

# **IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION GOAL**

## **PART A**

### **IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

CCI	2014TC16RFCB027
Title	Interreg V-A Latvia-Lithuania Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2014 - 2020
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## **2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)**

**Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.**

### 2.1 MC meetings

On 3 - 4 March 2016 in Riga, Latvia was organised the first meeting of the Monitoring Committee (MC). During the meeting the Technical Assistance budget for 2016, indicative Technical Assistance budget for 2016 - 2022, Work plan for 2016 and Rules of Procedure of the MC were approved. Timeline for launching the 1st Call for Proposals, Applicant pack, as well as financial information was presented and discussed. Following discussions taken during the MC meeting, documents comprising Applicant pack were corrected and sent to the MC for approval via written procedure. The MC approved Applicant pack on 28 April 2016 and on 29 April 2016 the 1st Call for Proposals was launched. Information on it along with Applicant pack was published in the Programme's webpage [www.latlit.eu](http://www.latlit.eu), as well as widely advertised in other information sources in order to reach all potential beneficiaries.

In the end of 2016 was started organisation of the second meeting of the MC, planned on 23 -24 January 2017 in Anykščiai, Lithuania.

### 2.2 the 1st Call for Proposals

During the 1st Call for Proposals, which was opened from 29 April till 5 August 2016, were received 158 project applications. In total were requested 85,8 m EUR ERDF co - financing. Project applications were assessed in two phases – at first according to the set administrative and eligibility assessment criteria and afterwards according to the quality assessment criteria. In order to assess documentation of planned reconstruction works during the quality assessment phase, the MA signed two contracts for technical experts services with service providers in Latvia and Lithuania. After quality assessment project applications were grouped in 3 categories - recommended for approval, recommended for discussion and recommended for rejection.

Assessment results were sent to the MC on 23 December 2016, so that during the MC second meeting, planned in January 2017, the MC could select projects for funding.

### 2.3 Human resources

Recruitment of staff working with the JS functions was started already in the end of 2015 and was finalised in the beginning of 2016. Although during 2016 changes in the staff working with MA, JS and CA functions occurred, till the end of 2016 all vacancies were filled in.

In total 11,25 workloads covering MA JS, CA and AA functions were financed from the Technical Assistance budget.

In order to support potential applicants from Lithuania and provide consultations, starting from the middle of 2016 in Lithuania was operating JS Branch office in Vilnius.

#### 2.4 MA designation

During the reporting period significant work was devoted for ensuring MA designation. The Description of the Management and Control Systems (DMCS) along with the relevant procedures were prepared, assessed by the AA and in the result the MA was successfully designated on 22 November 2016.

#### 2.5 Electronic Monitoring System (eMS)

During 2016 the MA ensured maintenance and appropriate functioning of the eMS, as well as its configuration.

#### 2.6 Communication

In the beginning of 2016 was finalised elaboration of Programme's webpage [www.latlit.eu](http://www.latlit.eu).

Programme publicity was ensured by regularly updating information in the Programme webpage [www.latlit.eu](http://www.latlit.eu) and facebook account, by organizing Programme Launch event on 11 May, 2016 in Liepāja, Latvia, as well as by organising 8 information seminars for potential project partners in Latvia and Lithuania, by organising and participating in the Balts Unity Day celebration on 16 September 2016 in Liepāja, Latvia and European Cooperation day celebration on 21 September 2016 in Iecava, Latvia. On the day to day basis consultations were provided for potential project partners.

#### 2.7 Closure of Latvia - Lithuania Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007 - 2013

As regards closure of Latvia - Lithuania Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007 - 2013, in 2016 the AA prepared and implemented the Annual Audit plan for 2016, the MA performed durability visit to one project partner, took decisions on irregularities and prepared the draft Final implementation report and sent it to the Joint Monitoring and Steering Committee for approval. The CA ensured that till the end of 2016 all irregularly carried out expenditure are recovered from project Lead Partners.

In order to discuss issues related with the closure process, was organised meeting of the Task Force for the closure.

In the end of 2016 the AA launched audit on Latvia - Lithuania Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007 - 2013 closure and the MA and the CA ensured submission of all requested information and data to the AA.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

#### 3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
1.	Sustainable and clean environment through cooperation	<p>During the 1st Call for Proposals under this priority was submitted 61 project application with total requested ERDF co - financing 42 m EUR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 42 project applications requesting 29,6 m EUR under IP1;</li> <li>2) 14 project applications requesting 9,4 m EUR under IP2;</li> <li>3) 5 project applications requesting 3 m EUR under IP3.</li> </ul> <p>32 project applications did not pass administrative and eligibility assessment. The remaining 29 project applications went through quality assessment performed by employees working with MA and JS functions.</p>
2.	Support to labour mobility and employment	<p>During the 1st Call for Proposals under this priority were submitted 39 project applications with total requested ERDF co - financing 20,8 m EUR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 17 project applications requesting 9,4 m EUR under IP1;</li> <li>2) 22 project applications requesting 11,4 m EUR under IP2.</li> </ul> <p>6 project applications did not pass administrative and eligibility assessment. The remaining 33 project applications went through quality assessment performed by the employees working with MA and JS functions.</p>
3.	Social inclusion as a precondition of territorial development	<p>During the 1st Call for Proposals under this priority were submitted 39 project applications with total requested ERDF co - financing 15,3 m EUR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 30 project applications requesting 13,9 m EUR under IP1;</li> <li>2) 9 project applications requesting 1,4 m EUR under IP2.</li> </ul>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
4.	Improved quality of living through efficient public services and administration	20 project applications did not pass administrative and eligibility assessment. The remaining 19 project applications went through quality assessment performed by the employees working with MA and JS functions.
TA	Technical assistance	<p>During the 1st Call for Proposals under this priority were submitted 19 project applications with total requested ERDF co – financing 7,7 m EUR. 3 project applications did not pass administrative and eligibility assessment. The remaining 16 project applications went through quality assessment performed by the employees working with MA and JS functions.</p> <p>TA budget for 2016 was foreseen for covering staff costs, communication costs, overheads, administrative costs, costs of trainings and business trips, purchase of furniture, equipment and low value items, costs of information activities, costs of committees and task forces, costs of the meetings of the Group of Auditors, travel costs of both NAs, costs for external expertise, costs of the eMS adjustments, maintenance and upgrades, as well as costs related with the operation of JS Branch office in Vilnius. The TA budget was spent according to the approved Technical Assistance budget for 2016. From all aforementioned costs positions, financing was not spent only for overheads. From the total TA budget for 2016 (EUR 607 156,32), EUR 564 853,84 were allocated to the MA and AA, but EUR 42 302,48 were allocated to the JS Branch office in Vilnius. Till the end of 2016 in total were spent EUR 362 618,44 - the MA and the AA spent EUR 341 430,59 or 60 % from available financing, but JS office in Vilnius spent EUR 21 187,85 or 50 % from EUR 42 302,48 available in 2016. According to the MC decision during its first meeting, saved financing was reallocated to the same budget lines for next year. Information on spending till the end of November and expected absorption till the end of 2016 was sent to the MC via written procedure on 21 December 2016.</p> <p>Amendments in the TA budget for 2016 were initiated once, as due to the big amount of project applications which contained reconstruction works, it was obvious that available financing for contracting external construction experts will not be sufficient and thus needs to be increased. The amendments were approved by the MC via written procedure on 26 August 2016.</p>

