

# POLAND-RUSSIA 2014-2020

## CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME

DECISION NUMBER C(2016) 7864

DATED 8 DECEMBER 2016

### Annual Report 2018

### Technical part

Article 77(2) of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 897/2014

[submitted on 14.02.2018]

## 1. IDENTIFICATION

Managing Authority	Ministry of Investment and Economic Development of the Republic of Poland, Territorial Cooperation Department
Head of the MA	Name: Rafał Baliński Title: Director of Territorial Cooperation Department Tel. Number: +48 22 273 81 50 Email: <a href="mailto:Rafal.Balinski@mr.gov.pl">Rafal.Balinski@mr.gov.pl</a>
Contact Person	Name: Rafał Baliński Title: Director of Territorial Cooperation Department Tel. number: +48 22 273 81 53 Email: <a href="mailto:Rafal.Balinski@mr.gov.pl">Rafal.Balinski@mr.gov.pl</a>
Reporting Period	From 01.07.2017 to 30.06.2018
Date of approval by the Joint Monitoring Committee	12.02.2019

## 2. KEEP DATABASE<sup>1</sup>

Not applicable, no projects were selected in the Programme in the reporting period.

## 3. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

### 3.1 Executive summary

The main achievements of the Poland-Russia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 (hereafter – the Programme) during the reporting period were (a) assessment and selection of Large Infrastructure Projects (LIPs) by the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Programme (JMC) and (b) the launch of the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals (CfP) for regular projects.

- Initially 14 LIPs were proposed and indicated in the Joint Operational Programme (JOP) for participation in two-stage direct award procedure. First stage was submission of LIPs Project Summaries (LIPs PSs) with the deadline set on 30 November 2016. In total, in the previous reporting periods 9 LIPs PSs were submitted and 5 projects withdrew from participation in the Programme. Total budget of the submitted PSs amounted to EUR 65,119,358.63, including EUR 58,597,082.36 of co-financing.

In this reporting period the EC informed the MA on June 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 that 6 PSs were accepted and invited to submit LIP Full Application Forms (LIP FAFs). The final deadline for submitting LIP FAFs was set on 15 September 2017. In total, 6 FAFs were submitted to the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Programme (JTS) and assessed by the JTS employees who acted

<sup>1</sup> A limited number of statistics are requested from you in this report based on the assumption that most data are available in the KEEP database - hence the importance of maintaining KEEP up to date.

<http://www.keep.eu/keep/>

as internal assessors. Total budget of the submitted LIP FAFs amounted to EUR 43,987,234.92, including EUR 39,585,203.92 of co-financing. The employees of the JTS performed administrative and eligibility check as well as quality assessment of submitted LIPs FAFs. 1 LIP FAF was rejected after the administrative and eligibility check, 5 FAFs were selected for quality assessment and in total 5 LIP FAFs were submitted to the European Commission (EC).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> JMC meeting of the Programme dedicated to selection of submitted LIP FAFs took place on 15-16 March 2018 in Bialystok, Poland. During the meeting it was decided to select 3 FAFs for grant award and forward them to the EC for further consultations. The total budget of the selected for grant award FAFs amounted to EUR 17,657,838.46, including EUR 15,888,747.11 of Programme co-financing while the total available Programme allocation for LIPs amounted to EUR 22,303,751.07.

To support the LIPs in preparation of the FAFs the JTS organised training events for LIPs on 27 July 2017 in Olsztyn and 01 August 2017 in Kaliningrad attended in total by 35 participants.

- The 1<sup>st</sup> CfP was launched on 16 April 2017. The 1<sup>st</sup> CfP was opened for all Thematic Objectives (TOs) of the Programme: HERITAGE, ENVIRONMENT, ACCESSIBILITY and BORDERS. The deadline for submitting Application Forms (AFs) was set on 16 July 2018.

To support the applicants in preparation of AFs the JTS organised in total 8 training events and practical workshops for applicants of 1<sup>st</sup> CfP in Poland and Russia attended by 572 participants representing various institutions of the cross-border area of Poland and Russia.

The JTS received a total of 118 AFs for the total budget of EUR 210 716 042,85 and the requested Programme co-financing of EUR 187 325 566,85. The planned Programme allocation is EUR 41 416 888,64. No applications were selected for financing during the reporting period.

- With regard to other significant milestones of the Programme, the Agreement on financing and implementing the Programme was signed (for the EC on 20 December 2017, for the Government of the Russian Federation on 26 December 2017, and for the Government of the Republic of Poland on 29 December 2017).
- On May 30, 2018 the JMA sent a pre-financing request to the European Commission in reference to the article 58 and the article 60 of the Commission IR (EU) no. 897/2014, including provisional budgets for the following two accounting years, starting from the date of the previously sent annual report. The request referred to the anticipated annual commitment and the Commission pre-financing payment (EUR 20 650 687, that is 80% of the 2017 and 2018 allocations).

On June 7, 2018 the Commission informed the programme of the committed amount of EUR 5 243 855 for the year 2018 allocation and the amount of EUR 15 406 832 of the 2017 allocation that has been returned (re-committed) to the programme. Eventually, the programme has received an amount of EUR 13 500 000 on June 28, 2018. The difference of

EUR 3 020 549,60 is subject to the payment credits availability as the result of payments credits revision of the EC.

- During the period of this annual report, the programme has not made any payments and therefore there has been no declaration of expenditure to the Commission.

