



EU-EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD-RUSSIA: CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF REGIONAL POLICY

FINAL REPORT



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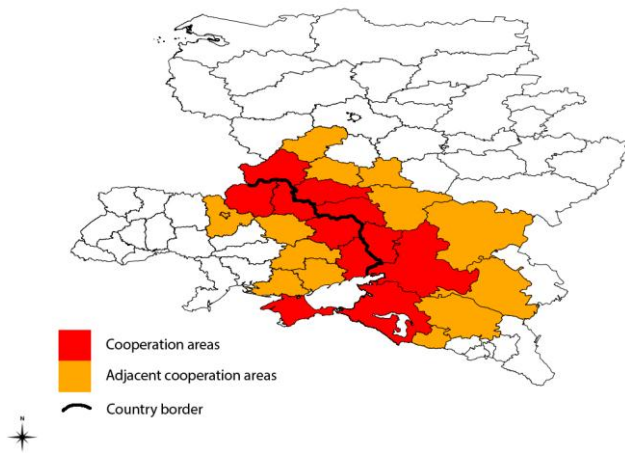
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Abstract	<p>This report describes in detail all work activities that have been conducted within the project “EU-European Neighbourhood-Russia: Cross-Border Cooperation in the Framework of Regional Policy”. The activities of particular importance for the Project, which have been realised are reported and commented. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information session in Kharkov, Odessa and Tbilisi;2. Study visits for Ukrainian - Russian, Ukrainian - Moldovan and Georgian - Armenian Groups;4. Workshops in Kharkov, Odessa, Yerevan;5. The project website.
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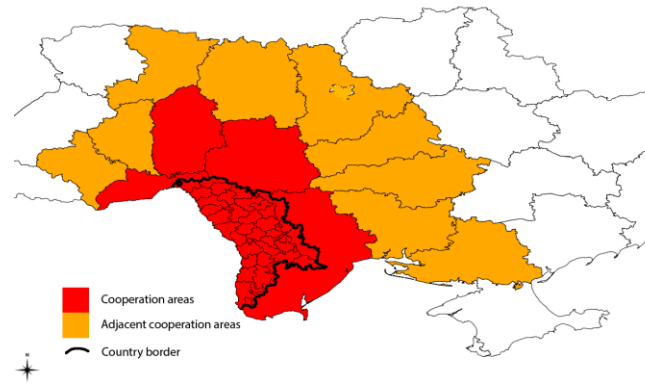
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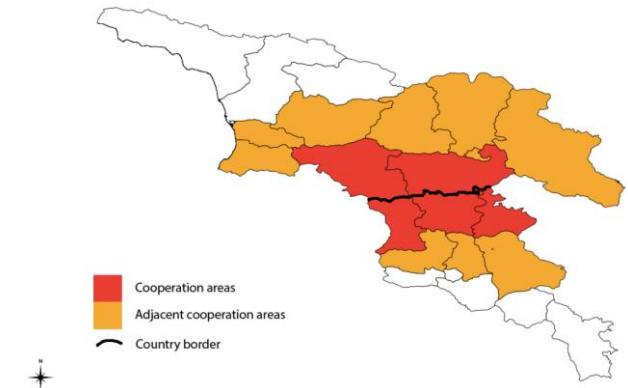
HOW TO REINFORCE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURNEHOOD – RUSSIA TERRITORIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF REGIONAL POLICY?



RUSSIA – UKRAINE



UKRAINE – MOLDOVA



GEORGIA – ARMENIA

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1. INTRODUCTION



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1.1. MAIN OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL RESULTS OF THE PROJECT, RELATING TO THE UKRAINIAN – RUSSIAN, MOLDOVAN – UKRAINIAN AND GEORGIAN - ARMENIAN CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROBLEMS

a) Key objectives

The main aim of this project was to support the dialogues on regional policy with selected countries outside the European Union (EU) and to share experience of the cross-border cooperation of European regions in context of regional development by offering a mix of information sessions, study visits and workshops for Russia and 4 EU neighbourhood countries: Armenia, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova. The project contributed to the increase of knowledge of regional decision-makers from Russia and EU Neighbourhood countries in the field of instruments and tools of cross-border cooperation in the EU cross-border areas.

Overall objective of the project:

- to strengthen bilateral co-operation of the EU, European Neighbourhood Policy countries and Russia by offering stakeholders of regional development a source of reference when further developing their policy strategies and actions in order to promote better cross-border cooperation instruments.

Immediate objectives:

- to raise awareness of the participants of information sessions, study visits and workshops on the key principles of European regional policy and on their implementation in the field of cross-border cooperation;
- to enable participants to understand the concepts provided by the specific policy.

Long-run impact:

- to improve capacity of the third countries to set strategies and prioritise convergence of their regional policies with those of the EU;
- to improve understanding and awareness of the mechanisms as well as economic and social benefits of cross-border co-operation;



- to improve the capacity of the third countries to assess the economic and social benefits of cross-border co-operation;
- to improve the ability of integrating cross-border co-operation considerations into overall regional policy development.

b) Approach

The project was based on a differentiated approach in several dimensions:

1. Delivery of specific country- and region-based support

Each country and region assisted within this project received tailor-made support, based on its own needs, strategies, priorities and assets. Although the principal rule of the project was promotion of the EU cross-border co-operation, the support offered was based on an individualised approach, taking into account social, political and economic conditions of each country and region.

2. Delivery of specific sector advice

The project was based on knowledge and experience of Key Experts and High-Level Speakers. Each Expert and Speaker proposed in this project specialised in one or more of the areas of EU regional policy, which guaranteed not only full thematic coverage of possible cross-border co-operation topics, but also created a multiplier effect as a result of complementary information given by each expert. As each neighbourhood area has problems in different fields of cross-border co-operation, the support was particularly targeted at sectors that raise the biggest social and economic concerns, and therefore caused stronger commitment of the participants.

3. Designing of specific approach in co-operation with different target groups

Since the project was implemented in very close co-operation with different target groups and local partners, the support was based on an analysis of needs and constraints of each group and, thus, an analysis of the approach needed.

c) Regional perspective

Having regard to the Eastern Partnership initiative (EaP) of the European Union, in implementation of the project Contractors used their experience and background. As a project consortium of research centres with headquarters in Poland, which was one of the initiators of the EaP, we used our country's experiences. Poland suffered



problems similar to the ones of the third countries in the East. Bearing in mind relatively recent accession of Poland to the EU, the Contractor capitalised on its previous advisory projects in the field of regional policy formulation and cross-border co-operation in a transition country.

d) Institution-building

The experts and High level Speakers focused on improvement of coordination and complementarity of the beneficiary countries' policies on regional development at country and regional level. The project created an enabling environment with appropriate development of respective public authorities and CSOs, including community participation. To this end, the experts and High level Speakers gave not only necessary know-how in the field of cross-border co-operation, but above all, show-how, providing substantial capacity-building program, which was based on very close co-operation with the target groups, thus showing them concrete case studies of cross-border co-operation in the EU. Action undertaken during the project resulted not only in raising qualifications of the target groups, but also in creating a positive climate around the idea of cross-border co-operation. In this way, the multiplier effect engine has been started, putting a positive impact on whole societies.

e) Multilateralism and coherence

One of the most important tasks of the project was to facilitate the flow of knowledge among decision-makers whose activities affect regional policy implementation in the countries of European Neighbourhood and Russia. The project has already fostered cooperation with multilateral and regional organisations and bodies such as international financial institutions, funds and programmes, and other bilateral donors. Hence, the project has enhanced donor co-ordination through sharing information about regional development with a view of facilitating the co-financing arrangements of other donors – Member States of the EU, financial institutions as well as others.

f) Participation, inclusiveness and accountability to beneficiaries

The project promoted broad involvement of all segments of society in the regional development process and in national dialogue, including political dialogue. The



primary challenge of the information sessions and study visits was to support steering external, global forces onto local development so that development achieves the shared vision of the local population. To this end, the Contractor managed to map outcomes of the proposal and identify changes in behaviour of actors within the project's sphere of influence and could make analyses what were done or happened to bring them about in context of planning future actions in similar fields. Furthermore, the Contractor guaranteed that accountability to beneficiaries were made up of five components:

1. providing information publicly about the benefits of enhanced cross-border co-operation;
2. working with local social structures, including CSOs, local authorities;
3. involving people in making decisions, especially in choosing case studies for study visits;
4. the complaints procedure, which was a part of the Early Warning System;
5. the attitudes of the Contractor's staff.

g) Spill-over effect and possible replication of the results

It is anticipated that the work completed in this project will be useful, by analogy, to other countries at similar levels of economic development outside of the target regions. The Contractor guaranteed that speakers' interventions might also be adapted in the future for application to other countries.

h) Advisory ethics

- Responsibility

The expert team was supportive and shared responsibility for conducting the information sessions, workshops and study visits.

- Cultural interference

Differences in beliefs, manners and customs of people involved were fully respected

- Omissions

The Contractor brought to light significant observations from the project. Findings of all changes in context of the contract were reported to the Contracting Authority.

- Transparency in sharing the results

All information presented in the interim and final reports were based on experts' conclusions and evaluation cards filled in by participants of the project.



1.2. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

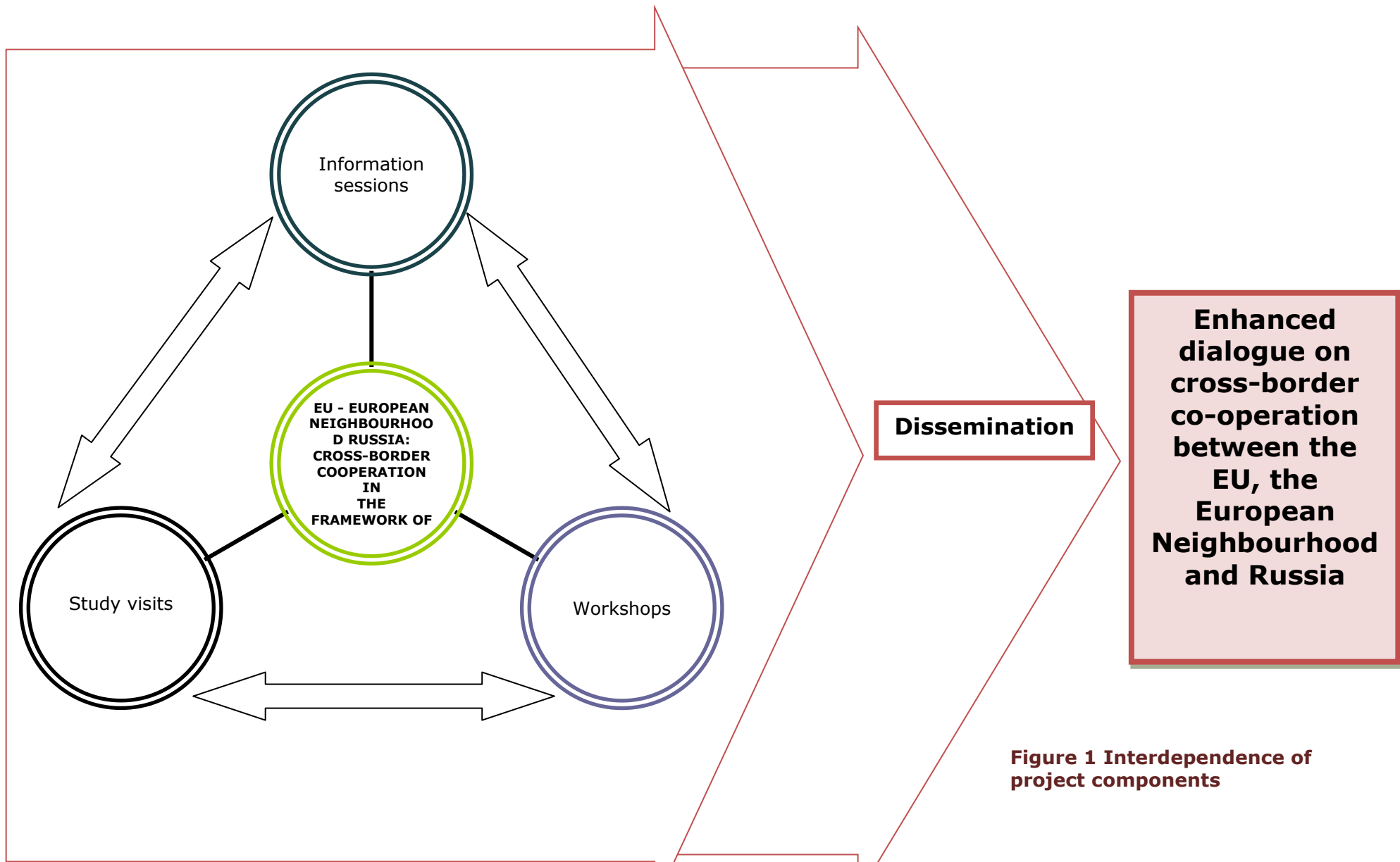
a) Organization

The Implementation Phase of the project had three main components:

- A. Information sessions**
- B. Study visits**
- C. Workshops.**

b) General approach

Activities undertaken in the Implementation Phase were very interdependent. Their results as well as the relations with the partner countries in one activity facilitated implementation of the remaining activities. It was therefore of great importance to coordinate the services in an effective way. Interdependence of the activities of the Implementation Phase is illustrated in Figure 1 on the next page.



c)

Figure 1 Interdependence of project components

**Table 1 Timetabel of the project**

Phase	Task	Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
INC	Meetings of the Team of Key Experts													
INC	Collection of necessary knowledge and experience base													
INC	Coordination meeting in Brussels, 25.01.2013													
INC	Background preparation													
INC	Drafting a provisional Work Programme													
REP	Inception Report, 25.01.2013*													
IMP	A1-0) Briefing meeting in Brussels, 12.03.2013													
IMP	A1-1) Information session in Kharkov (Russia-Ukraine Neighbourhood Area), 25-29.03.2013													
IMP	A2-0) Briefing meeting in Brussels, 19.06.2013													
IMP	A2-1) Information session in Odessa (Ukraine-Moldova Neighbourhood Area), 20-24.05.2013													
IMP	A3-0) Briefing meeting in Brussels, 03.09.2013													
IMP	A3-1) Information session in Tbilisi (Georgia-Armenia Neighbourhood Area), 02-06.09.2013													
IMP	B1) Study visit of CBC stakeholders from Russia-Ukraine Neighbourhood Area, 13-24.04.2013													
IMP	B2) Study visit of CBC stakeholders from Ukraine-Moldova Neighbourhood Area, 08-19.06.2013													
IMP	B3) Study visit of CBC stakeholders from Georgia-Armenia Neighbourhood Area, 05-19.10.2013													
IMP	C1) Workshop in Kharkov (Russia-Ukraine Neighbourhood Area), 28-29.10.2013													
IMP	C2) Workshop in Odessa (Ukraine-Moldova Neighbourhood Area), 07-08.11.2013													
IMP	C3) Workshop in Yerevan (Georgia-Armenia Neighbourhood Area), 14-15.11.2013													
REP	Interim Reports: 2 nd IR: 27.05. , 3 rd IR: 26.07 , 4 th IR: 28.10													
REP	Final Report 20.12.2013													
IMP	Coordination of preparation of the cross-border cooperation project by participants													
IMP	Contact and coaching for the participants of the project													
IMP	Website of the project													
INC, IMP, REP	Management of the project													

Abbreviations: INC- Inception Phase, REP- Reporting, IMP- Implementation Phase



1.3. GENERAL RESULTS OF THE PROJECT

- three 5-day-long information sessions on EU cross-border co-operation within regional policy with participation of high-level speakers for minimum 15 representatives of CBC stakeholders from ENP-Russia in each session;
- three 10-day-long study visits for cross-border co-operation for 15 representatives of CBC stakeholders from ENP-Russia in each visit;
- three 2-day-long workshops with participation of minimum 15 representatives of CBC stakeholders from ENP-Russia in each session;
- 11 drafts of the concrete projects of cross-border cooperation prepared by participants of the project;
- one e-learning platform on EU cross-border co-operation within regional policy;
- four interim reports, concerning the development of the project;
- one project website serving as a knowledge base with all interventions of speakers as well as a forum of communication between the participants and between the participants and the Contractor;
- three briefing meetings in Brussels.

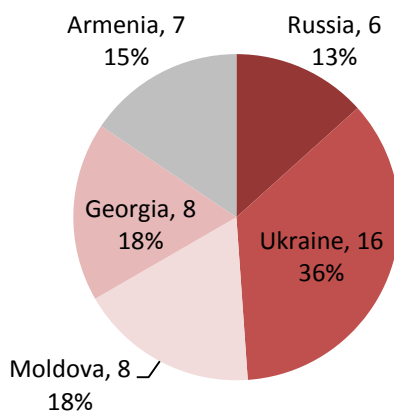


Figure 2 Structure of the nationality of participants of the project
Source: RIC Pro-Akademia

Most of participants of the project represented Ukraine, because two of cross-border area were addressed by the project: the Russian-Ukrainian and the Moldovan-Ukrainian border territories. The other project countries were represented at a similar level. The



minority of the project were Russian because of many reasons, primarily for the political nature of the problems.

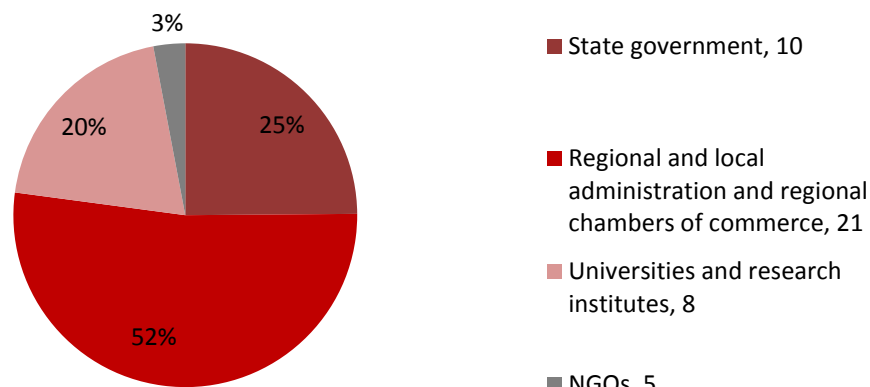


Figure 3 Structure of types of stakeholders of cross-border cooperation participating in the project
Source: RIC Pro-Akademia

Most of participants represented regional and local level of administration and local and regional perspective and attitude to the cross-border cooperation.

1.4. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS OF THE PROJECT: POTENTIAL FOR CROSS-BORDER EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD-RUSSIA COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF REGIONAL POLICY

The participants from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia and Georgia were selected in context of their interest and influence on development of cross-border cooperation in framework of regional development. The invitations to participate in the project, were sent to stakeholders of cross-border area regional development by the local partners of the project:

1. in Russia – by Briansk Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
2. in Moldova – by Chamber of Commerce and Industry Republic of Moldova;
3. in Ukraine – by Kharkov Chamber of Commerce and Industry and by Odessa Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
4. in Georgia – by Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry;
5. in Armenia – by Economic Research and Development Support Center in Yerevan.

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All participants presented a high level of expertise in different professional fields. They were well motivated to learn, discuss and share their knowledge. Participants were willing to cooperate, interested in issues presented and discussed during the sessions. Participants' involvement in each sessions was very high with many issues raised and questions addressed to speakers. The groups from all countries seemed to represent west-oriented societies. On the other hand, one could identify strong will to cooperate not only in cross-border areas, but with partners from the European Union as well. During the first stages of the project, groups from different countries were willing to work rather separately. But during the next steps of the project, especially during the 12-day-long study visits in the European Union the friendly relations between different nations and different groups of interest were built. It could be also noticed that there exists not only willingness to cooperate in cross-border areas, but there are some kind of trans-regional cooperation on the Russian-Ukrainian, Moldova-Ukrainian and Georgian-Armenian border and this kind of cooperation should be developed within the framework of cross-border cooperation.

What areas of cross-border cooperation were particularly interesting for participants?

- Development paradigm – most of participants perceive infrastructure as the key development factor;
- Joint projects in the field of developing transport corridors;
- Cultural cooperation;
- Public procurement procedures relevant for projects co-financed by the EU funds;
- Financial flows between the managing authority and the beneficiary as well as between project partners;
- Examples of cross-border projects.

What obstacles to cross-border cooperation were pointed out?

- Insufficient knowledge on availability of funds and ENPI regulations. Participants at the moment think rather about individual projects (own needs and interests) than programmes (with some exceptions);



- Political factors and bilateral conflicts (for example, the conflict Moldova-Transnistria, closed Armenia-Turkey and Armenia-Azerbaijan borders) are the main barrier for cross-border cooperation in these regions;
- Low experience of local beneficiaries – participants did not see local potential for project building;
- The fact that local beneficiaries are obliged to act in accordance with their national public procurement rules.

What was the speakers' and experts' assessment of the identified obstacles to cross-border cooperation?

The speakers agreed with obstacles pointed out by participants and added a few more:

- Underdeveloped road and railway infrastructure which can facilitate the cross-border cooperation;
- Cultural differences and the fact that all countries – being relatively young – tend to underline their independence on every stage of cooperation;
- Public procurement procedures may be a real challenge, both for beneficiaries and for institutions involved in implementation of possible cross-border cooperation programmes.

Measures which should be recommended to local and regional authorities to intensify cross-border cooperation:

- Involvement of local stakeholders representing various type of institutions, including NGOs;
- Joint work in small groups on defining common problems and challenges in various fields as well as their possible solutions through cross-border cooperation;
- Increasing the number of common projects of international cooperation;
- Preparation of joint transport development plans;
- Preparing the joint strategy for cross-border territories in context of regional development.

Differences observed between Russian, Ukrainian, Moldovan, Georgian and Armenian participants:

There were no big differences between participants of each group observed.

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**What kinds of cross-border cooperation projects are most likely to succeed?**

- The modernization of border-crossing points and transport routes leading to them, especially those, which are important for local communities;
- Projects aiming at intensification of cross-border trade and other forms of economic cooperation;
- Project of joint management of natural resources in cross-border territories;
- Project of joint management of different kind of waste in cooperation with partners from the European Union.

The most promising fields of cross-border cooperation between European Union and the countries of ENPI and Russia

- Border crossing procedures and conditions;
- Economic cooperation (import of Ukrainian, Moldovan, Georgian and Armenian products to the EU, promotion of those countries as tourist destinations)
- Common R&D projects, workshops, seminars, trainings, networking and study visits;
- In case of Russia – creation of special rules and condition for cooperation, especially development of the Partnership Instrument as a regulatory framework for development of cooperation;
- In case of Armenia and Georgia – cooperation within Black Sea CBC Programme, i.e. cooperation with EU countries such as Greece, Bulgaria, Romania; important fields in this case are those related to transport through Black Sea as well as environmental issues in this area.

1.4.1. CHARACTERISTICS OF RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN POTENTIAL FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

According to the experts' and participants' opinions the cross-border cooperation between Russia and Ukraine does not exist in practice. The participants were unable to give any example of joint cross-border activities. The participants pointed out the deficiencies in the relevant legislation as a main barrier. However, there is the need of resolving several serious common difficulties, for instance environmental and transportation problems. The participants highlighted the following issues:

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1. Differences in regulations regarding cross-border cooperation between Ukraine and Russia;
2. Lack of efficient and long-term cooperation in various areas of local stakeholders on the local, regional and international levels;
3. Little experience in international cooperation at all;
4. Lack of co-operation between SMEs in Ukraine and Russia;
5. Little experience of entrepreneurs in cross-border cooperation;
6. Lack of state support in budgetary issues of local stakeholders dealing with cross-border cooperation;
7. Insufficient support by regional authorities in creating cross-border cooperation;
8. Lack of strategy for development of international partnership between neighbouring regions;
9. Lack of implementation of regional policy in cross-border area cooperation;
10. Lack of clearly established priorities relating to potential cross-border cooperation;
11. Lack of experience sharing, which results in lowering competitiveness of the regions;
12. Lack of modern logistics infrastructure for cross-border cooperation;
13. Lack of experience in cross-border cooperation programs of Ukraine regions that do not have land borders with countries other than Russia.

On the other hand, general acceptance and consent of state authorities of both countries is a prerequisite of intensifying cross-border activities. The regional authorities responsible for the daily management of the area and local stakeholders are aware of usefulness and synergy of cross-border cooperation. Cross-border cooperation in practice requires the decentralization of regional policy implementation. It seems that the institutions and offices at regional and local level both in Ukraine and Russia are ready for those changes. Full understanding and willingness to co-operate is observed on both sides of Russian-Ukrainian border. Local stakeholders have the human and institutional potential to carry out joint projects that are beneficial for societies on both sides of the border. The project ideas outlined by the Information Session participants seem to be feasible within relatively small budgets.

As a crucial part of the project, the participants prepared the propositions of the concrete project of Russian-Ukrainian cooperation in framework of regional development, which

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included the deepened analyses of the problems of the Russian-Ukrainian cross-border cooperation. The projects which are enclosed to the Final Report can help to alleviate and understand the problems of cross-border cooperation between Russia and Ukraine.

1.4.2. CHARACTERISTICS OF UKRAINIAN - MOLDOVAN POTENTIAL FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

General remarks concerning barriers and incentives to the development of cross-border co-operation between Moldova and Ukraine, based on the Experts' and participants' opinion collected by questionnaire distributed and discussed during the Information Session in Odessa show that the following problems are observed:

1. institutional cooperation at the regional and national levels – low development of institutional capacity, little interest in cross-border cooperation of state authorities, and thus limited funding, the limited powers of self-government in foreign trade and cross-border cooperation;
2. difficulties in establishing contacts with partners of cross-border cooperation;
3. difficulties in attracting foreign investors;
4. low cooperation skills;
5. low level of awareness of the potential beneficiaries of the possibilities for technical assistance in the field of cross-border cooperation;
6. lack of an effective, transparent system for monitoring and evaluation of cross-border projects, which complicates the process of optimizing the selection of project proposals;
7. huge differences between national and European legislation;
8. problems of development and implementation of new forms of cross-border cooperation, such as technology parks, cross-border clusters, cross-border innovation projects due to legal obstacles;
9. lack of a fully-fledged Euroregional institutions of cooperation due to legislative inconsistencies;
10. low level of involvement of business organizations, non-governmental agencies and civil society organizations in cross-border cooperation.

