

The Development of the CENTER FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION Lake Peipsi Project

1993–1998

The original “Lake Peipsi Project” (LPP) was begun in 1993 as an informal organization whose primary focus was research into environmental issues on the border between Estonia and Russia. Through studies of the environmental situation it became evident that social, political and environmental changes had affected the people of the region to a large degree. A picture emerged of a very complex multicultural and multilingual situation, and a population that was struggling to find ways to meet the challenges of the new social, economic and political environment.

As a result of this awareness, the original focus of the Project was expanded to include social action projects aimed at assisting local people in developing skills related to public participation in order to help them address local issues as a part of the democratic process.

Advanced communications technology was viewed as an important part of this involvement by local people, and a component for computer technology, e-mail and other communications tools was included.

Eventually, the narrowly focused Project developed into a broadly focused program and NGO which still bore the name Lake Peipsi Project. However, it has grown beyond the original research function. With its head office in Tartu, in southern Estonia near the Lake, it is uniquely suited to dealing with issues in the border area with a multilingual staff most of whom function in Estonian, Russian and English. Its projects extend from Narva in the north to Rāpina in the south and cover three main pillars: research/context analysis projects, social action projects and communications projects.

Integration of the Russian-speaking population of the northeastern part of the country into Estonian society has become an especially important issue and LPP has developed projects aimed at creating situations in which individual Russian-speakers develop a familiarity and comfort with the more ethnically Estonian areas of the country. The cornerstone of this program is the very successful Children’s Estonian Language and Culture Summer Camps that were held in 1997 and 1998.

At the same time, international projects that promote cooperation between local governments, NGOs and other organizations have been developed between Estonia, Russia and Latvia. On 1 July 1998, the Center for Transboundary Cooperation and Sustainable Development was established as an umbrella organization for the three LPP offices in Tartu, Narva and Pskov (Russia) with the special aim of promoting projects that involve cross-border activities.

The scope of project activities continues to expand with the major emphasis on creating projects that promote sustainable development, widespread cooperation and the pursuit of common goals to enhance the lives of the people living along the border area.

THE CENTER FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CTC) is an international non-political non-governmental umbrella organization expanding the international work of two local NGOs:

LAKE PEIPSI PROJECT TARTU (registered in Estonia in 1994) was originally an informal organization whose primary focus was research into environmental issues facing the border between Estonia and Russia. The original focus of the Project was expanded to include social action projects aimed at assisting local people in developing skills related to public participation, in order to help them address local issues as a part of the democratic process.

Eventually, the narrowly focused Project developed into a broadly focused program and NGO, which still bore the name Lake Peipsi Project (LPP). However, it has grown beyond the original research function. With its head office in Tartu, in southern Estonia near the Lake, it is uniquely suited to dealing with issues in the border area with a multilingual staff most of whom function in Estonian, Russian and English. Its projects extend from Narva in the north to Rāpina in the south and cover three main pillars: research/context projects, social action projects and communications projects (see list of specific projects).

LAKE PEIPSI PROJECT PSKOV (registered in Russia in 1997) works in conjunction with the office in Tartu to support cross-border projects.

In addition to CTC offices in Tartu and Pskov, local coordinators are working in five communities around the lake.

Goal of the Center for Transboundary Cooperation

The Center works to advance sustainable human development in border areas of New Independent States (NIS) and Baltic States through promoting the following activities:

- **Training projects and local sustainable development projects** for local governments and community groups;
- **Integration projects** to assist Russian-speaking people living in northeastern Estonia to integrate into the wider Estonian society;
- **Sociological and environmental research and management projects;**
- **Promoting information exchange and communication** across the border and between different levels of government from both sides of the border and all sectors of the society through development of e-mail communication and Internet homepages, publications, and organization of international events and conferences.

*For their kind support,
we wish to express our thanks to following organizations:*

FUNDERS

Context Analysis: Environmental and Social Research Projects

EUROPEAN UNION – ELOISE PROGRAMME
JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION
SWEDISH INSTITUTE

Information and Communications Projects

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE - Tallinn
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Social Action Projects:

BRITISH EMBASSY – Tallinn
NETHERLANDS COOPERATION FOUNDATION
FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE
NON-ESTONIANS INTEGRATION FUND
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE – Budapest
ROYAL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY – Helsinki
ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY – Tallinn
TARTU TOWN GOVERNMENT
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – Tallinn
UNITED STATES BALTIC FOUNDATION
UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE – Tallinn
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT – PEACE COPRS

PARTNERS

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE
BALTIC 21
STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY
SWEDISH WATER MANAGEMENT RESEARCH PROGRAM
FINNISH GREEN TRIANGLE
DANISH FYNEN COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
INSTITUTE OF ARCTIC STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

PÓLVA COUNTY GOVERNMENT
TARTU COUNTY GOVERNMENT
PSKOV TOWN
PSKOV REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS
TARTU TOWN GOVERNMENT
MUSTVEE, KALLASTE AND RÄPINA TOWNS
NATURE STUDIES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
OF DAUGAVPILS PEDAGOGICAL UNIVERSITY
NORTH VIDZEME REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



View of Mustvee

Executive Director's Report

During 1997 and 1998, qualitative changes took place in local development and transboundary cooperation in the Estonian/Russian border zone. At the beginning of the two-year period there were very few organizations in the region dealing primarily with local development and especially with transboundary cooperation in the region. There was little trust between people of the two countries and almost no real cooperation across the border.

Relations between Estonia and Russia on the intergovernmental level have improved during these two years. By 1997 a number of intergovernmental agreements that strengthened the border crossing regime and regulated the use of shared natural resources in the transboundary Lake Peipsi had been signed. Intergovernmental institutions have been established, including the Estonian-Russian Commission chaired by Estonian Prime Minister Mart Siimann and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matvienko, an intergovernmental fisheries commission and a transboundary water commission. Negotiations on the Estonian/Russian border agreement continued in 1997-98.

It was also an important period for this organization's development of working relationships at the local, regional and national levels with many governmental agencies in Estonia, Russia, other countries of Europe and the United States. Communication and cooperation with international organizations including the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe, the Council of Europe and others. Discussions were held at a high international level of problems related to local development and cross-border cooperation in the Estonian/Russian border zone.

Work with the local authorities and community groups in the Lake Peipsi region on local sustainable development and integration projects was very interesting and rewarding. Local authorities in the small towns of Mustvee and Kallaste in close cooperation with community groups completed the town development plans; the Tartu town Social Issues Forum was organized; 280 children from Narva participated in the Estonian language and culture camps; and 1200 children from six countries took part in the art contests "World of Water Through the Eyes of Children". These are some concrete examples of the social action project results. The intention for the future is to make the CTC social action projects more effective and results-oriented so that they result in an even larger contribution to sustainable development in the Lake Peipsi region.

To make its work in the region more effective CTC will expand its basis of research projects – sociological, anthropological and environmental studies in the common border area of Estonia and Russia. One important aspect of the studies is the review of local economic and social development in the context of European Union enlargement. Along with the dynamics of the social and

economic situation in the border zone, one of the main directions of the Center's research for the near future is a study of 'soft' or non-traditional security in the border regions of the Baltic States and the New Independent States. Where outside these border regions can we so clearly see how dramatically local and regional economic, social, interethnic and environmental conflicts affect the security of states and their regions, often even more so than the threat of military action?

The role of informal networks that include local stakeholders in promoting security and sustainable development across the borders is growing. The Center coordinates the development of a network of environmental specialists in the Estonian-Latvian-Russian transboundary Lake Peipsi basin through two context analysis projects, the Lake Peipsi Environmental Monitoring Project initiated by the Swedish Environmental Protection

Agency and the Narva River Basin Research Program developed in cooperation with the Swedish Water Management Research Program. The last two years also saw the beginning of the development of the NGO network in the Lake Peipsi region as many new grassroots organizations appeared in the region. CTC established cooperation with the Estonian/Russian/Latvian Council for Cooperation of Border Regions, as well as with Estonian, Russian and Latvian national and regional NGOs.