### 3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

#### Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	1. - Sustainable and clean environment through cooperation
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	11,250.00	0.00	
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	Visits/year	11,250.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0.00	0.00
S	CO09	Sustainable Tourism: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	1. - Sustainable and clean environment through cooperation
Investment priority	6c - Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
Specific objective	1.1 - To increase number of visitors to the Programme area through improving and developing cultural and natural heritage objects, services and products

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
1.1.1	Overnight stays of visitors in the Programme area	number	3,085,435.00	2013	3,548,250.00	0.00		

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1.1	Overnight stays of visitors in the Programme area	3,085,435.00		0.00	

Priority axis	1. - Sustainable and clean environment through cooperation
Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	1.2.2	Number of organisations supported	Number	17,00	0,00	
S	1.2.2	Number of organisations supported	Number	17,00	0,00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	1.2.2	Number of organisations supported	0,00	0,00
S	1.2.2	Number of organisations supported	0,00	0,00



Priority axis	1. - Sustainable and clean environment through cooperation
Investment priority	6d - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure
Specific objective	1.2 - To increase integration and efficiency of environmental resource management

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
1.2.1	Number of organisations jointly contributing to environmental resource management	Number	177.00	2015	186.00	0.00		

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.2.1	Number of organisations jointly contributing to environmental resource management	177.00		0.00	

Priority axis	1. - Sustainable and clean environment through cooperation
Investment priority	6c - Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(I)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO22	Land rehabilitation: Total surface area of rehabilitated land	Hectares	16.00	0.00	
S	CO22	Land rehabilitation: Total surface area of rehabilitated land	Hectares	16.00	0.00	

(I)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO22	Land rehabilitation: Total surface area of rehabilitated land	0.00	0.00
S	CO22	Land rehabilitation: Total surface area of rehabilitated land	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	1. - Sustainable and clean environment through cooperation
Investment priority	6e - Taking action to improve the urban environment, to revitalise cities, regenerate and decontaminate brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduce air pollution and promote noise-reduction measures
Specific objective	1.3 - To regenerate public areas with environmental problems

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
1.3.1	Number of households not facing pollution, grime and other municipal environmental problems	number	855,069.00	2013	861,054.00	0.00		

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.3.1	Number of households not facing pollution, grime and other municipal environmental problems	855,069.00		0.00	

Priority axis	2. - Support to labour mobility and employment
Investment priority	8a - Supporting the development of business incubators and investment support for self-employment, micro-enterprises and business creation

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	40,00	0,00	
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	Enterprises	40,00	0,00	
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	40,00	0,00	
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Enterprises	40,00	0,00	
F	2.1.1	Business support services improved/created as result of the cross border cooperation	Units	14,00	0,00	
S	2.1.1	Business support services improved/created as result of the cross border cooperation	Units	14,00	0,00	
F	2.1.2	Improved or created business support infrastructure objects that ensure indirect business support	Units	11,00	0,00	
S	2.1.2	Improved or created business support infrastructure objects that ensure indirect business support	Units	11,00	0,00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0,00	0,00
S	CO01	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving support	0,00	0,00
F	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0,00	0,00
S	CO04	Productive investment: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	0,00	0,00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	2.1.1	Business support services improved/created as result of the cross border cooperation	0.00	0.00
S	2.1.1	Business support services improved/created as result of the cross border cooperation	0.00	0.00
F	2.1.2	Improved or created business support infrastructure objects that ensure indirect business support	0.00	0.00
S	2.1.2	Improved or created business support infrastructure objects that ensure indirect business support	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	2. - Support to labour mobility and employment
Investment priority	8a - Supporting the development of business incubators and investment support for self-employment, micro-enterprises and business creation
Specific objective	2.1 - To create employment opportunities through entrepreneurship support

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
2.1.1	Newly established businesses per year	Number	6,619.00	2012	6,818.00	0.00		

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1.1	Newly established businesses per year	6,619.00		0.00	

Priority axis	2. - Support to labour mobility and employment
Investment priority	8e - Integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility, joint local employment initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training (ETC-CB)

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	46.08	0.00	
S	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	46.08	0.00	
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	700.00	0.00	
S	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	Persons	700.00	0.00	
F	2.2.1	Created or improved educational and training infrastructure objects planned for joint use	Number	13.00	0.00	
S	2.2.1	Created or improved educational and training infrastructure objects planned for joint use	Number	13.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	0.00	0.00
S	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	0.00	0.00
F	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	0.00	0.00
S	CO44	Labour Market and Training: Number of participants in joint local employment initiatives and joint training	0.00	0.00
F	2.2.1	Created or improved educational and training infrastructure objects planned for joint use	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
S	2.2.1	Created or improved educational and training infrastructure objects planned for joint use	0.00	0.00



Priority axis	2. - Support to labour mobility and employment
Investment priority	8e - Integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility, joint local employment initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training (ETC-CB)
Specific objective	2.2 - To increase job opportunities by improving mobility and workforce skills

