



Russian National Sub-Committee
BSR Interreg III B Programme

STARTING POINTS FOR THE DISCUSSION DURING THE TASK FORCE MEETING ON 9-10.03.2004 OF FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO CIP/NP FROM RUSSIAN PERSPECTIVE

BACKGROUND

On the meetings of BSR Interreg Steering and Monitoring Committees which took place in January-February of 2004 the representatives of the **Russian national sub-committee have raised the urgent question to set up the Task Force** (see Annex 1) in order to organize right programming process for the Baltic Sea Region Interreg III B Neighbourhood Programme and clarify:

1. How the issue of BSR IR IIIB priorities meeting Neighbourhood Programme priorities to be resolved?
2. How the consultation process with partners, including Russia will be organized?
3. How financing procedures and management structures will be established?

Monitoring Committee **took the decision to establish Task Force** for further discussion on the BSR INTERREG IIIB Programme (Community Initiative Programme) and Neighbourhood Programme priorities. The Russian delegation was asked by the MC chairman to provide their wishes (that have not been yet included/integrated in the amended BSR INTERREG IIIB Neighbourhood Programme) for the discussion during the TF meeting on 9-10.03.2004.

In order to prepare Russian proposals the RNSC committee, as the main coordinating unit of Russian regions in the framework of Interreg III B Programme, under the auspices of **RF Ministry for Economic Development and Trade** has created **RNSC Task Force** (see Annex 2), which is now actively working on the starting position document in close consultation with RNSC members, St Petersburg Liaison Office, EC Delegation to Russia and Tacis Local Support office in St Petersburg.

This document is presenting the results of the **first round express discussions** and based on the proposals and materials received from the RNSC member's network:

1. **Psarev Georgy** - Head of Department on cooperation with European Union and international business associations, Committee for External Economic Contacts, **Government of St. Petersburg**
2. **Gorelikova Lubov**- Chief executive of the Committee of External Economic and International Relations, **Leningrad Region Government**
3. **Ieshko Eugenie** - Vice-Chairman of the Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor, **Republic of Karelia, Co-chairman of RNSC**
4. **Skibar` Mikhail** - First Deputy Head of **Administration of Novgorod oblast**
5. **Balandin Andrey** – Consultant of Committee for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, **Administration of Pskov oblast**
6. **Kirillov Vladimir** - Deputy Chairman of Committee for International Contacts and Tourism Development, **Administration of Arkhangelsk oblast**
7. **Ofitserov Dmitrij** - Consultant of Department for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, **Administration of Kaliningrad oblast**

The representatives from **all eligible North-West regions** expressed their **great interest and commitment** to participate in the Baltic Sea Region Interreg III B Neighbourhood Programme which is getting the **strategic importance for Russia** taking into consideration that **only this Baltic Sea III B NP** among existing 6 NP Programmes for Russia **is opened for transnational cooperation**.

In the same time the RNSC members, having great experience within elaboration of cross border NPs (



Russian National Sub-Committee

BSR Interreg III B Programme

Kolarctic NP, Estonia-Latvia-Russia NP, South-East Finland/Russia NP, Lithuania, Poland and Kaliningrad region NP, Karelia NP) were very confused by the pressing time schedule for the proposal preparation and considering these initial proposals as a starting point for further discussions and consultations. At this stage following main points are approached:

- I. Eligible areas
- II. Priorities
- III. Programme management structures

I. ELIGIBLE AREAS

As it was mentioned above RNSC members from **all eligible IR IIIB BSR North-West regions**

- St Petersburg
- Leningrad oblast,
- Pskov oblast,
- Kaliningrad oblast
- Murmansk oblast
- Republic of Karelia
- Novgorod Oblast
- Archangelsk oblast

expressed their **great interest** to participate in the Baltic Sea Region Interreg III B Neighbourhood Programme. Also it was stressed that within **5 cross border NPs North-West regions** are thoroughly preparing the co-operation programmes with their **closest neighbors**, while **only one Baltic NP** is opening the opportunities for them **to co-operate transnationally with all BSR neighbors**. Thus Baltic NP (on which Tacis allocated funds in amount of 7, 5 million EURO for Russia and Belarusia) is providing the **strategic framework and resources** for Russia to:

1. increase the benefits and efficiency of Russian participation (not as the sleeping partners) in the process of elaboration and implementation of the joint Interreg IIIB **spatial development projects and strategies**;
2. support existing and develop new **maritime co-operation links** with the partners from BSR Member States, not bordering Russia by land.