### 3.2 Progress achieved in implementing the Programme and its Priorities

The following key performance indicators were achieved within the reporting period:

- 2 training events for LIPs were organised in Poland and Russia attended together by 35 participants;
- 3 LIP FAFs were selected by the JMC and were submitted to the EC for its approval;
- 1 JMC meeting took place;
- 1 updated Application Pack for the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP was approved via written procedure by the JMC;
- 1 CfP was launched with 118 AFs submitted by its closure deadline;
- 4 training events for applicants of the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP were organised in Poland and Russia attended by 350 participants;
- 4 practical workshops for applicants were organised in Poland and Russia attended together by 222 participants;
- 5 documents regarding Programme implementation i.e. 'Guidelines on Expenditure Verification', 'Grant Contract' template, 'Partnership Agreement' template, 'Manual Part II – Project Implementation' and 'Evaluation and Assessment Manual' were approved by the JMC via written procedures.

### Results and outputs by Thematic objective and Priority

**TO Heritage** – Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage

**Priority:** Cooperating on historical, natural and cultural heritage for their preservation and cross-border development

Not applicable, no projects were selected in the Programme during the reporting period.

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	RI [1 <sup>st</sup> measure]**	RI [2 <sup>nd</sup> measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*			
Increased number of visitors to the	Increased number of visitors to the	[%]	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00

historical heritage and cultural sites	historical heritage and cultural sites		2,7			
Increased number of visitors to the historical and natural heritage and cultural sites	Increased number of visitors to the historical and natural heritage and cultural sites	[%]	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
			6,0			
Increased number of visitors to the cultural sites	Increased number of visitors to the cultural sites	[%]	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
			2,5			

\* as specified in the JOP or as measured before the 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals

\*\* to be provided if available and in any case in the final report

\*\*\* in case of non-implementation of LIPs

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*			
Increased number of visitors to the historical heritage and cultural sites	ENI/ CBC 6. Number of organisations using programme support for promoting local culture and preserving historical heritage	[number of organisations]	0	0	0
		9 (13***)			
Increased number of visitors to the historical and natural heritage and cultural sites	Number of improved cultural, historical touristic and natural sites as a direct consequence of programme support	[cultural, historical, tourist and natural sites]	0	0	0
		92 (18***)			
Increased number of visitors to the cultural sites	Number of cross-border cultural events organised using the Programme support	[cultural event]	0	0	0
		22 (9***)			

\* as specified in the JOP or as measured before the 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals

\*\* to be provided if available and in any case in the final report

\*\*\* in case of non-implementation of LIPs

**TO Environment** – Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation

**Priority:** Cooperation for the clean natural environment in the cross-border area

Not applicable, no projects were selected in the Programme during the reporting period.

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	RI [1 <sup>st</sup> measure]**	RI [2 <sup>nd</sup> measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*			
Percentage of population served by improved wastewater or waste treatment systems	Percentage of population served by improved wastewater or waste treatment systems	[%]	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
			0,43 (0,13***)			
Percentage of population served by developed wastewater or waste treatment systems <sup>1</sup> / percentage improvement of water status/class <sup>2</sup>	Percentage of population served by developed wastewater or waste treatment systems / percentage improvement of water status/class.	[%]	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
			0,3 <sup>1</sup> /0,0 <sup>2</sup> ***			
Percentage of population served by improved water supply	Percentage of population served by improved water supply	[%]	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
			1,56 (0,2***)			
Percentage of population benefiting from environmental protection and climate change preventing measures	Percentage of population benefiting from environmental protection and climate change preventing measures	[%]	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
			1,7 (0,6***)			

\* as specified in the JOP or as measured before the 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals

\*\* to be provided if available and in any case in the final report

\*\*\* in case of non-implementation of LIPs

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*			
Percentage of population served by improved wastewater or waste treatment systems	Additional population served by improved wastewater or waste treatment systems	[population equivalent]	0	0	0
		22 799 (6 805***)			
Percentage of population served by developed wastewater or waste treatment systems <sup>1</sup> / percentage improvement of water status/class <sup>2</sup>	Additional wastewater and waste treatment capacity	[population equivalent /day or tonne/day]	0	0	0
		3 220			
Percentage of population served by improved water supply	Number of projects aimed at improving the water supply	[project]	0	0	0
		2 (1***)			
Percentage of population benefiting from environmental protection and climate change preventing measures	Number of joint actions and measures aimed at environmental protection or preventing climate change	[project/action]	0	0	0
		3			

\* as specified in the JOP or as measured before the 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals

\*\*\* in case of non-implementation of LIPs

**TO Accessibility** – Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems

**Priority** - Accessible regions and sustainable cross-border transport and communication

Not applicable, no projects were selected in the Programme during the reporting period.

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	RI [1 <sup>st</sup> measure]**	RI [2 <sup>nd</sup> measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*			

Increased safety/decreased no. of accidents in cross-border traffic	Increased safety/decreased no. of accidents in cross-border traffic	[%]	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
			0,006 (0,011***)			
Increased number of persons using information and communications technologies (ITC)	Increased number of persons using information and communications technologies (ITC)	[%]	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
			0,0083 (0,02***)			

\* as specified in the JOP or as measured before the 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals

\*\* to be provided if available and in any case in the final report

\*\*\* in case of non-implementation of LIPs

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*			
Increased safety/decreased no. of accidents in cross-border traffic	ENI/ CBC 27. Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	[km]	0,00	0,00	0,00
		21,297 (37,133***)			
Increased number of persons using information and communications technologies (ITC)	Number of organisations using programme support for information and communications technologies (ITC) development	[organisation]	0	0	0
		8 (16***)			

\* as specified in the JOP or as measured before the 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals

\*\*\* in case of non-implementation of LIPs

**TO Borders** – Promotion of border management and border security, mobility and migration management

**Priority** - Joint actions for border efficiency and security

Not applicable, no projects were selected in the Programme during the reporting period.

