



OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the Programme is to foster smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the border area through cross-border cooperation.



Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency



Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility



Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination



Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration

The Programme seeks to contribute to regional growth and quality of life through closer cross-border cooperation between people and institutions of the Programme area.

PRIORITIES

TERRITORY

5 south-western Lithuanian counties and 3 north-eastern Polish subregions

Total size of the Programme area is 49.434 km².



WHAT HAPPENED IN 2017?



29 projects, selected for funding within the 1st open call for proposals, started implementation, however none of projects was finalized in 2017.

Programme bodies started providing support to approved projects: on March 9, 2017, beneficiaries have been invited to the first seminar on the practical implementation issues. At the end of 2017 2nd practical seminar with the emphasis on reporting and most frequent mistakes was organised.

2nd call for proposals devoted to the Small projects was open from March 20 until May 22, 2017. For this call for proposals 90 applications have been submitted.

271 persons attended informational seminars for potential beneficiaries in Kaunas, Alytus, Trakai, Ełk, Białystok. Support to potential beneficiaries was continued with individual consultations in the Programme regions.

In 2017 two Joint Monitoring Committee meetings have been organised. During the 4th Joint Monitoring Committee meeting, which took place in Białystok on October 26-27, 38 Small projects applications have been selected for funding. 1 projects refused to implement conditions, set by the Committee, thus the Subsidy Contracts were signed with 37 Lead beneficiaries.

European Cooperation Day was organised in cooperation with one by the Programme financed projects. Big Families Festival invited big families from Alytus, Varėna, Ełk and Vilnius district to one day event full of various exercises for all family members: soap-bubbling, face painting, wood carving, decoration of cookies and many others. Beneficiaries from other projects also presented their activities and results to the participants of the festival.

Approximately EUR 20 million of the European Regional Development Fund were contracted for 1st call projects.

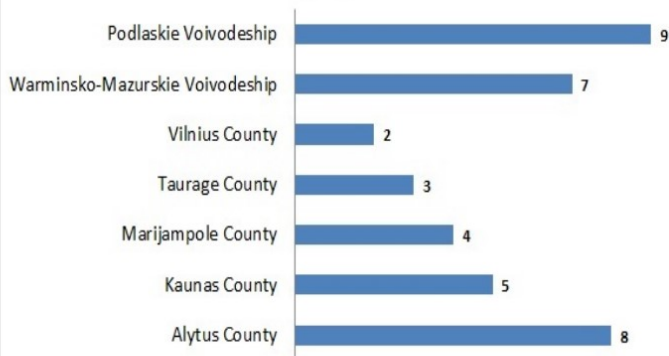
PROJECTS: ONGOING AND NEWLY SELECTED

Most of the 1st call projects started implementation early 2017, however as the duration was longer than one year, none of the projects was finalised. The peak of the implementation was reached in the second half of the year. Numerous events, camps, festivals involved thousands of people from the Programme area. During the reporting year 2017 there were EUR 1.048.120,29, including EUR 890.901,79 ERDF reimbursed to the project beneficiaries.

Photo: birdwatching in Dzūkija region (project No. LT-PL-1R-056)

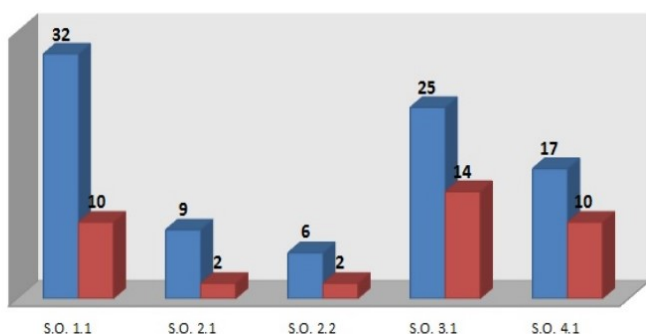


Lead beneficiaries of the selected 2nd call projects



2nd call projects received vs. selected

■ received ■ selected



The 2nd call for proposals ended with 90 applications. The 2nd call for proposals of the Programme was dedicated for the Small projects value up to EUR 50 thousand. The most popular specific objective of the Programme 1.1 resulted in 10 selected for funding project applications. 16 projects will be led by the beneficiaries from Poland, while the Lead beneficiaries of 22 projects are from Lithuania. The biggest number of the selected for funding applications was under the specific objective 3.1, where 14 bilateral initiatives were granted for Programme funding. The biggest concentration of beneficiaries is in Podlaskie Voivodeship -28 institutions shall cooperate with Lithuanians. Only 4 out of 15 submitted projects were approved under the Priority 2. The amount from the European Regional Development Fund to be allocated to the projects value to approximately EUR 1,5 million.

Beneficiaries

The projects selected for funding within the Programme shall include beneficiaries from both countries (i.e. each application shall involve at least two beneficiaries – one from Lithuania and one from Poland). Each operation must be implemented according to the so called lead beneficiary principle.

The partners to be eligible for the projects to be financed by the Programme shall be the following bodies:

- Public authorities (national institutions, regional and local authorities);
- Public equivalent bodies (legal bodies governed by public or private law);
- NGOs.

Funding

The ERDF support to the Programme is 53.153.883 EUR (85 % of total budget). The national counterpart is 9.380.099 EUR (15 % of total budget). Both sources together make 62.533.982 EUR total budget of the Programme.

Management

The Management of the Programme follows the provisions set out for the management in the Cooperation Programme in accordance with the General Regulation. Management structure of the Programme consists of the following bodies:

- Joint Monitoring Committee
- Managing Authority
- Audit Authority
- National Authority
- Joint Secretariat
- Regional Contact Points

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Joint Secretariat

Konstitucijos pr. 7,
LT-09308, Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: +370 5 2610477;
Fax: +370 5 2610498;
E-mail: info@vilniusjts.eu
<http://lietuva-polska.eu/>

Regional Contact Points

Podlaskie Voivodeship
<http://www.wrotapodlasia.pl/>

Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship
<http://www.warmia.mazury.pl/>

Managing Authority

Regional Policy Department of the
Ministry of the Interior of the
Republic of Lithuania

<http://vrm.lrv.lt/>
<http://www.esbendradarbiavimas.lt/>

National Authority

Territorial Cooperation Department
of the Ministry of Investment and
Economic Development of the
Republic of Poland

<http://www.mii.gov.pl/>
<http://www.ewt.gov.pl/>