Tacis CBC Small Project Facility, which actively supported (within Tacis priorities) the second type of co-operation of **Russian regions with Swedish, Danish, German, Polish local/regional authorities and organisations, IS CLOSING NOW**. So its crucially important for IRIIB BSR Task Force for Amending CIP/NP to put into place New Neighbourhood Instruments **without great loses for Russia in terms of priorities and eligible countries**. That's why all NWR regions are supporting the Swedish Proposal to find the right place for **bilateral co-operation** between NWR regions and BSR Neighbors under indicated in the proposal fields, which are in line with NNP priorities and accumulated the previous Tacis experiences and partnerships.

Such approach to enhance bilateral maritime co-operation may become very useful instrument which guarantees preservation of wide co-operation between EC and NIS partners across Baltic Sea established during last years within Tacis CBC Small Project Facility Programme.

One should mention also the positive experience in previous close co-operation established between partners from St.Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Leningrad and Pskov oblasts, and Republic of Karelia with Denmark, Sweden, Baltic coast of Finland and Northern Germany. Regional authorities from these Russian regions stressed their deep needs to have appropriate instrument to support such co-operation and to realize all potential accumulated. All Russians parties involved in recent consultations on the Neighbourhood programmes concept, i.e. Russian National co-ordinating unit, regional authorities and Russian national sub-committee of the BSR programme, have supported a joint suggestion **to extend bilateral maritime cooperation both for all relevant Russian regions and for all relevant EC countries**.



Russian National Sub-Committee

BSR Interreg III B Programme

“On initiative of our Swedish partners from SyudSum (South Sweden) we have been jointly working on bringing the BSR IR IIIB Program closer to real needs of cooperation. I send our jointly elaborated proposals for Task Force consideration. Hope it will be supported by TF members.

An initiated work of Task Force is very actual because co-operation between Kaliningrad oblast and the rest BSR Member States (not only Lithuania and Poland) as for the other North-West Russia regions is very important and actually this Programme should provide strategic framework for co-operation in BSR.

(From the support letter of Mr. Ofitserov Dmitrij - Consultant of Department for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, Administration of Kaliningrad oblast)

At the same time, it is evident that such a wider frame will make bilateral maritime co-operation more balanced and will match absorption capacity between Russian regions and EC countries involved. Suggested wider approach may be realized as a general **sub-priority “Bilateral maritime co-operation in Baltic Sea”** which can be included in the BSR programme under **priority 3**.

II. PRIORITIES AND MEASURES

The following **principles** Russia would like to introduce **for further amending of BSR Interreg III B Neighbourhood programme priorities**:

- to provide best synergies and succession with Tacis CBC Small Project Facility Priorities in compliance with NNP Guidance Note
- to enhance implementation of Northern Dimension priorities and activities
- to avoid duplication and overlapping with other Cross Border Neighbourhood programmes and find the best balanced use of the resources allocated within Tacis Neighbourhood Project Facility

1. Synergy with Tacis CBC Small Project Facility Priorities

The Neighbourhood Communication identifies the following 4 objectives for programme co-operation:

- Promoting sustainable economic and social development in the border areas;
- Working together to address common challenges, in fields such as environment, public health, and the prevention of and fight against organised crime;
- Ensuring efficient and secure borders;
- Promoting local, “people-to-people” type actions.

The priorities identified in the Neighbourhood Communication were in the **core** of the Tacis Cross-Border Co-operation Programme. Support under the closing now Tacis CBC Small Project Facility **was focused** on the following priority areas/spheres of co-operation in which regions, cities and local authorities have expertise and experience:

Administrative Reforms	Local Economic Development	Social Affairs	Environment & Energy Efficiency
- Management of local and regional self-government - Decision-making procedures in local and regional authorities	SME support and development	Urban and social health policy	Environmental protection and improvement of standards
Local & regional Democracy Participative approach	Economic planning and industrial conversion Economic development with sectoral focus	Integration of national minorities and disabled people	Waste management / treatment strategies
Finance and budgeting	Development and tourism strategies	Youth policy	Transport and traffic management
Co-operation / co-ordination between local and regional authorities	Strategies for tackling unemployment	Education	Efficient energy supply and monitoring of energy use
Relations with the public (e.g. information provision)	Rural diversification	Fight and prevention of trafficking in human beings and organs	Use of alternative sources of energy



