



Peipsi
Center for
Transboundary
Cooperation

Activities Report
2003

10 years geared towards
sustainable development
in the Lake Peipsi region



Peipsi – Чудское
The lake which unites Estonia and Russia

Peipsi CTC Activities

Management

Management of Multilateral Cooperation Projects

Peipsi CTC provides project management support to international organisations, governments, universities and NGOs through fundraising, organisation of project communication and consultation with end-users, extensive network of experts, arrangement of project meetings and exciting field trips.

Think-tank

Think-tank on Public Participation

Peipsi CTC specializes in applied policy studies of public participation through elaborating methodologies, developing and testing specific approaches to public information and participation. Peipsi CTC conducts identification of stakeholders, dissemination of information and develops recommendations for organisation of public consultation campaigns within specific policy areas. Peipsi CTC utilizes the knowledge of citizen participation methods – citizen juries, focus groups, and expert interviews to assist local municipalities and stakeholders in raising the democratic experience.

Expertise

Expertise on Community Development

Peipsi CTC supports different undertakings facilitating an increase in community feeling and encouraging people to find new solutions for their regional and community problems. Peipsi CTC provides assistance in the formation of community foundations, counsels and trains NGOs and carries out tourism development projects. Peipsi CTC also initiates community events, such as roundtables, local environmental actions and deliberative forums, that support development of the local initiative.

Know-how

Know-how on Cross-border Cooperation

Peipsi CTC conducts analysis of the changing socio-economic situation and policies in specific cultural contexts of border areas in Central and Eastern Europe and NIS. Peipsi CTC has 10 years experience in development of cross-border interaction mechanisms and facilitation of cross-border cooperation in the Estonian – Russian border area.

Education

Capacity Building and Environmental Education

Peipsi CTC develops capacity building training for different stakeholder groups on environmental education, fundraising, project management, public relations and volunteer work supervision. Peipsi CTC organizes language courses and hands-on events for youth and children to promote intercultural understanding, support awareness of environmental and EU issues.

Action

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Introduction

Dear friends,



The current year is special as we celebrate our 10th birthday.

When looking back in time, I can see that innovation is one of our greatest advantages, as we have been an incubator of new initiatives. The Tartu Volunteer Center launched its activities under our leadership and has by now become independent; similarly, the Pskov partners established a local NGO "Chudskoe Project". In the middle of the 1990s, we were the first to introduce family-based Estonian language learning for Russian-speaking children. Now these activities are continued by schools in R pina, Mikitam e and V rska and NGOs in Narva. Peipsi CTC has contributed to the development of community philanthropy. The first community foundations in Estonia have already commenced their operation in Viljandi and J rva counties. We have introduced new methods in public participation and environmental education.

We have also been efficient project writers and administrators and thus facilitated the development of the Lake Peipsi region and the protection of the lake basin. Enhancement of international cooperation has also been of substantial importance for us. Figuratively speaking, it is possible to say, that we have helped to place Peipsi on the world map. Naturally, in a geographical sense, Lake Peipsi was already on the map but not much was known about the issue. At the present moment, the fourth largest lake in Europe, and simultaneously, the largest transboundary water body in the European region, is much better known at international level. To become well known is surely not an objective in itself. However, it is very significant for the inhabitants in the vicinity of Lake Peipsi as well as for the whole of Estonia. Development is only possible in a situation where we do not encase ourselves in our small community but instead, are open to the world.

Enlargement of the European Union, in May this year, would bring along changes on the political and economic landscape. New challenges and new opportunities are awaiting for all of us and also the Lake Peipsi region. During the forthcoming years, we would like to reach a situation where the opinion of the people living at Lake Peipsi is heeded more and their say taken into account in decision-making – both at local, regional, national and international level. We wish to place our wholehearted endeavor in the compilation of the Lake Peipsi development plan and to facilitate the carrying out of cooperation and a dialogue in a more organized manner in the future, by creating the Peipsi Council. Peipsi Council would assume the responsibility to discuss developments and problems of the region and to offer possible solutions, submit proposals to governments, initiate new projects, aimed at guaranteeing stable and sustainable development and the increase in the quality of life in the Lake Peipsi region.

Gulnara Roll



Дорогие друзья,

Настоящий год для нас особый: мы отмечаем свое десятилетие.

Оглядываясь назад, вижу, что одна из наших наиболее положительных сторон - инновативность, мы являлись своего рода инкубатором новых начинаний. По нашей инициативе начал свою деятельность Тартуский центр волонтеров, ставший теперь самостоятельной организацией; наши псковские партнеры основали местную некоммерческую организацию «Чудской проект». В середине 90-х годов мы первыми применили способ обучения русскоговорящих детей эстонскому языку в языковой среде эстонских семей. Сегодня эту деятельность продолжают в школах Ряпина, Микитамяэ и Вярска, а также нарвские некоммерческие объединения. Центр трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера (далее ЦТС) содействовал развитию общинной филантропии. Первые в Эстонии фонды местного сообщества уже действуют в уездах Вильянди и Ярва. Мы пользуемся новыми методами экологического образования и привлечения общественности.

Мы умело составляли проекты и были неплохими администраторами проектов; тем самым содействовали развитию Чудского региона и защите водосборного бассейна озера. Существенным всегда было для нас содействие развитию международного сотрудничества. Можно сказать, что с нашей помощью определилось место Чудского озера на карте мира. Разумеется, на географической карте озеро изображалось и ранее, но о нем не очень много знали. Сегодня же четвертое в Европе по величине озеро и одновременно самое большое пограничное озеро Европы известно намного шире. Естественно, приобретение известности не самоцель, но для причудских жителей и для всей Эстонии это весьма существенно. Развитие возможно только в случае, если мы не будем замыкаться в своем небольшом обществе, а будем открыты для мира.

Расширение Евросоюза уже в мае настоящего года принесет политические и экономические изменения. Новые требования и новые возможности ждут нас всех, в том числе Причудье. В ближайшие годы мы желаем достигнуть того, чтобы в большей степени прислушивались ко мнению людей, живущих у озера, и чтобы эти мнения учитывались при вынесении решений - как на местном, региональном, государственном, так и на международном уровне. Желаем содействовать составлению плана развития Чудского региона и способствовать более организованному в дальнейшем сотрудничеству и диалогу, для чего мы намерены создать Круглый стол Чудского озера. Круглый стол Чудского озера взял бы на себя ответственность за обсуждение развития и проблем региона и мог бы предоставлять возможные решения этих проблем. Также мог бы выдвигать предложения для обсуждения на уровне правительств, вносить новые проекты, способствующие гарантированию стабильного и экономного развития и улучшения качества жизни в регионе Чудского озера.

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.

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 vabatahendus, mille eesmärk on rahvusvahelise Peipsi järve piirkonna jätkusuutliku arengu ja piiriülese koostöö toetamine.

Head sõbrad,

Käesolev aasta on eriline selle poolest, et tähistame oma 10. sünnipäeva.

Ajas tagasi vaadates näen, et üks meie suuremaid plusse on innovatiivsus. Oleme olnud uute algatuste inkubaatoriks. Meie eestvedamisel alustas tegevust Tartu Vabatahtlike Keskus, mis nüüdseks on iseseisvunud. Meie Pihkva partnerid asutasid kohaliku MTÜ Tšudskoi Projekt. 90-te keskpaigas käivitasime esimestena eesti keele pereõppe vene keelt kõnelevatele lastele. Nüüd jätkavad seda tegevust Rāpina, Mikitamäe ja Vārskā kool ning Narva mittetulundusühingud. Peipsi Koostöö Keskus on aidanud kaasa kogukonnafilantroopia arengule. Eesti esimesed kogukonnafondid Viljandimaal ja Järvamaal on juba tegevust alustanud. Oleme kasutusele võtnud uusi meetodeid keskkonnahariduses ja avalikkuse kaasamises.

Oleme olnud head projektikirjutajad ja projektide administraatorid ning aidanud seeläbi kaasa Peipsi piirkonna arendamisele ning järve valgala kaitsele. Olulisel kohal on meie jaoks olnud ka rahvusvahelise koostöö edendamine. Kujundlikult võiks öelda, et oleme aidanud Peipsit maailmakaardile viia. Muidugi oli Peipsi järv geograafilises mõttes kaardil ennegi, kuid sellest ei teatud kuigi palju. Nüüd on Euroopa suuruselt neljas järv ning ühtlasi Euroopa suurim piiriveekogu rahvusvaheliselt palju paremini tuntud. Tuntuks saamine ei ole muidugi eesmärk omaette, kuid see on väga oluline nii Peipsi-äärsete elanike kui kogu Eesti jaoks. Areng on võimalik vaid siis, kui me ei kapseldu oma väikesesse kogukonda vaid oleme avatud maailmale.

Euroopa Liidu laienemine toob juba käesoleva aasta mais kaasa muutused poliitilisel ja majandusmaastikul. Uued väljakutsed ja võimalused ootavad meid ja ka Peipsi piirkonda. Lähiaastate jooksul tahame saavutada, et Peipsi ääres elavate inimeste arvamus võetaks enam kuulda ning nendega arvestataks otsuste tegemisel nii kohalikul, regionaalsel, riiklikul kui rahvusvahelisel tasandil. Soovime öla alla panna Peipsi arengukava koostamisele ning aidata korraldada koostööd ja dialoogi edaspidi organiseeritumalt, kutsudes ellu Peipsi Ümarlaua. Peipsi Ümarlaud võtaks enesele vastutuse arutada piirkonna arenguid ja probleeme, pakkuda välja võimalikke lahendusi, esitada ettepanekuid valitsustele ning algatada uusi projekte, mis aitaksid tagada stabiilse ning säästva arengu ja elukvaliteedi tõusu Peipsi piirkonnas.

Multilateral Cooperation

Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program

www.peipsi.org/gef

Natalia Alexeeva

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

Peipsi järve veemajandusprogramm

Pikalt ettevalmistatud ning lõpuks ÜRO Arenguprogrammi ja Maailma Keskkonnafondi toetuse saanud projekt kujutab endast olulist sammu Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse arengus. Kogu Peipsi järve valgala (nii Eesti kui Venemaa territoorium) hõlmava projekti eesmärgid on: kaasa aidata Peipsi järve veemajandusprogrammi ettevalmistamisele ja elluviimisele; tõsta kohalike omavalitsuste, vabatahtlike, ettevõtjate, ja riiklike institutsioonide suutlikkust, et oleks võimalik veemajandusprogrammi ellu viia; edendada keskkonnaharidust ning soodustada avalikkuse kaasamist.

«Разработка и реализация Плана управления бассейном Псковско - Чудского озера»

Проект, начавшийся в 2003 году, является одним из важнейших шагов в развитии ЦТС.

Основная цель проекта заключается в разработке и начале реализации Программы управления бассейном Псковско-Чудского озера. Она включает в себя практические рекомендации и план действий по сокращению биогенной нагрузки, направленной на рациональное использование природных ресурсов и охрану естественной среды обитания и экосистем в трансграничном регионе.

The project, started in 2003, is one of the major steps in Peipsi CTC development. This project's proposal was initiated by the Chairwoman of Peipsi CTC, Ms Gulnara Roll, almost 7 years ago. Project partners (Estonian Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, UNDP and Peipsi CTC) devoted a lot of their time and efforts and finally endorsed the project at the end of 2002.

