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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It is a great pleasure to introduce this activities report of Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation (Peipsi CTC), giving an overview of our projects during the year 2000.

Much has happened since the last report, not least of which has been the addition of the word "Peipsi" to our name – Peipsi CTC. This name change represents an acknowledgement of our present mission, which continues to be the promotion of transboundary cooperation, but first and foremost in the Lake Peipsi region.

As usual, our activities of the last year span a vast range of topics, from water management and environmental protection to social equity and integration.

All this work adds to the basis of continued intense work in the already mentioned fields, plus regional development and cross-border cooperation, civic society and NGO development, and border research activities. Also, it gives me great pride to reflect on the job done by the fine specialists, who truly represent the greatest resource of our center.

However, nothing could have been done without our supporters and partners, both in Estonia and abroad, so I wish to express our gratitude to all of you and hope the fruitful cooperation will be continued.

The future of the Lake Peipsi region is to become the external border of the European Union within a few years, raising the importance of this area significantly.

Our major task at Peipsi CTC is to get even closer to the local communities, their local problems and challenges, and at the same time to increase the availability of the center's resources via internet. Our renewed website will be online in 2001 to offer everybody an easily accessible information source on the region, our activities and research results.

Finally I want to acknowledge the efforts of our program managers in coordinating the programs and projects under their responsibility.

I trust that you will find this report both interesting and enjoyable, and look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions.

Gulnara Roll

Gulnara Roll



WASTE WATER TREATMENT STRATEGY FOR THE LAKE PEIPSI BASIN

Funding: DANISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

By Gulnara Roll and Ülo Sults

During the last few years there has been a growing number of environmental protection activities on Lake Peipsi where a number of these activities (especially projects on environmental infrastructure) were supported by the Danish government. In this situation the Danish Embassy in Estonia proposed a project, which would concentrate on developing a framework, a system for coordination between different international environmental projects in the Lake Peipsi Basin, with a focus on activities connected with pollution reduction and prevention from point pollution sources. It was also stressed that the project has to be implemented in a close cooperation with the Estonian–Russian Transboundary Water Commission.

The project aimed at development of “Waste Water Treatment Strategy for the Lake Peipsi Basin” in cooperation with the Estonian–Russian Transboundary Water Commission, started in summer 2000 and will be completed in summer 2001. The strategy to be developed within the project, should become a basis for further work on elaboration of the Lake Peipsi and the Narva River Management Plan.

The project is implemented by Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, experts from Danish counties – Århus, Fynen and Frederiksborg, Estonian and Russian environmental experts and in a close cooperation with the Estonian–Russian Transboundary Water Commission. The project was kindly supported by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency.

The project consists of two interconnected components.

- **The first component** includes preparation of a wastewater treatment strategy for the lake basin that should become a basis for the further development of the Lake Peipsi Basin Management Plan.
- **The second component** was aimed at elaboration of a system of coordination and information exchange among institutions involved in water management and protection in the Lake Peipsi region. Strong capable institutions on local and regional levels, developed information exchange and communication system that uses modern information technologies, are prerequisites for effective implementation of environmental protection measures on a regional level.

To produce the *waste water treatment strategy* for the Lake Peipsi Basin, a working group of Estonian and Russian experts under leadership of Mr. Ülo Sults from Peipsi CTC (Estonia) and Ms. Alla Sedova from Neva–Ladoga Water Basin Management Board (Russia) in cooperation with Estonian GIS company “GIS for Business Software” have collected data for major point pollution sources in the lake basin and developed a GIS based database of major point pollution sources in the lake basin. This work was completed in consultation with the project expert Mr. Jens M. Andersen from Århus county environmental department (Denmark).

In August 2000, results of this work were presented and discussed at a meeting of the *Working Group on Water Protection of the Estonian – Russian Transboundary Water Commission*. The project preliminary results were presented at a meeting of the Transboundary Water Commission in Tartu (September 2000), where the preliminary results of the project were approved and the project was included into the Commission’s Year 2001 Workplan.

Since September 2000, the project team worked on development of the water treatment strategy for the Lake Peipsi basin. Data on wastewater treatment were collected by Estonian and Russian experts and together with the Danish expert Jens Andersen. Based on the analysis, first draft of the strategy was produced in November 2000. The Center for Transboundary Cooperation and Århus County of Denmark organized a *workshop on wastewater treatment in the Lake Peipsi watershed on 28–29 November 2000* in Voore, Jõgeva County, Estonia. The workshop in Voore discussed issues of sewage water treatment and drinking water supply for small towns and villages in the watershed. Representatives of the regional environmental boards, private environmental companies, local authorities and NGOs from Estonian as well as Russian sides of Lake Peipsi participated in the workshop. Further cooperation between Peipsi CTC, Estonian and Russian consulting companies was discussed, and specific plans for cooperation on implementation of the wastewater treatment strategy were developed with Estonian consulting company “Maa ja Vesi”. The next project workshop will take place in Pskov, Russia, in February 2001.

The final waste water treatment strategy will be prepared by June 2001. It will be used as a basis for making decisions on environmental investments into construction of wastewater treatment facilities in the lake basin by Estonian and Russian governments, the Danish EPA as well as other international agencies.

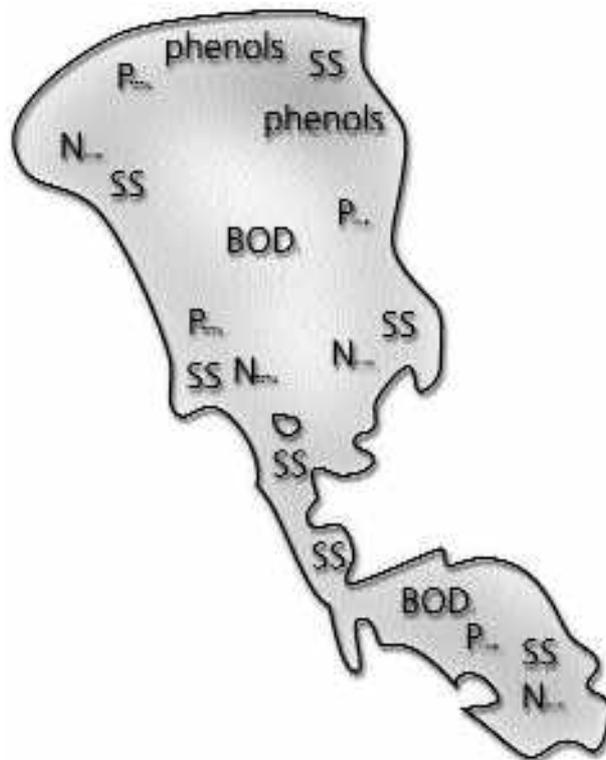
To test implementation of the strategy, two pilot projects on inventarisation of point pollution sources have been launched – one in Estonia in a basin of the Amme River and another in Russia, in a basin of the Gdovka River. After the pilot project will be completed, guidelines for implementation of the wastewater reduction strategy will be compiled. Also training for local stakeholders on the strategy implementation and use of the EU structural funds, PHARE and TACIS programs for funding of environmental infrastructure projects, will be held in May 2001 in Estonia.

The project's second component, *elaboration of a system of coordination and information exchange on water management and protection in the Lake Peipsi region*, includes development of a database of environmental projects in the Lake Peipsi area that was made available in Estonian, Russian and English on the Peipsi CTC website and through regular communication with potential partners, including international and local consulting companies and potential funders and investors for environmental projects in the region. On the Peipsi CTC website, also a directory of environmental organizations in the Lake Peipsi basin, was set up. For 2001, it is planned to develop a separate website for the Lake Peipsi Region where information about the Lake Peipsi region and activities of different institutions in the region, will be made available. Additional funding for these activities was received from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the EU 5th Framework Program.

The project supported by the Danish government will end in summer 2001 and it is to give a good start for the further work in the region on preparation of the Lake Peipsi Basin Management Plan. Estonian Ministry of Environment appointed Peipsi CTC as an implementing agency for a three year *Lake Peipsi Basin Management Program* to be supported by the Global Environmental Facility through the United Nations Development Programme. The program will assist the governments of Estonia and Russia as well as the Estonian–Russian Transboundary Water Commission to prepare and start implementing the Lake Peipsi Management Plan. Methodological and research support to the Lake Peipsi Management Plan will be provided by a three-year EU research program “Integrated Strategies for the Management of Transboundary Waters on the Eastern European fringe – The pilot study of Lake Peipsi and its drainage basin” (MANTRA–East) where ten research institutes, including Peipsi CTC, from five European countries will take part. The role of Peipsi CTC in future will remain to prepare, coordinate and facilitate environmental projects activities, especially projects implemented on the community level to raise the quality of life of local communities, and

promote public participation in environmental decision-making on local level.

At a meeting of Baltic 21 in December 1999, it was proposed that Lake Peipsi could become one of the demonstration areas of the Baltic 21 Program. Undoubtedly, the experience gained in the Lake Peipsi Basin on joining environmental protection, regional development and involving stakeholders in the transboundary water management could be used to set up management of transboundary waters in the Baltic Sea basin, especially on rivers and lakes located on the current and future EU border.