Russian National Sub-Committee

BSR Interreg III B Programme

The priority spheres of cooperation Local Economic Development, Environment & Energy Efficiency, partly Administrative Reforms could be found in Interreg III B programme. But there is wide gap between the grass-root, local targets naturally corresponding to the Tacis CBC, including bilateral co-operation, and much more strategic priorities established in the BSR programme, that should be overcome. **This can be done by including more detailed list of low-level priorities in two ways:**

First, within existing measures of Baltic Sea Region INTERREG IIIB Neighbourhood Programme Priorities 1 and 2 for multilateral co-operation:

- SME support and development
- Transport and traffic management
- Development and tourism strategies
- Rural diversification
- Environmental protection and improvement of standards
- Waste management / treatment strategies
- Efficient energy supply and monitoring of energy use
- Use of alternative sources of energy

Second way, within new measure under Priority 3 for Bilateral maritime co-operation

What we are missing now in the existing priorities and measures of Baltic Sea Region INTERREG IIIB Neighbourhood Programme is the Social Affairs Block of Tacis priorities which is in the core of Neighbourhood Communication. There are:

- Urban and social health policy
- Integration of national minorities and disabled people
- Youth policy
- Education
- Fight and prevention of trafficking in human beings and organs

To overcome this gap **RNSC Task Force proposing to include SOCIAL AFFAIRS as additional measure into Priority 3.** The **Northern Dimension priorities** and action plan which are **in line with New Neighbourhood Programme** objectives will be used as a framework for further elaboration of measures and development projects

2. Northern Dimension activities to be integrated in the Priority 3

At this stage the following Northern Dimension activities should be integrated under Priority 3

Public Health

- To address the challenges linked to the fight against major communicable diseases, and particularly tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.
- To enhance and extend international cooperation on public health issues beyond communicable diseases as such, in order to address also the social determinants of health problems, the impact of the environment on citizens' health and the structural reform of health services across the region.

Justice and Home Affairs

- **Prevention and fight against organised crime** - To improve the co-ordination among national administrations and police forces in order to optimise the use of resources, develop concrete operational measures between the EU and Russia, and increase the effectiveness of law enforcement co-operation
- **Integrated border management** -To combat illegal immigration and other cross-border crime through improved and integrated border management. .
- **Civil Protection** -To improve and encourage the convergence of safety procedures, promoting at the same time civil protection, good governance and direct public participation in project planning.

In the development of this approach we are enclosing the results of express consultation with RNSC members.



Russian National Sub-Committee
BSR Interreg III B Programme

Karelian Republic

The Karelian Scientific Center of RAS fully agrees with those proposals sent the BSR IR IIIB Steering Committee on behalf of the BSR IR IIIB Russian National Sub-Committee.

We identify the following issues as the most important and of need to be accented during further discussion on program amendments:

1. Necessity of closer coordination between priorities of BSR IR IIIB Program and Neighborhood Program;
2. We would like to give special attention to including issues on territorial social-economic development, environment and holding local activities for population ("people-to-people" actions), which are of priority for Republic of Karelia.
3. An issue of wider engaging of trilateral cooperation in program documents has a significant meaning.

In light of a very limited time given for preparing the detailed proposals, we send you a brief ones. We hope it will be discussed and taken into consideration within Task Force meeting that to be held on February 27th 2004 in St. Petersburg.

We would also like to inform you that discussion on the Neighborhood Program has been carrying out in Republic of Karelia at current time, as well as joint Russian-Finnish proposals (Unions of Commun Euroregion "Karelia", Finnish Ministry of Interior) are under preparation. This work will be completed by late March. From the support letter of Mr. Ieshko Eugenie – RNSC Co-chairman, Vice-Chairman of the Karelian Research Centre, Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor

Novgorod oblast

Nevertheless, under time trouble conditions we supported the whole proposals, advanced by Vladimir Skorohodov at the MC meeting in Copenhagen, and we would like to propose in particular the following **priority sectors for collaboration**:

- trade and economic cross-border cooperation in the frames of regional and sub-regional contacts and simplification (due to this) of custom procedures and increase in carrying capacity of joint borders and check-points;
- development of regional transport infrastructure by merging with north-western transport infrastructure for optimization of Russian transport flows («corridor 9A»);
- joint social programs, cooperation in health care;
- widening ecological cooperation in the field of water treatment and waste utilization;
- tourism development;
- nature protection.

(From the support letter of Mr. Klimov Oleg (Skibar` Mikhail) - Economic Committee, Novgorod oblast Administration)

Arkhangelsk oblast

In response to your letter (by 25.02.2004) regarding preparation of proposals for Program document of Interreg/Neighborhood Program we would like to inform you that Arkhangelsk oblast is interested in further participation in the Program and its development. We send you our preliminary proposals for Program document.

