

**LACE-PHARE CBC**

**DRAFT**

**ASSESSMENT REPORT**

*Cross Border Co-operation between  
Lithuania and Latvia*

**March 2000**



# 1. PROFILE OF THE CROSS-BORDER REGION

## 1.1. Definition of the cross-border region and map

The border between Lithuania and Latvia is 610 kilometers long. Two basic options for defining the "border region" can be observed: An delimitation according to "regional" administrative units or an interpretation that looks only at districts, which directly adjacent the borders (eligibility definition for Phare CREDO).

The **Lithuanian border region** is located in the northern part of the country and covers the territory of five regional administrative units, that comprise 23 districts. The district centres are the main towns of the counties:

- Klaipeda county, with 4 districts (Klaipeda, Kretinga, Skuodas and Silute)
- Telsiai county, with 3 districts (Mazeikiai, Plunge and Telsiai)
- Siauliai county, with 6 districts (Akmene, Joniskis, Kelme, Pakruojis, Radviliskis, Siauliai)
- Panevezys county, with 5 districts (Birzai, Kupiskis, Panevezys, Pasvalys and Rokiskis)
- Utena county, with 5 districts (Anyksciai, Ignalina, Moletai, Utena and Zarasai).

Out of the 23 Lithuanian districts mentioned above, only 10 are directly adjacent the borders:

- Kretinga and Skuodas (Klaipeda county),
- Mazeikiai (Telsiai county),
- Akmene, Joniskis and Pakruojis (Siauliai county),
- Pasvalys, Birzai and Rokiskis (Panevezys county)
- and finally Zarasai (Utena county).

**The Latvian border** with Lithuania is the longest single border of Latvia. There is no official definition of *the border region* and also *cross border region* in Latvia. The national Law defines only the meaning of *frontier zone*. According to that, the frontier zone in Latvia are the municipalities located in 15km zone from the border. The Latvian part of the border region consists of 8 districts that directly adjacent this border:

- Jekabpils
- Aizkraukles
- Bauskas
- Jelgavas
- Dobeles
- Saldus
- Liepajas
- and partly Daugavpils districts.

These border districts are grouped into 4 border regions, in accordance to the neighbour country Lithuania. In the entire border zone of Latvia, there are 2 district municipalities, 5 town municipalities and 48 pagasts. 11 rural municipalities are directly adjacent to the border.

## **1.2. Political/administrative structures**

### **1.2.1. Lithuania:**

Lithuania is divided into 10 counties (*apskritis*), with County Governors appointed by the cabinet of ministers. At the county level, the County Council is established to discuss and approve prospective direction of the county's development. The Council consists of the County Governor, Deputy Governor and Mayors of all the municipalities of the county.

The local government structure of Lithuania consists of 12 urban and 44 rural local government (district) councils, elected by the local population for a period of three years. The management structures of the district (*rajonai*) councils are the board and the mayor. The representative functions of local government are fulfilled by the district councils, and control functions – by district controllers. In total 21,607 settlements exist, which are 107 cities and towns and 21,500 rural type settlements.

In Lithuania, the Ministry of Public Administration Reform and Local Authorities (MoPARLA) is responsible for regional policy. In counties and municipalities, regional policy is co-ordinated by the regional and spatial development departments/divisions.

Activities of districts and counties are regulated by the Law on Local Self-Government, the Law on Election to Local Government Councils, the Law on the Status of Local Government Councillor, the Law on Administrative-Territorial Units and their Boundaries, and the Law on County Management.

### **1.2.2. Latvia:**

Latvia is a unitary state, based on the constitution of 15. February 1922 that was brought back into force with the constitutional law of 21 August 1991. The local administration is based on the law of 19 May 1994.

- First level administrative units are the 26 districts and 7 cities (with their municipalities). The 7 cities have "mixed" competencies, both at local and district level.
- The local municipalities are the 77 town municipalities (of which 26 are with rural territory) and also the 483 rural municipalities or "pagasts". All local municipalities have elected boards and also appointed executive boards lead by the directors (or mayors).

## **1.3. Main socio-economic characteristics.**

### **1.3.1. Lithuania:**

The five counties that constitute the Lithuanian part of this border have different socio-economic characteristics. Thus the border region can not be considered as an integrated area and each county has to be described separately. The total population of the five Lithuanian border counties reaches 1,524,800 inhabitants (415,400 in Klaipeda county, 182,600 in Telsiai county, 401,900 in Siauliai county, 323,300 in Panevezys county and 201,600 in Utena county). The total area of the Lithuanian border region is 33,718 km<sup>2</sup>.

The most western is **Klaipeda county** – one of the most prosperous Lithuanian counties. Klaipeda city and its immediate surroundings with highly developed and successful economic infrastructure greatly differ from the rest of the region. Due to the ice-free port, international airport in Palanga and well-developed road and railway transport infrastructure, the city is able to attract substantial investments from both Lithuania and abroad (Siemens AG, Phillip Morris, Masterfoods, Maersk, etc.). Ship building and repair, sea trade and fishing, agricultural production and manufacturing industries are developed in the county. Many large enterprises are located in the port area (cargo shipping company ‘Klaipedos juru kroviniu kompanija’, ship repair company JSC ‘Laivite’). In 1999, a large oil terminal was opened in Butinge (near the Latvian border). The seaside and resorts (Palanga, Nida) form good conditions for the development of tourism and related activities.

The neighboring **Telsiai county** is the smallest of the five in terms of both population and total area, accounting for 4.9% of total countries’ population. The county’s development is highly influenced by the presence in this region of one of the biggest Lithuanian industrial companies – the petroleum refinery JSC ‘Mazeikiu nafta’, producing more than 90% of the industrial production sold by the county. Large foreign investments were recently made by the US company ‘Williams’. Other major sectors of county’s economy are agriculture and food processing (dairy JSC ‘Zemaitijos pienas’, textiles (linen fabric JSC ‘Linu audiniai’, producer of knitted articles JSC ‘Telteksa’), and the construction industry. The county is rich in forests and lakes.

In Soviet times, **Siauliai county** was known as a well developed industrial area serving the Eastern market, with such industrial giants as a television set factory, electronics and radio engineering, knit-wear and leather industries. For the last ten years, the county has been confronting problems of sharp economic decline and, consequently, unemployment. The 1998 Russian crisis negatively affected restoring industries, especially dairy and meat processing (JSC ‘Siauliu pienas’, JSC ‘Siauliu maistas’) and machinery industries. Nevertheless, food processing (dairy JSC ‘Siauliu pienas’, confectionery factory ‘Ruta’), building material (cement producer JSC ‘Akmenes cementas’, JV Eternit Akmene), and leather industries (JSC ‘Elnias’) are still the largest employers in the country. Large investments from Germany were made into the bicycle producer – Lithuanian-German JV ‘Baltic Vairas’. The northern part of the region is rich in mineral resources – limestone, dolomite and clay.

