

1.5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

As a competent region of Russian Federation Republic of Karelia aims at mutually beneficial cooperation and active networking with regions of different countries. The government of Karelia considers international cooperation as an important instrument for resolving of social and economic problems of the region.

1.5.1 Aims and tasks of International activities of Republic of Karelia

The government of Republic of Karelia has determined following **aims for international activity of the republic** for the period 2002-2006 and up to 2010 as follows:

- assisting to attraction to Republic of Karelia new technologies and scientific projects, assisting international scientific cooperation and cooperation in environment conservation activities;
- search and attracting additional financial resources to Republic of Karelia;
- assisting in promotion and representation of Karelian enterprises in the other countries;
- active informational marketing of Republic of Karelia, creation of the attractive image of the Republic in Russia Federation and abroad;
- educating of high-skilled specialists for Karelia abroad.

The government of Republic of Karelia plans following activities for the realization of the listed aims:

1. Developing bilateral cooperation of Republic of Karelia and Finland with the purpose to make interaction with the Finnish regions and the alliances of communities more effective, including promotion of the project "Euregio Karelia".
2. Strengthening of the positions of the Republic in Northern European Countries.
3. Revitalizing of the ties with the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.
4. Expanding the contacts of Republic of Karelia with Western European countries.
5. Expanding the ties of Republic of Karelia with the administrative and territorial entities of the foreign states.
6. Forming of the favorable image of Republic of Karelia outside of Russian Federation, as a region, which is attractive for foreign investments and capable to conduct international cooperative activities in the spheres of environmental preservation, research and education, tourism and social welfare.

Taking into account that export provides a significant share of the revenues of Republic of Karelia and serves as one of the major sources for currency, which is needed for purchasing of the imported equipment and technologies, the government of Republic of Karelia plans to develop exporting capacities of the Republic and to increase the efficiency of exporting of Karelian goods.

The government of Republic of Karelia is planning:

- to stimulate enterprises to use more efficient technologies of raw materials processing;
- to improve accounting and expertise of the exporting contracts;
- to assist exporters entering new markets for their products;
- to assist the creation of the new options for the reinvestment of the profits from export with the purpose to develop production facilities;
- to create favorable environment for the domestic business and enterprises.

1.5.2. Neighborhood Program Euregio "Karelia"

Neighborhood Program Euregio "Karelia" in 2003-2006 includes priority spheres:

- economics ("Contemporary peddlers");
- cultural ("Mental bridges");
- development of border crossing infrastructure and bordering territories

Economics section ("Contemporary peddlers") is aimed at:

- Increasing the share of the transborder cooperation in the sphere of entrepreneurship.
- Capacity building for development of business activity in the sphere of cross-border cooperation.

The priority themes, framed for the rest of programming period:

tourism, lumbering and wood-processing, environmentally friendly technologies and power generation, Female entrepreneurship.

Cultural ("Mental bridges") is aimed at:

- transborder cooperation in the spheres of education and culture.
- Social welfare and civil society.

The priority themes, framed for the rest of programming period:

Ecological awareness-rising, assisting the development of the cooperation networks, increasing of the cultural attractiveness of the territories, cooperation of the youth public organizations, assisting mass media cooperation

Development of border crossing infrastructure and bordering territories includes:

- Transportation and informational connections.
- Border crossings and the usage of territories.

The priority themes, framed for the rest of programming period:

developing of transport streams and increasing the efficiency of border crossings; planning the usage of the border crossings and adjacent territories; developing automobile, railroad and aviation communications and informational communications facilities.