Expected results*	Result Indicators (RI)*	RI units*	RI Baselines*	RI [1 <sup>st</sup> measure]**	RI [2 <sup>nd</sup> measure]**	RI [final measure]**
			RI Targets*			
Increased efficiency of border clearance	Increased efficiency of border clearance	[%]	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
			17			



\* as specified in the JOP or as measured before the 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposals

\*\* to be provided if available and in any case in the final report

\*\*\* in case of non-implementation of LIPs

Result Indicators (RI)*	Output indicators (OI)* (common OI to be included in grey shaded cells)	OI units*	OI [cumulative figure from previous reports]	OI [current report]	OI [Total cumulative figure]
		OI targets*			
Increased efficiency of border clearance	ENI/CBC 38. Increased throughput capacity of persons on land border crossing points	[persons/day]	0	0	0
		9 632			

\* as specified in the JOP

\*\*\* in case of non-implementation of LIPs

### 3.3 Problems and achievements reported by project applicants and beneficiaries

#### 3.3.1 Summary of issues reported

Not applicable in case of beneficiaries, no projects started implementation during the reporting period. Minor issues were reported by the applicants with relation to the e-application software usage.

#### 3.3.2 Success stories

Not applicable, no projects were selected in the Programme during the reporting period.

### 3.4 Implementation of Large Infrastructure Projects (LIPs) (if applicable)

Not applicable, no grant contracts for the LIPs were signed in the Programme during the reporting period.

### 3.5 Financial implementation

Not applicable, no projects were selected in the Programme during the reporting period.

#### 3.5.1 Cumulative figures of previous reports:

Thematic objectives	EU allocation*/EU allocation + Russian financial contribution, EUR	EU allocation of awarded projects, EUR		Amount of EU allocation accepted by the MA as eligible expenditure, EUR		Absorption rate in %	
		Standard projects	LIPs selected	Standard projects	LIPs selected	Standard projects	LIPs selected

			via direct award		via direct award		d via direct award
HERITAGE	13,351,774.71/ 20,750,503.66	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENVIRONMENT	11,152,413.18/ 17,348,198.28	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACCESSIBILITY	9,293,677.65/ 13,424,201.05	0	0	0	0	0	0
BORDERS	3,717,471.06/ 5,782,732.76	0	0	0	0	0	0

\* as specified in the JOP.

### 3.5.2 Figures for the reporting period:

Thematic objectives	EU allocation*/ EU allocation + Russian financial contribution, EUR	EU allocation of awarded projects, EUR		Amount of EU allocation accepted by the MA as eligible expenditure, EUR		Absorption rate in %	
		Standard projects	LIPs selected via direct award	Standard projects	LIPs selected via direct award	Standard projects	LIPs selected via direct award
HERITAGE	13,351,774.71/ 20,750,503.66	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENVIRONMENT	11,152,413.18/ 17,348,198.28	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACCESSIBILITY	9,293,677.65/ 13,424,201.05	0	0	0	0	0	0
BORDERS	3,717,471.06/ 5,782,732.76	0	0	0	0	0	0

\* as specified in the JOP

### 3.5.3 Total cumulative figures of previous and current reports:

Thematic objectives	EU allocation*/ EU allocation + Russian financial contribution, EUR	EU allocation of awarded projects, EUR		Amount of EU allocation accepted by the MA as eligible expenditure, EUR		Absorption rate in %	
		Standard projects	LIPs selected via direct award	Standard projects	LIPs selected via direct award	Standard projects	LIPs selected via direct award
HERITAGE	13,351,774.71/ 20,750,503.66	0	0	0	0	0	0

ENVIRONMENT	11,152,413.18/ 17,348,198.28	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACCESSIBILITY	9,293,677.65/ 13,424,201.05	0	0	0	0	0	0
BORDERS	3,717,471.06/ 5,782,732.76	0	0	0	0	0	0

\* as specified in the JOP

#### 4. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

##### 4.1 Summary of main activities

➤ *Main activities performed by the JMC*

During the reporting period, the 2<sup>nd</sup> JMC meeting was held on 15-16 March 2018 in Bialystok, Poland. The following decisions were made by the JMC during the meeting:

- 1<sup>st</sup> CfP was agreed to be launched on 16 April 2018 and closed on 16 July 2018.
- Confirmation by the Russian National Authority that the Russian Federation funds in the amount of 2.6 mln EUR not spent under the Lithuania-Poland-Russia CBC Programme 2007-2013 should be transferred back to the Russian Federation, according to the provisions of the Financing Agreement.
- The Technical Assistance Multiannual Budget was approved.
- 3 LIPs were selected by the JMC for funding and submission to the EC approval.

Additionally, decisions concerning Programme implementation were made by the JMC members via written procedures. List of the JMC decisions taken via written procedures (approvals):

No.	Launch date	Closure date	Subject
1	21/08/2017	29/08/2017	Approval of the amended way of submitting the FAFs by the LIPs and approval of the adjusted application documents (submission of paper versions instead of submission of FAFs in the e-application tool)
2	28/12/2017	29/12/2017	Approval of positively assessed LIPs to be submitted to the EC by the MA
3	30/01/2018	12/02/2018	Approval of the Annual Report 2016-2017 for the Programme
4	05/02/2018	08/02/2018	Approval of the Tender Dossier for signing a new service contract with the Branch Office in Kaliningrad
5	07/02/2018	21/02/2018	Approval of the Rules of reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses for the members/observers of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) and a reimbursement expenses form
6	21/02/2018	20/03/2018	Approval of the updated Application Pack for 1 <sup>st</sup> CfP