One of the main focuses of the activities of the Center for Transboundary Cooperation is information and communication projects. This includes development of the regional Lake Peipsi website, promoting e-mail communications, and publication of results of the environmental and sociological studies, as well as other environmental and social information for a wide public both in the Lake Peipsi region and internationally.

The success of CTC/LPP projects in 1997-98 was possible thanks to the support provided by the local communities, partner organizations and generous funders and to the dedication of staff members and volunteers. Trust, readiness to communicate, understanding of each other's interests and problems, and cooperation across borders and between different sectors of the society - things that in our experience are not always easy to achieve - are critical factors to achieving sustainable human development at the local, regional and international levels. The Center for Transboundary Cooperation is dedicated to further work to promote mutual understanding, cooperation and sustainable development in the border areas of Estonia, Russia, Latvia as well as in other border regions where the benefits of the CTC experience can be utilized.

The role of informal networks that include local stakeholders in promoting security and sustainable development across the borders is growing.

UNITED STATES PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER

FUNDING:

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

In 1997 Lake Peipsi Project was chosen as one of the first non-governmental organizations in Estonia to have a United States Peace Corps volunteer placed in the organization. The Peace Corps program in international development brings the professional skills of volunteers from the United States to government offices, schools and third sector agencies in the country for a period of two years. One of the main objectives of the program is skills transfer – training local people to develop their own abilities to enable them to continue the development of local organizations and programs. This goal complements the CTC/LPP programs that promote locally focused initiative groups, training programs and sustainable development.

Robben Romano was placed as a management advisor to LPP to assist the organization in its goal of developing the non-profit sector in Estonia. Within the organization she has supported the growth of local skills in organizational development by assisting staff with strategic planning, human resource development and project organization. In the larger community of small, local NGOs she has provided direction in organizational planning, and guidance in grant writing and project development.

As part of the development of this organization she has helped guide the transition from Lake Peipsi Project as a local NGO to the international Center for Transboundary Cooperation, and the growth of the organization's integration program for the multicultural, multilingual Estonian society.

We are fortunate to have benefited from the expertise and the different approach that Robben brings to the organization and to have had the opportunity to share with her an appreciation for the people and situation in Estonia. She will, in turn, take these experiences and a greater understanding with her on her return to America to share with people there.

We believe the choice of Lake Peipsi Project as a site for a Peace Corps volunteer recognizes the work of the organization's efforts to promote public participation through the development of non-profit organizations and activities at the regional level in Estonia.

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Social Action Projects

LOCAL INITIATIVE PROGRAM: CREATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN MUSTVEE AND KALLASTE

Funding:

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The closing of the border between Russia and Estonia has caused severe socio-economic problems in rural communities. In the Lake Peipsi regions, as a result of the loss of the state-supported cooperative farm system and the unfavorable tax policy of Russia, farmers and fishermen in Estonia have lost their markets in Russia and a main source of income.

This problem is intensified by the Soviet history of a centralized economy in which decisions about local development were made for the whole country as part of an overall plan. As a result, the skills to analyze local problems and the ability to generate actions to address them were not widely developed and public participation at this level was not encouraged.

In the current democratic society, public participation plays a crucial role in local sustainable development. More than anyone else, local citizens have an understanding of, and direct interest in, development of their region. Local initiative can energize the process of development in these communities in the best way. Involving people in deciding their own future is important in terms of sustainability. In order to make this happen, it is important to provide local communities with sufficient information and to help them to clarify their local problems and what the roots of these problems are. This enables them to create appropriate solutions.

To support the local sustainable development process, Lake Peipsi Project started a project in July 1997 in the towns of Mustvee and Kallaste, located on the Estonian side of the lake. This project builds on the work begun as part of a 1996 University of Virginia program aimed at introducing the ideas of community forums and public discussion to the area. While that project was successful in creating a basic understanding of how to launch this type of public participation, there was a need to provide practical training in ongoing town development plans to ensure sustainability of the process. This two-year LPP project is based on the UNDP concept of sustainable human development. The overall aim of the project is to promote local sustainable development and public participation in the issues of local development.

Developing trust and communication between local people and local governments is critical for the success of the project. The project aims at developing communication and cooperation between different sectors in the local community: the public, the town government, local business, educational institutions and NGOs.

At the beginning of the project local initiative groups of active residents of both towns were established. Project staff explained the democratic basis for people to act and the role of the third sector in the society. LPP staff met with the town governments, held town meetings and met with local NGOs to advise them on project writing, finding support for their projects and organizational issues.

As a basic part of the project, local people hold regular meetings to discuss social, environmental and economic problems

in the area. The meetings are aimed at helping people to develop ideas for improving their communities and to find ways of implementing those ideas to address these problems.

As part of the project, LPP has organized several training programs for community leaders with the help of the Rural Development Institute, Business Development Center and other experts. Training programs on sustainable tourism, business development, project writing, and English and Estonian language courses have been especially popular. In both towns three-day brainstorming sessions on town development plans have been held with local authorities. E-mail and Internet connections in Mustvee and Kallaste community centers have also been established, and training has been held on these topics.

One of the objectives of the UNDP program is that by the end of the project representatives of community groups and NGOs will have started to work out their own local development projects. Several NGOs have been established and local sustainable development projects have been started. The project staff assists community groups in identifying the sources of their problems, finding possible solutions, writing project proposals and monitoring the project implementation.

Local people write their own projects with the help of LPP staff and some of the projects have received funding. Among them are:

- Kallaste Ecotourism Foundation received funding from the Open Estonia Foundation to hold training sessions for social workers.
- Mustvee town received funding from the CREDO program to develop recreational infrastructure in the region. The project partner in Russia is Gdov. A detailed plan for the recreational and logistic infrastructure of Lake Peipsi coast will be developed.
- The Kallaste initiative group is developing an environmental education program for local businessmen, local government employees, and members of the public. One goal was the creation of an environmental development plan for the Kallaste region.
- The idea of printing a local newspaper grew out of the discussions of the Kallaste initiative group. The first issue of the newspaper was printed with financial support from UNDP. Support for subsequent issues was provided by other organizations. The greatest value of the newspaper is to bring news about town government activities, town events and other local news directly to the readers. Drafts of the Kallaste development plan are printed in the newspaper, so that everyone can give their comments.

We have seen a growing interest among people living in Mustvee and Kallaste areas to establish their own NGOs and solve local problems as a result of our project. We can see that local people have started to understand what they can do themselves to resolve these problems and what the possible instruments are that can help. We believe that the UNDP project has helped local people to better understand their problems and to plan their own actions to address them.

NARVA FORUM: 'TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE ESTONIAN-RUSSIAN BORDER ZONE'

Funding:

ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY, UNITED STATES EMBASSY AND BRITISH EMBASSY IN ESTONIA

JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Narva Forum, an international conference, took place 30 October - 1 November 1997 in Narva, Estonia. Organized by Lake Peipsi Project, the event was developed through the initiative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission in Estonia, with support from the Narva Town Council and the Ivangorod Town Administration.

One hundred ninety-six participants representing different levels of Estonian and Russian government, and public and social action groups took part in the Forum. Representatives of the embassies of Great Britain, Canada, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the United States, Sweden, and Norway along with officials from the Economic Commission of Europe, the Council of Europe, the Program of Transboundary Cooperation of the European Union and the Agenda 21 Program for the Baltic Sea Region participated as observers and speakers.

The primary goal of the forum was to develop a dialogue between representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations of Estonia, Russia and other countries in the transboundary region of the two countries. In addition, participants worked to formulate suggestions for the development of cooperation in the transboundary Estonian-Russian region between national, regional and local governments, non-governmental organizations of the two countries, and international organizations and experts.

Discussion of the questions of development of transboundary cooperation and deciding the problems of the inhabitants of the transboundary region was carried out in three working groups:

The first working group discussed the problems of living in the border region. As a result of the discussions a list of suggestions for the further development of cooperation between government and non-government organizations of Estonia and Russia was developed.

Participants in the second working group discussed the questions of joint use of resources and environmental protection. As a result of the discussions a list of specific suggestions was created for the development of an exchange of information about ecological issues, environmental education and eco-tourism, and the regulation of the use of fish resources in the Lake Peipsi/Narva River region.