THE NARVA WATERSHED RESEARCH PROGRAM FINAL CONFERENCE
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES
IN THE ESTONIAN–RUSSIAN BORDER AREA

Funding: SWEDISH INSTITUTE
By Gulnara Roll

On 25–26 August 2000, the final conference of the international research network Narva Watershed Research Program (NWRP) took place in Tartu. The conference discussion focused on environmental science and environmental policy issues that were addressed by the NWRP network participants in the framework of the project: nutrient load and eutrophication, ground water management, fish resource use and protection, information management, and policies in transboundary water management systems. The network participants and invited experts discussed methodologies and scientific instruments that can be used to tackle the problems in the Narva River and Lake Peipus Basin mentioned above.

The Narva Watershed Research Program, a project funded in 1998 – 2000 by the Swedish Institute, was aimed at the development of a research component of the Narva River and Lake Peipsi Watershed Management Plan. The Narva Watershed Research Program originated in 1998 on the initiative of a group of Estonian and Russian environmental experts involved in the *Swedish–Estonian–Russian environmental monitoring project* supported by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Swedish experts at the *Swedish Water Management Research Program (VASTRA)*. The Swedish Water Management Research Program (VASTRA) presents a network of environmental scientists in Sweden, who work together to develop catchment based strategies for sustainable resource use. The VASTRA network focuses its research on different aspects of development of catchment based water management strategies that are sustainable from ecological, economical and social perspectives. The VASTRA program is being developed through a *collective learning process*, which aims at introducing an integrative, rather than additive, perspective and systems approach. As a point of departure for identification of specific problems and goals, VASTRA views catchment from three partly overlapping *resource perspectives*. The first one takes a *multiple recipient* perspective on nutrient fluxes from land, via freshwater systems, to the coast. The second takes a multiple use perspective on surface water resources, and the third takes a multiple impact perspective on groundwater resources. The *Narva Watershed Research Program* was built on rich traditions of organisation of research in the VASTRA program. Implementation of the NWRP first stage showed that it was extremely beneficial to apply the scientific approaches and methodologies of the VASTRA Program in the Narva River Watershed.

During the period 1998–2000, about 60 researchers participated in conferences and seminars, and developed joint pilot projects. The NWRP has resulted in several new projects, where among

the major new projects can be mentioned large scale projects such as a project “*Integrated Strategies for The Management of Transboundary Waters on the Eastern European fringe – The pilot study of Lake Peipsi and its drainage basin – MANTRA–East*” to be funded by the EU 5th Framework Program on Research and Technical Development and *Lake Peipsi Basin Management Program* to be funded by the Global Environmental Facility through UNDP and EU TACIS Program.

The aim of MANTRA–East is to analyze and develop strategic planning methodologies and scientific tools for the integrated water management in transboundary watersheds located on the existing and future borders of the European Union. The project is to be implemented in 2001 – 2003. Following the EU Water Framework Directive, the project will develop recommendations for institutional mechanisms and policy instruments for decision making on water management of transboundary watercourses and international lakes located on the fringes of the European Union. Lake Peipsi, the largest international lake in Europe, is selected as a pilot study since it is shared by one EU–accession state (i.e. Estonia) and one non–EU state (i.e. Russia), and thus of high relevance for the future environmental management of transboundary waters on the European fringe.

The NWRP Director was Dr. Hans Bertil Wittgren, Institute of Tema, Linköping University, Sweden; the NWRP Coordinator was Dr. Per Stålnacke, Jordforsk – Center for Soil and Environmental Research, Norway; and In–Region Co–ordinator was Dr. Gulnara Roll, Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation.



SUPPORT TO THE ESTONIAN–RUSSIAN TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COMMISSION

Funding: SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

By Gulnara Roll

In 2000, radical reorganization of Russian water management structure took place. Therefore the workshop “Water management in the Lake Peipsi Basin: cooperation between the Russian environmental agencies and their responsibilities” took place on December 14–15, 2000 in Pskov (Russia), to discuss the changes occurred in the Russian water management structure and responsibilities of different Russian organizations involved in water management and environmental protection of transboundary waters. The seminar was an important step towards developing a joint transboundary water management strategy for the Lake Peipsi and Narva River Basin. After the seminar, a report outlining the current state of the Russian institutional arrangements for transboundary water management was prepared in English and Russian.

Organizers of the seminar were Pskov Committee for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Neva–Ladoga Water Basin Management Department of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources; NGOs Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation and Chudskoi Project.

The workshop was a part of the project "Support to the Estonian–Russian Transboundary Water Commission" supported by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The seminar was held in accordance with the working plan of the Estonian–Russian Transboundary Water Commission.

The project goal is to promote a joint sustainable management of the Narva–Peipsi basin following the principles of water management of the Russian basin approach outlined in the Russian Water Code and Law on Environmental Protection, as well as the Water Framework Directive of the European Union, that Estonia as an accession country follows.

The project objectives are:

- to enhance the awareness of the Commission and local authorities on environmental management of the joint basin, focusing on groundwater, nutrients and a basin management of the watershed;
- to teach English and electronic communication skills mostly to the Russian representatives of the Commission;
- to improve dissemination of information by providing information on the transboundary water management on the websites of the Russian and Estonian environmental ministries.

Within the framework of the project during 2001, the Commission documents will be put on the websites of the Estonian Ministry of Environment and the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources Neva–Ladoga Water Management Board. Two thematic seminars on groundwater management and eutrophication will take place during the year 2001. That will assist the Commission in developing its plan for management of shared transboundary waters. The English language course were organized for Russian project participants in Pskov and St. Petersburg to enable them to participate in e-mail communication and international conferences in English to develop a joint vision of sustainable management of natural resources in the Lake Peipsi and Narva River Basin.

SEPA project manager is Ulrika Hagbarth, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency; the Operational Project Manager is Nina Munthe, KM Miljöteknik, Sweden and In-region coordinator is Gulnara Roll, Peipsi CTC, Estonia.



LOCAL AGENDA 21 IN NARVA AND DAUGAVPILS – EXPERIENCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Funding: REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

By Angelika Rehema

Narva (Estonia) and Daugavpils (Latvia) are similar towns in their economic and social structures. Narva (73000 inhabitants) and Daugavpils (120000 inhabitants) are both old and historic towns, founded more than 800 years ago. However, in the 1950s, when large-scale, wasteful industrial enterprises were built in the Soviet Union, they both became major industrial centres. Narva and Daugavpils are both border communities located on the eastern border of their countries. The population of the towns is mostly Russian-speaking (96 per cent and 87 per cent correspondingly) and in terms of every day life is quite isolated from the rest of the country. Residents suffer from high unemployment level, poor knowledge of national language and lack of national citizenship. Despite striking social problems, environmental quality (including both air and water pollution) remains a serious concern for the local population. Environmental problems of Daugavpils and Narva are connected mostly with transport (including transit transport) and industrial pollution from heavy industry. Regarding Daugavpils, the close proximity of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant creates the danger of radioactive pollution. Poorly recycled sewage water is constantly flowing into the Daugava River. Narva air pollution is the result of a heavy air pollution from the nearby electric power stations, where oil shale is burnt.

The project focused on NGO participation in the local Agenda 21, as well as transboundary cooperation. The Narva and Daugavpils NGOs, with the assistance of the local NGO Support Centers, exchanged their experiences of work on local issues.

The Daugavpils NGO Support Center was formed at the Daugavpils Center for Study of Nature and Environmental Education of Daugavpils Pedagogical University (DPU DIVIC). The DIVIC has existed for five years and has vast experience in environmental education and has a strong influence on the raising of public awareness in the region. It has established already three branches in other Latvian towns. DIVIC participated in the process of the regional sustainable development plan design. DIVIC members are mostly the students of the biology department of the University, who have thorough knowledge regarding environmental problems through work on their own research projects. Thus, DIVIC has expertise in environmental education and sustainable development.

On the other hand, the NGO Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation and its Narva office have good experience in organizing joint projects with the participation of organizations and groups of different levels from both countries. Furthermore,

we have dealt with the coordination of transboundary programs. Since Daugavpils is situated very close to the borders with Lithuania and Belarus and shares their environmental problems, the Latvian partners found the experience of the Center for Transboundary Cooperation very valuable to replicate in the Latvian–Lithuanian–Belarussian border region.

With the above-mentioned positive sides of both NGOs in mind, we decided to combine our efforts in addressing the local environmental and social problems of Narva and Daugavpils.

Through the seminars and trainings, the NGOs of Narva and Daugavpils acquired knowledge on participation in local Agenda 21 implementation and developed concrete cooperative projects. The project included parallel sessions of the two seminars in both towns and a big conference devoted to youth participation and the role of NGOs in transboundary cooperation. An informal network of NGOs from the bordering countries was established.

The project consisted of two phases. The first one was dedicated to educational purposes and included a series of seminars focused on local sustainable development issues, local environmental problems, technology of NGO cooperation, and joint project development and implementation. The aim of the seminars was to teach the NGOs and community leaders about sustainable development issues, to show the experience of the partners and to launch possible new concrete cooperative projects at grass-root level.

The second phase of the project consisted of two bigger meetings, which were the first examples of a concrete joint project organized by both organizations. Meetings were designed to cover not only purely environmental problems, but also social ones, which were similar in both towns. These were the problems of the integration of the Russian-speaking population, youth participation, cross-border cooperation and the relations of NGOs with state authorities.

