

## 2006 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

The association was established on 22 June 1999 to achieve the objectives set out in Helsinki-Tallinn Euregio cooperation agreement. Helsinki-Tallinn Euregio was registered as a non-profit association on 3 December 2003. The aim of the association is to strengthen the cooperation between Estonian and Finnish capital regions and to find new opportunities for joint activities.

Main spheres of activity:

- Forum for political debates
- Cross-border and inter-regional cooperation projects
- Exchanging experience with its partner organisations
- Mediating know-how and information

Members:

- The City of Helsinki (<http://www.hel.fi/>)
- The City of Tallinn (<http://www.tallinn.ee/>)
- Uusimaa Regional Council (<http://www.uudenmaanliitto.fi/>)
- The Republic of Estonia ([www.riik.ee](http://www.riik.ee)) represented by Harju County Government (<http://www.harju.ee/>)
- The Union of Harju County Municipalities (<http://www.hol.ee/>)

Two projects led by Euregio and cofinanced by Interreg IIIA were finished in 2006.

The following issues can be pointed out as the most important results of the HUUTA project “Prevention of drug usage and sexually transmitted diseases in Helsinki and Tallinn”:

- National Institute for Health Development (TAI) created a training programme according to which trainings were carried out
- Tallinn Health College compiled an optional subject’s study programme on HIV/AIDS, drug addiction, sexually, and contagiously transmitted diseases which is basis for carrying out the study programme.
- The students of Tallinn Health College participated in theme days carried out by Helsinki Polytechnic Stadia and organised theme days in Tallinn vocational schools.
- Expert exchanges of Tallinn Social and Health Department, a non-profit association *Eluliin*, *Pro-tukipiste* and Helsinki Polytechnic Stadia took place
- NGO *Eluliin* compiled a concept for an advisory centre for people involved in prostitution and according to that plan an advisory centre ATOLL started its activities in 2005.
- Publications and information materials were produced and cooperation seminars were carried out for Estonian and Finnish counsellors

The objective of the project Pilet “Cross-border public transport network and ticket system” was to provide basis for common integrated public transport planning, organisation and marketing in Tallinn, Harju County, Helsinki, and in Uusimaa region.

The following issues can be pointed out as the most important results of the Pilet project:

- Harju Public Transport Centre carried out an analysis about planning a route network, coordination of timetables and demand on traffic in Harju County;
- Studies on ticket and information systems were carried out in Harju County and Uusimaa
- Route, rate and ticketing systems have been researched
- A development strategy about the basis of creation of a common ticketing system has been compiled which covers Helsinki/Uusimaa and Tallinn/Harju County areas
- In cooperation with YTV the starting points for creation of a common ticketing system have been investigated

In 2006 an Interreg IIIB project Baltic Euroregional Network (BEN) activities were carried out. In the framework of this project, Euregio organised a forum “Renewal of Local Governance and Services in Cross-Border Context. A roundtable seminar was organised for fostering dialogue between Estonian euroregions and national institutions. The representatives of Euregio participated in several seminars organised by other euroregions, roundtables and working out the strategy for euroregions for the coming 10 years.

In the framework of the concept of twin-region of art and science a large-scale forum “Knowledge Arena” was carried out in March for the representatives of local authorities and universities. Euregio representatives participated in several seminars and conferences related to the topics of a knowledge region. Euregio organised in smaller working groups discussions on new media, urban research welfare and recreation. Participation in mapping of knowledge intensive business services took place for Robert Huggins’ „European Competitiveness Index 2006”.

Helsinki - Tallinn Euregio had two general meetings and five Board meetings in 2006

Helsinki - Tallinn Euregio had six staff employees in 2006. The Board had five members and they did not receive any salary. The total sum of the salaries of the employees with social and unemployment tax was 1 046 811 kroons.

In the end of 2006 Euregio was focusing on renewing the strategy for 2007-2008 and activity plan for 2007 and for this purpose, several meetings with the participation of the representatives of the associates were organised. A strategy was worked out which focus areas include: sustainable regional planning, creation of common business environment and promotion of human resources.

In 2007. Euregio plans to continuously foster the knowledge region involving more the entrepreneurship sector and organise seminars in the area of entrepreneurship environment, branding and creative industries.

BEN project continues until the end of 2007 and in this framework Euregio will participate in Estonian Euroregions' round-table meetings and seminars organised in other cross-border cooperation regions. Working out of the strategy for the future of euroregions will continue.