The third working group discussed the problems of transboundary travel for inhabitants of the border territory between Russia and Estonia.

The participants at Narva Forum developed suggestions for specific joint social, environmental and economic projects. Approximately 20 joint projects and initiatives were formed during the time of the discussions within the framework of the conference.



Vegetable growing on Lake Peipsi shores has been popular for centuries



Local children in local economy

CONFERENCE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON REGIONAL COOPERATION IN MUSTVEE

Funding:

ROYAL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY
MUSTVEE MUNICIPALITY

On 15 August 1997 the 'Estonian-Russian Conference on the Role of Local Governments in Regional Cooperation' was held. The organizers were the Mustvee Municipality, Jõgeva County Government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Lake Peipsi Project and the Peipsi Region Development Foundation. The conference took place in the framework of preparation for the 'Narva Forum on Sustainable Development in the Estonian-Russian Border Region' held 30 October – 1 November 1997.

The aims of the Mustvee conference were

- 1) to discuss specific projects connected with the development of transboundary regions and promoting regional cooperation in this field which are to be organized by local government organizations in Estonia and Russia
- 2) to create specific proposals to be presented to the government to support local initiative in the sphere of local development.

The work was carried out in three groups. Special questions related to residence and work permits, border-crossing problems, and visas and transit were discussed. The themes of the groups were 'Life on the border/Residence and work permits', 'The use of common resources and infrastructure/Protection of common resources' and 'Crossing the border/Visas, transit, tourism'.

Approximately 60 persons took part in the conference including representatives from the United Nations Development Programme, the Swedish, Latvian and United States embassies, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Estonian Parliament. Reports were made by the representatives of the communities of Mustvee, Kallaste, Pskov, Ivangorod, Petseri/Pechory and Võru. Ene Padrik of the Estonian Ministry of Internal Affairs was a guest speaker. During the conference, the awards ceremony for the second international art contest "World of Water through the Eyes of Children" was held. Children from Russia, Latvia and Estonia participated

The main purpose of the event was to bring representatives from local authorities to a common table. A "Regional Cooperation Working Group of the Transboundary" was formed to create cooperation and communication between the local authorities.

THE ROLE OF NGOs IN REGIONAL COOPERATION

Funding:

UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE, TALLINN

In 1997-98, Lake Peipsi Project organized a series of seminars to discuss the role of NGOs in local sustainable development and regional cooperation, the cooperation between neighboring communities as well as cross-border cooperation. The overall goal of the project was to promote social and environmental stability, regional security in border regions of the Baltic countries and Russia. This was to be accomplished through stronger involvement of NGOs and activists in resolution of local and regional social, economic and environmental problems and in the regional cooperation. Representatives of regional and local NGOs and community groups from the Baltic States and Russia participated.

These seminars grew out of a realization that most people in the former Soviet areas tend to think locally and therefore believe that their problems have local or unique causes. For this reason, the idea of cooperating with others to solve their common problems has not been considered to a great degree. However, in most cases these social, economic and psychological problems have community-wide causes and can benefit from an approach that involves the joint actions of a variety of interested parties to find solutions.

As a result of their experience working with a number of grassroots NGOs and local governments in the Lake Peipsi region on community projects, LPP project managers decided to bring together people who had similar problems and who might be better able to resolve these problems more quickly if they discussed them together. Local NGOs in smaller areas that are remote from the capital cities and other large towns often do not have access to information about different options available to resolve the problems, and lack some necessary technical skills. Sharing skills and experiences, and learning current technology are a critical part of this cooperation process.

The following seminars and information days were organized: a seminar on "The Role of NGOs in Regional Cooperation" in Tartu and the Narva Forum "Towards Sustainable Development in the Estonian-Russian Border Zone" in 1997; an information day for non-governmental organizations, a seminar "Role of NGOs in Implementation of Local Agenda 21 Municipal Programs for Sustainable Development", and a seminar "Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Local Sustainable Development and Regional Cooperation in the Border Area of the Baltic States and NIS" in 1998.

The series of seminars allowed non-profit organizations from Estonia, Russia and Latvia to discuss their shared concerns, problems and possible forms of cooperation. A network of NGOs around Lake Peipsi was created as a result of the seminars. Not less important, discussions at the seminars with invited representatives of national and local authorities, also helped to develop contacts with the decision-makers.

NARVA NGO SUPPORT CENTER AND 'NARVA DIGEST'

Funding:

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE
UNITED STATES BALTIC FOUNDATION

As a part of the project 'Promoting Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making about Industrial Pollution Problems and Monitoring of Multinational Bank Development Projects in Northeastern Estonia' funded by the Regional Environmental Center, Lake Peipsi Project established the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Support Center in Narva. The project was directed at the initiation of a process of public involvement in environmental decision-making in Northeastern Estonia.

The NGO movement in Narva is quite underdeveloped compared with other regions of Estonia due to the isolation of the town: NGO activists do not speak Estonian and English and thus are cut off from information, funding sources and training available for NGOs in Estonia.

To address the problem, Lake Peipsi Project worked to develop local initiative through providing local NGOs and the general public with information. To support the development of the third sector in Estonia, the Narva NGO Support Center was created. Its main goal is technical and informational support and consultations to NGOs in the town and the wider region of Ida-Viru County.

The Support Center provides services free of charge, including the use of computer and e-mail; assistance with preparation of project proposals; literature on NGO management; and information on seminars organized in the region for NGOs. It also keeps a database on local Narva NGOs and their needs.

The Support Center works actively to provide information to the general public in the town, promoting awareness social, environmental, education issues that are important for Estonian society. In October 1997, the Center began publishing a weekly 'NARVA DIGEST' of articles from the Estonian press on issues connected with social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, issues that were not covered in the local Russian-language newspapers. Articles from major Estonian newspapers are translated from Estonian into Russian and published in the largest Narva newspaper, "KRENHOLM". This allows for a wider flow of information about Estonia through the eyes of Estonians and helps to generate an interest in environmental issues in Estonia.

The publication of the 'NARVA DIGEST' is also intended to help Russian-speaking people in Narva feel more connected to Estonia and assist with the integration of non-Estonians into Estonian society.



*North-East Estonia is a highly polluted area.
"Danger. Basic water", says the sign.*

SUMMER CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE AND CULTURE FAMILY STAY CAMPS 1997/1998

Funding:

ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

BRITISH EMBASSY

Integration of the Russian-speaking population into Estonian society is a major social and political concern. The integration of children in the Ida-Virumaa region whose education is still held in Russian is of special concern since their Estonian language and social skills will largely determine their future in this country. Estonian language skills will be a requirement for higher education, jobs, citizenship and professional opportunities.

There are many issues connected with efforts to integrate the large Russian-speaking population, the majority of whom do not speak Estonian. Overcoming the language difference is one of the most important tasks of the process.

But language skills alone do not necessarily create either an understanding of, or level of comfort with, a different culture. For this reason, in 1997 and 1998, CTC/LPP organized family stay camps for children from the Narva area with communities on Lake Peipsi.

One of the purposes served by these camps is to foster greater familiarity with Estonian society in Russian-speaking children from Narva by providing an Estonian language and culture experience in linguistically integrated communities on the lake. Narva, the third largest town in Estonia, is an industrial border town with a population of about 75 000 inhabitants, 17 000 of whom are children up to the age of 18. Over 90% of Narva inhabitants are Russian-speaking people of different nationalities, including Estonian.

In 1997, 100 children ages 9 to 17 years came from Narva to stay with Estonian families in Mustvee for two weeks. During the summer of 1998, 180 children from Narva studied Estonian language and culture in Mustvee and R pina.



Developing communication skills was one of the main goals of the project.

Mustvee is a small town on Lake Peipsi with an equally mixed Estonian and Russian population of approximately 2 000. R pina has 3 400 inhabitants, most of them Estonian speaking.

The goals of the camps:

- To develop the Estonian language skills of Russian-speaking children from Narva
- To enable Narva children to develop a better understanding of Estonian history, culture and customs
- To show children different places in Estonia
- To create personal contacts between Estonian speaking families in Mustvee and R pina and Russian speaking families in Narva.
- To provide a pleasant holiday away from the urban, industrial Northeast of Estonia.