Regardless of the existing conditions, which are a real problem in the development of cross-border Ukrainian-Moldovan cooperation, the participants from Ukraine and Moldova



pointed out the desirability of making efforts to develop cross-border cooperation. In this cooperation a number of possibilities are observed, mostly related to:

1. establishing partnerships for cross-border cooperation for activation of developmental processes;
2. exchange of experience between entrepreneurs in various fields (cross-border cooperation of small enterprises);
3. developing and strengthening the innovation capacity in the border areas;
4. cooperation between people;
5. development of infrastructure (e.g. roads);
6. protection of the environment (e.g. management of waste);
7. support to NGO networks;
8. development of economic relations among border towns;
9. development of new forms of cooperation (cross-border clusters, cross-border industrial zones and parks, cross-border innovation projects);
10. gaining experience from EU organizations to adopt the best practices;
11. development of the education system;
12. exchange students from border towns.

Speakers also indicated in their assessments of the Ukrainian-Moldovan group of certain characteristics which are relevant for the development of cross-border cooperation. First of all, they pointed to the open and active attitudes of participants, and their willingness to share experiences. Questions asked during sessions were meaningful, substantive (especially questions from the administration with experience in the implementation of projects financed from EU funds). The group of Ukrainian-Moldovan participants were particularly interested in cooperation projects in the fields of universities, hospitals, cultural institutions (e.g. museums), as well as investment and infrastructural projects (e.g. - water and sewage projects).

Ukrainian-Moldovan group indicated the difficulty in finding new partners. In addition, the difficulty in guaranteeing their own contribution to the project was stressed, as well as the lack of sustainability of some partnerships.

According to experts' assessment, the biggest obstacle to the development of cross-border cooperation is the lack of experience of the Ukrainian and Moldovan institutions in

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implementation of international/cross-border projects and problems in ensuring their own contribution. The lack of proper coordination and cooperation at the regional level was also cited as one of obstacles hampering further development of cross-border cooperation.

1.4.3. CHARACTERISTICS OF GEORGIAN-ARMENIAN POTENTIAL FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

The characteristic of the Georgian-Armenian has been prepared on the basis of the opinions and assessment provided by the participants, experts and project speakers. General remarks concerning the barriers and incentives to the development of cross-border co-operation between Georgia and Armenia, are based on the questionnaire distributed among participants and discussed during the Information Session in Tbilisi. The participants faced the following problems connected with Georgian-Armenian cross-border cooperation in framework of regional development:

1. Low level of activity of the civil society
2. Barriers connected with customs and trade regulations
3. Lack of awareness of mutual benefits/interests
4. Barriers linked to historical circumstances
5. Poor infrastructure
6. Absence of regional environmental policy
7. Language barriers
8. Governance style based on the top-down principle, little role played by CSOs
9. Lack of knowledge on possibilities of CSOs' influence on the decision making process
10. All participants were interested in getting information on: how to get financial support; how to find partners for common projects; how to prepare high quality projects.

The analysis of the questionnaires and speakers' opinions indicates that there was a common interest in:

- Developing cross-border co-operation of various actors of public sphere (joint projects);
- Developing differentiated forms of inter-university co-operation;

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- Creating platforms for civil society dialogue (CSOs development);
- Increasing public awareness in the field of cross-border cooperation and benefits resulting from it;
- Stimulating forms of co-operation leading to the better mutual knowledge of both partners.

1.5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REGIONAL AND CENTRAL AUTHORITIES IN RUSSIA, UKRAINE, MOLDOVA, GEORGIA AND ARMENIA, IN TERMS OF STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (LOCAL AUTHORITIES, BUSINESSES, UNIVERSITIES, NGOS)

- To improve the road and railway infrastructure and try to implement European best practices;
- To focus on strategic areas/activities – selecting the objectives and actions and concentrating resources for their implementation;
- Seeking one's own path – identification of specific resources and distinctive competences;
- To focus on the results not the processes – what matters is not the amount of funds spent but effectiveness of their spending;
- To focus on the sustainability of projects;
- To strengthen coordination and integration of activities in the region – a horizontal and comprehensive approach in place of sectorial and executive approach;
- To promote regional leaders, also non-formal leaders;
- To consult widely the ideas and decisions;
- To promote international, cross-regional and multi-sectorial networking;
- To be well-oriented from the very beginning in defining common problems and challenges of regional development as well as projects, which they want to implement;
- To define concrete results, which are to be reached by the programme and projects;
- To use the logical framework both for the strategic documents and programme and for the projects;

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- To base the work on the programme on deep and thorough analysis of the current situation of the border areas in context of socio-economic issues as well as on the commonly agreed strategy for the future.

1.6. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN EU AND ENPI COUNTRIES AND RUSSIA

- To continue previous activities and programs within technical assistance to ENP countries and Russia;
- To ensure wider possibilities for representatives of these countries to participate in the projects within "Horizon 2020" – the new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation;
- To develop more sustainable and long-term cooperation;
- To put more attention on the intended results– they should be concrete and possible to achieve; local communities need support in preparing them.



2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT



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2.1. INFORMATION SESSIONS IN KHARKOV, ODESSA AND TIBILISI

a) Key objectives

Information sessions showed partners from Russia and ENP countries mechanisms and benefits of cross-border co-operation within the European Union in a very practical way: by sharing experiences in setting up and implementing regional policy and organizing territorial development strategies and by showcasing tangible socio-economic benefits of enhanced cross-border co-operation which could have a positive influence on lives of citizens of the countries concerned.

b) Approach

In close co-operation with local partner in each country, after consulting respective Ministries and representatives of other target groups, the Contractor organized information sessions which gave not only general information on EU cross-border co-operation, but was also focused on **selected strategic topics** (thematic areas) in the neighbourhood areas targeted in line with the following three Project Cycle Management criteria:

1. Impact

The Contractor chose fields of cross-border co-operation in the ENP-Russia neighbourhood areas which could not only formally seek convergence towards the EU acquis but could also implement the EU's standards in practice, thus positively affecting citizens, economy and environment in the third countries. The support given served not only to impart knowledge and transfer rules and procedures but also to develop the skills and abilities of the target groups. The Contractor therefore initiated and supported change to ensure that cross-border co-operation regulations are not only adopted on paper but also implemented and enforced in everyday situations: leading to positive changes in behaviour and attitude.

2. Relevance

The Contractor chose thematic areas which were responsive to the needs of the target groups and could have tangible added value: show direct benefits of changing the current



state of affairs in the quest for convergence of regional policy standards of the partner countries with those of the European Union.

3. *Sustainability*

The Contractor chose thematic areas that guaranteed sustainability to prevent backsliding into previous behavioral patterns.

2.1.1. ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS

Information sessions (IS) in Kharkov, Odessa and Tbilisi were held accordingly to the project timetable, (see Table 1), and were addressed to 45 representatives of stakeholders of regional development in cross border areas from Ukraine, Russia, Moldova Georgia and Armenia.

In cooperation with local partners in Russian, Ukrainian, Moldovan, Georgian and Armenian cross-border areas, the 5-day-long Information Sessions were organized. The IS gave not only general information on EU cross-border co-operation, but was also focused on selected strategic topics:

- Framework of EU-European Neighborhood-Russia regional policy dialogue – perspective of the European Commission and the European Parliament with a special focus on the relations to Georgia and Armenia;
- Cross-border SMEs interactions;
- Building people-to-people relations by joint tackling societal challenges;
- CSOs partnerships across borders;
- Infrastructural and environmental cross-border co-operation;
- Improving joint management of natural resources;
- Improving access to transport and communication networks through developing joint use of infrastructure.

All details of Information Sessions in Kharkov, Odessa and Tbilisi as programme, PPT Presentations, names of experts, list of participants and photo report as well are presented on the project website and described in the Interim Reports.

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2.2. STUDY VISITS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR UKRAINIAN, RUSSIAN, MOLDOVAN, ARMENIAN AND GEORGIAN PARTICIPANTS

a) Key objectives

This activity was one of the most important elements of the whole project, since it contributed to achievement of all of the objectives of the assignment. In particular, the study visits had the following objectives:

- capacity-building on cross-border co-operation for decision-makers or top management of the regional policy stakeholders;
- showcasing successful cross-border co-operation projects across EU internal borders;
- promoting dialogue between EU, ENP and Russia institutions engaged in regional policy design and implementation.

b) Approach

In this activity the Contractor used its past experiences and knowledge in two expertise areas:

- EU regional policy design and implementation, cross-border co-operation in particular,
- ENP and Russia development needs and constraints.

Study visits brought participants responsible for cross-border co-operation development together for an intensive 10-day-long time of exchange of knowledge, experience and expertise. It was an excellent opportunity to meet experts and specialists from other countries to learn about and discuss issues of common interest, establish contacts for future cooperation and take ideas back home. Working together during the visit, reflecting on various job-related issues, sharing points of view, discovering other ways of seeing things, solving problems or simply considering solutions made both European hosts and participants felt more like members of a common European space. To exploit this great potential, it was crucial to organise a study visit so everyone could benefit to the maximum. Contacts and networks established during a visit will be used by participants for preparing projects in the EU-ENP-Russia dialogue on regional policy. As a

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priority, the Contractor worked hard on the quality of the programme, by supporting participants and hosts of the visits.

The halfway point of the study visits was in Brussels. Visits started and ended in Warsaw. Participants stopped at three cross-border areas: Polish-German, German-Dutch and Belgian-Dutch cross-border territories.

c) Benchmarking information, collected in cross-border areas

The participants were asked to fill the forms for collecting benchmarking information during the visit in cross-border areas in order to use them in preparation of cross-border cooperation strategies for each country. The Polish-German, German-Dutch, Dutch-Belgian borders were the benchmarks for the participants of the study visit. The details of study visits: programmes, participants benchmarking remarks and recommendations and evaluation of study visits were described in the Interim Reports.

2.3. WORKSHOPS IN KHARKOV, ODESSA AND YEREVAN

The workshops aimed at adapting the experiences and knowledge about the EU cross-border co-operation gained by participants of study visits and information sessions to local realities of ENP-Russia neighbourhood areas. The specific aim of the work was:

- to use the project website for creating data base of cross border and the EU-ENP-Russia regional cooperation and collecting all kind of information according these issues;
- to disseminate the results of the project among the target groups;
- to promote the EU's commitment to cross-border co-operation in third countries.

Each workshop lasted for two days and the working language was Russian. The general framework of each workshop was structured as follows:

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1 st day of the workshop	
Time	Description
11.00-11.15	Introduction to workshop. <i>Monika Slupinska, PhD, Senior Expert of the Project, European Institute, Lodz, Poland</i>
11.15-12.00	Summary of the project. Presentation of the results achieved. <i>Monika Slupinska, PhD, Senior Expert of the Project, European Institute, Lodz, Poland</i>
12.00-12.45	State of cross-border cooperation between Ukraine and Russia. <i>High Level Expert:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>In Kharkov:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Serhii Ustynov, Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Municipal Economy of Ukraine</i> ▪ <i>In Odessa:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dominik Papenheim, Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine</i> - <i>Roman Palagucinec, Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Municipal Economy of Ukraine</i> - <i>Mariana Puntea, Senior expert, Office for Cross Border Cooperation, State Chancellery, Moldova</i> ▪ <i>In Yerevan:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Emma Tamazyan Representative of the Ministry of Territorial Administration of Armenia</i>
12.45-13.45	Lunch
13.45-14.30	Prospects for the development of cross-border cooperation from the perspective of the European Commission.
14.30-15.15	Assessment of the barriers and opportunities for cross-border cooperation between Russia and Ukraine. Workshop.
15.15-15.30	Coffee-break
15.30-17.00	Conclusions and recommendations for local, national authorities and European Commission for the development of cross-border cooperation. <i>Discussion</i>
17.00-18.30	Working group meeting: Tasks for speakers and technical modalities of the presentation in the Second day of workshop <i>Ewa Kocharńska, PhD, Team Leader, Participants of the project</i>
19.00-	Dinner

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2 nd day of workshop	
Time	Description
09.00-09.15	Tour de table
09.15-10.00	Presentation of the local and regional context of the cross-border co-operation <i>Ewa Kochanska, PhD, Team Leader</i>
10.00-11.30	Best practices of cross-border co-operation, observed by participants of the project during the study visit in the European Union. <i>Participants of the project</i>
11.30-11.45	Coffee break
11.45-13.45	Presentation of the drafts of cross-border cooperation projects <i>Participants of the project</i>
13.45-15.00	Round table - discussion of the stakeholders of cross-border cooperation <i>Moderator: Ewa Kochanska, PhD, Team Leader</i>
15.00-15.30	Conclusions and recommendations for the Ukrainian-Russian cross-border cooperation in context of the Strategy Europe 2020 and Programme Horizon 2020.
15.30-16.00	Lunch
16.00-18.00	Team building session, preparation for the realization of cross-border cooperation.