The overall objective of the Project, designed for the whole of the Lake Peipsi basin in Estonia and Russia, is to develop and start implementation of a Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program including practical recommendations for the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe nutrient load reduction and prevention, and the sustainable conservation of habitats and eco-systems in the cross-border region. Having a complex character, the project implementation is organized within the framework of four basic components: preparation and partial implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Plan, national and local institutional capacity building to implement the Management Plan, environmental education and public awareness programs and the Project management.

The Steering Committee of the project, comprising the representatives of Estonian Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, UNDP, Ministries of Foreign Affairs from both countries, Ministry of Agriculture of Estonia, Roshydromet, the Estonian-Russian Joint Commission on Transboundary Waters, Regional Authorities, and NGOs from Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe basin, started work already in January 2003 and had two meetings in 2003 held in Estonia and Russia.

During 2003, the main activities were to set up the practical arrangement for project implementation, organize seminars and trainings for NGOs, municipalities and environmental authorities on basin management plans, eutrophication, public participation and courses for nature interpreters aimed at capacity building. The water management component was implemented through winter sampling organized in Estonia, the initiation of an infrastructure demonstration project in Rāpina, starting subcontracts for lake state assessment/TDA and Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

Coordination with other ongoing international and national projects in the region was very important in order to avoid any duplication and increase the effectiveness of funding to be spent in the region.

The main challenges during this period were different requirements and legislation in both countries that sometimes caused difficulties in implementation of joint project activities so the Project Team has to adjust common rules and standards under the project to existing national requirements in this field. The character of the project (NGO execution) was quite innovative for the region so all project partners, belonging to different kinds of groupings, (international organizations, national authorities and NGOs), were looking for mutual understanding and close cooperation, which are the key elements for successful implementation of the project.

Research Project on Transboundary Waters MANTRA-East

Gulnara Roll

Supported by European Commission Fifth Framework Programme

www.mantraeast.org

The three-year-long MANTRA-East project was practically finished by the end of 2003. The project had three main objectives. The first of these was to evaluate the applicability of the EU Water Framework Directive in the future EU border regions. The second objective was to develop methods to improve the communication and utilization of scientific information. The third objective was to develop institutional mechanisms and policy instruments for decision making under conditions of transition and uncertainty. Originally, the first objective was primarily the domain of the natural scientists in the project. The second objective was mostly managed by geographers and information specialists and the third objective was the responsibility of the social scientists and policy analysts. During the project it was realized that transboundary water management demands a truly integrated approach, and the divisions between the different disciplines, as well as the delegation of tasks, were not strictly adhered to. In fact, an integrated approach, utilizing all aspects of the problem, was developed.

Among the project outcomes the following should be stressed: one of the most significant outcomes of the project is the strategy for Lake Peipsi to tackle phosphorus pollution in the lake basin. A GIS database contains more than 20 data layers arranged according to seven themes; this database was disseminated on CD-ROMs and is also available at the project website.

Peipsi CTC was the local coordinator of the project and was responsible for the organization of some of the project events as well as for the dissemination of the project scientific results to stakeholders. Another important task of the Peipsi CTC was preparation of recommendations for public and stakeholder involvement in transboundary water basins in Europe and its fringes. A study organized by the Peipsi CTC of theoretical models and practical experiences of stakeholders and public involvement in transboundary water management confirmed that involving multiple stakeholder groups in the development and implementation of EU and national water policies is critically important; however, this is not always feasible for various reasons. Traditionally, a major bottleneck in the implementation of environmental policies is created when experts produce a highly technical body of information that becomes incomprehensible to non-experts. Another issue is that transboundary commissions are largely expert/technical bodies and as a consequence of this the socio-economic connotation of water management decisions are sometimes underestimated and there is too little attention paid, by transboundary commissions, to the involvement of diverse stakeholders in water basins.

Recommendations for public information and participation developed within the MANTRA-East project, were used to prepare a plan for stakeholder involvement as a part of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Water Management Program (see more at www.peipsi.org/gef).

Piiriveekogude uuring MANTRA-East

Kolm aastat kestnud projekti üks olulisemaid saavutusi on Peipsi järve fosforireostuse vähendamise strateegia väljatöötamine. Projekti raames valmis nii Eestit kui Venemaad hõlmav Peipsi järve piirkonna GIS andmebaas, mis on kättesaadav nii CD-ROMil kui projekti koduleheküljel. Peipsi Koostöö Keskus koostas ka soovitud avalikkuse kaasamiseks Euroopa Liidu piiriveekogusid puudutavate otsuste tegemisse. Läbiviidud uuringus jõuti järeldusele, et avalikkuse kaasamine EL Veepoliitika Raamdirektiivi elluviimisele on praktikas tihti komplitseeritud, seda eelõige kahel põhjusel. Esiteks on asjakohane informatsioon esitatud liiga keerukal, tavainimesele raskesti mõistetaval kujul, teiseks on piiriveekogude ühiskomisjonid valdavalt tehniliste ekspertide kogud, kus mõnigi kord alahinnatakse valgala erinevate huvigruppide kaasamise vajadust.

Исследование пограничных водоемов MANTRA-East

Одним из наиболее существенных достижений работы по проекту на протяжении трех лет является стратегия уменьшения загрязненности Чудского озера фосфором. В рамках проекта составлена база данных GIS, охватывающая причудский регион как эстонской, так и российской стороны. Информация предоставлена на CD-ROM и на странице проекта. Центром трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера составлены и рекомендации по приобщению общественности к проблематике пограничных водоемов Европейского союза. Итоги исследования возможностей задействования общественности показали, что привлечение общественности к реализации Рамочной директивы водной политики Евросоюза на практике нередко оказывается сложной задачей, прежде всего по двум причинам. Во-первых, информация по проблематике представлена в излишне сложном виде, труднодоступном для непосвященного, во-вторых, общие комиссии по пограничным водоемам составляются в основном из технических экспертов, и эти комиссии иногда недооценивают необходимость привлечения к делу разных заинтересованных групп водосборного бассейна.



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

www.riverdialogue.org

Margit Säre

Supported by European Commission Fifth Framework Programme

Jõgedele dialoog

Rahvusvahelise projekti eesmärgiks on uurida uusi efektiivseid meetodeid avalikkuse kaasamiseks veemajandus-alaste otsustuste tegemisse. Üldsuse osalust nõuab EL Veepoliitika Raamdirektiiv. 2003. aasta suvel viidi läbi 9 fookusgrupi intervjuud. Teise meetodina korraldati 2003. aasta sügisel 2-päevane kodanikepaneel "Veetransport Emajõel ja Alam-Pedja looduskaitsealal", millest võtsid osa Rannu ja Puhja valla elanikud. Intervjuudele ja kodanikepaneeli tulemustele tuginedes sõnastati inimeste veemajandusalased ettepanekud ja soovitusel.

Диалог рек

Целью международного исследовательского проекта является определить новые эффективные методы привлечения общественности к решению проблем, прежде всего для осуществления Рамочной директивы водной политики Евросоюза. Летом 2003 года были проведены интервью с 9 фокусными группами. Вторым методом явилась организованная осенью 2003 года двухдневная гражданская дискуссия на тему «Водный транспорт на реке Эмайыги и в заповеднике Алам-Педья», в которой приняли участие жители Раннуской и Пухьяской волостей. Опираясь на интервью и на результаты обсуждения, были изложены предложения и рекомендации по водному хозяйствованию.



River Dialogue

River Dialogue is an international research project launched in January 2003. The project is aimed at identifying the best approaches for increasing public participation in the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

The project tests 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. Peipsi CTC partners in the project are Linköping University and the Free University of Amsterdam.

In summer 2003, nine focus group interviews were conducted with environmentalists, schoolchildren, fishermen, farmers, NGOs etc on the water management issues in Emajõgi region. Focus group interview is a method of sociological study, letting people talk on certain issues through the help of a moderator's questions. Focus groups gathered 4-14 people for 1.5 hours and concentrated on water management issues in the Emajõgi river basin, the coverage of environmental problems in the Estonian media, public awareness building and stakeholders' participation. Focus groups showed that water management issues earn too little attention, especially in rural areas. People believed that the water quality has improved in the River Emajõgi during the last decade but poorly developed infrastructure, for example, lack of trash-bins, camping, parking and landing-sites, remains a major problem. Intensive fishing and poorly coordinated water transportation also received special attention by focus groups.

A Citizens' Jury is a randomly selected panel of citizens which meets for two days to carefully examine an issue of public significance through discussions, examination of information, and questioning of witnesses.

A 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 November 14th and 15th and it gathered 14 inhabitants of Rannu and Puhja municipalities, by random selection. The jury listened to presentations from 5 witnesses from different sectors and stakeholder groups, involved with Emajõgi region development.

At the end of the jury session, local people compiled their recommendations. In general, the inhabitants of Puhja and Rannu rural municipalities are in favor of developing water transport on the River Emajõgi, but they also consider it extremely important to consider the natural environment and the interests of local people.

The citizens' jury of Puhja and Rannu rural municipalities was the first of its kind in Estonia.

Both focus groups and citizens' juries' reports are available at the project website. Based on the focus groups' and citizens' juries' results, specific recommendations will be formulated, and the practical guidance documents will be developed and published on a website and a CD.

Baltic Rivers Network

Peeter Unt

Supported by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)

Throughout 2003, five NGOs on the eastern side of the Baltic Sea were carrying out intensive cooperation on water management and public participation. These NGOs are the Center for Environmental Policy from Lithuania, WWF Latvia, Chudskoe Project from Russia, Estonian Fund for Nature and Peipsi CTC.

One result of the cooperation was comprehensive studies on public participation in water management in the respective countries.

Presentation of the reports and national action plans for fostering public participation in water management took place at an international conference held in Tartu, Estonia in October 2003. The conference brought together ministerial officials, NGOs, businesses and environmentalists from the Eastern Baltic Sea region and gave a fair overview of the ongoing activities concerning the development of water management plans and public involvement.

In addition, at the conference the Baltic Rivers Network was introduced to the wider public. This is a new network of NGOs working with fresh water issues and water management plans in the Eastern Baltic Sea region. The founding members of the Baltic Rivers Network are the NGOs mentioned above with the main objective of contributing to the implementation of the EU WFD in the Baltic States through facilitating public participation in water management, organizing public supervision of implementation of the EU water policy principles and promoting the ideas of WFD in Northwestern Russia and Belarus.

www.balticrivers.net will be the official website of Baltic Rivers Network.

www.riverdialogue.org/NGO

Uus keskkonnaorganisatsioonide võrgustik, kuhu kuuluvad Leedu Keskkonnapoliitika Keskus, Läti WWF, Chudskoe Projekt Venemaalt ning Eestimaa Looduse Fond ja Peipsi Koostöö Keskus Eestist, uuris projekti raames võrdlevalt, millised on avalikkuse kaasamise seaduslikud raamid ja praktikad erinevates riikides. Aruandeid ja tegevuskavasid avalikkuse kaasamisest veemajandusse esitleti oktoobrikuus Tartus toimunud rahvusvahelisel konverentsil ja need on kättesaadavad projekti koduleheküljel.

Организации охраны окружающей среды, куда входят Литовский центр экологической политики, WWF Латвии, «Чудской проект» России, Эстонский фонд природы и Центр трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера в рамках проекта провели сравнительное исследование политики и практики задействования общественности в разных странах. Отчеты и планы действий по привлечению общественности к решению проблем водного хозяйства можно найти по адресу www.riverdialogue.org/NGO.



