

Project activities

The project activities are divided into three major parts following the identified aims:

- Development of capacity of CBC institutions through networking of partners to strengthen institutional capacity by importing expertise and experience.
- Cooperation between public, private and academic sectors in cross-border cooperation. That includes study tours, seminars, and round-tables on various topics relevant for project partners.
- Dissemination of information and knowledge about the cross-border cooperation. Presentations of project results and recommendations are planned through publications of newsletters and development of website.

All project partners are responsible for carrying out implementation of project activities, local coordination and finance management. Project website with all project results and outputs will be maintained by the Lead Partner during the project implementation.

The Lead Partner of the BEN-East project:

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Baltic Euroregional Network -
EAST



norden

Nordic Council of Ministers

BEN-East project

Cross-border cooperation (CBC) is implemented in the Baltic Sea Region by different actors – local and regional authorities, national governments, non-governmental organisations and others. One of the most common instruments implementing this cooperation are cross-border regions or, as they are often called, Euroregions.

Euroregions are usually defined as public institutions established by local and regional authorities who coordinate and implement wide range of cross-border cooperation activities in certain border region.

Functioning of Euroregions enhances cohesion and sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region – in the EU countries and outside the EU including Russia and Belarus.

The Baltic Euroregional Network-East (BEN-East) project is designed to strengthen CBC structures/Euroregions in Russia and Belarus, enabling these countries to become valuable partners for national and international institutions in sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.

The project is expected to result in creation of a strong network of Euroregions/CBC structures actively engaged in sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region. Russian and Belarusian partners will be provided with enhanced and deepened institutional capacity in cross-border cooperation.

Baltic Euroregional Network (BEN) – East Partners:



1. Nordic Council of Ministers Information Office in St. Petersburg;
2. Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania;
3. Nordic Council of Ministers Information Office in Kaliningrad;
4. NGO Tchudskoj project (Pskov region);
5. Administration of Vyborg region municipality (Leningrad region, Russia);
6. Association "Council of Municipalities, Republic of Karelia", Russia (representing Euroregion Karelia);
7. Kaliningrad Regional Duma (representing Euroregion Baltic);
8. Council of Braslav district, Vitebsk region, Belarus (representing Euroregion Country of Lakes);
9. Murmansk regional Board for Youth affairs (representing the Government of Murmansk oblast);
10. Local Ecological Foundation "Euroregion Belovezhskaja Pushcha", Minsk, Belarus;
11. Economy Committee of Grodno region (representing Euroregion Neman, Belarus);
12. Centre of Russian-European Interregional and for Cross-border cooperation, St.Petersburg;
13. Non-commercial partnership Kaliningrad regional Bureau of Euroregion Sesupe (Krasnoznamensk, Kaliningrad region, Russia).

Project aims at

- supporting knowledge and experience exchange about CBC by using potential of the already existing BEN project implemented in the Baltic Sea Region since 2002;
- enhancing so-called "triple Helix" partnership: cooperation between public, private and research sectors, as well as dialogue within each of these sectors;
- making activities of CBC structures/Euroregions in Russia and Belarus more visible, and information about CBC more accessible both for authorities and general public.

Project partners

Partnership of the project covers most of the border regions of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation bordering the European Union in the Baltic Sea Region, and most of Euroregions acting in this area.

BEN-East project partners represent institutions in North-West Russia and Belarus working with CBC on the border with the European Union: local, regional authorities, Euroregions and non-governmental organisations.

National ministries in Russia (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Regional Development) participate in the project implementation and their representatives take part in the project activities.