DAUGAVA FORUM

Funding: DANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By Olga Vassilenko

The international conference “Towards Sustainable Development in the Latvian – Belorussian – Russian Border Area” was held 27 – 29 September 2000 in Daugavpils, Latvia. Organizers of Daugava Forum were DIVIC (Latvia), Peipsi CTC (Estonia) and Lake Peipsi Project (Russia) with the help of the Daugavpils City Council and Latvian Ministry of Nature Protection and Regional Development. Financial support was provided by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The goals of Daugava Forum were:

- to **develop a dialogue** between representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations of Latvia, Belarus and Russia;
- to **get an overview** of current activities on transboundary cooperation issues in environmental field in the border area of mentioned countries;
- to **formulate suggestions** for the development of cooperation projects in the Belorussian–Latvian–Russian border region between national, regional and local governments, non-governmental organizations of the three countries, international organizations and experts.

Seventy-two participants who were taking part in Daugava Forum exchanged information about the ecological situation, shared their experience in transboundary cooperation and discussed proposed ideas for future development of crossborder cooperation in different spheres (environment, education, tourist, business development etc.). A good example of realization of some ideas of sustainable development was the implementation of Danish–Estonian–Russian project “Local Community and Transboundary Cooperation in the Estonian–Russian Border Area”, which was presented at the conference by Margit Säre, project manager from Peipsi CTC. The participants decided that the experience of work on this project would be good to transfer into the follow up activity of Daugava Forum. At present there is a follow up project designed on the Belorussian–Latvian–Russian border. Sociological research, which was conducted by Belarus, Latvian and Russian scientists in summer 2000, can be considered as a basis for further cooperation on Belorussian–Latvian–Russian border. Tatyana Maximova spoke about this research in her report “Sociological Research on Belorussian–Latvian border”. She said that according to the research very strong ties between two countries were revealed. The ties were formed during the former Soviet Union period. The necessity to develop the activity on different levels, either governmental or local, was also stressed.



SUMMARY OF THE SCHOOL EXCHANGE PROJECT BETWEEN THE BIG LAKES OF PEIPSI (ESTONIA AND RUSSIA), VÄNERN (SWEDEN) AND SOUTH PÄIJÄNNE–VESIJÄRVI (FINLAND).

Funding: NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

By Svetlana Stepanova

There are three lakes of a rather big size and more or less similar problems: Lake Peipsi, the fourth biggest lake in Europe, in Estonia and in North–Western Russia; Lake Vänern, the third biggest lake in Europe and the biggest one in Sweden; and Lake South Päijänne–Vesijärvi, one of the largest lakes in Finland. In these lake regions there is a lack of international cooperation and communication as well as a need to develop environmental activism and awareness among young people of environmental, ethnic and cultural issues in their region, country and neighbouring countries in order to be educated environment protectors and information ambassadors for other regions and countries in future.

The cultural and natural environment surrounding them is often fragile, and that's why they should be handled with care. Young people are a good potential in addressing to this issue. When the young generation knows how to handle the environment they live in, the bigger amount of problems will be resolved.

The project is being developed and implemented by the Lake Peipsi Project in Russia and Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation in Estonia, in cooperation with the Vänern museum in Sweden and Health Control and Environmental Center in Finland. It received financial support from the Nordic Council of Ministers and was launched on 1 September 2000.

The project is aimed at creating and strengthening international youth cooperation between schools of Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Russia, to promote awareness among the younger generation in cultural and environmental matters in their home regions and neighbouring countries and to develop their comprehension of the world according to the principles of Agenda 21. This goal is being reached by:

- increasing communication between the schools, students and teachers for sharing experience in environmental and cultural education, motivating students to communicate with their neighbours;
- promoting awareness about cultural and environmental subjects among young people for them to know more about their own region, country and neighbouring ones, comprehend themselves as members of a global society and to be tolerant towards the environment they live in;
- providing cooperation between museums and schools, cultural and environmental institutions for involving more different organizations and people, interested in protecting the global environment according to the principles of Agenda 21;

- encouraging the young generation to work on investigation of environment and culture of their own, as well as neighbouring countries;
- developing new methods of learning (culture & environment) for reaching better results in environmental and cultural youth education and sharing the existing experience among the teachers of the participating countries.

Already three meetings have been organized for the project coordinators and teachers of natural and cultural sciences from Estonia, Finland, Russia and Sweden. The first meeting took place on October 21–24, 2000 in Lidköping near Vänern, Sweden. The second and the third – on November 25–30, 2000 in Estonia, Rāpina and Russia, Pskov. The representatives of Estonia, Finland, Russia and Sweden made presentations to the students of the hosting countries. The lectures were about their towns, regions they live in, of the schools or other educational institutions, of their traditions and history. The youngsters, who participated at these meetings will gather in Estonia in May 2001 (the final event of the project) to partake the May Camp, where youngsters from the four countries have an opportunity to get acquainted with each other, to find new friends, new interests, to work together on different tasks in the field of culture and environment. They will work in international groups and make different investigations and research work in chemistry, biology, botany, zoology, microbiology and culture. They will have an opportunity not only to find new friends and work together but also to establish international youth cooperation with the help of the teachers and project coordinators.

Besides the events in October and November 2000, the teachers themselves helped to find new contacts, new experience, to share their own knowledge with colleagues from other countries, to establish a very good cooperation while working together and to create an excellent teachers' working team. The fourth event in Lahti, Finland will take place in March 2001 and the last event in Rāpina, Estonia in May 2001.

FIFTH ANNUAL CONTEST “WORLD OF WATER THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN” 2000

Funding: TARTU TOWN GOVERNMENT, COUNCIL OF GAMBLING TAX, THE CENTER FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION, THE MINISTRY OF NATURE RESOURCES OF RUSSIA, THE STATE COMMITTEE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF RUSSIA, PSKOV TOWN GOVERNMENT, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF LATVIA.

By Angelika Rehema

The awards ceremony and 3-day international camp for the winners of the Children's Contest 2000 took place in Cesvaine (Latvia) in July 5–7, 2000. The children from different countries had excursions in Cesvaine, Madona, Riga, Aluksne and Gauja National Park, and in the evenings they enjoyed different entertainment activities, for example a quiz game on environmental issues won by the Estonian team.

The international competition provided an excellent opportunity for children from different countries to gain understanding of the importance of protecting water resources. Winners of the contest – children from Estonia, Russia and Latvia – had a chance to share their ideas about the environment and life in different states around Lake Peipsi and the Baltic Sea as a whole. The contest also helped to promote the idea of cooperation in the protection of natural resources.

Exhibition of this year's winners' art works was opened in the Riga Nature Museum.

The contest World of Water Through the Eyes of Children was launched in 1996 by Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation. The project aims are: 1) to establish a dialogue between children and adults in Estonia, Russia, Latvia and other countries on the topic of environmental protection and sustainable development; 2) to help to encourage children to realize their creative potential; 3) to promote the notion of cooperation in the protection of natural resources; 4) to raise awareness on environmental protection issues.

Children up to 18 are encouraged to submit drawings and paintings; research papers and compositions on such themes as water pollution, lakes and environmental protection and cultural traditions of the people around Lake Peipsi. In recent years the contest has expanded, accepting now also works from children from other countries in the Baltic Sea region and the number of participants of the contest rose to more than 3000 in the year 2000.

The contest includes three categories: research works, art works and literary works, divided into two age-groups. The project coordinators collect children's works from Estonia, Russia, Latvia and other countries, the International Jury examines creative works to determine the winners in categories and age-groups. The best works are exhibited in different towns of Estonia, Latvia and in Pskov, Russia and every year the contest winners are brought to one of the organizing countries to partake an international environmental camp.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CROSS BORDER CO-OPERATION IN THE ESTONIAN–RUSSIAN BORDER AREA

SECOND PHASE, FEBRUARY 2000–JUNE 2001

Funding: DANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By Margit Säre

Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation and Funen County (Denmark) are carrying out a project “Community Development and Cross Border Cooperation in Estonian–Russian Border Area”, which is supported by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Environmental Protection Agency DANCEE. The project overall goal is to develop further cross-border cooperation in the Estonian–Russian border area, focusing on environmental and economic issues, and preparing the region for its future status as the EU external border area.

The first phase of the project was carried out in 1999.

The closing of the border between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation in the beginning of the 1990s, changes in political and social life of the states and transformation from planned to market economy have caused severe socio-economic problems for the region. The Estonian–Russian border region is characterized by high rate of unemployment, underdevelopment of small- and medium enterprises, weak civil society and environmental problems. In the existing political and economic situation promotion of regional cross border cooperation becomes very important as an instrument of development and progress.

The development of cross border cooperation and sustainable development of the Estonian–Russian border region is important also because of the fact that it is the future external border of the EU. Security of border areas has gained much attention in today’s Europe and the development of cross border cooperation and establishment of safe and secure borders is a priority for the European Union.

The work under the project is divided into three parts:

1. **Environmental component of the project is closely worked out and coordinated with the Estonian–Russian Transboundary Water Commission.** The network of stakeholders in the region has also been established.

Environmental expert group, consisting of Estonian, Russian and Danish experts is preparing intervention of point pollution sources of the Lake Peipsi Basin. Secondly, specific recommendations for wastewater treatment and reduction of pollution load will be made to the Estonian–Russian Transboundary Water Commission, which are worked out together with expert and stakeholder groups of the region.

The results of the project will be used for writing the Lake Peipsi Management Plan, which has to be ready by the year 2004–2005. The preparation of the Lake Peipsi Management Plan follows the principles of water management, outlined in the EU Water Framework Directive and in accordance

with the existing wastewater directive.

