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Introduction

The external border of the European Union now runs through Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye water basin.

EU enlargement adds an extra dimension to the activities of Peipsi CTC in this transboundary region.

Mission statement

Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation is an international non-profit institute, which works to promote sustainable development and cross-border cooperation in the Lake Peipsi international water basin.

Dear friends,

The entrance of Estonia into the European Union on 1 May 2004 had a tremendous effect on the character of activities that are being implemented by Peipsi CTC in the Lake Peipsi region. The Peipsi CTC mission is aimed at strengthening sustainable development and cross-border cooperation in the Lake Peipsi region by developing civic society, supporting environmental protection, entrepreneurship, cultural heritage and inter-cultural dialogue. Most of the Peipsi CTC activities in 2004 were connected with harmonization of the methodological approaches and procedures across the Estonian – Russian border. For example, within the UNDP/ GEF project “Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin Management Program”, major efforts were concentrated on preparing a transboundary diagnostic analysis for the lake water basin and development of joint approaches towards the joint transboundary water management program. A lot of attention was also paid to the idea of a Peipsi Council/Forum which could be a major multi-stakeholders’ board in the region promoting transboundary cooperation and supporting joint measures and activities. Among new EU projects, where Peipsi CTC participates, is an EU Interreg III B programme project “BIRD” aimed at developing good links between high landscape values on one hand and rural development in regions in the Baltic Sea area.

The network of our international activities extends from EU countries to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan where we have been sharing our unique experience of positive transformation. In autumn 2004, Peipsi CTC was also asked to contribute its input to assist free and democratic elections in Ukraine. Our project manager, Margit Säre, participated as an observer in the Ukraine presidential elections in Dnipropetrovsk.

In the Lake Peipsi region, patterns of economic and social development, organization of border control, environmental protection, gradually change as the new EU regional policies are being implemented on the Western side of the lake area. What are the new risks and opportunities for the region’s economic development and its unique natural environment in this newly changed transboundary political and economic context in the Lake Peipsi area? This is one of the main questions that organizations, such as Peipsi CTC, are trying to answer being in a constant dialogue with multiple stakeholders in the region. This dialogue should be continued and answers should be formulated and put into new joint activities and projects that would help all of us, who live and work in the Lake Peipsi region, to make another step towards the sustainable development in the Lake Peipsi area. With this, on behalf of the Peipsi CTC staff, I would like to thank all of our partners and supporters for their fruitful cooperation during the year 2004.

Gulnara Roll
Peipsi CTC chairwoman



Введение

Дорогие друзья,

Вхождение Эстонии в Европейский Союз 1-го мая 2004. г существенно повлияло на деятельность Центра трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера. Миссия центра продвижение принципов устойчивого развития и трансграничного сотрудничества в бассейне Чудского озера посредством развития гражданского общества и предпринимательства, защиты окружающей среды и культурного наследия, поддержки межкультурного диалога.

Большая часть начинаний центра в 2004 году были связаны с гармонизацией методологических подходов и процедур в эстонско-российском трансграничном регионе. Например, в рамках проекта ПРООН/ГЭФ «Разработка и реализация программы управления бассейном Псковско-Чудского озера» основные усилия были направлены на подготовку диагностического анализа бассейна озера и выработку единых подходов по трансграничной программы водного управления. Большое внимание уделялось Чудскому Совету и Чудскому Форуму – возможным представительским структурам групп по интересам, развивающим трансграничное сотрудничество и совместные начинания. Из новых проектов ЕС, в котором участвует Центр трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера, прежде всего стоит упомянуть проект „BIRD“ программы Интеррег III B, целью которого является устойчивое хозяйствование культурных ландшафтов и развитие сельской жизни в регионе Балтийского моря.

Сеть нашей международной активности распространяется от стран Европейского Союза до Киргизии и Казахстана, где мы передаем опыт положительных преобразований Эстонии. В частности осенью 2004-го года представитель нашего центра Маргит Сяре участвовала в качестве наблюдателя в Днепрпетровске на выборах президента Украины.

Новая региональная политика Европейского Союза на западном берегу Чудского озера постепенно вызовет изменения в социальном и экономическом развитии, в организации пограничного контроля и в охране окружающей среды. Каковы новые риски и возможности экономического развития и уникальной природной среды в контексте недавних изменений в трансграничной политике и экономике? Это один из основных вопросов на которые ищут ответы такие организации как Центр трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера, находясь в постоянном диалоге с представителями разных заинтересованных групп. Диалог должен продолжаться и новые, выгодные для всех жителей и трудящихся региона Чудского озера начинания и проекты должны способствовать устойчивому развитию региона. Благодарю от имени членов и работников Центра трансграничного сотрудничества наших партнеров за плодотворное сотрудничество в 2004-ом году.

Гульнара Ролль

председатель правления

Центра трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера

Наша миссия

Центр трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера - международная некоммерческая организация, деятельность которой направлена на продвижение принципов устойчивого развития и трансграничное сотрудничество в международном бассейне Псковско-Чудского озера.

Meie missioon

Peipsi Koostöö Keskus on mittetulunduslik valitsusväline vabariik, mille eesmärk on rahvusvahelise Peipsi järve piirkonna jätkusuutliku arengu ja piiriülese koostöö toetamine.

Sissejuhatus

Kallid sõbrad,

Eesti ühinemine Euroopa Liiduga 2004. a 1. mail mõjutas oluliselt Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse tegevusi Peipsi järve piirkonnas. Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse missioon on Peipsi järve piirkonna jätkusuutliku arengu ja piiriülese koostöö tugevdamine kodanikuühiskonna ja ettevõtluse arendamise, keskkonna ja kultuuripärandi kaitse ning kultuuride vahelise dialoogi toetamise kaudu. Suur osa Peipsi Koostöö keskuse 2004. aasta ettevõtmistest oli seotud metodoloogiliste lähenemiste ja protseduuride harmoniseerimisega Eesti – Vene piiri regioonis. Näiteks ÜRO Arenguprogrammi ja Maailma Keskkonnafondi toetatud projekti „Peipsi järve veemajandusprogrammi arendamine ja elluviimine“ raames olid põhilised jõupingutused suunatud järve valgala diagnostilise analüüsi ettevalmistamisele ning ühiste seisukohtade väljatöötamisele piiriülese veemajandusprogrammis. Suurt tähelepanu pöörati Peipsi Nõukogule ja Peipsi Foorumile – regiooni huvigruppide esindusstruktuuridele, mis edendavad piiriülest koostööd ja ühiseid ettevõtmisi. Uutest EL projektidest, milles Peipsi Koostöö Keskus osaleb, tuleks eelkõige nimetada Interreg III B programmi projekti „BIRD“, mille eesmärk on väärtuslike kultuurimaastike säästvate majandamisele ning maaelu edendamisele kaasaaitamine Läänemere piirkonnas

Meie rahvusvaheliste tegevuste võrgustik ulatub EL riikidest kuni Kõrgõzstani ja Kazahstanini, kus me anname edasi Eesti positiivse muutmise kogemust. 2004. a sügisel paluti Peipsi Koostöö Keskusel võtta osa vabade ja demokraatlike valimiste korraldamisest Ukrainas. Projektijuht Margit Säre osales Ukrainas, Dnipropetrovskis presidendivalimiste vaatlejana.

Peipsi järve läänekaldal toimiv Euroopa Liidu uus regionaalpoliitika toob järkjärgult kaasa muudatusi sotsiaalses ja majanduslikus arengus, piirikontrolli korraldamises ja keskkonnakaitstes. Millised on Peipsi järve piirkonna majandusliku arengu ja ainulaadse looduskeskkonna uued riskid ja võimalused hiljuti muutunud piiriülese poliitika ja majanduse kontekstis? See on üks põhiküsimusi, millele Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse sarnased organisatsioonid vastust otsivad, olles pidevas dialoogis piirkonna erinevate huvigruppide esindajatega. Dialoog peab jätkuma ning uued, kõigi Peipsi järve piirkonnas elavate ja töötavate inimeste jaoks kasulikud ettevõtmised ja projektid peavad aitama kaasa piirkonna jätkusuutlikule arengule. Täna Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse liikmete ja töötajate nimel meie partnereid ja toetajaid viljaka koostöö eest aastal 2004.

Gulnara Roll

Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse juhataja esinaine

Multilateral Cooperation

Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin Management Program – Half Way Passed

www.peipsi.org/gef

Natalia Alexeeva

Supported by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Peipsi järve veemajandusprogramm

2004. a suvel, kui projekti algusest täitus poolteist aastat, hindas ekspertkomisjon selle elluviimist. Komisjon leidis, et projekt on kulgenud edukalt ning tegevused on ellu viidud vastavuses eesmärkide ja tööplaaniga. Hinnang “hea” anti eelkõige meeskonnast sõltuvate tegevuste sooritusele. Hinnang “rahuldav” anti piiriülesele koostööle, mille edendamise sõltub projekti meeskonnast vaid vähesel määral.

Разработка и реализация плана управления бассейном Псковско- Чудского озера

Летом 2004 года, когда проекту исполнилось полтора года, была проведена промежуточная оценка хода реализации проекта. Экспертная комиссия пришла к выводу, что проект осуществляется успешно, в соответствии с текущим планом и поставленными целями. Ход проекта можно оценить на “удовлетворительно – хорошо”, что говорит о том, что некоторые аспекты выполнения проекта можно оценить на “хорошо” (например, руководство проектом и работа проектной команды), а некоторые - на “удовлетворительно” (например, осуществление трансграничного сотрудничества, которое должно способствовать разработке и реализации Плана управления, и которое находится вне контроля команды, работающей по проекту).

The project “Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin Management Program” has been carried out in the region (both in Estonia and Russia) since January 2003, so more than half of the project lifetime has passed.

The overall objective of the project is to develop and start implementation of a Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin Management Program. This includes practical recommendations for the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye nutrient load reduction and prevention, Public Participation Plan and two feasibility studies on eco-farming and ecotourism in the cross-border regional context.

The Program is needed as a basic for joint decisions and actions in the sphere of transboundary water management for Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye and Narva River basins and as a tool for future investment and measures under the Joint Estonian-Russian Commission on Transboundary Waters, and on the national level.

In order to fulfill this aim, the project implemented a great number of activities combined in three main elements:

- Work aimed at producing a joint Estonian-Russian Management Program (including monitoring activities, subcontracts on Nutrient Load Reduction Strategy and Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, feasibility studies on ecotourism and eco-farming, development of the Terms of References for the Program itself and starting tender procedures etc.)
- Capacity building actions for different groups of stakeholders (including different training sessions, seminars, conferences, roundtables, Small Grants' Programs, creation of the Peipsi museum, equipment purchase etc.)
- Information and education activities plus demonstration projects (including several publications, information exchange and dissemination, support of the Peipsi portal, elaboration of the education program, infrastructure development project in Rāpina etc.)

This summer, at mid-point of the implementation, the project was evaluated in order to provide an overall assessment of the project and give an opportunity to critically assess administrative and technical strategies and issues. The other objective of the evaluation was to give recommendations to improve the potential of the project to achieve expected outcomes and objectives within the project timeframe as well as to provide a list of lessons learned/best practices to be continuously used by this project and other projects to ensure effectiveness and sustainability of the projects.

In general, the Evaluation Team considered the project to be successful and met, or is in the process of meeting, project objectives. The project was classified as ‘satisfactory – good’, which indicated that there are certain aspects of the project implementation that were considered to be well executed or ‘good’: such as the project management and the team undertaking the work and some aspects that were considered to be progressing ‘satisfactorily’: such as the cross-border co-operation leading to the development and implementation of the management plan which are outside the control of the project team.

River Dialogue: Empowerment and Awareness Building in River Basin Management Through Focus Groups and Citizens' Juries

Margit Säre, Kati Kangur

Supported by European Commission Fifth Framework Program

www.riverdialogue.org

River Dialogue was an international research project implemented in 2003-2004. The project was aimed at identifying the best approaches for increasing public participation in the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. Public participation has gained wide recognition on different levels of governance as a key principle for water management.

The project tested practically two specific participatory methods of citizens' involvement – Focus Groups and Citizens' Juries in three regions of Europe: in Motala Ström region in Sweden, the IJsselmeer basin in the Netherlands and in the Emajõgi River region in Estonia. Our partners in the project were Linköping University and the Free University of Amsterdam.

