



REGIONAL
COUNCIL
OF SOUTH
KARELIA



ETELÄ-
KARJALAN
LIITTO

CROSS- BORDER PUBLIC SERVICES (CPS) IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF SOUTH KARELIA

16.11.2017

CROSS-BORDER PUBLIC SERVICES (CPS) IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF SOUTH KARELIA

/ South Karelia lies next to the Russian border in South East Finland.

/ 9 municipalities

/ 4 border-crossing points; International Imatra(road + railroad), Nuijamaa (road) , Vainikkala(railroad)

/ Parikkala is not International



CROSS- BORDER PUBLIC SERVICES (CPS) IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF SOUTH KARELIA

FOR THE CURRENT LOCATION AT THE GATEWAY TO THE EU AND RUSSIA

/ IMATRA

/ The twin cities network was founded by City Twins Co-operation Network project implemented by City of Imatra between 2004 and 2006. In 2006, the "City Twins Association" (CTA) was established. Through the project and the association's activities, the exchange of experiences between the two cities increased and the best practices of the double co-operation were shared.

/ In 2013 and 2014, the association carried out an EU funded youth exchange project, where young people get acquainted with life in different twin cities and reflect on the identity and development of their own area.

/ The newest projects of cross-border public services:

/ 1. Digital cross over, part 1

/ Making the traffic flow more flexible through the Imatra international border-crossing point on both sides of the border, Implementer: the city of Imatra

/ Border traffic application:

/ Free internet connection on both sides of the border
/ vehicle information directly from the authority (Trafi)

/ An estimate of waiting time in the border before starting off

/ Automatic statistics of the transit times through the border

/ Free channel of news with push messages

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/ Project time 1.8.2016- 28.2.2017

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- / IMATRA
- / 2.Digital cross over, part 2
- / *This project is a continuation of the project 1. This will continue the piloting and deployment of the system already developed in then phase 1.*
- / Based on the programming work performed for the project, the aim is:
- / To digitalise documentation related to passenger traffic crossing the border. Digital documentation will streamline the border crossing process, since the required documents will be in electronic format.
- / Also a digital platform will be created for regional entrepreneurs , who will then be able to offer their services to the customers arriving to Finland
- / Project time 1.4.2017- 1.5.2018
- / 3. Using digitalization and innovations in international business operations and goods traffic through the Imatra border-crossing point
- / The project aims :
- / at improving the development opportunities of freight and logistics operations and improving traffic flow through the Imatra international border-crossing point.
- / to develop new business models on both sides of the border based on new innovations and digitalization, and to make the development of these business models more interactive.
- / The project makes use of Imatra's international traffic connection (railway and road) between Russia and Finland, and tests the smoothness of the logistics chain of the Northern growth zone as a border-crossing route.
- / Testing the new railway traffic contract is the priority.
- / Project time 10.5.2017- 30.4.2019

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/ IMATRA

/ Older projects:

/ 4. City Twins Association

/ Co-operation Since the 1990s Imatra and Svetogorsk have implemented a number of joint EU projects. For example,

/ in the 1990s Svetogorsk's underground pipes and wires were repaired. Imatra's role was to provide expert assistance.

/ Camp school, boundary courses and student exchange

/ Businesses have likewise been tempted to take advantage of the opportunities brought by the border.

/ 5. Cross-border public projects between Imatra and Svetogorsk

/ Strengthening civil society and boosting cross-border co-operation was supported by "the Step Up - Cross Border City in Action" project.

/ In the spring of 2014, co-operation was developed in the fields of culture, education, sport and youth.

/ Cooperation in social services was developed through "the Empowerment of Families with Children" project.

/ The focus of the project was to support families with children on both sides of the border in a multicultural environment

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/ LAPPEENRANTA

/ 6. Cross-border public projects between Lappeenranta and Vyborg

- / Lappeenranta and Vyborg have established an annual cooperation agreement for 30 years. It promotes cooperation in business, culture, education, the environment and tourism.
- / For example, the agreement secures visa-free cruises on Saimaa.
- / However, the main objective is to encourage people to co-operation in a central way.
- / The agreement seeks to maximize cooperation between non-governmental organizations, such as cultural and sporting associations.

