all the ten countries around the Baltic Sea.**

The Russian Federation officially joined this circle of cooperation partners in 2018. And within only one and a half years, Russian partners have taken an active role in more than 40 projects.

These projects bring together administrations of cities and regions, universities, NGOs and businesses. They build a common pool of competencies to boost regional economies and use natural resources wisely. At the same time, they build personal relations that facilitate liaisons across the borders.

We would like to share with you some examples of projects where Russian organisations co-create solutions together with their European partners for the benefit of their organisations, cities, and country.

*Interreg Baltic Sea Region*

*Managing Authority / Joint Secretariat | August 2019*

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## Russian participation in numbers.

43

projects  
with Russian partners

EUR 97

million budgeted  
for transnational cooperation projects with  
Russian participation.

EUR 8.5

million to be spent  
by Russian partners, out of which

EUR 7.2

million come from  
the European Neighbourhood Instrument  
and Russian national funds.

480

organisations from  
from 9 countries around the Baltic Sea  
currently cooperate with

65

Russian partner organisations  
in the three programme priorities:

Capacity for innovation

Management  
of natural resources

Sustainable transport

## Priority 1

# Innovation

### **Interreg builds trust across borders.**

We help innovation experts to think collaboration instead of competition.

To be successful, businesses need to balance competition and collaboration. People who trust each other are more likely to collaborate, which increases their global competitiveness. And transnational Interreg cooperation provides the basis for trust-building.

Russian partners work in projects about smart specialisation, which is a process that makes regions more competitive through innovation. In *Smart-up BSR*, St. Petersburg, among a dozen cities, takes part in peer-to-peer learning camps to refine its smart city strategy. In *IRIS*, Kaliningrad supports innovative start-up companies with new coaching methods for growth that are jointly developed under the lead of Swedish professionals.

By openly sharing their knowledge about how to make their regions economically competitive, innovation experts from universities, business support agencies and city administrations from different countries enhance trust across borders in these projects.

There are many more innovation projects with Russian partners, e.g. that make better use of satellite data (*BalticSatApps*) and underground laboratories (*BSUIN*) and that make the economy more sustainable (*Circular PP*, *StratKIT*).



## **Interreg helps public authorities to offer better services for citizens.**

**We make health authorities learn from each other.**

The project *Healthy Boost* improves public health services in cities by providing new knowledge to public authorities. Cities work in pairs to provide feedback on the activities to their respective peer city. Other cities evaluate the activities and share the results.

Pskov and Cherepovets, being members of the Russian Association “Healthy cities, districts and villages”, actively promote and adapt good practices. The city of Cherepovets (Vologda region) improves the cross-sectoral cooperation in another city project called “0-5-30” by inviting non-profit organisations, businesses and civil society to joint discussions. This city project promotes “0 bad habits, 5 good things to eat per day and 30 minutes of physical exercise per day”.

Through these exchanges, health authorities in Russia and other countries will be able to develop better services which consider all the facets of the city residents’ life – and to help citizens be healthier.



## Priority 2

# Natural resources

### Interreg solves challenges beyond borders.

We improve waste water management to decrease pollution.

To clean the heavily polluted Baltic Sea all countries around it have to work together. Interreg cooperation projects tackle different pollutants from different sources, e.g. chemicals from factories and households (*BEST & NonHazCity 2*), nutrients from domestic and industrial waste water (*BSR WATER & BEST*) and microplastics (*FanpLESSSticSea*).

In these projects, St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad help improve an online platform of good management practices to fit the needs of Russian water managers. And international partners train practitioners at water utilities, companies and authorities of Kaliningrad region in cleaning industrial waste water. Kaliningrad region also tests how to remove microplastics.

By finding good practices already used in the Baltic Sea region and by testing and spreading them, water management organisations get better at removing pollutants from waste water. Other Russian regions work on water management in agriculture and forestry to improve the water quality of the Baltic Sea, e.g. in *WATERDRIVE* (Leningrad region) and *WAMBAF Toolbox* (Arkhangelsk Region).



Priority 3

# Sustainable transport

**Interreg delivers attractive results for regions and cities.**

*We make mobility easier and cleaner.*

The number of private cars around the Baltic Sea has been growing for years. Cities are troubled by traffic jams, polluted air and space demand for driving and parking, even though public transport infrastructure is often available. In *cities.multimodal*, eleven cities address these issues by developing plans for sustainable urban mobility. They share their experience of individual measures, thus making sure no one has to reinvent the wheel.

The city of Pskov will be the first Russian city to have this kind of plan. The objective is to increase the citizens' quality of life by using space better, e.g. by making public transport attractive in order to reduce personal vehicle use.

By developing sustainable urban mobility plans, city administrations lay the ground for less pollution and more space for people in EU and Russian cities. On top of that, the Republic of Karelia now tackles mobility issues in rural areas (*MAMBA*).

Russian participation in priority 1

## Capacity for innovation

Research & innovation infrastructures  
Smart specialisation  
Non-technological innovation

21 projects  
33 Russian partners

Russian participation in priority 2

## Management of natural resources

Clear waters  
Renewable energy  
Energy efficiency  
Blue growth

19 projects  
28 Russian partners

Russian participation in priority 3

## Sustainable transport

Interoperability  
Accessibility  
Maritime safety  
Shipping  
Urban mobility

3 projects  
4 Russian partners

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Find details at Interreg Baltic Sea Region's

## Project Library

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