2. **Joint Danish – Estonian – Russian economic expert group is developing the Lake Peipsi regional business profile.**

The first step was to collect information about the enterprises in the region and setting up a database according to the NACE code. The database is to be found on Internet (www.ctc.ee). Also trainings of entrepreneurs on border regulations, cross border trade, existing legal basis of Estonian–Russian economic relations, tax system, custom rules, and presentations of practical experience have been held.

As the final phase of the economic part of the project Lake Peipsi Business Profile will be printed, containing an analysis of current situation and economic development patterns in the region. Regional profile could be used in the future for promoting the Lake Peipsi Region internationally and attracting international funding and experts.

3. **The project is also focusing on adaptation of the Estonian–Russian border for its future status as the EU external border area.** Estonia is now the EU candidate country and will gain the member status of the EU within 2–3 years.

During the first phase of the project we have experienced that Estonian local governments do not have very clear idea about the EU, consequences of joining it or the impact the enlargement will have on the border areas. Lack of information about the EU policies and accession procedures at the local level has caused misunderstanding and in some cases even fear about the future of border areas.

Project training program is composed to increase local awareness about different EU policies and changes for the border regions in Estonia, to prepare civil servants for the new structural funds period, inform them about the coming CBC programs and cooperation perspectives they offer.

Peipsi CTC continues to coordinate preparation, publishing and dissemination of the Narva (Estonia)–Ivangorod (Russia) newsletter on cross border cooperation issues.

The final conference Peipsi Forum II will take place in June 2001, in Tartu, to make conclusions of the project and discuss plans for future cooperation. The first Peipsi Forum was held in Tartu, in November 1999.

INCREASING EU AWARENESS AND ACCESSIBILITY TO INFORMATION AMONG RURAL YOUTH – A KEY TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Funding: DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN ESTONIA

By Margit Säre

The project consisting of a training program for trainers and youth; summer camp for Russian and Estonian youngsters and general information dissemination on European Union issues was implemented in November 1999–June 2000. Support for the project was provided by the Delegation of the European Commission in Estonia.

The issue of enlargement of the European Union is seen as one of the most important events in the post Cold War era in Europe. The changes in the end of the 1980s and early 1990s in the Central and Eastern Europe ended the division of Europe and started the process of building up cooperative and friendly relationships between the countries. Since the early 1990s, joining the EU has been an important political goal for the former communist bloc countries, including Estonia. The European Union has become the symbol of democracy, modernity and civic society for the former communist bloc.

In Estonian capital, Tallinn, and other bigger cities the development of civic society has been fast. People have better knowledge of European Union integration issues; organizations have more skills and access to information about applying for funding from EU support programs and to use EU information materials. Better understanding on the societal development issues will also increase people's security on their future. In the peripheral areas of the country, especially in eastern Estonia, we can see that the civil society is still weak, NGOs have lack of training and information on EU support programs.

The project was aimed at increasing awareness of the EU related issues among NGOs and local grassroot organizations through trainings, consultations, mentorship and organizing youth camp. The target group consisted of young people involved in non-profit organizations in the Lake Peipsi region, as well as active students of secondary schools.

There were two training programs for trainers to introduce the institutions and the enlargement process; EU foreign and labour policy; and foreign trade issues, also management of an EU project was taught.

5 days summer camp for the young NGO representatives and active youngsters in the Lake Peipsi region took place in May 2000. Participants were selected on a competitive basis and included both Estonian and Russian young people. Topics of the seminar included: EU history, institutions and politics; EU enlargement; the EU support programmes and project management.

We believe that through the information dissemination activities local NGOs and young people have increased knowledge on the EU related issues and on EU support programs. They have also gained knowledge and skills to apply for support from these funds. In addition the project helped to create a network between Russian and Estonian NGOs and youth leaders of the region.



LAKE PEIPSI BUSINESS PROFILE AS A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOOL

Funding: DANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By Madis Saluveer

Compiling a Business Profile of the Lake Peipsi region is one of the 3 major tasks of the Danish–Estonian–Russian project “Community development and cross border co-operation in the Estonian–Russian border area”. The profile will include information about 4 counties and 22 local authorities in Estonia, 2 oblasts/regions and 6 raions/districts from Russia and Lake Peipsi itself. To compile the profile, a team of Danish, Estonian and Russian experts was formed.

The following is a short summary of the activities carried out in the year 2000.

One ingredient of the profile will be an **electronic database of companies** located in this region. The database is composed in MS Access, which makes it possible to search for relevant information in a number of ways. Besides the usual factual information, the database includes information on the number of employees, a company’s field of activities (also in NACE code), share capital and, where possible, its international experience and co-operation partners. The database includes information on more than 450 companies from the region and will be accessible on the Peipsi CTC homepage in Estonian, Russian and English. Hopefully it will be updated for several years after the termination of the present project.

To study the situation in the region, a lot of **local visits and meetings** took place both on the Estonian and Russian side. During these events, there were meetings with representatives of local authorities and businesspeople in the south region of Ida-Virumaa; a visit to R pina Business Support Centre and to the South-East Business Fair in P lva, etc. Our Danish experts Sten Falling and Palle Moeldrup undertook a long study trip to this region from 6 to 10 November 2000. Their trip included meetings with company representatives in Narva, company visits to “Karmis Iisaku”, O  Tisler Iisaku, visiting the University of Tartu Department of Research and Development, Tartu Science Park (including 3 company visits); meeting representatives of Tartu Business Advisory Services and the adult training company NORT Koolitus; more company visits in R pina and in Tartu. A similar tour took place in Russia from 26 to 30 November, when Sten Falling visited a number of companies in Kingissepp, Ivangorod, Slantsy, Gdov and Pskov.

Another ingredient of the profile compilation consisted of **seminars** for the representatives of local authorities and businesses. Three major events took place in 2000: the kick-off seminar in June in Tartu followed by a boat trip to Piirissaare; a seminar “Estonia in accession to the European Union and the Lake Peipsi area” in November in Tartu and a seminar “Lake Peipsi region and the issues of cross-border cooperation and

entrepreneurship” in November in Pskov. These events brought together major stakeholders in the region and helped to promote a common understanding of the region and cross-border cooperation between Estonia and Russia.

Also a number of meetings of **Estonian and Russian experts** took place to discuss the contents of the business profile report, and its draft version was compiled by the end of the year. The draft will now be presented to the local authorities and representatives of businesses in the region for discussion, and the final version will be published by June 2001.

Last but not least were the **presentations, articles and other PR activities** promoting the project and cross-border cooperation in the region.



LOCAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN MUSTVEE AND KALLASTE

Funding: UNDP

By Margit Säre

Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation CTC with UNDP support carried out a project “Local sustainable development projects in Mustvee and Kallaste”. The project timeframe was June 1997–September 2000 and project activities took place in Mustvee and Kallaste towns, situated on the shore of Lake Peipsi.

Kallaste town has a population of around 1300 people and its area is 1.87 km². The town covers about two kilometres of the shoreline. Mustvee town has a population of 2000 people and its area is 5.4 km². The region is inhabited by Russians and Estonians, with most of the people speaking both languages.

The early settlers of this region, Old-believers, earned their living mainly by fishing but this region was and is still known for growing onions. Although Old-believers have been living in close proximity to Estonians for centuries, they have still preserved a distinctive lifestyle and habits.

The closing of the border between Estonia and Russia, in the early 1990s, has resulted in the termination of numerous familiar, cultural, social and economic links across the border. Changes in political and social life of Estonia and transformation from planned to market economy have caused severe socio-economic problems in the region. During the Soviet period people along the coast of Lake Peipsi earned their living by fishing and farming and selling their agricultural products in Russia and Estonia. Now, due to the unfavourable tariff policy in Russia and changes in the Estonian economic system, farmers and fishermen have lost their markets and main source of income. The Mustvee and Kallaste region has remained a peripheral part of the country with a high rate of unemployment and severe social, economic and environmental problems.

To support the local sustainable development process, Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation started a project in June 1997. The project was using UNDP methodology of sustainable development, which emphasizes the importance of economic growth and sound and well-governed economic policies but also the widening of people's choices and opportunities. It stresses that economic growth, per se, is not enough to enlarge people's choices and opportunities. The sustainable human development concept is focusing at human capital formation and the need to maximize the participation of each individual in society and the economy.

Other key issues of the project were increasing public participation and democratization. Public participation in making decisions concerning local development is vital for contributing to the development of a spirit of cooperation between public authorities and stakeholders. Involving more people means

using a wider range of experiences and skills. Regular public participation shows people that they are valued and that their views are important. People acknowledge their role in community development, and authorities create better relationships with these communities. In the longer term, public participation improves democracy.

Activities

In the beginning of the project, local initiative groups of active residents of both towns were established. However, there were some initial difficulties and organizers put a lot of time and energy into explaining people their democratic basis to act and the role of the third sector in the society. It was relatively difficult to build sufficient trust for the public to want to participate. The reason could be our history of centralized economy, where decisions on local development were made the same for the whole country as part of an overall plan and local public opinion was not taken into account.

With the supervision of the project manager, initiative groups held regular meetings to discuss social, environmental and economic problems of the area. Several project ideas developed from these discussions. The project staff is assisting community groups in identifying the sources of their problems, finding possible solutions, writing project proposals and monitoring the project implementation. Around 10 projects written by local institutions have received funding. Among them are proposals written by Kallaste Ecotourism Foundation, Lake Peipsi Tourism Foundation, Kallaste and Mustvee town governments.