2.3.1. DETAILS OF WORKSHOP IN KHARKOV

Organizational details

- Date: 28.10.2013 – 29.10.2013
- Venue: "Mercury" Hotel, Ukraine 61096, Kharkov Divisions str. 29
- Participants: 33 persons from Russia and Ukraine

Participants of the workshop

Representatives of public administration, including Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Ukraine, The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ministry of Regional Development of Ukraine.

Geographical coverage:

- Representatives of authorities

a) Russia: Kursk,

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- b) Ukraine: Kerch, Kharkov, Kiev, Luhansk, Chernihiv, Sinferopol, Poltava,
 - Representatives of scientific institutions
- a) Russia: Belgorod,
- b) Ukraine: Dniepropetrovsk, Poltava, Kharkov, Luhansk, Kharkov
 - Representatives of NGOs and Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- a) Russia: Temryuk, Volgograd, Bryansk
- b) Ukraine: Diatykovo, Kharkov, Poltava, Sumy, Donieck, Krematorsk

The participants of the workshop in Kharkov represented institutions that have an impact on the development of cross-border cooperation in Russia (6 institutions) and Ukraine (19 institutions). The structure of participants' institutional background was as follows:

- state government: 4
- regional administration and regional chambers of commerce: 14
- universities and research institutes: 5
- NGO: 4

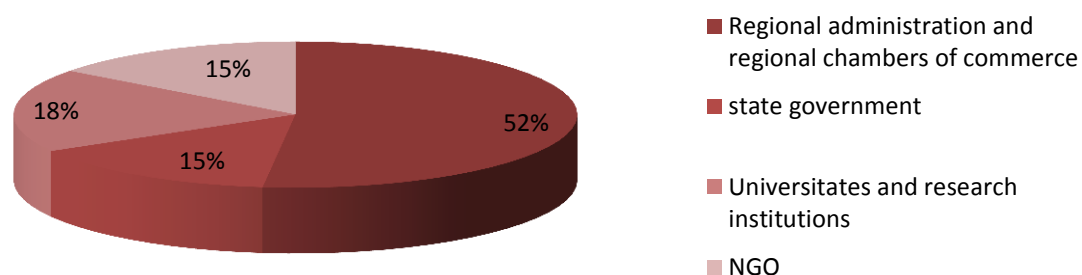


Figure 4 The structure of participants' institutional background at the workshop in Kharkov

Source: RIC Pro-Akademia

Titles of drafts of the projects discussed during the workshop in Kharkov

1. Creating a communication platform of waste technologies EU-Ukraine-Russia;
2. A cross-border regional center of resources development;
3. Environmental improvement of Lopan River basin as a cross-border cooperation between Kharkov (Ukraine) and Belgorod (Russia);
4. Cross-border tourist route Kursk-Belgorod-Kharkov.



Table 2 Participants' evaluation of logistic and organizational condition of the workshop in Kharkov

No.	Context	Possible answers	Results of answers /%/
1.	The benefits resulting from the cross border team building and increasing communication skills	Excellent	77%
		Very high	23%
		High	0
		Low	0
2.	The benefits resulting the personal professional development	Excellent	68%
		Very high	27%
		High	5%
		Low	0
3.	Condition and organization of the workshop	Excellent	76%
		Very high	24%
		High	0
		Low	0
4.	Information and training materials	Excellent	55%
		Very good	36%
		Good	9%
		Bad	0
5.	Catering	Excellent	59%
		Very good	36%
		Good	5%
		Bad	0
6.	Accommodation /hotel, travels etc./	Excellent	82%
		Very good	18%
		Good	0
		Bad	0
Overall evaluation of the Information session		Excellent	73%
		Very high	23%
		High	4%
		Low	0

2.3.2. DETAILS OF WORKSHOP IN ODESSA

Organizational details

- Date: 07.11.2013 – 08.11.2013
- Venue: "Odeskiy Dvornik" Hotel. Odessa
- Participants: 34 persons from Moldova and Ukraine

Participants of the workshop

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Representatives of public administration (including Ministry of Economic of Republic Moldova, State Chancellery, Ministry of Regional Development of Ukraine)

- a) Ukraine: Kiev, Mykolaiv, Odessa, Vinnytsi, Chernihiv, Chmielnicki
- b) Moldova: Chisinau, , Edinet, Hincesti

Representatives of NGO's (including Chambers of Commerce and Industry)

- a) Ukraine: Winnica, Chmielnicki
- b) Moldova: Chisinau, Ungen, Balti, Soroka

The participants of the workshop in Odessa represented institutions that have an influence on the development of cross-border cooperation in Ukraine (17 institutions) and Moldova (15 institutions). The structure of participants' institutional background was as follows:

- state government: 5
- regional administration and regional chambers of commerce: 13
- universities and research institutes: 4
- NGO: 11

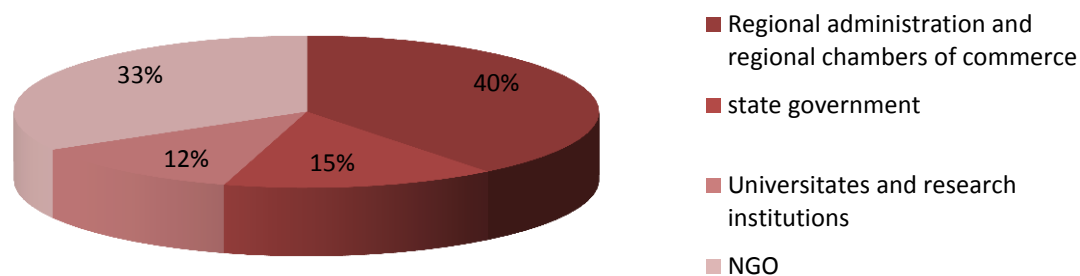


Figure 5 The structure of participants institutional background at the workshop in Odessa

Source: RIC Pro-Akademia

Titles of drafts of the projects discussed during the workshop in Odessa

1. Capacity Building in the Moldovan-Ukrainian Agro-food Sector in Cross-border Areas;
2. Agriculture Cluster of Individual Farms in Cross-border Moldovan-Ukrainian Territories;
3. Moldovan-Ukrainian Cross-border Platform of Increasing Energy Efficiency;
4. Moldovan-Ukrainian Cluster Supporting Business Development in Cross-border Areas.

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Table 3 Participants' evaluation of logistic and organizational condition of the workshop in Odessa

No.	Context	Possible answers	Results of answers /%/
1.	The benefits resulting from the cross border team building and increasing communication skills	Excellent	81%
		Very high	19%
		High	0
		Low	0
2.	The benefits resulting the personal professional development	Excellent	81%
		Very high	19%
		High	0
		Low	0
3.	Condition and organization of the workshop	Excellent	81%
		Very high	19%
		High	0
		Low	0
4.	Information and training materials	Excellent	81%
		Very good	19%
		Good	0
		Bad	0
5.	Catering	Excellent	81%
		Very good	19%
		Good	0
		Bad	0
6.	Accommodation /hotel, travels etc./	Excellent	81%
		Very good	19%
		Good	0
		Bad	0
Overall evaluation of the Information session		Excellent	81%
		Very high	19%
		High	0
		Low	0

2.3.3. DETAILS OF WORKSHOP IN YEREVAN

Organizational details

- Date: 14.11.2013 – 15.11.2013
- Venue: Metropol Hotel, 2/2 Mashtots Avenue 0015, Yerevan, 1500 Armenia
- Participants: 40 persons from Armenia and Georgia

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Participants of the workshop

Representatives of public administration, including Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, Ministry of Economic of Georgia, Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia, RA Ministry of Territorial Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

- a) Armenia: Yerevan, Tavush, Shirak, Lori
- b) Georgia: Tbilisi, Telavi,

Representatives of scientific institutions

- a) Armenia: Yerevan
- a) Georgia: Tbilisi

Representatives of NGOs, including Chambers of Commerce and Industry

- a) Armenia: Yerevan
- b) Georgia: Tbilisi

- Local partner – Georgian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Republic of Armenia

The participants of the workshop in Yerevan represented institutions that have an influence on the development of cross-border cooperation in Armenia (19 institutions) and Georgia (8 institutions). The structure of participants institutional background was as follows:

- state government: 5
- regional administration and regional chambers of commerce: 10
- universities and research institutes: 3
- NGO: 9



Figure 6 The structure of participants' institutional background at the workshop in Yerevan

Source: RIC Pro-Akademia

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Titles of drafts of the projects discussed during the workshop in Yerevan

1. Armenian-Georgian Tourism for Development of Cross-border Regions;
2. Armenian and Georgian Cross-Border Cooperation in the Sphere of Alternative Energy Production;
3. Innovation and Investment Region „Akhourian – Ninotsminda“ in Cross-border Areas.

Table 4 Participants' evaluation of logistic and organizational condition of the workshop in Yerevan

No.	Context	Possible answers	Results of answers /%/
1.	The benefits resulting from the cross border team building and increasing communication skills	Excellent	38%
		Very high	24%
		High	38%
		Low	0
2.	The benefits resulting the personal professional development	Excellent	38%
		Very high	28%
		High	34%
		Low	0
3.	Condition and organization of the workshop	Excellent	26%
		Very high	33%
		High	37%
		Low	4%
4.	Information and training materials	Excellent	26%
		Very good	31%
		Good	34%
		Bad	9%
5.	Catering	Excellent	32%
		Very good	36%
		Good	28%
		Bad	4%
6.	Accommodation /hotel, travels etc./	Excellent	32%
		Very good	36%
		Good	28%
		Bad	4%
	Overall evaluation of the Information session	Excellent	39%
		Very high	39%
		High	22%
		Low	0

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SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP IN KHARKIV (28-29.10.2013): RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN GROUP

BASED ON A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS FROM RUSSIA		PARTICIPANTS FROM UKRAINE	
PARTICIPANTS OF WHOLE PROJECT	NEW PARTICIPANTS – ONLY WORKSHOP	PARTICIPANTS OF WHOLE PROJECT	NEW PARTICIPANTS – ONLY WORKSHOP
The main barriers to cross-border cooperation			
ECONOMICS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different level of regions' development, different priorities in the development of economy sectors. • Lack of long-term or even short-term programmes on border areas development. • Problems with programmes funding • Deficiency of financial resources • Insufficient resources allocation on both sides of the border (for cross-border cooperation projects) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different level of agricultural and economic subjects in both countries (Russian Federation and Republic of Ukraine); • One-way labour migration: from Ukraine to Russia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low financial support to cross-border cooperation projects on both sides of the border. Lack of real economic possibilities. • Lack of specialized common funds (Ukrainian and Russian) that would give financial support to cross-border cooperation projects. • Different EU and RF positions regarding European continent geo-economic parameters • Lack of interaction between spheres of influence (in cross-border cooperation). It is a main barrier in the development of small business. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding spheres of cooperation. Integration, cooperation of enterprises. Cooperation on the level of small business. • Restrictions in trade because of politics. "Politicized price" for energy sources. • Small number of own products, that can be sold in border areas. Industrial products in Ukraine and Russia - generally come from import. Perspective can be only agricultural products exchange (vegetables, fruits, vine, food in general). • Ukraine's security (including economic security) is in danger. Ukrainian territory is in danger. Russia wages a trade war against Ukraine.

