



Lithuania-Poland-Russia ENPI
Cross-border Cooperation
Programme 2007-2013



Programme is co-financed
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Close stranger



KLAIPEDA
CULTURE
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ŁAŹNIA
CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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CAN CONTEMPORARY ART CONTRIBUTE TO UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NATIONS?

An experimental music festival “Sound Around”, exchange art exhibitions and public art events presenting educational programmes were demonstrated in three partner cities of Klaipėda, Gdańsk and Kaliningrad by the end of 2014. Most new artworks created during the exchange in 2013-2014 were presented on the great exhibition in Kaliningrad on 8th of April 2015. All events were supported with the European Union funds.

Over 22 000 people from the partner cities visited project events and acknowledged contemporary cultural and social life in the neighboring countries. Artistic meetings opened for the public helped to overcome mental and cultural barriers and prejudices between the nations. Usage of audiovisual art techniques helped to promote mutual trans-border understanding through comparison and communication. It enhanced the local assets of three territories such as cultural heritage and human potential. The exhibitions of local artists also raised tourist attractiveness of the regions by creating common interesting and inspiring trans-border area for cultural interchange.

Over a period of 2.5 years partners of the project involved over 80 contemporary art connoisseurs and specialists including painters, curators, musicians and writers from three partner cities. They visited neighboring countries, explored their current cultural and social realities, shared expertise with local colleagues and wider audiences and together created over 50 works of art based on the experience. Unique artistic products enhanced trilateral exchange within the cross-border of art institutions and individuals.

All publications, study trips, art residencies for visual and sound artists, conferences, workshops and other artistic events in Klaipėda, Gdańsk and Kaliningrad were organized within the framework of a major project “Close Stranger”. Creative activities planned and realized within the implementation period were associated with “bridge” in establishing international partnerships and cross-cultural communication. Project gathered three cooperating institutions involved in work with art professionals and local communities in the field of contemporary art – the Baltic Branch of the National Centre for Contemporary Arts from Kaliningrad, Russia, Centre for Contemporary Arts «Łaźnia» from Polish city Gdańsk and Klaipėda Culture

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Ministry of Economic Development
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The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

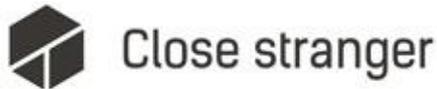
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Communication Centre from Lithuania. An online database closestranger.eu, with over 150 entries on contemporary art and written in 4 languages, was launched. The events were accompanied by the production of catalogues and a CD of the “Sound Around” festival.

Due to far-reaching and pertinent results the project was supported by the **Lithuania-Poland-Russia European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013**.

The Programme aims at promoting economic and social development on both sides of the border between EU countries (Lithuania and Poland) and Russia, addressing common challenges and problems, promoting people to people co-operation.

Within this European Programme 60 joint projects from Lithuanian, Polish and Russian border regions were implemented, representing different fields: infrastructure, environment protection, health, culture, tourism, sport, education, transport, etc. facing the needs of inhabitants of the Programme territory.

The total cost of the “Close Stranger” project is 873,620.59 Euro. The Programme’s contribution to the project equals to 768,786.12 Euro. The involved institutions provide co-financing in the amount of 104,834.47 Euro.

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