7	13/03/2018	03/04/2018	Approval of the 'Guidelines on Expenditure Verification' of the Poland-Russia CBC Programme 2014-2020 and its Annexes
8	19/03/2018	30/03/2018	Comments to draft versions of 'Grant Contract' and 'Partnership Agreement' templates (internal consultations)
9	28/03/2018	30/04/2018	Approval of the 'Manual Part II – Project Implementation'
10	16/04/2018	23/04/2018	Approval of the 'Grant Contract' and 'Partnership Agreement' templates
11	22/06/2018	06/07/2018	Approval of the 'Evaluation and assessment manual' of the Poland-Russia CBC Programme 2014-2020 and its Annexes

➤ *Main activities of the MA undertaken in the reporting period:*

- preparation (with the assistance of the JTS) of the Programme documents submitted for the approval of the JMC;
- preparation of the Description of the Management and Control System for the Programme and declaration of the readiness to undergo the designation procedure;
- submission of Application Forms for Large Infrastructure Projects to the Commission (29.12.2017);
- signature of the Financing Agreement for the Programme;
- participation in events/seminars/workshops/meetings on the Programme development and future perspective planning organized by TESIM, INTERACT or European Commission as well as participation in the events for applicants of the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP organised by the JTS.

➤ *Main activities of the JTS and the Branch office of the JTS in Kaliningrad (BO):*

The JTS assisted the MA in development of a series of documents regarding the Programme implementation i.e. Application pack for 1<sup>st</sup> CfP, 'Guidelines on Expenditure Verification', 'Manual Part II – Project Implementation', 'Grant Contract and Partnership Agreement', 'Evaluation and Assessment Manual'. During the reporting period the JTS managed the launch of the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP, organised 8 training events and practical workshops for applicants of the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP, implemented quality assessment of the LIPs FAFs.

The JTS employees took part in the number of events/seminars/workshops/meetings on Programme development as well as future perspective planning organized by TESIM or the EC:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> LABGROUP on Large Infrastructure Projects 'Assessment and selection process' in Vilnius, Lithuania – 20 June 2017;
- Financial Network Meeting for ENI CBC Programmes in Budapest, Hungary – 13-14 September 2017;
- Interreg Finance Management Camp in Lille, France – 14-17 November 2017;

- Annual Conference ‘Cross-border cooperation along the EU external borders: lessons learnt and ways forward’ in Tallinn, Estonia -29-30 November 2017;
- Network Meeting of the ‘Northern Cluster’ programmes in Riga, Latvia - 23-24 January 2018;
- Interact Annual Communication Network Meeting in Bucharest, Romania – 28 February 2018 – 1 March 2018;
- Network meeting on monitoring and evaluation in ENI CBC Programmes in Brussels, Belgium – 12-13 April 2018;
- TESIM Briefing for the Poland-Russia JTS in Olsztyn, Poland – 20 April 2018;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> ENI CBC consultation and coordination group meeting in Brussels, Belgium – 12 June 2018;
- Network meeting on financial issues in ENI CBC in Brussels, Belgium – 13-14 June 2018;

The JTS employees also participated in various training events with the aim of improving their professional qualifications (e.g. in public procurement, etc).

All the JTS employees were involved in the activities related to the Programme implementation:

- organization and conducting of 2 training events for the LIPs and 8 training events for applicants of the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP attended by 607 participants in total;
- organisation of European Cooperation Day (JTS Open Day) in the premises of the JTS in Olsztyn on 5 October 2017 attended by 26 participants;
- organisation of the JTS Open Day in Olsztyn on 21 December 2017 attended by 11 participants;
- conferences, seminars and other events organized within the Programme area, where information about the Programme was disseminated i.e:
  - Workshop on preparation of project proposals within the Programme was organized by the ‘Euroregion Niemen’ Association in Suwałki attended by 40 participants(18 July 2017);
  - Research conference ‘25 years of Polish-Russian Treaty on friendly and neighbourly cooperation: a review of a quarter century of Polish-Russian relations’ in Olsztyn attended by 30 participants (16 October 2017);
  - Informational seminar on the ETC/ENI in Gdańsk attended by 100 participants (19 October 2017);
  - Round table ‘The role of self-governments in foreign policy’ in Ostróda attended by 50 participants (26 October 2017);

- Informational meeting on possibilities of obtaining support from the European funds for local/regional authorities in Olsztyn attended by 40 participants (22 November 2017);
- Information meeting ‘An overview of possibilities of obtaining support within the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes: Interreg South Baltic and Interreg Europe, and the European Neighbourhood Instrument: Poland-Russia’ in Elbląg attended by 23 participants (1 March 2018);
- Meeting of the International Cooperation Committee of the Sejmik of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship in Olsztyn attended by 10 participants (19 March 2018);
- The XXXVIII General Assembly of the members of the Association of Communes of the Republic of Poland Euroregion Bałtyk in Elbląg attended by 23 participants (13 April 2018);
- Information meeting ‘An overview of possibilities of obtaining support for self-government units within the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes and the European Neighbourhood Instrument’ in Olsztyn attended by 15 participants (19 April 2018);
- external conferences, seminars and other events where information about the Programme was disseminated i.e:
  - ‘Baltic Sea Future Conference’ in Stockholm (08-09 March 2018);
  - XXVII Economic Forum in Krynica-Zdroj attended by 3500 participants. Presentation of the Programme was delivered (6 September 2017);
  - 4<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Local Governments in Krakow attended by 1900 participants (26-27 April 2018);
  - VIII International Forum of the Kaliningrad Partner Regions in Svetlogorsk attended by approximately 300 participants (22-23 May 2018);
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Warmia and Mazury Congress of the Future in Olsztyn attended by approximately 2000 participants (7-8 June 2018);

Events organized by the JTS and third parties, where the Programme was presented, were attended in total by more than 10000 participants. Additionally, the JTS conducted 80 individual consultations at its premises in Olsztyn and over 200 email/telephone consultations altogether.