The Focus Groups and Citizens' Juries were organized in three case study regions. The Estonian Citizens' Jury "Water transport on River Emajõgi in the Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve. What would be the compromise between the interests of environmentalists, entrepreneurs and local inhabitants?", was held in November 2003 and the Jury report was disseminated to all relevant authorities and stakeholders. Both Focus Groups and Citizens' Juries proved to be appropriate methods to be used in increased public involvement in water management in Estonia.

Based on the Focus Groups' and Citizens' Juries' results, the practical guidance documents on organizing these public participation methods were developed and a report "A comparative analysis of the three Citizens' Juries" was published.

Also the River Dialogue Handbook was prepared to disseminate the experiences of using the Focus Group and Citizen Juries' methods in enhancing public participation in the river basin management. The handbook gives an overview on the theoretical approaches as well as practical use of Focus Groups and Citizens' Juries in three socio-economically differing river areas: Emajõgi River, IJsselmeer and Motala Ström.

Jõgedele dialoog

Rahvusvahelise projekti, milles osalesid Eesti, Madalmaade ja Rootsi teadlased, eesmärgiks oli uurida uusi efektiivseid meetodeid avalikkuse kaasamiseks veemajandus-alaste otsuste tegemisele. Uuritavad meetodid olid fookusgrupi intervjuu ja kodanikepaneel ning mõlemad osutusid Eesti tingimustes sobilikeks. Läbiviidud fookusgrupi intervjuude ja kodanikepaneeli tulemustele tuginedes koostati nii praktiline juhendmaterjal nende meetodite kasutamiseks kui ka kolme riigi uuringute võrdlev analüüs.

Диалог рек

Целью исследовательского международного проекта, в котором участвовали эстонские, шведские и нидерландские ученые, являлось определение новых эффективных методов привлечения общественности к решению комплекса проблем, прежде всего для осуществления Рамочной директивы водной политики Евросоюза. Исследуемыми методами являлись интервью с фокусными группами и гражданская дискуссия. Оба приема оказались приемлемыми в эстонских условиях. Основываясь на результатах, как фокусных групп, так и гражданских дискуссий было составлено руководство для использования этих методов и сравнительный анализ проведенных исследований в трех государствах.





Public Participation in Water Management in Eastern Baltic Sea States

www.riverdialogue.org/participation

Margit Säre

Supported by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the US Embassy

Avalikkuse kaasamine Läänemere idakaldal

Septembris 2004 toimunud rahvusvaheline seminar tõi kokku Eesti, Läti, Leedu, Poola ja Looe-Venemaa veemajandusspetsialiste, kes arutasid EL Veepoliitika raamdirektiivi täitmist, probleeme ja väljakutseid Läänemere idaosa riikides. Projekti raames korraldati ka Peipsi järve veemajandusprogrammi, valgala veevarustust ja jäätmekäitlust käsitlevaid koolitusi ning koostati Läänemere idakalda riikide avalikkuse kaasamise kogemusi ning häid näiteid kajastav aruanne.

Привлечение общественности на восточном берегу Балтийского моря

В сентябре 2004 года на международном семинаре собрались специалисты по водному хозяйству из Эстонии, Латвии, Литвы, Польши и Северо-Запада России. Они обсуждали новые проблемы и вызовы связанные с выполнением Водной рамочной директивы ЕС. В рамках проекта также были проведены тренинги касающиеся плана управления бассейном Псковско-Чудского озера, водоснабжения бассейна и переработки отходов. Был составлен отчет об опыте привлечения общественности с включением наиболее значимых примеров этой сферы деятельности.

In January 2004, the Peipsi CTC project manager Margit Säre was elected to lead the Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE) Public Participation Task Force in the Eastern Baltic Sea region. Public participation has gained wide recognition on different levels of governance as a key principle for water management and thus a thematic Task Force was created, aiming at contributing to increased public participation in river basin management planning.

The Task Force activities in 2004 included several seminars focusing on the Lake Peipsi basin management plan and the public water supply and sewerage development plans and preparation of a report reflecting the present status and best practices for public participation in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The special project website - www.riverdialogue.org/participation - was also launched.

The most outstanding event of the project was an international seminar "Water Management Planning in the Eastern Baltic Sea States", which took place on 20-22 September in Taagepera, Estonia and brought together 40 water management specialists from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and North-West Russia.

The seminar was focused to discuss the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in Baltic Sea countries – its problems and challenges in different countries.

The seminar was opened by senior officials from the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish Ministries of the Environment. The main topics under discussion were: water monitoring and classification of water bodies; impact from agriculture on water quality and water ecosystems; public involvement in the process of planning of water management etc.

The Global Water Partnership was established in 1996 to endorse the sustainable management of water resources.


River Dialogue



Support for Participatory Water Management of the Transboundary Talas and Chu Rivers in the Kyrgyzstan-Kazakhstan Border Region

Margit Säre, Kati Kangur

Supported by the Development Support Program of the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Organization for Security and Cooperation of Europe (OSCE)

www.talaschu.org

Experience regarding the management issues of international cooperation and public participation has been shared with the colleagues from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Assistance was provided in compiling the website of the Chu and Talas Rivers Bilateral Commission and publishing printed materials introducing the activities of the Commission.

A study trip to Estonia was organized for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan colleagues in June 2004. Project partners from Central Asia also had an opportunity to participate in the international seminar "UN ECE Transboundary Water Convention and the EU Water Framework Directive – Implementation Through Participatory Approaches in Europe and NIS Countries" which was held in Tartu on June 16, 2004. The main focus of the discussions was transboundary water management and public participation in the border regions of transition countries.

In order to identify the major stakeholders and their needs in the transboundary water management of Talas and Chu Rivers, focus groups interviews were carried out in the region, in October 2004. The focus groups interviews with local government officials, water users associations and NGO representatives as well as ecologists, were conducted under Peipsi CTC methodological guidance.

Analysis of the focus groups interviews showed that the major concerns of the local stakeholders were the water scarcity and ineffective management of water resources. It appeared that focus groups interviews were a congenial method for enhancing the participation of members of the communitarian societies of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The final conference of the project will be held in spring 2005 in Kazakhstan.

The more coordinated governance of transboundary water bodies, enhancing cooperation between the different organizations of the region, is of extreme importance, considering the significance of water in this waterless region.

With the help of the international community, intergovernmental agreement for the governance of the Chu and Talas rivers was concluded between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in 2000. Hopefully, in the beginning of 2005, the Bilateral Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic on Interstate Use of Water Facilities on the rivers Chu and Talas will be established.



Toetus avalikkust kaasava veemajanduse arengule Kesk-Aasias

Projekt keskendub avalikkuse kaasamise ja rahvusvahelise koostöö korraldamise kogemuste jagamisele Kõrgõzstanis ja Kasahstanis. Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse abiga valmisid Chu ja Talassi jõe ühiskomisjoni kodulehekülj ning mitmed trükised. Kesk-Aasia kolleegid käisid Eestis õppereisil ning osalesid ka Tartus toimunud rahvusvahelisel veemajandusalasel seminaril. Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse nõustamisel viidi Chu ja Talassi jõe piirkonnas läbi fookusgrupi intervjuud, mis võimaldasid välja selgitada kohalikke huvigruppe ja nende vajadusi. Projekti lõppkonverents toimub 2005. a kevadel Kazahstanis.

Поддержка вовлечения общественности в решение вопросов управления водными ресурсами в Средней Азии.

Проект направлен на передачу опыта по привлечению общественности и организации международного сотрудничества в Киргизии и Казахстане. С помощью специалистов из Центра трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера были подготовлены вебстраничка Совместной комиссии по рекам Чу и Талас и несколько брошюр. Коллеги из Средней Азии побывали на учебной экскурсии в Эстонии и принимали участие в международном семинаре посвященном водному хозяйству. Основываясь на методике, выработанной в Центре трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера, были проведены интервью с фокусными группами для выяснения местных заинтересованных групп и их нужд. Финалом проекта будет международная конференция проводимая в Казахстане весной 2005-го года.

NATO/CCMS Pilot Study “Integrated Water Management” Workshop in Värskas

Gulnara Roll

Supported by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office; the Italian Embassy for Belgium, Luxembourg and NATO; Inter-university Centre for Research on Environmental Monitoring (CIMA) and Effects of North Atlantic Climate Variability on the Barents Sea Ecosystem (ECOBE), an Ecosystem Management Research Group, Department of Biology and Chair of Integrated Water Management, Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Antwerpen.

Integreeritud veemajanduse seminar Värskas

Peipsi Koostöö Keskus on 2002. aastast osalenud NATO/CCMS integreeritud veemajandus-alases pilootuuringus, mille põhieesmärk on erinevates riikides, regioonides ja valgalades omandatud veemajandusalaste kogemuste ja teadmiste vahetamine.

Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse ülesanne selles projektis oli Peipsi järve valgala uuringu- ja majandamisprojektide käigus saadud teadmiste edasiandmine.

2004. a juunis korraldas Peipsi Koostöö Keskus Värskas seminari, millest võtsid osa erinevate maade teadlased ja veespetsialistid.

Семинар по интегрированному управлению водными ресурсами в Вярска

ЦТС озера с 2002 года участвовал в пилотном исследовании по интегрированному управлению водными ресурсами, целью которого является обмен опытом и знаниями, накопленными в разных странах, регионах и водных бассейнах. Задачей ЦТС в проекте является передача знаний, накопленных в ходе исследовательских и экономических проектов в бассейне Чудского озера. В июне 2004 года ЦТС организовал семинар в Вярска в котором принимали участие ученые и специалисты по воде разных стран.

From November 2002, Peipsi CTC participated in a pilot study “Integrated Water Management” launched by NATO/Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS). The main objective of the pilot study was exchanging and combining expertise in water system research. Peipsi CTC is involved in the pilot study with an aim to share information and knowledge obtained within implemented earlier transboundary water research and management projects in the Lake Peipsi water basin, such as MANTRA East (please see www.mantraeast.org), River Dialogue (www.riverdialogue.org) and many others. Scientists and stakeholders from many countries, including the USA, Canada, Africa, Europe, New Independent States of the former Soviet Union are involved in this pilot study, which allows sharing and exchanging diverse experiences in managing water resources in different regions in the world, in a wide variety of conditions in the different types of water basins.

In June 2004, Peipsi CTC organised a workshop that was a third workshop within this pilot study. The workshop was held in Värskas, Estonia, and brought together about 40 participants from different countries – participants in the NATO/CCMS pilot study “Integrated Water Management”. The next workshop of the project will take place in Portugal in March 2005.

“*The particular region has a great long-term development potential, particularly in the field of tourism and entrepreneurship. In cooperation with the Minister of Population and Ethnic Affairs, the County Governors of the four counties bordering Lake Peipsi and the representatives of the Local Government Associations, an agreement has been made to convene a round-table for the development issues of the Lake Peipsi region, by involving other relevant institutions, in order to determine the priority domains that would need additional support from the state.*”

Jaan Õunapuu
Estonian Minister of Regional Affairs

Democratic e-Management in Narva

Jane Susi, Erkki Vedder

Supported by EU LIFE-Environment Program

The project “e-Community” was initiated by the Department of Architecture and City Planning of Narva City Government.

During the course of the project “e-Community” there has been built a spatial Internet-based planning system, unprecedented in Europe. The system enables the town government to adopt decisions on the basis of real-time information; constantly provides the citizens with public data; facilitates the conducting of collective decisions (incl. referenda) on the Internet and opens Narva to the external world. During the course of the project and by utilizing this system, Narva Town Government devises new solutions for the problems of spatial planning.

Following the successful pilot project in Narva, the system should also involve other local government units in Estonia. Narva and Estonia, taking advantage of their smallness and flexibility, once again appear to be the trend-makers in Europe where it would be similarly possible to build up virtual future towns and e-communities on the basis of the local project.

During the year 2004, Peipsi CTC continued to research the needs of Narva in order to adapt the system to the specifics of this border town. A group interview with possible future users of the system was organized in January (in continuation of the three organized a year before). Another set of interviews with Narva city government officials was conducted in August.

During 2004, Peipsi CTC also began to prepare the promotional materials of the system. The e-Community logo and system handbooks, both for administrators and system users were developed.

