

Activity report 2015

The greatest
achievements, activities
and initiatives

12 YEARS
TOGETHER



Feel free to
check us on
Facebook



We are saving the nature together with the human!



Baltic Environment Forum, www.bef.lt, 2016

We are not looking for easy ways



Our work in the sector of agriculture promotes a broader attitude of cohabitation with the nature. It compounds not only production, saved animal species or water pollution but also human relations, their lifestyle, also both economical and social development of the region. We aim to assess as many of these strongly interrelated aspects as possible.

Year 2015 for the team of Baltic Environmental Forum lasted longer than 12 months. There were a lot of activities through the previous year: we finished several large projects, made plans and created ideas for the upcoming events, did much coping with ongoing projects. More and more we repeated to ourselves that we are not looking for the easy way, so all the decisions were made within hard work.

We are really glad that people are concerned in phthalates, volatile organic compounds, heavy metals and other hazardous substances in the environment and all this becomes an ordinary phenomenon in consumer society. We feel as we have contributed with it by promoting not the blind negation of hazardous substances but the interest of what we buy and consume. Moreover, we hope that this consciousness will gradually become a concern of our own bodies, also the negative impact of substances we use and the environment including all the forms of life within we live.



We believe that our work gave people a wider view to look at nature more than just as a resource. We are glad that working together with the farmers and consumers we are able to broaden our outlook and perceive the variety of different views.

I invite you to take a look at our activity report of year 2015 and if you want some additional information, just write us.

Director Žymantas Morkvėnas



WE ARE SAVING THE NATURE TOGETHER WITH THE HUMAN!

This kind a easy sounding idea prescribes our direction of the activity. Working in our own way we are looking for friendly decisions for both human, and nature. A prohibition mostly separates something, therefore we are trying to harmonise the human needs in terms of sustainable usage.



Attention for connection
of nature and human

A personal experience in the nature is the best way to understand the benefits and a need of nature, also to find an answer 'why do we need to protect the nature?'



We are **open**

During this year

300

articles in media

10

shows on TV and radio

7

volunteers

2

interns

Detailed annual activity
report

Join us

Suggest an idea



AQUATIC WARBLER CONSERVATION



Aquatic warbler in the pages of "National Geographic Lithuania"

In 2015 we have finished implementing a project dedicated to the protection of the Aquatic warbler. During the project we have restored about 1200 ha of abandoned habitats for the Aquatic warbler, searched for ways to communicate to farmer the need to protect the bird and carried out various public awareness raising actions. Within these "classical" environmental actions, one was very important: the creation of a special agri-environmental scheme for the protection of the Aquatic warbler.

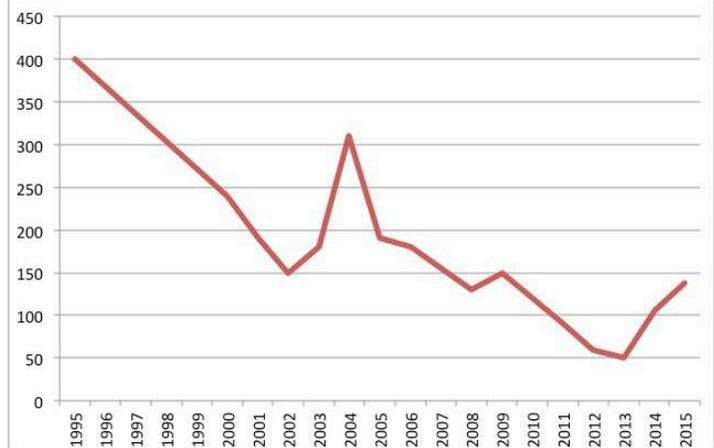
Special agri-environmental schemes created for the conservation of Aquatic warbler



When implementing this scheme of Lithuanian Rural Development Program, farmers receive payments for activities that protect Aquatic warbler. Since farming in the wetland habitats of the Aquatic warbler is complicated, payments, which compensate the losses, experienced due to specific restrictions, are a very important incentive. It provides the opportunity to ensure the good status of habitats and environmental initiatives after the completion of the project. More about project results you can read in project webpage www.meldine.lt. There you can also find a documentary about Aquatic warbler and people that take care of this unique bird.

At the beginning of May you can start hearing the song that starts with the deep excitement in our stomach. That's how we hear it. We are happy, that for the first time in Aquatic warbler's research history we recorded the increase in Lithuanian population of the rarest European songbird. Even though the increase was not that huge, this tendency gives hope and optimism.

Dynamics of Aquatic warbler population in Lithuania



The biggest Aquatic warbler could be found in Tulkiarage nature path



Tourists who come to Tulkiarage by ship are welcomed by the best friend of Aquatic warbler - a farmer



SERVATION



Wilderness trail in Tyrai will enchant you by revealing the life that thrives here

In the final year of this project implementation (2015) we were moving the diminishing reed grasses and we opened a wonderful educational trail near Šilutė in Tulkiaragė polder. Here, not only a story about the oldest Nemunas delta polder is told, but also the importance of a landowner in keeping the meadow ecosystem alive is shown. We invited the visitors to the other nature trail in Kliošiai landscape reserve, which was modest but involved many adventures in the nature. The work in the office was active and dynamic. We were releasing new publications, reports and we were aiding in administering the mentioned agri-environmental scheme.



In the Tyrai wilderness trail you can witness 3 different ecosystems

Come and visit

Dreamers' bench in Tulkiaragė invites you to sit down for a romantic look-around



A moment from the final international aquatic warbler seminar



In 2015 quite a lot of time was spent in the wetlands preparing the application for the for the new aquatic warbler project. It will be the next period, during which we will aim to restore even larger aquatic warbler habitat areas by forming a network of habitats suitable for this song-bird. This is particularly important in order to ensure the survival of this bird in the long-term. The new project should begin in 2016 and you will found information about in this webpage www.meldine.lt.

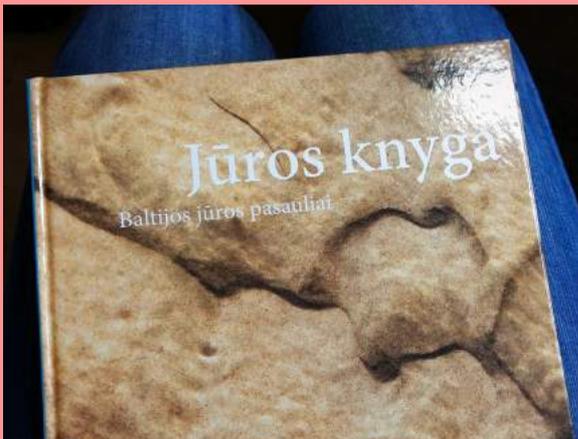


www.meldine.lt

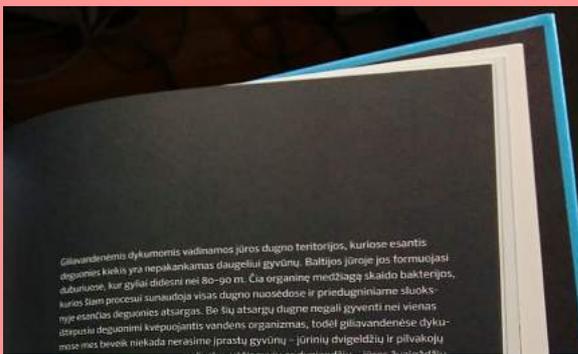
Project's team members of our organization