Water Management and Partnership Building Seminars for Local Decision Makers

www.riverdialogue.org/NGO

Peeter Unt

Supported by the USEPA and REC

Veemajanduse partnerlusseminarid kohalikele otsustajatele

Erineva tasandi otsustajad (ministeeriumid, kohalikud omavalitsused) ning vabaihenduste esindajad said kokku seminaridel, kus arutati avalikkuse kaasamise ja koostöö rolli ning erinevaid partnerlusskeeme kohaliku veemajanduse korraldamiseks.

Seminaridest osavõtjad said hea ülevaate Peipsi järve valgala keskkonnaseisundist, veemajanduskavade koostamise reeglitest ning meetoditest, kuidas kohalikke inimesi otsustamise juurde tuua.

Партнерские семинары по водному хозяйству

Представители министерств, местных самоуправлений и некоммерческих организаций встречались на семинарах, на которых обсуждалась необходимость привлечения общественности к решению вопросов налаживания местного водного хозяйства, роль сотрудничества и разные партнерские схемы. Участники семинаров получили хорошее представление об экологическом состоянии водосборной территории Чудского озера, о правилах составления планов по водному хозяйству, а также о методах приближения местных жителей к решению проблем.

Peipsi CTC works in the name of making the development of water management plans more open and facilitating dialogue between different stakeholders.

In 2003, we organized 2 seminars, primarily meant for local decision-makers and experts, on the process of developing a water management plan and the importance of partnership building. The trainers came from the United States, Estonian universities and the Ministry of the Environment.

The first training, which took place in June 2003 in Tartu, focused on the subject of agricultural pollution as the main reason for eutrophication of water bodies in the Lake Peipsi basin. The participants were provided with information about the current situation in Estonia concerning agricultural pollution and “tools”, which would help them to solve this problem. More precisely – how to build a partnership in the community, how to sustain it and how to make it work in the name of better water management plans.

The second 2-day seminar took place in August 2003 in Remniku on the northern shore of Lake Peipsi and targeted the local decision-makers of that region. It focused on the basics of local decision making for watershed management, different outreach techniques, partnership building and the current status of public participation in the process of preparation of water management plans in Estonia.

Regarding the second training, it is especially worth mentioning that most of the participants had not been thinking about water issues beforehand and they greatly appreciated the way of presenting the information and making people think about the water issue. Therefore, both local people and ministerial officials emphasized that these kinds of events should be organized more frequently as the issue is very acute at the moment.

In 2004, Peipsi CTC will continue with the local decision-makers' seminars in the counties bordering Lake Peipsi.



Democratic e-Management in Narva

Erkki Vedder

Supported by EU LIFE-Environment Programme

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

During the course of the project “e-Community”, a spatial Internet-based planning system, unprecedented in Europe, shall be built. 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. referendums) on the Internet and opens Narva to the outside 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, while 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.

Peipsi CTC is involved in the project as a public participation expert.

A preliminary survey was conducted in January 2003. In total, three workshops were organized for different target groups. Almost 40 people had a chance to give their thoughts about the needs of a planned system. Based on these workshops, concrete recommendations were forwarded to the developers of the technical solution.

In the following two years, Peipsi CTC will deal mostly with promotion of the program.

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

Narva e-kogukond

Projekti tulemusena valmib Internetis funktsioneeriv ruumilise planeerimise süsteem. See tähendab, et tulevikus on Internetis kättesaadav kogu Narva detailplaneering, nii olemasolev kui planeeritav puu, tänav või hoone. Tegemist on innovaatilise pilootprojektiga, mille põhjal tehakse järeltõlke meetodi sobivuse kohta ka teiste riikide ja linnade jaoks. Eesti väiksus ja paindlikkus annavad võimaluse olla selles valdkonnas suunanäitajateks Euroopas. Projektis osaleb kuus partnerit ning Peipsi Koostöö Keskus on kaasatud kui avalikkuse kaasamise ekspert.

Информационные технологии в управлении городом Нарва

Проект предусматривает завершение функционирующей в интернете системы пространственного планирования. Это означает, что в будущем вся детальная планировка Нарвы будет представлена в Интернете, вплоть до существующих или планируемых деревьев, улиц, зданий. Это инновационный пилот-проект, на основе которого будут делаться выводы о пригодности метода и для других стран и городов. Малые размеры и гибкость Эстонии дают ей возможность быть в этой области образцом в европейском масштабе. В проекте участвуют шесть партнеров. Центр трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера привлечен к участию в качестве эксперта по задействованию общественности.

“ *I first came across your organisation early on in my time here and was - and remain - highly impressed with both the concept and all the activity. I am sure that trans-border contacts are the key to the success of the region.* ”

Sarah Squire
HM Ambassador (former)
British Embassy Tallinn

Citizens for the New Europe

Erkki Vedder

Supported by the EU

Uueneva Euroopa kodanikud

Active Citizens Networki (Aktiivsete Kodanike Võrgustik) algatatud projekti partnerina osales Peipsi Koostöö Keskus üleeuroopalises projektis, kus uuriti kodanikeühenduste olukorda ning kolmandat sektorit puudutavat seadusandlust erinevates riikides. Uuringud koondati ühtseks raportiks, et mõjutada Euroopa Komisjoni ühtlustama mittetulunduslast seadusandlust Euroopa Liidu tasandil.

Uuringu Eesti osa on kättesaadav Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse koduleheküljel www.ctc.ee

Граждане обновленной Европы

Будучи партнером проекта, инициатором которого является Active Citizens Network (ACN), Центр трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера участвовал в общеевропейском проекте, в рамках которого исследовалось положение гражданских объединений, а также касающееся третьего сектора законодательство разных стран. Исследования были объединены в общий рапорт с целью воздействия на Европейскую комиссию, чтобы склонить ее к унификации в Евросоюзе законодательства по вопросам некоммерческих объединений.

Эстонскую часть исследования можно прочитать на странице Центра трансграничного сотрудничества www.ctc.ee.

As a partner of a project initiated by the Active Citizens Network (ACN), Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation took part in a research project ascertaining the situation of citizens' associations in different countries and the level of legislation regarding such NGOs. The study was carried out among the current and future member countries of the European Union, in total 27 countries. Attention was focused on citizens' associations operating in the field of health promotion, consumer protection and environment and, to a smaller extent, the study also covered associations active in other areas.

Legislation concerning NGOs varies significantly in different European countries – thorough in few instances, episodic in the majority of countries and almost non-existent in some. The aim of the research was to obtain an overview of the situation in different countries and, when possible, find common features in legislation. The studies were concentrated upon in a joint report, used to influence the European Commission to harmonize NGO-related legislation at the European Union level.

The part of the research concerning Estonia is available on the Peipsi CTC website www.ctc.ee



Rethinking the Principle of Subsidiarity

Erkki Vedder

Supported by the EU

Up until now, the principle of vertical subsidiarity has been utilized in the European Union, providing that higher bodies of state power (government, ministries, etc.) forwarded a certain problem to be solved at lower levels, in order to expand participatory democracy and decentralize power. The lower levels were primarily local governments and citizens' associations. The project aimed at introducing the principle of horizontal subsidiarity, where state power does not delegate assignments to subordinate levels (i.e. top-down vertical axle), instead, citizens' associations operate as equal partners with state authorities, being on the same level (horizontal axle). If state bodies accept citizens' associations as equal partners, the opportunities of the third sector to initiate the solving of problems will also increase.

In order to introduce and promote this principle, Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation organized an idea generation meeting on April 22, where participants were given brochures introducing the principle of horizontal subsidiarity and the possibilities for implementing the principle in Estonia were under discussion. People at the seminar reached the conclusion that both principles – of vertical and horizontal subsidiarity – are not well known in Estonia but are definitely worthwhile being implemented.

The initiator of the project was the European Union Active Citizens Network, with the involvement of altogether 22 partners.

Subsidaarsuse printsiibi ümbermõtestamine

Peipsi Koostöö Keskus oli üks 22 partnerist, kes osales Euroopa Liidu *Active Citizens Network* poolt algatatud projektis, mille raames tutvustati erinevates riikides horisontaalse subsidaarsuse printsiipi. Peipsi Koostöö Keskus korraldas mõttetalgud, kus arutati horisontaalse subsidaarsuse põhimõtte rakendusvõimalusi Eestis ning jagati osalejatele seda tutvustavaid materjale. Seminaril jõuti järeldusele, et subsidaarsuse printsiip väärib rakendamist, ehkki ei horisontaalse ega vertikaalse subsidaarsuse põhimõtte pole Eestis kuigivõrd tuntud.

Переосмысление принципа субсидиарности

Центр трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера был одним из 22 партнеров, участвовавших в проекте по инициативе Европейского союза *Active Citizens Network* (Сеть активных граждан), в рамках которого в разных странах проводилось ознакомление общественности с принципом горизонтальной субсидиарности. ЦТС организовал обсуждение, на котором участникам раздавались материалы, объясняющие принцип горизонтальной субсидиарности, и обсуждались возможности его применения в Эстонии. Участники семинара пришли к выводу, что принципы вертикальной и горизонтальной субсидиарности малоизвестны в Эстонии, но они заслуживают внимания и могли бы найти применение.

“*You have shown that the sense of mission and eagerness, in combination with a sensitive social attitude, can do a lot of good for people. The fact that your activities are targeted towards a region with a small number of entrepreneurial persons, and poverty strongly pressurizing nature, makes them particularly praiseworthy.*”

Juhan Telgmaa
Chairman of the Estonian Society for Nature Conservation

Community Development

Tartu and Jõgeva County NGO Support Center

Lea Saul

Supported by the Baltic-American Partnership Program (BAPP)

Tartu- ja Jõgevamaa MTÜ Tugikeskus

Tartu- ja Jõgevamaa MTÜ Tugikeskus on nelja tegevusaasta jooksul omandanud olulise rolli piirkonna vabaihenduste kaasajana, koolitajana ja teavitajana.

Tugikeskuse eestvedamisel käivitati 2003. aastal Tartumaa ja Jõgevamaa Vabaihenduste Koostöökojad, mille üks olulisemaid ülesandeid on aidata kaasa ühenduste ja kohalike omavalitsuste dialoogile.

Oluliseks saavutuseks tuleb pidada ka seda, et riik ja omavalitsus on hakanud paremini mõistma kolmanda sektori rolli ühiskonnas ning tugiteenuse vajalikkust ühendustele.

Центр поддержки НКО Тарту и Йыгева

Основной задачей Центра поддержки НКО Тарту и Йыгева является привлечение, информирование и обучение некоммерческих организаций. В этой сфере мы являемся лидерами.

По инициативе Центра в 2003 году в Тарту и Йыгева были организованы Советы некоммерческих организаций, одна из основных функций которых - способствовать диалогу между НКО и местным самоуправлением.

Существенным достижением центра является и то, что государство и самоуправления стали лучше осознавать роль третьего сектора в обществе и понимать необходимость поддержки, оказываемой НКО.

Tartu and Jõgeva County Support Center, within the four years of its operation, has acquired a substantial role in involving, training and informing non-governmental organizations in the region.