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<p><i>implementation)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low volume of cross-border trade turnover.</i> • <i>Lack of common customs area.</i> 		<p><i>Customs procedures are difficult and expensive.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Different levels of bordering countries' economic development. Migration.</i> • <i>Lack of full access to European funds sources, insufficient possibilities of local and central budgets, different customs procedures in Ukraine and Russia, financing institutions are not interested in participating in cross-border cooperation implementation.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Insufficient level of programmes and cross-border cooperation projects funding (on Ukrainian-Russian border).</i> • <i>Lack of common Russian-Ukrainian central programmes providing budget funding, attracting investments and political will to their implementation.</i> • <i>Lack of harmonized legislation, it means, lack of regulated, sustainable and common legal framework which would guarantee stability of cooperation rules and would reduce political influence on economic relations.</i> • <i>Additional money: lack of effective long-term projects, economy is not attractive. Lack of economic development strategies. Lack of cooperation between enterprises.</i> • <i>Geopolitical barriers in conducting foreign economic activities. Russian entrepreneurs buy Ukrainian companies with an aim to eliminate competition. Low awareness about possibilities of business foreign trade activities in border areas.</i> • <i>weak local authorities resources for developing economic cooperation, establishing new companies in border areas of Russia and Ukraine. Legislation regarding economics (customs, taxes, agriculture). Depression in border areas. Lack of Ukrainian-Russian Euroregions: Yaroslavl", "Dnepr", "Donbas".</i>
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SOCIAL

<p><i>Society is ready for cooperation, but:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of centres, funds and staff for implementing cooperation projects in social sphere</i> • <i>Differences in citizens' social status and in the level of social care</i> <p><i>Lack of common migration and employment policy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>International relations and contacts, that existed during SSSR, were broken after common country disintegration</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of cooperation between NGO, non-commercial organizations and regional administration.</i> • <i>Insufficient awareness about cross-border cooperation advantages in both countries.</i> • <i>Border territories citizens' lack of (or low) awareness about cooperation opportunities and creation of joint projects resulting in solving common problems.</i> • <i>Substantial differences in social and economic development of Ukraine and Russia border areas (even three times)</i> • <i>Lack of governmental support to social sphere problems' solving.</i> • <i>There are no barriers, with one exception: problems in the sphere of employment</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facilitation of border crossing procedures for citizens of border areas. Possible facilitation of registration as a legal worker in neighbouring country.</i> • <i>Demographic security of Ukraine. Low wages. Insufficient number of jobs in Ukraine and Russia.</i> • <i>Border areas citizens' low level of awareness about opportunities of cross-border cooperation and Euroregions. It happens that people living in border areas don't even know, what the Euroregion is.</i> • <i>Lack of social education. Low interest to cross-border issues.</i> • <i>Development of legislation - to develop cross-border social infrastructure.</i> • <i>Lack of social care.</i>
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INFRASTRUCTURE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Infrastructure is not well developed. It can also negatively affect the implementation of</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In practice, lack of own joint projects in the sphere of industry, agriculture, production</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Insufficient quality of highways and, generally, low quality of infrastructure between regions.</i> • <i>Lack of departmental need for</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Insufficient number of logistic centres and low level of the existing ones. Unification of international transport corridors in Russia and Ukraine.</i>
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<p><i>potential projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Transport accessibility - establishing additional border crossings is necessary</i> • <i>Different amount of money is assigned for infrastructure development on both sides of the border</i> • <i>There are no objects for cross-border projects implementation - technoparks, logistic centres</i> 	<p><i>and infrastructure. Resources transferred for cultural and youth cooperation.</i></p>	<p><i>economization, transport development, cultural relations etc.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lopsided development of infrastructure in border areas.</i> • <i>Lack of the local system of border crossings</i> • <i>Insufficient development of infrastructural connections between different types of organizations (science and educational institutions)</i> • <i>Infrastructure in one of the bordering countries is better-developed. Different number of investments.</i> • <i>There is an inconsistency in realizing infrastructural projects and developing cross-border infrastructural projects, including funding issues.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Joint use of infrastructural objects in border areas.</i> • <i>In Azov Region - lack of permanent ship (passenger) transport Kerch-Taman.</i> • <i>Managing cross-border infrastructure. Organization of transport system.</i> • <i>The process of Ukrainian-Russian border crossing seems to be too problematic. It hampers the development of cross-border cooperation projects in border areas. Improvement of cross-border cooperation infrastructure between regions and countries.</i> • <i>Disparities in local (simplified) border crossings in both countries.</i> • <i>Highly insufficient amount of money is given for establishing border crossing points, cross-border corridors and logistics centres, especially local ones, in Ukraine. Different "interests" in socio-economic infrastructure development.</i>
<p>ENVIROMENT</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The problems of environment protections are the same in all territories, in Poland authorities make efforts to solve them. Ukraine and Russia only begin their</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Insufficient resources for environmental projects implementation. Differences in regional legislation stop the intensification of</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Authorities in both countries don't understand that environmental security is of big importance. Also, they don't think about irreversible effects.</i> • <i>There is too much household waste in border areas of Ukraine</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Common projects for border territory cleaning, common efforts to support natural heritage. Development of cooperation's touristic aspect.</i> • <i>Lack of common programmes for environment protection.</i> • <i>Ecological security (water, CO2, Earth</i>

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<p><i>pro-ecological activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Establishing information centres. Problem - staff</i> • <i>In practise, there are no coordinated common actions aimed to solve environmental problems. Insufficient resources for projects implementation</i> 	<p><i>central pro-ecological policy.</i></p>	<p><i>and Russia. It adversely affects water and atmosphere.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ukraine's central authorities unwillingness and inability to cope with the existing problems of the environment</i> • <i>Problems with environment protection exist in all regions.</i> • <i>Different authorities' approach to existing ecology problems, different activity of ecological organizations and participation in activities, related to environment protection</i> • <i>On the local level - insufficient financial possibilities to cope with ecological problems. Difficulties in co-funding.</i> 	<p><i>industrial waste), chemical runoff, fauna.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Some economic, political and legal factors are hampering may be an obstacle for the implementation of cross-border projects and programmes in the sphere of environment protection.</i> • <i>Large business doesn't want to give money for actions of nature protection. Government can't, in fact, control and penalize environment pollution.</i>
<p>HISTORY</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Unfortunately, currently the historical memory plays negative role. Although Russia, Ukraine and Poland are connected by past relations. In the</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Some radical scientist try to change both countries' common history. It doesn't help to strengthen cross-border cooperation.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Most of the participants believe that historical factors don't affect cross-border cooperation.</i> • <i>There are not many big obstacles, as until 1991 Ukraine and Russia were two republics of</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Russia misrepresents some historical events.</i> • <i>Historical characteristics of regions' development on both sides of the Russian-Ukrainian border rather promote border areas' cooperation, but</i>

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<p><i>past those three countries were even the one country</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Main obstacle - old grievances (caused by past political decisions)</i> 		<p><i>one country</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Participants don't think that history is a barrier, as Ukraine and Russia were one country and, as a result of it, they have common history, what helps to develop relations in border areas.</i> • <i>History issues are of importance only for Ukraine, when it comes to Golodomor (and Holocaust), caused by former Soviet Union, now Russia.</i> 	<p><i>this factor is not fully used.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There aren't real historical and mental problems in Russian-Ukrainian cooperation. It's opposite. The problem is that the status of Ukraine is not defined at the moment. When it will be finally defined (status in relations with UE), cross-border cooperation with Russia will become more concrete.</i> • <i>Ukrainian-Russian border is now located in historic Slobozhanshina region - that's why majority of population on both sides of the border has Ukrainian roots, common history, language, traditions etc.</i>
MENTALITY			
<p><i>Ukrainian and Russians have the same mentality, as they are all Slavic people. But, for centuries, politicians tried to change it. Nowadays this process worsens.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of barriers</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There are no barriers, because the mentality of both countries is the same</i> • <i>Many people think that someone else should made something for cross-border cooperation.</i> • <i>People thinks, that Ukraine and Russia are separated countries. In real, border exists only in people heads, and that is the barrier, which has to be overcome first.</i> • <i>Some action, fact or concept may</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Different dependence of authorities' decisions.</i> • <i>Workers migration issues are connected with mentality. Krasnodar Region is a developing region. Migration of workers from Crimea should be promoted and supported, as in Crimea we have high unemployment rate. Nevertheless, workers from Crimea have same mentality as their Russian colleagues.</i> • <i>Not many citizens of border areas identify themselves as citizens of common cross-border Ukrainian-Russian</i>

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		<p><i>be perceived differently by citizens of two neighbouring countries</i></p>	<p><i>region.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Citizens of both countries are mentally ready for Ukrainian-Russian cross-border cooperation.</i> <i>• Local societies are do not have enough initiative, they don't even try to attract external resources for development.</i> <i>• Sociological survey among 1600 respondents on both sides of the border has showed that citizens of Russian regions (Rostov Region) are, in majority, interested in cooperation with Ukraine.</i>
CULTURE			
<p><i>Cultural relations are strong, in border areas, relationships are well developed. Ukraine and Russia speaks one Slavic language</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Lack of barriers</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Insufficient number of events in which citizens of Russia and Ukraine could take part.</i> <i>• No barriers. One exception - local authorities in Western Ukraine don't understand Russia.</i> <i>• There are no barriers, as Ukraine and Russia have common culture.</i> <i>• Development of cultural relations, f.ex. cultural exchanges, participation in festivals etc.</i> <i>• Different priorities, values, customs and traditions. One country doesn't know and understand another country's</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Implementation of cultural projects is hampered by the lack of transport infrastructure</i> <i>• Expansion of "all Russian" - Russian language, culture... Ignoring Ukrainian culture.</i> <i>• Ukraine managed to save and cultivate its own culture. If Ukraine will be still independent, its culture will not change.</i> <i>• There aren't many possibilities of cultural exchange between regions. During such kind of activities, regions could exchange their experiences in doing business, creating educational programmes, touristic plans.</i>

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		<p><i>character and cultural particularity. It constrains the process of cross-border cooperation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A wide range of cooperation activities, no barriers.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Similar cultural and religious traditions are based on common history.</i>
INSTITUTIONS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Differences in two countries' legislation result in barriers for cross-border cooperation</i> • <i>Political tendency to break the relations between both countries.</i> • <i>Administrative barriers</i> • <i>It's desirable to establish common Ukrainian-Russian body, which would coordinate actions related to cross-border cooperation projects</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Significant differences in bordering countries' legislation. Local (border area) legislation is not prepared.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Asymmetry in Ukrainian and Russian legislation regarding cross-border cooperation. In Russia: there is no regulation of cross-border cooperation, there is only a law concept approved in 2001.</i> • <i>Lack of institutional interaction between authorities and other structures.</i> • <i>Lack of common coordination body, which would be responsible for implementation of cross-border cooperation (inc. co-financing) on central level. There is a need of decentralization.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Step-by-step unification of Russian-Ukrainian cross-border cooperation documentary issues. Reducing legislative differences, that make cooperation impossible (or slow it down).</i> • <i>There is a need to establish national coordination Euroregion offices (legal entities, as NGO or municipally owned companies).</i> • <i>Authorities in Russia and Ukraine don't have enough legislative, financial and administrative power to implement approved projects. If something is promised by government, it still doesn't mean, that government will fulfil its promises.</i>

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OTHER			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Political issues as constant component of activities</i> • <i>Insufficient interest - that's why it is necessary to attract people</i> • <i>Interest of both countries (Russia and Ukraine) for cross-border cooperation projects implementation is necessary</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Politics influence both countries' relations and Euroregions.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Political component plays dominant role in the process of decision-making in cross-border cooperation.</i> • <i>Ukraine doesn't have any regional policy</i> • <i>Low qualified staff, experts are not prepared for working on cross-border projects development.</i> • <i>Lack of regulations regarding cross-border cooperation in existing legislation. Politics influence the whole cooperation.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Russia is the biggest security threat to Ukraine.</i> • <i>Insufficient interest in developing cross-border cooperation, only partial implementation of initiatives, separated actions, instead of complex initiatives.</i>
POTENTIAL AREAS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ecology, Tourism</i> • <i>Touristic routes. Ship transport - there is a need of customs and border crossings</i> • <i>Sphere of culture. Development of relations between economic objects</i> • <i>Tourism, economy, culture, science and education, social issues</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cooperation of economic subjects. Cultural cooperation, cooperation in sport, tourism. Trade in border regions.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Education, Ecology</i> • <i>Transport, Economics, Cultural relations.</i> • <i>Environment protection, Agriculture.</i> • <i>Coordinated modernization of regional economics, creation of interregional innovation systems (Ukraine-Russian Federation-European Union)</i> • <i>Development of small and</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Students and scientists mobility (exchange)</i> • <i>Clusters for agriculture.</i> • <i>Transport development.</i> • <i>Cross-border entrepreneurship, development of business infrastructure, support of initiatives in small and medium-sized entrepreneurship.</i> • <i>Development of transport infrastructure, science, culture, sport, tourism etc.</i> • <i>www.chernihiv-oblast.gov.ua Euroregion</i>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ecology, Tourism, Culture, Small and medium-sized entrepreneurship, Sport, Science and education, Health care</i> 		<p><i>medium-size enterprises. Knowledge and technology exchange.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Social sphere (creation of jobs for neighbour country citizens). Ecology (actions related to environment protection). Science and education (new grants and projects). Projects, addressed to small and medium-size enterprises development). Trade</i> • <i>Culture, science and education, health, fight against unemployment.</i> 	<p><i>Dnepr. In the Activities Plan we described all possible spheres of cooperation (uzez_cg@ukr.net).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regulation of labour migration. Establishing the network of joint companies. Fitting educational, social, medical and other institutions. Establishing free trade areas within Ukrainian-Russian Euroregions. Co-funding programmes on local self-governance.</i>
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Local authorities should pay more attention to the economy improvement and citizens' life standard increasing. It would be great if the politics would not influence the development of regions. Development of targeted programmes of cross-border cooperation.</i> • <i>Development programmes should contain the "Cross-</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Intensification of different structures' activities (governmental, organizations etc.) within existing Euroregions.</i> • <i>Developing legislative acts regulating cross-border cooperation.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Allow the cooperation with partners from different regions.</i> • <i>Join deciding, more activities.</i> • <i>Development of common programmes aimed to develop border territories. Establishment of joint fund for this programmes.</i> • <i>Introduction of project proposals to development programmes (on local and regional level).</i> • <i>Closer and more active cooperation, support to small and medium-sized enterprises.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lobbing for cross-border cooperation on governmental level.</i> • <i>Territorial planning of infrastructure improvement.</i> • <i>Increase the local citizens' awareness about opportunities of cross-border cooperation. Students' involvement in information spreading process.</i> • <i>Development of local and regional programmes aimed to promote cross-border cooperation, investment activity. Organization of business forums, exhibitions, seminars.</i>

