



Interreg Latvija-Lietuva

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

Annual Implementation Report 2016

CITIZEN`S SUMMARY

Background

The Interreg V-A Latvia – Lithuania Programme 2014 – 2020 was approved by the European Commission on 30 November 2015 and it continues cooperation started during the Latvia – Lithuania Cross Border Cooperation Programme under European Territorial Cooperation Objective 2007– 2013.

The objective of the Programme is to contribute to the sustainable and cohesive socioeconomic development of the Programme regions by helping to make them more competitive and attractive for living, working and visiting.

The Programme area includes Kurzeme, Zemgale and Latgale in Latvia and Klaipėda, Telšiai, Šiauliai, Panevėžys, Utena and Kaunas in Lithuania.



Within Programme 51,6 million ERDF co-financing is available for project implementation under 4 priorities:



Sustainable and clean environment



Employment and labour mobility



Social inclusion



Efficient public services

2016 highlights

The 1st meeting of the Monitoring Committee (MC) took place on 3 - 4 March 2016 in Riga, Latvia. During it along with discussions and decisions on Programme management issues was presented and discussed timeline for launching the 1st Call for Proposals and documents for applying (draft of the Programme Manual, template for Subsidy contract, etc.).

Following discussions in the MC meeting, documents for applying were corrected, approved by the MC and on 29 April 2016 the 1st Call for Proposals was launched. Information on the launched 1st Call for Proposals was widely publicized on the Programme's homepage www.latlit.eu, during Programme's launch event on 11 May 2016 in Liepāja, Latvia and 8 information seminars for potential applicants which were organised in Latvia and Lithuania. Also Programme's Facebook account and webpages of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia and Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania were used for informing about the 1st Call for Proposals. On day to day basis consultations for potential project partners were provided by the Joint Secretariat.

Preparation of project applications and their submission was organised via Electronic Monitoring System (eMS). Thus during the whole duration of the 1st Call for Proposals particular attention and efforts were put on ensuring appropriate

eMS functioning.

In total 158 project applications were received requesting 85,8 million of ERDF co-financing.

Project applications were submitted under all Programme priorities:

1) the biggest interest was in priority 1. "Sustainable and clean environment through cooperation" with 61 project applications;

42 project applications under 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";

14 project applications under specific objective 1.2. "To increase integration and efficiency of environmental resource management";

5 project applications under specific objective 1.3 "To regenerate public areas with environmental problems".

2) under priority 2 "Support to labour mobility and employment" 39 project applications were received:

7 project applications under specific objective 2.1. "To create employment opportunities through entrepreneurship support";

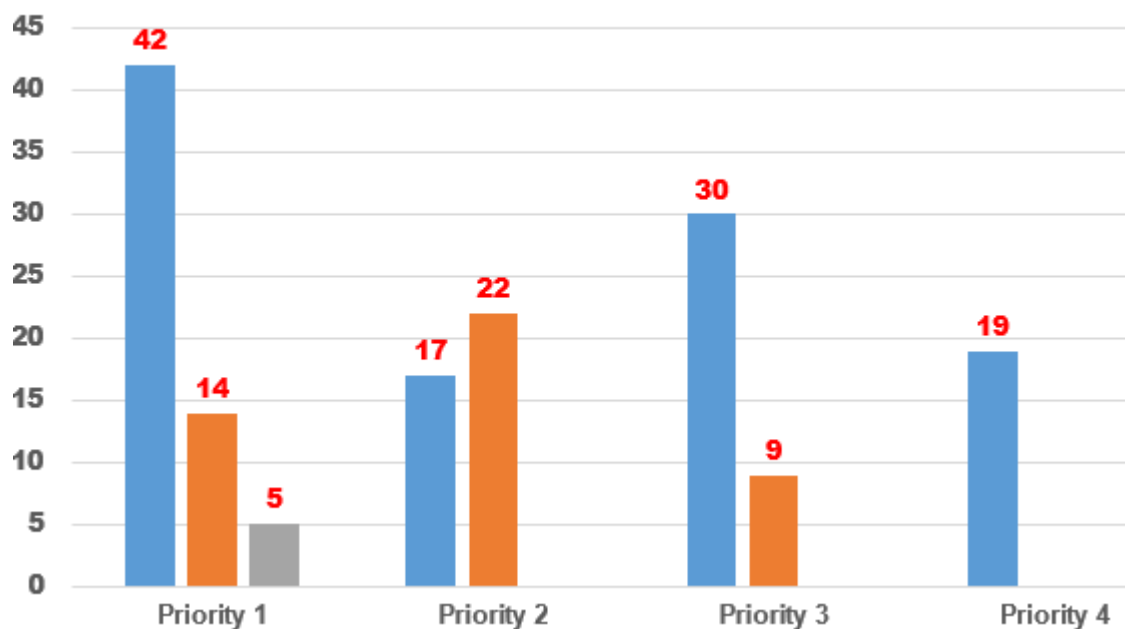
22 project applications under specific objective 2.2 "To increase job opportunities by improving mobility and workforce skills".