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
2.2.3	Number of people receiving upgraded skills matching labour market needs per year	Persons	34,396.00	2013	36,116.00	0.00		
2.2.4	Number of commuters per day	Persons	1,561.00	2013	1,717.00	0.00		

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.2.3	Number of people receiving upgraded skills matching labour market needs per year	34,396.00		0.00	
2.2.4	Number of commuters per day	1,561.00		0.00	

Priority axis	3. - Social inclusion as a precondition of territorial development
Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	3.1.1	Created/improved social services and infrastructure	Units	15.00	0.00	
S	3.1.1	Created/improved social services and infrastructure	Units	15.00	0.00	
F	3.1.2	Created/improved social inclusion measures	Units	28.00	0.00	
S	3.1.2	Created/improved social inclusion measures	Units	28.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	3.1.1	Created/improved social services and infrastructure	0.00	0.00
S	3.1.1	Created/improved social services and infrastructure	0.00	0.00
F	3.1.2	Created/improved social inclusion measures	0.00	0.00
S	3.1.2	Created/improved social inclusion measures	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	3. - Social inclusion as a precondition of territorial development
Investment priority	9a - Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services
Specific objective	3.1 - To improve accessibility and efficiency of social services

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
3.1.1	Number of people benefiting from more accessible, efficient social inclusion measures and social services	Persons	2,000.00	2013	3,000.00	0.00		

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.1.1	Number of people benefiting from more accessible, efficient social inclusion measures and social services	2,000.00		0.00	

Priority axis	3 - Social inclusion as a precondition of territorial development
Investment priority	9b - Providing support for physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived communities in urban and rural areas

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	3.2.1	Number of deprived communities participating in the regeneration activities	Units	36.00	0.00	
S	3.2.1	Number of deprived communities participating in the regeneration activities	Units	36.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	3.2.1	Number of deprived communities participating in the regeneration activities	0.00	0.00
S	3.2.1	Number of deprived communities participating in the regeneration activities	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	3. - Social inclusion as a precondition of territorial development
Investment priority	9b - Providing support for physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived communities in urban and rural areas
Specific objective	3.2 - To improve living conditions in deprived communities and territories

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
3.2.1	Number of households not facing pollution, grime and other municipal environment problems	Number	855,069.00	2013	861,054.00	0.00		

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.2.1	Number of households not facing pollution, grime and other municipal environment problems	855,069.00		0.00	

Priority axis	4. - Improved quality of living through efficient public services and administration
Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	4.1.1	Number of institutions, participating in cooperation	Units	46.00	0.00	
S	4.1.1	Number of institutions, participating in cooperation	Units	46.00	0.00	

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	4.1.1	Number of institutions, participating in cooperation	0.00	0.00
S	4.1.1	Number of institutions, participating in cooperation	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	4. - Improved quality of living through efficient public services and administration
Investment priority	11b - Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions (ETC-CB)
Specific objective	4.1 - To improve efficiency of public services by strengthening capacities and cooperation between institutions

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
4.1.1	Number of solutions improving public services	Number	36.00	2013	40.00	0.00		

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4.1.1	Number of solutions improving public services	36.00		0.00	

## Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	TA - Technical assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	TA.1	Events, seminars, workshops and trainings organised for publicity, information and capacity building about the Programme	Number of events	50.00	11.00	Programme Launch event - 1; Information seminars for potential applicants of the 1st Call for Proposals - 8; networking event "netWORKING" within Baltis Unity Day - 1; event "European Cooperation Day" - 1.
S	TA.1	Events, seminars, workshops and trainings organised for publicity, information and capacity building about the Programme	Number of events	50.00	11.00	Programme Launch event - 1; Information seminars for potential applicants of the 1st Call for Proposals - 8; networking event "netWORKING" within Baltis Unity Day - 1; event "European Cooperation Day" - 1.
F	TA.2	Participants at different Programme events (conferences, workshops, seminars, trainings)	Number of participants	1,800.00	557.00	Programme Launch Event - 193; Information seminars for potential applicants of the 1st Call for Proposals - 364 (in Ceraukste (LV)-25; in Utena (LT) - 18; in Kuldīga (LV) - 48; in Kaunas (LT) - 34; in Aņķšķāi (LT) - 62; in Daugavpils (LV) - 59; in Telšiai (LT) - 57; in Jelgava (LV) - 61.
S	TA.2	Participants at different Programme events (conferences, workshops, seminars, trainings)	Number of participants	1,800.00	557.00	Programme Launch Event - 193; Information seminars for potential applicants of the 1st Call for Proposals - 364 (in Ceraukste (LV)-25; in Utena (LT) - 18; in Kuldīga (LV) - 48; in Kaunas (LT) - 34; in Aņķšķāi (LT) - 62; in Daugavpils (LV) - 59; in Telšiai (LT) - 57; in Jelgava (LV) - 61.
F	TA.3	Consultations held by the JS staff	Number of consultations	375.00	86.00	Individual consultations - 18; consultations via e-mails - 68. Along with individual consultations and consultations via e-mails, on a daily bases were provided numerous telephone consultations, which were not registered and counted.
S	TA.3	Consultations held by the JS staff	Number of consultations	375.00	86.00	Individual consultations - 18; consultations via e-mails - 68. Along with individual consultations and consultations via e-mails, on a daily bases were provided numerous telephone consultations, which were not registered and counted.
F	TA.4	Site visits to the projects	Number of site visits	145.00	0.00	Taking into account that in 2016 projects implementation was not started yet, no site visits were organised.
S	TA.4	Site visits to the projects	Number of site visits	145.00	0.00	Taking into account that in 2016 projects implementation was not started yet, no site visits were organised.
F	TA.5	Number of employees (full-time equivalents - FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	full-time equivalent (FTE)	14.50	11.25	Workloads financed from TA budget: employees working with MA functions - 2.5; employees working with JS functions - 6.5; employees working with CA functions - 1.25; employees of AA - 1.
S	TA.5	Number of employees (full-time equivalents - FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	full-time equivalent (FTE)	14.50	11.25	Workloads financed from TA budget: employees working with MA functions - 2.5; employees working with JS functions - 6.5; employees working with CA functions - 1.25; employees of AA - 1.