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<p><i>border cooperation” chapter with concrete actions. Financial support to cross-border cooperation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More local relations within existing legislation - fairs, exhibitions, touristic centres - everything what is connected to people to people relations - only this can result in understanding.</i> • <i>Adoption of legislative acts that regulate cross-border cooperation (within local cooperation). Creation of funds that would support projects. Recruiting staff for conducting projects. Attract univrsities.</i> • <i>Adopting local and regional legislative acts that regulate cross-border cooperation. Establishing special funds, which would financially support cross-border programmes and recruit staff for projects.</i> • <i>Preparing programmes on cross-border territories</i> 		<p><i>Adoption of more deliberated legislation regarding cross-border cooperation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Development of bilateral (mirror) programmes on cross-border cooperation support, inc. projects and their co-funding.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop actions on both countries' legislations alignment. Achieve the balance of interests of central and regional authorities. Attract EU funds, attract nongovernmental experts.</i>
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<p><i>development.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Projects funding. European experience</i> 			
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CENTRAL AUTHORITIES STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>While working on the development of legislation, take to account legislative documents of border countries.</i> • <i>Territories' development by cross-border programmes implementation.</i> • <i>Signing Partnership Agreements with EU, developing Euroregions' cooperation, creating a common Russian-Ukrainian fund, aimed to support cross-border projects.</i> • <i>Signing Partnership Agreement with EU, adopting legislation that regulates cross-border cooperation on central authorities level. Establishing Ukrainian Russian fund, that will support the development of cross-border cooperation programmes.</i> • <i>Creation of the favourable</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bring in the Cross-border cooperation law. Optimize interactions between centre and regions. Removing bureaucratic barriers.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Use the European experience.</i> • <i>Step by step remove political component from cross-border cooperation. Promote projects, proposed by local authorities.</i> • <i>Organize actions aimed to exchange the experience in cross-border cooperation with EU Member States. Establish Funds which would financially support cross-border cooperation programmes. Develop programmes for border territories development.</i> • <i>Joint development of programmes and projects aimed to attract foreign financial resources.</i> • <i>Development and improvement of regional and multilateral strategies of Euroregions' development</i> • <i>Decision-making for interaction and assigning resources for its realization. Carrying out</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Development of clear regional cross-border cooperation policy. Identifying priorities for cooperation, that can later serve as cross-border cooperation.</i> • <i>Establishment of the Department for Cross-border cooperation within the Ministry of Regional Development or Ministry of Economic Development.</i> • <i>In Ukraine - as fast as it's possible sign Cross-border Cooperation Law.</i> • <i>Protect national interest (national security) of Ukraine. Cooperation in science.</i> • <i>Involvement of the border areas universities' representatives into the process of cross-border cooperation projects and programmes development. Enhancement of the awareness about cross-border cooperation.</i> • <i>Unification of legislative acts, that define cross-border and border relations.</i> • <i>Decisions on cross-border cooperation</i>

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<p><i>conditions for cross-border cooperation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improvement of legislative acts that regulate cross-border cooperation.</i> • <i>Development of cross-border projects instruments.</i> 		<p><i>trainings, including European experience.</i></p>	<p><i>issues should be made in cross-border regions - that means decentralization. Total fulfilment of all financial liabilities. Align legislation with European standards.</i></p> <p><i>Governmental support to cooperation.</i></p>
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPEAN COMMISSION CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Try to work and move on by the way of dialogue</i> • <i>Creation of programmes aimed at identifying people and organizations working for two countries integration and unification. Support to those people and organizations, improving their skills.</i> • <i>Conducting programmes and actions aimed to experience exchange in the sphere of cross-border cooperation</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Attract Russian subjects to experience exchange.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop cross-border cooperation projects, in which EU Member States, neighbouring states and third countries will participate.</i> • <i>Allocate part of the ENPI resources (in European Programming period 2014-2020, starting from 2017) for Ukrainian-Russian border areas support.</i> • <i>Active interaction with central and local authorities. Experience exchange.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Exclude a selective approach to countries. Giving money to beneficiaries (those, who work on project), not to agents. Financial support to scientific work (support to universities).</i> • <i>Provide the opportunity of developing new skills in the sphere of cross-border cooperation for universities' representatives (that will then work for local community, local authorities, administration).</i> • <i>Reduction of requirements for projects proposals.</i> • <i>Opening Euroregions' markets for our export.</i> • <i>Study Activities Plans for cooperation within Euroregions. Define spheres of funding and co-funding activities.</i> • <i>Develop application forms for projects</i>

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			<p><i>(activities) managers. Give resources. Open the call for proposals. Assign resources for projects implementation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Include more types of organizations (all types of scientific institutions, etc.) into cooperation. Accumulation of financial resources, investments and other types of support given to border areas. Resources concentration on socio-economic and ecological cross-border cooperation projects. Fair funds assigning to Ukrainian Euroregions ("Dniester", "Yaroslavl", "Donbas"). Increasing awareness about EU cross-border programmes.</i>
OTHER COMMENTS AND OPINIONS			
None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Develop contacts and relations in all spheres of activity.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Provide to Belarusian-Ukrainian Universities Consortium a targeted grant with the amount of funding of about 0,5/1 million euro for implementation of the "Cross-border managers preparation" project.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• The development of cross-border cooperation highly depends on the interest of local authorities (whether they are interested or not). Lack of interest in cross-border cooperation leads to the lack of cooperation in general.</i>

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SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP IN ODESSA (7-8.11.2013): UKRAINIAN – MOLDOVAN GROUP

BASED ON A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS FROM MOLDOVA		PARTICIPANTS FROM UKRAINE	
PARTICIPANTS OF WHOLE PROJECT	NEW PARTICIPANTS – ONLY WORKSHOP	PARTICIPANTS OF WHOLE PROJECT	NEW PARTICIPANTS – ONLY WORKSHOP
The main barriers to cross-border cooperation			
ECONOMIC			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of capacity to co-finance custom procedures. • Differences in legislation. Lack of financing. Corruption. Lack of decentralisation. • Customs and taxes • Disparities in territories' economic development. Different opportunities of projects co-funding. • Risk and uncertainty in the companies from cross-border area. Border controls. Russian influence in the area. • Disparities in economic structures. Different 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitivity of economic and social cooperation between Moldova and other countries results in insufficient development, lack of skills in regional cooperation. That leads to low results in projects implementation. • Local authorities don't have enough money to participate in large projects, that require co-funding. • Main problem for cross-border cooperation is the climate for investments. Moldova doesn't attract any foreign or internal investors. Companies are pessimistic. Many of them want to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of long-term crediting. Lack of regional independent budget - now funds are assigned from national budget. • Insufficient funding, lack of access to concessional and long-term credits, old industrial technologies, no stimulation for introducing industrial and agricultural innovations, differences in regional development. • Disparities in economic development and different economic potential. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of joint projects that are co-funded by both countries. • Insufficient resources for solving all problems. • Lack of NGO sector funding. No database regarding participants funds. Different currency. Disparities in economic indicators. • Disparities in regions' economic development. Big disparities in workers qualifications. Differences in customs and taxes systems. • Lack of cross-border programmes funding from local budgets (or low funding), national budget - no resources assigned to cross-border programmes. • Low economic development in border territories - it delays the experience exchange in economics. Lack of big industrial centres.

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<p><i>economic priorities. No experience in common projects' implementation. Business culture is not developed. Corruption. Difficulties in border crossing.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Underground economy</i> 	<p><i>wait for the better times. Foreign investors would like to buy a land, but authorities don't allow. We have to admit that Moldovan legislation acts, that regulate cross-border cooperation, was improved.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Breaking relations (paying attention to own interests, party interests, etc.)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of necessary funding resources. Inefficiency in attracting and using the funds. Bureaucracy as one of the barriers in investments' attracting. Different economic interests and needs.</i> • <i>Insufficient amount of money to guarantee funding and co-funding of cross-border cooperation projects.</i> 	
SOCIAL			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of qualified workforce. High emigration rate.</i> • <i>Difficulties in finding a partner. Different needs. No culture of business. Migration.</i> • <i>Cooperation between Moldavian and Ukrainian social funds. Many citizens work in the other country (e.g. illegally) and that's why they will get less money in the future, as there are no agreements between Moldova and Ukraine.</i> • <i>Differences in social care structures, inc. undevelopment of particular</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>High migration rate. Different cultures, different territorial interests. Language barrier.</i> • <i>High rate of hidden unemployment. High unemployment rate among graduates. Low income per capita. Insufficient social and educational infrastructure. Lack of social infrastructure in rural regions.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bad structure of population employment. High unemployment rate among high school graduates.</i> • <i>Lack of qualified staff, specialists are moving to other regions, population aging, negative demographic indicators, low birth rate in border areas.</i> • <i>Different awareness, different living standards.</i> • <i>Society is not ready to develop and implement cross-border cooperation projects. Low living standard - that's why people are more interested</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>As border regions are far away from centres, living standard is significantly lower than in central regions. Low activity and high poverty rate.</i> • <i>Disparities in social sphere. Society is not ready for co-operation. Not many information about possible partners.</i>

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<p><i>institutions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of local high-quality jobs. Migration of youth to central regions.</i> • <i>Labour migration. Lack of information about social projects. Lack of funding. Different social needs. Social infrastructure doesn't meet nation's needs. Big differences between rural and urban territories.</i> 		<p><i>in solving their own problems, instead of participating in cross-border society life.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Different health care and education systems. Different income per capita.</i> • <i>In rural regions - low developed social care. Rural regions' depopulation.</i> 	
INFRASTRUCTURE			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Very bad state of road infrastructure and environmental infrastructure.</i> • <i>Lack of infrastructure.</i> • <i>Insufficient number of roads that connect regions. Different level of infrastructure development.</i> • <i>Lack of infrastructure support and development for SME sector (e.g. innovative clusters, technical and industrial parks, business incubators)</i> • <i>Insufficiently developed road infrastructure. Lack of this kind of infrastructure stops development of other</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low-developed infrastructure in numerous regions.</i> • <i>Lack of basics - good roads and customs system. It doesn't promote cross-border cooperation development.</i> • <i>Lack of highways and city bypasses. Poor roads quality. Insufficient number of roads. Low throughput capacity of existing border crossing points. Insufficient access to computer technologies (internet, communication). Treatment facilities don't meet standards. Moldova doesn't use renewable energy sources.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bad road infrastructure. Low throughput capacity of border crossings - it concerns passengers as well as freight.</i> • <i>Poor roads quality, outdated plumbing and sewerage system, undeveloped tourist infrastructure, lack of distribution system for local agricultural goods.</i> • <i>Differences in infrastructure quality (conditions and development perspectives).</i> • <i>Critical conditions of transport infrastructure. Insufficient development of</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Border crossing points. Passport control and customs on the border.</i> • <i>Bad condition of roads, they can't serve for normal commodity circulation between countries.</i> • <i>Problems with roads and highways quality. Different level of service. Problems with customs. No air traffic.</i> • <i>Insufficient number of funding institutions that could support cross-border projects.</i> • <i>Low developed transport, lack of bridges, low throughput capacity of border crossings. No access to the Internet.</i>

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<p><i>branches of economy.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Undeveloped infrastructure. Insufficient number of bridges on Ukrainian-Moldavian border on the river Dniester.</i> 		<p><i>information infrastructure.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Insufficient development (or low development) of infrastructure between cross-border regions.</i> 	
ENVIRONMENT			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Different condition of environment in regions as the result of past agricultural decisions.</i> • <i>Environment (inc. water) pollution, CO2. Lack of environment management. Lack of projects. Lack of ecological technologies.</i> • <i>Border rivers' pollution. Waste utilization.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There are many ecological problems on the river Dniester. As a reason - water pollution. This is a cross-border problem, as the river flows from Ukraine to Moldova, then flows back to Ukraine and reaches the Black Sea. If we take into account that Dniester is a source of drinking water, then it's obvious that the pollution is life-threat.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Water purification and waste utilization facilities don't meet European norms. Lack of modern treatment facilities and mechanisms.</i> • <i>Problem of household and medical waste recycling, lack of pollution monitoring system, danger of erosion, lower productivity.</i> • <i>Differences in environment condition.</i> • <i>Different interests (contradictory interests) in resources using. Ukraine's image as a beneficiary of other countries' resources.</i> • <i>Lack of technologies.</i> • <i>There are many problems in the sphere of environment protection: household waste recycling, protection of Dnepr and South Bug basins. Building</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of international monitoring system that could pay attention to environmental problems in regions.</i> • <i>Lack of sewage treatments, lack of waste processing.</i> • <i>Different environment protection systems. Lack of interaction, no common NGOs working in the sphere of environment. No conditions to fulfil environment protection standards. No common programmes aimed to create cross-border natural reserves.</i> • <i>Problem of waste utilization and processing on common territories.</i> • <i>Differences in legislation that regulates environment protection issues. Lack of bilateral commissions monitoring environment protection.</i> • <i>Problem with treatment facilities along the river Dniester. Numerous emergency situations, e.g. floods.</i>

