

# Implementing the Interreg Baltic Sea Region transnational cooperation programme in Russia

The 2014-2020 Interreg Baltic Sea Region transnational cooperation programme in Russia is an instrument for the implementation of joint cross-border projects between regions of the Russian Federation, states of the European Union and Norway that promote balanced socioeconomic development in the Baltic Region. Implementation of the Programme will help foster ties between regions of Russia and EU countries, preserve common cultural values, support environmental safety, and develop infrastructure.

## **Reference**

The document has been submitted by the Ministry of Economic Development.

In accordance with Russian Government Directive No 1351-r of 29 June 2016, Russia's application to join the 2014-2020 Interreg Baltic Sea Region transnational cooperation programme (hereinafter referred to as the Programme) has been signed.

By signing the directive, the Russian Party approved the draft Agreement on financial contributions of the Russian Federation and the European Union in order to ensure the implementation of the 2014-2020 Interreg Baltic Sea Region transnational cooperation programme in Russia (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement and the Programme, respectively).

The Programme is an instrument for the implementation of joint cross-border projects between regions of the Russian Federation, states of the European Union and Norway that promote balanced socioeconomic development in the Baltic Region.

For the Russian regions that are part of the Northwestern Federal District, this format of interregional cooperation is an effective tool for addressing regional issues, as well as an additional source of funding for regional initiatives.

Implementation of the Programme will help foster ties between the regions of Russia and the EU countries, preserve common cultural values, support environmental safety, and develop infrastructure.

Funds in the amount of 4.4 million euros will be allocated from the federal budget to implement the Agreement after its ratification as Russia's contribution to the Programme (1.5 million euros in 2017, 1.5 million euros in 2018, 1.4 million euros in 2019). These funds are provided for in the federal budget for 2017 and for the planning period of 2018 and 2019.

The signing of the Agreement will ensure the participation of Russian organisations in this Programme.