During the year 2003, NGOs used the consulting services of the Support Center in 831 instances. Under the leadership of the Support Center, 57 training seminars, round-tables and information days were organized last year within Tartu and Jõgeva counties. Each week, 5 to 15 messages were sent to the info-list of citizens' associations, comprising more than 600 members – regarding information on training events, financing and cooperation opportunities, mediation of volunteers, etc. Similar to earlier years, the Support Center organized an acknowledgement event, "The Doer of the Year", for NGOs, volunteers and donors.

The Cooperation Chamber of Tartu and Jõgeva County non-governmental organizations, mainly aimed at contributing to the dialogue between NGOs and local governments, was launched under the leadership of the Support Center. Today, there are 32 associations operating within the Tartu County Cooperation Chamber.

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 citizens' associations, could be regarded the most significant achievement of the last year. The NGO support centers' network project, funded by the Baltic-American Partnership Program, lasted for four years and reached its end in December 2003. Nevertheless, the Tartu County NGO Support Center, and the development centers of other counties, can still continue their activities thanks to the fact that since 2004, Enterprise Estonia orders, from these centers, consulting, training and information services, directed to non-governmental organizations.



Tartu Volunteer Center

Tuulike Mänd

Supported by: the European Union Programme
"The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights 2000"

In the autumn of 2002, after almost 3 years of existence as a subproject of Peipsi CTC, Tartu Volunteer Center (TVC) became an autonomous NGO. The year 2003 has in general been the year of "finding our own way" and building the capacity of the new organization. At the same time the cooperation with our mother-organization has continuously been very fruitful, as the goals of Peipsi CTC and TVC are similar – both organizations work to foster the development of civil society and build the capacity of NGOs in Estonia.

The project "Volunteer Network of European Union Accession Countries in the Baltic Sea Region – Baltic VolNet" helped TVC to make a big step forward in the field of developing volunteer activities in Estonia.

The achievements under this project were the following:

- Networks and mailing lists of volunteer centers, non-profit organizations and volunteers were created in Estonia. Many contacts with organizations from the European Union and its accession countries were established.
- The First Estonian Volunteer Forum was organized from 24 to 25 April 2003 in Tartu. The main goal of the forum was to bring together different actors in the field of volunteering to discuss topics like legal aspects of volunteering, statistics of volunteer work, measuring the contribution of volunteer work, motivating and rewarding the volunteers. Project partners made presentations about the situation in Latvia, Lithuania and Norway. The presentations of the Volunteer Forum were published as a booklet in the Estonian language.
- Themis Interactive Society Forum on volunteering was opened in the end of January 2003 at the Internet address www.lc.ee/foorum/lc/kalender/yf_vabatahtlik.html?C=3.
- Legislation regulating volunteer activities. The project concentrated mostly on gathering information from different countries, analysing this and comparing it with the existing legal environment in Estonia. The results were presented at the First Estonian Volunteer Forum and published in a separate report on legal aspects of volunteer work. The report also gives suggestions for the next steps of the law-making process.

www.vabatahtlikud.ee

Tartu Vabatahtlike Keskus

Kolm aastat Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse allprojektina töötanud Tartu Vabatahtlike Keskus tegutseb alates 2003. aastast iseseiva ühendusena, jätkates samas tihedat koostööd emaorganisatsiooniga. Esimese aasta jõupingutused olidki eelkõige suunatud oma tee leidmisele. Viisime ellu ka Baltic VolNet projekti, mille raames avasime vabatahtlikkuse teemale pühendatud veebilehekülje, korraldasime Balti riikide vabatahtlike konverentsi ning analüüsisime vabatahtlikkuse seadusandlike aspekte.

Тартуский центр волонтеров

Тартуский центр волонтеров, работавший в течение трех лет в рамках Центра трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера, с 2003 года действует в статусе самостоятельной организации, в то же время продолжая тесно сотрудничать с материнской организацией. Наши усилия в течение первого года и были направлены прежде всего на поиски собственного пути. Мы реализовали и проект Baltic VolNet, в рамках которого создали веб-страницу на тему волонтерства, организовали конференцию волонтеров Балтии и анализировали законодательные аспекты добровольной работы.



“ *In the future, activities should definitely be targeted more towards the involvement of young people, as they are actually the ones who should gain real benefit from such long-term plans. The situation is very poor demographically and the way of life, enabling the maintaining of village life at a tolerable quality of life, is the key issue of our statehood.* ”

Arno Ratas
Puhja rural municipality

Support for Community Foundations

Angelika Rebema

Supported by the Baltic-American Partnership Program (BAPP)

Toetus kogukonnafondidele

Peipsi Koostöö Keskus kui kogukonnafilantroopia tugiorganisatsioon oli abiks jätkuvate koolituste korraldamisel, kogukonnafilantroopia põhimõtete tutvustamisel ning trükiste ettevalmistamisel. Viljandimaa Kogukonna Fondi tähelepanuväärseim algatus oli põhikapitali kogumise ainulaadse mudeli käivitamine – kõik Viljandimaa 18 omavalitsust tasuvad igal aastal fondi põhikapitali omavalitsuse territooriumil elava inimese kohta ühe eesti krooni.

Поддержка фондов местного сообщества

Центр трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера в качестве организации поддержки филантропии местного сообщества помогал устраивать обучающие мероприятия, знакомить общество с принципами филантропии местного сообщества, готовить издания к печати. Заслуживает внимания инициатива фонда местного сообщества Вильяндиского уезда - введение в действие единственного в своем роде способа сбора средств для базового капитала: все 18 самоуправлений Вильяндимаа каждый год вносят в базовый капитал фонда сумму из расчета по одной эстонской кроне за каждого человека, живущего на территории самоуправления.

Viljandi and Järva County community foundations continued their operation in 2003. Viljandi County Community Foundation managed to raise local resources in the amount of nearly 130,000 thousand Estonian kroons, supplemented by BAPP by 80,000 EEK. The construction of a playground in Männimäe, Viljandi, was launched thanks to the contribution from the community foundation which also supported a number of projects aimed at making the leisure time of children and youngsters more productive.

The most spectacular initiative of the Viljandi County Community Foundation is the launch of an innovative model for the collection of endowment funding – all the 18 municipalities within the Viljandi County, annually pay one kroon per each inhabitant living in their territory into the endowment of the foundation; this being approximately 60,000 EEK a year.

The Järva County Community Foundation, which began to operate in autumn 2003, has collected 30,000 kroons by today.

Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, as the support organization of community philanthropy, has been facilitating the organization of ongoing training seminars, introducing the principles of community philanthropy and the publication of promotion materials. In autumn 2003, the representatives of Estonian community foundations went to Russia, to Togliatti, Oktyabrsk and Moscow, in order to become familiar with the experience of local community foundations in this country.

Partners from Russia's leading philanthropic organization, CAF Russia, carried out two training sessions for Estonian community foundations, on asset development and the organization of board's and council's work.



Peipsi – The Lake Connecting Russia and Estonia

Virve Tuubel

Supported by the US Embassy in Estonia and the GEF

The first tangible step in enhancing tourism at Lake Peipsi was the opening of a tourist information centre in the premises of the Kallaste town government. An interactive exhibition on Lake Peipsi will be opened here during the second phase of the project, in spring 2004, providing information about the sightseeing of the nearby countryside as well as that of the entire Lake Peipsi. Two books were published in co-operation with OÜ Loodusemees – “Birds at Peipsi and the Shore Landscapes of the Lake” and “Fish in the Waters of Lake Peipsi and Fishermen on Peipsi Waters”. Local tour-guides also obtained training within the framework of the project.

Within the framework of the project, local tour guides were involved in training on conducting nature outings. The training session dealt with theme planning and preparation for a trip, different methodologies of nature mediation. A video training together with a relevant analysis was carried out, scouting tips were given to tour leaders and they also familiarized themselves with the natural and cultural history monuments in the vicinity of Lake Peipsi.



Peipsi – järv mis ühendab Venemaad ja Eestit

Esimene käegakatsutav samm Peipsiääre turismi edendamiseks oli turismiinfopunkti avamine Kallaste linnavalitsuse ruumes. Projekti teises etapis 2004. aasta märtsis avatakse samas interaktiivne näitus Peipsi järvest. Nii moodustub tervikkompleks külastajatele, kus saab informatsiooni lähikümbruse ja ka kogu Peipsi järve vaatamisväärsuste kohta. Koostöös OÜ-ga Loodusemees nägid trükivalgust kaks raamatut: “Linnud Peipsil ja Peipsi rannamaastikel” ning “Kalad Peipsi vetes ja kalurid Peipsi vetel”. Kohalikud giidid said projekti raames ka koolitust.

Озеро, объединяющее Россию и Эстонию

Первым ощутительным шагом к развитию туризма в Причудье стало открытие туристического инфопункта в помещении городского самоуправления г. Калласте. Второй этап проекта предусматривает открытие там же в марте 2004 года интерактивной выставки о Чудском озере. Таким образом формируется целостный комплекс для гостей, где можно получить информацию не только об окружающей местности, но и достопримечательностях всего Чудского озера. В сотрудничестве с ООО «Loodusemees» увидели свет два издания: «Пернатый мир Чудского озера» и «Рыбы и рыбаки Чудского озера». В рамках проекта местные экскурсоводы проходили обучение.

Cross-Border Cooperation

www.exlinea.org

Piiriuuring EXLINEA

Peipsi Koostöö Keskus on üks kaheksast partnerist, kes kolm aastat vältava projekti raames uurivad piiriülese koostöö protsesse ja vorme. Oleme käivitanud projekti infolisti ja veebilehekülje ning esitlenud Eesti-Vene piiriülese koostöö kogemust rahvusvahelistel konverentsidel ja seminaridel.

Исследование проблематики приграничных регионов EXLINEA

Центр трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера — один из восьми партнеров, которые по проекту, рассчитанному на три года, занимаются исследованием процессов и форм трансграничного сотрудничества. Мы организовали электронную рассылку информационных сообщений и веб-страницу проекта и выступали на международных конференциях и семинарах с докладами об опыте трансграничного сотрудничества Эстонии и России.

EXLINEA:

Lines of Exclusion as Arenas of Cooperation: Reconfiguring the External Boundaries of Europe – Policies, Practices, Perceptions

Margit Säre

Supported by the EU 5th Framework Programme

The project studies cross-border interaction processes and patterns as a result of 1) policies at various levels and 2) established forms of cooperation practices, conditioned by the perceptions of various public and private actors. The case studies (Estonian-Russian, Finnish-Russian, Polish-Ukrainian, Hungarian-Ukrainian-Romanian, Moldavian-Romanian and Albanian-Macedonian-Bulgarian-Greek border areas) will serve to illustrate the conflicting challenges, which the European Union's border policies will face as enlargement proceeds.

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, University of Nijmegen, 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, presenting the Estonian-Russian cross-border cooperation experience internationally.



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

E · X · L · I · N · E · A



Rational and Efficient Use of Water and Energy Resources on the Chu and Talas Rivers in Central Asia

Margit Säre

Supported by the Development Support Program of the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In autumn 2003, Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation launched a project, which contributes to the development of good cooperation practices and collaboration structures in the management of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan transboundary waters.