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		<i>treatment facilities.</i>	
HISTORY			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Historical conflicts regarding territories and some historical facts.</i> • <i>Different historical heritage. Negative experience during the Soviet period.</i> • <i>Wrong understanding of historical facts on both sides of the border.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stereotypes, that were constituted in the past.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Language barrier.</i> • <i>Historical conflicts and territorial disputes between countries</i> • <i>Different development ways. Different approach to own history.</i> • <i>Historically constituted disparities in territorial development.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Past relations can be good motivation for building new relations between two countries.</i> • <i>Territorial issues - homesteads that were foreign property.</i> • <i>There are some historical conflicts in border areas, but locals don't want to discuss them.</i>
MENTALITY			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Soviet and communist mentality.</i> • <i>Soviet mental heritage.</i> • <i>Fear of cooperation.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Soviet mentality.</i> • <i>Mentality of Moldova's and Ukraine's citizens is similar, that's why mental factor, as well as cultural one, positively affects the cooperation.</i> • <i>Lack of experience and cooperation mentality (among politicians)</i> • <i>Relations are weak. People are smart and they can find common language, but they usually give up.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Different traditions.</i> • <i>Mentalities are not so different.</i> • <i>Low trust in government (in Ukraine)</i> • <i>Different religions.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low interest in participating in community life. Low motivation to participate in international projects.</i> • <i>Stereotypical approach to neighbours as to "foreigners".</i> • <i>Citizens' mistrust to cross-border cooperation projects opportunities.</i> • <i>Generally, mentalities of neighbouring countries are often similar to each other. But mass-media used to show only antagonisms, especially religious ones.</i> • <i>Stereotypes. Unwillingness to cooperate. Greed for profits.</i> • <i>Extreme forms of nationalism.</i> • <i>Image of neighbour as a low-developed partner, no will to exchange experience. Neighbour perception not as a partner, but</i>

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			competitor.
CULTURE			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different cultural values. Insufficient resources for carrying out cultural projects • Different perception of values and priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different cultural traditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different ways of understanding some cultural values. • Different cultural heritage. • Different languages and cultural traditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even culture and traditions of smallest village can be interesting, Unfortunately, it often vanishes. It needs motivation and careful approach. • Some nuances in cultural sphere. • Language barrier. • Different cultural traditions are the basis for developing cultural exchange programmes.
INSTITUTIONS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of communication between administrations of both sides • Long customs procedures. • Differences in regional development strategies on both sides of the border. Insufficient number of organizations promoting cooperation: NGOs, consulting centres. Insufficient number of qualified staff. • Inadequate policies, lack of appropriate technical equipment, lack of personal integrity of the border work in controlling the flow of irregular migration and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient experience in interaction in Moldova as well as in Ukraine. Lack of understanding between central authorities and regional administration. • Insufficient administrative and structural capacity for sustainable regional development. Local institutions (authorities) don't use resources in the proper way. • Insufficient cooperation between similar organizations in both countries, probably as the result of the fact, that Moldova and Ukraine are competitors in investments' attracting and export promotion. • Authorities (central and local) don't take an active part on cross-border projects implementation. Main 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cooperation between institutions. • SMEs are not developed, lack of support to small business, low access to Internet and computer technologies, low awareness about opportunities of participation in cross-border projects. • Insufficient (in many countries) quality of institutional reforms. • Imperfection of legislation. There are many organizations, that are not successful in projects administrating, developing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of legislative acts that would let to carry out joint long-term projects in border areas, small towns and villages. • Imperfection of administrative-territorial system in Ukraine, problems of different authorities levels interaction, uneven budget distribution to central and border parts of regions. • Discrepancies in legislations. Apathy and low innovativeness of central authorities. Experts from organizations don't have a right to participate in problems solving. • Different political systems result in some negative tension in border areas. Lack of political will to overcome barriers. • Establishing bilateral commissions for solving common problems. Establishing and support to international resource centres. • Insufficient development of relations and

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<p><i>trafficking</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of experience in cross-border cooperation.</i> • <i>NGO partnerships. Bureaucracy is everywhere.</i> 	<p><i>problem is the lack of resources (financial, human). As the result of administrative reform, many people has lost their jobs in administration (also those, who have just started to understand how does the cross-border policy work).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Inconsistency in government, on borders, customs, all examinations - we are sick of it.</i> 	<p><i>and implementing.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of institutions, that could coordinate cross-border cooperation.</i> • <i>Lack of institutional support to small and medium-sized enterprises. Undeveloped communication channels between different institutions, what makes their cooperation harder.</i> 	<p><i>contacts between NGOs of both participant countries.</i></p>
OTHER			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Corruption</i> • <i>Lack of cooperation between scientific society and business society. Border barriers. Big disparities between rural and urban areas. Frequent controlling. Lack of access of ITC, innovations, exhibitions.</i> • <i>Political. Lack of specialized structures (NGOs, associations that could attract donators and meet transparency standards).</i> • <i>Energetically dependence from other countries. Different legislations.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Difficulties in attracting foreign funds.</i> • <i>No staff for cross-border projects preparation. Insufficient co-funding (10% required). Low awareness about cross-border cooperation programmes.</i> • <i>Problem in Transnistria, which, as it's cold conflict, affects the Moldovan-Ukrainian integration process, as well as overall region image.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bureaucracy.</i> • <i>Corruption. Decentralization of budget forming process.</i> • <i>Contradictory interests.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For cardinal (significant) change of border regions situation financial support is not sufficient. That's why many potential partners don't want to participate in projects.</i> • <i>Lack of the system that would help to adjust programmes in case of any problem. Subjective approach to regions, that are chosen for cross-border cooperation projects.</i> • <i>Usually border areas' citizens are interested just in solving existing financial problems, instead of introducing long-term systematic programmes.</i>
POTENTIAL AREAS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>People to people cooperation.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support and development of small</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Creating joint farms which</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Culture. Sport. Economical projects. Ecology.</i>

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<p><i>Social and cultural partnerships. Energy efficiency. Environmental protection. Waste management.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HR development. Pro-environmental projects.</i> • <i>Economical cooperation.</i> • <i>Ecology. Transport. Creating jobs. Water and sanitary sewer. Tourism. Society development. Innovations and technology</i> • <i>Development and support of regional SME sector. Facilitation services for business/trade unites. Provisions for cross-border assistance (eg. stimulate common projects).</i> 	<p><i>and medium-size enterprises, cooperation of educational organizations resulting in creation of common educational system in border areas.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Local and regional institutions (authorities). Business. Service. Agriculture.</i> • <i>Common efforts to create positive image of the region - investment friendly region.</i> • <i>Agricultural sector (beekeeping, cattle breeding, milk, growing berries). Tourism (and agro tourism). Renewable energy sources.</i> • <i>We need projects in all spheres, but the most important thing is to finish every project that was launched.</i> 	<p><i>would produce ecological and organic products. Developing modern infrastructure for border crossings of Ukraine and Moldova. Improvement of customs infrastructure on Starokozache (Ukraine) border crossing.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agro tourism development, processing industry, SMEs in tourism, scientific institutions cooperation (schools, colleges, universities), chambers of commerce and industrial organizations cooperation. Alternative energy, international programmes on waste management and environment protection. Historical and cultural heritage.</i> • <i>Public utility. Energy efficiency and energy saving. Tourism and cultural cooperation.</i> • <i>Research and development, innovation. Creating one information, education and science area. Energy saving. SME development. Environment protection.</i> 	<p><i>Social initiatives.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cross-border infrastructure development. Development of youth, artistic, cultural relations in cross-border territories by creating or renovating existing sport, cultural complexes, organizing competitions and cultural manifestations.</i> • <i>Environment protection, establishment of cross-border natural reserves. Cultural cooperation (local guides network). Protection of disabled people, education, evaluation of administrative services.</i> • <i>Tourism. Processing industry. Agriculture. Energy efficiency.</i> • <i>Infrastructure development (roads, bridges). Facilitation of border crossing procedures. Cultural exchange. Ecological project (treating facilities in Soroka). Experience exchange. Joint development strategies for cross-border regions.</i> • <i>Development of cross-border infrastructure (roads and transport). Environment protection. Economic cooperation. People-to-people cooperation.</i>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure. Agriculture. • Human capital. Tourism development. Environment protection. Projects on infrastructure. • Infrastructure. Science. Culture. Human capital. Environment protection. 	
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings for administration in writing project proposals and management and implementation of projects. • Establishing info-points for all the interested. Lobbying for regions' interests. Establish new departments, that will coordinate cross-border cooperation. • Stimulating the business investments on cross-border area. Exchanging best practices between local and cross-border actors. Organising common events in order to promote local products, services. • Increasing private sector knowledge and awareness about cross-border cooperation opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly increase awareness about cross-border cooperation projects. Render assistance in cross-border cooperation. • Improve competencies. • Staff policy improvement. Include specialists that can attract European funds within Regional Policy. Specialist must know, how to write projects and projects proposals. • Help to attract experts that will introduce cross-border policy and projects. Prepare staff - let them participate in seminars, study tours, round tables. Attract English-speaking specialists (nowadays it's difficult to find them in Moldova, especially in rural regions). • Learn and inform citizens about cooperation opportunities. Be brave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract social organization for common projects implementation. Increasing local border areas citizens' awareness about cross-border cooperation. • Lobbying for regions' interests, for attracting funds. Include more regions into cross-border cooperation programmes. • Actions aimed to promote cross-border cooperation among local authorities. More direct participation of local authorities. • Inform about projects' development. Carry out seminars. • Establish departments that will coordinate cross-border cooperation issues. Carry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities should take part in joint projects, they shouldn't be afraid of possible difficulties. • Resources database. Projects database. Organizations database. Experts database. Education, form working groups. Present proposals to central authorities. Be open for opportunities. • Establish real network of cross-border cooperation partners. Lobbying for regions. Give financial support to projects implementation. • Create and support direct territorial partnerships. Systematic meetings and experience exchange. Developing and implementation of joint projects. • Search for new partners and strengthen existing relations. Focus on results.

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<p><i>Informing about economic, ecological and social problems and, in addition, about possibilities of solving them by cross-border cooperation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Establishing joint companies for waste utilization. Joint efforts in environment protection.</i> 	<p><i>and obedient at the same time - your time will come!</i></p>	<p><i>out seminars for staff. Inform local authorities about cross-border cooperation rules.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Carry out joint actions aimed to inform local representatives about opportunities of participation in cross-border cooperation projects.</i> 	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CENTRAL AUTHORITIES STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Build a bridge between Soroca (Moldova) and Yampil' (Ukraine), the nearest bridge is 150 km away. It's a big obstacle for economic development.</i> • <i>Inform about the opportunities of participation on projects. Transparency. Promote sharing regions' positive experience.</i> • <i>Elaborate efficient legislation in accordance with EU acquis in order to sustain the development of small and medium businesses.</i> • <i>Development of joint strategies of development. Improving national legislation on the basis of international</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Politicians should also give a hand to cross-border cooperation. Facilitate application procedures. Eliminate administrative barriers.</i> • <i>Improve legislative acts. New skills and competencies.</i> • <i>While developing national economic policies pay more attention to regional policy, inc. cross-border cooperation. Find opportunities of large projects funding that can't be financially supported from national budget.</i> • <i>Decentralization. More credentials to local authorities. More transparency. Promote your actions. Usually information comes to regions too late.</i> • <i>More meetings, seminars, study tours, Learn and pay respect to</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Take part in the development of regional policy of cross-border regions development. Promote nongovernmental sector development.</i> • <i>Improve legislation with an aim to establish wider Euroregions. Active lobbying for participation in projects. Stimulate cross-border projects implementation. Political support to cross-border cooperation.</i> • <i>Make a list of priority actions - that will make cooperation more efficient.</i> • <i>Improve legislation. Solve political conflicts. Develop and introduce an effective</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More initiative and better informing about cross-border cooperation. More projects addressed to masses.</i> • <i>Take part in cooperation proposals preparation. Create global databases for cooperation. From time to time held festivals aimed to promote cross-border projects. Experts should evaluate projects. Adopt legislation that regulates cross-border cooperation issues.</i> • <i>Increase efforts to include regions into all European programmes. Improve legislation.</i> • <i>Facilitation of border crossing procedures (changes in legislation needed). Launch governmental programmes on cross-border territories support. Facilitation of decision-making procedures.</i> • <i>Active cooperation between corresponding central authorities.</i>