To achieve these goals sessions of the camp were held during the summer. In 1997, one camp of two weeks was held for all the children who were divided into classes according to age. In 1998, there were three two-week sessions in each town. For each session, 30 Russian-speaking children in one age group attended classes at the local school and lived with Estonian-speaking families who provided conversational language practice in a casual environment.

Participants had two hours each day of language studies with a major emphasis on develop communication skills. For another two hours each day, participants learned Estonian national songs, dances and games and other activities designed to give them practice using the language.

As a result of these camps, we believe that the Estonian language level of the Narva participants has improved; participants' knowledge of Estonian culture and geography has improved; and close contacts between people of Narva, R pina and Mustvee have been created.

NARVA CHILDREN IN RÄPINA SUPPORT HOMES

Funding:

ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

BRITISH EMBASSY

NON-ESTONIANS INTEGRATION FOUNDATION

ROYAL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY

In November 1998 Lake Peipsi Project received grants of 300 000 EEK from the Non-Estonians Integration Foundation and 103 000 EEK from the Royal Netherlands Embassy to fund a yearlong program of ten support homes for children from Narva in Rāpina.

The idea for the project of Estonian support families grew out of the 1998 summer language camps funded by the Norwegian and British embassies in Tallinn. In a pilot project funded as part of the camps program, two children from Narva who had been participants in the summer camp stayed with Rāpina support families from September to December 1998 and attended school locally. The results of the pilot project were positive.

In the larger project to begin in January 1999, ten children from Narva will stay in Estonian families in Rāpina for one year. The main objective of the project is integrating non-Estonian children into Estonian society, to give them an opportunity to learn the language, become familiar with Estonian culture and customs, and find Estonian friends.

The second part of the project provides help for the children's Narva families. Social workers and psychologists from the non-profit "Home for Every Child" (Lapsele Oma Kodu) consult with families and provide information and skills training to enable them to work on resolving their domestic problems.

One overall objective of this project is to create close, on going contacts between Narva and Rāpina families. Narva families will have friends in other parts of Estonia, the children from Narva will have a second "family" to support them in the future, and people from Rāpina will have friends in the Ida-Virumaa area.



Tartu University Rector Jaak Aaviksoo and Chair of Social Policy Marju Lauristin were speakers at Põlva Forum

PÕLVA FORUM – BUILDING A CIVIL SOCIETY

Funding:

ROYAL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY

BRITISH EMBASSY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

On 5-8 November 1998, the Põlva Youth Forum – "Building a Civil Society" took place in the town of Põlva in southeastern Estonia. The 76 participating students, 65% Estonian-speaking and 35% Russian-speaking, came from eleven Estonian counties. Students heard speakers from the education and political sectors as well as representatives of non-profit, non-governmental organizations. At this Forum, both within the sessions and informally, the issues of integration and language acquisition were discussed in the context of working to develop the whole of Estonian society.

Guest speakers included Tartu University professor Dr. Marju Lauristin, Dr. Jaak Aaviksoo, Tartu University Rector, Toomas H. Ilves, Estonian Foreign Minister, Liis Klaar, Director of Tallinn Children's Hospital Foundation, and Andres Pärt, Director of the SOS Children's Village in Keila. In addition, representatives of eight non-profit organizations took part in the 'NGO Marketplace of Ideas' to demonstrate how the actions of individuals working together can affect society and have a ripple effect across the communities in which they are active.

The content of the Forum concerned first of all understanding how developing a civil society is the implementation of the democratic process at the local level and secondly, determining how individuals can become involved in caring for and improving their local communities. During the Forum participants developed volunteer projects that address areas of need in their local communities.

The Forum successfully achieved its overall goal of raising awareness among students about the responsibilities of living in a civil society and providing tools to enable them to become actively involved in addressing local issues impacting their communities.

Organization of the event was coordinated by Lake Peipsi Project and the Põlva County Development Department working with U.S. Peace Corps volunteers from throughout Estonia.

SECOND & THIRD ANNUAL “WORLD OF WATER THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN” CHILDREN’S ART CONTESTS – 1997 & 1998

Funding:

PSKOV REGIONAL AUTHORITY, PSKOV REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE, MUSTVEE MUNICIPALITY, SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, LAKE PEIPSI PROJECT

In 1996, the Mustvee town government and Lake Peipsi Project on the Estonian side, and the Pskov Regional Government Education Administration, Pskov Regional Protection Agency and Pskov Ecological-Biological Center from Russia hosted an international creative works competition to raise awareness of environmental protection issues regarding Lake Peipsi. The “World of Water Through the Eyes of Children” contest was designed to help encourage young people to realize their creative potential, to establish a dialogue between children and adults in Estonia, Russia and other countries on the topic of environmental protection, and to help initiate joint actions in different countries for the protection of Lake Peipsi.

Lake Peipsi Project was the main organizer of the contest in 1997 and 1998. The popularity of the contest has grown. In 1996, 300 children from Russia and Estonia took part; in 1997, there were 500 participants, among them children from Finland, Sweden and Latvia, as well as Russia and Estonia. In 1998, approximately 800 submissions were received from children in Estonia, Russia, Belarus, Latvia, Sweden and Finland. Based on the interest expressed by the increase in the number of contest participants over the three years, it is intended that the contest will continue in future.

The international competition provided an excellent opportunity for youth of different countries to gain a greater understanding of the importance of protecting water resources. Winners of the contest – children from Estonia, Russia, Latvia, Belarus, Sweden – had a chance to meet each other at the awards ceremonies to share their ideas about the environment and life in different states around Lake Peipsi and the Baltic Sea as a whole. The contest also helped to promote the idea of cooperation in the protection of natural resources.

During the awards ceremonies, meetings of representatives of state and local government representatives were held. In 1998 a round table “Regional Cooperation Together in Estonia, Russia, Latvia: educational and culture projects” was organized.

The following agencies and organizations were involved in the contest: In Estonia – Mustvee town government; Environment Ministry of Estonia; Tartu town Nature House; NGO Lake Peipsi Project, and the port of Tartu. In Russia – Pskov Regional Government: International Cooperation Administration, Educational Administration, and Ecological-Biological Center; Pskov Regional Protection Agency; Russian Ministry of Foreign Relations, Pskov department. In Latvia – the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development.

TARTU SOCIAL ISSUES FORUM

Funding:

TARTU TOWN GOVERNMENT

Lake Peipsi Project organized the ‘Tartu Social Issues Forum’ on 29 May 1998 in cooperation with Tartu town government and the Center for Development of Rural Life. The forum was held in the framework of Tartu Agenda 21 and was funded by the Tartu town government. Town government officials, employees of educational, environmental and social organizations and NGO members took part in the forum.

The main issue of discussions was the social welfare of citizens and circumstances that influence their welfare. Presentations and discussions dealt with quality of life (construction program, quality of drinking water, paying for common resources, waste utilization, possibilities to participate in cultural life), social justice (health, risk groups, social conflicts), education and information (consulting, gathering and spreading of information) and employment (level of unemployed, creating new jobs).

The Social Issues Forum linked economic, environmental and social problems. The recommendations worked out during the forum formed the basis for creation of a sustainable development plan for Tartu Agenda 21.



*Olga Bolshakova (14), “Memories of Pskov”
from “World of Water Through the Eyes of Children” art contest*

Context Analysis:
Environmental and Social Research Projects



Ships in Kallaste harbor

SWEDISH-ESTONIAN-RUSSIAN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Funding:

SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe is one of the major lakes of the Baltic Sea water basin (3555 km²) and is the fourth largest lake in Europe after Ladoga, Onega, and Vänern with respect to the surface area. It is the largest international lake in Europe. The watershed (including the lake itself) covers 47,800 km² of the territories of Russia, Estonia and Latvia. The lake is unique in its natural amenities - shallow, eutrophic, and very biologically productive. Wetland areas of the Lake Peipsi area have been recognized as wetlands of international importance. The lake region is rich in historic and cultural heritage. Different cultural and ethnic groups live around the lake – ethnic Estonians and Russians, Setu and Russian Orthodox Old-Believers. Improvement of the water-quality monitoring and availability of information about the environmental situation on the lake has international importance. The quality of water is important for water quality in the Gulf of Finland as well as the Baltic Sea as a whole.