The population of **Panevezys county** accounts for a 8.7% of the total population of Lithuania. The average population density in the county (40.9 people/ km<sup>2</sup>) is less than the country’s average (56.7 people/ km<sup>2</sup>). Similar to Siauliai, in Soviet times Panevezys county also was an industrial area, whose economy has sharply declined after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Food & beverage (brewery JSC ‘Kalnapilis’, dairy JSC ‘Birzu pienas’), light industry (linen textile producer JSC ‘Linas’), machine building, radioelectronics and electronics (producer of cables and wires JSC ‘Lietkabelis’, television screen producer JSC ‘Ekranas’), building materials, construction (JSC ‘Panevesio statybos trestas’) and glass production industries are developed in the county. 65 large industrial enterprises fabricate 82% of the county’s industrial products. Underdeveloped business infrastructure limits the opportunities for using developed industrial areas in Siauliai and Panevezys counties.

Telsiai, Siauliai and Panevezys counties have favourable conditions for the development of agriculture. Agricultural land in these counties accounts for 52.5%, 62.6% and 61% respectively.

The population of **Utena County** accounts for 5% of Lithuania's population and it is the least populated county in terms of density per 1 km<sup>2</sup> (56.7 inhabitants/ km<sup>2</sup>). This has occurred due to the low level of urban development and the abundance of forests and waters. The wood processing industry is considered to be one of the most prospective in Utena county. Other major sectors include the industry of building materials and construction (supplier of quartz sand JSC 'Anyksciu kvarcas', construction companies JSC 'Utesta', JSC 'Utenos statyba'), food industry (dairy JSC 'Utenos pienas', meat producer JSC 'Utenos mesa', brewery JSC 'Utenos alus'), machinery production and metal processing industries (manufacturer of welding electrodes JSC 'Anyksciu varis') as well as companies engaged in the energy sector. The exceptional feature of the region's economy and energy sector is the presence of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Station in Utena county. This nuclear station is the only one in the Baltic states.

**Table 1. Employment by sectors (% of total workforce)**

	<b>Klaipeda county</b>	<b>Telsiai county</b>	<b>Siauliai county</b>	<b>Panevezys county</b>	<b>Utena county</b>
Agriculture	13.5	20.8	28.0	28.0	27.2
Industry	15.8	23.2	13.3	21.0	18.7
Construction	7.0	8.9	5.2	5.9	8.9
Services	58.8	42.1	46.8	38.6	38.5

A major advantage of the whole region is well-developed transport infrastructure, including an ice-free port, two international airports (in Palanga and Siauliai), highway and railway links with the CIS and European countries. The main part of transit cargo flows is transported through the Trans-European transport corridors (TEN), crossing the region: North-South corridor No I -Via Baltica, connecting Warsaw to Helsinki, and East-West corridor No IX (railway branches IXD Kiev-Klaipeda and IXD Kaunas-Kaliningrad). The region is rich in natural resources. Klaipeda, Telsiai and Utena counties have good potential for tourism development.

In 1998, in Klaipeda county the GDP per capita was 102.7% compared to the national average, in Telsiai county – 85.4%, in Siauliai county – 81.2, in Panevezys county – 93.4 and in Utena – 89.2%.

Slow development of the SMEs, underdeveloped business infrastructure and growing unemployment levels (mainly in Siauliai and Panevezys counties) can be identified as main weaknesses of the region. In June 1999, the unemployment level in the counties was as follows: in Klaipeda county – 6.7% (4.7% in 1998), in Telsiai county – 8.6% (5.8% in 1998), in Siauliai county – 11.6% (8.6% in 1998), in Panevezys county – 9.8% (7.0% in 1998) and in Utena county – 7.7% (7.2% in 1998).

An important issue to be noted is that Klaipeda and Utena counties were given the status of target regions for 2000, thus enabling the counties to get major EU Phare funding to support the socio-economic cohesion.

### 1.3.2. Latvia

The Latvian border region is located in the southern part of the country. It covers 19,175 km<sup>2</sup> with local population about 640,000, what is 30% and 26% of national, respectively. The region includes three big cities Daugavpils, Jelgava and Liepaja, where live more than 50% of

the population. Population density is 18.7 inhab./km<sup>2</sup> (in rural areas excluding cities). 59% of total population are in working age.

- The total number of registered enterprises in the region is more than 9000. Bauska, Jelgava, Dobeles and Saldus districts could be characterized as main area of agricultural production in Latvia. There is good soil quality and landscape for an intensive agriculture.
- Bauska district is also the main transit corridor because of road VIA Baltic crossing this district.
- The central part of the region is influenced by the capital city Riga, which is located in distance of 30 to 80 km from that. Jelgava, partly also Bauska and Dobeles districts in some extent could be characterized also as “bad rooms” of Riga, because of daily labour migration from the districts to Riga.
- The main sector of activity in city Liepaja is industry, which is close related to transit. Offshore zone was established in Liepaja, what is good way for enchaining investments. We can see the positive influence of such kind of tax policy by watching the dynamic of development of the port.

#### **1.4. Degree of cross-border co-operation**

The co-operation between Lithuania and Latvia is well advanced compared to the co-operation with other neighbouring countries, particularly the NIS countries. After regaining independence in the early nineties, both countries were developing in a similar way, aiming to integrate into the European Union. A tri-lateral free trade agreement between Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia was signed in 1993.

Both countries have been eligible for Phare funding since 1994 and a wide range of projects having impact across the border were implemented through the Phare CBC Programmes.

The authorities of Lithuania and Latvia have good political relationships, which contribute to the development of economical and cultural links. The cities and towns of both countries (Klaipeda, Panevezys, Liepaja, Rezekne, etc.) are members of the Union of the Baltic Cities and participate in common projects. Many visits, conferences and seminars are organised every year. In April 1999, Lithuania hosted the conference "III. Local and regional authority co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region". Summer schools are being organised every year in one of the three Baltic countries. Klaipeda county (LT) and Liepaja region (LV) are members of the Euroregion Baltic.

In September 1999, Lithuania and Latvia signed a cross-border co-operation agreement in Panevezys.

The following co-operation agreements between the bordering regions of Lithuania and Latvia were signed in 1997-1999:

- Klaipeda (LT) and Liepoja (LV),
- Pasvalys (LT) and Iecava (LV),
- Kupiskis (LT) and Rezekne (LV),
- Panevezys (LT) and Limbazi (LV),
- Anyksciai (LT) and Madona (LV),
- Utena (LT) and Preilu (LV),
- Zarasai (LT) and Daugpils (LV).

There are a number of cross-border cooperation structures existing on this border:

- 
- Council for Co-operation of Border Region of Latvia, Lithuania and Byelorussia,
  - Euroregion Saule
  - Euroregion Baltic.

Several common projects, initiated by these institutions, are financed by the partners of co-operation and also supported in the framework of the Phare CBC Programmes – CREDO, Phare/Interreg and BASF. The list of successful projects is given in the paragraph 4 and the annex.