The more coordinated governance of transboundary water bodies, enhancing cooperation and strengthening of contacts between the different organizations of the region, is of extreme importance, considering the significance of water in this waterless region. The quantity of annual river water in Kyrgyzstan is 44,5 km³, but only one fourth of it is used in Kyrgyzstan, three quarters flows into neighboring countries. The water of the Chu and Talas rivers flows from Kyrgyzstan to Kazakhstan. Up until now, Kyrgyzstan has financed the maintenance of the water bodies' infrastructure. In order to guarantee the good condition of water reservoirs and dams and their flawless operation, it is relevant for the neighboring countries to carry out cooperation and jointly govern the rivers. In 2000, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan concluded an intergovernmental agreement for the governance of the Chu and Talas rivers. According to the agreement, the countries resume the obligation to establish a permanent commission which has to devise a plan for the implementation of the river basin management plan and to determine the cost of works associated with the use and administration of the infrastructure.

For as long as ten years, Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation has been working with basin management projects considering the Estonia-Russian cross-border lake Peipsi and participated in the joint project Peipsi-Ohrid (border area of Macedonia and Albania).

Within the framework of the ongoing project, experience regarding the organization of international cooperation and public participation is being shared with the colleagues from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Assistance is being provided in compiling the website of the Chu and Talas rivers Bilateral Commission and a printed matter introducing the activities of the Commission. In addition, a study trip to Estonia will be organized for the Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan colleagues.

Project activities are being coordinated with the UN Economic Commission for Europe, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan and with the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management of Kyrgyzstan.

www.talaschu.org

Ratsionaalne ja efektiivne veemajandus Kesk-Aasias

Projekti raames aidatakse kaasa heade koostöötavade ja koostööstruktuuride arendamisele Kõrgõzstani ja Kasahstani ühisveekogude haldamises. Kasahstani ja Kõrgõzstani kolleegidele jagatakse rahvusvahelise koostöö korraldamise ja avalikkuse kaasamise kogemusi, aidatakse koostada nii Chu ja Talasi jõe ühiskomisjoni veebilehekülge kui ka komisjoni tegevust tutvustavat trükist ning korraldatakse Kasahstani ja Kõrgõzstani kolleegide õppereisi Eestisse.

Рациональное и эффективное использование водных и энергетических ресурсов в Средней Азии

В рамках проекта оказывается содействие развитию положительных традиций и структур сотрудничества, способствующих управлению общими водоемами в Киргизии и Казахстане. Мы знакомим коллег из этих стран с опытом организации международного сотрудничества и задействования общественности, а также помогаем составлять веб-страницу совместной комиссии по рекам Чу и Талас и издание, знакомящее с деятельностью комиссии. Будет организована учебная экскурсия в Эстонию для коллег из Казахстана и Киргизии.



Conference: PEIPSI FORUM III. “Regional Development and Cross-border Cooperation in the Estonian-Russian Border Area”, Tartu and Kallaste ; August 22-23, 2003

Margit Säve

Supported by the US Embassy and Swedish Embassy in Estonia, the Nordic Council of Ministers, and the UNDP/GEF

Peipsi Foorum III

Rahvusvaheline konverents Peipsi Foorum III pööras põhitähelepanu turismi ja veetranspordi arendamisele ja haridus- ning kultuurikoostööle Eesti-Vene piiriregioonis. Konverentsi esinejad nentisid, et Eesti-Vene piirikoostöö võiks olla parem. Kohalikul tasandil ollakse koostööst väga huvitatud, kuid ühisteks ettevõtmisteks napib vahendeid. Riikide valitsuste tasandil ei ole aga piirülene koostöö prioriteediks. Esinejad avaldasid arvamust, et Eesti ühinemine Euroopa Liiduga mõjutab positiivselt piirülest koostööd regioonis, kuna EL pöörab suurt tähelepanu oma välispiiriga seonduvale.

Чудской Форум III

Международная конференция Чудской Форум III уделял основное внимание развитию туризма и водного транспорта, а также сотрудничеству в сфере образования и культуры в приграничном регионе Эстонии и России. На конференции высказывалось мнение, что это сотрудничество оставляет желать лучшего. На местном уровне люди весьма заинтересованы в сотрудничестве, однако для общих совместных действий не хватает средств. В то же время на уровне правительств трансграничное сотрудничество не является приоритетом. Выступавшие высказывали мнение, что присоединение Эстонии к Евросоюзу окажет положительное влияние на трансграничное сотрудничество в регионе, поскольку Евросоюз обращает серьезное внимание на вопросы, связанные с его границами.

The Peipsi Forum III focused on the development of tourism and water transportation and on educational and cultural cooperation in the Estonian-Russian border area. Another important topic at the conference comprised transboundary cooperation and financial support for it in the future external borders of the European Union, relevant challenges and obstacles. The presenters stressed that, after Estonia's joining the EU, a significant intensification of cross-border cooperation on its eastern border can be expected due to the special attention the EU pays to its external borders and in particular to the border with Russia. It was concluded that Estonian-Russian cross-border cooperation is still at a poor level and there are several obstacles still present. Discussion focused on the fact that central governments are not very much interested in promoting cooperation and that the local level has a greater interest but they lack financial and human resources to develop joint activities. On the second day, conference participants visited the region and took part in the annual onion and fish fair in Kallaste town and in the opening of Kallaste tourism information center.

The conference was organized by Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation in cooperation with the Tartu University EuroCollege and Estonian Foreign Policy Institute.

Earlier Peipsi Forums took place in the years 2000 and 2001 in Estonia and Russia. In the earlier conferences, the main topics comprised environmental cooperation and collaboration between local governments.

The full conference report is available at: www.ctc.ee



Capacity Building & Environmental Education

Peipsi CTC's Small Grants for the Environment

Erkki Vedder

Supported by the UNDP/GEF and Tartu, Põlva and Jõgeva County Environmental Departments

In 2003, the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation 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.

The maximum amount of support is 4,000 EEK and this can be applied for twice a year.

In 2003, there were two calls for proposals – in spring and in autumn; we are also planning to continue the same way in the forthcoming years. The first round, organized in cooperation with Põlva, Tartu and Jõgeva County environmental departments, resulted in the total of 17 filed applications, with grants given to nine projects. Altogether, the value of allocated grants was 25,000 kroons. During the second, autumn call, 10 applications were submitted, 7 of them were found to be eligible. The total sum of allocated grants – 22,000 EEK.

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 (bird observation, nature hiking), minor research, etc.

In order to participate in the application contest, it would be worthwhile having a look at our website www.ctc.ee in spring and autumn.

Keskkonnaalased väiketoetused

2003. aastal alustas Peipsi Koostöö Keskus väiketoetuste programmiga Peipsi järve piirkonnas asuvatele vabaihendustele, koolidele ja omavalitsustele. Toetatakse projekte, mille raames viiakse läbi keskkonnaalaseid koolitusi ja õppepäevi, loodusvaatlusi, keskkonnaaktsioone.

Konkursi eesmärk on tõsta kohalike elanike keskkonnateadlikkust ja toetada nende osavõttu keskkonnaliste otsuste tegemisest. Maksimaalne toetussumma on 4000 krooni ning seda saab taotleda kaks korda aastas. 2003. aastal toimus kaks konkursivooru: kevadel ja sügisel. Samamoodi kavatsesime jätkata ka järgnevatel aastatel. Esimene voor toimus koostöös Põlva, Tartu ja Jõgeva Keskkonnateenistustega. Kokku laekus 17 taotlust, millest toetusi eraldati üheksale. Toetusi anti 25 000 krooni väärtuses. 2003. a sügisel laekus teise vooru 10 taotlust, millest valiti välja 7. Kokku jagati toetusi 22 000 krooni ulatuses.

Поддержка проектам по охраняющей среде

В 2003 году Центр трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера приступил к осуществлению программы грантов НКО, школам и самоуправлениям Чудского региона. Поддерживаются проекты по экологическому образованию, дни учебы, наблюдения природы, действия природоохранного назначения.

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 году. В 2003 году состоялось два тура конкурса: весной и осенью, таким же образом мы намерены продолжать и в последующие годы. Первый тур состоялся в сотрудничестве с Пылваской, Тартуской и Йыгеваской службами по окружающей среде. Поступило 17 заявлений, поддержка была выдана девяти. Всего было выделено средств в объеме 25 000 крон. Ко второму туру осенью 2003 года поступило 10 заявлений, из которых отобрали 7. Всего было выделено денежных средств в размере 22 000 крон.



Training Center “Peipsi Seminar”

www.ctc.ee/seminar

Teet Suits, Ljudmila Melnikova

Õppekeskus “Peipsi Seminar”

Meil on hea meel teatada, et Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse juures alustas tegevust õppekeskus Peipsi Seminar, mis pakub keeleõpet, keskkonna- ja arendusõpet. Koolitus on olnud üks meie tegevusi ja pea iga suurema projekti koostisosa kõigi kümne tegutsemisaasta jooksul. Nüüd on huvilistel võimalus koolitusi tellida ka väljaspool konkreetseid projekte. Peipsi-äärsetele inimestele peaks head meelt valmistama teadmine, et ehkki meil on mugav õppeklass Tartu kesklinnas, oleme valmis kursusi läbi viima kliendi poolt soovitud paigas, olgu see Rāpina, Vārška, Mustvee, Kallaste või mõni teine koht. Võimalik on nii rühma- kui individuaalõpe. Õpetajateks on Tartu Ülikooli ja Põllumajandusülikooli õppejõud ning Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse töötajad.

We are pleased to announce that a training center “Peipsi Seminar” commenced its activities at the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation. Peipsi Seminar, having recently received an education license from the Ministry of Education and Research, provides language studies, training on the environment and development. Training has been one of our activities and a part of nearly all major projects within the ten years of our operation. Those interested can now order training sessions from outside concrete projects. People living in the vicinity of Lake Peipsi should be rejoicing in the fact, that despite a comfortable study room in the center of Tartu, we are willing to carry out training courses in the premises indicated by the client, be it Rāpina, Vārška, Mustvee, Kallaste or some other place. Both group and individual study opportunities are available. The teachers come from Tartu University, Tartu Agricultural University and from among the staff of the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation.

Учебный центр «Peipsi Seminar» (Семинар Чудского озера)

Мы рады сообщить, что при Центре трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера начал действовать учебный центр «Peipsi Seminar», организующий преподавание языков и экологических дисциплин. Обучением мы занимались на протяжении всех десяти лет нашей деятельности, оно было составной частью почти всех наших более объемных проектов. Сегодня желающие могут заказать обучение и помимо конкретных проектов. Думается, люди Причудья будут довольны, узнав, что хотя мы располагаем удобным помещением для занятий в центре Tartu, мы согласны проводить курсы и на месте, будь то Ряпина, Вярška, Mustvee, Kallaste или какое-нибудь другое место, предложенное клиентом. Возможно как групповое, так и индивидуальное обучение. Занятия проводят преподаватели Тартуского университета и Тартуского сельскохозяйственного университета, а также сотрудники ЦТС.



Capacity Building Activities for Lake Peipsi Basin

Erkki Vedder

Supported by the UNDP/GEF

It has been a busy year full of a range of different events aimed at capacity building of the national and local institutions on the Estonian side. These events can be categorized into two main groups aimed at investigating weaknesses and shortcomings of the local population and institutions in the context of implementation of the Lake Peipsi management plan and secondly raising the capacity of the institutions according to the needs appearing from the studies.

The first group of activities contained studies, roundtables, research etc.

- The representatives of the Environmental Departments of the four counties around Lake Peipsi were gathered for a roundtable to specify training needs in the region;
- Group interviews were conducted to get feedback from local stakeholders on water management related issues;
- Information on the project was disseminated in a number of seminars and there was also feedback received.