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	TA.1	Events, seminars, workshops and trainings organised for publicity, information and capacity building about the Programme	0.00	
S	TA.1	Events, seminars, workshops and trainings organised for publicity, information and capacity building about the Programme	0.00	



(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
		capacity building about the Programme		
F	TA.2	Participants at different Programme events (conferences, workshops, seminars, trainings)	0.00	
S	TA.2	Participants at different Programme events (conferences, workshops, seminars, trainings)	0.00	
F	TA.3	Consultations held by the JS staff	0.00	
S	TA.3	Consultations held by the JS staff	0.00	
F	TA.4	Site visits to the projects	0.00	
S	TA.4	Site visits to the projects	0.00	
F	TA.5	Number of employees (full-time equivalents - FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	0.00	
S	TA.5	Number of employees (full-time equivalents - FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	0.00	

**3.3 Table 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework**

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	2016 Final target (2023) total	2016	Observations
1.	F	1.1.2	Expenditure	EUR	2,954,207.00	16,412,260.00	0.00	
1.	I	CO22	Approved projects under investment priority 6c	Number	4		0.00	
1.	I	1.2.2	Approved projects under investment priority 6d	Number	2		0.00	
1.	O	CO22	Land rehabilitation: Total surface area of rehabilitated land	Hectares	0	16.00	0.00	
1.	O	1.2.2	Number of organisations supported	Number	0	17.00	0.00	
2.	F	1.1.1	Expenditure	EUR	4,255,031.00	21,275,153.00	0.00	
2.	I	2.2.1	Approved projects under investment priority 8e for creating or improving educational and training infrastructure objects planned for joint use	Number	4		0.00	
2.	I	CO14	Approved projects under investment priority 8e for roads reconstruction and upgrade	Number	1		0.00	
2.	O	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	0	46.08	0.00	
2.	O	2.2.1	Created or improved educational and training infrastructure objects planned for joint use	Number	0	13.00	0.00	
3.	F	1.1.1	Expenditure	EUR	2,066,730.00	12,157,233.00	0.00	
3.	I	3.1.1	Approved projects under investment priority 9a for creating/improving social services and infrastructure	Number	4		0.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018 total	2016 Final target (2023) total	2016	Observations
3.	I	3.1.2	Approved projects under investment priority 9a for creating/improving social inclusion measures	Number	6		0.00	
3.	I	3.2.1	Approved projects under investment priority 9b	Number	7		0.00	
3.	O	3.1.1	Created/improved social services and infrastructure	Units	0	15.00	0.00	
3.	O	3.2.1	Number of deprived communities participating in the regeneration activities	Units	0	36.00	0.00	
3.	O	3.1.2	Created/improved social inclusion measures	Units	0	28.00	0.00	
4.	F	1.1.1	Expenditure	EUR	1,641,226.0	10,941,506.00	0.00	
4.	I	4.1.1	Approved projects under investment priority 11b	Number	10		0.00	
4.	O	4.1.1	Number of institutions, participating in cooperation	Units	0	46.00	0.00	

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
1.	F	1.1.2	Expenditure	EUR	0.00	0.00
1.	I	CO22	Approved projects under investment priority 6e	Number	0.00	0.00
1.	I	1.2.2	Approved projects under investment priority 6d	Number	0.00	0.00
1.	O	CO22	Land rehabilitation: Total surface area of rehabilitated land	Hectares	0.00	0.00
1.	O	1.2.2	Number of organisations supported	Number	0.00	0.00
2.	F	1.1.1	Expenditure	EUR	0.00	0.00

Priority axis	Ind type	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	2015	2014
2.	I	2.2.1	Approved projects under investment priority 8e for creating or improving educational and training infrastructure objects planned for joint use	Number	0.00	0.00
2.	I	CO14	Approved projects under investment priority 8e for roads reconstruction and upgrade	Number	0.00	0.00
2.	O	CO14	Roads: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads	km	0.00	0.00
2.	O	2.2.1	Created or improved educational and training infrastructure objects planned for joint use	Number	0.00	0.00
3.	F	1.1.1	Expenditure	EUR	0.00	0.00
3.	I	3.1.1	Approved projects under investment priority 9a for creating/improving social services and infrastructure	Number	0.00	0.00
3.	I	3.1.2	Approved projects under investment priority 9a for creating/improving social inclusion measures	Number	0.00	0.00
3.	I	3.2.1	Approved projects under investment priority 9b	Number	0.00	0.00
3.	O	3.1.1	Created/improved social services and infrastructure	Units	0.00	0.00
3.	O	3.2.1	Number of deprived communities participating in the regeneration activities	Units	0.00	0.00
3.	O	3.1.2	Created/improved social inclusion measures	Units	0.00	0.00
4.	F	1.1.1	Expenditure	EUR	0.00	0.00
4.	I	4.1.1	Approved projects under investment priority 11b	Number	0.00	0.00
4.	O	4.1.1	Number of institutions, participating in cooperation	Units	0.00	0.00



### 3.4. Financial data

**Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level**

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Priority axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
1.	ERDF	Total	16,412,260.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
2.	ERDF	Total	21,275,153.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
3.	ERDF	Total	12,157,233.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
4.	ERDF	Total	10,941,506.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
TA	ERDF	Public	4,228,169.00	78.00	4,228,169.00	100.00%	3,297,972.00	166,673.14	3.94%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>ERDF</b>		<b>65,014,321.00</b>	<b>84.54</b>	<b>4,228,169.00</b>	<b>6.50%</b>	<b>3,297,972.00</b>	<b>166,673.14</b>	<b>0.26%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>65,014,321.00</b>	<b>84.54</b>	<b>4,228,169.00</b>	<b>6.50%</b>	<b>3,297,972.00</b>	<b>166,673.14</b>	<b>0.26%</b>	<b>1</b>

**Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)**

N/A

**Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention**

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
1.	ERDF								0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
2.	ERDF								0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
3.	ERDF								0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
4.	ERDF								0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
TA	ERDF								4,228,169.00	3,297,972.00	166,673.14		1



**Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area**

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
0	0.00		0.00	

(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

#### **4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS**

No evaluations were carried out during 2016.