Cross-border Cooperation Projects for the of Republic of Karelia in the framework of Neighborhood Program Euregio Karelia, financed from the Tacis funds (2004-2006)

Title of the project	Partner from Republic of Karelia	Lead partner	Budget in euros
Comparison of methods of lumbering - meaning for quality of wood and general productivity of a logging enterprise	Logging - engineering faculty of Petrozavodsk State University	Finland Institute of wood Metla, Yonsuu department	151 929
Oulanka - Paanayarvi - wild nature, adventures and welfare	National Park "Paanayarvi"	Wood service of Finland Metsahallitus, department Kaynuu	270 00
The hostess of the North - development of female and family entrepreneurship in Republic of Karelia	Ministry for economic development of the republic, Administrations of Pertozavodsk, Kostomuksha, Suoyarvskiy, Olonets, Pryazhinsky, Kalevalskiy and Loukhskiy regions of Republic of Karelia, Public organization of Karelian women-entrepreneurs	University of Yoensuu	192 800
Production and export of Karelian peat	State committee of republic of Karelia on housing service reforms, Rostopprom-Karelia, Ltd	Centre for energy supply Oulu, Kuopio Energy	397 546
Development of potato- growing technology in Republic of Karelia 2007-2009	Petrozavodsk State University	Universities of Helsinki, Oulu, Centre of seed potato-planting of Finland, ProAgria, Kemira Grau Hau Ltd and other	213 600

Barents-link forum	Administration of Kostomuksha	Administration of Kuhomo, port of Oulu and Pietarsaari, Bp Cargo	493 610
A Crossborder school	Karelian Pedagogical University, Institute of skills raising of Republic of Karelia, secondary schools of Prionezhsky, Kemsly, Lakhdenpohsky, Pitkyaranskogo regions and school of Valaam island	University of Oulu, administration of Pudosiarvi, Pokhyantyakhti, Haapayarvi, Raahe, communities of Utayarvi and Kyarsyanmyaki	270 295
The routs and forming of epic poetry	Ministry for culture and PR of republic of Karelia, Institute of language, literature and history of Karelian Research Center of Russian Academy of Sciences (KRC RAS), Administration of Kalevala region	Foundation Uminkeko	275 965
The White sea bridge- workshops, tourism, culture	Ministry for Education of republic of Karelia	Community Suomussalmi, Ministry for Education of Finland, museum of kainuu, educational centre Haapavesi	382 852
Development of operators of logging machines in Russia	State educational centre "Shuisko-Vidanskaya logging school"	FAG Forest Ltd, Environment Group Ltd	344 384
Thought- out energy supply for Karelian villages	State committee of republic of Karelia on housing service reforms	VTT Ltd	941 328
Presentation of Karelian culture	State committee of republic of Karelia on national politics, Foundation of Arkhip Perttunen, Foundation of Ortie Stepanov, Kalevala regional museum, administration of village Panozero	Foundation Uminkeko	333 966
Our city- our home	Administration of Sortavala, school #1 of Sortavala	The branch of Mannerheim union for kids protection in Northern Karelia	227 171
Development of regional marketing, strategic planning and entrepreneurship consulting of Yoensuu and Petrozavodsk	Administration of Petrozavodsk, Karelian Research Center of Russian Academy of Sciences (KRC RAS)	Agency for regional economic development Yosek	299 901

Kalerian crafts and souvenir network	Ministry for Culture of republic of Karelia, Centre for cultural initiatives, Republican Centre of national cultures	Institute for adults learning in Eastern Finland, centre for Applied Arts Northern Karelia	299 730
Youth house of Karelia	Administrations of Petrozavodsk, Segozha, Sortavala, Union of children and Youth	Administration of Yoensuu	226 543

1.5.3. Republic of Karelia participation in the program "Baltic Sea region INTERREG III B Neighborhood programme"

The purpose of the Program is to increase the spatial integration and competitiveness of the Baltic Sea region by developing regional economic and social interaction and development. Several projects are realized in the framework of the Program in the following spheres:

- Developing joint strategies and implementation of various activities for the macro-regions;
- Assisting sustained spatial development of certain sectors;
- Sustained and integrated development of the coastal zones, islands and other specific territories;
- Assisting balanced development of polycentric residential areas;
- Creating sustained system of communications for the improvement of the spatial integration;
- Improving the management of the cultural and natural heritage, unique landscapes and natural resources;
- Transnational measures of institutional building and increasing potential of organizations