The border between Estonia and Russia was reconstructed in 1992. Earlier the two republics were parts of one quite centrally planned and managed Soviet Union, so the re-established border regime has cut economic, information and management ties that existed between the two republics. The lake forms two thirds of the border.

On 20 August 1997 an intergovernmental agreement between Estonia and Russia on the protection and sustainable use of transboundary water bodies was signed. The aim of this agreement is to regulate and protect transboundary water bodies and their ecosystems. The agreement was signed in accord with the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992).

Thus, the legal and political basis for joint environmental management of the transboundary Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe and its watershed was created which allows the organization of specific co-operative programs on the intergovernmental level. Two Chairmen were appointed to the Commission in Estonia and Russia respectively – Mr. Rein Ratas, Chancellor of the Estonian Ministry of the Environment, and Mr. Nikolai Mikheev, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation. During summer 1998 the following working groups were established under the commission: Working Group on Water Economy; Working Group on Water Protection; Working Group on Monitoring and Research; and the Working Group on Cooperation with International and Non-Governmental Organizations and Local Authorities. One of the specific activities under the Joint Commission was the work to implement the trilateral Swedish/Estonian/Russian environmental monitoring project on Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe.

The idea for the monitoring project came from Chancellor of Swedish Ministry of the Environment, Mr. Mäns Lönnroth. According to Mr. Lönnroth, during the special situation at the

beginning of the 1990's when Estonia regained its independence, there was no intergovernmental agreement signed between Estonia and Russia that would regulate the use of natural resources in their border area. The political climate in the bilateral relations was quite complicated and painful. In that particular situation it was very difficult to pursue joint environmental or other projects on the intergovernmental level: an aggravation of the political situation was greatly affecting the implementation of international projects in different fields. This was the reason the Swedish agency came up with a proposal for an interregional co-operative project between three regions: Älvsborg (currently Västra Götaland) County of Sweden, Pskov Oblast of Russian Federation and Tartu County of Estonian Republic. Two-and-a-half million Swedish kroons were allocated for the project. The main goal of the project was to strengthen the capacity for environmental monitoring by regional authorities working on the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe. The project was also aimed at developing contacts between environmental experts on different sides of the border, and establishing an environmental network of experts for cooperation with the aim of promoting environmental protection and sustainable use of resources in the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe water basin.

According to the Swedish Project Manager, Ms. Nina Munthe, the project was aimed to contribute to the formulation of common objectives and action plans in the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Watershed. The needs of a mutually satisfactory description of the current conditions, common environmental objectives, and a coordinated action plan are easy to understand when two countries are sharing a joint resource, as in the case of Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe. The project is focused mainly on those areas that are judged to be in urgent need of attention, such as eutrophication that is a potential threat, at least in the most affected sections of the lake. The work has so far been concentrated on ensuring the quality of nutrient analyses, calculating the nutrient load to the lake and information management. So far, Russian and Estonian laboratories have received equipment necessary for carrying out reliable high-quality analyses of nitrogen and phosphorous. Both sides have also received support in the form of training and help from Swedish laboratories in developing reliable routines for ensuring a high quality of the data. The work has progressed furthest on the Estonian side. The activities within the project have also been focused on information. Major concerns are to develop institutional capacity and the infrastructure on the regional level for environmental information management, data handling, evaluation and dissemination of the information concerning the environmental state of the lake and its watershed.

As a part of the Swedish/Russian/Estonian environmental monitoring project, Lake Peipsi Project has set up an Internet server for the project and developed a webpage <http://www.lake-peipus.net> that gives a detailed information on the geography and

environmental issues of the lake and the region. LPP administrative support to the Swedish and Estonian project managers included assistance with communication to, and information exchange with, project participants in Russia, Estonia and Sweden; putting together reports and necessary information that concerns implementation of the project for the Swedish project manager; and logistics support in organization of the project meetings and conferences.

The SEPA environmental monitoring project was the first environmental cooperation project in 1995 and played an important role in starting and facilitating environmental cooperation in the Estonian/Russian/Latvian transboundary area. The project was an important experience for Estonian and Russian experts, environmental officials and NGOs in the organization of practical cooperation on Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe; a number of new environmental cooperation initiatives came out from the process of implementation of the Peipsi monitoring project.



The northern coast of Lake Peipsi

THE NARVA RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT RESEARCH PROGRAM

Funding:

THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE

The Narva Basin Research Program was launched on the initiative of the Swedish Water Management Research Program (VASTRA) and a group of Estonian and Russian environmental experts who were involved in the Swedish – Estonian – Russian environmental monitoring project supported by Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Swedish International Development Agency. Experience of the co-operation in the SEPA environmental monitoring program allowed starting a new co-operative research program aimed at development of a research component of the Narva River Basin Management Plan. The Swedish Institute supported the project. The basin includes the lakes Peipsi and Võrtsjärv and their basins. Another important foundation on which this program is built is the Swedish Water Management Research Program that presents a network of environmental scientists in Sweden who work together to develop catchment-based strategies for sustainable resource use. The major goal of VASTRA research is to develop catchment-based water management strategies that are sustainable from ecological, economical and social perspectives.

The Narva River Basin Management Plan does not exist yet however the process of preparation of the Management Plan is on its way under the direction of the Estonian – Russian intergovernmental transboundary water commission. This commission was established in 1998 in accord with the Estonian – Russian bilateral agreement on protection and use of transboundary waters.

Currently the Narva Basin Research Program is managed by the Swedish Water Management Research Program (Program Director Mr. Hans Bertil Wittgren) and Center for Transboundary Co-operation and Sustainable Development/Lake Peipsi Project (In Region Co-ordinator Ms. Gulnara Roll). About sixty Estonian, Russian and Swedish experts are involved in the implementation of this program. From Estonia and Russia, participants of the network represent the following organisations: Tartu Environmental Researchers Ltd., Lake Peipsi Project, Tartu University, Võrtsjarve Limnological Station, Tallinn Technical University, Information Center of Estonian Ministry of the Environment, Estonian Geological Survey, Estonian Marine Institute, and Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Center; the Pskov Regional State Committee for Environmental Protection, Pskov Water Management Committee, Pskov Volny University, Pskov Department of the State Institute for Study of Lakes and Rivers Fishery, Pskov Technical University, St. Petersburg State Hydrology Institute, St. Petersburg based Neva Ladoga Basin Department and Technical University. From Sweden, experts from the Linköping University Institute of TEMA, a company VBB Viak AB, Swedish University for Agricultural Science, Swedish National Board of Fisheries, Royal Institute of Technology, participated in the project meetings and cooperate with their Estonian and Russian colleagues on development of the Narva River Basin Management Research Program.

Work of the research program was organized in three main directions according to the priority environmental issues for the Narva River and Lake Peipsi basin identified in a report “LAKE PEIPSI/PSKOVSKO – CHUDSKOE: ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC ISSUES AND PROSPECTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT” (prepared by G. Roll, Y. Sults, A. Jaani, A. Slinchak and V. Martynov). These three directions of research are: (1) Nutrient load and eutrophication of Lake Peipsi; (2) Management of fish resources in Lake Peipsi and Narva River; and (3) Groundwater extraction/pollution in the Narva/Ivangorod area. The three working groups were formed to prepare a background document with assessment of the current environmental and natural resource use situation and research plans to further study environmental processes and issues.

Two support working groups were also organized: (1) databases, Geographical Information Systems and analytical methods of research; and (2) analysis of policies and of their implementation. The first working group developed a GIS for the whole of the basin area and analytical tools for research which will assist the first three working groups in implementation of their tasks. The “policy analysis” working group worked in cooperation with the three research program groups to make recommendations for more effective policies that would promote reduction of nutrient load into the lake, sustainable use of fish resources and help to develop a system for protection and sustainable use of ground waters in the Narva/Ivangorod area.