## 5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

### (a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

In the Programme document are foreseen 14,5 workloads for fulfilment of MA, JS, CA and AA functions. Starting already from 2015, particular attention was drawn on recruiting qualified employees for work with MA, JS and CA functions and establishing joint team with the same understanding of goals and working ethics. Gradually till the end of 2016 in total 11,25 workloads were devoted to the fulfilment of MA, JS, CA and AA functions (detailed breakdown of workloads is provided in table 2 under priority axis "TA – Technical assistance").

The first half of 2016 showed that the established structure of the MA with two different units fulfilling functions of the MA and the JS is not as efficient as initially expected. Therefore, after internal analyses and discussions, on 1 July 2016 the MA was reorganized by merging in one unit employees working with the functions of the MA and the JS. Along with the merging was increased workload of the information manager from 0,5 workloads to 1 workload. The reorganisation resulted in more well managed distribution and monitoring of tasks and better information flow among employees working with the MA and the JS functions, as well as increased cost efficiency.

The first version of the DMCS was prepared by the MA taking into account MA reorganisation and new division of tasks starting from 1 July 2016. It was submitted to the AA on 27 July 2016. The AA initiated initial meeting with the MA in order to discuss the designation process, contact persons and agree on potential deadlines. Afterwards between the AA and MA several meetings were organised. Continuous exchange of information between both authorities was ensured via telephone conversations and e-mails, which resulted in valuable comments and recommendations for DMSC improvements. The updated DMCS was submitted to the AA on 14 November 2016. The AA reviewed it, prepared Audit report and its unqualified Audit opinion on MA's designation, as well as issued recommendations mainly related with deadlines for the preparation of remaining Programme procedures (the management and control processes in the DMCS were described in details, however, taking into account the stage of Programme implementation, planned schedule for the implementation of the projects from the 1st Call for Proposals, as well as sequence in which Programme procedures should be prepared to ensure their mutual consistency and compliance with the latest version of the eMS, the MA had prepared the list of Programme procedures, which still need to be prepared, with procedure preparation deadlines and had submitted it to the AA. This list was used by the AA when issuing recommendations, which implementation afterwards will be followed by the AA.)

During the designation procedure the AA used outsourced audit for evaluating IT systems security according to the internationally accepted IT security standards (ISO/IEC 27001:2013, ISO/IEC 27002:2013 and ISO/IEC 27000:2013). The main conclusions after the eMS audit were that adequate audit trail and protection of personal data in the eMS is ensured, data required for drawing up payment applications and accounts are ensured in the eMS, the eMS presents reliable, accurate and complete information on the Programme implementation, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia has implemented procedures to ensure security and maintenance of eMS, but additional improvements

should be made to minimize the identified risks.

The MA was designated on 22 November 2016 with order issued by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development. On 23 November 2016 the MA informed on its designation the EC via SFC2014.

The number of received project applications during the 1st Call for Proposals showed that project partners see the need and want to implement projects under all investment priorities. However, around 39% of received project applications did not pass the administrative and eligibility assessment. The main reasons for that were ineligibility or project partners, only partly filled in project application forms (this can be explained with the fact that during seminars for potential applicants project partners in the eMS were creating test versions of project application forms and could accidentally submit them), not submitted Lead partner's Confirmation letters, as well as because full package of technical documentation for planned reconstruction works was not submitted via eMS or delivered to the MA within opening and closing time of the 1st Call for Proposals. Lessons learned after the organisation of the 1st Call for Proposals and after the project application assessment will be taken into account when organising next Call for Proposals in order to decrease the amount of project applications which do not pass the administrative and eligibility assessment phase, decrease the time needed for assessment, etc.

Taking into account that the Programme was approved in 2015 and thus the first decommitment target will need to be reached in 2018, but till the end of 2016 project implementation was not started, the MA monitored Technical Assistance budget spending, followed projects application assessment results regarding financial allocation and also prepared forecasts with spending targets which need to be reached in order to avoid decommitment in 2018.

Although during 2016 there were challenges which MA and AA had to overcome, there were no serious issues which would negatively affect Programme implementation.

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

N/A

## **6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013)**

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

**7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS  
(ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

**8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)**

**8.1. Major projects**

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Axis/ Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Ma
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(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

Significant problems encountered in implementing major projects and measures taken to overcome them

N/A

Any change planned in the list of major projects in the cooperation programme

N/A







## 8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

N/A
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**Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)**

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations

**Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them**

N/A

**9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)**

**9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Priority axis	1. - Sustainable and clean environment through cooperation
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Information on number of received project applications under Priority 1 and number of project applications which were assessed in the quality assessment is provided in section 3.1 "Overview of the implementation".

Priority axis	2. - Support to labour mobility and employment
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Information on number of received project applications under Priority 2 during the 1st Call for Proposals and number of project applications which were assessed in the quality assessment is provided in section 3.1 "Overview of the implementation".

As regards the direct award project, the MA maintained communication with State Joint Stock Company "Latvijas Valsts Ceļi" and followed the status of technical documentation preparation in order to take actions, if needed, for ensuring timely achievement of output indicator and financing absorption.

Priority axis	3. - Social inclusion as a precondition of territorial development
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Information on number of received project applications under Priority 3 and number of project applications which were assessed in the quality assessment is provided in section 3.1 "Overview of the implementation".

Priority axis	4. - Improved quality of living through efficient public services and administration
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Information on number of received project applications under Priority 4 and number of project applications which were assessed in the quality assessment is provided in section

### 3.1 "Overview of the implementation".

Priority axis

TA - Technical assistance

In addition to information provided in point 2.1 and 2.2 of section 2, section 3, section 5 and section 10.1, the following activities were carried out to fulfil the functions of the MA, JS, CA and AA:

1. the Task force comprising members of MA, NA of Lithuania and NA of Latvia was set up and was actively working for the elaboration of the Programme Manual for the 1st Call for Proposals along with other documents constituting Applicant pack;
2. on 6 April 2016 in Riga, Latvia was organised the first meeting of the Group of Auditors;
3. documentation necessary for Programme implementation was prepared (DMCS, the order on MA, AA and JS functions and signature rights, procedures regarding office rent and monthly fees and Technical Assistance budget, Communication Strategy, Methodology on calculation of discounted net revenue and net revenue, Procedure on Organization of Assessment Procedure of Project Applications for Interreg V-A Latvia–Lithuania Programme 2014–2020, Interreg V-A Latvia–Lithuania Programme 2014–2020 Risk management procedure, Procedure for Drawing up and Submitting Payment Applications to the Commission for Interreg V-A Latvia–Lithuania Programme 2014–2020, order On constitution of the Risk Management Group, Rules of procedure of the Group of Auditors, Decision note on setting up the Group of Auditors, Audit Strategy, as well as draft Evaluation plan);
4. the maintenance of the eMS, as well as eMS appropriate functioning during the 1st Call for Proposals was ensured. New contract for eMS installation and maintenance was signed with service provider. The reconciliation of project application form with the eMS and configuration of the eMS was ensured.
5. In November 2016 in Panevezys, Lithuania was organised MA's meeting with NA of Lithuania and NA of Latvia to discuss proposed amendments in Work Plan 2016, draft Work Plan 2017, proposal for Technical Assistance budget 2017, as well as other issues. Afterwards the prepared Technical Assistance budget for 2017 and indicative Technical Assistance budget for 2016 - 2022 along with the amendments in Work Plan 2016 and Work Plan 2017 were sent to the MS for approval via written procedure. Aforementioned documents were approved by the MC in December 2016.
6. In the beginning of 2016 was finalised elaboration of Programme's webpage [www.latlit.eu](http://www.latlit.eu) – the design sketches were prepared and harmonized, the information for webpage content was prepared, the webpage was tested (more information on communication and publicity activities is provided in section 10.2).

Taking into account that in 2016 the 1st Call for Proposals was launched, 158 project applications were received, assessed and till the end of 2016 assessment results were sent to the MC, the MA was successfully designated, the operation of eMS was ensured, as well as the elaboration of new Programme webpage [www.latlit.eu](http://www.latlit.eu) was ensured, it can be concluded that the Technical Assistance budget in 2016 was used appropriately to

ensure successful fulfilment of MA, JS, CA and AA functions.



**9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations

As within Programme are not foreseen that any specific actions will be taken for promoting equality between men and women and promote non - discrimination, during 2016 particular activities with emphasis on promoting these principles were not performed.

However, both principles are directly integrated into project application form template and project Lead Partners, when preparing project applications, had to indicate how their projects contribute to these principles by selecting positive, neutral or negative contribution, as well as by describing the way of contribution in more detail.

In accordance with project application quality assessment criteria, described in the Programme Manual for the 1st Call for Proposals, all project applications going through quality assessment were assessed by checking if project makes a positive or neutral contribution to equality between men and women, as well as to equal opportunity and non-discrimination. Negative contribution to both aforementioned principles would negatively influence the total scoring of quality assessment criteria "Project context (relevance and strategy), and cooperation character".

It is expected that the most obvious contribution to both principles will be made by projects implemented under priority 2 "Support to labour mobility and employment" and priority 3 "Social inclusion as precondition to territorial development".

As till the end of 2016 projects were not approved, more information about Programme's contribution to both principles with most outstanding project examples will be provided in Annual implementation report submitted in 2019.

As regards Programme level, all Programme events, the 1st Call for Proposals, etc. were made equally accessible and information about them equally available for both genders, social groups etc. During Programme events organisation attention was paid if facilities are appropriate for access to people with physical disabilities. All Programme documentation was prepared in a way that it does not contain requirements that would give advantage to certain gender or would discriminate people based on racial or ethnic origin, religion of belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.



### **9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

The principle of sustainable development was taken into account during the preparation of the Programme Manual for the 1st call for Proposals by including it into the description of investment priorities and indicative activities that can be supported. This principle is also directly integrated into the project application form template and project Lead Partners, when preparing project applications, had to indicate how their projects contribute to this principle by selecting positive, neutral or negative contribution and describing the way of contribution in more detail.

In accordance with project application quality assessment criteria described in the Programme Manual for the 1st Call for Proposals, all project applications going through quality assessment were assessed against strategic criteria "Project context (relevance and strategy), and cooperation character", which foresaw evaluation if "The project makes a positive or neutral contribution to the Programme horizontal principles: sustainable development, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, equality between men and women" and also if "The project clearly explains its contribution to a wider strategy on one or more policy levels (EU/national/regional/EUBSR)". Negative contribution to sustainable development principle would negatively influence the total scoring of criteria "Project context (relevance and strategy), and cooperation character".

Besides, for project applications within which were planned reconstruction works, the external experts assessed if documentation regarding reconstruction works impact on environment is submitted, if preparation of such documentation was foreseen according to the national requirements.

Taking into account mentioned above, all project applications which passed quality assessment have direct contribution and positive impact on sustainable development principle.

Afterwards, when projects will be selected for funding and approved, their contribution to the sustainable development principle will be monitored (for example, by using information about status of project activities from consolidated project reports) by the Programme. It is expected that the most obvious contribution to this principle will be made by projects implemented under priority 1 "Sustainable and clean environment through cooperation".

From the project applications, submitted during the 1st Call for Proposals, it is visible that authorities dealing with environmental issues are interested in projects implementation and are participating as Lead Partners or Project Partners.

The involvement of environmental authorities was ensured also through National sub-committees, established in Latvia and Lithuania to support work of the relevant NAs or/and members of the MC, by providing consultations regarding strategic relevance and possible overlapping risks of the projects submitted within the Programme before the MC second meeting.

Taking into account that till the end of 2016 projects were not approved, more information about Programme's contribution to the sustainable development principle with most outstanding project examples will be provided in Annual implementation report submitted in 2019.

#### 9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Calculated amount of support to be used for climate change objectives based on the cumulative financial data by category of intervention in Table 7

<b>Priority axis</b>	<b>Amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)</b>	<b>Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Within the Programme a specific climate change objective is not foreseen, however, taking into account Programme priorities and activities which support is foreseen under them, it is expected that projects approved under priority 1 "Sustainable and clean environment through cooperation" will positively tackle climate change issues.