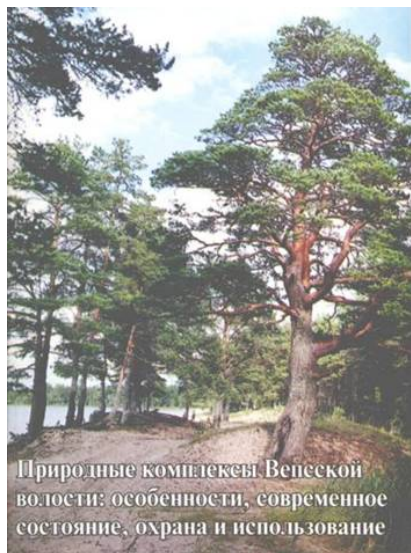
Following countries and regions are participating in the Programme:

- Denmark, Sweden, Finland
- Germany (north-east)
- Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia
- Poland, Norway
- Belarus: Minsk, Grodno, Brest and Vitebsk Oblast
- Russia: St. Petersburg, Murmansk, Leningrad, Pskov, Novgorod, Kaliningrad and Arkhangelsk Oblast, Republic of Karelia, Nenetskiy autonomous region.

Title of the project	Partner from Republic of Karelia	Lead partner	Budget in euros
Effective administrative structures as the main condition for the successful socio-economic development of the rural regions in the situation of the demographic changes (A.S.A.P.)	Administration of Petrozavodsk	Ludwigslust county (Germany)	1,776,888
The potential of rural regions for the spatial development in the situation of the downturn (HINTERLAND)	Karelian research center of Russian Academy of Sciences	Regional agency for planning (Germany)	979,532
The sustainable transportation in Barents region (phase 2) (STBR II)	Ministry for economic development of Republic of Karelia	The Council of Norrbotten county (Sweden)	1,335,000
The Baltic network of euro-regions - East (BEN-EAST)	Association "Council of the Municipalities in Republic of Karelia	Information office of the Council of ministers of the Northern countries (Denmark)	508,693

International scientific and technological cooperation is one of the priority directions of the KRC RAS. The institutes affiliated to KRC RAS annually implement more than 60 international projects.

Finland and its organizations is a traditional partner for the Center. Namely, the Center has long term agreements for cooperation with the universities of Helsinki, Yonsuu, Oulu, with the Finland Forestry Institute (Metla), The Center for Environment (SYKE), with the regional centers for



environment of Northern Karelia, Kainuu etc., with Geological survey of Finland. KRC RAS is actively participating in the programs of European Union, Council of Ministers of Northern Countries, Barents Euro-Arctic Region (BEAR), Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

The main themes of research programs are ecological issues an environment protection, development of network of the specially protected territories (SPT), research of the potential and management of natural resources, the research of the problems of the socio-economic and historical and cultural development of Republic of Karelia.

The share of the international applied research is growing, including research background for various projects and programs related to the long-term development of the region:

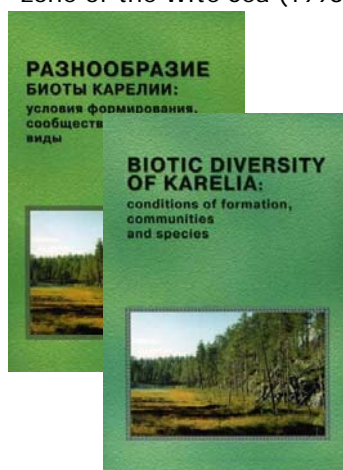
- Potential of spatial development of depressed areas
- Cross border regions as the base for organization of nature management and improvement of environmental regulations
- The industrial partnership of Republic of Karelia and Westerbotten province;
- Excellence Centres' Network for Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region" Neighbourhood programme;
- The impact of forest utilization on taiga ecological systems;
- Economics monitoring of Republic of Karelia;
- Integrated humanitarian research in the White Sea basin.