To encourage cross-border co-operation and select successful projects for external funding, the Lithuanian-Latvian Regional Border Committee was established in 1997.

### **1.5. Barriers to cross-border co-operation.**

**From a Lithuanian point of view**, the lengthy procedures at border crossings are among the main barriers to cross-border co-operation. This is due to underdeveloped common information networks and badly managed border police and custom checking procedures. Although citizens of Lithuania and Latvia do not need visas to visit their neighbouring countries, a significant amount of time must be spent at the border crossing points.

Another, but not very significant barrier is a linguistic one. Therefore, it has relatively little impact on the cross-border co-operation as the citizens of two countries speak good Russian and/or English.

Politically, very good relations of the two countries were a little deteriorated by disagreements on maritime border demarcation and Lithuania's determination to build the Butinge Oil Terminal close to the Latvian border, which could have a negative impact on Latvia's environment in case of an oil split.

The co-operation of business partners of the two countries is hampered by the lack of knowledge of market supply and demand and differences of in-country business regulatory laws. A lack of information and consultancy is observed.

**From a Latvian point of view**, barriers to cross-border co-operation in the Latvian-Lithuanian border region are the same as in the Latvian- Estonian border region. The overall factors hindering the development of cross-border co-operation are the following:

- Lack of information exchange system about the developments in neighbouring border territory.
- Lack of qualified specialists both on regional and local level.
- Relatively poor infrastructure- quality of roads and communication, etc.
- Lack (limited?) of government support for cross-border co-operation.
- Shortage of funding to provide co-financing for cross-border projects.

## 2. STRUCTURES

### 2.1. Cross-border structures

#### 2.1.1. Inter-governmental structures

In September 1999, Lithuania and Latvia signed a cross-border co-operation agreement in Panevezys. The agreement lays down the groundwork for eliminating barriers between the two neighbours in the future. It includes economic, social, legal, administrative, technical, scientific and cultural co-operation, and aims at strengthening links between the regional and local authorities of the two countries. Both sides decided to set up a cross-border co-operation commission.

#### 2.1.2. The Lithuanian-Latvian Regional Border Committee for Phare CREDO

With the launch of the CREDO programme, three CREDO Border Committees on Latvian-Estonian, Latvian-Russian-Byelorussia and Latvian-Lithuanian borders were established in May 1997 in order to encourage cross-border co-operation and select successful projects for external funding.

The Lithuanian-Latvian Regional Border Committee, consisting of 14 members (see annex 2), was established in 1997. It is responsible for the selection of projects for the Credo programme, and it's secretariat – for diffusing information about Credo programmes and assisting in project preparation. The Secretariat of the Lithuanian-Latvian Regional Border Committee is located in Siauliai county.

On the Latvian side, this process was organized and coordinated by the Union of Local and Regional Governments of Latvia (CREDO programme contractor), responsible for supervising of the project activities, and by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, which is the national coordinator in the programme. Unfortunately the impact of Border Committees on development of the frontier regions was limited, because of two reasons:

- During the pilot period of the programme in 1997, the European Commission didn't involve Border Committees in the evaluation and selection of the financed projects. All project proposals were evaluated in centralized way.
- In year 1998, only one submission of projects (*Main Round*) took place instead of four times planned before.

#### 2.1.3. The Euroregions:

##### *a.) The Euroregion Baltic*

In February 1997, an international conference to discuss establishing the Euroregion Baltic was organised, and the agreement was signed in 1998. The Euroregion, one of the biggest, groups towns and regions from six countries: Partners of co-operation are County of Bronholm (Denmark), Klaipeda County administration (Lithuania), Stowarzyszenia Gimn (Poland), Kalinigrad region administration (Russia), Regional Council in Kalmar County

(Sweden), Liepaja city council (Latvia). The defined aims of the co-operation within Euroregion Baltic are to:

- improve the living conditions for the people in the area;
- promote mutual contacts;
- tighten links between the local communities;
- eliminate historical prejudices;
- plan the activities aimed at providing the sustainable economic development of the whole *Euroregion Baltic*;
- promote actions aimed at the creating of co-operation between regional and local authorities.

The Euroregion Bodies are:

- The Euroregion Council;
- The Euroregion Executive Board;
- The Secretariat;
- Working Groups.

The Euroregion Council is the highest body, which coordinates the co-operation within Euroregion, decides on the directions and programmes of activity, approves of the financial plans concerning common investments etc.

The Euroregion Council elects the President and the Vice-President of Euroregion for the period of one year. The Council includes up to 6 persons delegated by each Party of the Agreement.

The Euroregion Executive Board, elected from the members of the Council, consist of one representative from each Party of the Agreement. Tasks of the Executive Board are preparing and submitting the resolutions to the Council for approval, enforcing the Council's resolutions, establishing Working Groups.

The President of Euroregion establishes the Euroregion Secretariat. The Secretariat duties are organizational activities in favour of the Euroregion promotion and strengthening ties among the Parties of the Agreement, participation in the organization of the Council and Executive Board sessions, accomplishing tasks ordered by the Council, Executive Board and the President. The Secretariat location changes simultaneously with the change of Euroregion President. Work of the Secretariat is directed by its Director.

There are three working groups set up by the Euroregion: (1) Regional Development and Spatial Planning, (2) Environmental protection and (3) Social Problems and Cultural Exchange. The working groups have started to prepare project proposals based on Euroregion partners needs and interests. The projects are in the preparation stage now. There are plans to implement cross-border projects on economics development in area such as: industry, transport, communication, "know-how" exchange, technology transfer, and environmental protection.

The funds for Euroregion operation are coming from:

- financial contribution of the Parties;
- subsidies;
- donations
- and other sources.

(Useful link: Euroregion Baltic: <http://www.eurobalt.org>)

### *b.) The Euroregion Saule*

The Euroregion 'Saule' establishment agreement was signed in July 1999 as the continuation of 4 Phare CREDO bilateral (LV-LT) projects. Experience gained during the implementation of these projects is expanded on bigger territory-border regions of Lithuania (Siauliai and Taurage counties), Russia/Kaliningrad (Sovietsk town, Neman and Slavsk districts) and Latvia (Jelgava), situated along the transnational highway VIA Hansaetica. The Lithuanian part of the Euroregion covers territory of 9 districts (Saulai and Taurege regions) with total population 531,243 inhabitants. The Latvian part of the euroregion is represented by one district and one city (Jelgavas district and city Jelgava) with total area about 1670 square kilometers and 105,728 inhabitants. The Russian part of the Euroregion consists of one city (Sovetsk) and two districts. An other partner of the Euroregion Saule is Sweden, who participates in with the county of Skone. The negotiations for the addition of Germany are ongoing. It is also planned to invite the northern regions of Poland and La Jolla (California). The main objectives of co-operation are:

- Improve life conditions of the inhabitants of the euroregion.
- Promote mutual contacts, tighten bonds among local communities.
- Eliminate possible historical and other prejudices.
- Plan activities aimed at providing sustainable economic development.
- Promote actions aimed at creating co-operation between regional and local authorities.