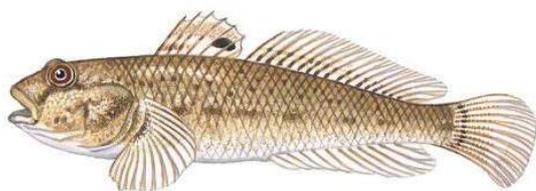
SEA CONSERVATION IN LITHUANIA



New book

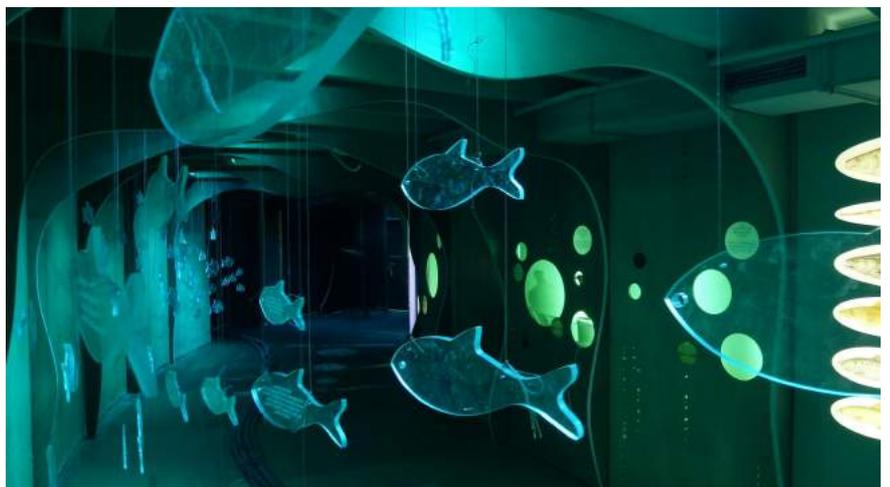


Ask for it



In 2015 a project "Inventory of marine species and habitats for development of Natura 2000 network in the offshore waters of Lithuania" ended. During the project inventories of marine species, habitats in the offshore waters and marine birds of the Lithuanian exclusive economic zone in the Baltic Sea were conducted. The research created preconditions to establish two new protected areas in Sambian and Klaipėda-Venspils plateaus. In these territories you can find valuable reefs habitation, where a large variety of species thrives and great amount of fish spawns and feeds. At winter, above these territories thousands of wintering sea ducks (for example: velvet scoter or tailed ducks) are met.

Our organization was responsible for the communication activities of this project. We are happy to introduce a book, which is filled with great amount of original illustrations by Saulius Karalius and interesting stories about species you can meet in Baltic Sea. Although the edition of the book "The Book of the Sea. The realms of the Baltic Sea" is limited, you can still purchase it in our office or get it



During the project implementation special exhibition presenting Baltic Sea in Lithuanian sea museum was installed. Though lately museum is temporally closed for the reconstruction, the exhibition is open for visitors - administration of the museum organizes exhibition tour with the guide.

ANIA - DENOFLIT

GET TO KNOW

Baltic Sea, it's unique life and ckeck out it's 5 worlds.

Did you know that there are reefs in the Baltic Sea?

Did you know that whales lives in the Baltic Sea?

Project's team members of our organization

The word "Baltija" reliably protects our very precious personal things: from the memories of our childhood, having fun in the waves and building sand castles, to the "Baltic way" - our symbol of freedom and unity.





CREATION OF MECHANISMS TO SECURE

“Surrounded in between of water”

Guests of the festival were greeted and blessed with ashberries by locals. Locals, who have been known as "lietuvinkai" in the past also warmed festival guests with home-made coffee called "kafija".



In 2015 in Nemunas river delta we started another initiative, which is dedicated to ensure the protection of wetland and wet meadows species and habitats.

One of the most famous Lithuanian nature photographers Marius Čepulis shared his birdwatching and nature photography experience and tricks.



We engaged local people to habitat restoration and maintenance. The engagement involved not only direct conservation activities like cutting of bushes, reed removal or mowing of grass, but not directly related fields like folk art, traditional food preparation, tourism services.

Children had a chance to have some fun while imitating birds' flight, to pass "swamp-men" and "vegetable-men" quests.



Our efforts were reflected in our organized nature festival "Surrounded in between of water". Local people took a part in the festival organization from the very beginning.



Craftsmen workshop was held.



Birdwatching and gain of knowledge of ornithology in general, like listening to globally threatened Aquatic warbler male singing was a highlight of the festival, which determined that so many people visited the festival.

Tourism operators offered special offers for a longer stay in Nemunas river delta.

More pictures form the event



RE GOOD QUALITY OF OPEN HABITATS



Local farmers market was a chance for local people to sell their production and to market/promote their products



This festival was an inspiration for locals, how to get some profit from exclusive nature value - birds - for the tourist attraction (profit raise).



In 2015 high power flotation agricultural machinery was purchased, which lead to that a lot of important grasslands for birds was mowed. Mowing work will be continued in the upcoming year. Later on the machinery will serve for the small farms in the late period, by helping them with mowing in flooded meadows and transporting grass biomass.



Ecotourism experts Staffan Widstrand from Sweden and Bjorn Frantzen from Norway shared their experience with local tourism operators and attended the festival.

Project's team members of our organization



EEE PARAMA LIETUVAI:
partnerystė vertybėms
kurti ir išsaugoti





IMPROVE PRECONDITIONS FOR ECO-TOURISM IN LITHUANIA

Project team is planning a trail route



The testing of the trail with nature enthusiasts



The testing of trail with ecotourism and marketing experts



The testing of the product with families in the new site



Encouraging to bring people closer to nature, giving them a chance to discover answers to their questions, which substantiate nature conservation, this year we spent a lot of time for the development of eco-tourism. We pursued to form a nature experience service, with the highlight of professional interpretation of nature - a service which would engage the use of local products market and create economical value for local society. And at the same time it would be entertaining and interactive. The development of such a service, detailed documentation and sharing of lessons learnt could be an inspiration for this kind of tourism in Lithuania. After the discussion with our friends from environmental NGO "Baltijos vilkas" we decided to concentrate on animals trace recognition tourism service.



The development of the service took us much longer than we thought. We had to plan the stories, that we will be telling on the way, not only to plan the route of the trail, but also to test it several times. The participants of the hike, ecotourism experts from Estonia and Sweden and marketing expert, that went together on the trail gave us some significant remarks and tips. Later on we documented our experience in details.

The most exciting moment of the project is that we achieved the goal that we were hoping for before the project - we were contacted by some nature outdoors enthusiasts, who are willing to develop and to introduce some ecotourism services in Lithuania. We are already making future plans how to attract and engage people to discover treasures of our nature!

ECOTOURISM

Our beloved description

is eating the cake while it is not decreasing

Our publication
"The cost of
spending time in
nature" received
much attention
Take a look

Have a look
at the detailed wild
animal footprint
tracking product
development
description



Project's team members of our organization

It was an exciting and unique experience to get up at 4 am in the morning and walk through deep snow to an island in the swamp, where we had to meet up and prepare for the testing of the footprint tracking product.



norden

Nordic Council of Ministers



The year of 2015 can be described as the end stage of the preparation period, which made a good background to move forward.

Study tours to Alpine region, project territories in Latvia and Estonia were happening this year.

Study tour to Alpine region



We explored the modern technologies of processing biomass, learned the good experience of public and private sectors collaboration, when the better conditions for the local farmers were made to grazing animals in the nature value grasslands.



Study tour in Latvia and Estonia

While visiting the project areas, the team got better understanding of the project specific topics.

It was held international seminar of saving the nature value grasslands in May, the experts of agriculture from the Netherlands, Ireland, United Kingdom, Portugal, Check Republic and Baltic states were sharing the experience and good practice in their countries.

International Seminar



It was already decided on the structure of the integrated planning tool that helps to provide the most suitable measures for the grassland management. In order to forecast the long-term grassland management measures, the value (or possible ecosystem services) of the specific meadow should be known. Also the effect of the exact measure might be different in the specific area. Integrated planning tool will show the concrete ecosystem services in the specific area, will count the value of them and will model the possible effect of the measure, when socio-economics or agriculture technological parameters are changing.

Integrated planning tool





In project territories we had plenty of activities. We can be happy about the first results that exceeded the expectations. Farmers are actively engaged in project activities.

The grassland restoration has already begun in the Sovites farm, the stumps were removed and the grassland is prepared for the seeding of natural meadow. What is more – the business plan of ensuring the conventional farming development is under preparation.

Works in Sovites farm



The naturally vegetated bushes were cut in Ribiškiiai Landscape Park. The beautiful view of hills was opened and newly installed hiking trails were full of visitors.

Visitors in Ribiskes



Cesis municipality is going to adjust the nature value grasslands for the public needs. It was made a plan how to root out the dangerous plans Sosnovski Borsch.