In the last stage of the project, Peipsi CTC will mostly deal with promotion of the system in Narva Municipality.

The project lasts for three years and includes the following partners: Hendrikson & Ko and Peipsi CTC (Estonia), Industrial Development and Education Centre - IDEC (Greece), Infinity (Hungary), Network Models (United Kingdom) and Sustainable Europe Research Institution (Austria).

www.narvaplanning.ee/e-com

Narva e-kogukond

Projekti tulemusena valmis internetis funktsioneeriv ruumilise planeerimise süsteem. See tähendab, et internetis on kättesaadav kogu Narva detailplaneering, nii olemasolev kui planeeritav puu, tänav või hoone. Tegemist on innovaatilise pilootprojektiga, mille põhjal tehakse järeltõlge meetodi sobivuse kohta ka teiste riikide ja linnade jaoks. Projektis osaleb kuus partnerit ning Peipsi Koostöö Keskus on kaasatud kui avalikkuse kaasamise ekspert. Möödunud aastal jätkas Peipsi Koostöö Keskus Narva linna vajaduste uuringut ja viis läbi vastavad intervjuud.

Jätkati ka promomaterjalide ettevalmistamist – valmisid logo ja süsteemi kasutusjuhend.

Информационные технологии в управлении городом Нарвы

Проект предусматривает завершение функционирующей в *Интернете* системы пространственного планирования. Это означает, что в будущем вся детальная планировка Нарвы будет представлена в Интернетe. Это - инновационный пилот-проект, на основе которого выносятся выводы о пригодности метода и для других стран и городов. В проекте участвуют шесть партнеров. ЦТС привлечен к участию в качестве эксперта по вовлечению общественности. В 2004 году ЦТС осуществил исследование потребностей города и провел соответствующие интервью. Была продолжена подготовка информативных материалов. Изготовлены логотип и руководство по эксплуатации системы.

 **eKogukond**
demokraatlik linnaplaneerimine
www.ecommunity.narva.ee

 **eCommunity**
democratic urban planning
www.ecommunity.narva.ee

Reconfiguring the External Boundaries of Europe – Policies, Practices, Perceptions

www.exlinea.org

Margit Säre

Supported by the EU 5th Framework Program

Piiriuuring EXLINEA

Projekti raames uuritakse piiriülese koostöö protsesse ja vorme. Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse põhiroll kaheksa osalisega koostööprojekti raames on teabe edastamine. Pidevalt värskendatakse projekti kodulehekülge ning sadadele aadressaatidele saadetakse meililisti kaudu infot.

2004. aastal ilmus ka järjekordne uudiskiri, mis annab ülevaate Euroopa Komisjoni piiri- ja Euroopa laienemise-alasest poliitikast, ajakirjanduse reaktsioonidest EL laienemisele, olukorrast Ukrainas ning infot uute raamatute, konverentside ja koolituste kohta. Uudiskiri on kättesaadav ka koduleheküljel.

Исследование проблематики приграничных регионов

В рамках проекта исследуются процессы и формы трансграничного сотрудничества. Основной ролью ЦТС в проекте, в котором участвуют восемь партнеров, является передача информации. Постоянно обновляется веб-страница и сотням адресатам высылаются сообщения по электронной рассылке. В 2004 году был издан очередной информационный бюллетень, в котором имеется обзор политики Европейской Комиссии по границам и расширению ЕС, о ситуации на Украине; информация о новых книгах, конференциях и тренингах. Бюллетень новостей доступен также на веб-странице ЦТС.

The project studies cross-border interaction processes and patterns as well as various forms of co-operation practices in following regions: Estonian-Russian, Finnish-Russian, Polish-Ukrainian, Austrian-Hungarian, Hungarian-Ukrainian-Romanian, Moldavian-Romanian and Albanian-Macedonian-Bulgarian-Greek border areas. The case studies serve to illustrate the conflicting challenges that the European Union's border policies will face with the enlargement process.

Peipsi CTC is participating in the project together with 8 universities and research institutes from 7 European countries: Tartu University, Estonia; Free University of Berlin, Germany; Nijmegen Centre for Border Research, the Netherlands; Joensuu University, Finland; Center for Regional Studies, Academy of Science, Hungary; University of Thessaly, Greece; University of Warsaw, European Institute for Regional and Local Development, Poland.

Peipsi CTC's main responsibilities in the project are information dissemination, maintaining of the project website and information mailing list (more than 300 addresses) for project participants, experts and researchers.

In 2004, the Project Newsletter No. 3 was published, which gave an overview on the project's progress and reports from each case study region: research of the policy of the European Commission towards the re-bordering of the EU, enlargement and Wider Europe, the perspectives from the EXLINEA project, Ukrainian post-enlargement, press reactions to the EU's move eastwards and information on new books, conferences, summer schools and courses on cross-border cooperation.

The project newsletter is available at: www.exlinea.org



LINES OF EXCLUSION AS ARENAS OF CO-OPERATION:
RECONFIGURING THE EXTERNAL BOUNDARIES OF EUROPE:
POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND PERCEPTIONS.

EXLINEA



Conference

“European Neighborhood Policy: a Wall or a Bridge?”

Margit Säre

Supported by Enterprise Estonia, the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the European Commission Youth Program

Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, in cooperation with the European Movement in Estonia, organized an international conference “European Neighborhood Policy: a Wall or a Bridge?” in Tallinn, November 19, 2004.

Following the EU enlargement on May 1, 2004, the eastern neighborhood policy of the EU also comprises Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. The conference on easternward neighborhood policy was participated in by several well-known politicians, analysts of foreign policy, members of the Estonian and European Parliaments and a number of NGOs and research institutions dealing with cross-border cooperation, both from among the EU eastern neighbours, the new members and also from the nuclear states of the European Union. Altogether, there were around 120 participants at the conference. The idea that the European Union would need a uniform policy, with regard to its eastern neighbours, was underlined during the panel presentations at the conference, where, among others, the floor was also taken by Kristiina Ojuland, the Foreign Minister of Estonia; Toomas-Hendrik Ilves, Member of the European Parliament; Paul Goble, former US Government advisor on Baltic issues and Michael Emerson, researcher in the Centre for European Policy Studies. It was also emphasized that, differently from earlier phases, the vast majority of eastern neighbors lack motivation and capability for democratic reforms. The EU, in relationships with the eastern neighbors, should not give up its value standards for purely economic interests.

The panel sessions were followed by workshops focusing on the importance of communicating to the EU neighbours the experience of the countries that have been successful during the democratization process:

- through joint projects, enhance cross-border cooperation between NGOs;
- gain political recognition for cooperation between the EU and its eastern neighbors;
- inform the population of peripheral areas how to improve their life themselves.

The above principles were proposed as recommendations to the European Commission.



Konverents

“Euroopa naabruspoliitika: kas müür või sild?”

Idasuunalise naabruspoliitika teemalisest konverentsist võtsid osa mitmed nimekad poliitikud, välispoliitika analüütikud, Eesti ja Euroopa parlamendi liikmed ning paljud piiriülese koostööga tegelevad vabatahendid ja uurimisasutused nii EL uutest kui vanadest liikmesriikidest, kokku ligi 120 osalejat.

Konverentsil rõhutati vajadust anda ELi idanaabritele edasi demokratiseerumisprotsessis edukate riikide kogemus: tõhustada ühisprojektidega vabatahenduste vahelist piiriülest koostööd; võita ELi ja tema idanaabrite koostööle poliitilist tunnustust; teavitada ääremaade elanikke võimalustest ise oma elu paremaks muuta.

Räägiti ka sellest, et erinevalt varasemast puudub suurel osal uutest idanaabritest motivatsioon ja suutlikkus demokraatlikeks reformideks. Suhetes idanaabritega ei tohiks EL pelgalt majandushuvide pärast loobuda omaenda väärtusstandarditest.

Конференция

„Политика соседства с ЕС - стена или мост?“

На конференции, посвященной политике соседства по восточной границе ЕС, участвовало 120 человек - известные политики, аналитики внешней политики, члены Эстонского Рийгикогу и Европейского парламента, а также представители многих некоммерческих организаций и исследовательских учреждений как из стран граничащих с ЕС так и из стран ЕС.

На конференции была подчеркнута необходимость передачи опыта демократизации, усиления трансграничного сотрудничества между некоммерческими организациями посредством участия в совместных проектах, информирования жителей отдаленных регионов о возможностях улучшения жизни.

Говорилось и о том, что не все соседние страны имеют готовность и мотивацию к демократическим реформам. ЕС не должен отказываться от своих стандартов ценностей ради экономических интересов.

Peipsi Forum IV. Conference in Pskov, Russia “Russian-Estonian Cross-border Cooperation: New Challenges after Eastern EU Enlargement”

Olga Vasilenko

Supported by UNDP/GEF, US Consulate General in St. Petersburg and Enterprise Estonia Foundation (Estonia).

Peipsi Foorum IV “Eesti- Vene piiriülene koostöö: uus väljakutse pärast Euroopa Liidu idapiiri laienemist”

**Konverents Pihkvas
8.-9. september 2004**

Peipsi Foorum IV tegeles uute väljavaadete otsimisega Vene-Eesti koostöös pärast Euroopa Liidu laienemist ida suunas, ning üritas määratleda Peipsi piirkonna jätkusuutlikku arengut tagavaid prioriteetseid valdkondi. Konverentsist võtsid osa diplomaatiliste korpuste, riigiasutuste, kohalike omavalitsuste, ettevõtete, vabaihenduste ja haridusasutuste esindajad Venemaalt, Eestist, Lätist, Taanist, Rootsist, Šveitsist ja Ameerika Ühendriikidest.

Foorumil käidi välja mõte moodustada Peipsi Nõukogu, millest peaks saama jätkusuutliku koostöö arendamise tõhus vahend. Foorum andis heakskiidu Peipsi Nõukogu loomisele ning töögruppide moodustamisele.

Чудской Форум IV “Российско-Эстонское приграничное сотрудничество: новые задачи в свете расширения ЕС на Восток”.

**Конференция во Пскове
8 – 9 сентября 2004**

Чудской Форум IV был посвящен рассмотрению новых перспектив российско-эстонского сотрудничества после расширения ЕС на восток, определению приоритетных направлений и проектов в устойчивом развитии региона Чудского озера. На конференции участвовали представители дипломатических структур, государственных учреждений, местных самоуправлений, предприятий, неправительственных организаций и просветительских учреждений России, Эстонии, Латвии, Дании, Швеции, Швейцарии и США.

Результатом конференции стало одобрение инициативы по созданию Совета Чудского озера и формирование рабочих групп. Совет Чудского озера, по мнению участников, мог бы эффективно содействовать развитию устойчивого сотрудничества.

Peipsi Forum IV was dedicated to consider new perspectives of the Russian-Estonian cooperation after the EU enlargement to the East, as well as to determine priority fields and projects for the sustainable development of the Peipsi region, and also to discuss specific mechanisms of cooperation between the authorities, business and NGO sectors of the region. The conference was participated in by 100 persons, representing diplomatic structures, state authorities and local self-governments, commercial organizations, NGOs and educational facilities from Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.

Participants remarked that developing relations between regions of Estonia and the Pskov Region are positive, and practically fulfilled throughout the 4 last years, which corresponds both to the priorities of Russian foreign and domestic policies, and to EU priorities. Alongside this, cooperation is underway on a broad range of issues, including joint use and protection of natural resources, water-management and forestry development, fishery, as well as strengthening the direct contacts between the border areas and local self-governments. In addition, among the problems negatively influencing cross-border relations, the sides mentioned visa issues, obscurity of the situation around the Pskov -Tartu waterway, the mismatch of legal regulations, and that of local self-governments' activities.

An important constituent of the event was the discussion of specific issues of cooperation and further work-group interaction fields. The work-group meetings were conducted in three directions: tourism and navigation, culture and education, and environmental protection. Within the frames of the discussions held, the possible mechanisms, to join efforts of various interested parties in order to improve the living standards in the region and to form a positive image of the area, were considered. For the first time, the idea was introduced of establishing the Peipsi Lake Council, as an efficient mechanism for such interactions, for broad public discussion.

An important result of the Forum was the approval to initiate the establishment of the Peipsi Lake Council and to form workgroups.