In 1998, three project meetings were organized that resulted in the preparation of the first draft of the comprehensive Narva Basin Management Research Program. The developed program outlined directions for research for the next several years for the five program working groups. In 1999 project participants continued their work on detailed planning of the Narva Basin Management Research Program. Publications are to be published by summer 1999; this includes a “Directory of Organizations Involved in Environmental Cooperation in the Narva River Basin” and a collection of articles “Narva River Environmental Management Issues”. A GIS based environmental database for the Narva River Basin is under preparation. Three joint pilot projects were started on Social and Economic Aspects of Fisheries Management, Database for Management of Ground Waters in the Narva/Ivangorod area, and Environmental Governance in the Narva River Basin: Policies of Russia and Estonia in Implementation of Environmental Legislation.

The main difficulty with implementation of the program was a lack of a shared vision of sustainable development in the Narva River Basin and styles of organization of the research. There were differences in methodologies and approaches to studies in different working groups. The approach of the VASTRA program proved to be very valuable for the Estonian and Russian scientists. In 1999–2000, program organizers intend to organize training in systems analysis for Estonian and Russian scientists that will

***COMMON BORDERS, SHARED PROBLEMS:
A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY PUBLICATION***

FUNDING:

JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR
FOUNDATION

promote development of a shared vision of the Narva River Basin Sustainable Development among all program participants and a better understanding and closer cooperation between experts working in different fields (geologists, hydrologists, economists, lawyers, etc.). The Narva River Basin Management Research Program is still at its very initial organizational stage, however, we hope that in the long run it will become an important basis for the further work on the development of the Narva River and Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Plan and formulation of concrete environmental protection measures aimed at development of an environment for sustainable human development.

Sociological studies conducted by Lake Peipsi Project in 1995–1996 with the support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, allowed LPP to make an assessment of the local social and political situation and to examine the roots of ethnic identification in communities of the Estonian/Russian border zone. Preliminary results from the surveys showed that the Russian population on both sides of the border was suffering from a demographically aging population and high unemployment.

The Russian residents existed for the most part on traditional means of economic subsistence. The Estonian-Russian mixed population living on the Western coast of Lake Peipsi (for example, in the shore town of Mustvee), had preserved a distinct ethnic identity in which four different religions denominations co-exist: Old Believers, Russian Orthodox, Lutheran and Baptist and had achieved levels of relative economic stability. Through the studies of the social and environmental situation, ethnic and cultural composition of population in the Estonian/Russian border area, it became evident that social, political and environmental changes of 1990s connected with dissolution of the former Soviet Union had affected people of the region to a large degree. A picture emerged of a very complex multicultural and multilingual situation, and a population that was struggling to find ways to meet the challenges of the new social, economic and political environment.

In 1997, the results of the conducted sociological study were analysed and published as a book in English, *COMMON BORDERS, SHARED PROBLEMS*. The researchers involved documented the existing situation in the border region of Russia and Estonia. Through a discussion of local culture, traditions, and social and environmental issues, it described the significant features of the region and served as context analysis that was used as a basis for additional research and analysis by a variety of organizations, both domestic and international.

The volume stands as a record of the situation in the Estonian/Russian border region at a critical time in the development of the two countries. Even after a relatively short time period we are able to recognize social and economic changes that have taken place since its publication. Perhaps even more importantly, we have witnessed significant changes in the mentality of many of the local people and in their attitudes to their own role in the development of the region.



Common borders – common culture and traditions.

BALTIC BASIN CASE STUDY PROJECT: LAKE PEIPSI REGION

Funding:

EUROPEAN UNION – ELOISE PROGRAMME

The Center for Transboundary Cooperation is participating in a project that has produced a regional report paper on “Lake Peipsi/Pskovsko-Chudskoe: Environmental Status, Social, Economic Issues and Prospects for Sustainable Development”. This report was prepared as part of the international Baltic Basin Case Study project (BBCS), a concerted action within the European Union project family of ELOISE (European Land - Ocean Interaction Studies). While participants from Sweden, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia and Estonia are involved in the overall project, the Pskov Pedagogical Institute in Russia, the Estonian Meteorological Institute, Tartu Environmental Researchers Ltd. and Lake Peipsi Project from Estonia participated in writing the report about Lake Peipsi. The project is coordinated through CTC with Gulnara Roll as the in-region coordinator.

The main objective of the project involves four tasks: to synthesize existing knowledge on the ecological impact of resources use, to link policy options to their ecological consequences, to identify policies for implementing sustainable strategies and practices, and to guide future research towards unanswered questions. The regional report papers characterize four specific watersheds within the Baltic Sea Basin giving an overview of the subsystems and synthesizing existing knowledge of critical problems: the River Vistula in Poland, the River Dalälven in Sweden, the Baltic Archipelago in Sweden, Finland and Estonia, and Lake Peipsi/Pskovsko-Chudskoe between Estonia and Russia. Each of the four case studies is very different in geographical, social, economic and political characteristics.

The report authors agreed that the main problems for the Lake Peipsi watershed were the following.

- The major environmental problem of the lake remains to be water eutrophication that decreases the amount of available water resources to be used for drinking and recreation. Lake Peipsi communities depend directly on the quality of the lake water that is used for communal needs, tourism and fishing.
- There is an unregulated dispute on water supply and wastewater treatment between the towns of Narva (Estonia) and Ivangorod (Russia). Maintenance of the Narva reservoir dams located in both towns on opposite sides of the border is a problem.
- Air emissions from Estonian and Baltic power plants, chemical enterprises working on oil shale, and wastewater from oil-shale mines affect water quality in the northern part of the lake.
- The Estonian-Russian Fisheries Commission on Lakes Peipsi, Lämmi and Pskov continues to address the issue of regulation catches of commercially important fish on the lake. Tensions between Estonian and Russian experts and fishermen on regulation of catches has continued since 1993.
- The problem of depopulation of rural communities around Lake Peipsi presents an important issue to be addressed on the level of the Lake Peipsi watershed as a whole. The depopulation in itself along with the attendant loss of cultural variety presents a serious problem for the implementation principles of the regional and local Agenda 21 programs.

The report outlines the legal and political framework for organization of transboundary environmental cooperation in the Lake Peipsi watershed and develops proposals for building a sustainable development vision for the Lake Peipsi area.

The report was prepared as a basis for further discussions that would include not only experts, but also natural resource user groups in the Lake Peipsi watershed, as a the basis for an “agreement for co-operation” between all stakeholders in the watershed area.

Information Projects



ORGANIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROJECT

Funding:

SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The overall goal of the Swedish/Estonian/Russian environmental monitoring project is to strengthen the capacity for quality-assured environmental monitoring and information exchange.

As a part of the Swedish-Russian-Estonian environmental monitoring project, the Center for Transboundary Cooperation/Lake Peipsi Project has set up an Internet server for the project and developed a webpage on the Internet in English devoted to environmental and economic issues of the Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe region. The Internet server [tartu.lake-peipus.net](http://www.lake-peipus.net) was set up at CTC Tartu office. The webpage <http://www.lake-peipus.net> gives detailed information on the geography and environmental issues of the lake and the region. While the homepage today exists only in English, we propose that in 1999 the homepage will also be developed in Russian and Estonian.

E-mail connection in Pskov: CTC specialists have set up modems and opened e-mail accounts for Russian participants in the monitoring project in Pskov and St. Petersburg for the Pskov Regional Committee for Nature Protection, Pskov Inspection for Nature Protection, Pskov Department of Fisheries Institute, and the State Hydrology Institute. CTC specialists also provided consultations on the use of e-mail. Setting up e-mail access at organizations participating in the project helped establish a less expensive (compared to telephone and fax) communication network which allows discussion of issues of project implementation much more quickly, and develops better understanding between people involved in the network. To help participants get better involved in the e-mail communication network and to be able to read and write messages in English, LPP Pskov representatives assisted in organization of English language courses. For stage two, CTC proposes to set up e-mail addresses for the commission secretaries and possibly for commission members, and to develop a listserv through which it would be possible to organize a regular information exchange between people involved in implementation of the Estonian - Russian bilateral agreement.