Access to water for cattle



The water access for the animals was created in the Kurese farm. This preparation will let to keep the bigger animal herd in all project area that was not suitable for the farming before. The farm has 170 ha land and it's full of natural values, such as specific plans meadows or rare plants habitat, and also culture heritage objects. The farm is allocated in the old abandoned village that still has the traditional streets for the shepherding. In the Soviet time the native residents oppose to the collective farming and finally they were forced to move out from the village. There are 2 castle hills, 2 burial mounds, traditional village and holy source. There are aplenty legends and mysterious stories about the spirits, bears, wolfs and humans that used to live here...

Project's team members of our organization

All this shows us clear direction. While trying to involve more people to protection of valuable grasslands and landscapes, we should try to make general society aware of benefits of ecosystem services.



HUNGRY FOR RIGHT

Slow down! Slowness might be the most effective way to save the world, the opportunity to understand yourself and live in peace and harmony, consume not more than the Earth can give you. This is the idea of one of the most famous XX century sustainable development theoretic Doniella Meadow. She says that if we order the mess that we created it would be more beneficial for the environment.

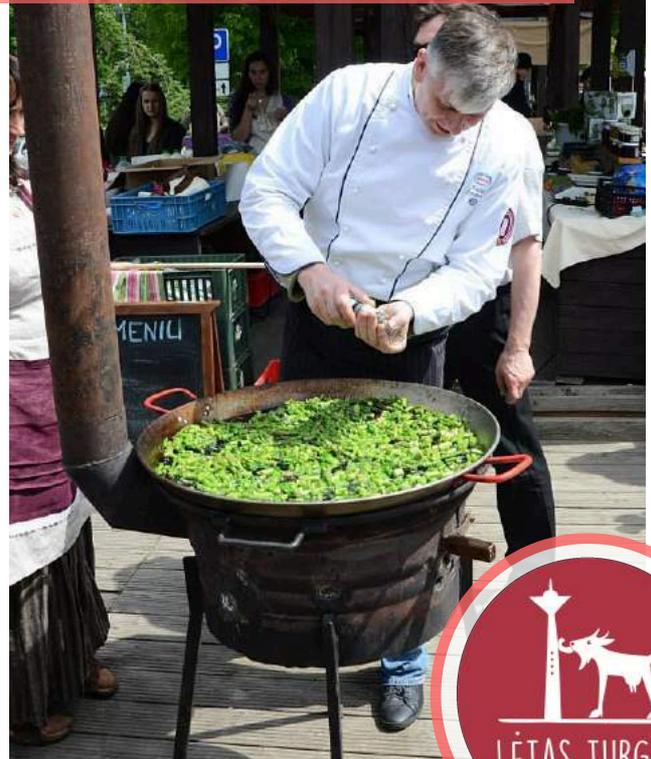
Keeping the conception of slowness in cooperation to association "Viva Sal" and "Tymas market" we have crated the "Slow market" in Vilnius.

The farmer will tell you more than the label

"Slow market" is the space for the citizen where he can feel more than the typical customer. The interactive thematic events stimulating solidarity between urban and rural cultures, were held in the "Slow market": farmers invited to try the difference between homemade and shopping center production, cooked the biggest omelet with asparagus, made a cheese and bread degustation, educated about the local herbs and while cooking or even in the cosmetics.



Cooking in "Slow market"



Farmers selling food in "Slow market"



Resolution

- Lithuanian village must be alive and creative;
- Cooperation should be promoted by introducing tax exemption and providing conditions for small scale farmers to produce products of added value or cooperate in food supplying for educational, health or social care institutions;
- Fair tax system should be applied, which would ensure a proper remuneration not only for the products of the small scale farmers, but also considering their input to retaining the shared values, creation of new workplaces and social cohesion; prepare criteria for selecting such farms;
- The activities of village communities should be directed to promote solidarity between cities and rural areas, creating possibilities for a city person to get involved and acquainted with a farmers live, farming activities and the environment, where the production comes from;
- The process of getting access to land for newly settled farmers should be simplified;
- Innovations in less favourable land should be promoted.

Forum for sustainable food

The project team, with the help of European Parliament member Bronis Ropė bureau, organized an international "Forum for sustainable food". The forum discussed the possibilities for locals farmers to provide the public catering system with more fresh and healthier products.

A resolution was signed and passed on to the European Parliament for the further elaboration. The resolution provides political directions how to solve the questions of small scale farmers and direct food selling to consumers.



Project's team members of our organization





ENVIEVAL

DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION
EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
EU

The common agricultural policy determines the use of one of the largest EU budget parts. During the implementation of this policy in the period of 2007-2013 over 96 eur. billion were spent for agricultural support, social and economic cohesion, as well as fostering environmental issues in agricultural sector.



The main instrument providing environmental measures - a rural development program and agri-environment measures which the program provides. The protection of biodiversity in Lithuania is mainly funded by implementing the measures of this program. Although considerable funds are allocated for this area, environmental impact and performance assessment remains a big challenge.

During the implementation of the project, together with the relevant European scientists and experts the recommendations for better assessment of the impact of rural development programs in the environment protection area were elaborated.



EVALUATION OF NEW METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORKS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN THE



The tests of new potential indicators

The project team has developed new indicators and evaluation process for impact assesment of agri-environment measures for biodiversity and high nature value areas. In order to assess their suitability and potential our organisation has carried out research in 2015. Three new evaluation indicators were tested – lenght of ecotone, corncrake abundance in areas and white storks breeding success. We found out that the lenght of ecotone and corncrake abundance could be suitable indicators helping to estimate the impact of agri-environmental measures. It would be appropriate to apply the following indicators also in an official evaluation process of these measures and the necessary data could be obtained in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment (eg., by improving the current biodiversity monitoring program).



The research of white stork breeding success are very interesting and having great potential. The possibility to invoke the farmers and the broad public for collection of necessary data is very welcomed as everyone knows this bird and can provide information about the condition of th socket located in the neighborhood. However, from a scientific perspective, this type of analysis could be promising, but still quite difficult.

Project's team members of our organization





CAMPAIGN „THINK BEFORE YOU BUY“



In autumn of 2015 the final event of widely recognised campaign “Think before you buy” took part. During more than 4 years, and especially during the last, we have established partnerships and contacts, got acquainted with a variety of people interested in what and how they use. It might be that due to this campaign Lithuanians became most concerned nation in Europe regarding the daily products used and the chemical effects for their health (as revealed in Eurobarometer survey of 2014).



EVENTS



More than 40 seminars for mothers and representatives of the various communities have been organised. Altogether, during the campaign we have directly communicated with 2500 people!



We continued partnership with LITEXPO and for the second year we have been the main content partners in the exhibition "Ekologika". We have organised many educational events also with the support of Vilnius Municipality. We also took part in Klaipėda in a similar event.



In Naisiai summer festival the final campaigning event took part.



The game “Ecolabel labyrinth” (created last year) was very popular in all our events and willingly played by children as well as by adults.



We had 8 major press releases that resulted in considerable media attention - 70 appearance in the media. 6 of them were in the national television and 2 in the national radio.

We were also engaged in consulting the consumers through the section "Ask an expert". More than 20 individual consultations were provided.

In Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda the campaign video materials were broadcast on ACM public screens.

In the streets of Lithuanian cities people were able to see the teddy-bear, bowl and eye-mascara (campaign posters)

Info-cards were also released to help choose safer products.

Even after the campaign ended project team continued to inform consumers about hazardous chemicals. Pagalvok.lt (think before you buy) and its' Facebook page were periodically renewed.

Two succeeding projects will ensure the continuity of our work: „Fit for REACH" (business oriented) and „Non Haz City" (municipality and consumer oriented).



[Download](#)

FOCUS ON HAIRDRESSERS

In 2015 we were more focusing on hairdressers.

We organised a seminar for hairdressers that are interested in environmentally and human health friendly products in Riga. A german hairdresser was sharing her experience and teaching about ecological hair dyes and dying.



We were also encouraging hairdressers and beauty salons to voluntarily pledge to use cosmetics containing less hazardous ingredients. Although there were quite a few interested, only two beauty salons from Vilnius committed.



