

HELSINKI-TALLINN EUREGIO ACTIVITY REPORT OF 2004

PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECTS

Science Twin-City project

Euregio continuously participated in the Science Twin-City project that was launched in 2002 to support scientific research and high-tech entrepreneurship. In the framework of this project 3 brokerage vents for business sector took place. In May the first promotion event aiming at promoting the Helsinki-Tallinn Twin-City programme, measures and activities for development of cooperation between enterprises, research Helsinki in the premises of Helsinki School of Economics, Small Business Centre. The focus was on promoting IT sector cooperation networks between southern Finland and Estonia. In June there was a life science brokerage event for business and R&D partnering. For this partnering event a “Life Science and Biotechnology Report” was compiled by Culminatium Ltd., the leader of the project in cooperation with Hydrios Biotechnology Ltd. This event took place parallel to the Technology Fair held in Tallinn at Tallinn University of Technology. Euregio was presented there with its own stand together with Tallinn Tehnopol and was also presented in the catalogue “Innovation Technology Transfer TUT & Partners”. Euregio’s manager spoke in the plenary session about Helsinki-Tallinn science twin-city and carried out a vision event with stakeholders of the project to discuss the future of the science twin-city. In November ICT brokerage event for business and technology partnering took place in Technopolis Vantaa.

Since February 2004 Merle Krigul was employed by Euregio. She prepared a follow-up project to the present Interreg IIIA funded science twin-city project to be presented to the Interreg IIIA programme again. The present project had to end in September of 2004 but has been postponed to end only in February of 2005. Due to that fact and several other overlappings in the project application, the new project was not submitted after all. Merle Krigul carried out a large number of meetings and conducted a series of discussions in order to prepare a report as part of the Helsinki-Tallinn Science Twin-City Project which in fact is one among the eight projects within priority 1, “Strengthening competence and a multidimensional knowledge base”, of the Urban Programme for the Helsinki Metropolitan Region titled as „Competence and cohesion”. The report serves as the Estonian contribution to one sub-division of the bilateral framework project “Helsinki-Tallinn – Science Twin City”, cooperation between universities. This report can serve as a good basis for preparing a new Interreg IIIA funded project on the development of Science twin-city.

Huuta project

In early 2004 the HUUTA project against illegal drug use and against spreading of blood and sexually transmitted diseases in the Tallinn and Helsinki area through closer cooperation between authorities responsible for social and healthcare in both cities was started.

The project application was prepared and submitted to the South-Finland – Estonian INTERREG IIIa program in May 2004 following a long preparation period that involved both the Estonian and Finnish counterparts. The project application was accepted and the financing granted in September 2004. The project is for an additional 25% of the budget financed by the counterparts of the project – Helsinki-Tallinn Euregio, Tallinn Medical School, NGO Eluliin, Tallinn Social and Health Care Board and National Institute for Health Development.

The tasks fulfilled during this year include the following:

- Project administration related issues – development of reporting forms and rules, changes to the project plans and budget etc;
- The National Institute for Health Development has conducted 4 trainings for service providers in the field;
- Tallinn Medical School has developed a curriculum for the study subject related to the issues relevant to the project and assigned the staff needed (ready to be implemented as of end of January);
- NGO Eluliin has been developing the concept for a prostitutes counselling centre and has been actively involved in finding financiers for the centre;
- Euregio and the Department of Social and Health Care have produced the leaflet „Elu pole mäng” (*life is not a game*).
- The project manager has presented the project in the information day on social and health care projects in Tallinn (11 May, Tallinn, National Library), and the information day on borderless cooperation possibilities in the area of social and health care between Estonia and Finland (17 June, Narva)

Baltic Palette

Euregio's manager participated in the events held in the framework of the Baltic Palette II project and especially in the working group meetings on ICT. Euregio's manager participated in several discussions on the future Baltic Palette III and a combined working group on ICT and polycentric planning. Discussions on launching an Adriatic Baltic Palette with the same partners and additional resource persons were also held.

Pilet project

From October 2004 Euregio has been the lead partner for the Pilet project for developing a common cross-border public transport planning and ticketing system. Partners in the project are Harju County and Tallinn Department of Transport and Environment from Estonian side and Pääkaupunkiseudun Yhteistyövaltuuskunta from the Finnish side. The financing of the project will be applied from the South-Finland – Estonian INTERREG IIIA program.

Several meetings have been carried out to discuss the content of the project. By now the objective of the project is to promote common planning, development and marketing of public transport services. In the first phase of the project Harju County transport planning methodology will be developed and the planning of transport in Tallinn-Harju region will be developed to reach the same level than in Helsinki-Uusimaa region. A conceptual transport planning methodology for the Tallinn-Helsinki region will be created, ticketing system development needs in Harju County, Tallinn, Helsinki and Uusimaa will be determined. The second phase of the project deals with preparation for an integrated optimized public transport network and the development of the ticketing system in Harju County, the strategy of the Helsinki-Uusimaa public ticketing system will be renewed. In the third phase the concept for a common ticketing system will be developed and the strategy for its implementation according to the strategies developed in the second phase. In the fourth phase a pilot will be carried out in Harju County and this study will serve as a test case for the third phase that will provide information for the both regions.

The project will start after estimated date of approval (March 8th 2005) in April 2005.

ORGANISATION OF THE EUREGIO 4th FORUM “A REGION OF TWIN-EXCELLENCE”

The Forum took place on 17-18 November 2004 in Helsinki in the premises of Biomedicum.

The objective of the Forum was to bring together the politicians, administrators and experts to discuss the co-operation and the potential future fusion of the two regions into a common science, education and high-tech business region.