The integrated interdisciplinary program "The Green Belt of Fennoscandia" plays a prominent role in the international activity of KRC RAS. The idea of the program "The Green Belt of Fennoscandia" was suggested jointly by Karelian and Finnish scholars in the beginning of the 1990s (Titov and others, 1994). Its essence is the stepwise creation of the network of SPTs along Russian-Finnish frontier. The network of SPTs, supporting each other, will ensure the preservation of natural communities and biological diversity (BD) of northern taiga, assist the development of the principles of sustained nature management and international cooperation in the sphere of the natural conservation. The core of the "Green Belt" are 15 already existing and prospective SPTs, with the total area of 9.7 thousands square km in Russia and 36 existing wild preservations and national parks (NP) in Finland with the total area of 9.5 thousands square km.



The important element of the concept of the program “The Green Belt of Fennoscandia” is research, which is conducted in the framework of the long-term Russian-Finnish “Program for the sustained development of the forestry and conservation of biodiversity in the North-West of Russia”. In the framework of this programme 15 joint projects are implemented since 1997, in the following thematic scope:

- Scientific basis of creation of landscape resort “Syrovatka” (2003) and creation of network in Vepsäläy national region of Republic of Karelia (2004)
- Inventarisation of nature complexes and research on the crossborder territories (1997-1998), on the territory of planning national parks “Kalevalskiy”, “Tulos”, “Koikajoki” (1997-1998), coastal zone of the White Sea (1998-1999), Zvezdskiy peninsula and northern coastal zone of Ladoga;
 - Biotopes classifications, the development of the scientific foundations for the sustainable development and protection of wetlands (2003-2005); the research and protection of vascular plants flora (2003-2004)
 - The research of migrating birds in White sea region (2004); the situation of the populations of predator birds in Fennoscandia (2005);
 - Publishing project: “The diversity of biota in Karelia: the conditions of formation, communities, and types”.



Russia”.

As the continuation of the research, conducted in 2006 the preparation of the new joint Russian - Finnish project “The analysis of the completeness and the study of the “white spots” of the network of special protected eco-zones on the North-West of

Development of ecological tourism, creating natural preserves, ecological education

Nowadays rapidly developing tourist business helps active participation of the existing SPTs in the sphere of ecological tourism.

- **Projects for development of ecological tourism in the border zone SPTs – EU programs (TACIS, INTERREG), 1998 – 2005.**



In the last years the researchers from KRC RAS with support of various foundations and programs has actively participated in the development of tourist infrastructure in Suoyarvi, Muezerskii (the projects in the framework of the EU programs “TACIS” and “INTERREG”, 1998 - 2005) regions, and Olonets region (Foundation for Wild Life, the program of the Council of Ministers of Northern Countries etc., 2000 - 2006). The examples are already existing walking and water tourist routes with the equipped rest areas in the natural preserve “Tolvoyarvi” and also at water routes on the river Leksozerka in Muezerskii district.

In the framework of cooperation with Finnish research organizations the concept for the international biosphere conservation area under the auspices of UNESCO was prepared, based on the territories of biosphere preserve “Northern Karelia” in Finland and landscape preserve “Tolvoyarvi” in Suoyarvi district of Republic of Karelia. In Olonets region, starting from the year 2000 the researchers of KRC RAS are conducting a number of international projects (8 projects during the last 5 years), targeted at the development of agricultural territories, the scientifically reasoned use of natural resources, the preservation of the largest in Europe wild geese resting areas, the development of the ecological tourism.



- The annual ecological festival "Olonia – wild geese capital" in town Olonets (since 2000).

- The annual ecological festival "Ladoga seal" in town Sortavala (since 2003).