A number of events were organized to increase the capacity of local stakeholders in the Lake Peipsi region:

- A two-phase training on eutrophication issues was organized. The first purely theoretical stage took place in March. The second stage took place in September and included practical work on Lake Elistvere;
- An Ecotourism seminar was organized in October where a number of tourism and environment experts were gathered to discuss the possibilities of ecotourism development in the Lake Peipsi region;
- A seminar on biological farming was organized in November that brought together different levels involved in tourism development: ministries, agriculture institutes and also farmers. Different problems about biological farming were discussed;
- More than ten seminars and lectures were organized to increase the capacity of NGOs in the Lake Peipsi region. Seminars were held on such topics as specifics of NGO laws, financial management of NGO's, environment and environmental protection, tourism development. Most of the seminars were held in Tartu but also in Jõgeva, Võru, Kallaste and other smaller places by Lake Peipsi. Overall, about 250 people participated in these seminars.

Koolitused Peipsi piirkonna vabaihendustele ja omavalitsustele

Peipsi järve valgala maavalitsuste, kohalike omavalitsuste ja vabaihenduste suutlikkuse tõstmiseks viidi 2003. aastal läbi kaht tüüpi ettevõtmisi. Kõigepealt korraldasime uuringu ja mitu ümarlauda, mille eesmärk oli välja selgitada erinevate sihtrühmade koolitusvajadused. Järgnesid konkreetsed koolitused nii keskkonnateemadel (eutrofeerumine, ökoturism, mahepõllumajandus) kui ka üldisematel organisatsiooni suutlikkust tõstvatel teemadel (mittetulundusühingute maksustamine, seadusandlus, turismi arendamine). Seminarid toimusid Tartus, Jõgeval, Võrus ning Kallastel ja teistes Peipsi-äärsetes paikades.

Обучение членов некоммерческих объединений и самоуправлений региона

С целью повышения дееспособности муниципалитетов, местных самоуправлений и НКО водосборного бассейна Чудского озера в 2003 году были осуществлены мероприятия двух видов. В первую очередь мы провели исследование и организовали несколько круглых столов с целью выяснить необходимость в обучении разных групп. Последовали конкретные учебные мероприятия как по темам окружающей среды (эвтрофикация, экотуризм, экологически чистое сельское хозяйство), так и по более общим проблемам, повышающим дееспособность организации (законодательство НКО, развитие туризма и пр.). Семинары были проведены в Tartu, Йыгева, Выру, а также в Калласте и в других местах Причудского региона.

“*Peipsi CTC has proved that a non-governmental citizen's organisation is capable of implementing large-scale endeavour. This organisation is a wise doer and a clever politician who has already become a part of the European development cooperation programme.*”

Mall Hellam
Executive Director of the Open Estonia Foundation

Training Courses on Eutrophication in Big and Small Lakes

Ülo Sults

Supported by the UNDP/GEF

Eutrofeerumise teemalised koolitused

2003. aastal valmistati ette kolmest tsüklilist koosnev eutrofeerumise teemaline koolituskursus ja viidi läbi kaks selle tsüklit.

Koolituse teemadeks olid suurtaimed, vetikad, zooplankton, põhjaloomastik ja kalad eutrofeerunud ja hüpereutrofeerunud järves, Eesti järvede tüpoloogia, järvede noorendamise meetodid, eutrofeerumise tagajärjel toimunud muutused kahepaiksete, lindude ja vähikooslustes.

Koolituse välitööd viidi läbi Elistvere ja Prossa järvel.

Anti välja ka raamat "Rohke-ja liigtoitelisus: veekogude loomuliku vananemise kiirendaja". Tegemist on Eestis esimese populaarses vormis käsitlusega eutrofeerumisprotsessi mõjudest järvede elustikule.

Учебные занятия по теме эвтрофикации

В 2003 году подготовили учебный курс об эвтрофикации и провели два семинара по следующим темам: макрофиты, водоросли, зоопланктон, зообентос, рыбы в эвтрофированных и сильно эвтрофированных озерах; типология эстонских озер, методы восстановления озер, изменения в сообществах амфибов, рыб и раков, обусловленные эвтрофикацией. Полевые работы были проведены на озерах Элистреве и Просса.

Была издана книга «Эвтрофированность и гипертрофированность - факторы ускорения естественного старения водоемов». Это первое издание, которое в популярной форме объясняет влияние процесса эвтрофикации на биоту озер.

Eutrophication is defined as the excessive addition of inorganic nutrients, organic matter and silt to lakes, thereby increasing biological productivity.

Eutrophication is a natural process in water bodies. The progression of natural lake eutrophication through nutrient-poor (oligotrophy) to nutrient-rich (eutrophy or hypereutrophy) usually takes a long time. People cause cultural eutrophication when their use of the land dramatically increases nutrient, soil, or organic matter loads to the lake. They can drastically shorten a lake's lifespan by clearing forests, building roads, cultivating fields, developing residential communities, and discharging wastewater – all these activities increase the nutrients and soil that eventually move into the lake. As a rule, reservoirs become eutrophic more rapidly than natural lakes, because most reservoirs receive higher sediment and nutrient loads than do most natural lakes. According to the assessment of Estonian experts, 60-70% of our man-made lakes are heavily eutrophicated and full of sediment.

A training course on eutrophication was prepared and carried out by Peipsi CTC in 2003. The first, theoretical training course was held in February in Tartu. Seven lectures, dealing with the response of the small lakes in Vooremaa Nature Reserve to the eutrophication processes, were held by the limnologists of Võrtsjärv Limnological Station and the Estonian Agricultural University. The concrete topics under discussion were development of the macrophytes, algae, zooplankton, benthic invertebrates communities, and fish stock in eutrophic and hypereutrophic lake; the different types of lakes in Estonia; the lake restoration methods, used in Estonia and in Finland and Sweden; the changes in habitats of amphibians, birds and crayfish as a result of eutrophication.

The second, so-called fieldwork stadium was held in 23rd of September 2003 in Jõgeva County on the Elistvere and Prossa lakes.

The more informative presentations were published in the booklet and disseminated. The booklet was also translated into Russian and is available via the Internet.

The third, most practical training course is in preparation and will be organized in March 2004 in Võru county, which is rich in natural and man-made lakes.



Volunteer Monitoring of Macroinvertebrates

Peeter Unt

Supported by the US Environmental Protection Agency

The concept of volunteer monitoring states that one does not have to be a scientist to do nature observations, even if it concerns such a specific subject as macroinvertebrates. In other words they are bugs, which live on the bottom of water bodies and form a great indicator for water purity.

In June 2003, we started volunteer macroinvertebrate monitoring with 4 groups of altogether 25 people. The trainers from Tartu Kivilinna Gymnasium, Pärnu Ülejõe Gymnasium, Tartu Environmental Education Center, and Tartu Volunteer Center firstly passed a theoretical and practical introduction presented by the US experts, and then later lead the groups themselves.

Henn Timm from Võrtsjärv Limnological Station was of great help and worked out a manual for macroinvertebrate monitoring, which is also easily understandable for school children and includes worksheets for assessing the status of streams based on the existence of macroinvertebrate species.

In 2004, we want to widen the scope of participating schools in the Lake Peipsi basin.

Vabatahtlik loodusvaatlus

Vabatahtlik loodusvaatlus on võimalik, kasutades lihtsaid ja odavaid vahendeid veekogude suurselgrootute uurimiseks. Kuna on teada, millised veetasukad on vee puhtuse suhtes nõudlikumad ja millised leplikumad, on ka tavainimesel võimalik, kallist laboritehnikat ja kõrgelt haritud spetsialiste kasutamata, teha otsuseid vee puhtuse ja reostuse kohta. Populaarsest koolitusest võttis möödunud aastal osa mitukümmend loodussõpra.

Добровольный мониторинг

Добровольный наблюдатель природы, участвующий в мониторинге, может наблюдать за зообентосом, используя несложные и недорогие средства. Так как известно, какие водные обитатели более требовательны к уровню чистоты воды и какие более выносливы, то любой человек в состоянии судить о чистоте или загрязнении воды, не прибегая к помощи высокообразованных специалистов или дорогой лабораторной техники. В популярных занятиях в прошлом году участвовало несколько десятков любителей природы.



Learning by Playing

Peeter Unt

Supported by the UNDP/GEF

Lauamäng “Võrtsjärvest Peipsini”

Lauamäng “Võrtsjärvest Peipsini” sobib täiendava õppevahendina nii põhikooli kui gümnaasiumi õpilastele ning annab atraktiivsel viisil infot Võrtsjärve, Emajõe, Peipsi järve ja Tartu linna kohta, aidates tõsta laste huvi oma kodukoha looduse ja koduloo vastu.

Lauamängu idee esitati Kivilinna Gümnaasiumi poolt 2002. aastal laste loomingu konkursile “Vetevald läbi laste silmade” ning sai seal auhinnalise koha.

Nüüdseks ongi idee teostunud suuremõtmelise (1,5 m x 0,5 m) lauamänguna, mille kujundamisel aitas kaasa kunstnik Epp Margna.

Настольная игра как учебное пособие

Настольная игра «От озера Выртсыярв до Чудского озера» может быть использована в качестве дополнительного учебного пособия для учащихся как основной школы, так и гимназии. Игра дает в аттрактивной форме информацию об обоих озерах, а также о реке Эмайыги и о городе Тарту, способствуя повышению интереса детей к природе родного края и к его истории.

Идея проекта настольной игры была в 2002 году предложена Кивилиннской гимназией на конкурс детского творчества «Мир воды глазами детей» и заняла там призовое место.

Идея реализована в виде настольной игры большого формата (1,5 м x 0,5 м) с пластмассовым покрытием; в оформлении участвовала художница Эпп Маргна.

Peipsi CTC, in co-operation with Tartu Kivilinna Gymnasium, published an environmental education table game “A trip from Lake Võrtsjärv to Lake Peipsi along the Emajõgi River”. In 2002, the idea of the game was entered in the children’s creative works competition “World of Water through the Eyes of Children” and received an award. At the present moment, the idea has been realised in the form of a large-scale (1.5 m x 0.5 m) board game with an artist, Epp Margna, contributing to its design. The game, which follows the typical table game rules, is made special by the multiple choice questions players have to answer while playing. The questions are compiled by Tartu Kivilinna Gymnasium pupils and cover a large array of subjects concerning the two lakes and the Emajõgi River. For example, local fauna and flora, cultural heritage, population, water quality and physical geography.

The environmentally educational game aims at providing the students with information, in an attractive manner, with regard to Lake Võrtsjärv, the Emajõgi River, Lake Peipsi and the city of Tartu and also at increasing the children’s interest towards the nature of their home area and local lore.

The game is primarily meant for basic and secondary school students, and the ideal number of players is four to six – and as the creator of the idea of the game, chemistry teacher Helgi Muoni from Tartu Kivilinna Gymnasium said, “next year we hope to organize a tournament of the game for small teams to be held at our school”.

In November 2003, Peipsi CTC distributed 20 games among the schools situated near the Emajõgi River – the spine of the game.