Sectors of priority:

- development of transport infrastructure,
- cooperation in the field of implementing the conservation energy technologies,
- building a network of international cooperation of SME with Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish firms,
- Environment Protection –contamination prevention during hydrocarbon raw transportation,
- Health Care– control, preventive measures and reduction of social-dangerous diseases spreading,
- Education– sustainable development of local capacities for providing with education, increasing of students mobility,
- preventive measures of crime, civil protection, ensuring respect to law,
- Cooperation within training program for judges and judge administrators.

(From the letter of Mr. Kirillov Vladimir - Deputy Chairman of Committee for International Contacts and Tourism Development, Administration of Arkhangelsk oblast)



Russian National Sub-Committee

BSR Interreg III B Programme

Murmansk oblast

We take limited part in Interreg III B Programme realization: project "North Sea within the Interreg IIIB Northern Periphery Program."

We are deeply concerned to participate in this program, but taking into consideration our involvement in a number of specific regional cooperation programs, such as Barents cooperation, Murmansk corridor, Barents corridor and other, we have to admit that administrative and human resources are limited. We hope that NNP within TA and capacity building Priority will help to develop NWR regions and Murmansk oblast good supporting institutional framework and networks.

*Regarding starting proposals from Murmansk oblast it can be classified within the following **main priority blocks**:*

- SME development;
- Environmental issues, incl. raising nuclear and radiation safety, rehabilitation of areas, subjected to technopollution;
- Energy Conservation Technologies and Water Treatment;
- Institutional Building;
- Youth Policy

I'm ready within volume, capacities and opportunities to take part in activities of Task Force or other coordinating units.

Neighborhood program KolArctic 2004 – 2006 (Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia) is attached (From the letter of Mr Evseev Vladimir - Deputy Head of Economic Department, Head of Department of External Economic and Interregional Affairs, Government of Murmansk oblast)

Pskov oblast

Pskov oblast takes part in elaboration of the BSR IR IIIB Program documents within IIIA "North" priorities.

Recent meeting of Task Force was held on February 11-12 2004 in Tallinn. Materials on our proposals are attached.

- Draft MINUTES Task Force meeting 11-12 Feb 2004 Tallinn (Estonia-Latvia-Russia INTERREG III A priority ("North"))
- DRAFT Programme Complement North IIIA
- Estonia-Latvia-Russia Interreg Iii A Priority ("North") Tf-Meeting (PRESENTATION)

(From the letter of Mr. Balandin Andrey – Consultant Committee for Foreign Affairs and Tourism Pskov region Administration)

3. Coordination with other Cross Border Neighbourhood Programmes

The right coordination efforts should be undertaken by the members of IRIIB BSR Task Force for Amending CIP/NP in order to find the best allocation of Tacis Baltic Sea III B NP funds and avoid duplication of measures and resources.



Tacis Neighbourhood Project Facility:

Neighbourhood Programme	Indicative allocation 2004-06, €m
Baltic Sea III B	7.5
Nord (Kolartik) / Russia	3.5
Karelia / Russia	4.0
SE Finland / Russia	6.5
Baltich Sea III A	7.5
• Estonia / Latvia / Russia	
• Latvia / Lithuania / Belarus	
Lithuania / Poland / Russia (Kaliningrad)	4.5



Russian National Sub-Committee

BSR Interreg III B Programme

Under such time pressure it is impossible to provide immediate solutions and recommendations on this matter. The RNSC Task Force started to work on this point and even the exchange of information between RNSC members on the State of Art of 5 Neighbourhood programmes were considered very important and mutually beneficial. At this stage brief outline of current priorities and measures, which were identified by the partners in the process of deep consultations and discussions within 4 Neighbourhood programmes, is presented. (Karelia/Russia NP is available only in Finnish)

III A PRIORITY ESTONIA-LATVIA-RUSSIA ("NORTH")

Measure 1. Development of the Estonian-Latvian border regions

Measure 2. Development of the EU external border regions

Whilst the only recently re-established border between Latvia and Estonia is about to be dismantled, the border of the two future EU New Member States to Russia will be EU-external border, posing severe obstacles to movement of all kind (person, goods, services, etc). In line with the vision to develop this border region's traditional gateway function, the measure aims to develop solutions to avoid the external border being an obstacle for economic development, tourism, and people-to-people contacts. Therefore the programme is designed to:

- develop new business opportunities as far as cross-border contacts can be preserved and developed by means of information exchanges and support services (including R&D);
- develop transport and connections which form a basis for contacts, sufficient capacity of border crossings or use of water transport as well as logistic services for more efficient use of transport systems could contribute to provide capable transport linkages;
- tourism development can stimulate co-operation in an important field for development of the predominantly rural border regions
- environmental management and protection are inevitably cross-border tasks which is most visible in case of lake Peipsi;
- new contacts between local and regional institutions including small-scale projects can help to identify potential for co-operation in a series of fields directly related to living conditions in the border region;
- staff training programmes and training projects support co-operation by providing the required competencies.