The institutional structure of the Euroregion Saule is very similar to the previous one. The Euroregion Bodies are:

- The Euroregion Council;
- The Euroregion Board;
- The Secretariats;
- Working Groups.

President and Vice-President of the Euroregion are elected for 3-years period by the Council (3 representatives from each country, exception is Lithuania- 6 persons). The Board consists of 5 persons (2 representatives of Lithuania, 1 person from each other country). The Secretariats are situated in each country with Central Secretariat in Saulai (LT). The budget of the Euroregion comes from contribution payments. Each partner pays EURO 0.05 per inhabitants into total budget (approximately EURO 36,000). Inflow of funds from EU sources and programmes is planned in the future.

(Useful link: Euroregion Saule: <http://www.siauliai.aps.lt/saule>)

#### 2.1.4. Latvia-Lithuania-Byelorussia Co-operation Council

The Council for co-operation of border regions of the Republic of Byelorussia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania is the voluntary alliance established by local municipalities and regional governmental institutions of Byelorussia, Latvia and Lithuania in 1998 – Statutes were signed on 4<sup>th</sup> September. There are following partners of co-operation involved in the Council:

- Braslava, Verhnedvinsk, Miori and Postava districts of Byelorussia;
- Daugavpils and Kraslava districts, town Rezekne and Development Council of Latgale (Latvia);
- Ignalina, Zarasu and Utenos districts of Lithuania.

The main aims of the Council are:

- organisation of co-operation of the border regions for preparing and implementing of common programmes and projects;
- preparing and submitting of proposals of the Council into governmental institutions of Latvia, Lithuania and Byelorussia and into international organizations;
- effective utilization of possibilities raised from location of the partners.

The highest body of the Council is the Joint Session of the Council Partners. Chairmen of the all co-operating partners are participating in these Sessions. Executive Directorate (1 representative per Partner) and Secretariat are working between the sessions of the Council. The Secretariat (1-2 persons) of the Council is established in order to organise the sessions and to implement the decisions made by the Council.

The work of the Council for co-operation of border regions of Republic of Byelorussia, Republic of Latvia and Republic of Lithuania is financed by the Partners of co-operation.

## **2.2. Other structures/authorities/social partners engaged in cross-border co-operation :**

Other structures involved on the Lithuanian side are municipalities (especially those having twin-town agreements) and cultural establishments or universities and schools.

On the Latvian side, the following key actors are involved in cross-border co-operation:

- Phare and other cross-border co-operation promoting institutions are the main sponsors, which provide financial or technical and also advisory support. Importance of these institutions for promotion of cross-border co-operation is described in chapter 3.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs builds basis for international relationship and cross-border co-operation by signing intergovernmental documents, coordinates international assistance.
- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Rural Development. This institution works out the concept of Strategy for development of frontier regions in Latvia. Participants in this preparation of the Strategy are experts from the Ministry, research institutions and specialists from frontier municipalities.
- Ministry of Economics implements the national programme for Special Assisted Areas. In the framework of this programme economically depressive regions are defined using socio economical data. Significant part of the border municipalities of Latvia is also defined as Specially Assisted Areas because of socio economical backwardness. State support to promotion of business activities is also good impulse to cross-border co-operation in the border regions.
- The Union of Local and Regional Governments of Latvia (ULRGL) is a public organization associating local and regional governments of the Republic of Latvia on voluntary base. It was founded in December 1991. Three of the main tasks of the ULRGL are: (1) To assist the cooperation between local and regional governments, their associations and unions. (2) To assist the cooperation with local and regional governments and their organizations abroad. (3) To organize the creation of local and regional government information network.
- Administration of local self-government affairs. Cabinet of Ministers defines the main goals of this institution concerning the promotion of cross-border co-operation in regulation nr. 34 (year 1997). There are two goals defined in this respect: (1) To promote the co-operation among Latvian self-government institutions and also among Latvian and foreign self-government institutions and other organizations. (2) To participate in international co-operation projects and programmes.
- Local authorities are responsible for the planning of socio economical development of their administrative territory. Usually municipalities have a tight co-operation with cross-border co-operation promoting institutions, because they are interested in sustainable and

comprehensive development. Municipalities are also co-financer of cross-border co-operation projects.

- Latvian State Institute of Agrarian Economics. The institute is research institution, which in co-operation with Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development has carried out studies about *Frontier influence estimate on territorial development of Latvia* and *Cross-border co-operation in Latvia and other European countries* and took part in the development of Governmental programme for border regions.

### **2.3. Activities/services**

#### **2.3.1. The Euroregions:**

The Euroregions contribute to the promotion of cross-border co-operation ideas, strengthening contacts of local authorities and entrepreneurs, preparation of common development and marketing strategies and projects, as well as bringing partners of both sides together for conferences, fairs, sporting competitions, and camps. Info about the euroregions is available on Internet. Working groups were created in order to develop common projects, having impact for two or more partners across the borders (e.g.: sewage treatment plants, waste utilization, border crossing and transport infrastructure).

Main fields of co-operation and a few examples of recently organised events by the Euroregions or of ongoing projects are given below:

##### *a.) The Euroregion Baltic*

The main co-operation areas are as follows: industry, agriculture and forestry, transport and communication, 'know-how' exchange, technology transfer, environmental protection, crime prevention. The euroregion supports common economic development projects, co-operation in realization of common municipal projects in the border areas (e.g.: wastewater treatment plants, waste utilization), co-operation in spatial planning; development of border-crossing infrastructure, training and re-qualification activities, protection of common cultural heritage, etc.

In summer 1999, the International Contact Camp was held in Poland (funded by Phare SPF) with the participation of young people of all of the six member countries. Also in summer 1999, in the Lesnaja settlement (Kaliningrad region) an international scout camp was organised, aiming to promote political activity of young people. To strengthen business relations between the countries, it was decided to organise business fairs. The 'Baltic Expo 99' was organised in October 1999 in Poland. At the last meeting of the spatial planning group, it was decided to establish spatial planning centres in all of the countries of the Euroregion.

##### *b.) The Euroregion Saule*

As the Euroregion 'Saule' was established recently, it has not participated in a large number of projects. One of the main activities, where 'Saule' is currently involved in, is the

preparation of project documents to build a bridge through the Nemunas river, which is very important for the construction of the 'Via Hanseatica' international transport corridor.

### 2.3.2. Latvia-Lithuania-Byelorussia Co-operation Council

The cross-border co-operation council serves as the idea generating and project-initiating institution, which provides the information to society, organise seminars and trainings, work out development plans, and prepare projects of cross border co-operation.