The conference was organized by the Chudskoye Project (Russia) in cooperation with the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation (Estonia) and supported by the Administrations of the Pskov Region and the City of Pskov.



Summer School and Handbook on Cross-border Cooperation

Margit Säre

Supported by the EU Phare SPP program and the Canadian Development Cooperation Agency (ODACE).

Peipsi CTC and the European Movement in Estonia jointly organized a summer school in Värskas, from August 8 to 14, participated in by 36 representatives of non-profit organizations and local municipalities from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia and Moldova.

During the summer school, the following subjects were focused upon: development and the role of transboundary cooperation in Europe; Euro-regions; programs supporting EU cross-border cooperation and regional development; youth work and youth exchange programs and transboundary economic cooperation.

In addition to academic lectures, the activities comprised group and individual work, simulation games and study trips.

The lecturers at the summer school were ministry employees from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine, representatives of Euro-regions, teaching staff from NGO-s and universities.

Issues regarding transboundary cooperation had become particularly important for the European Union following the eastern direction enlargement, in a situation where the new neighbors of the EU are such powerful states as Russia and Ukraine. Similarly, a number of European countries have come to an understanding that the enhancement of cross-border cooperation and the creation of new collaboration structures can be the initiator of successful local development, the launching point for new possibilities.

Up until now, cross-border cooperation between Estonia and Russia has been continuing with intermittent success, the reasons being both complicated inter-governmental relationships, the poor economic situation of the border area local municipalities as well as insufficient knowledge of the opportunities offered by the European Union in order to develop transboundary cooperation projects.

“ *The importance of Peipsi CTC work lies in the inclusion of the third sector and that of the local population in the development activities of the Lake Peipsi region, thus contributing to the balanced advancement of the area and the creation of cooperation networks. In the field of cross-border collaboration, one should accentuate the environmental projects, launched by the Peipsi CTC, in cooperation with Russia.* ”

Jaan Õunapuu
Estonian Minister of Regional Affairs

Piiriülese koostöö suvekool

Peipsi Koostöö Keskus ja Eesti Euroopa Liikumine korraldasid 8. -14. augustini Värskas suvekooli piiriülese koostöö teemadel, millest võtsid osa 35 Eesti, Läti, Leedu, Venemaa, Ukraina, Valgevene ning Moldova mittetulundusühingute, ministeeriumide, maavalitsuste ja kohalike omavalitsuste esindajad.

Suvekooli teemadeks olid piiriülese koostöö areng ja roll Euroopas, euroregioonid, EL'i piiriülest koostööd ja regionaalarengut toetavad programmid, noorsookoostöö ning piiriülene majanduskoostöö; lektoriteks Balti riikide, Venemaa ja Ukraina ministeeriumide töötajad, euroregioonide ja vabaihenduste esindajad ning ülikoolide õppejõud.

Novembris ilmus sama projekti raames piiriülese koostöö-alane käsiraamat, mis on abiks organisatsioonidele, kes soovivad algatada ja ellu viia piiriüleseid tegevusi. Trükkis sisaldab nii praktilist kui teoreetilist põhiinfot piiriülese koostöö kohta.

Летняя школа по трансграничному сотрудничеству

35 представителей НКО, министерств, местных и региональных самоуправлений из Эстонии, Латвии, Литвы, России, Украины, Белоруссии и Молдовы обновляли свои знания в области трансграничного сотрудничества в летней школе, которая имела место с 8 по 14 августа в Вярска.

Основными темами летней школы являлись развитие и роль трансграничного сотрудничества в Европе, еврорегионы и программы ЕС, поддерживающие трансграничное, экономическое и молодежное сотрудничество. Лекторами выступили работники министерств, представители НКО и преподаватели университетов стран Балтии, России и Украины.

В ноябре был издан справочник по трансграничному сотрудничеству.

Support for Community Foundations

www.cfond.org

Iri Aavik

Supported by the Baltic-American Partnership Program (BAPP)
and the Royal Netherlands Embassy MATRA-KAP Program

Toetus kogukonnafondidele

Peipsi Koostöö Keskus tegutseb juba mitmendat aastat kogukonnafilantroopia tugiorganisatsioonina. 2004. a avaldasime brošüüri "Abiks annetajale", mis annab nõu, kuidas arukalt ja maksusoodustusi kasutades head teha. Meie toetusel asutati Peipsi Kogukonnafond, mis on kolmas omasugune Eestis. Viljandimaa Kogukonna Fond intensiivistas möödunud aastal oma tegevusi, käivitades mitmeid uusi edukaid kampaaniaid.

Поддержка фондам местного сообщества

ЦТС уже несколько лет выступает в качестве организации поддержки местной филантропии. В 2004 году мы издали брошюру, в которой имеются советы, как заниматься благотворительностью и давать пожертвования, используя при этом, положенные законом льготы. Был основан третий фонд местного сообщества в Эстонии - Фонд местного сообщества Чудского региона. Успешным был также этот год для Вильяндийского фонда, который провел несколько удачных кампаний по сбору денежных средств.

Peipsi CTC, as the support organization for community philanthropy in Estonia, has been facilitating the organization of training seminars and has assisted volunteers interested in development of community philanthropy in their home regions. The 3rd community foundation created in Estonia, the Peipsi Community Foundation was registered in November 2004. If previous community foundations were county based, the newborn one targets the Lake Peipsi region in four different counties. There are even more regions interested in starting a community foundation - Maardu, Kääriku and Võru to be mentioned first of all.

A brochure was published introducing the Estonian laws and regulations about donations and taxes. This small book is aimed at assisting every potential donor and has become very popular. It is also available on the www.ctc.ee website. Soon a special community foundations homepage www.cfond.org, will be opened, providing most diverse information with regard community philanthropy and community foundations in Estonia.

Peipsi CTC is the member of international networks such as the Community Philanthropy Initiative (CPI) and World Initiative Grantmakers' Support (WINGS) and its representatives participated in international conferences in Athens and Berlin, sharing the Estonian experience with colleagues from other countries and learning new ideas and success stories from all over the world.

The capacity of Viljandi Community Foundation has risen during 2004. New initiatives such as gathering support for the Mulgi Free School in Lilli (Lilli Mulgimeelne Vabakool), Viljandi Folk Music Festival and different charity events were successful.

“*Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, as a national support organization, has done great work in enhancing the development of local community foundations in Estonia. Information and study days, organized by the Peipsi CTC, and its strong moral support, have provided a good starting position for the Viljandi County Community Foundation.*”

Pille Põllumäe

Head of the Viljandi County Community Foundation

Tartu and Jõgeva County NGO Support Center

Eilika Mölder

Supported by Enterprise Estonia (EAS)

Tartu and Jõgeva County NGO Support Center has operated for five years and acquired a substantial role in involving, training and informing non-governmental organizations in the region.

During 2000-2004, NGO-s used the consulting services of the Support Center in several thousand instances. Under the leadership of the Support Center, hundreds of training seminars, round-tables and information days were organized within Tartu and Jõgeva counties. Each week messages were sent to the info-list of citizen's associations, comprising more than 600 members – regarding information on training events, financing and cooperation opportunities, mediation of volunteers, etc. The Support Center started organizing a traditional acknowledgement event, "The Doer of the Year", for NGO-s, volunteers and donors.

The Cooperation Chamber of Tartu and Jõgeva County non-governmental organizations, mainly aimed at contributing to the dialogue between NGO-s and local governments, was launched under the leadership of the Support Center.

The fact that the state and local governments have better started to understand the role of the third sector in society, and the need for support services targeted at citizen's associations, could be regarded the most significant achievement of the center. The NGO support centers' network project, initiated and funded by the Baltic-American Partnership Program for four years continued their activities thanks to the fact that since 2004, Enterprise Estonia ordered consulting, training and information services, directed to non-governmental organizations. From 2005, a new integrated support system will be launched. Consultance and trainings for both entrepreneurs and NGOs are now available in regional development centers due to state support.



Tartu-ja Jõgevamaa MTÜ Tugikeskus

Tugikeskus tegutses viie aasta jooksul vahemikus 2000-2004, olles kahe maakonna vabaihenduste jaoks koolitaja, nõustaja, kaasaja ning eestvedaja. Tugikeskus käivitas elektroonilise infolisti, mis võimaldas ühendustel pidevalt saada olulist infot neid huvitavatel teemadel, korraldas koolitusseminare ja suvekoole. Tugikeskuse initsiatiivil käivitus traditsiooniline vabaihenduste, vabatahtlike ja annetajate tunnustamisüritus "Aasta Tegija" ning alustasid tegevust maakondlikud koostöökojad.

Alates 2005. aastast tugikeskus enam ei tegutse, sest riiklikult rahastatavad maakondlikud arenduskeskused osutavad nõustamis- ja koolitusteenust nii vabaihendustele kui ettevõtjatele.

Центр поддержки НКО уездов Тарту и Йыгева

В течение пяти лет, с 2000 по 2004, центр поддержки НКО внес свой вклад по привлечению, обучению и информированию некоммерческих организации двух уездов. Центр организовал обучающие семинары и летние школы; запустил электронную рассылку, посредством которой НКО получали необходимую им информацию. По инициативе центра были организованы Советы некоммерческих организаций и традиционное мероприятие по признанию НКО, волонтера и благотворителя года.

С 2005 года деятельность центра не продолжается т.к. финансируемые государством уездные центры развития начали предлагать услуги обучения и консультации не только предпринимателям но, и НКО.

Cross-border Cooperation

Peipsi – the Lake Connecting Russia and Estonia

www.ctc.ee

Virve Tuubel

Supported by the US Embassy in Estonia and GEF

Peipsi – järv, mis ühendab Eestit ja Venemaad

Kaks aastat kestnud projekti jooksul koolitati turismitöötajaid, avaldati Peipsi järve piirkonda tutvustavaid trükiseid, Kallaste linnas avati turismiinfopunkt ning pilkupüüdva püsiekspositsiooni “Järve elu tuba“ 1. etapp. Peipsi järve püsiekspositsioon annab ülevaate järve elustikust ning samuti ka inimestest, kes elavad järve ääres ning kelle igapäevane elu on järvega tihedalt seotud.

Peipsi Koostöö Keskus peab turismi arendamist piirkonna konkurentsivõime ning jätkusuutliku ja tasakaalustatud majandusarengu seisukohalt väga oluliseks. Projekti tegevused aitasidki kaasa turismi ja turismiga seotud väikeettevõtlike edendamisele piirkonnas, Peipsi-äärse infrastruktuuri arendamisele ning piiriülese koostöö paranemisele.

Озеро, объединяющее Россию и Эстонию

В ходе проекта проходили обучение местные работники туризма, были изданы публикации, представляющие регион Чудского озера, в городе Калласте были открыты туристический инфопункт и 1-ый этап интерактивной выставки „Жилая комната озера“. Выставка дает обзор как о достопримечательностях озера, так и о причудских людях, чья ежедневная жизнь тесно связана с озером.

ЦТС считает развитие туризма весьма существенным с точки зрения конкурентоспособности и устойчивого экономического развития региона. Проект способствовал продвижению туризма и малого бизнеса, связанного с ним, развитию инфраструктуры в Причудье и улучшению трансграничного сотрудничества.

The two year duration of the project ended with the following outcomes: provision of training for tourism workers, publications promoting the Lake Peipsi region appeared in print, a tourism information point opened in the Kallaste town and the first phase of an eye-catching permanent exhibition “Lake Life Room”. This permanent display on Lake Peipsi offers an overview of the biota of the lake and of the people whose everyday life is closely connected with this body of water.

Peipsi CTC considers the furthering of tourism to be of extreme importance from the viewpoint of competitiveness and sustainable, balanced economic development of the region. Indeed, the project activities contributed to the enhancement of tourism and related small-size entrepreneurship in the area, the development of infrastructure in the vicinity of Lake Peipsi and the improvement of cross-border cooperation.

With regard to tourism-related projects in the future, it is necessary to take into account that eco-tourism is particularly suitable for the Peipsi region, including activities, such as (1) observation of plants, birds and animals; getting to know history and culture; staying on the beach, picking berries and mushrooms, fishing, hunting, nature photography, etc., and, depending on the type of movement, (2) walking in nature, hiking on foot, bicycle tours, mountain bike trips, boat trips, canoe and kayak outings, swimming, sailing, horse-riding, snow-mobile driving, etc.