SOUTH-EAST FINLAND/RUSSIA INTERREG III A PROGRAMME 2000-2006

The priorities and measures under the programme are as follows:

1. Development of transport links and the state of the environment
 - 1.1 Border crossing points and transport links
 - 1.2 Maintaining and improving the state of the environment
2. Development of business and the business environment
 - 2.1 Increasing the number of SMEs and improving their operational preconditions
3. Expertise and improving conditions for co-operation
 - 3.1 Development of expertise
 - 3.2 Conditions for co-operation and well-being

LUTHUANIA, POLAND AND KALININGRAD REGION OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION 2004-2006

Priority1 Competitiveness and productivity growth of the cooperation area through development of cross border infrastructure and border security, economic and scientific/technological cooperation.

Measure 1.1 Stimulating of economic and scientific/technological cooperation

Measure 1.2: Improvements in physical and border security infrastructure to encourage development of the border area

Measure 1.3: Environmental protection and growth of energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy sources

Measure 1.4: Development of tourism and tourism infrastructure for development of cross border tourism and recreation as well as improvement of cultural heritage objects of cross border importance

Priority 2. Contribution to the cooperation between populations, socio-cultural integration and the labour market

Measure 2.1: Support of local societies' initiatives

Measure 2.2 Regional cultural identity and cultural heritage

Priority 3. Technical assistance

Measure 3.1 Programme Management, Implementation, Monitoring and Control of the Structural Funds

Measure 3.2 Other Activities coming under Technical Assistance

NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM KOLARCTIC 2004 – 2006 (FINLAND, SWEDEN, NORWAY AND RUSSIA)

Priorities:

1. Business cooperation
 - 1.1 Production cooperation and business networks
 - 1.2 Business training
2. Know-how and welfare
 - 2.1 Education
 - 2.2 Research and development activity
 - 2.3 Culture
3. Infrastructure
 - 3.1 Communication networks and traffic
 - 3.2 Technical management
 - 3.3 Information technology and technology transfer



Russian National Sub-Committee
BSR Interreg III B Programme

III. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme managing structure:

On the Russian side efficient body- the **secretariat or part of the joint secretariat as main support and info point** for Russian regions- **is needed** which will be **responsible for**:

- the systematic work on informing **Russian regions** about the Programme news, calls, meeting, decisions,
- collecting information for and from regions, **information exchange** between main Programme actors.
- coordination of preparation of efficient **projects pipe-lines**.

This body will be responsible for co-operation with the **Joint Secretariat** on such matters as:

- project ideas formation,
- project partners search,
- coordinating of projects implementation to avoid duplication,
- getting the information concerning call for proposals, applicants package, submission results etc from the Secretariat
- exchange of the project results information

This body will act in **co-operation with the Russian National Coordinating Unit, St Petersburg Liaison Office, EC Delegation to Russia**, and other appropriate bodies.

Due to the long distances between Russian regions e -mail and Internet site becoming most efficient ways of their communications. So this body needs **skilled and experienced staff and IT equipment**.

Now (during several years) the RNSC secretariat is partly functioning as body of this kind. It supports RNSC members in all regions and on the Federal (National) level. In the beginning with the support of the Interreg IIIB resources efficient RNSC Internet site has been established and became widely used by regions as the valuable source of the Interreg IIIB information. (Its address - <http://leontief.ru/rnsc/>)

Russian TF proposes to use **RNSC secretariat** with its experience and network **as Russian secretariat and info point of the Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme**. The financing of Info Point from Technical Assistant Fund is needed.

IV. Task Force Activity Plan

The 2-nd TF meeting is extremely needed before MC meeting to finalize discussions with the regions and Federal authorities (National Co-ordinating Unit) final draft of Russian proposals to the NP IIIB BSR. This is supported by all regions and National Co-ordinating Unit (Federal Authorities).