A lot of communication





CAMP AIGN „THINK BEFORE YOU BUY“

RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTS



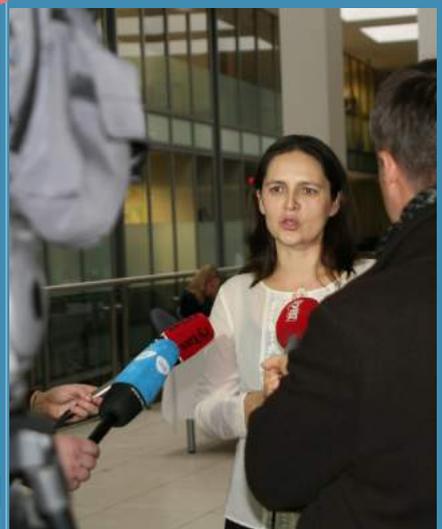
Relevant
topic?
Get involved!



We conducted additional testing of toys and women's hygiene pads. You can find the results in the overall report



A partnership was formed with Lithuanian magazine "Mother". Together with its' readers we conducted 3 experiments and offered advice about choosing alternative articles in more than 10 press releases prepared together with the magazines' editors.



In the press conference we announced the results from indoor space air testing in Latvia. The conference was organised with the help of the Vilnius City municipality.

The team of this project in our organisation

Volunteers



This year a need for informational events in smaller Lithuanian cities heightened. The initiative showed by the municipalities for cooperation increased as well as the ingenuity of schoolchildren and their teachers in presenting chemical topics...





PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT EVERYDAY!–„EKOLOGIKA“

8

seminars and public lectures

about the hazardous chemicals in domestic environment and how to avoid them

450

school-children

attended 2 lessons about the article life cycle and discussed how to make an article that would never turn in to waste

Deliverables

About the hazardous chemical substances present in cosmetics, domestic chemicals that should be avoided

Press conference

about the hazardous substances in the indoor air received great media interest

14

Interactive games

„Ecolabel labyrinth“ and „Garbage-non-garbage“, during which the attendees were thought to learn ecolabels and proper recycling



We organised a **creative contest** for Vilnius kindergartens: „Make furniture for the snail "Ekologika"., that was attended by

63

groups from 22 kindergartens



The aim of this project implemented in 2015 was to reduce the amounts of hazardous substances in the air, waste and waste-water in Vilnius by encouraging responsible consumption and introducing residents of Vilnius to the concept of product life-cycle.





Chemicals and industrial pollution

PREPARATION OF UPDATED NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS



To assure that Lithuania fulfils international obligations assumed upon ratification of the Stockholm Convention and properly implements Regulation (EC) No.850/2004, it should update the national implementation plan with regard to decisions adopted by the Convention Parties (COP) in 2009, 2011, and 2013. Project results:

Carried out national inventory of 11 new POPs;

Revised initial POPs substances, in products and articles for the recycling of products and product waste management and recycling rates;

Prepared project of updated National Implementation plan;

Prepared project of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) management program for 2016-2025 and its implementation actions plan.

We conducted toy chemical safety assessment (both in Lithuanian and English) for private customer in accordance with the requirements of European Parliament and Council toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC.



Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

Site management recommendations for European ecological network Natura 2000 territories

State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment implements project funded by Norway and EEA support for Lithuania program. Project aim is by the end of 2016 Spring to prepare individual management recommendations for formerly managed European ecological network Natura 2000 territories. Recommendations will be developed for 50 areas, providing cost-effective and efficient site management mechanism to ensure the natural and economic interests of consistency.

In 2015 already prepared most of recommendations, there were several site visits, meetings with local communities. In 2016 all recommendations will be finished.



NORVEGIJOS PARAMA LIETUVAI:
partnerystė vertybėms
kurti ir išsaugoti

Experts training for protected areas ecologist

We provided seminars moderation services for external customers and have several presentations on environmental topics.

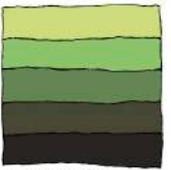


Other initiatives



FESTIVAL
„In the middle of woods“

GAMTOJE.ORG



gamtoje.org

Voluntary initiative Gamtoje.org this year picked up momentum. Mainly due to business and public support.

For the second time, we invited all nature lovers to festival in Dzūkija region „In the middle of woods“. The main point of the festival, the same as last year, was crane counting at the dawn. Additionally, this year in the festival preparation were involved local inhabitants that offered more variety of interesting programs, like acquaintance with the lifestyle of people from the region of pinewoods. On the main day of the festival we invited visitors to participate in program „Recognition the footprints of the animals“, other visitors could look around farmers' and handicraft market, go to secret place called Bear butt for Rabbit cake.

In order to cover the cost of festival organization, we introduced symbolic festival fee (10 eur), also visitors were asked to support local community by purchasing their prepared food bunch. Gathered funds did not covered full festival cost, but significantly reduced financial load and supplemented local people 's budget.



Specially for the festival we created a movie „What you need to know when you plan overnight in the wild during the cold season“.

Festival was organized in cooperation with



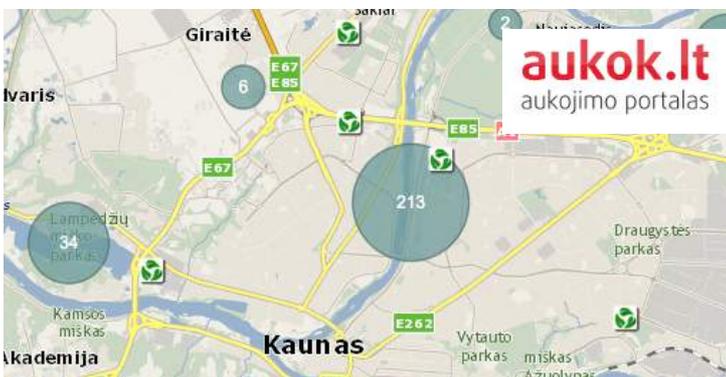
Nature's treasure trails

This year, with the help of TEO, protractedly incubated and evolved trails of nature's treasure were introduced publicly. Unique trails at the end of the summer were created in Plokštinė forest (Žemaitija National Park) and Verkiiai Palace Park (Verkiiai National Park). As soon as the trails were opened, they earned sympathy of visitors and the ones willing to reveal the mysteries of nature had to wait in lines! Seeing the need for engaging outdoor recreation forms, we are planning to create more similar trails if energy and resources will be sufficient.

You can contribute



Bulky waste collection points at Maps.lt



Bulky waste collection points at Maps.lt

In cooperation with Maps.lt and initiative "We recycle" at the end of the year we supplemented the map "Report Natural Mistreatments" with bulky waste collection point tags. This project was supported by general public in websites Aukok.lt and Gamtoje.org. Easier access to information about specific waste collection points marks the beginning of fulfilling our aspiration to solve the problem of illegal waste dumps.

The most joyful thing was to gain the recognition from samogitians. The stubborn fellow country-men, who at first looked at the nature treasure hunt idea carefully, finally recognized that this was valuable and successful nature experience.

Project's team members of our organization



Volunteers

Other initiatives

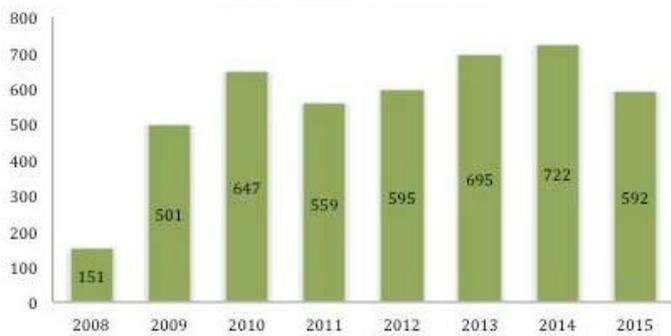


GAMTOJE.ORG



“Report Natural Mistreatments”

Reports



In 2015, after the records hit in 2014, the number of reports dropped down properly. We sincerely hope that this is due to decreasing number of problems and increasing consciousness about nature.

