



NEWS

from member cities

Sharing borders, growing closer

Narva City Government (Estonia), together with the Administration of MF City Ivangorod (Russian Federation) implemented joint activities in the framework of the European Cooperation Day (www.ecday.eu) on 21 September, which has been celebrated all over Europe for the first time. More than 100 public events took place during the week of 17-23 September all over Europe in order to support cooperation and development of friendly relations.

The 'Sharing borders, growing closer' event was to demonstrate the achievements of the European cooperation projects.

There are four Narva-Ivangorod common projects running now. One of them, 'The Unique Estonian-Russian fortresses ensemble development as a single tourist product', is aimed at reconstructing the Narva Castle Park and building the access roads to the Ivangorod fortress. Second project 'Development of historical riverside protection area in Narva/Estonia and Ivangorod/Russia, stage II' (or 'River promenades II') aims at reconstructing the upper level of Dark Garden Park in Narva and building part of the river promenade located to the north of the fortress in Ivangorod. Another project, 'Development of the unique Narva-Ivangorod trans-border fortresses ensemble as a single cultural and tourist object', is a large-scale project whose main activities consist in reconstructing the Victoria bastion in Narva, the Small Powder



Granary in Ivangorod and making them available for tourists. The forth project is led by the Estonian Ministry of the Interior and is about 'Complex reconstruction border crossing points in Ivangorod and in Narva'.

These four projects have been approved by the Estonia-Latvia-Russia cross-border cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership instrument 2007-2013. The overarching strategic objective of the Programme is to promote joint development activities for the improvement of the region's competitiveness by utilising its potential and beneficial location in the cross roads

between the EU and the Russian Federation (www.estlatrus.eu).

During the European Cooperation Day numerous events took place in the Narva-Ivangorod cross-border area, including events for children and youngsters, such as drawing competition for children, paper ship floating along the Narva river, launch of balloons and soap bubbles and lightening fires on both river banks in the evening. More than 100 young people participated in the European Cooperation Day from both cities. Participants' works and photos are available at: <http://www.forttour.net> in the section II STAGE, Photo Galleries.

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Employment for the Youth?

Economic crisis on international trade markets and in the world of work is the main message that nowadays reaches young generation. It creates the feeling of uncertainty and confusion when one is thinking about career, own abilities and employment. Looking for a job is now something different than it was yesterday and as it will be in the nearest future. Young people are exposed to sudden changes, uncertain careers and a continuous need of adapting to new situations.

Paradoxically, these changes open new opportunities, set challenges against old methods of building competence, finding and creating new jobs. Employment is not any longer a simple process followed from primary schooling through vocational training or university education up to finding a job and retaining it.

Finding a job and carving out a career requires not only entrepreneurial attitude but also many other abilities. Young persons are not always able to find themselves in it. New solutions are needed and cooperation between educational partners, employers and of course, participation of the youth is a crucial aspect. It requires uniting resources, minds and will, but also actions to promote employment among the young generation and to create new chances for the young.

The city of Gdańsk decided to take part in the new European project *My Generation at Work* within the framework of the URBACT II Programme (www.urbact.eu). It is aimed at building the net of the cities, which would learn from one another and share good practices in employing



the youth. The project mainly focuses on abilities and skills, enterprising attitudes of the young generation and creating local partnerships, targeted at increasing chances of the youth at a labour market.

12 European Cities intend to work together for 2.5 year on

employability of the youth in these cities and on changes, which occur in today's unstable labour market.

The first stage of the project was completed on 4 September with the Future Dialogue Workshop. The representatives of the labour office, voluntary labour corps, innovative companies, science park and education representatives together with the youth debated about the future. What must be done until year 2015, so that the influence on employability would become significant? The results of this work will determine the 2.5 year project *My Generation at Work*, which, right now is in its preparatory phase.

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