



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The Estonian national approach to solving cross-border obstacles

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Intergovernmental commission for cross-border cooperation (IGC)

- Estonian-Latvian Governmental Commission
- Latvian-Estonian Governmental Commission

IGC timeline

2001 – organisation of special Task Force for the developing strategy of cross-border cooperation between EE and LV;

2003 – preparation of the legislation, rules of procedure, selection of members;

2004 – establishing of the national commissions, Joint Session and first working groups;

2010 – establishing further working groups;

2015 – closure of working groups, introduction of a more flexible work organization; creation of ad hoc expert groups, synchronization of members.

2017 – synchronization of procedures, creation of common work processes and documents.

IGC aim and scope of activities

With an aim to develop co-operation between regional and local authorities the IGC:

- discusses and analyses the common challenges of the border region and agrees on a common vision for the joint development of the border area and facilitates joint operations, which provide coherent and efficient response to detected weaknesses;
- promotes entrepreneurial lifestyle and socio-economic development in border regions (including joint development of mainland and maritime cross-border transport connection links and networks, creation of entrepreneurial friendly environment, etc.);
- contributes to the joint development and exchange of cross-border services and Valga-Valka twin-city in the areas of healthcare, education, rescue services etc.;
- resolves actual individual matters of border regions.

Some previously addressed issues

- Legislation for realization of the fire-fighting and rescue operations in border areas;
- Exchange of cross-border cooperation strategies;
- Small harbours network in Gulf of Riga;
- Re-opening of the border crossing checkpoints;
- Simplifying the procedure for issuing work and residence permits;
- Development of institutional rescue cooperation, joint trainings and rescue stations in cross-border regions;
- Renovation of the gravel roads in cross-border regions;
- Development of tourism corridors;
- Special agreement on mutual aid for providing ambulance service in border areas.

Some IGC assisted CBC projects

- Improvement of first responders' efficiency and effectiveness regarding response time to an emergency in the border area to combat natural and manmade disasters;
- Renovation of Valga-Valka old railway station which can provide services on today's standards for Estonians and Latvians;
- Renovation of 3 cross-border gravel roads in total length of 78 km;
- Estonian-Latvian and Latvian-Estonian dictionaries;
- Implementation of joint vocational education programmes;
- Coastal and maritime spatial planning in Gulf of Riga.

IGC working and expert groups

Permanent working groups:

- Riga Gulf Region Development Planning (2004-2009)
- Valga-Valka (2004-2009)
- Social and Medical services (2010-2015)
- Transport, Energy and Environment (2010-2015)
- Education, Tourism and Sports (2010-2015)
- Cross-border Labour Movement and Taxation (2010-2015)

Ad hoc expert groups (2015-):

- Taxation issues in border regions
- Cross-border railway connection
- Health care & health care related public services in cross-border regions

CB challenge identification form

Form is based on 4 blocks:

- essence (*legal or other*)
- summary (*CB elements*)
- justification & solutions
- financial & institutional durability

Form is in 3 languages: EE, EN, LV

CB challenges are collected in respective national languages.

ESTONIAN-LATVIAN and LATVIAN-ESTONIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMISSIONS FOR CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION (IGC)

CROSS-BORDER CHALLENGE IDENTIFICATION FORM

Following the decisions of the 2017 IGC meeting with regard to future initiatives to be dealt with in the framework of the IGC in 2018 the IGC coordinating unit (in Estonia / in Latvia) invites you to identify a cross-border challenge or obstacle that needs a joint solution on intergovernmental level (e.g. by introducing changes into relevant legislation of Estonia and Latvia or by concluding agreements between the countries).

Cross-border challenge identification

Name of the reporting institution	
Cross-border challenge title	
Counties/municipalities concerned	
Nature of the challenge 1. legal 2. other Please describe shortly the nature of the identified joint cross-border challenge(s)	Please mark the nature type with X 1. 2.
Contact person	

Cross-border challenge summary

Please provide a brief summary of the identified relevant cross-border challenge's background (inc. what has previously been done to solve the issue), expected cross-border cooperation nature, objective(s) and main activities. Please pay attention that all the questions are answered.

- Background and description of the problem:

• Cross-border nature of the challenge. What are the common interests and benefits for Latvian and Estonian citizens?
Please explain:

- Why the challenge cannot be efficiently solved acting only on a regional/local level?

• What benefits the border region gains in taking a cross-border approach?

CB challenge identification process

Survey target groups – border regions, municipalities, relevant ministries and stakeholders.

Study lasts until 16 March in EE and 2 March in LV.

- exchange of results/positions between EE and LV,
- publication of results for participants,
- selection of topics to be included into IGC Agenda,
- compilation of Informative Report.

Joint Session (JS) of the IGC

Occurs usually once a year. In 2018 – [September 7](#)

The JS consists of the following:

- overview of the IGC work in respective year,
- introduction of actual IGC issues,
- conclusions and tasks for the next period.





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Thank you!

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