Problems by the status



We want to celebrate the activity of society while supporting initiative in contribution website Aukok.lt, especially during the campaign held

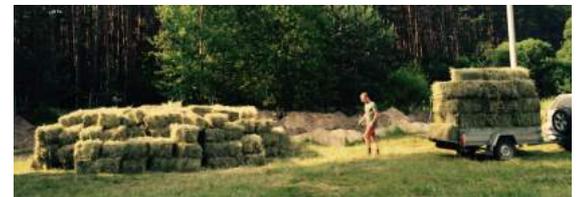


Dvarčioniai meadow is open to everyone. We invite you to visit and get to know it's beauty.

Dvarčionys meadow Where the Lithuanian orchids blossom



It is the 7th year we are handling Dvarčioniai meadow, which has become a symbol of our organization. Through all these years we managed to recreate and set free from bushes the best part of this 4 ha area. The perfect conditions were created for Lithuanian orchids, simple gladiolus, corncrakes, foxes and roe-deers. This is one of the most valuable corners of nature in Vilnius.



In pursuance to sustain these natural valuables, the meadow has to be mowed every year. The mowed grass and hay has to be exported. To find a farmer in capital, as showed the experience of year 2014, is pretty difficult. We are happy to have found a farmer, who is working with us for 2 years now. He is mowing the meadow and raking the hay. We are also thankful to stud "Raudonivakarai", that takes the formed biomass and use it for their needs.



Christmas Eve hay

This year we offered a possibility to bring a piece of Dvarčioniai meadow home. We made hay bundles to uphold the traditions of Christmas Eve. These crisp regards went to people, who contributed to sustaining the meadow with their donations. We hope, that the hay stalks will bring you the best year!

We are pleased to see, that the hard work in the Dvarčioniai meadow is obvious every time we visit. This year I watched a bunch of fox cubs romping in the grass!



What does "rejected" mean?

The initiative "Report Natural Mistreatments" is taking care of environmental problems, but not the strategic ones. We do not solve social, administrative, legal and other similar problems. The report also can be rejected because of these reasons:

- 1) The contact information is not specified or the information is possibly false.
- 2) When asked additionally, you didn't share the evidence of the problem (photos).
- 3) The problem was not confirmed or it was not an environmental problem.
- 4) The problem is relatively small (for example, three bottles are thrown out) and to waste state resources asking to solve the problem would not be logical.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

We trace the environmental impact of our work from the year 2011. Here it is expressed in the amount (in tones) of the green house gasses (CO2) and the waste produced.

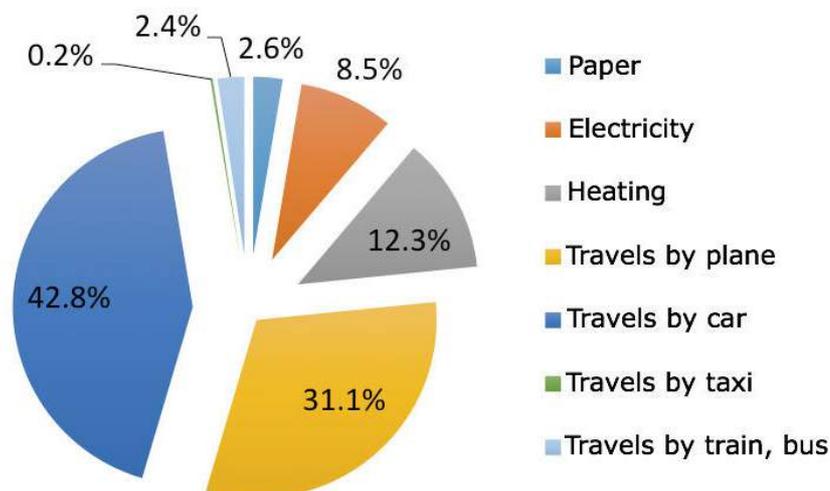
Why do we count it and why it matters?

Our work and the environmental impact that follows highly depends on the project activities being implemented at the particular year. Sure we can compare the results between the years but the comparison is conditional. The more important for us is an emphasis on symbolic and psychological action that reminds our responsibility for nature, encourages to think about the impact made and means to reduce it.

- Impact declined in 1/3 in comparison to 2014
- Smallest amount of CO2 produced in 5 years!
- CO2 footprint per employee decreased by 39 %.

The decrease of the environmental impact can be linked to activities in 2015 that demanded less energy and fuel consumption. Comparing to 2014, we organized less large scale international events and visits with the biggest team in the last 5 years – in 2015 our team consisted of 17 employees.

Constitution of CO2 footprint



Our CO2 footprint
in 2015

25

tones

=

Is an amount of CO2 that
could be sequestered by
typical Lithuanian forest as
big as

5

shopping centers
"Akropolis"
(around 43 ha)



CT

The biggest part of the CO₂, as well as on the previous year, was generated by transportation, mostly – travels by cars.

Cheers to our team, that chose travelling by bus twice as often as in 2014! It might not be significant in terms of amount, but it counts.

Travels by plane are still our second favourite mean of transportation, but the CO₂ amount generated this year is less by 46 % in comparison to 2014. This is linked to smaller number of travels as well as shorter traveling distances.

Consumption of electricity has been stable the last 3 years and water is consumed only for personal hygiene, which makes no more than 6-7 m³ for an employee per year.

Whereas the office is heated by autonomous gas heating and the yearly median temperature in 2015 was higher than in 2014, less energy is consumed for heating. Moreover, the energy consumption was lower also because of walls insulation works on the second floor of the office.

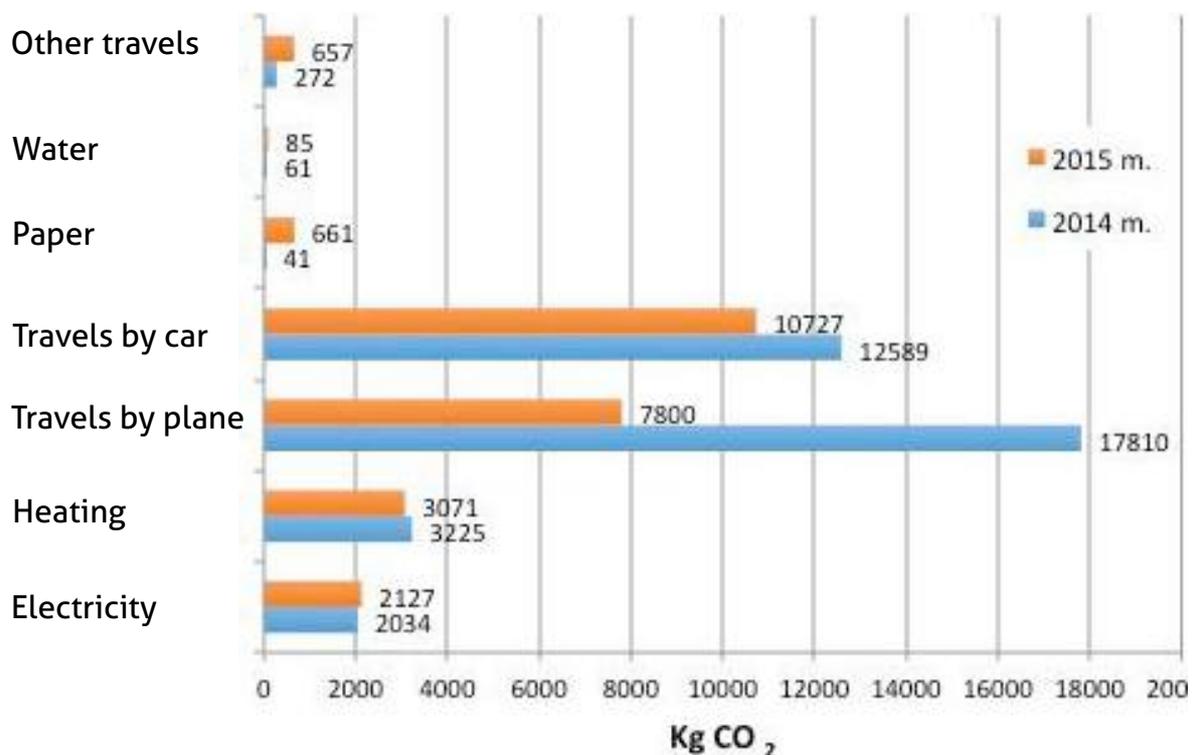
Emissions of CO₂ for 100 km of route for 1 passenger by mean of transportation. Source: emissions calculator, www.maps.lt/co2



How about the waste?