During the reporting period, the JTS project and financial managers acted as internal assessors and assessed the LIP FAFs.

A new contract with the BO in Kaliningrad was signed on 15 March 2018 for the three years period.

Therefore, during the reporting period, the BO in Kaliningrad continued performing its tasks under the service contract funded by Lithuania-Poland-Russia 2007 – 2013 Programme: ILPR.03.01.00-96-018/17-01 “Establishing the Branch Office of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland – Russia 2014 – 2020 in Kaliningrad, Russia, and the new service contract funded by Poland – Russia 2014 – 2020 Programme: PLRU.05.01.00-RU-001/18-00 “Operation of the Branch Office of the Poland – Russia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014 – 2020 in Kaliningrad, Russia) signed with the MA.

Apart from consulting applicants on the Programme requirements and assisting the JTS in fulfillment of its daily tasks, the BO was also involved in the following activities:

- organization and assistance in conducting of training events for the LIPs;
- organization and assistance of the training event and practical workshop for applicants of the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP in Kaliningrad;
- organization of BO Open Days in Kaliningrad;
- assistance to the JTS in translation, proof-reading of documents and content for the Programme web-site, drafting of news for the Programme web-site.

In total during the reporting period the BO conducted 86 individual consultations in the BO office in Kaliningrad, 41 e-mail consultations and 215 telephone consultations.

During the reporting period, the Branch Office ‘s activities had to be financed from the Lithuania – Poland – Russia service contract: ILPR.03.01.00-96-018/17-01. Funds from the Poland – Russia 2014 – 2020 CBC Programme were not available during the reporting period. Due to the lack of funds on the Poland – Russia CBC Programme’s accounts, the MA was unable to make any pre-financing payments to the BO. The problem was reported to the EC in May 2018.

➤ *Main activities of the Contact Control Points (CCPs) and National Authority (NA):*

As regards the functioning of the CCPs, the Guidelines on expenditure verification for the Poland-Russia CBC Programme 2014-2020 has been developed.

The NA in Poland prepared the Manual to be applicable for the programme “*Combating fraud in Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Russia 2014-2020*”. The Manual was made available on the programme website.

Regular working contacts between the MA, the JTS, the BO, the CCPs and the National Authorities (NAs) turned out to be very useful for managing the Programme.

➤ *Activities of the Audit Authority:*

The Audit Authority launched the designation audit in June 2018.

The MA was not yet designated, thus no expenditure have been declared to the European Commission before 30 June 2018 and no accounts for the accounting year started from the beginning of programme implementation and ended 30 June 2018 have been created.

Between June 2018 and October 2018 the Audit Authority, acting in a role of the Independent Audit Body, carried out a designation audit in line with Article 25 of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 897/2014.

The Audit Authority assessed the compliance of the management and control systems with the designation criteria laid down in Annex I to the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 897/2014.

As a result of the audit an unqualified opinion has been issued by the Audit Authority.

#### **4.2. Management of the calls for proposals**

The 1<sup>st</sup> CfP was launched on 16 April 2017. The CfP was opened for all Thematic Objectives (TOs) of the Programme: HERITAGE, ENVIRONMENT, ACCESSIBILITY and BORDERS. The deadline for submitting Application Forms (AFs) was set on 16 July 2018. AFs were submitted via the on-line application system developed by external company for the purposes of the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP.

The JTS of the Poland-Russia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 organised a series (in total 8 events) of training events and practical workshops for applicants regarding preparation of application forms in the online application system on the following dates:

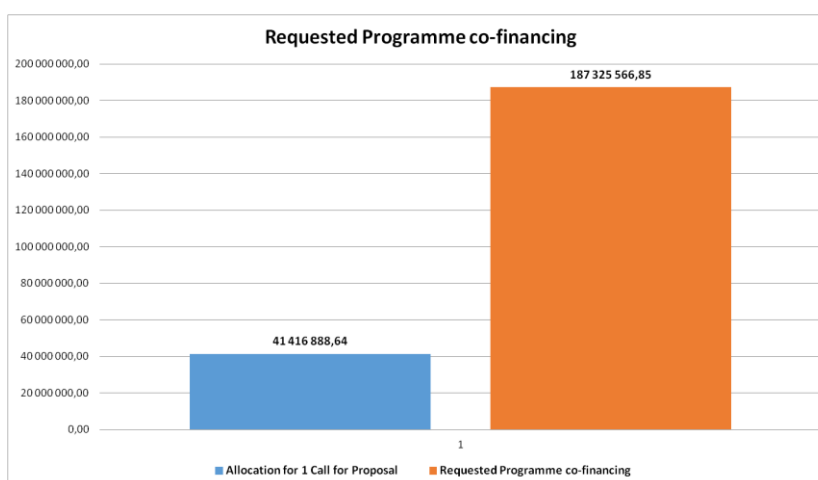
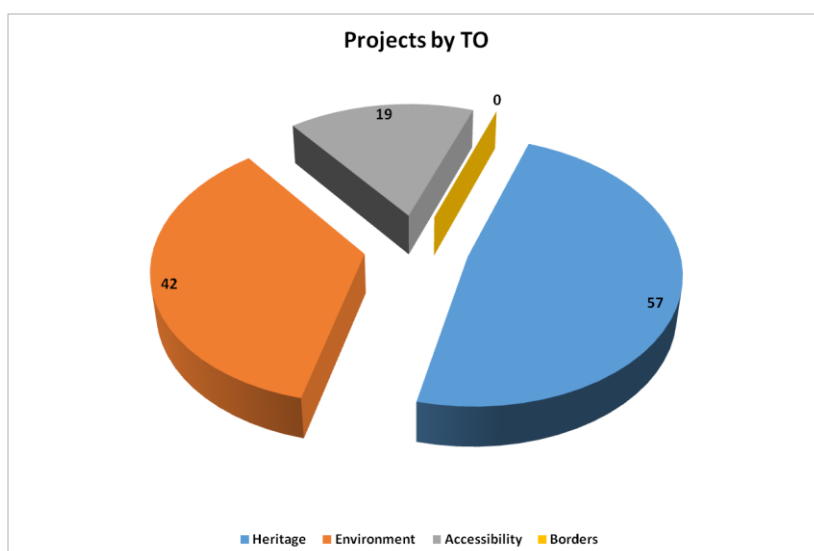
- 25.04.2018 in Białystok, Poland;
- 07.05.2018 in Kaliningrad, Russia;
- 08.05.2018 in Olsztyn, Poland;
- 10.05.2018 in Gdańsk, Poland;
- 29.05.2018 in Kętrzyn, Poland;
- 06.06.2018 in Suwałki, Poland;
- 08.06.2018 in Kaliningrad, Russia;
- 12.06.2018 in Nowy Dwór Gdański, Poland.