INTERNET PAGE DEVELOPMENT

FUNDING:

SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

As a part of the Swedish-Russian-Estonian environmental monitoring project, Lake Peipsi Project developed a webpage on the Internet devoted to environmental, cultural and economic issues of the Lake Peipsi Region. The project is dedicated to improving environmental monitoring and information gathering on the lake and to promoting the sustainable catch of fish stocks.

The webpage, <http://www.lake-peipus.net>, along with maps of the lake and region, gives detailed information on the hydrology and fish species of the lake. One page also outlines various sources of pollution of the lake and the ecosystems surrounding the lake.

It is important for the protection of the lake's resources to understand the economy and cultural traditions of the people living around the lake. The webpage provides information on the three religious groups whose cultural history and activities influence the region and on the most common economic activities. The page also gives descriptions of the main towns located on the lake and provides links to tourist information for the area.

There are a number of international conventions and laws affecting the management of the lake. The page provides links to the most relevant of these and to several agencies working in the region. There are also links to the webpages of more than 20 non-governmental organizations and institutions in Sweden, Estonia and Russia that have information about the Lake Peipsi region.

The site provides links to the Lake Peipsi Project homepage and the homepage of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF THE DAUGAVA/ZAPADNAYA DVINA RIVER BASIN

Funding:

SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

In 1998, Lake Peipsi Project with the funding of, and in the cooperation with, the Transboundary Water Program of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) worked to prepare a Directory of Organizations Involved in Environmental Management of the Daugava/Zapadnaya Dvina Watershed. Publication of the Directory is one of the subprojects implemented under the Daugava/Zapadnaya Dvina River Basin environmental cooperation project initiated by the Transboundary Water Program of SEPA and implemented in cooperation with the Belarussian, Latvian and Russian state environmental agencies and research institutions. For many years the basin was contained within the Soviet Union. After the breakup of that country, it became a transboundary basin shared by the three countries.

The Daugava/Zapadnaya Dvina River Basin is 87,900 km² and the main part is divided between three countries: Belarus (38%), Russia (32%) and Latvia (28%). The remaining part (2%) is split between Lithuania and Estonia. The river source is in Russia. It then flows into northern Belarus, southern Latvia and into the Baltic Sea. The Belarus part of the basin contains two large industrial centers, Polotsk and Novopolotsk, with oil refineries that are a permanent source of environmental risk and toxic pollution. Several accidents that took place there posed serious environmental problems not only in Belarus but also in Latvia. The Latvian territory of the basin is the location of the two largest cities in Latvia, Riga and Daugavpils, and at several points the river is dammed up by power stations.

The present publication covers organizations and institutions operating along the Daugava/Zapadnaya Dvina River in Belarus, Latvia, and Russia. It gives contact information for the organizations as well as a description of environmental management systems in these countries. It will be published in English and Russian and will be useful to experts, international organizations, local authorities and NGOs who are looking for contacts or potential partners among environmental organizations in the Daugava/Zapadnaya Dvina River area.

LAKE PEIPSI QUARTERLY

Funding:

ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

The 'LAKE PEIPSI QUARTERLY' reported about the projects of the organization in 1997 and 1998, both in printed form and on the Internet at www.lake-peipus.net.

The themes covered by individual issues included the Conference of Local Authorities on Regional Cooperation held in Mustvee, the Narva Forum, and the environmental cooperation in the Lake Peipsi region. Other articles informed readers about the transboundary problems of the region, the work of local initiative groups, the "World of Water Through the Eyes of Children" art contest, programs to build the NGO sector in Estonia, and seminars, conferences and meetings held in various communities to bring interested parties from governments, international agencies and local residents together to take part in the democratic process of public participation.

The 'LAKE PEIPSI QUARTERLY' is printed in 500 copies and is distributed to government and non-government agencies in the region. The English, Estonian and Russian language forms appear in one volume so that any copy can be widely distributed and read. At the request of the National Library, a copy is now provided for their collection.

Lake Peipsi Quarterly



Spring-Summer 1997

Vol. Two, No. 5

Ennenajattamatta muuttamaan "huokaus" projektista
 Pöytäkirja Jyväskylän seminaarista, kesäkuu 1997
 Newsletter of the Lake Peipsi Project



Conference at Local Authorities on Regional Cooperation

The 19th of October-2000th Conference on the Role of Local Authorities in Regional Cooperation was held in the city of Jyväskylä. The speakers were the Mayor, Mr. Jarmo, Jyväskylä, Finland, Mr. Jarmo, Jyväskylä, Finland, Mr. Jarmo, Jyväskylä, Finland, Mr. Jarmo, Jyväskylä, Finland. The conference was supported by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of the Interior.

The aim of the conference was to discuss the role of local authorities in regional cooperation. The speakers discussed the importance of regional cooperation and the role of local authorities in this process. The conference was held in Jyväskylä, Finland.

The conference was held in Jyväskylä, Finland. The speakers discussed the importance of regional cooperation and the role of local authorities in this process.

Pöytäkirja Jyväskylän seminaarista

19. lokakuuta 2000th konferenssi "Käsitteellisesti alueellisen yhteistyön merkitys" oli pidetty Jyväskylässä. Luentoilijat olivat Jyväskylän kaupungin pormestori, Jyväskylä, Suomi, Jyväskylä, Suomi, Jyväskylä, Suomi, Jyväskylä, Suomi. Konferenssi oli tuettu ympäristöministeriön ja sisäministeriön toimesta.

Konferenssin tarkoituksena oli keskustella paikallisten viranomaisten roolista alueellisen yhteistyön kehittämisessä. Luentoilijat esittivät alueellisen yhteistyön tärkeyttä ja paikallisten viranomaisten roolia tässä prosessissa. Konferenssi pidettiin Jyväskylässä, Suomessa.

Конференция пригородных муниципалитетов

19 октября 2000th Конференция "Роль местных администраций в развитии регионального сотрудничества" была проведена в г. Яväskylä. Лекторы: мэр г. Яväskylä, Финляндия, мэр г. Яväskylä, Финляндия, мэр г. Яväskylä, Финляндия, мэр г. Яväskylä, Финляндия. Конференция была поддержана Министерством окружающей среды и Министерством внутренних дел.

Целью конференции было обсуждение роли местных администраций в развитии регионального сотрудничества. Лекторы обсудили важность регионального сотрудничества и роль местных администраций в этом процессе. Конференция проходила в г. Яväskylä, Финляндия.

Funders

	1997	EEK
THE JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION	539 568	
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	460 781	
ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IN ESTONIA	541 500	
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME	157 499	
UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE	136 843	
UNITED STATES BALTIC FOUNDATION	113 146	
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER FOR CEE	60 907	
BRITISH EMBASSY	20 000	
	Total	2 030 244

	1998	EEK
ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IN ESTONIA	666 885	
SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	549 726	
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME	316 619	
SWEDISH INSTITUTE	277 903	
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY	225 417	
ROYAL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY	103 951	
NETHERLANDS COOPERATION FOUNDATION FOR CEE	60 762	
UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE	114 455	
NON-ESTONIANS INTEGRATION FOUNDATION	75 000	
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER FOR CEE	67 135	
BRITISH EMBASSY	46 000	
EUROPEAN UNION – ELOISE PROGRAMME	45 373	
TARTU TOWN GOVERNMENT	10 000	
	Total	2 559 226

Auditor's Report

**Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements and Management
of Local Sustainable Development Projects in Mustvee and Kallaste,
Project No. EST/97/004 for the year 1997.**

We have audited the attached financial statements of the Local Sustainable Development Project in Mustvee and Kallaste, project number EST/97/004 for 1997.

These financial statements are the responsibility of management of the Project; our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, which require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluation the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, subject to our detailed Memorandum on Examination, we certify that:

- The Project financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the results of its operations for the year 1997;
- Project disbursements had been made in accordance with the Project Document;
- Project disbursements were valid and supported by adequate documentation;
- An appropriate management structure, internal controls and record-keeping systems were maintained by the project manager and could be relied upon;
- Project monitoring and evaluation was undertaken and reports were prepared as required; and
- Project non-expendable equipment procurement, use, control and disposition were in accordance with the requirements.