3) 39 project applications were received under priority 3 "Social inclusion as a precondition of territorial development": 30 project applications under specific

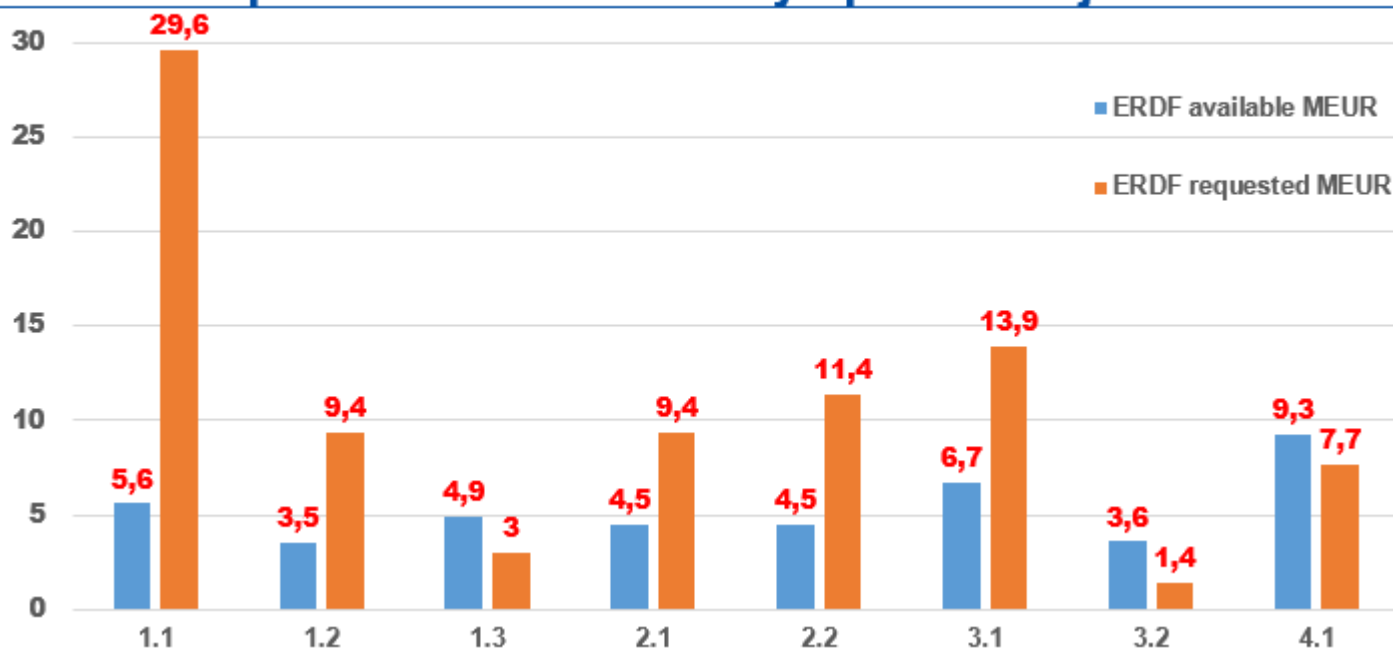
objective 3.1 “To improve accessibility and efficiency of social services”; 9 project applications under specific objective 3.2. “To improve living conditions in deprived communities and territories”.

4) 19 project applications were submitted under priority 4 “Improved quality of living through efficient public services and administration”.

Received applications under priorities



Requested ERDF funds by specific objective



The second half of 2016 was spent mainly for assessing received project applications. As many project applications contained reconstruction works, in the assessment of technical documentation technical experts from

Latvia and Lithuania were involved. Till the end of 2016 all received project applications were assessed and along with assessment results sent to the MC so that it could prepare for projects selection foreseen in the beginning of 2017.



In the beginning of 2016 Programme`s website www.latlit.eu was launched and since then all the latest information regarding Programme implementation issues and events is published there.

Programme's Facebook account is also actively used.

Wide publicity for the Programme was ensured during Balts Unity Day celebration in Liepāja (Latvia) on 16 September 2016 and European Cooperation day celebration in Iecava (Latvia) on 21 September 2016.

All Programme events organised in 2016 gathered large number of participants.

During 2016 significant work was devoted for ensuring the designation of the Programme Managing Authority. The description of the management and control system as well as relevant procedures were prepared and the Managing Authority was successfully designated on 22 November 2016.