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

Anna Gramberg

Supported by Tartu City Government, the Gambling Taxes Council and the Environmental Investment Centre (KIK)

The contest “World of Water through the Eyes of Children” was organized in 2003 and this is now the eighth occurrence. Hundreds of beautiful artworks, many interesting literary and research works received this year show that clean water and nature protection is a subject, considered very important by teachers and young people, which offers both inspiration for creativity as well as curiosity to learn more about the nature of one’s home place and ways to preserve it.

Winners of this years contest “World of Water...” were invited to a camp organized in Cesis, Latvia, where youth from Estonia, Latvia and Russia enjoyed the beautiful nature and historical sites of Latvia. Among other places, children visited the unique dendropark in Ledurga, where they could admire a vast collection of various trees growing, many of them rarely or never seen in these countries.

In workshops with teachers from Cesis Art School, children created colorful artworks on the theme of water, using and experimenting with all kinds of different materials. Artworks remained in Cesis to commemorate the international camp of “World of Water 2003”.

Lasteloomingukonkurss “Vetevald läbi laste silmade 2003”

Juba kaheksandat aastat järjest toimunud konkursile “Vetevald läbi laste silmade” saabus selgi aastal sadu kauneid kunstitöid ning palju huvitavaid kirja- ja uurimistöid. Konkursi parimatele korraldati keskkonnalaager Lāti Vabariigis Cesises, kus Eesti, Lāti ja Venemaa lapsed tutvusid piirkonna loodusega ning külastasid mitmeid Lāti ajaloolisi paiku. Cesise Kunstikooli õpetaja juhendamisel said lapsed erinevaid materjale kasutades luua veeteemalisi kunstitöid, mis jäid mälestuseks laagrist Cesisesse.

Конкурс детского творчества «Мир воды глазами детей»

На состоявшийся в прошлом году конкурс (уже восьмой по счету) «Мир воды глазами детей» и в этом году поступили сотни прекрасных художественных произведений, а также много интересных письменных и исследовательских работ. Для лучших участников конкурса был устроен эколагерь в Латвийской Республике, в Цесисе, участники которого, дети из Эстонии, Латвии и России, осматривали красивые природные объекты региона и посещали исторически достопримечательные места Латвии. Под руководством учителя Цесисской художественной школы дети имели возможность, используя различные материалы, создавать художественные произведения водной тематики; работы остались в Цесисе как память о лагере.



Regional Information Portal

- www.peipsi.org

www.peipsi.org

Piret Uus

Supported by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Tallinn and the UNDP/GEF

Piirkondlik infoportaal

Piirkondlik infoportaal pakub mitmekülgset teavet rahvusvahelise Peipsi järve valgala keskkonnaseisundi, ajaloo, geograafia ja kultuuri kohta. Kätesaadavad on erinevad aruanded, teadusuuringute tulemused ja muud tekstid ning teiste veebilehekülgedele lingid. Piirkonna interaktiivne kaart võimaldab leida infot konkreetse paiga või objekti kohta Peipsi ääres.

Региональный инфопортал

Региональный инфопортал предоставляет разностороннюю информацию об экологическом состоянии, истории, географии и культуре водосборного бассейна международного Чудского озера. В распоряжении интересующихся различные отчеты, результаты научных исследований и прочие тексты, веб-ссылки и интерактивная карта региона, на которой можно найти информацию о конкретной местности или объекте.

The central information vehicle about Lake Peipsi and its environmental issues is a regional web portal www.peipsi.org that can reach, in the most efficient way, a wide range of stakeholders. The portal offers cause-effect related environmental information about the lake, a systematized collection of texts, reports, links to websites, and allows looking for the geographical location on the interactive map of the region.

Info-portal is developed by Peipsi CTC within the EC supported MANTRA-East project as a demonstration prototype for international transboundary water basins. The methodological basis for information selection is the DPSIR-model, which presents information on environmental cause-effect principle (human activities cause environmental pressure, which in turn cause problems in the ecosystem). Through this principle the portal has a highly educational value for general public and informative quality for decision-makers.

With kind support from the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Tallinn, the portal technical solutions were developed and the search integrated to the portal as well as the promotion campaign carried out in the schools on the shore of Lake Peipsi and in the mass media to transfer knowledge to a wider public.



The Russian Contribution to the Strengthening of the Estonian-Russian Partnership

NGO “Chudskoe Project” Activities in 2003

Olga Vasilenko

In 2003, the Pskov Regional Non-Governmental Organization “Chudskoe project” initiated and took part in joint implementation of several projects. First of all, it is worth mentioning one of the projects “Addressing water eutrophication in the Baltic Sea Basin through regional NGO cooperation on sustainable river basin management and public participation” (the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe) that started in December 2002 and was implemented throughout 2003. NGOs of four countries participated in the project. The NGO “Chudskoe project” was the Russian coordinator of the project. Preparation of the recommendations on public participation in water resources management in Pskov region was the main result of the project.

The UNDP/GEF project “Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program” started in January 2003. The result of the project, at the end of 2005, will be the Program of Basin Management aimed at nutrient load reduction and sustainable development of the ecosystem in the transboundary region.

“Chudskoe project” is a center of project implementation on the Russian territory. The tasks of the first year were information dissemination, trainings on the spot, and involvement of interested people in the discussions of the regional development. The “Chudskoe project” organized 17 events, differing in form and content and place of operation in which about 500 people participated. Work on the project gave an opportunity to unite different people to solve common problems: municipal officials, scientists, representatives of NGOs, businessmen.

In 2003, when Pskov celebrated its 1100 anniversary of its first mentioning, the NGO “Chudskoe project” held ‘Days of Pskov’ in Tartu, jointly with the Administration of Pskov and Tartu City Government. Financial support for the event was provided by the USA State Department. The project was a boost to the development of partner relationships between Pskov and Tartu in various spheres of activities.

The project “Chudskoe Lake NGO Development Program” started in the fall of 2003. It is aimed at the involvement of the third sector in the solution of the regional problems and development of dialogue between the NGO and authorities. Financial support is provided by the USA State Department. The culmination event of the project will be the Peipsi Forum, in August of 2004, to be held in Pskov.

The year of 2003 was the final year of the Danish-Russian project “Development and Implementation of a Management Plan for the Ramsar site, Lake Chudskoe/Pskovskoe, Russia”.

This wetland site is the only territory in the Pskov region that has the status of an international Ramsar site. Joint efforts of the Russian organizations (Pedagogical Institute, Baltic Fund for Nature, NGO “Chudskoe project”) resulted in the development and creation of an ecological path, the building of bird-watching towers, the publication of materials, and the creation of a photo-exhibition of the heritage of the Ramsar site.

The NGO “Chudskoe project” is an active participant in the Pskov Regional Association of Adult Education (PRAAE) work. The project “Adult Learning for Local Action” (ALLA), which is financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers started in 2003. The project is aimed at strengthening cooperation between the educational NGOs of North-West Russia and the Baltic States.

“Tšudskoi Projekt” – meie partner Pihkvas

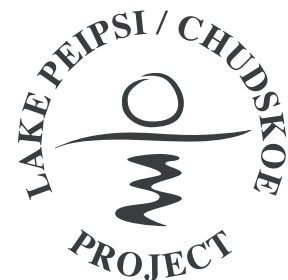
“Tšudskoi Projekt” on meie koostööpartner mitmes suuremas ettevõtmises nagu UNDP/GEFi projekt “Peipsi järve veemajandusprogramm” ja USA Keskkonnaagentuuri poolt rahastatud avalikkuse kaasamise projekt.

Lisaks ühisprojektidele on “Tšudskoi Projekt” möödunud aastal osalenud Peipsi järve Ramsari ala haldamisplaani väljatöötamises, Tartus toimunud Pihkva päevade ettevalmistamises ja läbiviimises, Peipsi järve piirkonna vabühenduste koolitamises ja koostööürituste läbiviimises ning pöörab suurt tähelepanu täiskasvanute koolitamisele Pihkva oblastis.

«Чудской проект» - наш псковский партнер

«Чудской проект» является нашим партнером по ряду значительных мероприятий и проектов, таких, как: ПРООН/ГЭФ проект «Программа водного хозяйства Чудского озера» и проект по задействованию общественности, финансируемый Агентурой окружающей среды США.

Помимо совместных проектов «Чудской проект» в минувшем году участвовал в выработке плана по управлению рамсарским угодием, в подготовке и проведении дней Пскова в Tartu, в обучении НКО, в проведении совместных мероприятий и уделяет серьезное внимание обучению взрослых в Псковской области.



Peipsi CTC Infolists

list@ctc.ee

Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse infolistid

Nn "Peipsi list" pakub kõigile huvilistele uudiseid ja infot Peipsi järve piirkonnaga seonduva kohta. 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 teretulnud seda meie listide kaudu levitama. Mõlemas listis on üle 500 aadressaadi. 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, могущей 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.

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 trainings, 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.



Library of the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation

At the end of the year 2003, we also completed the organization and structuring of the Peipsi CTC library. 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, civil 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 Center for Transboundary Cooperation.

“
*During the last ten years, Peipsi CTC has successfully headed international cooperation in solving the environmental problems of one of the largest lakes in Europe, by uniting scientists, officials and voluntary activists.
 A fruitful international collaboration network has been created between the organizations dealing with Lake Peipsi issues.
 Such cooperation is a substantial cornerstone for solving international water management problems at an all-European level.*
 ”

Ain Lääne
 LIFE-Environment
 Coordinator of the Viru-Peipsi Project

Peipsi Koostöö Keskuse raamatukogu

2003. aasta lõppedes sai ühele poole ka üle kahe ja poole aasta kestnud Peipsi Koostöö keskuse raamatukogu korrastamine. 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

К концу 2003 года все печатные издания, находящиеся в библиотеке ЦТС, были занесены в электронную базу данных. Книги численностью более чем 4000 экземпляров относятся в основном 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.