Peipsi CTC has also organized quarterly training programs for community leaders with the help of other specialists. Training programs on ecotourism, business development, project writing, and the English and Estonian language courses have been especially popular.

All together, around 30 personal consultations on project writing, fundraising and organizational development issues were given by the project staff. 20 seminars and training sessions were organized for different community groups, also monthly meetings and discussions were held with the town mayors and NGO leaders.

In both towns three-day brainstorming sessions with local authorities on town development plans took place in 1999. E-mail and Internet connections in Mustvee and Kallaste community centers have also been established. As local people have little experience in e-mail and Internet use, training has been held on these topics.

Several publications and newsletters were printed and disseminated among local interested parties. Trilingual “Step By Step Project Development” gives practical and theoretical advice in how to start and implement a local project. In addition, the tourist map of the Lake Peipsi region was printed in the Estonian, Russian and English languages. The map includes information about the most interesting sights in the region, restaurants, accommodation, and other services for tourists. In April 2000, the Mustvee tourism information point was opened in cooperation with the UNDP project and town government.

During the last year, cooperation and communication ties between local communities situated on the shore of Lake Peipsi (Mustvee, Kallaste, Alatskivi, Rāpina) improved greatly. Gdov region on the Russian side of the lake made an outstanding step forward. During the project Peipsi CTC has seen how important it is to establish the cooperation network between all the members of the community – entrepreneurs, local governments, NGOs, schools, experts etc. We have learned that it is impossible to talk about cooperation between different

community groups, if there is no trust between the partners; trust and communication are extremely important, when talking about transboundary cooperation projects.

We have seen a growing interest among people living in Mustvee and Kallaste areas to establish their own NGOs, to take a bigger initiative in discussion of local problems. There has also been significant improvement in relationships between the local authorities and NGOs, who treat each other as equal partners by now. We can see that local people have begun to understand, what they can do themselves to solve these problems and what could be the possible helping instruments. We believe that the UNDP project has helped local people to better understand their problems and plan their own actions to address them, and that it has improved local sustainable development process through higher public involvement and improved skills.



PSKOV SUPPORT CENTER FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Funding: THE OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE (SOROS FOUNDATION)

By Semyon Nikonov

Despite its favourable geographical location (proximity to the border with three foreign states: Estonia, Latvia and Belarus), the Pskov Region however does not utilize to a full extent all the ensuing opportunities to attract additional financial resources in order to solve local problems.

The goal of the project is to establish a consultancy center for local authorities, i.e. municipal and district administrations of the Pskov Region, namely the districts of Gdov, Pechory and Pskov, and the town of Pskov.

The border position of the Pskov Region is conducive to the cooperation between the local administrations of the region and foreign administrative and other structures. In order to develop and implement joint projects, local authorities need advice and support on project management. The support center provides training workshops on project development and implementation for local administrators, to monitor the implementation of existing projects and to assist in developing projects and finding partners. The center will accumulate information on prospective partners, project ideas and funding possibilities.

The project period is one year: from April 2000 to April 2001. The project includes a series of workshops and seminars for local authorities, as well as individual consultations on projects that are developed within the project framework.

Project Stages:

1. Establishment of a constantly functioning support center for local authorities.
2. Workshops for local authorities:
 - Basic Project Guidelines for Local Authorities, May 2000
 - Information Databases on Funding Resources, November 2000
 - Project Budget: Development, Fulfilment and Reporting, January 2001
3. Meetings of Russian and Estonian local administrations to exchange experience, November 2000, February 2001.

The Pechory District Administration was the first to engage in project activities. They suggested a project proposal to support women's initiatives in the Pskov Region. The proposal was submitted to the Canadian Foundation in Support of Russian Women. The project partners are administrations of the Pechory and Gdov Districts.

Our organization, Pskov NGO "Lake Peipsi Project", assisted the partners in developing the project and translated the

project documents into English as required by the foundation guidelines. Unfortunately, the project was not accepted by the foundation, still we promoted the proposed initiative further.

The next project developed by the Pechory District Administration with our support was a school exchange project between Russian and Estonian schools.

Our Estonian partners held negotiations with the Estonian Ministry of Education, the possible project sponsor, and organized a working meeting for administrative representatives and project partners. Now the submitted project proposal is waiting for consideration and approval at the Estonian Ministry of Education.

Another project developed in cooperation with the Pechory District Administration was the planning of the third water lifting station in Pechory. The project proposal has been submitted to the Danish Environmental Protection Agency.

Currently, together with the Gdov District Administration, we are preparing a project proposal to construct water purification facilities in the town of Gdov. The project will also be submitted to the Danish Environmental Protection Agency.

In late September – early October 2000, we visited local administration offices in the districts of Pechory, Gdov, Pskov and the town of Pskov to provide on-site consultations.

In cooperation with the American Peace Corps volunteer, our organization published a book on project management – "Step by Step Project Development". The draft was presented at the first project workshop in May 2000 and it was printed in November 2000 to be distributed to all the project partners.

During our on-site consultations, we rendered additional training in project development and implementation to local administrators.

The model described in the brochure will be useful not only for project development but also for daily administrative work as it provides an effective pattern for step by step problem solving.

During our work, we came to the conclusion that many participants have problems in defining and formulating project goals and tasks, which results in the development of inadequate project activities.

Therefore, after we analyzed results of our on-site consultations, we decided that it was necessary not only to help project partners correctly fill in the application forms, but also to help them develop a "project mentality", i.e. to assist them in identifying project goals and tasks.

THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN PEIPSI CTC AND ALLCOOP

By Margit Säre

During the last year, Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation (Peipsi CTC) established good working contacts with the ALLCOOP – Alliance for Lake Cooperation in Ohrid and Prespa (www.allcoopmacedonia.homestead.com). ALLCOOP is working in Lake Ohrid region on Macedonian–Albanian border and Lake Prespa region in Macedonian–Albanian–Greek transboundary region.

Through discussion, information exchange and study visits it became clear that two border regions: Estonian–Russian and Macedonian–Albanian share many common problems, that two organizations – Peipsi CTC and ALLCOOP have similar aims and approaches to reach the goals and that there is enough of experience to share with each other.

Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye, Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa water bodies are managed by countries in transition and thus share also many common features: the border regime between Estonia–Russia and between Macedonia–Albania was established only in the beginning of the 1990s. This means that transboundary water management is a new issue. Both regions, located in peripheral parts of the respective countries, have severe economic, social and environmental problems, and both see more efficient cooperation across the border as an important part of the regional development. It is also true for both regions that public participation in the decision–making process and NGO involvement in policy making is in its beginning phase.

During 1999 – 2000, Peipsi CTC and ALLCOOP had already several joint events. ALLCOOP and Lake Ohrid Conservation Project representatives participated the International Conference on Management of International Lakes organized by Peipsi CTC in cooperation with the Estonian Ministry of Environment in December 1999 in Tartu; they also visited Peipsi CTC during a field trip to Estonian side of the Lake Peipsi area organized by Peipsi CTC in May 2000. In August 2000 ALLCOOP representatives stayed for 3 weeks in Tartu to get familiar with Peipsi CTC organizational structure, its projects and to work with a joint project proposal on strategies for Public Participation in the Field of Management of Transboundary Lakes in Europe

As a result of extensive communication and cooperation between two organizations an agreement for cooperation was signed between Peipsi CTC and ALLCOOP directors, on August 17, 2000. Agreement foresees exchanging and distributing information on environmental, economic and social issues on the Estonian-Russian and Macedonian-Albanian border areas; organizing staff exchange programs between ALLCOOP and Peipsi CTC; and preparing joint international

projects in the field of environmental protection, civil society and NGO development, and social and economic development.

A concrete result of the joint project writing activities Peipsi CTC and ALLCOOP received a grant from the Charity Know How Foundation and another from Open Society Institute East-East Program on enhancing public participation in the management and protection of international lakes. Both projects will start in 2001 and the first joint event, a conference “Strategies for Public Participation in Management of Transboundary Waters in Countries in Transition: Lake Ohrid and Lake Peipsi Case Studies” will take place on 13–14 March 2001, in Ohrid, Macedonia



FOSTERING INTER-ETHNIC DIALOGUE IN REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Funding: ADMINISTRATION OF THE REGION OF TRENINO–SOUTH TYROL, Italy

By Piret Teaste

After more than 50 years of the Soviet occupation, Estonia regained its independence in 1991. The new republic was faced with serious ethnic and linguistic problems, mostly the legacy of the Soviet Union. Due to constant migration to Estonia from various regions of the Soviet Union in the years 1945–1989 Estonia has now a Russian-speaking minority, forming 33% of the total population of 1.4 million. According to the Estonian Citizenship and Migration Board, approximately 23% of residents of the Republic of Estonia are not Estonian citizens.

Estonia as the European Union accession country makes strong efforts to meet the requirements of the union, including requirements of EU minority policies. To cope with a situation of increased separation of different ethnic groups the Government of Estonia adopted national integration policy in 1998. After a three-year debate and discussion the state program “Integration into Estonian Society 2000–2007” was approved by the Government of Estonia on 14 March 2000. This program determines Estonian integration strategy for the next seven years.

