



PRESS RELEASE

European Cooperation Day 2019

Nature as our common treasure

**Information and Education Center of State Unitary Enterprise “Saint-Petersburg Vodokanal”, 56 Shpalernaya street, Saint-Petersburg
25 September 2019, 10:00 – 15:00**

On the 25th of September 2019, Saint Petersburg welcomed the **interactive event “Nature as our common treasure”** within the European Cooperation Day. Reaching out to the young audience, the focal point of event was nature protection and sustainable environmental management.

The event was co-organized by the Latvia – Russia, Estonia – Russia, South-East Finland – Russia cross-border cooperation Programmes (hereinafter, the CBC Programmes) and the transnational cooperation Programme Interreg Baltic Sea Region in partnership with the Information and Education Center of “Saint-Petersburg Vodokanal”.

At the event opening, **Alla Agapova**, Advisor of Unit for Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation Development, Department for Development and Regulation of External Economic Activities, Ministry of Economic Development, conveyed the welcome words of the Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, **Maksim Oreshkin**. It was noted that *‘the event helps consistently strengthen interregional and cross-border relations among the countries and – importantly – it demonstrates the actual results of joint work done by the EU – Russia cross-border cooperation programmes to the citizens of the regions’*.

The welcome speeches were given by **Alexander Somoza**, Policy Officer of the European External Action Service; the Heads of the CBC Programmes – **Agnese Marnauza**, **Ege Ello**, **Jukka-Pekka Bergman**, the representative of the transnational cooperation Programme **Elena Kolosova**; Consul General of the Republic of Estonia in St Petersburg **Carl Eric Laantee Reintamm**; Consul General of the Republic of Latvia in St Petersburg **Kristaps Brusbardis**; Deputy director of the information and Information and Education Center of “Saint-Petersburg Vodokanal”, **Dmitry Troshenko**.

The interactive event was notable for participation of the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia; officials of the EU-Russia Cooperation Sector, Delegation of the European Union to Russia; representative of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia; and the representatives of the Committee for external relations of St Petersburg and Committee for external relations of the Leningrad region.

The key actors of the event were the representative of the cross-border and transnational cooperation projects implementing in the North-West Federal District of Russia, the graduates of seven grammar schools and the first-year students from eight universities of Saint Petersburg and the Leningrad region. The amount of participants hosted by the event totaled ca. 150 people.

Both students and officials had an opportunity to get to know the projects in more detail; during the brainstorming and group work the students developed and presented their own project ideas on sustainable environmental management and nature protection. The ideas proposed by the students were of interest for future cooperation between Russia and the EU.

Reference information:

The European Cooperation Day is celebrated by the EU Member States and the partner countries since 2012. In the North-West Federal District of Russia it has become good tradition to organize and deliver thematic events aimed at promotion of achievements and opportunities provided by the cross-border and transnational cooperation programmes implemented in the Russian Federation in partnership with the European Union. The results of the projects supported and financed within the programmes evidence the high relevance of such type of cooperation: it unites people and supports joint solutions to common challenges across the borders, helps develop cultural, historical and social links among the regions, and contributes to increasing the welfare of the participating regions.

The EU-Russia cross-border and transnational cooperation programmes are implemented in the North-West Federal District and support joint efforts in socio-economic development of the regions.

For more information, visit the websites of the organizers:

www.latruscbc.eu	Latvia – Russia CBC Programme 2014-2020
www.estoniarussia.eu	Estonia – Russia CBC Programme 2014-2020
www.interreg-baltic.eu	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Transnational Cooperation Programme 2014-2020
www.sefrcbc.fi	South-East Finland – Russia CBC Programme 2014-2020

<https://www.ecday.eu/event/interactive-event-nature-common-treasure/> – webpage of the interactive event “Nature as our common treasure” on the ECDay website.