## **2.4. Awareness of cross-border co-operation issues/knowledge of cross border co-operation programmes.**

### 2.4.1. Lithuania:

Up to the year 2000, the main information about Phare CBC Programmes to the regional and local authorities has been provided by the central government. The regional and local governmental level was responsible for further diffusion of the information in their counties/municipalities. The Euroregions have not been actively enough involved in promoting of the Phare CBC Programmes.

From 1994 to 1996 only the Klaipeda county (Lithuania) was eligible for participation in the National Phare CBC Programme, and 7 infrastructure projects for the amount of 15 MECU (Phare co-funding) were successfully implemented. Since 1997, the whole of Lithuania has become eligible to participate in Phare CBC (including Small Project Facility), and Credo Programmes. Local authorities are regularly informed about these Programmes by the National Aid Co-ordinator – Technical Assistance Division (Department, since January 2000) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and PIUs issuing information notes, calls for proposals, organising seminars and training courses. For the management of the Credo Programme, the border region secretariat was established in Siauliai county. The secretariat is responsible for diffusing information about this programme. The Credo brochure was produced in 1998. Newsletters for BSPF are issued quarterly.

In 2000, it is foreseen that >6 training sessions will take place in different regions of Lithuania aiming at introducing new cross border co-operation Programmes and improving project preparation and management skills at the local and regional level.

### 2.4.2. Latvia

Municipalities and regions of Latvia have experience of cross-border co-operation since 1994, when Phare CBC programme was launched in Latvia. This programme was not oriented toward one particular border of Latvia, but the whole country was defined as a border region.

The launching of the CREDO program in 1997 and Phare/TACIS in 1998 have contributed to gaining information and experience by several actors involved in cross-border co-operation, primarily by the Cross-border Co-operation Council of Latvia, Estonia and Russia. Later on the dissemination of good practice gained from these projects has led to the starting of cross border co-operation activities in other districts of Latvia.

Undoubtedly further activities are needed to spread the information about EU programs to local communities. Unfortunately some municipal officials still didn't recognise the strategical meaning and impact of cross-border co-operation. Special attention should be paid to explaining the long term planning, programming and strategy building aspects.

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### **3. PROGRAM RELATED ACTIVITIES.**

#### **3.1. Strategy development**

##### 3.1.1. Lithuania:

Starting from 2000, in order to access Phare funds, the candidate countries must have National Development Plans (NDP) for 2000-2002 ready. The first draft of the Lithuanian NDP was submitted to the EC at end-October 1999. The NDP includes Regional Development Programmes (RDP) of the target regions, which were prepared and are currently being elaborated by the County Administrations, assisted by Regional Development Agencies, Business Consulting Centres, etc.

The district municipalities are preparing municipal development plans. County Administrations also contribute to the development of ISPA and SAPARD strategies, PHARE 2000 and cross border co-operation project fiches. However, cross border co-operation related issues are only negligibly reflected in the NDP's chapter on regional development and very briefly described in draft RDPs. It can be stated that no clear cross border co-operation strategy has been developed to date. Until the year 2000, the Phare CBC Programmes mainly were project but not programme oriented and the local and regional authorities were not actively involved in the strategic planning process. In the nearest future a strategic cross border co-operation programme framework outlining the contribution to the achievement of national or regional priorities must be established. It is expected that the Euroregions should be taking a more active role in the skills development and strategy planning process.

Another issue worth mentioning is that there is a critical lack of experience in strategic planning and regional development at municipal and county administration level, and a significant part of the strategy development work is being done by the central government and consultants. Thus, the skills of local and regional authorities must be enhanced through intensive training and direct assistance.

##### 3.1.2. Latvia

Normally the cross-border co-operation should be a part of a strategy, but practically there are only few examples of successful co-operation between local and regional authorities of neighbouring countries in the field of comprehensive spatial and economical development.

The elaboration of development strategies of local and regional authorities is almost completed. Unfortunately the quality of these documents in several cases is relatively low, what limits the possibilities to use them in practical activities. The elaboration of these socio-economical development strategies was financially supported by state grants, which strongly facilitated this process. Local strategy plans are harmonized with higher level plans and are approved by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development.

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### **3.2. Programming, especially Phare-CBC/Interreg related:**

#### **3.2.1. Lithuania:**

Up to 2000, the main programming for Phare was being done by the National Aid Co-ordinator – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania (MoFA) with the assistance of TA consultants. Due to the ‘decentralisation’ of the Phare Programmes, more and more responsibilities shall be delegated to the local authorities. In future, Phare CBC will gradually become part of a wider regional development policy, taking into account the Accession Partnership priorities. Project proposals, submitted by the local authorities shall be based on regional and national priorities, defined in the national development plan and regional development strategies and have clearly expressed cross border impact.

In 2000, cross border co-operation is to provide a Joint Programming Document (JPD) from which projects can be defined. It is planned that the regional and local authorities will make a significant contribution to the JPD. It is foreseen that Phare CBC Programmes will support measures in infrastructure improvement, promotion of SME development and business co-operation, agriculture and rural development, training and employment as well as people to people actions under SPF.

Draft Guidelines for the Small Project Fund were submitted to the EC Delegation in Vilnius in September 1999. New structures to manage these programmes (i.e. Joint Monitoring Committee, Steering Committees, including representatives of the EU Member-states and Secretariat) must be established in the nearest future. The local authorities will be invited to submit their proposals for the National Phare CBC Programme in February and for the Small Project Facility - in spring 2000. Projects for Phare CBC/Interreg financing will be selected by the Joint Co-operation Committee on the basis of their eligibility.

#### **3.2.2. Latvia**

Programming of the development of cross-border regions takes place in territories covered by the cross-border co-operation institutions mentioned above. In other regions cross-border co-operation programming activities are relatively undeveloped.

It is necessary to notice that experts of all five cross-border co-operation institutions actively take part in the activities related to the issues concerning joint development strategies. They were successful in the establishing of these institutions and also today they have common interests and common language to discuss the issues on strategic level. It looks like a good practice, which might be disseminated in the whole Latvia.

Bartavas region and Euroregions that are situated on Latvian-Lithuanian border are also involved in programming of strategic development.

### **3.3. Management of program implementation**

#### **3.3.1. Lithuania:**

The **National Phare CBC Programme** has been managed by the TA Division (Department since January 2000) of the MoFA and CBC TA experts. In 1998, the Implementing Agency – the Central Financing and Contracting Unit (CFCU) – was established and the Decentralised Implementation System (DIS) introduced. Also, the National Authorising Officer heading the National Fund and having the overall responsibility for financial management of Phare funds under the Ministry of Finance was nominated.

The Siauliai Business Advisory Centre was contracted for management of the **Phare Credo Programme**. In 1997 three border region committees were established for the Lithuanian-Polish-Russian, Lithuanian-Latvian and Lithuanian-Belarusian borders. Two rounds of project submissions were announced and a total of 23 projects submitted for further evaluation. 10 project were approved. The co-ordination of the Credo Programme is under the responsibility of the TA Division of the MoFA.

