

Interreg VI-A Latvia-Lithuania Programme 2021-2027

Interreg



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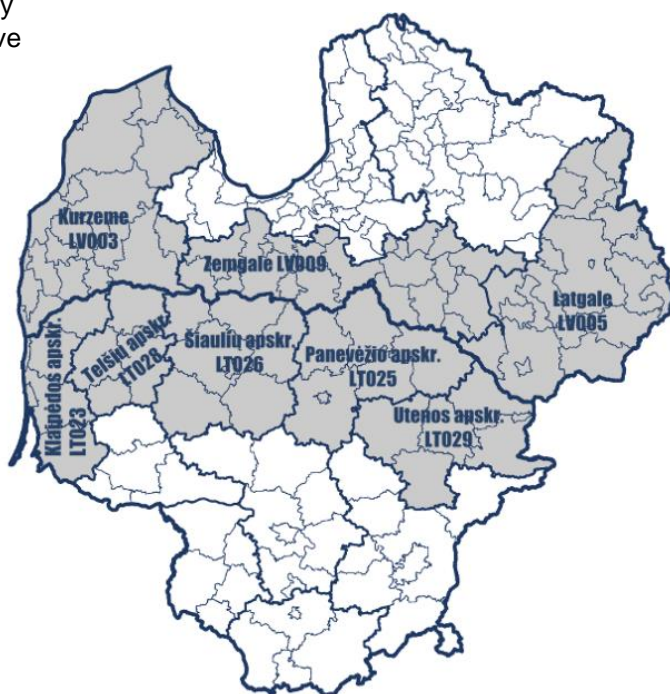
Latvia – Lithuania

Programme objective

to contribute to the sustainable and cohesive socio-economic development of the Programme regions by helping to make them more competitive and attractive for living, studying, working and visiting.

Programme area

- Latvia: Kurzeme, Zemgale and Latgale
- Lithuania: the counties of Klaipėda, Telšiai, Šiauliai, Panevėžys and Utena



Funding for projects

29,175 mln. EUR

80% of ERDF co-financing

Priorities of the Programme



I. Capacity building and
people-to-people cooperation



III. Fair and inclusive
society



II. Green, resilient and
sustainable development



IV. Economic potential
of tourism and heritage

I. Capacity building and people-to-people cooperation

The aim

to help local and regional authorities in the Programme area with cross-border cooperation to solve similar challenges caused by changes of population structure, regional disparities, global climate changes, environmental effects, new territorial and thematic settings.



Project activities shall result in:

- improved capacity and developed mechanisms for cooperation among public institutions and entities at local and regional level, in rural areas and cities,
- enhanced cross-border interaction among people and communities on both sides of the border, thus contributing to better understanding between the inhabitants of Latvia and Lithuania.

Maximal ERDF project

250 000 EUR

Maximal total project budget

312 500 EUR

Indicative supported activities:

- 1) Efficient joint solutions and pilot actions for development/improvement of public services in the field of public administration, education, healthy lifestyle, e.g.,
 - integrated actions for simplification and reduction of administrative burden,
 - development of joint concepts, strategies, action plans, etc. for development/improvement of cross-border public services,
 - enhancing the adaption and provision of joint public services through pilot actions that tackle cross-border area obstacles, etc.
- 2) People-to-people actions and involvement of society in the field of healthy lifestyle, education, cultural heritage promotion, e.g.,
 - initiatives boosting activity of local civic society (e.g., in decision making at the local level - meetings, public discussions, focus groups on any projects, needs),
 - organisation of joint trainings, workshops, summer schools, summer academies, competitions, exchange programmes and other events, etc.
- 3) Capacity building, transfer of good practices and development of necessary competences of local and regional authorities, e.g.
 - development and implementation of training and mentoring activities as capacity raising initiative for local and regional authorities,
 - transfer of solutions, good practices and exchange of experience (among partners, in the Programme area and outside it), etc.

Specific rules to the priority:

- Purchase of equipment is only eligible if it is used for implementation of joint cooperation project activities (core activities), its need is clearly justified (excluding equipment for administrative purposes) and it specifically contributes to the Priority I.
- Investments in infrastructure are not supported.

II. Green, resilient and sustainable development

2.1 Promoting climate change adaptation and risk prevention and resilience taking into account ecosystem-based approaches

The aim

to enhance knowledge of climate impacts and facilitate a holistic and systems-based approach to the adaptation to the climate change in the cross-border area. Mutual learning and transfer of good practices in the prevention of disaster risks is expected as well.