Last year we promised to reduce our waste production by a half. The truth is that we are not sure if we managed to do it, because our monthly waste generation tracking papers were gone by an unclear circumstances. They might have found a good hiding place or simply tryig our observational skills. If miracle happens and we will find the papers, numbers will be added to the next report.

Resources consumed in 2014-2015 (in equivalent of CO₂)



Projects implemented in 2015



Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

Project period	Total Budget	Funding	Project name	Project partners	Project website
2010-2015	2 191 685 EUR	EU LIFE+ programme, Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Latvia and project partners	Securing Sustainable Farming to Ensure Conservation of Globally Threatened Bird Species in Agrarian Landscape (Baltic Aquatic Warbler)	BEF Lithuania (Project coordinator), Kretinga State Forest Enterprise, JSC Goldengrass, Latvian Fund for Nature, Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve Directorate	www.meldine.lt
2010-2015	1 569 699 EUR	EU LIFE+ programme, Republic of Lithuania and project partners	Inventory of Marine Species and Habitats for Development of Natura 2000 Network in the Offshore Waters of Lithuania (DENOFLIT)	Coastal Research and Planning Institute, Klaipeda University (Project coordinator), Institute of Ecology of the Nature Research Centre, Fisheries Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, State Service for Protected Areas, Lithuanian Sea Museum, Baltic environmental forum Lithuania	www.corpi.ku.lt/denoflit

Agriculture and Rural Development

Project period	Total Budget	Funding	Project name	Project partners	Project website
2013-2016	1 217 558 EUR	EU programme "EuropeAid" and project partners	Global Learning from Local Solutions in Alternative Food Systems (Hungry for Rights)	Cooperazione Rurale in Africa e America Latina (ACRA) (Project coordinator), Mani Tese (MT), Fondazione Legambiente Innovazione (FLI), International Network of Community Supported Agriculture (Urgenci), Friends of the Earth – Cyprus, Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF), Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania	---
2014-2018	2 751 426 EUR	EU LIFE+ programme, Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Estonia and project partners	Integrated planning tool to ensure viability of grasslands (LIFE Viva Grass)	Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania (Coordinating Beneficiary), Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia, University of Latvia, Municipality of Cesis, SOVITES Farm, Otrās Majas, Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Municipality of Lumanda, Farm Kurese, Pavilniai and Verkiai Regional Park, Dubysa Regional Park, Silute District Municipality, JSC Hnit-Baltic, Institute for Environmental Solutions	http://vivagrass.eu



Chemicals and Industrial Pollution,

Co

Project period	Total Budget	Funding	Project name	Project partners	Project website
2011-2015	1 682 396 EUR	EU LIFE+ programme, Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Latvia and project partners	Baltic Info Campaign on Hazardous Substances (BaltInfoHaz)	Baltic environmental forum Estonia (Project coordinator), Baltic environmental forum Latvia, Baltic environmental forum Lithuania, Women in Europe for Common Future, Tallinn University Liepaja University, K-Rauta retail shops in Estonia and Latvia, VFS Films	www.thinkbefore.eu
2015	14 491 EUR	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania	Preparation of updated national implementation plan on persistent organic pollutants	Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania (Project coordinator)	www.bef.lt/index.php?id=135
2015	1 551 eur	Vilnius City Municipality	Environmental education: protect the environment daily - Ekologika	Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania	http://www.bef.lt/index.php?id=134

Project period	Total Budget	Funding	Project name	Project partners	Project website
2014-2016	322 352 EUR	European Economic Area (EEA) Grants and the project partners.	Creation of mechanisms to secure good quality of open habitats in Nemunas delta regional park	BEF Lithuania (Project coordinator), Nemunas delta regional park, "Bioforsk"	http://bef.lt/index.php?id=117
2014-2015	6 569 EUR	Project is partly financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers and project partner.	Improve preconditions for eco-tourism in Lithuania	BEF Lithuania (Project coordinator), Estonian ecotourism association, Swedish ecotourism society	http://bef.lt/index.php?id=116
2014-2016	174 629 EUR	Customer: State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment	Preparation of recommendations for European ecological network "Natura 2000" site management	BEF Lithuania (Project coordinator), Nature research center, Law office Domas Balandis	http://www.bef.lt/index.php?id=130

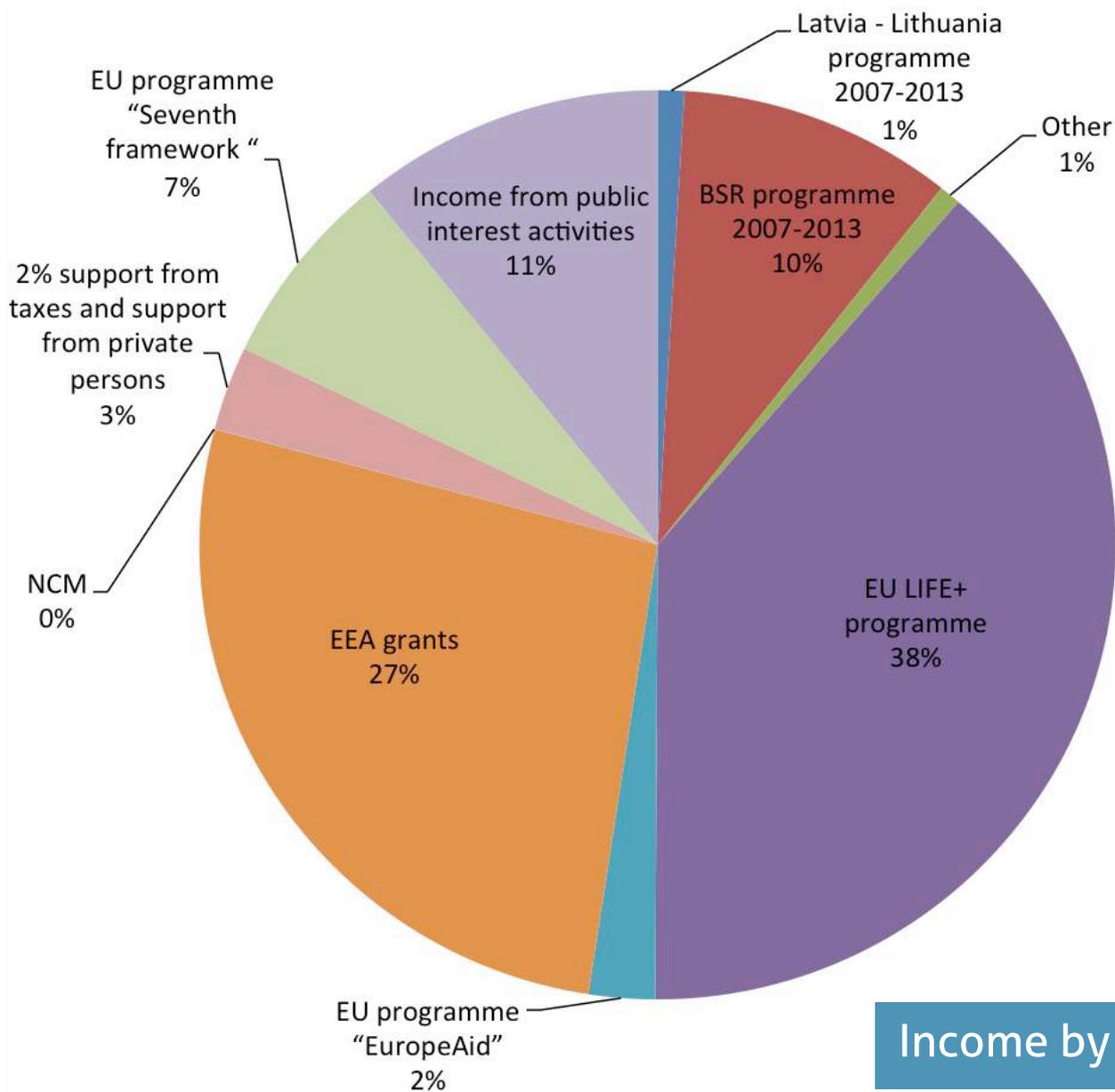
Project period	Total Budget	Funding	Project name	Project partners	Project website
2013-2015	1 738 444 EUR	FP7 Specific Programme "Cooperation" - Research Theme: Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology	Development and application of new methodological frameworks for the evaluation of environmental impacts of rural development programmes in the EU (ENVIEVAL)	JOHANN HEINRICH VON THUENEN-INSTITUT, BUNDESFORSCHUNGSINSTITUT FUER LANDLICHE RAUME, WALD UND FISCHEREI, Germany (Project coordinator), THE JAMES HUTTON INSTITUTE LBG, United Kingdom, MAA JA ELINTARVIKETALOUDEN TUTKIMUSKESKUS, Finland, SZENT ISTVAN EGYETEM, Hungary, ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI ECONOMIA AGRARIA, Italy, AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS, Greece, Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania	http://bef.lt/index.php?id=105#c978