AS KPMG ESTONIA

Tallinn, 30 April 1998

Taivo Epner
Authorized Public Accountant
KPMG Estonia

Staff 1997/1998

Staff at 1 January 1999

Gulnara Roll

CENTER FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION
Director
Member of Executive Council

Lea Vedder

CENTER FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION
Financial manager
Member of Executive Council

Tuulike Petuhov

CENTER FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION
Administrative manager
Member of Executive Council

Robben Romano

CENTER FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION
Management Advisor
US PEACE CORPS volunteer

Galina Kapanen

CENTER FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION
Webmaster
Advisor to local sustainable development projects
in Mustvee and Kallaste

Angelika Shegedin

CENTER FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION
Press secretary
Integration project manager

Margit Säre

CENTER FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION
Community Development and Cross-Border Cooperation
project manager

Ene Muistna

Accountant

Eha Sügis

Technical support

Andrei Pershin

LAKE PEIPSI PROJECT NARVA - NGO SUPPORT CENTER
director

Tatyana Maximova

LAKE PEIPSI PROJECT PSKOV
office director

Semyon Nikonov

LAKE PEIPSI PROJECT PSKOV
project manager

Tiit Hilpus

Mustvee and Kallaste local sustainable development
projects coordinator

Alexander Shkrebits

Information-technology expert

Urmo Braun

Information System Maintenance

Eiki Berg

Social science research coordinator

Persons who also worked at Lake Peipsi Project during this period

Ilme Loik

MUSTVEE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER manager

Victoria Grigorjeva

LAKE PEIPSI PROJECT coordinator of environmental
educational programs on Russian side in Pskov

Dmitri Antonjuk

Coordinator for information and electronic communication project in Pskov

Eva Paaksi

Municipal projects manager in 1997

Francesco Perez-Caballero

Financial manager in 1997-1998

Marianne Tarelkina

Local sustainable development project coordinator in Mustvee in 1997

Arvo Uustalu

Press secretary in 1997

Marianne Tarelkina

Local sustainable development project coordinator in Mustvee in 1997

Nathaniel Trumbull

Editor of the "LAKE PEIPSI QUARTERLY"
and of "TRANSBOUNDARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS"

Pavel Gontsharov

Narva NGO development project coordinator in 1997

Toomas Gross

Manager of anthropological fieldwork
and coordinator of South Estonian projects

Megan VanNess Delany

Volunteer
Advisor in teambuilding and fundraising

Katarina Fahlander

Volunteer
Advisor to LAKE PEIPSI PROJECT on human resources management

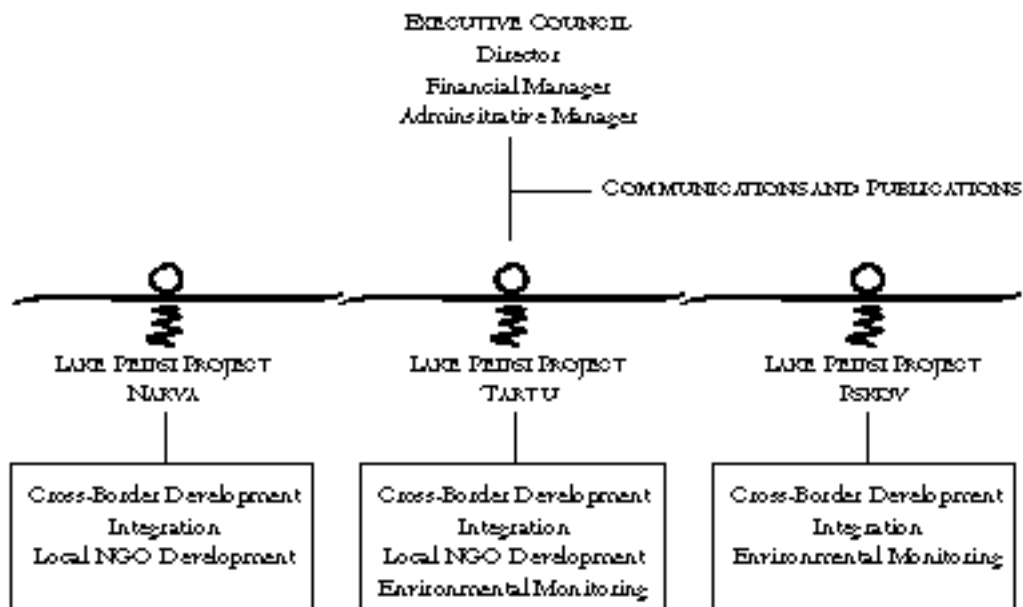
Lillian Eriksen

Volunteer
Advisor to LAKE PEIPSI PROJECT Tartu office

Organizational Structure



**Center for
Transboundary
Cooperation**
and Sustainable Development



Background Information about the Estonian–Russian Border Area

- The total length of the Estonian–Russian border is 277km where approximately two-thirds of the border goes through Lake Peipsi (in Russian the lake is named Pskovsko – Chudskoe) and the Narva River. In addition, 12 km of sea border goes from mouth of the Narva River to the neutral waters of the Gulf of Finland.
- The population of the coast of Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe is rather diverse in its origin and cultures. The Lake Peipsi coast was **historically inhabited by Finno-Ugric tribes** of Chud and Vod that were involved in fishing and hunting. The name of the Lake in Russian–Chudskoe–still reminds us about the tribe that lived in the area. The lake was a natural border between people who inhabited territories around Lake Peipsi and resulted in the different cultural composition of the Eastern (Russian) and Western (Estonian) periferies of the Lake Peipsi watershed. At the same time, to the south of the lake, in the current land border area of modern Estonia and Russia, the **Finno-Ugric ethnic group of Setu people** lives. This group is probably a remnant of the Finno-Ugric people with whom Slavic tribes met when they were migrating into the region in the 5th century from the east. As a cultural shatter belt it has had Russian influences like the Orthodox religion and several features in material culture, but the people have preserved their **own language, Setu, a dialect of Estonian**. Thus they remained in the middle of these two cultures, having much in common both with Estonians and Russians but never totally assimilating into either of them. Today, the historic **Setumaa is divided administratively between Estonia and Russia**. There were 20000 Setu at the beginning of this century which was the largest population in recent history. Setu lived more inland dealing with agriculture, crafts, and trade; they considered fishing as a dangerous enterprise. This is why the **coastal areas of the lake became inhabited by Russian fishermen**.
- **Five administrative regions** – the Eastern Estonian counties of Ida-Virumaa, Jõgevaamaa, Tartumaa, Põlvamaa and Võrumaa – have a border with the Russian Federation. On the Russian side, the Leningrad and Pskov regions are located on the border with Estonian Republic.
- Both sides of the Estonian-Russian border zone are mostly agricultural regions of their countries. **Arable lands; milk and cattle farms, small-scale fishery, timber enterprises and food processing factories** are located in this area; however, rural areas, especially on the Russian side, are rather scarcely populated. Most of the population is urban and living in the two largest towns – Tartu in Estonia with about 100000 inhabitants and Pskov on the Russian side with 300000 inhabitants. There are quite clear regional differences in economic development patterns in different parts of the Estonian-Russian border zone.
- Lake Peipsi is the **fourth largest lake in Europe** after Ladoga, Onega, and Vänern with respect to surface area and is located in the Baltic Sea water basin. The surface area is 3,550 sq. km; its average depth is 7.1 meters and the maximum depth is 15 meters. Of the total lake surface area, 1,550 sq. km or 44% is located in Estonian territory; the remaining 56% is in Russian Federation territory. **Thirty islands** are situated on Lake Peipsi; the largest is Piirisaar, which belongs to Estonia. **The lake consists of three unequal parts:** the largest northern Lake Peipsi with area 2,613 km², maximum depth 12,9 at water level 30.01 m above sea level, water capacity 21,79 km³; the southern Lake Pihkva/ Chudskoe with an area of 709 km², water level 5,3 m, and water capacity 2,68 km³; and the narrow strait-like Lake Lämmijärv/ Tjoploe connecting them with area of 236 km², water level 15,3 m, and water capacity 0,60 km³





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Activities Report

1997–1998



Peipsi – Чудское
The lake which unites Estonia and Russia



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