Project activities shall result in:

- enhanced knowledge of climate change impacts,
- transferred good practices regarding the adaptation to climate change,
- strengthened cooperation among emergency services.

Active and coordinated cooperation of institutions and relevant stakeholders through planning, implementation, monitoring and other relevant activities is expected.

Indicative supported activities:

- 1) Activities related to the joint management solutions of cross-border natural sites promoting adaptation to climate change and disaster risk prevention, resilience. They should be based on ecosystem-based approaches and address the following climate change risks – extreme weather risks, drought risks, fluvial and coastal flooding risks, sand and sediment accumulation, forest fire risks, coastal erosion and the spread of invasive alien species and diseases.
- 2) Activities related to flood protection and prevention infrastructure (nature-based solutions, including flood plains, ecosystem restoration, afforestation, natural water retention measures and other green (or blue) infrastructure measures. These measures must have a direct benefit for climate change adaptation and risk prevention.
- 3) Joint monitoring activities to enhance the knowledge of climate change impacts and facilitate a holistic and systems-based approach to climate change adaptation, e.g.,
 - joint mapping and monitoring of species, habitats, and ecosystems,
 - monitoring of storm frequency and intensity, as well as sea level rise,
 - development and implementation of new indicators and monitoring methodologies, etc.
- 4) Cooperation among emergency services to build disaster resilience, e.g., joint actions to strengthen capacity of cross-border emergency services to combat environmental disasters resulting from climate changes, etc.
- 5) Training, exchange of experience, practical assessments, etc., to support capacity building of organisations in the field of adaptation to climate change and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem-based approaches, e.g.,
 - joint trainings, workshops, experience exchange visits within partnership, within and outside Programme area for promotion of new knowledge, transfer of methods and solutions,
 - identification and estimation of ecosystem services and values, etc.
- 6) Educational and awareness raising activities for general public (information campaigns, educational materials, etc.) on environmental and climate change risks, disasters and their negative impacts and actions to combat them.



Maximal ERDF project

600 000 EUR

Maximal total project budget

750 000 EUR

II. Green, resilient and sustainable development

2.2 Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

The aim

to enhance protection, preservation and restoration of natural capital, protected areas and biodiversity. Reduction of human caused pollution by seeking and implementing joint solutions is expected as well.

Project activities shall result in:

- developed new common frameworks for smart, joint and sustainable management,
- preserved and restored biodiversity, the natural capital and protected areas,
- improved green areas, developed small scale green infrastructure and nature-based solutions, thus safeguarding ecosystem services, protecting nature and adapting to climate change.

It is expected that joint solutions for sustainable water management and new frameworks and approaches would eliminate or reduce the causes of pollution and set-up appropriate and unified pollution monitoring systems would be developed.



Maximal ERDF project

600 000 EUR

Maximal total project budget

750 000 EUR

Indicative supported activities:

- 1) Actions aimed at safeguarding, maintaining and restoring of ecosystems as well as protection and preservation of cross-border biodiversity and key species, e.g.,
 - development and/or implementation of management plans of species,
 - restoration of river, forest, wetland, lake, rocky habitats, etc.,
 - maintenance of habitat structures formed as a result of natural disturbances and emulation of natural disturbances, etc.
- 2) Development of joint solutions for enhancing sustainable management (including protection, preservation and restoration) of natural capital (waters, protected areas, soil, fish stock, etc.) and cross-border green networks, e.g.,
 - development of joint concepts, strategies, models and implementing of pilot actions,
 - development and implementation of solutions for infrastructure (e.g., animal tunnels, pass ways, buffer zones, etc.),
 - creation, testing and application of new tools to ensure continued and adequate management of natural resources, etc.
- 3) Training, exchange of experience, etc., to support capacity building of organisations and specific target groups (NGOs, local communities, etc.) having impact on the quality of the environment, e.g., joint trainings, workshops, experience exchange visits within partnership, within and outside Programme area for promotion of new knowledge, transfer of methods and solutions, etc.
- 4) Joint solutions for reduction of pollution in shared water bodies, cross-border natural sites and protected areas.
- 5) Joint solutions for preservation of nature capital that are used for recreational purposes, e.g.,
 - development of infrastructure and equipment to preserve ecosystem,
 - management of recreational areas to improve ecosystem and environmental quality, i.e. pollution reduction/prevention, improvement of the status of the ecosystems/habitats/species, etc.
- 6) Educational and awareness raising activities for general public (information campaigns, educational materials, etc.) on environmental behaviour and preservation of natural capital.