Fortunately, during the recent years, people have become clearly more aware of the environment and render importance to nature conservation and protection. However, there is an ongoing problem that the entire region is not yet ready for the quality provision of tourism products. In addition to beautiful nature of the Peipsi shoreline, there is a need to create an up-to-date infrastructure, carry out cooperation and train service providers.



Support to the Peipsi Council

Eilika Mölder

Supported by the Baltic American Partnership Program (BAPP), Enterprise Estonia, GEF, UNDP

The idea of establishing the Peipsi Council has been under discussion for the last few years. Local people would primarily regard this as a representative body of the Lake Peipsi area, which, by way of increasing cooperation, contributes to the sustainable development of the region.

The first phase of the project, launched in 2004, involved meetings with the representatives of the municipalities and citizens' organizations, located on the Estonian side of the lake-shore, in order to study the problems of the region and the real need for a cross-border cooperation organ.

In the course of the meetings, it became clear that people are largely interested in collaborating with Russia. There are indeed contacts with the other side of the lake, but in general, the communication is still too formal and in reality there is no joint action in progress.

During the Peipsi Forum, which took place in Pskov in September, the idea of founding the Peipsi Council was already the topic of discussion in working groups. According to problematic thematic issues, three work groups were formed: education and culture; environmental protection, tourism and water tourism. The participants were of the opinion that such a Council would be necessary and would enhance the development of the region and more intensive cooperation. Pursuant to obtained comments and proposals, a preliminary vision was devised, regarding the Council's work tasks and operating mechanisms.

The main tasks of the Council:

1. to analyze the problems of the Lake Peipsi region and find possibilities for the elimination of factors impeding development;
2. to work out integral proposals with regard to the priorities and development trends of the Peipsi region;
3. to submit proposals in order to shape policies and alter them in favor of the region;
4. to substantially further the mutual communication of the business sector, non-profit associations, local governments and state structures, by providing assistance to:
 - the central government in communicating the policies and programs, concerning the Lake Peipsi region, to the local population and obtain feedback;
 - communicate the problems and proposals of local inhabitants to the officials of regional and central authorities.
5. To prepare and coordinate large projects on infrastructure, regional development and the environment targeted in the Peipsi area.

As regards the operating mechanism of the Council, the following proposals had a more wide-based support at the Forum:

1. the Secretariat, dealing with the general coordination of work of the Peipsi Council both in Estonia and Russia;
2. a management board comprising 9 members;
3. 3 working groups who, depending on their domain, focus on mapping the problems of the area and finding potential solutions;
4. an annual general assembly – Peipsi Forum, where the Peipsi Council would present the achievements gained during the year, the work done would be assessed and decisions would be adopted for the next period.

Plans have been made to complete the creation of the Peipsi Council in 2005.

Peipsi Nõukogu

2004. aastal käivitunud projekti esimeses etapis toimusid kohtumised Peipsi-äärsete omavalitsuste ja vabaihenduste esindajatega, et uurida piirkonna probleeme ja reaalselt vajadust piiriülese koostööorgani järele Peipsi järve piirkonnas. Kohtumiste käigus selgus, et huvi koostöö vastu on suur. Kohalikud inimesed näevad nõukogu eelkõige rahvusvahelise Peipsi järve piirkonna esindusorganina, mille eesmärgiks on aidata kaasa regiooni säästva arengu edendamisele.

Septembris Pihkvas toimunud Peipsi Foorumil arutati Peipsi Nõukogu idee üle juba töögruppides ning vastavalt saadud kommentaaridele ning ettepanekutele kujundati esialgne visioon nõukogu ülesannetest ning töömehhanismist. 2005. aastal on plaanis Peipsi Nõukogu loomine lõpule viia.

Совет Чудского озера

На первом этапе проекта имели место встречи с представителями местных самоуправлений и НКО, с целью исследовать проблемы региона и необходимость создания трансграничного органа сотрудничества в регионе Чудского озера. Выяснилось, что местные жители очень заинтересованы в сотрудничестве. Совет видится им, прежде всего, как представительный орган международного Чудского озера, ролью которого является способствование устойчивому развитию региона.

В сентябре 2004 г. в Пскове прошел 4-ый Чудской Форум, где обсуждалась идея создания совета Чудского озера. Из полученных рекомендаций, предложений и комментариев сформировалось первоначальное видение о задачах и рабочем механизме совета.

Основание совета планируется завершить в 2005 году.

www.eurowetlands.org

“BIRD” alustas kavandatud tegevustega lennukalt

Augustis 2004 alustas tegevust BIRD projekti meeskond, et kolme aasta jooksul arendada Peipsi-äärset piirkonda ning veel viie partnerriigi projektipiirkondi. Käsitlevaid alasid erinevates riikides ühendab märgalade ja tähtsate linnualade olemasolu. Partnereid erinevate institutsioonidena on kaasatud 36, neist 5 Eestist. Eesti-poolsete partnerite tegevusi koordineerib Peipsi Koostöö Keskus. Suur roll projektis on ka Tartumaa Keskkonnateenistusel ning kohalikel omavalitsustel, kellest on kaasatud Haaslava, Vara ja Alatskivi vallad. Projekt on suunatud tähtsate linnu- ja märgalade ning väärtuslike kultuurmaastike säästvale majandamisele ja arendamisele ning nende kaudu maaelu edendamisele.

Стремительное начало проекта “BIRD”

Проектная команда намерена в течение трех лет развивать как Причудский регион, так и схожие регионы в пяти странах-партнерах. Все эти болотные угодья, и птичьи заповедники представляют значительную ценность. В проекте участвует 36 партнеров, 5 из них эстонские. Координирующим центром деятельности эстонских партнеров является ЦТС. Большую роль также играют Служба окружающей среды Тартуского уезда и местные самоуправления волостей Хааслава, Вара и Алатскиви. Цель проекта - способствовать устойчивому хозяйствованию и развитию болот, птичьих заповедников и культурных ландшафтов и развитию сельской жизни.



Bird Rich Wetlands of International Importance, Nature Reserves and Cultural Landscapes as Resources for Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (BIRD)

Kärt Leppik

Supported by EU Interreg III Program

The three-year-long project, launched in August 2004, is aimed at sustainable management and development of important bird rich wetlands and valuable cultural landscapes and, by way of this, at the enhancement of rural life.

Project activities are split between four domains, including management and maintenance of nature reserves, spatial planning and the study regarding the impact of EU Common Agricultural Policy on member states, enhancing tourism infrastructure, promotion of regions and environmental education.

Three small-size investments have been planned within the framework of activities by the tourism working group – a bird observation platform at Lahepera Lake, a bird observation tower at Aardla lake and a recreation site in the Emajõe Suursoo mire nature reserve, located in the territory of the Vara rural municipality.

Another important element of the project is the elaboration of environmental education programs and methodologies, including practical nature study courses, and the conducting of relevant training sessions for the teachers of nature subjects.

During the first phase, we have already involved different experts and organizations in the preparation of activities, in order to avoid potential disputes with entrepreneurs, local inhabitants and those protecting the environment, and to guarantee constant dissemination of information to numerous target groups and parties, and their involvement in project work.

Altogether, there are 6 partner countries participating in the project – the existence of wetlands and important bird areas being their common denominator. The leading partner is Västra Götaland County administration in Sweden. The total number of different partner institutions involved in the project is 36, five of them from Estonia. The activities of Estonian partners are being coordinated by the Peipsi CTC. In addition, a sizeable role within the project has also been imposed on the Tartu County environmental authorities and the included local governments, i.e. Haaslava, Vara and Alatskivi rural municipalities.



Peipsi CTC's Small Grants for the Environment

Erkki Vedder

Supported by UNDP/GEF

In 2003, Peipsi CTC commenced with the small grants program aimed at NGOs, schools and local governments in the Lake Peipsi region. Support is provided for projects carrying out environmental training seminars and study days, nature observation and environmental action.

The competition intends to raise the environmental awareness of the local population and support their participation in making ecological decisions. Maximum amount of support is 4,000 EEK.

In 2004, there were two calls for proposals – in spring and in autumn – which resulted in the total of 40 filed applications, with grants given to 23 projects. Altogether, the value of allocated grants was 60,000 kroons.

The majority of these projects have already been implemented. Among other matters, we provided support for children's study trips to nature, training sessions on water and waste management, the carrying out of environmental study days and practical work.

We intend to broaden the amount of support and activities in 2005 and find more supporters.

Keskkonna-alased väiketoetused

Konkursi eesmärk on tõsta kohalike elanike keskkonnateadlikkust ja toetada nende osavõttu keskkonna-alaste otsuste tegemisest. Maksimaalne toetussumma on 4000 krooni ning seda saab taotleda kaks korda aastas. 2004. aastal laekus 40 taotlust, millest toetusi eraldati 23 korral kokku 60000 krooni väärtuses. Toetusi said õpilaste loodusretked, vee-ja prügimajanduse õppepäevad ning praktilised keskkonda parandavad ettevõtmised.

Поддержка проектам по окружающей среде

Цель конкурса – повысить экологическую сознательность местных жителей и поддерживать их участие в решении вопросов по окружающей среде. Максимальная сумма гранта составляет 4000 крон; заявления можно подавать два раза в год. В 2004 году поступило 40 заявлений, гранты были выделены двадцати трем победителям конкурса в объеме 60000 крон. Поддерживались проекты по экологическому образованию, дни учебы по водному хозяйству и практические мероприятия по улучшению среды.

“*Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation has lent a helping hand in order to revive Estonian-Russian complex winter-time studies on Lake Peipsi, which are of extreme relevance in understanding the long-term development of the ecosystem of the entire lake.*”

Küllli Kangur
senior researcher of the
Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences,
Estonian Agricultural University

Training for the Team Leaders of Voluntary Nature Monitoring

www.ctc.ee/seminar

Vabatahtliku loodusvaatluse rühmajuhitide koolitus

Vabatahtliku loodusvaatluse objektideks on suurselgrootud ehk teisisõnu veekogude põhjas elavad mardikad, ussikesed, kaanid ja teod. Suurselgrootute populatsioon võimaldab hinnata veekogu puhtuse taset. Lisaks sellele võib taoline looduse vaatlemine anda olulise panuse valgala üldise keskkonnaseisundi hindamisse. Kaks koolitust vabatahtliku loodusvaatluse rühmajuhitidele olid suunatud Peipsi valgala asuvate koolide õpetajatele ja vanemate klasside õpilastele.

Тренинг для лидеров групп по добровольному мониторингу

Объектом добровольного мониторинга является зообентос – другими словами, улитки, пиявки и черви, живущие на дне водоемов. Их популяция дает возможность судить об уровне чистоты водоема. Добровольный мониторинг также может внести существенный вклад в оценку общего состояния среды. В двух тренингах лидеров групп по добровольному мониторингу участвовали учителя и старшеклассники школ Причудья.

Aija Kosk

Supported by the GEF, UNDP and the US Embassy in Tallinn

The voluntary nature monitoring activities were implemented on the small rivers and streams in the Lake Peipsi basin, the waters of which, directly or indirectly, finally flow into the lake. The objects selected for voluntary nature monitoring were macro-invertebrates or, in other words, the beetles, worms, leeches, snails, etc. living on the bottom of water bodies. The population of macro-invertebrates makes it possible to estimate the degree of purity of water bodies.

Two training sessions for the group leaders – school teachers and senior students of the schools located within the Lake Peipsi basin - of voluntary nature monitoring, took place in the spring and autumn of 2004.

In addition to the theoretical seminars in Tartu and Võrtsjärv Limnological Center, practical assignments were carried out on the streams in the vicinity of Tartu. Peipsi CTC also equipped the participants with all necessary equipment (hand nets, tweezers, magnifying glasses, etc.) for the subsequent independent work to be carried out in the home area.

During the practical assignments, both the students and the teachers enjoyed the exploration and discovery of the environment, which otherwise stays hidden from our eyes and quietly lives its everyday life. The fact that local friends of nature take samples on the rivers and streams of their home area and share the results with others cannot be underestimated in the point of view of environmental education. In addition, this kind of nature observation may provide an essential contribution to the general environmental assessment of the basin area.