In 1997-1999, the **Baltic Project Facility**, comprising the Small Project Facility, Phare/Interreg and a Micro Project Facility was managed by the County of West Zealand (Denmark) on behalf of the EC. The project secretariat was established in Vilnius and one full-time expert employed for day-to-day programme management.

#### **3.3.2. Latvia**

The implementation of cross-border co-operation programmes is managed by local and regional authorities and other institutions that are financing the projects/programmes, according to their levels of responsibility and the different nature of the programme. Due to the high importance of Phare programmes in the funding of developing cross-border development strategies, it could be necessary to give a brief description of these programmes activities in Latvia.

- **Phare CBC programme:** Activities in Latvia began in 1994. Whole Latvia was defined as a border region in the context of this programme. The priorities and measures specified in the multi-annual indicative programme for 1995-1999 cover the fields of transport, environment, utilities and municipal infrastructure provision, economic development, human resources, implementation and management. After the approval of the project, the responsible ministry carries out the implementation of the programmes and the monitoring.
- **Phare CREDO :** The programme was launched in Latvia in the beginning of 1997. In May three CREDO Border Committees on Latvian-Estonian, Latvian-Russian-Belorussia and Latvian-Lithuanian borders were established. This process was organized and coordinated by the Union of Local and Regional Governments of Latvia-CREDO programme contractor from Latvian side responsible for supervising of the project activities, and by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, which is the national coordinator in the programme. After the approval of the project, the implementation of the programmes is monitored by the Union of Local and Regional Governments.

### 3.4. Project development and implementation.

#### 3.4.1. Lithuania:

Individual projects are managed by the recipient and project managers, provided by them. These range from Ministries (Environment, Economy) – mainly to manage infrastructure projects under the **National CBC Programme**, to the Association of Local Authorities, municipality divisions, water and waste companies and park authorities. The euroregions did not participate in the National Phare CBC Programme. For the **management of SPF**, each project must have nominated the co-ordinating authority (the CEC lead partner) and a project co-ordinator within the lead authority. **Credo projects** are managed by the border Credo secretariats as well as by the recipients themselves. A number of Credo projects were implemented under the management of euroregions.

The draft guidelines for the Small Project Fund foresee the participation in project preparation and management of local and regional authorities, including Euroregions, NGOs, Regional Development Agencies, Chamber of Commerce, and Professional associations.

#### 3.4.2. Latvia

Local and regional authorities usually are the project initiating institutions. Representatives of co-operating local and regional authorities are working out the project proposals. During this proposal preparation process, these persons go through all phases of planning- searching for possible partners of co-operation, identifying the interests of parties involved in co-operation, defining idea of joint project, calculating budget and time schedule etc. In this stage of project planning brainstorming, SWOT analysis, surveys and consultancy are used for gaining better result of co-operation.

Evaluation and approval or rejection follows after the preparation of project proposals. These procedures vary from one programme to other.

- **Phare CBC programme:** The projects selected must comply with the priorities and measures specified in the multi-annual indicative programme for 1995-1999, which covers the fields of transport, environment, utilities and municipal infrastructure provision, economic development, human resources, implementation and management. The procedure of submission and approval of project proposal is relatively complicated. Project proposal preparing institution submits to Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development or to Ministry of Transport in accordance to the field of the project activities. This is the first stage of choosing projects for financing. In next stage earlier selected projects are evaluated in Ministry of Finances and after that in EU Mission in Latvia. Projects accepted in the Mission are submitted to EU Phare Management Committee for final approval or rejection.
- **Phare-CREDO:** Projects under the programme are developed by the local municipalities and submitted to the CREDO Border Committees, which take part in the first phase of project evaluation, where the project proposals for submission to European Commission and further consideration (the second phase of project evaluation) are selected. Unfortunately the impact of Border Committees on development of the frontier regions was limited, because of two reasons: During the pilot period of the programme in 1997 European Commission didn't involve Border Committees in the evaluation and selection of the financed projects. All project proposals were evaluated in centralized way. In year

1998 only one submission of projects (*Main Round*) took place instead of four times planned before.

- **Phare/Tacis Project Facility:** The purpose of the programme is to foster a co-operation between the regions, cities and local authorities in the eligible border areas, and to develop regional capacity. Projects must involve as a minimum two partners- at least one partner from Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania or the coastal area of Poland and one from the EU Member States. The following project groups are available for the possible participants within this framework (Baltic Small Project Facility, BSPF ; Phare Baltic Micro Projects). Projects under these programmes are financed by Phare and TACIS and partly by project initiator. Project initiating and implementing institutions are municipalities. Usually there are two project submission periods per year. European Commission evaluates project proposals and appoints the project Coordinator from lead partner of co-operation. The Coordinator acts as the interface between the project, the Management Agency (represented in beneficiary countries, also in Latvia- by the Local Bureaus) and the European Commission and as such they should be involved in the overall management and coordination of the project activities

However municipalities should also be responsible for implementation of projects initiated by them. They write the reports about the project implementation according to the requirements of the Phare programmes. They are also organizing seminars and publishing materials about the implemented projects, disseminating good practice gained during the projects.

## 4. SPECIFIC / SECTORAL ACTIONS

In 1997-1999, a number of cross-border projects between Lithuania and Latvia were implemented under **Phare CBC** or through **Phare Credo**. Other projects with participation of Lithuanian and Latvian partners from the border region were implemented under **Phare/TACIS Baltic Project Facility** (especially in the framework of the Baltic Small Projects Fund-BSPF and the Phare Baltic Micro Projects). Examples for different sectors can be found below. An additional list of projects with a brief description is available in annex 4-7).

To increase the number of successful projects, better co-ordination of the activities of the two countries should be ensured and links between the regional authorities of the border region further strengthened.

### 4.1. Economic Development

#### **Programme: Phare/Interreg 1998**

##### **Project title: Baltic Capital & King's Road**

- Project budget: EUR 250.001
- Objectives/Description: aims at uniting the three Capitals in matters concerning the development, management and promotion of tourism; utilising the know-how, experience and contact of an established international operator.
- Partners: Vilnius City (LT), Riga City (LV), Tallinn City (EE), Regional Council of Uusimaa (FIN)
- Status/Implementation deadline: started in December 1999, deadline in October 2000

#### **Programme: Credo 1997**

##### **Project Title: LITLA: Co-operation to expand economic, public and cultural ties**

- Project budget: EUR 16.000
- Objectives/Description: aims at strengthening co-operation between the border regions and expanding economic and cultural relations through the organisation of info seminars, conferences, etc.
- Partners: Municipality of Klaipeda city (LT), Liepaja municipality (LV).
- Status/Implementation deadline: completed

### 4.2. Tourism:

#### **Programme: Phare CREDO**

##### **Project title: Tourism in Selia**

- Project budget: EUR 29,229. Phare CREDO paid 75%.
- Objectives/Description: The main objective of the project is to use European know-how to revive the interest of local people in the common historic roots. Getting acquainted with ancient Selia (expeditions/camp), seminar about tourism activities, establishing tourism routes and set up info centre.
- Partners: The Project is implemented in two neighbour cross-border districts of Latvia and Lithuania (respectively Jekabpils and Rokiskis).
- Status/Implementation deadline: The project was started in 1997 and is completed recently.