III. Fair and inclusive society

The aim

to facilitate the integration of disadvantaged social groups into society and into the labor market by developing more efficient and proactive social services. Also, by improving the accessibility to the social services and strengthening the capacity and know-how of organisations which are involved in the provision of these services. Facilitating social inclusion measures derived from the climate-related challenges is expected as well.



Project activities shall result in:

- more resourceful, resilient and collaborative Programme area with more inclusive communities,
- diminished social vulnerability of particular social groups in the result of initiatives that advocate for social inclusion and integration of these groups,
- developed new services and instruments, new solutions piloted and tested, and improved capacities of all involved stakeholders,
- minimised depopulation of the Programme regions by improved living conditions of people living in these regions.

Maximal ERDF project

500 000 EUR

Maximal total project budget

625 000 EUR

Indicative supported activities:

- 1) Development of integrated services, combining social, education and mental health elements, aimed at integration of vulnerable groups, e.g., elderly people, children from disadvantaged families, people with disabilities, who risk economic and social exclusion that contribute to deinstitutionalization strategies. Or the target groups not covered by these strategies, but provide synergies with them and other EU policy frameworks for upholding human rights, equality and prohibiting all forms of segregation, e.g.,
 - improvement of accessibility, efficiency and diversification of integrated services and networking activities combining social, education and mental health elements, aimed at activation and integration of vulnerable groups,
 - creation and improvement of support measures to people starting independent life after institutional long-term care or to ensure longer independent living to people with long-term care needs, etc.
- 2) Improvement of efficiency and diversification of social services by applying evidence-based measures, new approaches, tools, methods, etc.
- 3) Networking, training, exchange of experience, sharing of good practices between the stakeholders involved in provision of social services and awareness raising on available social services for vulnerable groups.
- 4) Facilitation of the social inclusion measures that address the social exclusion risks derived from the climate-related challenges as adverse effects on health, food security, livelihood security, etc.
- 5) Development of joint initiatives and awareness raising activities to facilitate development of social entrepreneurial ecosystem, e.g.,
 - cooperation between business support institutions and relevant stakeholders (municipalities, social services providers, NGOs, etc.) to promote awareness on social entrepreneurship and support social entrepreneurs in accessing markets,
 - development of specific business skills and knowledge for existing and potential social entrepreneurs including capacity building, promotion of new knowledge, transfer of solutions, experience exchange within and outside the Programme area,
 - informative campaigns and activities to raise awareness about social entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities as a career option and business opportunity, etc.

IV. Economic potential of tourism and heritage

The aim

to enhance the role of cultural heritage, nature, sustainable tourism, involvement of local communities and stakeholders (e.g., craftsmen, artisans, rural producers, etc.) in the development and provision of tourism services. Use of modern and interactive technologies, promotion of eco and sustainable tourism, social inclusion and social innovations is expected as well.



Project activities shall result in:

- created well planned and promoted tourism routes that are equipped with the necessary catering, accommodation and other tourism services,
- developed new offers that include new/existing small-scale tourism service providers and communities that offer unique and tailored experiences,
- longer tourists' travels through cross-border tourism routes with more than one day stays in the Programme area. Spending money on products and services of related business industries (e.g., creative industries) would accumulate and capture value of local entrepreneurs in the Programme region.

Maximal ERDF project

600 000 EUR

Maximal total project budget

750 000 EUR

Indicative supported activities:

