#### Evolution of cross-border relations Latvia – Lithuania







2nd BRIDGE meeting 23.03.2022



























Evolution of cross-border relations: Latvia – Lithuania

How the relations between cross-border countries changed in the last few years, sharing of good practices

PEOPLE SERVICES TOURISM LEGISLATION TRADE BUSINESS

MUNICIPALITIES
PUCLIC COOPERATION
CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS

























**PEOPLE** SERVICES TOURISM







## Evolution of cross-border relations: Latvia - Lithuania

from the point of view of the average citizen / traveler

- more traveled directly to Lithuania and received services there, because travel to other countries was even more limited.

 relations improved, new interesting tourism objects appeared

## TOURISM

- Relations between Latvia and Lithuania have always been close and good, they have not changed in five years,

I always enjoyed traveling to Lithuania, because I felt like at home in this country, as well as I felt safe and comfortable here.

It was not possible to travel due to the pandemic, but it was the same in other countries.

Prior to the pandemic, residents of Daugavpils regularly bought different goods in Lithuania due to lower prices and other assortment, as well as visited SPA and active recreation facilities on weekends.

Urban and rural areas are tidy, tourist infrastructure is accessible and comfortable to visit, national dishes are delicious.

Lithuania has a very **convenient transport infrastructure**, before the pandemic we used it even when traveling within the country (Daugavpils - Liepāja), because there are high-speed highways and the quality of roads is better than in our country.

-people living on the Latvian-Lithuanian border are more and more often using the trade, entertainment, tourism, etc. services offered in the border municipalities of both countries. services, as the distance between some of all known, popular destinations is not very long and there is a free opportunity to visit them freely across the border.

-there have been **no special changes to be able to cross the border freely** and travel to the nearest tourist sites or to shop in the nearby shops, only **Covid's time introduced its adjustments** when it was no longer possible to cross the border freely (but it was for the short period of time). In addition, last summer, while traveling around **Latvia, I noticed an increase in the number of neighboring (Lithuanian and Estonian) tourists,** and at every tourist destination you could hear the language of the neighboring countries, which was definitely explained with restrictions to travel to other countries























LEGISLATION TRADE BUSINESS





## Evolution of cross-border relations: Latvia – Lithuania

from a legal point of view: procurement and other types of documents, from a business point of view

- Lithuanian companies have started in municipal procurement in Latvia, forming joint ventures with Latvian companies, for example, in the field of road and bridge construction. There were no problems.

- Lithuanian companies (including Estonian companies) start participating in public procurements organized by the municipality. Considering that the exclusion conditions provided for in the Latvian and Lithuanian Public Procurement Law and verification procedure are similar in Latvian and Lithuanian legislation, there are no problems when submitting documents issued by the competent Lithuanian authorities for verification of compliance with the exclusion conditions.

# **BUSINESS**

























# Cross-border Increase in Regional Cultural Heritage Tourism LLI – 326, CIRCUIT

# MUNICIPALITIES PUCLIC COOPERATION CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS

As a result of the project, two heritage objects will be improved, one tourist route developed and promoted. During the project Bastion 7 of the Daugavpils Fortress and entrance gate to the Fort 6 of the Kaunas Fortress will be restored. A new tourist route and loyalty program will be developed, virtual add-on using Google Maps, video, leaflets and maps for its promotion will be produced.







## Evolution of cross-border relations: Latvia – Lithuania

from the point of view of the cross-border project manager

-understanding of the conditions for implementing cross-border programs did not change much , especially for private and municipal institutions, nut municipalities have the most experience of course

**CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS** 

- Compared to other cross-border programs, it is easiest to work with Lithuanians. Only the LT Secretariat, which managed the BY program, is too bureaucratic, there is no good cooperation, there is still no common circulation of e-documents, documentation is sent in paper format by post.
- Unfortunately, this was **negatively affected by the Covid crisis**, when border crossings were restricted, but I think that now that restrictions are shrinking, **people will continue to use cross-border services and visit at least popular tourist destinations in both countries**, especially for cross-border projects, **where EU-funded tourism and public infrastructure have been improved** something new, yet to be visited and freely available to everyone on the border.





























**Daugavpils City** Municipality **LATVIA** 

23.03.2022





























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23.03.2022



























**Daugavpils City** Municipality LATVIA

23.03.2022



of the European Union

















Covid pandemic - Suspension of the Schengen Treaty - EU Digital Certificate Euroscepticism - Trust in the European Institutions

3. "In your opinion, the measures about the **EU Digital Certificate** (or green card/green pass) should have been the same in every Country or it was adequate to differentiate them from Country to Country?"





2nd BRIDGE meeting 25.03.2022



- Each country should decide about EU digital certificate individually
- Must be common EU opinion version of digital certificate, with minor variations for countries with different situation
- Opinions are very different, the same as attitude to vaccination
- European countries should have common position/ unique solution
- Idea of unique Digital certificate is very attractive, but situation in different countries are diverse, so adjustments are needed
- EU citizens should be treated equally so there should not be differences

Unique EU digital Certificate would be good thing, but is not possible without side effects

Maris Grunskis

Daugavpils City Municipality LATVIA

23.03.2022











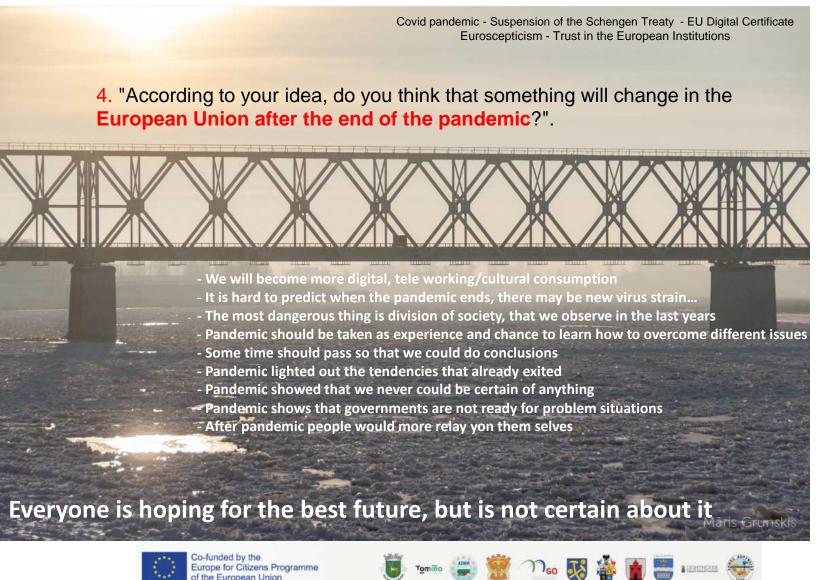
















**Daugavpils City** Municipality LATVIA

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