The main topics discussed included:

- What is the key to an innovative knowledge-based region?
- How to make research and education international?
- Connectivity, content, and training - tools or goals?
- R&D – more research or more development?
- Mobility as an advantage or a drawback?
- A strong capital and a capital region versus smaller municipalities.

The Forum’s workshops were dedicated to the following topics:

- Political dialogue in the context of the European Union
- Developing Science Twin-City
- Structural changes and employment strategies
- Life-long learning as a tool for growth of regional excellence

The selection of the speakers enabled to discuss the above-mentioned issues on regional level (Helsinki-Tallinn regions), state level (Finland-Estonia); on a wider regional level (Baltic Sea region).

We had speakers both from our region like Mr. Paavo Lipponen, Speaker of Finnish Parliament, Mr. Peeter Kreitzberg, Vice-speaker of Estonian Parliament, Mr Esko Ollila, former Deputy Governor of Bank of Finland and speakers representing a wider international arena like Mr. Martin Eichler, Head of the Research and Model Development, BAK BASEL Economics Mr. Bengt Streijffert, Head of the Secretariat of the Öresund University.

Altogether 143 people participated out of which 64 were from Estonia, 73 from Finland, 2 from Italy, 1 from Spain, 1 from Sweden, 1 from Germany and 1 from Switzerland. In general the participants were satisfied with the Forum. Some mentioned that the topics could have been narrower and focus more on Euregio specific activities to offer a basic package of Euregio’s content and goals. Among the future proposals a wish for more practical topics and specific best practices of cooperation was mentioned, also presentation of results of different studies, and implementing those as well as more about common issues not just presenting the own country’s situation.

MEETINGS AND SEMINARS

The manager participated in the discussions on vocational education cooperation in Helsinki on 28-29 January together with leaders of education from Helsinki, Tallinn and Tartu. The event was organised by the Department of Education in Helsinki.

Euregio’s manager participated in several seminars in 2004 that were related to the topics of the Science Twin-city project, such as “E-learning - a challenge for higher education” (E-University, Tallinn, March 11-12), Tallinn University of Technology’s information day for local governments in Harju County (March 30), Cross-Border Information Society Conference to promote a sustainable information society in the Central Baltic Sea (Baltic Palette Network Information Society Action Group, Stockholm, April 26-27), Regional Cooperation in Managing Urban Sprawl (Harju County Government, May 25), Meeting of R&D Councils of Estonia and Finland (Viikki, Helsinki, May 26), Tallinn Development

Forum and Day of Entrepreneurship (Tallinn City Government, Department of Enterprises, September 23), Human Awareness and Behaviour in a Changing World (Euroscience Estonia, Tallinn City, Tallinn Pedagogical University, Institute of Interdisciplinary Research, October 14-15), Tallinn Vision Conference (Tallinn City, October 18), Innovative City (Helsinki University of Technology, Helsinki, November 16), Conference “European Neighbourhood Policy: a Wall or a Bridge?” (Estonian European Movement, Tallinn, November 9).

Merle Krigul participated in the following events:

Prime ministers’ meeting in Helsinki on 26-27 January where Estonian-Finnish cooperation was discussed, especially innovation and knowledge-based economy issues. She participated in a conference “Creating the European Knowledge Society: Innovation, R&D and Regional Development - the Role of Regional Universities (The European Regional Information Society Association, Albacete, Spain, February 19-21), Conference “Research and Knowledge-Based Society” (Academica, Tartu, September 27), Innovative City (Helsinki University of Technology, Helsinki, November 16), Science Conference „From a University to Enterprises” and had a presentation on „University and state relations based on the Finnish example” there (Tallinn University of Technology, November 5).

Euregio hosted in its premises European Union Simulation (TEUS) organised in cooperation with Estonian European Movement with the aim to bring young people from different countries together with politicians and to raise the awareness about Europe (May 2).

On May 7-9 Euregio participated in Estonian Days held at Senaatintori in Helsinki organised by Enterprise Estonia. Euregio was presented there with its own stand and information materials on Euregio and its members.

Merle Krigul co-organised on the 21st of July innovation awareness and knowledge transfer event BlackBoxOpenMind in Tallinn with venture capitalists Niklas Zennström, Steve Jürvetson, and Timothy Draper taking the floor. The audience included top leaders and decision makers in both private and public sector in innovation and ICT area. Invited speakers represented global thinkers, opinion leaders but most importantly people who have succeeded in managing growth and innovation in international scale.

On the 27th of October the manager organised a planning seminar of the cross-border cooperation regions of Estonia. The aim of the seminar was to discuss the achievements of the cross-border cooperation so far and the future strategies of the cross-border cooperation organisations. The main focus was on priority areas of Baltic and Nordic euroregions cooperation.

Together with Merle Krigul the manager organised Helsinki-Tallinn Euregio brainstorming event on November 12 in Tallinn with the aim to create an action plan for the next activities in order to develop a science twin-city concept.

In addition to those events several regular meetings with the representatives of the partners were organised throughout the year.

In 2004 there were 3 board meetings: 08.04, 08.06, 17.09. In the first board meeting the materials for the general meeting were approved and Huuta drug prevention project was submitted for financing for the Interreg III A programme and it received funding this year. During the second board meeting a project „Regions of Knowledge Pilot Action” was

submitted to the 6th Framework Programme for financing and it has not been approved yet. 9 project proposals relating to Science Twin-City concept and only Baltic Metropolises Network project is being implemented but without Euregio. In the third board meeting several issues related to Euregio's internal rules were decided. The project "Developing a common intelligent public transport ticket system" was approved to be submitted to Interreg III A and to be a partner in the Baltic Euroregional Network. It was decided that Euregio will not be a leading partner in Adriatic Baltic Palette and the projects "Baltic Palette III" and "Regional Brain Gain" status remained open.