Consumer Education

Project period	Total Budget	Funding	Project name	Project partners	Project website
2015-2020	4 458 762 EUR	LIFE programme, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and project partners.	Baltic pilot cases on reduction of emissions by substitution of hazardous chemicals and resource efficiency (LIFE FitForREACH)	Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia (Project coordinator), Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia, KTU Institute of Environmental Engineering (APINI), Center of Environmental Policy, UAB Marijampolės pieno konservai, JSC Vakarų Metalgama, REACH helpdesk in Lithuania, REACH helpdesk in Latvia, REACH helpdesk in Estonia, Hendrikson & Ko OÜ, Ecodesign competence centre, TENACHEM, Ltd., Henkel Makroflex AS, Epokate OÜ, Mayeri Industries AS	http://fitreach.eu/

Financial report

Income



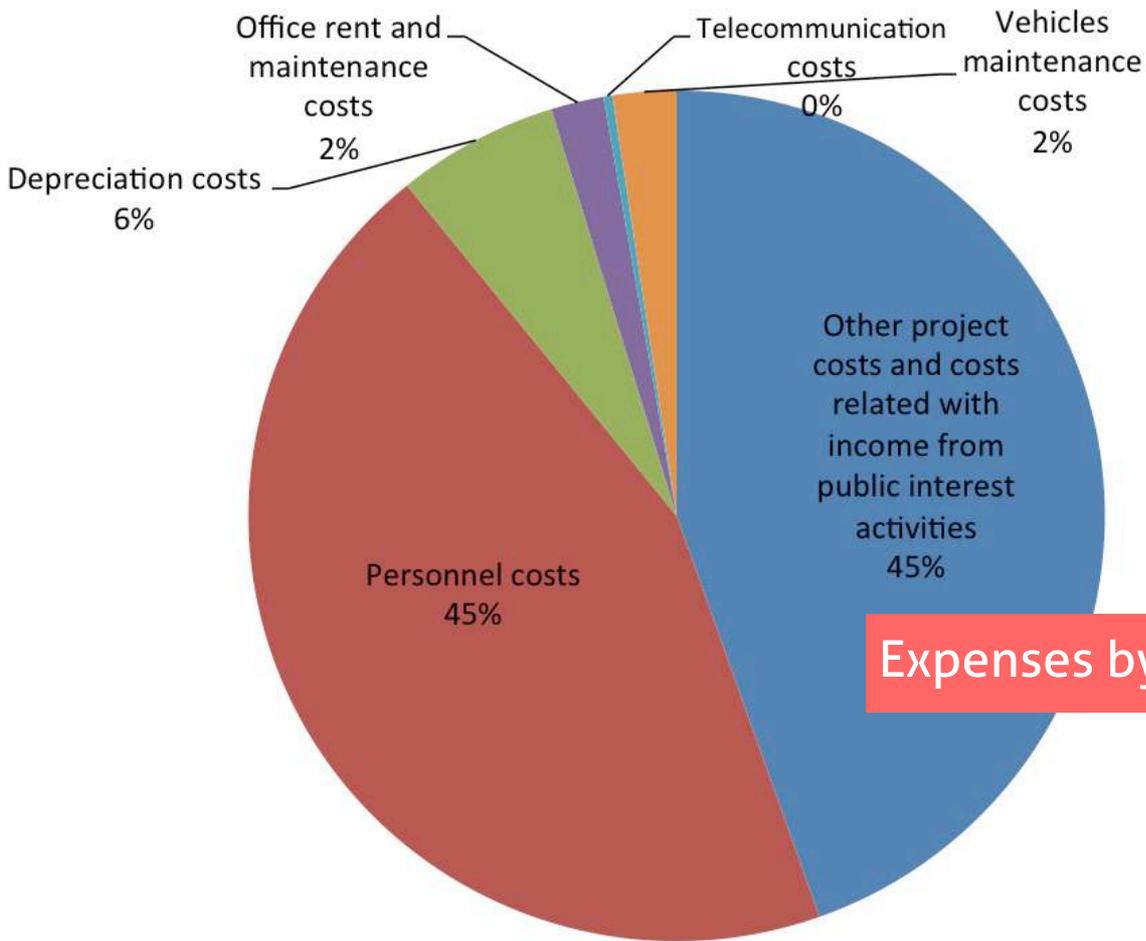
Income by sources

Total income for 2015 year was 659 089 euro. Part of this sum was related with Project expenses from 2014 and another part with Project expenses from 2015 and income from public interest activities.

In diagram „Income by sources“ income from EU LIFE+ programme, Latvia - Lithuania programme 2007-2013, BSR programme 2007-2013 and EEA grants was calculated together with national co-funding sum, as Lithuania is committed to contribute to the implementation of projects funded by these programs. National co-funding income was 278 854 euro. It means 42 % from all income of the year.

Part of income from EU LIFE+ programme, NCM and EEA grants was distributed among Project partners, institutional part here was 82 %.

Expenses



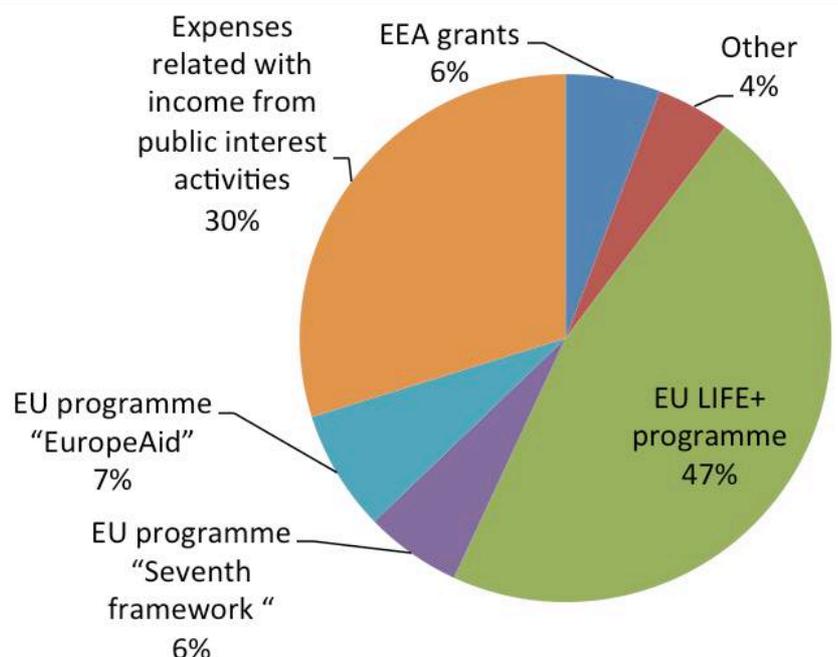
Expenses by categories

Total expenses for 2015 year was 603 755 euro. Part of these expenses will be funded from receivable funding income on 2016.

45 % of all expenses belong to annual personnel costs (with all related taxes). 18 % of personnel costs were related with director salary and taxes.