Creative Works Contest “World of Water through the Eyes of Children“

Anna Gramberg

Supported by the Environmental Investment Centre (KIK),
Tartu City Government, Estonian Youth Work Center

The contest “World of Water through the Eyes of Children” was organized in 2004 and this was now the ninth occurrence. More than 3000 interesting artworks, literary and research works were received from Estonian, Latvian and Russian participants.

Winners of this year contest “World of Water...” were invited to an award trip to Pskov region, Russia. Children enjoyed the beautiful nature and historical and cultural sites of Pskov region. Among other places, they visited the museum-protection area “Pushkinskie Gory” and had excursions in Irboska, Pechory and Pskov.

Also an international quiz was held where Estonian youngsters showed the best knowledge of environmental issues and won the first place. The camp was also participated in by the best supervisors of the three countries, who could mutually share their experience and discuss potential cooperation. In Estonia it was possible to see the best art works of the three states at an exhibition in the Tartu Environmental Education Center in October.



Lasteloomingukonkurss “Vetevald läbi laste silmade 2004”

Üheksandat aastat järjest toimunud lasteloomingukonkurssile laekus sel aastal Eestist üle tuhande põneva kunsti-, kirja- ja uurimustöö, mis koos Läti ja Venemaa osalejatega teeb kokku ligi 3000 osalejat noort.

Konkursi võitjad osalesid 2004.a juunis preemiareisil Pihkva oblastis, kus lastele tutvustati mitmeid kultuuriloolise ja ajaloolise tähtsusega paikasid. Lisaks korraldati rahvusvaheline keskkonnateemaline viktoriin, kus kõige paremaid teadmisi näitasid üles Eesti noored, kes saavutasid võistkonnana esimese koha.

Конкурс детского творчества “Мир воды глазами детей”

На проводившийся уже девятый год подряд конкурс поступило более тысячи интересных художественных, литературных и исследовательских работ из Эстонии. В общей сложности, включая Латвию и Россию, в конкурсе принимало участие 3000 детей и юношей.

В награду победителям была организована экскурсия в Псковскую область, где дети посетили разные исторические достопримечательности и памятники культуры. Дети также принимали участие в международной викторине по окружающей среде. Эстонские участники показали лучшие знания и их команде присвоили первое место.



Environmental and Culture Camp for Russian-speaking and Estonian-speaking Pupils

Ljudmila Melnikova

Supported by Integration Foundation and EC Phare Program

Suvelaager vene ja eesti koolide õpilastele

72 Tartu maakonna eesti ja vene õppekeelega koolide õpilast võtsid osa suvisest keskkonna- ja kultuurilaagrist, kus vene lapsed omandasid palju uut ajaloo-, kultuuri-, keskkonna- ja geograafia-alast sõnavara. Eesti õpilased omandasid praktilist vene kõnekeelt. Laagrilapsed kohtusid taas sügisel kui toimusid interneti seminar “Tunne oma maad ja Euroopa Liitu” ja ekskursioon Peipsi äärde.

Projekt aitas kaasa vene- ja eestikeelsete noorte tõhusale ühisele tegutsemisele ning üksteisemõistmisele, mis soodustab arenguid multikultuurse ja tolerantse ühiskonna suunas.

Me kavatsime ka edaspidi arendada ja süvendada vene ja eesti koolide õpilaste vahelisi suhteid.

Летний лагерь для учеников русских и эстонских школ

В летнем лагере по экологии и культуре участвовали учащиеся русских и эстонских школ Тартуского уезда в возрасте с 10 до 17 лет, общим количеством — 72 человек. Знания учащихся русских школ развились в области эстонского языка, дети узнали много новой лексики по истории, географии, культуре, экологии. Также проводились занятия по практическому русскому языку для эстонских учащихся.

Участники лагеря встретились снова осенью на интернет-семинаре “Познаем свою страну и страны Европейского Союза через Интернет” и на учебной экскурсии “Знай, чем живет Чудское озеро!”.

Благодаря проекту, наблюдается взаимная интеграция представителей двух национальностей, что очень важно для развития мультикультурного и толерантного общества. Мы намерены и в будущем развивать взаимоотношения между русскими и эстонскими учащимися.

72 pupils from different Tartu county schools (both Estonians and Russians) in the age range of 10 – 17 had an excellent opportunity to learn more about ecological issues and Estonian and Russian culture in the Lake Peipsi region in the summer camp held in Kuremaa in June. Teachers used interesting methodologies (contests, quiz games, language games), etc. to raise pupils' communicative and psychological skills and environmental awareness. Russian speaking children learned many new Estonian words, especially in the field of history and traditions, geography and culture. Estonian young people, most of whom had never studied the Russian language, had lessons of elementary practical Russian.

The collection “Interesting school holidays” of communicative, ecological and psychological trainings, used during the camp, was published.

The youths from the camp met each other again in an Internet-seminar “Learning about Estonia and EU Countries via Internet” held in the autumn in Tartu Mart Reiniku Gymnasium.

The final event of the project was the study trip to the Lake Peipsi region. Participants had an excellent opportunity to visit both Estonian and Russian settlements on the lakeshore and learn how different communities have for centuries existed peacefully close to each other. They learned about Old-believers' culture as well as about the Estonian poet, Juhan Liiv, who was born and lived not far from the lake. They visited Peipsi Museum in Kallaste and an exhibition of children's artworks, made during the summer camp, was opened in the museum.

Effective integration of Russian and Estonian youth promotes development of a multicultural and tolerant society. Peipsi CTC considers it very important to also give its input to this integration process in the future.



Training Center “Peipsi Seminar”

Ljudmila Melnikova

The most popular courses in the training centre “Peipsi Seminar”, which launched its activities last year were those of languages, teaching Estonian, Russian and English.

A lot of interest was also shown towards training in project management, fundraising and NGO accounting. Satisfaction of trainees, acquisition of knowledge and the capacity to utilise the obtained knowledge and skills is of great importance for us as the “Peipsi Seminar”, from the very beginning, has been aiming at the provision of quality training. The received feedback makes it possible to pleasingly mention that the graduates have written good project applications and their acquired language level has enabled them to also manage in complicated situations. In 2005, we have planned to continue with language courses for different levels, offer project management and project writing courses both in Estonian and Russian and also provide bookkeeping training seminars for non-profit associations and small-size enterprises.

www.ctc.ee/seminar

Õppekeskus Peipsi Seminar

Möödunud aastal tegevust alustanud õppekeskuses Peipsi Seminar olid kõige populaarsemad keelekursused - õpetati eesti, vene ja inglise keelt. Suurt huvi äratasid ka projektijuhtimise, fondidest rahastamise otsingu ja vabaihenduste raamatupidamise koolitused. Saadud tagasiside lubab meil siinkohal heameelega nentida, et seminari lõpetajad on kirjutanud häid projektitaotlusi ning omandatud keeleoskus on võimaldanud hakkama saada ka keerukates situatsioonides.

Учебный центр “Пейпси семинар“

В учебном центре, который открылся год назад, до сих пор самыми популярными являлись курсы по эстонскому, русскому и английскому языкам.

Большой интерес вызывали также тренинги по руководству проектами, *фандрейзингу* и бухгалтерии. Нам очень приятно, что выпускники семинара писали успешные заявки по проектам и благодаря полученным языковым знаниям лучше адаптировались к условиям неродной речи.



<http://ngo.lake-peipus.net>

Tšudskoi Projekt – meie partner Pihkvas

Tšudskoi Projekt on meie koostööpartner mitmes suuremas ettevõtmises nagu UNDP/GEF projekt "Peipsi järve veemajandusprogramm". Lisaks ühisprojektidele on Tšudskoi Projekt möödunud aastal osalenud ettevõtmistes, mis suurendavad keskkonnainfo kättesaadavust ja mõju ning pestitsiididest põhjustatud reostuse vähendamist; on uurinud Peipsi-äärsete vabaihenduste vajadusi, koostanud nende olukorrast raporti, korraldanud Pihkvas aastakonverentsi Peipsi Foorum IV ning selle raames vabaihenduste foorumi ja viinud läbi mitmeid keskkonnahariduslikke üritusi noortele.



The Russian Contribution to the Strengthening of the Estonian-Russian Partnership NGO "Chudskoye Project" Activities in 2004

Olga Vasilenko

The broadening of activities' directions and target groups, intensification of cooperation with different sectors of society became the distinguishing features of the year 2004.

The Estonian-Russian project "Chudskoye Lake NGOs Development Program" was fulfilled in 2004. The project started in 2003 with the financial support of the Consulate General of the USA in Saint-Petersburg, Russia, and was aimed at the development of the integration processes inside the NGO sector and elaboration of common approaches of public participation in solving the issues of the day of the Lake Chudskoye region. In the frames of the project on the Russian side of Lake Chudskoye, the following activities were carried out: information about the existing NGOs and their work in the region was collected and systematized into "The Peipsi Region NGO Database" web-resource <http://ngo.lake-peipus.net>; the review containing the information about current non-governmental projects was prepared; the sociological research, which aim was to recognize the factors and mechanisms of cross- and in-sector cooperation of NGOs, was conducted. Recommendations on reinforcement of interaction among NGOs, and on strengthening the cross-sector social partnership in solving the regional urgent problems, were drawn up on the basis of the research results. Designing of the Concept of Intra- and Intersectoral Cooperation of NGOs of the Lake Chudskoye Region within the project is one more significant result of discussions. During the period of realization of the project Chudskoye Lake NGOs Development Program was prepared. The document was dedicated to the analysis of the present-day status of the NGO sector in the Lake Chudskoye region and the preconditions and perspectives of its development. The work on realization of the project was acknowledged to be significant for consolidation of the civic society in the region for the development of institutions of cross-sector social partnership. It was emphasized that "the Program should become the initial document for further cooperation among Pskov City Administration and NGOs in the frames of the plan for sustainable development of the city" (Valentin Ivanov, acting Mayor of Pskov, 7.10.2004).

This year NGO "Chudskoye Project" continued its work on realization of the project supported by UNDP/GEF "Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin Management Program" on the Russian side. The project is aimed at preparing the Basin Management Program in order to reduce nutrient load and implement sustainable preservation of ecosystems in the transboundary region. All in all, in this we have acted as an organizer or co-organizer of 29 diverse, in form and content, activities in different settlements of the region. The representatives of various sectors took part in these events – public authorities, municipal employees, scientists, members of NGOs, teachers, businessmen.

The project "Increasing the impact of environmental information in Northwest Russia" started in summer 2004 and is aimed at forming the sustainable demand for environmental information in order to increase influence on decision making authorities. The work in the frames of the project suggests two main directions – creation of the network of centers of environmental information in the northwest region of the Russian Federation and organization of a series of trainings for employees of the territorial sub-units of the department of state control, of the Centers of environmental information and of municipalities on the topic "Appropriate Technologies of Work with Municipalities". The financing of the project is being done from the funds provided by the Swedish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

As a member of the Coordinating Council NGO “Chudskoye Project” takes part in the work of the project “Environmentally Sound Management of Stocks of Obsolete Pesticides in the Northwest Region of Russia”. The project started in January 2004 and will last till December 2005. It takes place on the territory of the Pskov and Vologda oblasts of the Russian Federation and is aimed at providing assistance to oblasts’ authorities in dealing with expired pesticides. The financial support was provided by the Danish Environment Protection Agency (DEPA) and Danish Cooperation on Environment in Eastern Europe (DANCEE).

Work with youth of the region became more intense in 2004. A seminar on the development of youth NGOs of the Lake Chudskoye region was organized in the frames of the project “Program of Development of NGOs of the Lake Chudskoye Region” with the active participation of Committees on youth issues of Pskov oblast Administration, of Leningrad oblast Administration and of Pskov City Administration. In spring “Chudskoye Project” carried out the international youth contest of creative works and research essays “Prodolzhenie” (“Continuity”) in schools situated on the territory of the Pskov oblast. At the same time, the children’s environmental contest “Water of Russia” was conducted together with the Department of natural resources and environmental protection of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation and Pskov oblast environmental and biological Center. The contest gathered around 10 works and scientific-research projects in the sphere of rational utilization of water resources.

The regular international conference Peipsi Forum IV was carried out in Pskov in September 2004 together with the Peipsi CTC. The financing of the event was provided by the project UNDP/GEF, the Consulate General of the USA in Saint-Petersburg, Russia and by Enterprise Estonia Foundation. The conference was devoted to considering new perspectives of Estonian-Russian cooperation after the enlargement of European Union to the East, to defining priority directions and projects on sustainable development of the Lake Chudskoye region. The result of the conference was approved initiative on creation of Peipsi Council as one of possible mechanisms for interactions of different organizations to solve common problems of the Peipsi region.