Financing of the projects and programs

Multi-channel financing is used for the projects and programs with the use of Russian, foreign and international sources:

- **Russian sources:**

Russian foundation for fundamental research, Russian humanitarian research foundation, Federal task program "Integration", various Ministries and Departments of Russian Federation and Republic of Karelia etc.

- **Foreign sources:**

The Academies of Sciences of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, The Ministry of Education of Japan, Swedish Royal Academies, Geological Survey of Norway etc, with the special role of Finland (Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Natural Conservation, Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Finnish Academia etc.)

- **International sources:**

The programs of: EU, the Council of Ministers of the Northern Countries, Barents Arctic Euro-region, Global Foundation for Wild Life Protection, European Research Foundation, Ford Foundation, Eurasia Foundation etc.

With the financial support from the EU programs (INTAS, INCO-Copernicus, TACIS, INTERREG, 6-th framework program) the researchers from KRC RAS has realized more than 40 joint programs during the last 5 years, which topics were related to the various questions of territorial planning, the development of SPT, the management of the natural and historical and cultural resources, the socio-economical development and entrepreneurship etc.

In 2006 in the framework of the new EU initiative - Neighborhood Programs - the researchers from KRC RAS in cooperation with the partners from Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Denmark and Russia started the implementation of project "HINTERLAND potentials for a spatial development under the aspects of decline", Neighborhood program "Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B. This project is aimed at the development of the potentials and efficient use of the potentials of the economically retarded hinterland territories with the purpose to stimulate their socio-economical development, their active integration into international economic relations, to find optimal lines of their development taking into account their natural, economic, social, cultural-historical characteristics. It is planned in the framework of the project to analyze contemporary socio-economical situation

and to develop strategic plans for the economically retarded territories, and to develop networks for international cooperation both at the levels of EU and Baltic Sea region. The aim and the tasks of the Project could be integrated with the system of strategic planning of the Republic - "The territorial scheme of the development of Republic Karelia to 2025", "Conception for the socio-economic development of Republic of Karelia for the period 1999-2002-2010" and "Strategy for socio-economic development of Republic of Karelia to 2020".

Three projects were approved at the meeting of the Steering committee of the project "Neighborhood in Euregio Karelia (on November 2, 2006). KRC RAS is one of the partners in these projects. Two projects obtained joint financing from INTERREG and TACIS: "The development of the regional marketing, strategic planning and entrepreneurship consulting for the cities Yoansuu and Petrozavodsk" (the partners are Corporation for economic development of Yoansuu region; The administration of Petrozavodsk, KRC RAS) and "The sources and development of epic poetry" (the partners are Uninkeko Foundation, The ministry for the culture and public relations of Republic of Karelia, The institute of linguistics, literature and history of KRC RAS). Both projects are targeted at development of socio-economic and cultural cooperation in the border zone territories ensuring their sustainable development. The third project is "The detection of the valuable ecological objects using high definition satellite photos - the development of method for the management of natural resources" (the partners are: the Center for environment of Northern Karelia, KRC RAS). The Project will be financed by INTERREG program "Neighborhood in Euregio Karelia".

Our acknowledgements to:

Ministry for Economic Development of Republic of Karelia: Dmitriy S. Kislov - deputy minister for Economic Development, Olga V. Palkina - senior expert of investment programmes and SME support department, Igor A. Titov - senior expert of international Crossborder cooperation and protocol department.

Economic Institute of Karelian Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences (KRC RAS): Yuriy V. Saveliev - head of territorial strategies and programmes department

Karelian regional agency for SME support: Alexander A. Senichev - head

Regional bureau of EU-Russia cooperation programme in Petrozavodsk: Alexandr V. Berdino - head

Technical assistance secretariat of Neighborhood Programme Euregio Karelia in Petrozavodsk: Alexandr G. Malakhovskiy

Administration of Petrozavodsk: Andrey S. Sukhorukov - head of department of strategic development and PR