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<p><i>standards.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Legislation improvement. Cross-border programmes co-funding.</i> 	<p><i>those who help us.</i></p>	<p><i>information system with an aim to increase awareness about cross-border cooperation opportunities. Assign budget resources for projects.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improve legislation acts, which regulate cross-border cooperation issues. Seminars on cross-border legislative acts' fulfilment and projects' implementation.</i> 	
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPEAN COMMISSION CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To pay more attention towards infrastructural projects. Work directly with beneficiaries, not through authorities. To have systematic approach.</i> • <i>Reducing barriers for EU access.</i> • <i>Inform about projects in advance. Do not tolerate deadline violations. Add "Creation of jobs" to priorities list. Analyze projects' quality. Allow the participation of society in deciding about priorities.</i> • <i>To provide technical assistance as experts, projects, programmes aimed to sustain and facilitate the cross border collaboration.</i> • <i>Assign resources for the development of private entrepreneurship, improving human capital quality and developing ecological technologies for different branches of economy.</i> • <i>Majority (especially in rural regions) is not able to communicate in English.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tighten the rules of funding with an aim to eliminate improper funds' assigning.</i> • <i>Assign more resources for cross-border cooperation financial support. Promote experience exchange. Sometimes people in regions don't know anything about cooperation opportunities - experience would be helpful. More flexibility in project choosing - take into account local characteristics.</i> • <i>Everything is good, just continue in the same way. Your efforts will bring success to the border. I think that all ENP subjects are waiting for your success.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Attract representatives of local authorities - they have more reliable information about regions.</i> • <i>Help in establishing efficient institutions, prepare qualified staff for Euroregions and cross-border cooperation management. Legislation alignment to EU standards. Facilitation of applying procedures.</i> • <i>Increase funding for projects. Include more regions into cross-border programme.</i> • <i>Active informing about cross-border opportunities. Include more regions into EU cross-border programmes. Pay respect to Ukrainian participants as to equal programme participants.</i> • <i>Facilitate application system and implementation monitoring process. Establish on-line consulting platform.</i> • <i>Pay attention to projects on</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pay attention to initiatives that come from regions: listen what people in regions say, what they need.</i> • <i>Attract more entrepreneurs and local self-governance representatives - they are informed about situation in regions.</i> • <i>Society should have a chance to take part in project proposals evaluation. Control the work of institutions that prepare and implement projects.</i> • <i>National projects proposals. Information campaign on cross-border cooperation opportunities. Programmes aimed to promote access to the Internet in all regions.</i> • <i>More possibilities for additional regions. Facilitation of some conditions of participation in projects. Increase funding. Create new national info-points.</i>
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<p><i>Support programmes for small enterprises.</i></p>		<p><i>infrastructure development. Promote support to SME.</i></p>	
OTHER COMMENTS AND OPINIONS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Majority of barriers in CBC comes from post-Soviet regions character - stagnation, lack of transparency, political preferences, undeveloped democratic institutions, centralization. Bureaucracy in European institutions.</i> • <i>Organize bilateral meetings for potential cross-border projects partners.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Thank you for this seminar, thank you for giving an opportunity to be a part of cross-border cooperation efficiency increase. Thank you! I think that our effort will help to overcome borders!</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I would like the EU support to be really SUPPORT, not just imposing its vision of Ukraine's development.</i> • <i>Some Ukrainian regions don't have a border with EU countries, what results in the isolation (they can't participate in cross-border projects). It's necessary to allow them to participate in cross-border programme.</i> • <i>We are waiting for new programmes - local authorities and NGOs should have a chance to receive funding within Eastern Partnership.</i>

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SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP IN YEREVAN (14-15.11.2013): GEORGIAN – ARMENIAN GROUP

BASED ON A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

	PARTICIPANTS FROM GEORGIA		PARTICIPANTS FROM ARMENIA	
	PARTICIPANTS OF WHOLE PROJECT	NEW PARTICIPANTS – ONLY WORKSHOP	PARTICIPANTS OF WHOLE PROJECT	NEW PARTICIPANTS – ONLY WORKSHOP
THE MAIN BARRIERS TO CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION				
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic stagnation, low economic development of border areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is necessary to reduce differences in economic legislation. Establish joint companies that process, transport and store agricultural products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customs on border crossing should be facilitated - it's necessary for the development of cross-border economic cooperation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can say that there are no economic barriers in cross-border cooperation. Low awareness about opportunities. Low development. Telecommunication problems. Certification issues. Lack of qualified staff, especially in agricultural sector.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of business and businessman in general. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social problems pull people together and promote cooperation. Social problems in both countries are similar (what is negative for experience exchange). Lack of social care. Low (if compared with central regions)

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				<i>literacy rate. People migrate to central regions (especially youth).</i>
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of (or low) infrastructure development.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Study and define this sphere of infrastructure development, in which one country was sufficiently successful. Organize study tours and seminars for second country.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recently the infrastructural problems were reduced, old roads were renovated and the new ones built.</i> • <i>Lack of good roads and other infrastructure. Telecommunication. Irrigation system.</i> • <i>Roads. Hotels in border area. Foodservice. Telecommunication. Logistics.</i>
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Define common problems in the sphere of environment. Develop plans of activities and its implementation.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of monitoring system that would look after environment in border areas.</i>
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Separatism.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Carry out actions aimed to protect, renovate historical and cultural monuments on both countries territory. Share information about historical monuments that are located in one country but are also connected to second country history. Include local citizens into renovation works.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Historical problems between Georgia and Armenia don't affect cooperation.</i> • <i>Relations in future positively stimulate the cooperation.</i>
Mentality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wake up competitive feelings (between border areas citizens) by cooperation with independent specialists.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mentality is quite similar.</i> • <i>Different customer culture. Different worldviews.</i>

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Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language barrier. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out joint festivals, holidays, large cultural manifestations. Examples from one region should take part in variety of manifestations held in second 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural relations exist from time immemorial, as Armenian and Georgian were for ages influencing each other, often they have same roots. • Small amount of cultural relations. Almost or cultural manifestation are centrally-organized.
Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to unificate institutional structures. • Different governance and self-governance systems. Lack of common organizations and companies. • Almost no cross-border policy.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main problem is some kind of corruption in Armenian customs. • Lack of common business catalogue, which would give a chance to get information about neighbour country possibilities. Lack of common touristic plans. • Political. Georgian authorities are very wary about Armenian-Georgian relations.
POTENTIAL AREAS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business. Tourism. Trade. Science. Environment protection. Energetics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism. Road construction. Agriculture. Ecology. Irrigation. Education. Culture. • Trade. Tourism

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- *Economy. Humanitarian activities.*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

- *Law facilitation. Easier border crossing.*

- *None*

- *None*

- *Reduce barriers and other obstacles connected with border crossing. Reduce bureaucracy. Small border traffic for local citizens.*
- *Meetings. Sign bilateral agreements. Joint efforts for solving common problems.*
- *Carry out more joint actions, holidays, festivals, exhibitions, cultural manifestations.*
- *Establish joint organization that will help to overcome variety of barriers (inc. unemployment, transport)*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CENTRAL AUTHORITIES STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

- *None*

- *None*

- *None*

- *Pay more attention to financial aid for border areas citizens and cross-border projects.*
- *Help local self-government to approve local initiatives in cross-border cooperation sphere.*
- *It is necessary to develop policy for cross-border regions. Joint common problems' solving on the central level.*
- *Establish infrastructural and*

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			<i>institutional background for deciding about cross-border cooperation and for controlling.</i>
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPEAN COMMISSION CONCERNING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More attention should be paid to regions' unique character.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pay more attention to law implementation, law improvement. Law should be same as the European. Special attention to corruption in governmental structures, inc. customs and taxes.</i> • <i>Permanent bodies (councils or commissions) should be established in border areas under the aegis of European Commission. They could coordinate all cross-border cooperation issues (monitoring, activities plans etc.)</i> • <i>Include the Ministry of Emergency Situations to all Cross-border cooperation programmes, as MOE specialists can give practical support to programme activities.</i> • <i>Help in establishing institutions. Help to organize meetings. Fund joint programmes (partially).</i> • <i>It is necessary to attract local forces (from border areas) to develop cross-border projects. Give support only to projects, in</i>

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			<p><i>which local authorities take part.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regular monitoring of the process and strictly objective funds' allocation.</i>
OTHER COMMENTS AND OPINIONS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All problems resulting from corruption and monopoly.</i> • <i>People to people relations are of big importance, as the friendship can create the strongest cooperation.</i>

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3. PROJECT WEBSITE REPORT



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The website of the project www.e-crossborder.info was elaborated and published at the end of March.

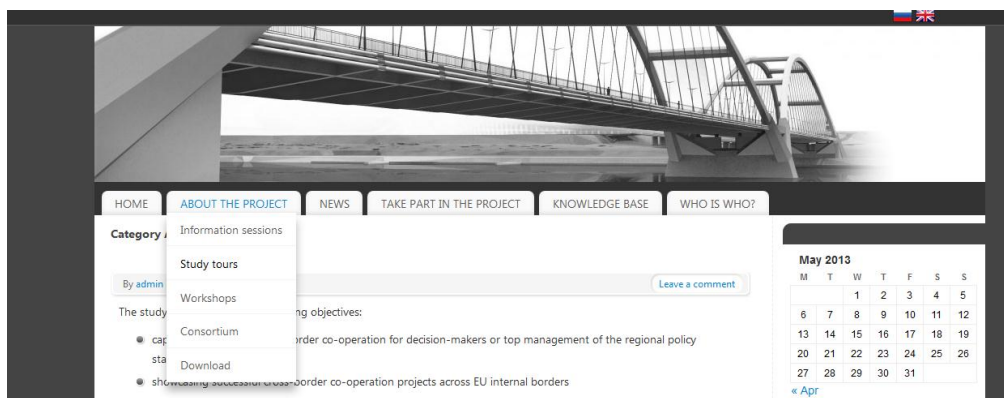


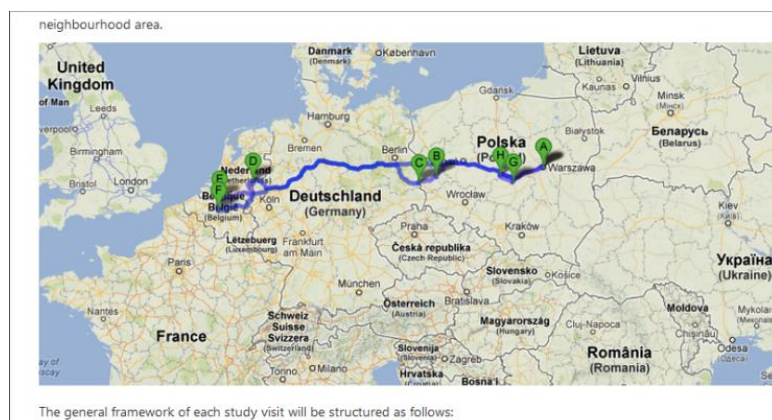
Figure 7 Screen shot taken from project's web page.

According to the previous assumptions the following functionalities and content were developed:

- **Home page** – describes the nature of cross-border cooperation as the background of the project, presents the implementers and includes information about financing of the project by the Directorate General for Regional Policy of the European Commission as part of its regional policy dialogues with non-EU countries and adequate logotypes.
- **About the project** – the page presents the project activities as separate subpages such as:

Information sessions – the aim of the sessions, schedule and framework programme are described.

Study visits – the rout of the tour is presented together with the framework programme and description of the visited objects and presented institutions.



Workshops – subpage presents in details workshops’ objectives and the framework programme.

- **News** – the page was dedicated for reporting from ongoing activities.
- **Take part in the project** – in this place, participants could find application form and documents.
- **Knowledge base** – the base was continuously developed, it presents strategic documents concerning cooperation between EU and targeted countries and the state of the art on cooperation in Russia and EU Neighborhood.
- **Who is who** – the page contains presentation of high level speakers and the project staff. It was planned to present characteristics of participants, however taking under consideration the raising objections by participants about posting names and pictures, Contractor decided on presenting only general description of each group in the reports from information sessions and create the sub-site with the limited access, that can be entered after logging - Participants Area Login
- **Online communication** – instead of forum Participants Area Login was established. The area is dedicated to communication between members of each group, high level speakers and project staff. Participants can also find here instruction for elaborating the project outline using Dropbox. Another way of on-line communication is the functionality “comments and rating” that allows users to rate, comment and express opinions on the published content on the website what helps to animate social network.

The website was regularly developed and adjusted to the suggestions and needs of targeted groups.

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4. SUPPLEMENT



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Figure 7 Screen shot taken from project's web page.	72

4.3. CD CONTENT

- Digital version of the Inception Report, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Interim Reports
- Lists of participants of the project
- Digital version of presentations from information sessions
- Photos form information sessions, study visits and workshops

Approved by : Name

0.0 version : Name

Date: 22/01/2014