ПООО “Чудской проект” - наш партнер в Пскове

Псковская областная общественная организация “Чудской проект” является нашим российским партнером по реализации ряда совместных мероприятий и проектов, таких как проект ПРООН/ГЭФ “Разработка и реализация Программы управления бассейном Псковско-Чудского озера”, “Программа развития неправительственных организаций региона Чудского озера” и др.

2004-й год стал для ПООО “Чудской проект” важным этапом деятельности, отличительной чертой которого стало расширение направлений деятельности и целевых групп, интенсификация сотрудничества с различными секторами общества. Активизировалась работа с молодежью в регионе, начата деятельность по созданию сети Центров экологической информации на северо-западе России, отлажены механизмы информирования и вовлечения заинтересованных групп населения в различные мероприятия, способствующие развитию региона, реализованы два этапа Конкурса малых проектов, подготовлена и представлена на различных уровнях Программа развития НПО региона, подготовлено техническое задание и проведен тендер по исследованию водного и экологического туризма на российской стороне Чудского озера.

Осенью во Пскове ПООО “Чудской проект” при участии ЦТС ЧО и поддержке Администраций г.Пскова и Псковской области организовали ежегодную региональную конференцию “Чудской Форум IV” и первый Форум НПО региона Чудского озера. Данные мероприятия стали значимой вехой в деятельности организации, т.к. на Форумах были подведены итоги работы за период с 2001 г., последнего проводимого на российской стороне Чудского Форума II.



Lake Peipsi and Lake Võrtsjärv – Twin Members of the International Living Lakes Partnership

www.livinglakes.org

Osalus rahvusvahelises järvede partnerluses “Living Lakes”

Peipsi ja Võrtsjärv on alates 2003. aastast rahvusvahelise partnerluse “Living Lakes” liikmed. 2004. a sügisel toimunud aastakonverentsil esitles Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse projektijuht Margit Säre piirkonna ettevõtmisi. Konverents oli eelkõige pühendatud looduslike ekosüsteemede kaitsvatele maa-ja veekasutuse strateegiatele. “Living Lakes” võrgustiku toetusel toimusid 2004. aastal vabatahtliku loodusvaatluse rühmajuhtide koolitused. Partnerluses on praegu 30 organisatsiooni, mis esindavad 23 järve ja märgala neljalt mandrilt.

Участие в международном партнерстве озер

Чудское озеро и озеро Выртсъярв с 2003-го года являются членами международного партнерства „Living Lakes“. На годовой конференции осенью 2004-го г руководитель проектов Маргит Сяре представил последние начинания в регионе. Конференция прежде всего была посвящена стратегиям земле- и водопользования, защищающим природные экосистемы. Благодаря поддержке партнерства „Living Lakes“, было проведено обучение руководителей групп добровольного мониторинга. В партнерстве сейчас 30 организаций представляющих 23 озера на четырех континентах.

Margit Säre

Supported by the Living Lakes Partnership

Lake Peipsi and Lake Võrtsjärv are members of the international partnership Living Lakes since 2003. The 2004 annual Living Lakes Conference was held in the Columbia River Wetlands, Canada, between 26 September to 2 October 2004, where Peipsi CTC project manager Margit Säre presented the main activities having taken place in Lake Peipsi region during the last year. The Conference focused on land and water use strategies that protect the natural values of lake and wetland ecosystems now and for future generations.

Thanks to the Living Lakes' financial support, the training day for the group leaders of voluntary nature monitoring took place in May 2004.

The Living Lakes network is coordinated by the Global Nature Fund, and it is the partnership promoting voluntary international collaboration among organizations that carry out projects benefiting lakes, wildlife, and people.

The partnership currently consists of 30 organizations representing 23 lakes and wetlands on four continents.



Peipsi CTC Infolists

Through the so-called “Peipsi list” interested people can obtain news of the events in the Lake Peipsi region. The list contains information about research results, publications and events and this information is disseminated in three languages – Estonian, Russian and English.

The “NGO list” provides information about training, fundraising opportunities, project calls and events to non-profit organizations of Tartu and Jõgeva county in the Estonian language.

If you have interesting information we ask you to share this with the lists, which both have about 500 readers. If you want to join the list and order the news, please send your application to list@ctc.ee

list@ctc.ee

Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse infolistid

Nn “Peipsi list” pakub kõigile huvilistele uudiseid ja infot Peipsi järve piirkonnaga seonduva suhtes. Peipsi regiooni infot edastame eesti, inglise ja vene keeles.

“MTÜ listi” kaudu saavad Tartu-ja Jõgevamaa vabaihendused ja sihtasutused värsket teavet sündmuste, koolituste, rahastamisvõimaluste ja projektide taotlusvoorude kohta.

Kui Teil on huvipakkuvat infot, olete teretunud seda meie listide kaudu levitama. Kumbaski listis on üle 500 adressaadi. Kui aga olete huvitatud infolistidega liitumisest, siis kirjutage kiri aadressile list@ctc.ee ja teid lülitatakse listi liikmete nimekirja.

Электронная рассылка информации Центром трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера

Т.н. рассылка “Peipsi” распространяет новости и информационные сообщения о событиях и фактах, связанных с регионом Чудского озера. Информация о регионе Чудского озера рассылается на эстонском, английском и русском языках.

Посредством НКО-рассылки некоммерческие объединения Тартуского и Йыгеваского уездов информируются о событиях, обучении, возможностях финансирования и о сроках подачи заявок на проекты.

Если Вы располагаете информацией, способной представлять интерес, Вы можете распространить ее, используя наши электронные рассылки. В обеих — более 500 адресатов. Если же Вы заинтересованы в присоединении к нашим рассылкам, напишите по адресу list@ctc.ee, и мы включим вас в список адресатов рассылки. Информационную рассылку на русском языке вы получите обратившись по адресу pskov@lake-peipus.net.



Library of the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation

www.ctc.ee

Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse raamatukogu

Lisaks Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse enda raamatutele on raamatukogus veel üle nelja tuhande erineva kirje, mis korrastamise käigus elektroonilisse andmebaasi kanti. Raamatukogus olevaid raamatuid võib jagada viide suuremasse gruppi: keskkond ja veemajandus, kodanikuühiskond, mittetulundusühingud, Euroopa liidu temaatika ning regionaalareng.

Raamatukogu andmebaas ja otsingumootor on olemas ka meie veebilehel www.ctc.ee.

Raamatuid välja ei laenutata, kuid neid on võimalik lugeda kohapeal Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse ruumides.

Библиотека Центра трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера

Книги, численностью около 5000 экземпляров, относятся к пяти крупным тематическим сферам: окружающая среда, водное хозяйство, гражданское общество и третий сектор, местное и региональное развитие и Европейский Союз. Инфобазу библиотеки и поисковую систему можно найти и на нашей веб-странице www.ctc.ee.

Книги не выдаются, читать их можно на месте, в бюро ЦТС.

In addition to the Peipsi CTC's own books, the library also accommodates slightly more than four thousand different items, all entered into an electronic database in the course of arrangement work. The books existent in the library can be divided into five major groups: environment and water management, civic society, non-profit organizations, European Union issues and regional development.

The library database and search engine is also available on our website www.ctc.ee.

Books are not to be lent out, but can be read on the spot, in the office of the Peipsi CTC.



Bringing Peipsi to the World

Significant Presentations Delivered by CTC Staff in 2004

Margit Säre. "Empowerment of Public Participation in Management of Transboundary Waters in Countries in Transition: Lake Peipsi Case Study" held at the conference "Integrated Water Management of Transboundary Catchments".	Venice, Italy, March
Margit Säre. "Cross-border Cooperation in the Estonian-Russian Border Area". Presentation made at the Council of the Baltic Sea States' Committee of Senior Officials Meeting.	Tartu, Estonia, March
Natalia Alexeeva. "Joint Management Programme for the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin" at the Baltic Sea Days devoted to the 30th anniversary of the HELCOM.	St.Petersburg, Russia, March
Margit Säre. "Public Participation in Management of Transboundary Waters in Countries in Transition" held at the conference "BALWOIS. Water Observation and Information System for Decision Support".	Ohrid, Macedonia, May
Olga Vasilenko. "Interaction of NGOs and Governmental Structures on Issues of Development of the Transboundary Chudskoye Region (Experience of the NGO "Chudskoye Project")". Presentation held at the regional meeting of Russian NGOs and the Council of Europe "Cooperation between NGOs and Governmental Structures on the Local Level".	St. Petersburg, Russia, May
Natalia Alexeeva. "Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin Water Management Programme, UNDP /GEF project" at the 3rd workshop of the NATO/CCMS pilot study – Integrated Water Management.	Värskä, Estonia, June
Margit Säre. "Cross-border Cooperation in Lake Peipsi Region, at the Estonian-Russian Border Area", held at the international conference "Euroregions: New Challenges and Opportunities".	Vilnius, Lithuania, July
Olga Vasilenko. A lecture "Case Study on the Environmental Cross-border Cooperation in the New EU External Border Regions" held at the international summer school on cross-border cooperation.	Värskä, Estonia, August
Margit Säre. A lecture "Cross-border Cooperation in Enlarged Europe", held at the international summer school on cross-border cooperation.	Värskä, Estonia, August
Eilika Mölder. "State of the "Third Sector" in Estonia, in Chudskoye/Peipsi Region Municipalities and its Contribution in Regional Development" held at the "NGO Forum".	Pskov, Russia, September
Eilika Mölder. "Results of the Study and Needs of the Peipsi/Chudskoye Lake Area on the Estonian Side" held at the "Peipsi Forum".	Pskov, Russia, September
Olga Vasilenko. "NGO Development Program of Peipsi/Chudskoye Lake Area as One of the Mechanisms of Public Participation in Solving Regional Problems". The presentation was made at the NGO Forum.	Pskov, Russia, September
Natalia Alexeeva. "Integrated Transboundary Water Management in the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin" at the International Conference "Integrated Management of Natural Resources in the Transboundary Dniester River Basin".	Chisinau, Moldova, September
Eilika Mölder. "Border Region Problems and the Ways of their Solution" held at the conference "The New External Border of the EU".	Druskininkai, Lithuania, Sept-Oct
Margit Säre. "Innovative Public Participation Methods in Water Management" held at the CYCLEAU conference "Joining across the Water".	Ballina, Ireland, October
Ülo Sults. "Dynamics of Nutrients in the Coastal Areas of the Gulfs of Finland and Riga in the Baltic Sea and in the Shore Regions of Lake Peipsi". The presentation was made on the European Conference of Coastal Zone Research, organized by ELOISE (European Land-Ocean Interaction Studies).	Portoroz, Slovenia, November
Olga Vasilenko. "The Role of NGOs in Implementation of UNDP/GEF "Lake Chudskoye Management Program"" held at the conference "European Neighborhood Policy: a Wall or a Bridge?"	Tallinn, Estonia, November
Natalia Alexeeva. "Planning in Transboundary Water Basins – Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Case Study" at the second International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management.	Tuscon, USA, November
Olga Vasilenko. "UNDP/GEF Project and Current Transboundary Experience of the NGO "Chudskoye Project"" held at the conference "Euroregion as a Tool of Transboundary Cooperation".	St. Petersburg, Russia, December

Publications 2004

Books and Brochures

Handbook of Cross-border Cooperation.

The brochure published in cooperation with the European Movement of Estonia contains practical information of eastwards cross-border cooperation issues. Available in Estonian and Russian. Authors: Marianne Mikko, Aivar Roop, Marika Tamm, Karmo Tüür.

Donation and Taxes.

The brochure gives an overview of the tax benefits and is aimed to assist a potential donor in his charitable decisions. Available in Estonian. Compiled by Angelika Rehema.

What is a Community Foundation?

Gives an overview of community foundations' goals and working mechanisms as well as information for donors. 2nd, complemented edition. Available in Estonian. Compiled by Angelika Rehema.

Focus Groups and Citizens' Juries: River Dialogue Experiences in Enhancing Public Participation in Water Management.