**Programme: Phare BSPF 1998****Project title: Tourism Information Centres in East European Counties TICET**

- Project budget: EUR 159.026
- Objectives/Description: aims at establishing tourism networking and tourism information centres via development and training activities, including the elaboration of marketing material.
- Partners: Preili Region (LV), Utena district (LT), Anyksciai district (LT), Lidkopings Municipality (S), Odeshogs Municipality (S).
- Status/Implementation deadline: completed, Final Report to be submitted

**4.3. Training, Education and Labour Market**

raining programmes, co-operation of Universities, student exchange projects

**4.4. Environment & Energy****Programme: Credo 1998****Project title: Consideration of risk factors of Jelgava region and Siauliai region**

- Project budget: EUR 53.936
- Objectives/Description: the main aim of the project is for the Jelgava and Siauliai regions to consider various potential risk factors associated with the flow of traffic and goods across the border area and to work out a co-operation plan to be used in the event of a risk situation.
- Partners: Siauliai District Council (LT), Jelgava District Council (LV)
- Status/Implementation deadline: ongoing, should be completed by 11 07 2000.

**Programme: Credo 1998****Project title: The audit of heat energy saving**

- Project budget: EUR 18.068
- Objectives/Description: aims at examining the current situation and investigating the possibilities for heating energy saving in the schools of Dobeles and Akmene Districts. It is planned to share experience with the schools, where the audit of thermal energy thrift already has been carried out. The project for Krimunas and Kapenai schools thermal insulation will be prepared.
- Partners: Akmene District Council (LT), Dobeles District Council (LV)
- Status/Implementation deadline: ongoing, should be completed by 20 07 2000..

**Programme: Phare BSPF 1998****Project title: The Baltic Sea Environmental Atlas – BSEA: Latvia-Lithuania sub-project**

- Project budget: EUR 85.588
- Objectives/Description: aims at creating an environmental atlas that would contain all the information necessary to protect environment in case of an oil spill in the sea.
- Partners: Ventspils City Council (LV), Klaipeda County Governor's Administration (LT), Vastervik Municipality (S)
- Status/Implementation deadline: started in December 1999, should be completed by October 2000.

**Programme: Phare BSPF 1998****Project title: Chain of Training Development Centres in the field of District Heating in the Baltic**

- Project budget: EUR 124.945
- Objectives/Description: aims at providing the Baltic partners with a meeting point as a training system development centre for all municipal organisations supplying district heating in the neighbouring countries. Working groups and working stations will be established and library made available.
- Partners: Vilnius City Administration (LT), Jurmala City Administration (LV), Rakvere City Administration (EE), Helsinki City Administration (HE).
- Status/Implementation deadline: started in December 1999, should be completed by October 2000.

**Programme: Joint Phare/Tacis CBC Project Facility 1998****Project title: Spreading Awareness to foster the Information of Local Agenda 21 around the Baltic Sea**

- Project budget: EUR 199.376
- Objectives/Description: The aim of the project is to develop study and awareness raising material for municipal decision-makers in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia by using and adapting knowledge and experience from Western Europe as compiled by the city networks UBC and ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives).
- Partners: Jurmala City (LV), ECAT Lithuania (LT), Union of the Baltic Cities (PL), Lahti City (FIN), Tartu city (EE), St. Petersburg (RU)
- Status/Implementation deadline: contracted

**4.5. Socio-cultural****Programme: Credo 1998****Project title: Regional integration through diversity of cultures**

- Project budget: EUR 50.880
- Objectives/Description: aims at creating a common regional multicultural fellowship through the co-operation of ethnic communities between partner cities by organising seminars with participation of young and older generations, presentation of ethnic minorities in secondary schools, mass media, preparation of sociological research about level of ethnic integration.
- Partners: Information centre of Klaipeda city (LT), Klaipeda municipality (LT), Liepaja municipality (LV), 'Media Forum'.
- Status/Implementation deadline: ongoing, deadline of 06 08 2000.

**Programme: Credo 1998****Project title: Reconstruction of the Territory of the Hill of Crosses and promotional measures**

- Project budget: EUR 45.436
- Objectives/Description: aims at preserving the "Hill of Crosses" as a unique monument located in Latvia-Lithuania cross-border area for future generations by:
  - organising two conferences (international and conference photo-exhibition);
  - preparing a technical documentation in order to preserve the territory (building works on the Hill of Crosses).

- Partners: Siauliai District municipality (LT), Vilce municipality (LV)
- Status/Implementation deadline: ongoing, deadline on 30 04 2000

Also: Conferences, exhibitions, training programmes, cultural events, sport competitions

#### **4.6. Transport**

##### **Programme: Credo 1998**

##### **Project title: Historical studies and analysis of further development possibilities of highway VIA HANSEATICA**

- Project budget: EUR 39.710
- Objectives/Description: To work out a development strategy for the main road Via Hansaetica for a short term period (till 2002), as well as a vision plan for a longer period (till 2010). The project will gather, compile and analyse the information available on the current condition of the main road Via Hansaetica and carry out a SWOT analysis. The information will be published as an informative booklet and used for the investment project preparation in future. As part of the project a historical discussion is included, aiming at putting the importance of the road into perspective.
- Partners: Siauliai District Council (LT), Jelgava District Council (LV)
- Status/Implementation deadline: ongoing, deadline on 11 07 2000

#### **4.7. Other Infrastructures**

activities to improve border crossing infrastructure

#### **4.8. Other (Urban and regional services)**

##### **Programme: Credo 1998**

##### **Project title: Emergency medicine**

- Project budget: EUR 49.000
- Objectives/Description: aims at creating and expanding the regional system of emergency medicine, planing and arranging urgent medical aid in various extreme situations, develop bilateral urgent medical aid. In case of catastrophes in the cross-border region there will be a service for the organised and co-ordinated urgent action forces.
- Partners: Siauliai county (LT), Jelgava district municipality (LV)
- Status/Implementation deadline: ongoing, deadline on 24 08 2000

##### **Programme: Joint Phare/Tacis CBC Project Facility 1998**

##### **Project title: Distributed Education in Transport and Logistics Management in the region of Riga**

- Project budget: EUR 173.173
- Objectives/Description: Aims at establishing cross border co-operation in trade, especially in transport and logistics. The countries/regions are strategically important as crossroads for trade and transport-transit traffic between West and East.
- Partners: Riga City Council (LV), Jelgava Regional Council (LV), Joniskis municipality (LT), Druskininkai City (LT), Nykoping Municipality (S), District of Grodno (BE)
- Status/Implementation deadline: contracted