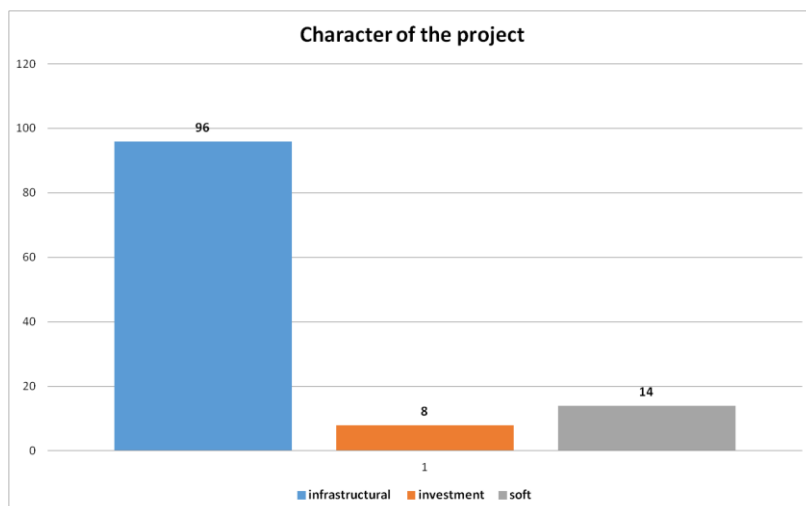
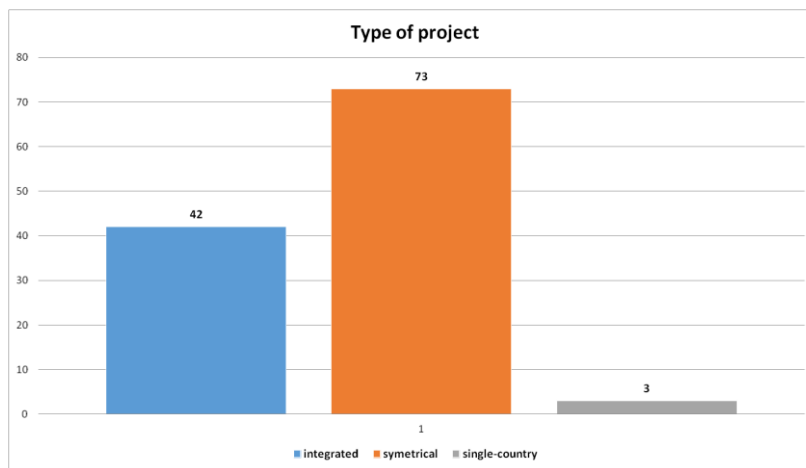
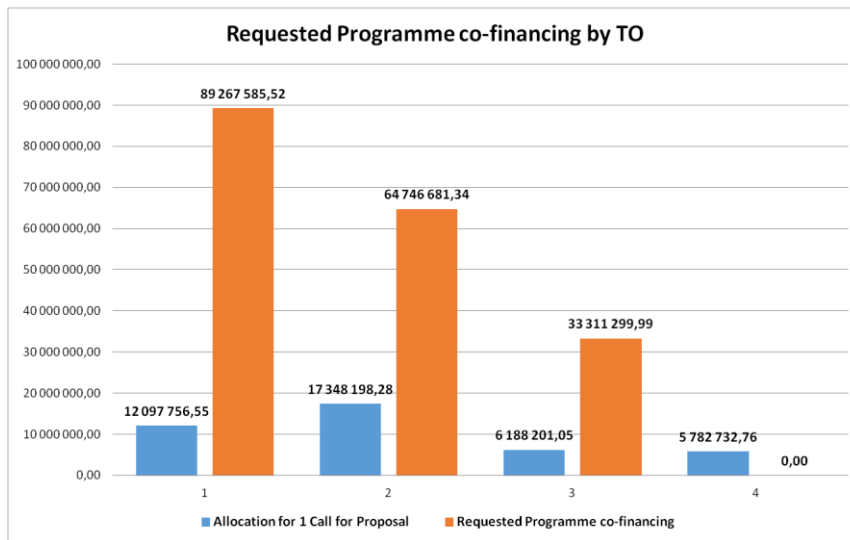
Moreover the JTS and the BO in Kaliningrad provided support for the applicants before and during the application process i.e. consultations face-to-face, by e-mail, phone.