Objectives of the Project

The efforts to improve relationships between two communities have had little success, thus communication and interaction between Estonians and Russians is still infrequent. Russians and Estonians, representatives of local authorities and NGOs need to know more about minority policies in the EU countries and the options for minorities to stand for their rights. In many countries of the world, including Estonia, the status of ethnic minorities is perhaps one of the most burning issues, which may influence the future development of the country.

For raising awareness on minority issues and EU minority policies Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation started a project for fostering inter-ethnic dialogue in regional perspective. The long-term objective of the project is to initiate public discussion on the minority issues and promote national integration policy by gripping local initiative and third sector. The project is supported and initiated by Autonomous Region of Trentino–South Tyrol (Regione Autonoma Trentino–Alto Adige).

Essential event of the project was the minority forum held in Narva, on 9–10 November 2000, which brought together representatives from Estonian ministries, embassies (German, Austrian, Italian), county governments (Ida-Viru, Võru), municipalities (Narva, Narva-Jõesuu, Sillamäe) and non-governmental organizations. The goal of the Narva forum

was to draw parallels between European experiences and Estonian practice in minority protection and discuss the possibilities for applying European know-how into Estonian society. The first day of the forum consisted of speeches given by Estonian integration officers, Trentino Administration officers, representatives of Ida-Viru County and international organizations. On the second day a round table discussion was held to discuss the previous day issues in a more flexible way.

During the project the cooperation network between Peipsi CTC and Trentino-South Tyrol Administration was strengthened. Also a study tour was organized for the Estonian representatives from Ida-Viru County Government, integration officers and Peipsi CTC representatives to Trentino–South Tyrol, and another tour for Trentino experts in Ida-Viru County, Estonia, to meet the representatives of the ethnic groups living in the region and become acquainted with their problems.

The next step of the project is to carry out a sociological research in cooperation with the University of Tartu, focusing on northeastern Estonia to determine the most burning needs and interests of the minority groups (ethnic and national identification, protection of minority culture, mother tongue and public services, options of getting education in mother tongue etc) and analyze the possibilities of Ida-Viru County future developments.



RURAL WOMEN 'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAKE PEIPSI REGION

Funding: PHARE LIEN PROGRAM, UNDP

By Angelika Rehema

The project “Rural Women’s Social and Economic Development in the Lake Peipsi Region” was started in January 2000 and it lasts for 18 months.

The goals of the project are to train local women to be more assertive and confident in their social activities – especially in the areas of developing business skills and entrepreneurial activities, and in developing leadership skills for positions as community leaders or members of the local government; to create a structured environment in which women can establish local social action and support groups; to establish sustained contacts with Western European women, including the exchange of information and cooperative actions that promote local development.

Women in small towns and villages of the Peipsi region (Värskä, Mikitamäe, Röpina, Mehikoorma, Kallaste, Pala, Mustvee) are disadvantaged regarding the employment possibilities. Estonia’s transition to a market economy has destroyed the collective farms and small state enterprises that provided work for the majority of women in the rural border zone. Women’s unemployment in the area has been extremely high. In addition, women still face discrimination and are not encouraged to take the leader positions, such as those within the government. As a result, issues that are of special importance for them, may not be addressed, and their views on other issues may not be considered.

The project targets all women in the community, both employed and unemployed, in order to strengthen the social, as well as economic position of women in the region. 50 women were selected to participate actively in the trainings. Other women in the communities are invited to join the core group of women to participate in the study circles.

Training seminars are held on the following areas: on personal development, such as confidence building, assertiveness and leadership skills; on project writing, planning and management; on business start-up and basic bookkeeping; on public relations; on political self-confidence. Swedish women with special areas of experience and expertise are the trainers and host exchanges between Estonian and Swedish women are being organized, so that women from Estonia can see the role of women in EU countries, and Swedish women can understand the problems of development in Estonia. Study circles are created in each community to discuss specific topics, which are determined by the local groups. The women involved are able to exchange ideas, learn new skills and information and act in support/mentoring capacities. Three common social events for participants from all the involved communities are organized and a special business-start up book for women is being published.



FAMILY STAY LANGUAGE CAMPS FOR IDA-VIRUMAA CHILDREN

Funding: ESTONIAN INTEGRATION FOUNDATION, NETHERLANDS MATRA-KAP PROGRAM

By Angelika Rehema

The family stay language camps for studying the Estonian language and culture, which were initiated five years ago by Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation have now become very popular among non-Estonians. This form of language studies have spread all over Estonia and thousands of schoolchildren have been taking part in summer language camps in recent years. Still the need cannot be covered as 35 % of residents of the country do not speak Estonian as their first language, but mostly Russian.

Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation has focused its efforts to improve the Estonian language skills of the risk group children of Narva town, where 96% of the inhabitants are Russian speaking. More than 700 children from big families, with single parent, unemployed, low payed or disabled parents, and orphans have had an opportunity to participate in the family stay language camps from 1997 –2000. In the year 2000, 240 kids in the age of 9–17 could take part in the language camps on the shore of Lake Peipsi .

The goals of the language camps were as follows:

- to develop the Estonian language skills of Russian-speaking children from Narva;
- to enable Narva children to develop a better understanding of Estonian history, culture and customs;
- to show children different places in Estonia;
- to create personal contacts between Estonian speaking families in Mustvee and R apina and Russian speaking families in Narva;
- to offer a pleasant holiday away from urban and industrial northeastern Estonia.

Children lived in families, and they had two hours of language studies each day with a major emphasis on development of communication skills. Another two hours a day, the children learned Estonian national songs, dances and games and other activities for language practice.

Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation has created good and close contacts in such “lake communities” as towns of Mustvee and R apina; V arska and Mikitam e parishes. In the year 2000 our camp activities were also expanded to Mehikoorma in Meeksi parish. In all these locations we met very positive attitude towards the language camps project, willingness to cooperate, understanding in the goals and needs for integration.

Also, during all these years we have found very good, initiative

and creative local teachers, who are ready to share their unique experience with new colleagues.

During the years 1997-2000 local teachers and the specialist of teaching methods have accomplished materials for summer language camps for three different age groups. They have chosen songs, poems and games, found and compiled crosswords, puzzles, funny short texts, anecdotes, dramatized plays, developed language learning through games and interviews. Essentially the family stay language camps have developed to summerschools.

As a result of these camps, the Estonian language level of the children from Narva has improved; they know now more about Estonian culture and geography; and they have new friends in another part of Estonia.



365 DAYS OF TARTU AND JÕGEVA COUNTY NGO SUPPORT CENTER

Funding: BALTIC-AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION

By Madis Saluveer

The NGO Support Center is one year old. This serves as a good occasion to look back at the first year of its activities, to see what happened in 2000.

The NGO Support Center was launched as one of the 9 centers of the support center network, financed by the Baltic-American Partnership Foundation (BAPF) and maintained by the Network of Estonian Non-Governmental Organisations (NENO). In the year 2000, BAPF covered 100% of the support center's operational costs. The contract between BAPF and Peipsi CTC is signed for 4 years, and it foresees a gradual decrease of BAPF support (75% of total budget in 2001, 50% in 2002 and 25 % in 2003). Starting from 2004, the NGO Support Center should be self-supporting and should cover all its operational costs.

The Support Center's manager till 17 May 2000 was Janek Keskküla, from 17 May onwards the consultant and coordinator is Madis Saluveer.

What have we done during these 365 days? **Our main activity has been providing individual consultations to the NGOs in the region.** All in all, the Center has provided almost 170 consultations either in the office, by phone or via e-mail. The "hot issues" have been book-keeping, tax legislation, procedures and documentation for establishing an NGO, funding and project writing.

These topics have also been covered during the monthly information days for the local NGOs. Regular round-table meetings have been dedicated to the problems of co-operation between NGOs (either in the same field or between NGOs in general), as well as to the co-operation between NGOs and local authorities. Launching their fruitful co-operation can be seen as one of the major tasks for the third sector development during the EU accession period.

Another unlimited field of activities encompasses information assembling and dissemination. This includes obtaining information from local NGOs about their activities as well as disseminating information received from NENO and other sources to local NGOs. The database of the Support Center contains more than 1100 NGOs, information is disseminated either through local press or 4 electronic distribution lists.

The NGO Support Center has to maintain active relations with the press. I have given a number of interviews concerning the state of art and developments in the third sector in Estonia. Very active in this respect has been Radio 4, the Russian-language program of the Estonian Radio. The most exiting interviewer was Airat Aklajev from the Institute of Peace and

Conflict Studies, Essen, Germany, who was particularly interested in the progress made by Estonian NGOs over the last 10 years.

A number of presentations about the third sector in Estonia was also made, the audience has varied from the representatives of a round-table meeting in Narva to a delegation of top level politicians from the county of Uppsala, Sweden.

The Support Center works in close cooperation with the Tartu Volunteer Center, but their activities will be overviewed by Piret Teaste in another paper in this edition. We have also been in close contact with the volunteers from the US Peace Corps, who have paid our Center a number of visits and have taken part in several Volunteer Center actions.



TARTU VOLUNTEER CENTER

Funding: BALTIC–AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION

By Piret Teaste

Tartu Volunteer Center is established as a subprogram for the Support Center for NGOs in Tartu and Jõgeva County in March 2000.

The third sector in Estonia has been founded upon people who have had a mission to support this sector with their own time and money. Most of the NGO activists have started without any compensation for the work, but their enthusiasm and devotion have brought along the supporters, donors and sponsors. Many NGOs have used volunteers' help for years and have developed their own volunteer programs. While working with NGOs in Tartu and Jõgeva County we noticed that NGOs cannot make use of possible volunteer support. Therefore CTC decided to establish the program for supporting local NGOs with volunteers' help.