River Dialogue Project Experiences. The handbook gives a comprehensive overview about the River Dialogue project experience in enhancing public participation in the river basin management via focus groups and citizens' juries in Estonia, Sweden and the Netherlands. The publication also gives recommendations on how to use and what to avoid while using these methods for enhancing public inclusivity in environmental decisions. Available in English. Edited by Kati Kangur.

Fresh water on the Earth. Water Resources of the Pskov Region.

Information bulletin contains information about fresh water resources, general description of water resources in Pskov region, eutrophication issues and the way of decreasing of nutrient load in the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye basin. Available in Russian. Compiled by Sergei Timofeev.

Annotated Directory "Ecological Problems of the Chudskoye Lake Basin".

Publication is based on information resources of the Pskov libraries and contains annotation indexes to articles, workshops' and conferences' documents, etc. concerning ecological issues in the Chudskoye/Peipsi lake region in the last 5 years. Available in Russian. Compiled by Pskov Oblast Youth Library named after A.S. Pushkin as a part of the Small Grants Program of the UNDP/GEF project (Pskov, Russia).

Fish in the Waters of Lake Peipsi and Fishermen on Peipsi Waters.

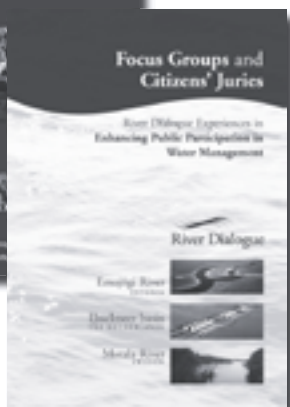
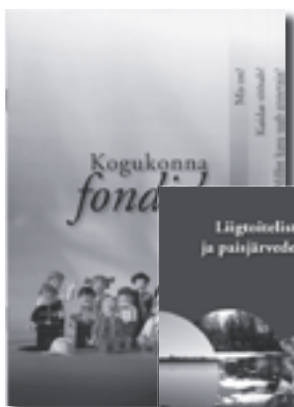
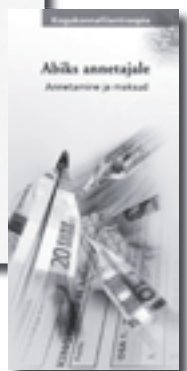
Peipsi Guide. (Kalad Peipsi vetes ja kalurid Peipsi vetel. Peipsi teejuht). The brochure gives an overview of Peipsi fish and fishery throughout centuries. Available in Estonian and English. Authors: Arne Ader, Meelis Tambets, Virve Tuubel.

Framework for Public Participation in River Basin Management: Action for the Future.

This publication is an executive summary of comprehensive studies on public participation in water management completed within a Baltic Rivers Network project "Addressing water eutrophication in the Baltic Sea Basin through regional NGO cooperation on sustainable river basin management and public participation". Compiled by Peeter Unt. Available in English.

Creation of a Joint Commission on the Chu and Talas Rivers between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan

The brochure introduces the activities of the bilateral water commission. Compiled by Margit Säre. Available in English.



Articles

Empowerment of Public Participation in Management of Transboundary Waters in Countries in Transition: Lake Peipsi Case Study; conference proceeding “Integrated Water Management of Transboundary Catchments”; FEEM, Available in English. Written by Margit Säre.

Public Participation in Management of Transboundary Waters in Countries in Transition, in conference proceedings: “BALWOIS. Water Observation and Information System for Decision Support”; Ohrid, Macedonia; May 2004. Written by Margit Säre.

Water management plans in Estonia (Veemajandusplaanid Eestis). In the magazine of the Union of the Biology and Geography Teachers of Estonia “Kägu”; December 2004. In Estonian and Russian. Written by Ülo Sults.

It is Difficult to Measure Diffuse Pollution (Hajureostust on raske mõõta). In the additional edition of the newspaper “Maaleht”, Nov 18, 2004. Written by Ülo Sults.

Public Participation in Environmental Issues – an Example of the Peipsi CTC (Avalikkuse kaasamine keskkonnaküsimustes – Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse näide). In the brochure on the inclusion of citizens and non-profit associations in the work of local municipalities. Publication by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In Estonian. Margit Säre.

Community Foundation – a Possibility for the Inclusion of the Local Population (Kogukonnafond – üks võimalus kohalike elanike kaasamiseks). In the brochure on the inclusion of citizens and non-profit associations in the work of local municipalities. Publication by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In Estonian. Iti Aavik.

Forum of Chudskoye Lake Region NGOs, Pskov, September 7-8, 2004. Bulletin of International Federation for Peace and Conciliation. Available in Russian. Written by Sergei Timofeev.

Development of the Transboundary Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin Water Management Programme – Problems and Challenges. Materials of the regional public scientific conference “North-West Russia: Problems of Ecology and Social-economic Development”. Available in Russian. Written by O.Vasilenko, N.Alexeeva.

Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye and Ijsselmeer: Future References for Long-term. Materials of the regional public scientific conference “North-West Russia: Problems of Ecology and Social-economic Development”. Available in Russian, Written by S.Timofeev, M.Melnik.

Small Grants Program in the Russian Part of the Transboundary Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Region. Materials of the regional public scientific conference “North-West Russia: Problems of Ecology and Social-economic Development”. Available in Russian. Written by E. Bystrova.

Integrated Transboundary Water Management in the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin in the Proceedings of the International Conference “Integrated Management of Natural Resources in the Transboundary Dniester River Basin”, Chisinau, Moldova. Written by Natalia Alexeeva.

Planning in Transboundary Water Basins – Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Case Study in the Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management, Tuscon, USA. Written by Natalia Alexeeva.

Joint Management Programme for the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Basin, in the Proceedings of the Baltic Sea Days devoted to the 30th anniversary of the HELCOM St.Petersburg, Russia. Written by Natalia Alexeeva.

Reports and Working Papers

Chudskoye Lake Non-Governmental Organizations’ Development Program. The Program is a document dedicated to analyzing the condition, structure, intersectional and intrasectional NGO interactions, prerequisites and prospects of the third sector development, as well as to developing recommendations on strengthening NGOs in the region. Available in English and Russian. Compiled by Dmitry Antonyuk, Sergei Timofeev, Olga Vasilenko.

Information on Projects Implemented by the Russian Non-Governmental Organizations in Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye Region (2003-2004). The projects survey is prepared on the basis of NGOs’ presentation materials’ analysis and the information presented by the organizations implementing these initiatives. Available in English and Russian. Compiled by Sergei Timofeev.

Newsletters

River Dialogue project newsletter giving an overview on citizens’ juries in Estonia, Sweden and the Netherlands; and information on forthcoming project events. Nr 2, April 2004.

EXLINEA project newsletter exploring the development of cross-border avenues of communication and cooperation and examining the capacity for “region building” in eight study areas. Nr 3, June 2004.

River Dialogue project newsletter exploring the comparative analysis of the Estonian, Swedish and Dutch citizens’ juries, as well as giving information on related seminars and conferences on water management issues. Nr 3, August 2004.

UNDP/GEF project newsletter giving the description of the process on development of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye basin management program; mid-term evaluation of the project; results of the joint monitoring events on the lake; overviews of the conference Peipsi Forum IV; Peipsi Council establishing activities and small grants program in Russia. Nr 2, November 2004

Partners 2004

Estonia

DEVELOPMENT AND STABILIZATION FOUNDATION
ESTONIAN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
ESTONIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
ROUNDTABLE
ESTONIAN EUROPEAN MOVEMENT
ESTONIAN LAW CENTRE
ESTONIAN MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
ESTONIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ESTONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM
FOUNDATION TARTUMAA TURISM
IDA-VIRU COUNTY GOVERNMENT
JÕGEVA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
KALLASTE TOWN GOVERNMENTS
LAKE VÕRTSJÄRV FOUNDATION
MOVEMENT OF ESTONIAN VILLAGES
AND SMALL TOWNS "KODUKANT"
NARVA NGO ASSOCIATION
NATURE HOUSE OF THE
TARTU ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
NETWORK OF ESTONIAN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
NEWSPAPER "PEIPSIRANNIK"
PÕLVA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
TARTU CITY GOVERNMENT
TARTU COUNTY GOVERNMENT
TARTU UNIVERSITY EUROCOLLEGE
TARTU VOLUNTEER CENTER
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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
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Lithuania

KAUNAS NGO SUPPORT CENTER (KNOPC)

The Netherlands

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OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN PSKOV OBLAST
FEDERAL WATER AGENCY
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
NEVA-LADOGA BASIN WATER ADMINISTRATION
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IN THE PSKOV REGION
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INFORMATION AGENCY (TEIA)

Sweden

LINKÖPING UNIVERSITY

United Kingdom

UK EMBASSY IN KAZAKHSTAN

International Organizations and Networks

GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP (GWP)
LIVING LAKES
COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE (CPI)
WORLD INITIATIVE GRANTMAKERS SUPPORT
(WINGS)
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME(UNDP)
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY (GEF)
UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR THE EUROPE
(UNECE)
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)

Financial Summary of 2004

	Rate 15.6	
	EEK	EURO
Global Environment Facility	2493711	159853
European Commission	1829181	116906
Embassy of the USA	587274	37646
Organisation of Security and Cooperation of Europe	355177	22768
Enterprise Estonia (EAS)	292500	18750
Baltic American Partnership Program	213000	13654
Netherlands Embassy	139730	8957
Denmark Fyns County	112320	7200
Center for Environmental Investments (KIK)	106000	6795
Global Water Partnership	88200	5654
Global Nature Fund	78000	5000
Estonian Ministry of Education	30000	1923
Tartu City Government	5000	321
Other	41674	2671
Total funding received	6371767	408097

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Lake Peipsi and Its Surroundings

Facts about Lake Peipsi

Lake Peipsi is the largest transboundary water body in Europe and the fourth largest lake in Europe.

The area of Lake Peipsi is 3,555 km², of which 44% belongs to the Republic of Estonia and 56% to the Russian Federation.

Peipsi is a shallow lake; its average depth is 7.1 m and maximum depth 15.3 m.

Lake Peipsi (3,555 km²) comprises three parts: Lake Peipsi itself – 2,610 km², Lake Pskov (710 km²) and the narrow (the smallest width 3 km) but deep Lake Lämmijärv (235 km²), which connects them. In Lake Lämmijärv lies the deepest place in Peipsi – 15.3 m.

The volume of the lake is about 25 km³, which is as much as the annual runoff of the Estonian rivers. In spring Peipsi's water level can rise by almost a metre. At its highest level the area of the lake increases by 780 km². In October, the level of water is at its lowest.

Ice cover on Peipsi usually forms at the end of November. It will be thickest, up to 50–60 cm, in the second half of March.

There are 30 islands in the lake, the biggest – Piirissaar - belongs to Estonia.

Lake Peipsi is an eutrophic and biologically highly productive lake. Eutrophication, which is caused by the high nutrient load, is a major threat to water quality in the lake; fortunately the recent years have shown a tendency for the better.

The Peipsi basin forms 85% of the Narva-Peipsi watershed (56,225 km²), which is 47,814 km². 59% of the Lake Peipsi basin lies on the territory of Pskov Oblast, 34% on the Estonian territory and 7% in Latvia.

The total population of the basin is approximately 1 million inhabitants, but the population density differs in various parts of the basin: 24 inhabitants/km² in Estonia and Pskov region, 11 inhabitants/km² in sparsely populated eastern coastal area of the lake.

Although Lake Peipsi is very large and its shoreline hundreds of kilometres long, this water body is of marginal importance for Estonians. Even for those who live quite near the lake it seems to be somewhere far away, where people do not go very often.

The way of life of the old-believers who live at the lake and the specific local villages create a unique landscape, which cannot be found anywhere else. Houses lie tightly next to each other and the village-street runs along the shore of the lake, forming villages that are several kilometres long. Vast onion fields surround the villages.

Peipsi is one of the best fishing lakes in the world, therefore it is enormously popular among fishermen and in wintertime hundreds of them are daily sitting on the ice. Locals are also well known for building special vehicles for driving on ice.

The sandy beaches of the northern shore of the lake are at least as long as the villages of Old Believers. Of these Kauksi is the one that everybody has heard about. The horizon disappears into the water just as at the seaside, but the comfortably shallow and sandy bed of the lake and warm water are even better than the sea.

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