The JTS received a total of **118** Application Forms for the total budget of **EUR 210 716 042,85** and the requested Programme co-financing of **EUR 187 325 566,85**. The planned Programme allocation – **EUR 41 416 888,64**. No applications were selected for financing during the reporting period. Detailed information about each requested Programme co-financing by each TO, number of projects submitted in each TO, types and character of projects is indicated in the table and charts below.

Thematic Objective	Submitted Application Forms	Available Programme allocation for 1 <sup>st</sup> CfP, EUR	Requested Programme co-financing of submitted AF, EUR	Total budget of submitted AF, EUR
Heritage	57	12,097,756.55	89,267,585.52	100,620,839.82
Environment	42	17,348,198.28	64,746,681.34	71,940,715.81
Accessibility	19	6,188,201.05	33,311,299.99	38,154,487.22
Borders	0	5,782,732.76	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>41,416,888.64</b>	<b>187,325,566.85</b>	<b>210,716,042.85</b>





With regards to division of the Lead Beneficiaries by country and region the situation is the following: Poland – 101 projects; Russia – 17 projects. Warminsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship – 70 projects; Pomorskie Voivodeship - 24 projects; Podlaskie Voivodeship– 7 projects; Kaliningrad Region – 17 projects.

#### **4.3 Monitoring and evaluation (max 2 page)**

Not applicable, no projects were selected in the Programme during the reporting period.

#### 4.4. Technical Assistance activities: Information and communication activities

All activities undertaken in the reporting period in relation to the Programme (i.e. information and communication activities, activities concerning the Programme website or publications, etc) were financed from the Technical Assistance of the Lithuania-Poland-Russia ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 and the Poland-Russia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020.

##### 4.4.1 List of information and communication activities

Activity title and location	Aim of the activity	Target group	Message	Output	Results	Measures to ensure EU visibility
Training for LIPs: Olsztyn, Poland (27/07/2017); Kaliningrad, Russia (01/08/2017)	To assist the LIP beneficiaries in preparing better quality applications	Lead beneficiaries and beneficiaries of the LIPs	Importance of correct preparation of the FAFs	- Presentations	- LIP beneficiaries informed about the requirements	Visibility according to the requirements
Training events and practical workshops for applicants of the 1 <sup>st</sup> CfP: - 25.04.2018 in Białystok, Poland; - 07.05.2018 in Kaliningrad, Russia; - 08.05.2018 in Olsztyn, Poland; - 10.05.2018 in Gdańsk, Poland; - 29.05.2018 in Kętrzyn, Poland; - 06.06.2018 in Suwałki, Poland;	To assist the applicants of the 1st CfP in preparation of AFs	Potential applicants of the 1 <sup>st</sup> call for proposals	Importance of correct preparation of the AFs	- Presentations	- Applicants of the 1 <sup>st</sup> CfP informed about the Programme requirement and how to fill in the AFs in the on-line application system	Visibility according to the requirements

- 08.06.2018 in Kaliningrad, Russia; - 12.06.2018 in Nowy Dwór Gdański, Poland.						
JTS Open Days in Olsztyn on 05.10.2017 and 21.12.2017	To inform potential applicants about the opportunities to receive funds from the Programme and Programme rules	Potential applicants interested in the Programme	Wider information about the Programme TOs	- Presentations	- People informed about the Programme	Visibility according to the requirements
External events with participation of the Programme representatives:						
Workshop on preparation of project proposals within the Programme was organized by the 'Euroregion Niemen' Association in Suwałki attended by 40 participants (18 July 2017)	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and its achievements	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its achievements	Visibility according to the requirements
XXVII Economic Forum in Krynica-Zdroj attended by 3500 participants (6	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its	Visibility according to the requirements

September 2017);			its achievements		achievements	
Research conference '25 years of Polish-Russian Treaty on friendly and neighbourly cooperation: a review of a quarter century of Polish-Russian relations' in Olsztyn attended by 30 participants (16 October 2017)	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and its achievements	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its achievements	Visibility according to the requirements
Informational seminar on the ETC/ENI in Gdańsk attended by 100 participants (19 October 2017)	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and its achievements	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its achievements	Visibility according to the requirements
Round table 'The role of self-governments in foreign policy' in Ostróda attended by 50 participants (26 October 2017)	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and its achievements	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its achievements	Visibility according to the requirements
Informational meeting on possibilities of obtaining support from the European funds for local/regional	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and its achievements	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its achievements	Visibility according to the requirements

authorities in Olsztyn attended by 40 participants (22 November 2017);						
Information meeting 'An overview of possibilities of obtaining support within the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes: Interreg South Baltic and Interreg Europe, and the European Neighbourhood Instrument: Poland-Russia' in Elbląg attended by 23 participants (1 March 2018);	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and its achievements	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its achievements	Visibility according to the requirements
'Baltic Sea Future Conference' in Stockholm (08-09 March 2018);	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and its achievements	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its achievements	Visibility according to the requirements
Meeting of the International Cooperation Committee of the	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its	Visibility according to the requirements

Sejmik of the Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship in Olsztyn (19 March 2018);			its achievements		achievements	
The XXXVIII General Assembly of the members of the Association of Communes of the Republic of Poland Euroregion Bałtyk in Elbląg (13 April 2018);	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and its achievements	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its achievements	Visibility according to the requirements
Information meeting 'An overview of possibilities of obtaining support for self-government units within the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes and the European Neighbourhood Instrument' in Olsztyn attended by 15 participants (19 April 2018);	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and its achievements	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its achievements	Visibility according to the requirements
4th European Congress of Local	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the	Wider information	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about	Visibility according to the