Bringing Peipsi to the World

Significant Presentations Delivered by CTC Staff

Kaliningrad, Russia, February 2003	Gulnara Roll. “Sustainable development in the EU and Russia’s border regions” held at the conference “EU Enlargement and Russia’s Border Regions: Borders without Dividing Lines”.
Kyoto, Japan, March 2003	Margit Säre. “Public participation in transboundary water management in transition countries”. Presentation made at the 3rd World Water Forum.
Kyoto, Japan, March 2003	Natalia Alexeeva. “Cooperation in transboundary water management – Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe case”. Presentation made at the 3rd World Water Forum.
Kyoto, Japan, March 2003	Peeter Unt. “Knowledge Sharing and Learning Exchanges Among International Water Projects”. Presentation made at the 3rd World Water Forum.
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, April 2003	Gulnara Roll. “Experience of transboundary cooperation in the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin”. Presentation held at the 11th Session of the Project Working Group on SPECA Project “Rational and Efficient Use of Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia”.
Moscow, Russia, March – April 2003	Natalia Alexeeva. “Perspectives of NGOs’ participation in strengthening cooperation in transboundary water basins”. Presentation at the conference “Cooperation on Transboundary Waters in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)”.
Lelystadt, the Netherlands, May 2003	Gulnara Roll. “Peipsi CTC’s research and management projects supporting public participation in water management”. Presentation held at the Fourth Meeting of the International Core Group of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC).
Turku, Finland, May 2003	Erkki Vedder. “Peipsi CTC’s role in the cooperation between Estonia and Russia”. Presentation made at the 3rd Baltic Sea NGO Forum “Northern Dimension – Human Dimension Strengthening Civil Society in the Baltic Sea Region”.
Burlington, USA, June 2003	Natalia Alexeeva. Presentation of the Aral Experience Brief at the conference “Sharing Experience and Lessons Learned in Lake Basin Management”, organized by Lake Basin Management Initiative Regional Workshop for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas.
Burlington, USA, June 2003	Aija Kosk. Presentation of “Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin – Lessons Learned” at the conference “Sharing Experience and Lessons Learned in Lake Basin Management”, organized by Lake Basin Management Initiative Regional Workshop for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas.
Asikkala, Finland, June 2003	Virve Tuubel, Darja Postnova (Chudskoe Project) “Peipsi/Chudskoe – a transboundary Lake on the Border of Estonia and Russia”. Presentation held at an International Big Lakes Conference “Integrating Cultural and Natural Heritage into Planning and Development”.
Tartu, Estonia, June 2003	Olga Vasilenko. “Cross-border cooperation in Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe area”. Presentation held at an international conference “Cross-border Cooperation after EU Enlargement”.
Brussels, Belgium, July 2003	Gulnara Roll. “Information exchange and communication in transboundary water management on the Eastern European fringe”. Presentation held at a workshop “European Water Scenarios: from the Mediterranean Sea to Central Asia”.
Dublin, Ireland, August 2003	Gulnara Roll. “Information dissemination in the context of management of transboundary waters”, given at the MANTRA East project consortium meeting.
Stockholm, Sweden, August 2003	Gulnara Roll. “Interactive management of transboundary waters on the external European Union border”. Presentation held at the Stockholm Water Symposium.
Gorizia, Italy, September 2003	Margit Säre. “Cross Border Cooperation in the new EU external border regions”. Lecture given in Gorizia Summer University.
Norwich, Great Britain, September 2003	Margit Säre. “Lake Peipsi governance issues and public involvement”. Presentation at the 8th International Living Lakes Conference.
Riga, Latvia, September 2003	Natalia Alexeeva. “Involving local stakeholders in the development of Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Plan – Estonian-Russian cooperation on transboundary waters”. Presentation made at the Central and Eastern European (CEE) Water Forum.
Debrecen, Hungary, September 2003	Margit Säre. “Cross Border Cooperation in the new EU external border regions”. Presentation given at the “Border Regions In Transition” (BRIT) 6th International Conference: “Regionalization, European Union Enlargement and Shifting Borders of Inclusion and Exclusion”.
Tartu, Estonia, October 2003	Olga Vasilenko. “Report on public participation and regional action plan. Pskov region (north-west of Russian Federation)”. Presentation held at the international workshop “Sustainable River Basin Management and Public Participation”.
Svetlogorsk, Russia, November 2003	Natalia Alexeeva. “Public Participation in cooperation on transboundary waters”.
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, November 2003	Margit Säre. “Involvement of NGOs in Lake Peipsi management issues”. Presentation at an international seminar.
Pskov, Russia, November 2003	Olga Vasilenko. (Chudskoe Project) “Analysis of water management systems and public participation in Russia. Velikaya River basin”. Presentation made at the conference “Law and Ecology”.

Publications 2003

BOOKS AND BROCHURES

“Rohke ja liigtoitelisus: veekogude loomuliku vananemise kiirendaja. Käsiraamat eutrofeerumise mõjudest pinnaveekogudele”. The book provides an overview regarding the measures for lake rejuvenation (restoration), necessary research for their implementation and relevant preparatory work, the impacts of eutrophication on the lacustrine benthic invertebrates and the connections of eutrophication with macrophytes. Available in Estonian. Compiled by Ülo Sults.

“Birds at Peipsi and on the Shore Landscapes of the Lake” lists the best bird observation sites, starting from Vasknarva on the northern shore and finishing with Värska in the south, and provides recommendations where and when to watch different birds. Meant for all nature lovers and those interested in birds. Available in Estonian, English and Russian languages. Compiled by Arne Ader, Andres Kuresoo and Leho Luigujõe.

“Esimene Eesti vabatahtlike foorum”. The book comprises the materials on the spring conference of the volunteers, providing an overview with regard to the usage of voluntary work in the third sector, legal aspects of voluntary work, conducting and motivating of volunteers, international camps for volunteers and the experience of utilizing volunteers in Latvia, Lithuania and Norway. Available in Estonian. Compiled by Tuulike Mänd.

“10 aastat Peipsi piirkonna jätkusuutliku arengu ja puhta keskkonna nimel” is a promotional leaflet describing Peipsi CTC's objectives, projects and outcomes of activities. Available in Estonian. Compiled by Angelika Rehema.

“Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Programme” gives a short overview of objectives, components and activities of the three-year-long UNDP/GEF supported project. Available in Estonian, English and Russian. Compiled by Piret Uus.

“River Dialogue: Empowerment and Awareness Building in River Basin Management Through Focus Groups and Citizens' Juries” is a promotional leaflet describing the project objectives and activities. Available in Estonian and English. Compiled by Piret Uus.

REPORTS AND WORKING PAPERS

Use of Water Resources and Associated Problems in Rural Municipalities at Lake Peipsi. The sociological survey reflects the opinions of the population living in the vicinity of Lake Peipsi, regarding the current organization of water management, the fact of how much people themselves can have a say in the issue and participate in the management of natural resources. Written by Kati Kangur.

Management of Transboundary Waters on EU External Borders in Northern Europe. Proceedings of an international workshop held on 27 May, 2003 in Tartu, Estonia. Compiled by Natalia Alexeeva, Gulnara Roll, Piret Uus.

An Anthropological Study Exploring Local People's Perspectives and Relations with Regard to the Environment, Authorities and Decision-making. Written by Dorte Hougaard Andersen.

Focus Group Analysis in the River Emajõgi Area, Estonia. The report analyses the opinions of the interest groups about water management, water transportation, water quality, efficiency of environmental work, fish resources and the impact of the EU on water management in Estonia. Written by Kati Kangur, Gulnara Roll, Margit Säre, Piret Uus.

Current Practices for Public Participation in Water Management in Estonia. Written by Peeter Unt, Piret Ehin, Kerstin Kõre, Ülo Sults, Raimo Poom, Kalmer Gross, Revo Linno and Andrei Tentykov.

Current Practices for Public Participation in Water Management in Northwestern Russia. The report provides an overview of the Velikaya River basin, public participation strategies and recommendations for the implementation of water management plans in the Eastern Baltic Sea region. Written by Dmitri Afinogenov, Natalia Alexeeva, Nikolai Danilkin, Alexander Karpov, Ekaterina Kuznetsova, Dmitri Lebedev, Nathaniel S. Trumbull, Olga Vasilenko.

NEWSLETTERS

EXLINEA project newsletters exploring the development of cross border avenues of communication and cooperation and examining the capacity for “region building” in eight study areas: No 1 April 2003, No 2 November 2003.

MANTRA-East project newsletter targeting towards the readers with general interest in transboundary water problems in the new EU border regions. No 5, April 2003.

ARTICLES

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United States

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International Organizations and Networks

UN ECE
GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP
LIVING LAKES
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY (GEF).

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

www.livinglakes.org

Lake Peipsi and Lake Võrtsjärv were accepted as members of the international partnership Living Lakes, at the 8th international Living Lakes Conference in Norwich, England, held during 7–13 September 2003.

Lake Peipsi/Lake Võrtsjärv received the status of double candidate membership of the organization in September 2002. At the 2003 annual meeting in Norwich, a presentation was given on activities carried through in the lake regions during the candidate year. After the presentation, the current Living Lakes members held a discussion on the candidates and decided to admit four new members into the organization: Lake Peipsi/Võrtsjärv; Lake Chapala (Mexico); Lake Poyang, (China); Lake Victoria (Tanzania/Kenya/Uganda).

The new candidates of the Living Lakes partnership are Lake Titicaca (Peru/Bolivia) and Lake Balaton (Hungary).

The Living Lakes network is coordinated by the Global Nature Fund, which aims to protect lakes, wetlands and freshwater reservoirs on a worldwide basis. The partnership currently consists of 30 organizations representing 23 lakes and wetlands on four continents.

Võrtsjärv and Peipsi lakes are presented in the network by Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, Estonian Fund for Nature, Lake Võrtsjärv Foundation and Võrtsjärv Limnological Station.

Peipsi ja Võrtsjärv said rahvusvahelise järvedevõrgustiku liikmeks

Võrgustiku Living Lakes (Elavad järved) eesmärk on soode ja järvede kaitse kogu maailmas. Partnerluses on pärast Peipsi (Peipsi Koostöö Keskus) ja Võrtsjärve (Võrtsjärve Sihtasutus) liitumist esindatud 30 organisatsiooni ja 23 veekogu neljalt mandrilt.

Ametliku liikmestaatuse saamisele eelnes kandidaadiaasta, mille jooksul hinnati organisatsioonide jõupingutusi veekogude kaitseks.

Чудское озеро и Вуртсъярв стали членами международной сети озер

Цель сети Living Lakes (Живые озера) - защита болот и озер во всем мире. По вступлении Чудского озера (Центр трансграничного сотрудничества Чудского озера) и озера Вуртсъярв (Вуртсъярвское целевое учреждение) в партнерстве представлено 30 организаций и 23 водоема четырех материков.

Присвоению официального статуса члена предшествовал кандидатский год, на протяжении которого оценивались усилия организаций, выступавших в защиту водоемов.



Financial Summary of 2003

	Rate 15.6	
	EEK	EURO
Total funding received	7936279	508736
Global Environment Facility	3034820	194540
European Union	2317583	148563
US Environmental Protection Agency	683735	43829
US Embassy	639250	40978
Open Estonia Foundation/ Baltic American Partnership Program	377357	24190
Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	300000	19231
Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe	179780	11524
Netherlands Embassy	89204	5718
Estonian Ministry of Agriculture	85000	5449
Lake Net	64393	4128
Estonian Youth for Europe Agency	44901	2878
Estonian Ministry of Education	34000	2179
Linköping County	33640	2156
Other	27616	1770
Tartu County Environmental Department	10000	641
Põlva County Environmental Department	8000	513
Tartu Town Government	5000	321
Jõgeva County Environmental Department	2000	128

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Lake Peipsi and Its Surroundings

Facts about Lake Peipsi

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Lake Peipsi is the largest transboundary water body in Europe and the fourth largest lake in Europe. The area of Lake Peipsi is 3555 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 – Piiirissaar – 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.

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.

Estonians, Russian Old Believers, Orthodox Russians and the Setu people have traditionally been living on the western, Estonian side of Lake Peipsi. The Russian shore of the lake is mainly populated by ethnic Russians at the present time.

The northern shore of Lake Peipsi has become the recreational region of Ida-Viru County, the centre of the holiday area being in Kauksi. Ancient villages have been turned into summer cottages, however, recreation business is not too developed and holiday visitors damage nature instead of valuing it.

The situation is better in Jõgeva and Tartu Counties, where a number of ancient settlements have been preserved along the shoreline, including Mustvee and Kallaste towns and a quantum of Russian Old Believers' villages, with an infrastructure and lifestyle evolved throughout centuries. 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.

Estonians and the Setu people live southwards from the mouth of the Emajõgi River. Setumaa is a distinctive cultural community – in everyday lifestyle, the Setus have preserved regional (church) festivals, the celebration of which is solely characteristic of this particular locality. At important celebrations, people still wear Setu folk costumes with abundant decorative accessories.

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



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