### **9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)**

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

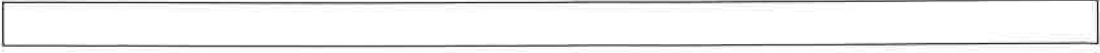
The MC is formed in line with provisions of Article 48 of the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, thematic focus of the Programme and previous cooperation during Programme preparation. The members of the MC were nominated by the responsible NA for each Member State and comprises representatives from both - the national and regional level, as well as social-economic partners, such as Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Latvia), Southern Latgale NGO Support Centre (Latvia) and Regional Development Councils of Lithuania and NGO Association of Local Authorities (Lithuania). All MC members have an active role in joint MC discussions. The involvement of national, regional and local authorities, economic, social partners and relevant bodies representing civil society in the implementation of the Programme is of great importance. Therefore, partnership principle is ensured using multiple involvement of partners. Also, by the establishing of ETC Committee with representatives from the bodies representing civil society (Council of Nongovernmental Organizations etc.) for the purposes set in the Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in Lithuania and National sub-committee in Latvia.

Taking into account that continuity between the Programme's preparation, implementation and monitoring should be ensured, and that in the MC should be involved the same partners which were involved in the Programme's preparation, aforementioned partners are involved into MC as socio-economic partners. They were involved in the decision making process and in wide consultations of project ideas concepts and thus the MC can satisfy itself that the decisions taken by MC meet the needs of the society of the Programme area.

The first meeting of the MC took place on 3 - 4 March 2016 in Riga, Latvia and was chaired by the head of the Latvian NA. In the meeting participated 17 MC members, 16 advisers, as well as 1 observer. During the meeting all MC members, advisers and observer introduced themselves and had an opportunity to establish contacts with other MC members and advisers for securing further successful cooperation during the implementation and monitoring of Programme. In the meeting was approved the main document describing MC responsibilities, composition, organisation and decision making - "Rules of the Procedure of the Monitoring Committee".

During 2016 no more MC meetings were organised, but MC actively participated in the Programme implementation and monitoring process by taking decisions during MC written procedures. According to the "Rules of the Procedure of the Monitoring Committee", during written procedures representatives of the National Authorities provided one consolidated opinion from each national delegation.

The Programme bodies ensured wide dissemination of the information on the work of the MC - the list of MC decisions and MC members, as well as approved documentation were published in the Programme webpage [www.latlit.eu](http://www.latlit.eu) and/or Programme facebook account.



## **10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013**

### **10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations**

The draft Evaluation Plan was prepared by the MA in the 4th quarter of 2016 in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (in particular Preamble 54; Article 56; Article 110; Article 114), Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 (including Preamble 26 and Article 14), European Commission guidance documents (The programming Period 2014-2020. Guidance Document on Monitoring and Evaluation. European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund, Concepts and Recommendations; The programming Period 2014-2020. Monitoring and Evaluation of European Cohesion Policy. European Regional Development, European Social Fund and Cohesion Fund. Guidance Document on Evaluation Plans. Terms of References for Impact Evaluations. Guidance on Quality Management of External Evaluations), as well as taking into account what information and data will be needed for MA to monitor and assess Programme implementation progress, as well as for identification of necessary improvements in the Programme implementation, monitoring and control process in order to achieve Programme objective, indicators, etc.

On 30 November 2016 the draft Evaluation Plan was sent to the MC via written procedure with a request to provide MC initial opinion and comments. It was planned that the MA would update the draft Evaluation Plan in accordance with the received comments and during the MC second meeting would present the updated version of Evaluation Plan along with the received comments. The MC would discuss the updated Evaluation Plan and comments, and in case it would have no objections - the Evaluation Plan would be approved during the second MC meeting.

During the written procedure valuable comments on necessary improvements were received from both NAs and the EC. The MA took into account almost all comments by introducing respective corrections in the draft Evaluation Plan. Regarding some comments the MA decided to provide explanations during the MC second meeting why these comments are considered as not relevant and open floor for discussions if needed.

Taking into account Programme implementation stage, the MA did not identify themes which should be evaluated during 2016. Rather the MA focused on identifying evaluations necessary during the next years of Programme implementation, sources for data collection, as well as gained knowledge by participating in relevant trainings.



## 10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

The draft Communication Strategy was prepared by the MA in accordance with Article 115 point 1 (a) and Article 116 of the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. The rules for the technical characteristics of information and communication measures of the Programme are in line with Article 3, Article 4 and Article 5 of the Regulation (EU) No 821/2014. During Communication Strategy elaboration also the previous experience from the implementation of the Latvia - Lithuania Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007 - 2013 Communication Plan was taken into account.

The draft Communication Strategy was sent to the MC for approval via written procedure on 30 May 2016. Comments were received from both Member States delegations and were taken into account by introducing respective corrections. The Communication Strategy was approved by the MC on 30 June 2016.

As in the spring of 2016 was launched the 1st Call for Proposals, in 2016 the main target group for communication activities was potential applicants (roughly - 80%). In order to reach potential applicants and disseminate information about the Programme, the application process and the assessment process of projects applications, number of activities were carried out (information provided also in table 2 under priority axis "TA – Technical assistance"):

1. information was provided in the Programme Launch Event, which took place in Liepāja, Latvia on 11 May 2016 and gathered big attention and high level participants from both MS;
2. 8 information seminars for potential project partners in Latvia and Lithuania were organised;
3. on the day to day bases individual consultations were provided by employees working with JS and MA functions;
4. information regularly was published and updated in the Programme webpage [www.latlit.eu](http://www.latlit.eu) and facebook account. During 2016 Programme webpage was used by 7630 users and was visited 83 345 times. Programme's facebook account in the end of 2016 had almost 500 followers.
5. information published in the webpage of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Latvia and the webpage of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania [www.esbendradarbiavimas.lt](http://www.esbendradarbiavimas.lt).
6. Along with information published in the Programme webpage [www.latlit.eu](http://www.latlit.eu) and facebook account, general public about Programme was informed (roughly - 15%) during European Cooperation Day and Balts Unity Day Celebration:
  - the European Cooperation day was organised together with Interreg Central Baltic Programme and URBACT on 21 September 2016 in Iecava Music and art school, Latvia. During it in interactive way through workshops, quiz and presentation, younger generation was informed about Programme and added value of cooperation.
  - Balts Unity Day Celebration took place on 24 September 2016 in Liepāja, Latvia. Within its framework was organised a networking event "netWORKING" for bringing together organisations and individual professionals from Latvia and Lithuania involved in culture, business, non-governmental sector and education and thus help them to find partners for different projects, activities and common measures. During the event the latest information about the Programme was presented. The event was organised jointly by the Liepāja City Council, Ministry of Culture of Republic of Latvia,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Latvia, Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania, other involved partners and was supported by the Programme.