No payments were made to shareholders on 2015. Operational costs of the organisation are directly related with projects administration and they are not separated.

Expenses by sources



Financial report

Employees and shareholders



On the maternity leave

At the beginning of the year 18 employees worked in organisation, 5 of them were part-time employees and 3 persons were on Maternity leave. At the end of the year 12 employees worked in organisation, 3 of them were part-time employees and 2 persons were on Maternity leave.

Shareholders and their contribution (99 % and 1 %) was not changed from the establishment of the institution on 2003 10 14 and was 1 509 euro.

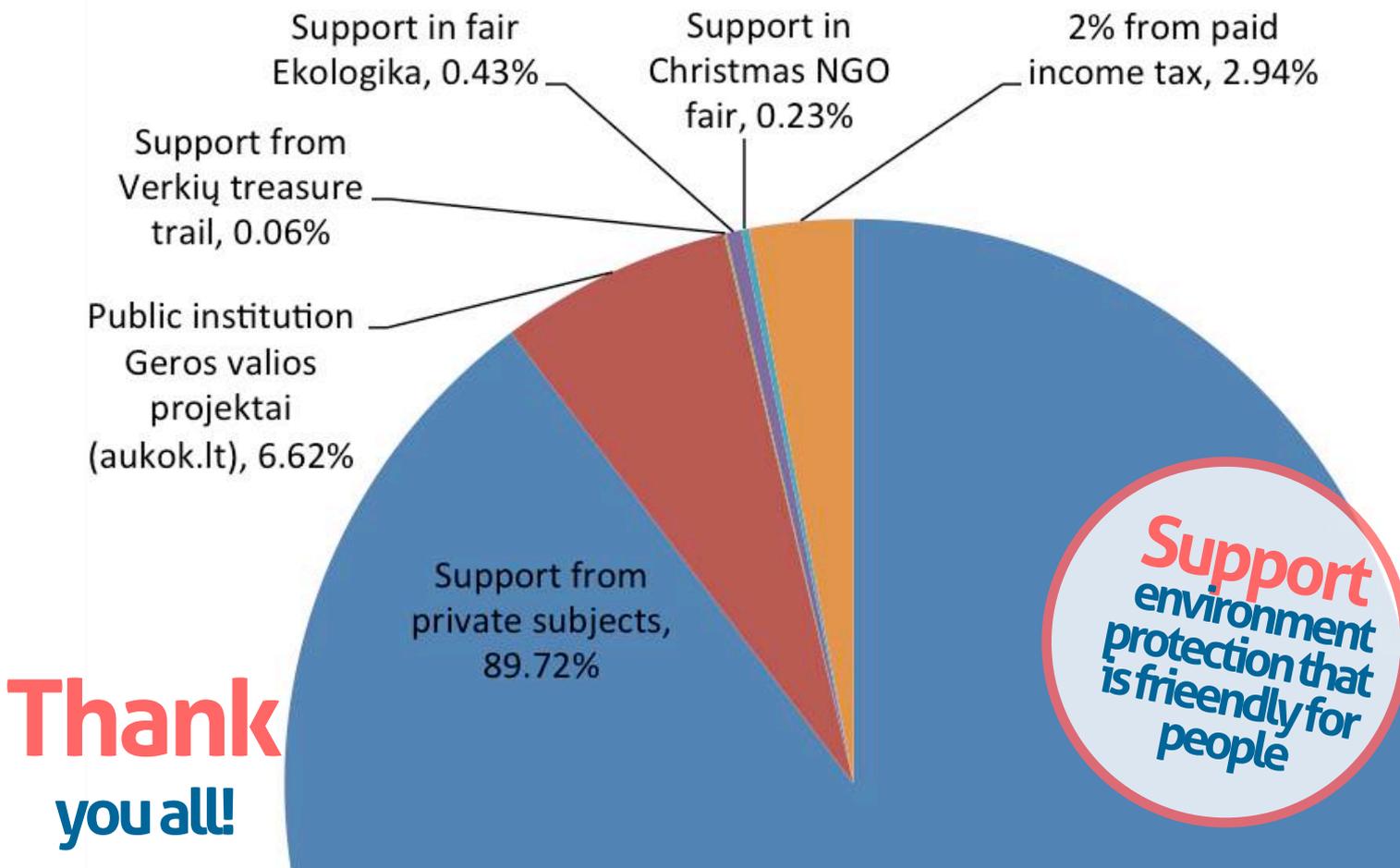
Long-term asset



Tractor CASE IH PUMA 160	Creation of mechanisms to secure good quality of open habitats in Nemunas Delta regional park	53,86%
Front loader		6,78%
Rake Kverneland Taarup		10,74%
Grass shredder		5,14%
Roller press		18,17%
Rear disc mower		5,32%

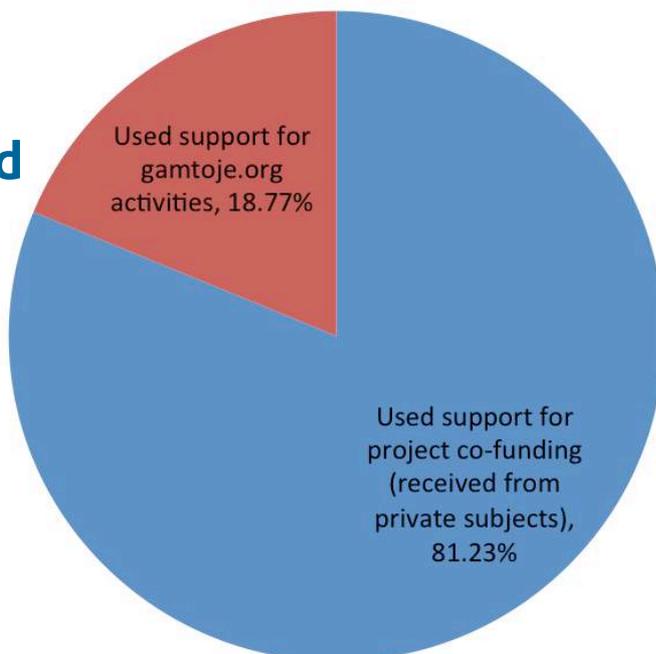
For long-term asset organisation spent 157 825 euro on 2015 for project "Creation of mechanisms to secure good quality of open habitats in Nemunas Delta regional park" activities.

Support



Support from companies, individuals and 2% from paid income tax. In 2015 we got 21 135 euro.

More about used support



in 2016 m.
gained support will be used for creation and maintenance of nature events and experiences.

MOMENTS FROM OUR

Shrove Tuesday Carnival in Plateliai or personality improvement in Samogitian style



We continue a traditions of blood donation



In the village of Kęstas waiting for Norther lights



We tried to learn how to understand each other better



We are working for a long long hours when applications are on the way. We share the night snacks.



We attended NGO fare organized by Lithuanian President



we commemorated the January 13th

R TEAM LIFE IN 2015

We visited the village of Kęstutis and his favorite places



Little Čepkeliai



Beaver kingdom



Maybe it is Justas job?



Pine tree with a leg and travelers



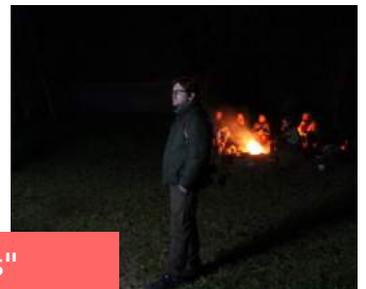
Village is, village is not



Žymantas prepared tasty dinner



We watched "Green musketeers"



The singing group of Baltic Environmental Forum have started it's activity :)



Watch the video with greetings for Boss day



Watch Christmas greetings

Support activity of Baltic Environmental

LET'S PROTECT NATURE IT'S VALUE TOGETHER

Most of our initiatives that protect nature and invite people for personal experience could not exist without the public support. Help us to maintain current and implement new ideas.

[Donate](#)

Receiver: Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania
Code of organization: 110090837
Bank account: LT98 7044 0600 0792 6435
Bank: AB SEB bank
Purpose of payment: Support

TURE AND REVEAL ER!





We are saving the nature together with the human!



Baltic Environment Forum, www.bef.lt, 2016