Society has acknowledged the value of voluntary work a long time ago. During last decades the voluntary movement has expanded all over the world. In Estonia the voluntary work has not been paid enough attention to, because of the social instability in everyday life, little attractiveness for the media and parallels drawn between Soviet times compulsory "voluntary work".

The overall goal of the program is to promote NGO development and strengthen it in a more efficient and direct way by finding and mediating volunteer work in NGOs. Our volunteers are mostly students, pupils, unemployed and employed specialists with additional time and willingness to make a change. Volunteers benefit from work experiences and friends, skills and satisfaction. To motivate and unite the volunteers we organize charity actions in cooperation with local NGOs taking into account their needs and interests.

Tartu Volunteer Center was opened in April 2000 with a charity action in Mustvee and Kallaste towns. Our volunteers took part in celebrating the International Earth Day by cleaning the coast of Lake Peipsi with local pupils. Spring cleanings are one of the most popular actions for using volunteers' help, because of a big number of hands needed for a short time. The other biggest actions in 2000 were autumn cleaning at the elderly people guardian house in Tartu and cooking gingersnaps for the children of big families. During the year 2000 Tartu Volunteer Center has been supported by British Embassy in Tallinn, Council of Gambling Tax and several enterprises of Tartu.



BORDER RESEARCH

Funding: JOHN D. & CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

By Jevgenia Viktorova

The last decades of the 20th century and the onset of a new millennium have brought with them an increased interest in the study of borders and border regions. The reasons for this can be found in the central role borders have played in defining important recent political events and phenomena. Major political transformations of the recent years (such as the collapse of the Soviet Union and dissolution of the Cold War order) have evoked many of the old border disputes and given rise to a number of new territorial claims, thus re-emphasising the traditional understanding of boundaries as an expression of spatial dimension of national sovereignty concerns. Countervailing tendencies in other parts of the world give evidence of strengthening regional ties that both enhance the permeability of borders and counterbalance national and supra-national regulation modes, introducing new regulatory aspects of transboundary region-building processes. At the same time, the impact of globalisation and rapid technological development determine the growth of activities and forces that are non-territorial in essence, thus turning borders and territorial entities surrounded by them irrelevant in some cases. Partly because of this contradictory nature of borders, they now enjoy a central position in contemporary (and so-called post-modern) social science. Being conceptualised as complex and multi-dimensional cultural phenomena, as constructs of a legal/institutional and cognitive nature, subject to constant re-construction and re-definition, boundaries became relevant as a part of post-modern social sciences' meta-language. Thus, it is possible to speak of borders between discursive practices that create and negotiate meanings, norms and values, and determine real and imaginary lines produced by 'languages' operating in exclusionary and/or inclusive modes.

In order to successfully deal with practical aspects of transboundary co-operation, it is essential to consider the implications of the changing understanding of various dividing lines, different visions and images of border on both of its sides; this is especially important in the case of asymmetric borders with dynamically developing cross-border interactions. Estonian–Russian border is but one of the many similar new divides that have, during the last decade, succeeded in restructuring the political, social and cultural spaces of borderland communities and bordering regions as well as affecting the life of entire states. Another feature shared by many contemporary borders in Europe is their inevitable involvement in the processes of European integration and enlargement: a variety of cases open wide perspectives for a comparative study of borders and border regions.

In the year 2000, Peipsi CTC's activities in the field of border research encompassed:

- **a study of perceptions of border and border-crossing needs in the Latvian–Belorussian border area**, as a comparative case to a similar research carried out in the Estonian–Russian border region in 1999, in co-operation with the University of Tartu, Centre for Independent Sociological Research (St Petersburg, Russia), Pskov Volny University (Russia) and Daugavpils Pedagogical University (Latvia). A resulting collection of essays covering individual case studies and articles devoted to theoretical and methodological aspects of the study, edited by Dr. Eiki Berg (University of Tartu), is to be issued in the beginning of the year 2001.
- **work on the publication on results of a workshop on soft-security issues held in Pskov, Russia, on July 6–8, 1999.** The forthcoming book, *Regional Dimensions of Security in Border Areas of Northern and Eastern Europe*, edited by Dr. Pertti Joenniemi (COPRI) and Jevgenia Viktorova (University of Tartu), comprises a selection of articles on borders and security dynamic in the new international border regions, contributed by scholars from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Russia, UK and the US.
- **preparation of a high-level scientific conference “Border Regions in Transition V: Mapping borders between territories, discourses and practices”**, co-organised with the Department of Political Sciences, University of Tartu. BRIT V conference will take place in Tartu, Estonia, on June 28 – July 1, 2001, and it will be followed by a field trip to the Estonian–Russian border region. The conference will seek to promote discussion among leading researchers representing various trends of border studies and thus enhance theoretical coherence of comparative border research by clarifying its methodological and conceptual frameworks. Building on the tradition of previous high-level scientific conferences of BRIT series, as well as on the experience of smaller international workshops and conferences on border issues, BRIT V will help to develop and sustain co-operation networks among scholars involved in the field of border studies. Allowing for an exchange of experience of recent and ongoing research on borders and border regions, the conference provides for an evaluation of achievements made, as well as problems discovered, in this field of knowledge, and thereby contributes to the effectiveness of future research. A publication on results of the conference

will make the results accessible to a wider audience and thus allow for a feedback and continuation of the discussion initiated at the conference.

- **preparation of a joint (with other research and educational institutions from Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary and the Netherlands) research proposal examining capacities for “region-building” across national borders in Central and Eastern Europe in anticipation of EU enlargement.** Future enlargement eastwards presents a major political, economic and social challenge for the European Union. It will also have far-reaching effects on the acceding countries (and their regions) who, while striving to adopt the *acquis communautaire*, must deal with fundamental societal transformation and rapid structural change. In border regions diverse socio-economic conditions and practices increasingly confront each other, opening prospects for trade and co-operation but, at the same time, often encouraging undesirable and illegal activities, resulting in misunderstanding and even conflict. It aims on the one hand to inform scientific debate over the political significance of cross-border regionalism within the context of European integration. On the other hand, it seeks to enrich policy debate by critically discussing the experiences and lessons learned since 1990 in areas located on EU external borders. Building on the wealth of available empirical research, the project will provide a sophisticated theoretical framework and research design with which to better understand the significance of cross-border regionalism as a process of socio-political transformation. Furthermore, the transferability of co-operation experiences to future external borders and between border regions with very different socio-economic and cultural contexts will be discussed.
- Participation in several conferences and research seminars including:
 - “**Border Regions in Transition IV. Rethinking Boundaries: Geopolitics, Identities and Sustainability**”, Chandigarh, India, February 21–26, 2000;
 - “**How Do Borders Matter in Contemporary Europe**”, Aabenraa, Denmark, May 25–27, 2000;
 - “**Shifting Borders**”, St Petersburg, Russia, June 9–12, 2000;
 - 15th Nordic and 3rd Baltic Sea Peace Research Conference “**Northern Europe: Transformation, Integration, Conflicts**”, Riga, Latvia, December 8–10, 2000.

CTC activities in the field of border studies in 1999–2000, have mainly been sponsored by John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, in the framework of the project “Establishment of the Center for Transboundary Cooperation as a Border Research Center for the Border Area of Baltic States and New Independent States”.



PARTNERS

Estonia

CENTER FOR APPLIED ECOLOGY (SILLAMÄE)
CHILDREN HOUSES IN NARVA AND NARVA-JÖESUU
'CLEAN WORLD' (NARVA)
ESTONIAN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
ESTONIAN CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION BOARD,
VÄRSKA OFFICE
ESTONIAN MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
ESTONIAN VOLUNTEER CENTER
IDA-VIRU, JÕGEVA, TARTU AND PÕLVA COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
MIKITAMÄE SCHOOL
NARVA, KALLASTE, MUSTVEE AND RÄPINA TOWN GOVERNMENTS
NETWORK OF ESTONIAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
NGO CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF
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NGO HOME FOR EVERY CHILD
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NATURE STUDIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER OF
DAUGAVPILS PEDAGOGICAL UNIVERSITY (DIVIC)
NGO FOUNDATION FOR
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH VIDZEME

Macedonia

ALLCOOP – ALLIANCE FOR LAKE COOPERATION
IN OHRID AND PRESPA

Netherlands

INSTITUTE FOR INLAND WATER MANAGEMENT
AND WASTE WATER TREATMENT (RIZA)
UTRECHT UNIVERSITY
NIJMEGEN CENTRE FOR BORDER RESEARCH

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HEDMARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
JORDFORSK - CENTRE FOR SOIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

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DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF RUSSIA IN PSKOV OBLAST
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MINISTRY OF NATURE RESOURCES OF RUSSIA
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PSKOV REGION ADMINISTRATION,
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PSKOV TOWN GOVERNMENT
PSKOV VOLNY UNIVERSITY
STATE HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
STATE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF RUSSIA
TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL
INFORMATION AGENCY (TEIA)

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LINKÖPING UNIVERSITY
STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE TALLINN (SEIT)
SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SWEDISH WATER MANAGEMENT RESEARCH PROGRAM
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United States

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EAST-WEST INSTITUTE
ESTONIAN-RUSSIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKE, UN ECE

SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT 2000

Funding received 2000	EEK
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	740253
ROYAL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY	199930
SWEDISH EPA	82895
VASTRA	204075
ESTONIAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	69700
FUNEN COUNTY, DENMARK	168453
UNDP	585993
ESTONIAN MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS	158500
NETWORK OF ESTONIAN NONPROFIT ORGANISATIONS	159035
ESTONIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION	6000
SWEDISH INSTITUTE	108147
TRENTINO REGION, ITALY	399817
DANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	1514427
MACARTHUR FOUNDATION	682920
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE	73011
NON-ESTONIANS INTEGRATION FOUNDATION	792000
TARTU TOWN GOVERNMENT	5000
OSCE	78859
ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY	36000
FINNISH MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	10083
Other	96760
Total	6171859

15.6466 EEK = 1 €

SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT 1999

Funding received 1999	EEK
TARTU TOWN GOVERNMENT	8000
UNIVERSITY OF STOCKHOLM	13183
Childrens competition prize fund	15000
ROYAL BRITISH EMBASSY	20000
Parents of children attending language camps	27200
ESTONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL FUND	30000
ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY	35000
SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	46264
ESTONIAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	56900
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE	101923
FINNISH MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	209816
PHARE PROGRAMME	246126
MATRA-KAP	308895
UNDP	411104
NON-ESTONIANS INTEGRATION FOUNDATION	595000
MACARTHUR FOUNDATION	605816
DANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS	900984
VASTRA, SWEDISH INSTITUTE	1269276
Others	82956
<u>All together</u>	<u>4983443</u>

15.6466 EEK = 1 €

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have been checking the bookkeeping documents of the international non-profit organization Peipsi CTC during the year 2000. My task was to give an assessment to bookkeeping accounts and cost figures according to the control results.

Peipsi CTC is an international non-profit organization, with an aim to promote sustainable development and cross-border cooperation in the Baltic States and border areas of CIS. Peipsi CTC does not earn profit via economic activities.

According to the Estonian Value Added Tax Act Peipsi CTC, as a non-profit organization, will be returned VAT spent on goods and services supported by foreign funders.

No unfounded expenditures were ascertained, when checking the bookkeeping documentation and requisitions of the Estonian Bookkeeping Act have been followed. All the primary documents had the necessary requisites.

December 12, 2000

Aime Terasmaa

AUDITOR

CERTIFICATE NR. 381

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Available in the offices of Peipsi CTC
in English, Estonian and Russian

Newsletters:

- Local Sustainable Development Projects in Mustvee and Kallaste, August 2000
- Local Agenda 21 in Narva and Daugavpils – Experience and Recommendations, July 2000
- The Narva Watershed Research Program, March 2000

Step-by-Step Project Development Process, 2000

A simplified system intended to assist people in designing a workable project in an analytical and systematic way.

Daugava Directory, 2000

A directory that covers organisations and institutions operating along the Daugava/Zapadnaya Dvina River in Belarus, Latvia, and Russia. The Directory contains information about the work of different organizations and institutions, contact persons, and addresses.

The Narva River and Water Reservoir, 2000

The first book dedicated to the issue; 21 articles on the Narva River and Reservoir, covering topics such as the ecological situation, hydrology, fishing, among others.

Tourist Area of Lake Peipsi, 2000

Provides basic information about Lake Peipsi, Mustvee and Kallaste towns and other localities on the shore; identifies first aid stations, post offices, accommodations, cafes, camping places, beaches, harbours, churches, cemeteries, monuments etc.

Map of Lake Peipsi, 2000

is a detailed map of the Lake Peipsi hinterland.

Activities Report 1999

gives an overview of our projects in the year 1999.

Sääritsa village book

presents a research of the village's past and nowadays.

Peipsi CTC overview booklet

is a full colour publication briefly describing our activities.

Most of the publications are also available from the website of Peipsi CTC in English, Estonian and Russian: www.ctc.ee

STAFF & ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Tartu

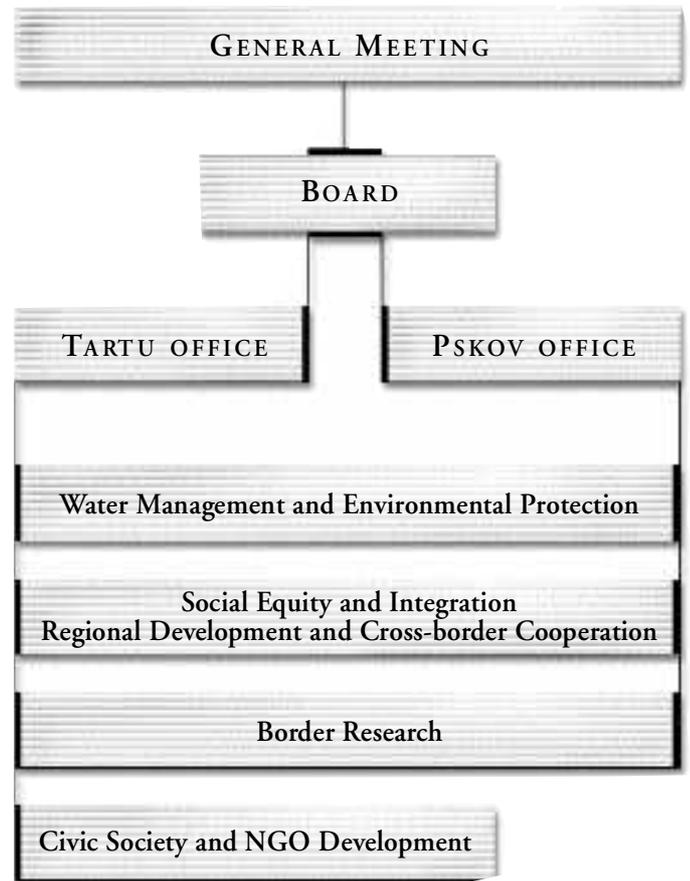
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LAKE PEIPSI



Photos: Peeter Uur, Annika Tähepõld. Design: Emma Jõe Disain. Print: Tõravere Trükkikooda.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE ESTONIAN–RUSSIAN BORDER AREA

- The total length of the **Estonian–Russian border** is 277 km where approximately two-thirds of the border goes through Lake Peipsi (in Russian the lake is named Pskovsko – Chudskoe) and the Narva River. In addition, **12 km of sea border** goes from the mouth of the Narva River to the neutral waters of the Gulf of Finland.
- The population of the coast of Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe is rather diverse in its origin and cultures. The Lake Peipsi coast was **historically inhabited by Finno-Ugric tribes** of Chud and Vod whose main activities were fishing and hunting. The name of the Lake in Russian – Chudskoe – still reminds us of the tribe that lived in the area. The lake was a natural border between people who inhabited territories around Lake Peipsi and resulted in the different cultural composition of the Eastern (Russian) and Western (Estonian) peripheries of the Lake Peipsi watershed. At the same time, to the south of the lake, in the current land border area of modern Estonia and Russia, the **Finno-Ugric ethnic group of Setu people** lives. This group is probably a remnant of the Finno-Ugric people with whom Slavic tribes met when they were migrating into the region in the 5th century from the east. As a cultural shatter belt it has had Russian influences like the Orthodox religion and several features in material culture, but the people have preserved their **own language, Setu, a dialect of Estonian**. Thus they remained in the middle of these two cultures, having much in common both with Estonians and Russians but never totally assimilating into either of them. Today, the historic **Setumaa is divided administratively between Estonia and Russia**. There were 20000 Setu at the beginning of the 20th century, which was the largest population in recent history. Setu lived more inland dealing with agriculture, crafts, and trade; they considered fishing as a dangerous enterprise. This is why the **coastal areas of the lake became inhabited by Russian fishermen**.
- Five administrative regions – the Eastern Estonian counties of Ida-Virumaa, Jõgevamaa, Tartumaa, Põlvamaa and Võrumaa – have a border with the Russian Federation. On the Russian side, the Leningrad and Pskov regions are located on the border with the Republic of Estonia.
- Both sides of the Estonian-Russian border zone are mostly agricultural regions of their countries. **Arable lands; milk and cattle farms, small-scale fishery, timber enterprises and food processing factories** are located in this area; however, rural areas, especially on the Russian side, are rather scarcely populated. Most of the population is urban and living in the two largest towns – Tartu in Estonia with about 100000 inhabitants and Pskov on the Russian side with 300000 inhabitants. There are quite clear regional differences in economic development patterns in different parts of the Estonian-Russian border zone.
- Lake Peipsi is the **fourth largest lake in Europe** after Ladoga, Onega, and Vänern with respect to surface area and is located in the Baltic Sea water basin. The surface area is 3550 km²; its average depth is 7.1 meters and the maximum depth is 15 meters. Of the total lake surface area, 1550 km² or 44% is located in Estonian territory; the remaining 56% is in the territory of the Russian Federation. Thirty islands are situated on the Lake Peipsi; the largest is Piirisaar, which belongs to Estonia. The lake consists of three unequal parts: the largest is the northern part - Lake Peipsi with area 2613 km², maximum depth 12.9 at water level 30.01 m above sea level, water capacity 21.79 km³; the southern Lake Pihkva/Chudskoe with an area of 709 km², water level 5.3 m, and water capacity 2.68 km³; and the narrow strait-like Lake Lämmijärv/Tjoploe connecting them with area of 236 km², water level 15.3 m, and water capacity 0.60 km³.