Information about Programme, its priorities, available funding, etc. upon request was prepared and presented to the representatives of the Latvian and Lithuanian governments (roughly - 5%).

In 2016 for information and publicity activities were spent 40 226,10 EUR from Technical Assistance budget, which amounts to around 14% of the Programme Technical Assistance budget allocated for information and publicity activities during the whole 2014 - 2020 programming period.

In order to guide potential applicants about communication requirements, during the preparation phase of project applications, quite detailed information about information and communication requirements was included in the Programme Manual for the 1st Call for Proposals. Taking into account that till the end of 2016 project were not approved, the MA did not organise particular seminars on information and communication issues. Their organisation is planned after projects are approved in 2017.

In addition, in 2017 the MA plans to elaborate Communication guidelines for project partners. These guidelines would contain more extensive description of information and communication requirements, then the provided information in the Programme Manual for the 1st Call for Proposals.

To sum up, as the major information activities organized in 2016 can be mentioned Programme Launch event and information seminars for potential applicants, both of which gathered big number of participants and resulted in 158 submitted project applications.

Programme Launch event along with information seminars for potential applicants and other information and communication activities contributed to the raising awareness about Programme and EU provided support.

**11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1299/2013)**

**11.1 Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme**

As till the end of 2016 projects of the 1st Call for Proposals were not approved and their implementation was not started, there is no information to be provided at this Programme implementation stage.

## **11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF**

In order to reinforce the capacity of potential applicants for project idea generation, project application preparation and their submission via eMS, in 2016 were organised information seminars for potential applicants. During seminars participants were provided with overall information on Programme (such topics were covered as Programme thematic objectives and investment priorities, possible supported activities, requirements for projects, information on assessment criteria and assessment procedures, information and communication requirements). Presentations were given on financial management issues (eligibility of costs, planning of the project budget) and preparation and submission of the project application form in the eMS. After presentations, potential applicants had an opportunity for individual consultations with employees working with JS functions.

Besides information seminars, guiding documentation for project applicants, as well as frequently asked questions and answers were published in Programme webpage [www.latli.eu](http://www.latli.eu).

Taking into account that project implementation will be started in 2017, organisation of seminars covering issues related with project implementation and reporting are foreseen in 2017.

Efforts were devoted for attracting new project partners – in the Programme webpage [www.latli.eu](http://www.latli.eu) was created partner search section, information about the 1st call for Proposals was widely disseminated in mass media and events/meetings.

As regards Programme management bodies, the employees working with MA, JS, CA and AA functions mainly participated in the trainings provided by Interact (use of the EC developed risk assessment tool Arachne, impact assessment methods and preparation of terms of reference, trainings about eMS, management of Interreg programmes projects), network meetings (CA network meeting and MA network meeting, Interreg communication network), as well as different meetings (Annual meeting of Interreg programmes "Interreg Focused On Results", EC and AA annual meeting, meeting of the ETC programmes AA and Groups of auditors, meeting of the Central Baltic JS and national contact points) or used the opportunity to improve existing knowledge and skills in trainings provided by the Latvian School of Public Administration. After trainings the new information was shared and discussed with other colleagues, thus ensuring that also their competence improved.

### 11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, recital 19, article 8(3)(d) on the "Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes" and article 14(4) 2nd subparagraph (c) "Implementation reports", this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

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- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)

## EUSBSR

**Objective(s), policy area(s) and horizontal action(s) that the programme is relevant to:**

	<b>Objectives</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 - Save the Sea
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 - Connect the Region
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Increase Prosperity
	<b>Policy areas</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.1 - Bioeconomy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.2 - Culture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.3 - Education
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.4 - Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.5 - Hazards
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.6 - Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.7 - Innovation
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.8 - Nutri
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.9 - Safe
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.10 - Secure
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.11 - Ship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.12 - Tourism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.13 - Transport
	<b>Horizontal actions</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	5.1 - Capacity
<input type="checkbox"/>	5.2 - Climate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5.3 - Neighbours
<input type="checkbox"/>	5.4 - Spatial planning

**Actions or mechanisms used to better link the programme with the EUSBSR**

**A. Are macro-regional coordinators (mainly National Coordinators, Policy Area Coordinators, Horizontal Action Coordinators, or members of the Steering Committees/Coordination Groups) participating in the Monitoring Committee of the programme?**

Yes  No

**B. In selection criteria, have extra points been attributed to specific measures supporting the EUSBSR?**

Yes  No

**C. Has the programme invested EU funds in the EUSBSR?**

Yes  No

Does your programme plan to invest in the EUSBSR in the future? Please elaborate (1 specific sentence)

As the Programme strategy reflects objectives of EUSBSR, the investments in EUSBSR will be made through projects as far as possible. The MA will assess the contracted projects, prepare a list of projects that possibly could contribute to the EUSBSR and will contact respective Policy Area Coordinator for clarifying which projects can be awarded with flagship status for their further promotion on Programme level. For highlighting Programme's contribution to the EUSBSR and facilitating visibility of projects' results outside Programme territory, the MA will invite Lead partners to use this flagship status for project communication activities.

**D. Obtained results in relation to the EUSBSR (n.a. for 2016)**

As the 1st Call for Proposals was launched in 2016, till the end of 2016 there were no results which could be reported.

**E. Does the programme address the EUSBSR sub-objectives (with corresponding to specific targets and indicators) as stated in the "EUSBSR Action Plan"? (Please specify the target and the indicator)**

Within the Programme is not foreseen addressing specific EUSBSR sub - objectives.

#### **11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation**

As till the end of 2016 projects of the 1st Call for Proposals were not approved and their implementation was not started, there is no information to be provided at this Programme implementation stage.



### **13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

As till the end of 2016 projects of the 1st Call for Proposals were not approved and their implementation was not started, there is no information to be provided at this Programme implementation stage.

**14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

N/A
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