**Annex 1: Map**

## **Annex 2 : Lithuanian-Latvian Regional Border Committee**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Tel./ Fax</b>
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Mrs. D.JASULEVIÈIENÈ		Šiauliai District Municipality	
Mr. A.VIZGAUDAS		Telšiai District Municipality	
Ms. V.KLEIVINYTÈ		Kelmè District Municipality	
Mrs.I.BALTRUDAITIENÈ		Neringa City Municipality	
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Mr. V. SAVICKAS		Panevèpys City Municipality	
Mrs. D.LUKODEVIÈIENÈ		Panevèpys District Municipality	
Mr. R. ŠALTAUSKAS	Administrator	Birž ai District Municipality Vytauto 38 5280 Birž ai	370 20 51332 t. 370 20 52485 f.
Ms. R.IVANOVAITÈ		Panevèpys County Government Administration	
Ms. L. ÈIMKUTÈ		Šiauliai City Municipality	
Mr. R.ZULCAS		Klaipèda City Municipality	
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### **Members of Evaluation Sub-Committee (Lithuanian-Latvian RBC):**

1. R. IVANOVAITÈ
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4. R. ZULCAS
5. D. JASULEVIÈIENÈ

**Annex 3 : Latvia List of contact persons**

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**Annex 4: Phare CBC projects, Latvia:**

**Information prepared by Dace Roze, Head of Implementing Agency in Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional development**

Nr.	Project title and area of co-operation	Territory covered by the projects	Duration and total budget	CBC co-financing	Project summary
1	Oil Spill Combating	coastal areas of Latvia	6 month EURO 397,180	EURO 320,000 (81%)	This project is oriented to small ports of Latvia's coastal area. Special facilities for eliminating of possible oil spill will be delivered to small ports during the project.
2	Integrated Air Quality and Cross Border Monitoring	Liepaja city and district	24 months EURO 313,847	EURO 258,847 (82%)	main objective of this project is to install at Liepaja city and district a modern air quality management system and information network in order to enhance existing monitoring possibilities at National and local level.
3	Spatial Development	municipalities located along highway VIA Baltica	15 months EURO 182,000	EURO 142,000 (78%)	Aim of the project was to improve working capacity of local municipalities by providing them computers and special software for spatial planning.

**Annex 5: Phare CBC projects, Latvia:**

**Information prepared by Iveta Sproge, Assistant Project Officer in Ministry of Transport**

CBC'96	Marine Safety Measures: Renovation of Navigational Aids in Liepaja Port	Contract value 138,520.	The project comprised supply and installation of new lights and controls in the existing facilities. Equipment has been supplied and installed.
	Via Baltica Continuation: Reconstruction of Bridge over Memele River in Bauska	Contract value 2,947,713.48 euro, of which Phare paid 1.2 meur.	The project comprises widening and renovation of the existing bridge in Bauska. Work is in progress and planned to be completed by August, 2000.
CBC'98	Via Baltica Traffic Safety in Bauska City	Contract value about 550,000 euro, of which Phare will pay 400,000.	The project comprises road works and construction of traffic safety devices in two sections (Northern and Southern) in Bauska city on road A1. The project will be contracted and commence in March and is planned to be completed in September 2000.
	Construction of Sheet-pile Wall in Liepaja Port Karosta channel	Contract value about 1,325,000 euro, of which Phare paid 975,000 euro.	The project comprises establishment of retaining wall across an inner harbour basin, to create a reservoir for contaminated sediment. The project is planned to be tendered and contracted in the next 4 months.

### Annex 6: Phare CREDO projects

#### Information delivered by Agita Strazda, EU Integration Officer in Union of Local and Regional Governments of Latvia

Nr.	Project title and area of co-operation	Project region and partners	Duration and total budget	CREDO co-financing	Project summary
1	The audit of heat energy saving (Environment and energy)	Latvia- Lithuania Krimunas Parish Council (LV) Kapenai Primary school (LT) Dobele District Council (LV) Akmene District Council (LT)	10 months EURO 16,690	EURO 14,950 (90%)	Main idea of the project is to make audit of heat energy saving for two schools in Dobele and Akmene districts. This project can be viewed as a pilot- project because there are many similar school buildings built up in Soviet period. This project prepares schools for next project- to repair old heating system for saving heat energy and decreasing expenditures of the school's budgets.
2	Historical studies and analysis of further development possibilities of highway VIA HANSEATICA (Economical development)	Latvia- Lithuania Jelgava District Council (LV); Sauliai District Council (LT)	12 months EURO 39,380	EURO 28,930 (73%)	Main idea of the project is to organise historical studies and analysis of farther development of the region situated on one stage of historical road named VIA HANSEATICA
3	Consideration of risk factors of Jelgava region and Sauliai region (Environment and energy)	Latvia- Lithuania Jelgava District Council (LV); Jelgava Town Council (LV); Joniskis District Council (LT)	12 months EURO 53,936	EURO 45,000 (83%)	The project provides consideration of various risk factors of Jelgava and Sauliai regions and working out co-operation plan for possible risk situations. Later this experience could be disseminated among similar border regions.
4	Tourism in Selia (Socio-cultural co-operation)	Latvia- Lithuania Jekabpils District Council (LV); Rokiskis District Council (LT)	EURO 29,229	EURO 21,946 (75%)	Main objective is using European know-how to revive the interest of local people in the common historic roots. Getting acquainted with ancient Selia (expeditions/camp), seminar about tourism activities, establishing tourism routes and set up infocentre.
5	Elaboration of management plan for Sventaja river valley (Economic Development)	Latvia- Lithuania Rucavas Parish Council (LV); Kretinga District Council (LT)	EURO 56,170	EURO 48,270 (86%)	Aim of the project is developing and implementation of a joint cross-border strategy for the Sventaja river valley. Activities include workshops, training sessions, know-how exchange and dissemination of information.

**Annex 7: Phare/TACIS Baltic Project Facility  
Information delivered by Sandra Priede, Latvia:**

<b>Nr.</b>	<b>Project title and programme</b>	<b>Partners involved in the projects</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Phare/TACIS budget</b>	<b>Project summary</b>
1.	Tourism infocentres in East Europe BSPF	Preili district of Latvia; Utenas and Aniksciai districts of Lithuania; Leedcheping and Odeshoga communities of Sweden	12 months Project completed	EURO 100,000	Establishing of tourism infocentres in Latvia and Lithuania
2.	Zone of territorial development of VIA Baltic PI	Riga district of Latvia; Hemme region of Sweden; Rapla district of Estonia; Kaunas district of Lithuania; Euroregion Niemen (Poland);	15 months	EURO 402,400	Joint planning works in territories situated along transnational highway VIA Baltic