Governments in Krakow (26-27 April 2018);		Programme and public at large	about the Programme and its achievements		the Programme and its achievements	requirements
VIII International Forum of the Kaliningrad Partner Regions in Svetlogorsk attended by approximately 300 participants (22-23 May 2018)	To inform about the programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and its achievements	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its achievements	Visibility according to the requirements
2nd Warmia and Mazury Congress of the Future in Olsztyn attended by approximately 2000 participants (7-8 June 2018);	To inform about the Programme	Potential applicants interested in the Programme and public at large	Wider information about the Programme and its achievements	- Presentations	- Public at large informed about the Programme and its achievements	Visibility according to the requirements
Programme website	To communicate with the Programme applicants and beneficiaries as well as a wider audience	Applicants, beneficiaries, authorities, general public	Updates on the Programme implementation progress	- Updated website	- Applicants provided with practical information; - general public informed about the Programme	Visibility according to the requirements

#### **4.4.2 Summary of review by applicants/beneficiaries**

Not applicable, no relevant activities were conducted during the reporting period.

#### **4.4.3 Participation of EU Delegations**

Not applicable, no relevant activities were conducted during the reporting period.

#### **4.4.4 Programme website and social media**

The website for the Programme was maintained on a regular basis during the reporting period (i.e. consultations with the IT company responsible for the development of the website, content development, etc). Moreover the Programme utilises TESIM facebook page for posting announcements of its events there.

#### **4.4.5 Publications**

During the reporting period approximately 3600 various promotional items were produced and approximately 1700 out of them were distributed at the internal and external events.

#### **4.5. Other Technical Assistance activities**

All activities undertaken in the reporting period in relation to the functioning of the Programme bodies were financed from the Technical Assistance of the Lithuania-Poland-Russia ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 and the Poland-Russia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020.

### **5. FORECAST FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR+**

#### **5.1 Programme and beneficiaries' activities**

##### **5.1.1 Summary of main programme activities**

Within the first six months of the next reporting period the following main activities took/will take place:

- Participation and moderation of the section 'Cultural Heritage as a Factor in Development of the Polish-Russian Borderland' at the 28<sup>th</sup> Economic Forum in Krynica-Zdroj, Poland on 04-06 September 2018;
- Organisation and participation in the promotional event 'Cycling ride Poland-Russia' dedicated to the European Cooperation Day in Warminsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship on 21-22 September 2018;
- Participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> Eastern Economic Congress in Bialystok on 3 October 2018;
- Organisation of the Annual Event (Conference) of the Programme in Mikolajki, Poland on 09 October 2018;

- Administrative and eligibility check of the AFs submitted within the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP under the TO HERITAGE (July-September 2018);

During the above-mentioned period, one decision is planned to be taken by the JMC in connection with the approval of the positively assessed AFs submitted within the 1<sup>st</sup> CfP under the TO HERITAGE.

Main activities planned for 2018 include:

- Annual Conference of the Programme;
- starting assessment of submitted Application Forms;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the JMC to select regular projects for co-financing and decision concerning next JMC meeting respective for projects selection;
- organization of trainings and individual consultations for the LIP beneficiaries;
- signing of Grant Contracts for the LIPs;
- updating of the JOP - introducing changes with regard to the fact that no AFs were submitted under the TO BORDERS within the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals. It is proposed to increase the allocations for TOs 3, 6 and 7 by 1/3 of the allocation of the TO 10 each.;
- finalization of works on IT tool for processing the applications submitted and editing during the contracting stage;
- A first meeting of the self-assessment team for the risk analysis for the *Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Russia 2014-2020* was held in Autumn 2018. The main goal of the meeting is to conduct the risk analysis of the programme. The analysis has been carried out in line with the assumptions of the *European Structural and Investment Funds Guidance for Member States and Programme Authorities “Fraud Risk Assessment and Effective and Proportionate Anti-Fraud Measures”* including in particular:
  - identifying and describing of risk,
  - defining control instruments in each risk category,
  - defining likelihood of risk appearance and the risk gross impact – reflecting the actual state of play and the experiences from previous programming perspective 2007-13,
  - defining impact of the selected control instruments on the risk and the likelihood of its appearance,
  - identifying of documents constituting a legal base for the control instruments.
- Conducting the system control on the JTS’s and Polish CCP’s performance of the entrusted tasks.

**Within the first half of the year 2019 the following activities are envisaged:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> JMC meeting:
  - Selection of regular projects for co-financing (1st Priority-Heritage)

- 4th JMC meeting
  - Selection of regular projects for co-financing (2nd Priority-Environment, 3rd Priority-Accessibility)
- Annual Event of the Poland-Russia CBC Programme 2014-2020
- Signing of Grant Contracts with LIP's

### **5.1.2 Summary of main project beneficiaries' activities**

Main beneficiaries' activities include:

- participation in individual consultations (LIPs);
- participation in trainings and workshops organised by the JTS;
- preparation for participation / participation in the call for proposals;
- submitting of the Application Forms for 1<sup>st</sup> call for proposal;

### **5.2 Updated Audit Strategy<sup>2</sup> - n/a**

### **5.3 Detailed Work Programme of the MA<sup>3</sup>**

### **5.4 Financial plan and planned use of the technical assistance**

### **5.5 Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Plan**

### **5.6 Annual Information and Communication Plan**

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<sup>2</sup> Depending on the date of submission of the Audit Strategy (as per article 28.5 of the IR) the update may not be needed in the report for the year ending by June 2017, unless there has been a change or unforeseen event that needs to be reported.

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with 24(a) and 24(b) of ENI CBC IR