- 1) Developing modern, digital, interactive cross-border tourism products. These should go further than existing products do. They should offer unique, tailored experiences. And they should involve new, small-scale service providers such as craftsmen, artisans, rural producers, plus as local communities in providing tourism and related services.
- 2) Setting up measures to help local tourism and culture develop economically. To help them deal with social inclusion, social sustainability and the well-being of local communities.
- 3) Conserving, preserving and developing cultural and historical heritage, and related sites. Strengthening the role heritage has in creating jobs and promoting economic activity in the local area. Diversifying the use of heritage sites and helping these sites to be financially independent and economically sustainable. And finally, increasing the role of heritage in cross-border activities.
- 4) Improving access to valuable nature and environmental features, such as parks and reserves, in a sustainable way. Promoting them more actively at an international level, to help develop ecological, sustainable tourism.
- 5) Making it easier for stakeholders in the tourism sector to use sustainable and circular business models. These models will allow the sector to stay competitive, robust and sustainable – environmentally, socially and economically.
- 6) Developing actions to improve the green and digital skills that are needed to make sure that jobs in the tourist sector can adapt to change and are sustainable.
- 7) Strengthening the links and connections between cross-border tourism destinations, services within international tourism networks, and main tourist transport modes.
- 8) Setting up joint marketing activities to promote the Programme region as an attractive tourist destination on an international level. Integrating tourism products and services in the Programme area into national and international tourism networks and platforms. Developing and improving these products and services according to the needs of international travellers.
- 9) Developing cross-border tourism services such as those related to the creative industries, crafts, cultural events, opportunities for active leisure, educational and interactive activities, and gastronomy, etc. Targeting these services at specific groups of tourists, visitors and travellers. In particular, motivating overnight stays and returning tourists, strengthening the local economy, and reducing seasonal tourism.

First call for proposals

Important dates

- The Programme will launch its call in on-line event on **28 November 2022**.
- Duration of the call:**
 - **from 28 November 2022**
 - **till 17.00 29 March 2023**

Support to the applicants

- The main source of the information for applicants:** www.latlit.eu
- The Programme will organise seminars and trainings for the potential applicants in January-February 2023.
- Please contact the Joint Secretariat in advance, to arrange a time for your consultation.

Requirements to the projects

The projects must be

1. Relevant to the Programme area
2. Clearly linked to the Programme
3. Clearly expressing the need for cross-border cooperation
4. Ensuring durability of the results
5. Having added value and innovative approach
6. Contributing to the horizontal principles and wider strategies
7. Involving relevant project partners that jointly contribute to project implementation
8. Ensuring balanced partnership
9. Having clear and logically interconnected work plan
10. Having coherent and proportionate project budget to the proposed work plans, main outputs and results

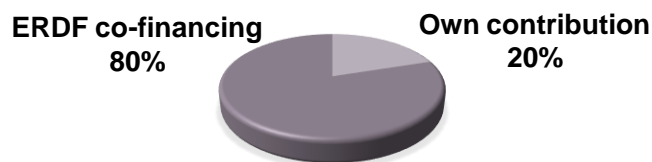
JEMS

- Applications must be submitted via Joint Electronic Monitoring System (JEMS) on <https://jems.latlit.eu>.

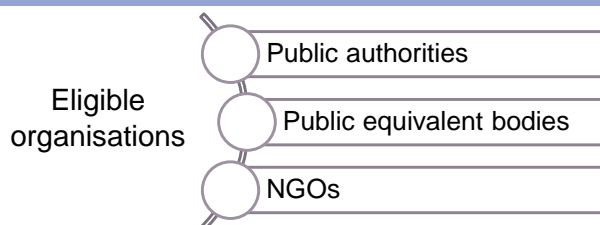
Project duration

- Maximal project duration is 24 months.

Maximal ERDF co-financing and project budget



Project partners



- Each project application must have at least
 - one Latvian project partner and
 - one Lithuanian project partner.
- One of partners must be appointed as the Lead Partner

Payments to projects

- There will be no advance payments to projects.
- The payments to the projects will be done on a reimbursement basis.
- The project partners must report on their progress and expenditures every six months.

Technical documentation for (re)construction

- Technical documentation prepared in accordance with national legislation for planned (re)construction works will have to be submitted with the project application.

Programme priorities	Max. ERDF, EUR	Max. total budget, EUR
I. Capacity building and people-to-people coop.	250 000	312 500
II. Green, resilient and sustainable development	600 000	750 000
III. Fair and inclusive society	500 000	625 000
IV. Economic potential of tourism and heritage	600 000	750 000

Limitations when the Lead Partner is NGO

total project ERDF $\leq 200\,000\text{ EUR}$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ LP cumulative revenue of the last two financial years (2020, 2021) or from the date of its establishment (if established later) must be at least 25% of the intended ERDF co-financing of the LP's budget.
total project ERDF $> 200\,000\text{ EUR}$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ LP organization must be established not later than in 2020, and ✓ LP cumulative revenue of the last two financial years (2020, 2021) must be at least 50% of the intended ERDF co-financing of the total project budget.