

We protect our nature
together
with people



Activity Report

2016

Baltic Environmental Forum, www.bef.lt, 2017

PROTECTION OF AQUATIC WARBLER

We were very happy to find out that the population of Aquatic Warbler in Lithuania has increased in 2016. There were even 247 singing male birds counted that year. This is great news because it indicates the increase of the population by even 84% compared to 2015!

However, the news from abroad were not as great. The population continues to decrease in the main brooding sites situated in Belarus, Ukraine and Poland, which are inhabited by even 95% of total Aquatic Warbler population.

Scientists claim that the main reason why the population is decreasing is the fact that these birds are losing their homes. The habitats of these birds are decreasing due to intensive farming, land-use change, drying wetlands or discontinuation of farming practices. These factors changed the landscape so that former integral areas of wetlands are now scattered in small and separated jigsaw pieces. The populations inhabiting these areas are isolated from one another and therefore become weaker and incapable of recovering.



Such situation inspired us to start a new and ambitious Aquatic Warbler conservation initiative in Lithuania and Belarus. In 2016 the preparatory activities have already started.



WE WILL CREATE INTERNATIONAL HABITAT NETWORK

Creation of a key Aquatic Warbler habitat network in 2016-2023, in order to ensure its long-term protection in Lithuania



During this project a network of key aquatic warbler habitats will be created. This network will reduce fragmentation of habitats, strengthen the populations and ensure good and long-term conditions for aquatic warbler protection. We are aware that the creation of such integral habitat network is a long process which may last even several decades. Therefore, we and our colleagues in Belarus are determined to continue our work together even after the deadline of the initiative.

Territory of the project:
20 509 ha
in 7 locations

Project activities:

- Restoration of abandoned habitats
- Application of innovative habitat restoration methods
- Translocation of aquatic warblers from large healthy populations to the locally endangered ones will be conducted for the first time in the world
- Preparation of long-term strategy for further habitat network formation

More information: www.meldine.lt/en



MAINTENANCE OF OPEN HABITATS IN NEMUNAS DELTA

Creation of mechanisms to maintain good conditions in open habitats located in Nemunas Delta Regional Park, Lithuania, 2014-2017

This year we continued the initiative that was started last year in Nemunas Delta. With this initiative we aim to ensure good protection and good environment for the species living in open fields and wetlands.

In the end of the summer when bird juveniles were strong enough to get away from the mowing machinery, our machines were buzzing in the fields. Already for the second season we were conducting habitat restoration works.

We are happy that after a lot of effort we published 38 publications on living organisms in Nemunas Delta.

"The preparation of these publications was one of the biggest challenges in 2016. We've put massive effort and energy in it. I hope that people living and visiting Nemunas Delta will appreciate that, read those publications and most importantly will go to the fields to familiarize with our winged neighbours" – says Rita Norvaišaitė the co-author and coordinator of these publications.

Just like other EEA grant project participants we had an exclusive opportunity to travel and share our experience. Rita Norvaišaitė and Justas Gulbinas have visited Iceland, the land of ice and fire, while Žymantas Morkvėnas together with Rita Jonkuvienė have visited Svalbard islands in Northern Norway.

Rita and Justas were impressed with one emotional story: "I will not sell my friend" –one farmer said to a foreign investor in the beginning of 20th century. This investor aimed to build a hydropower plant on one of the most magnificent waterfalls in Iceland called Gullfoss. Later his daughter sacrificed and fought for her father's cause. As a result, the hydropower plant was not build and the daughter was awarded to be the first environmentalist of Iceland.

Read more about multifunctional Bjarneyjarsandur farm

In the Norwegian islands Žymantas and Rita realised that this remote location warns us about climate change and that soon one might need the seeds stored there to recover countries like Syria, which was destroyed by war.

Project website

**Check the 38
publications about
natural treasures of
Nemunas Delta**



Lithuanian version only



Our travel
impressions from
Norway and Iceland



LIFE



VIVA

GRASS

Creation of an integrated planning tool to ensure healthy field biodiversity, 2014-2018

2016 was a very intensive and dynamic year for the project.

During 2016 the project team has dedicated most attention to the development and testing of the integrated planning tool. They have created a map foundation for the tool, ecosystem service value calculation method and evaluated ecosystem services of the fields in the project territories.

The field restoration works in the project territories are still actively in progress. The bushes and the remnants of old weeds were being removed during September and October in Dubysa Regional Park and Pašešuvis Landscape Reserve. In total there were 26,5 ha of fields restored and from now on these areas will be maintained by local farmers and Directorate of Dubysa Regional Park.

There were also events organised for the communities in the project territories located in Latvia and Estonia. During these events the participants could familiarise with the territories and life in them, also, with project activities and the concept of ecosystem services. There were also information stands built for a better communication.

Moreover, the project team has participated in the international conference called "Local Communities, Cultural Landscape and Heritage" during October 6th – 8th Lahema National Park in Estonia.

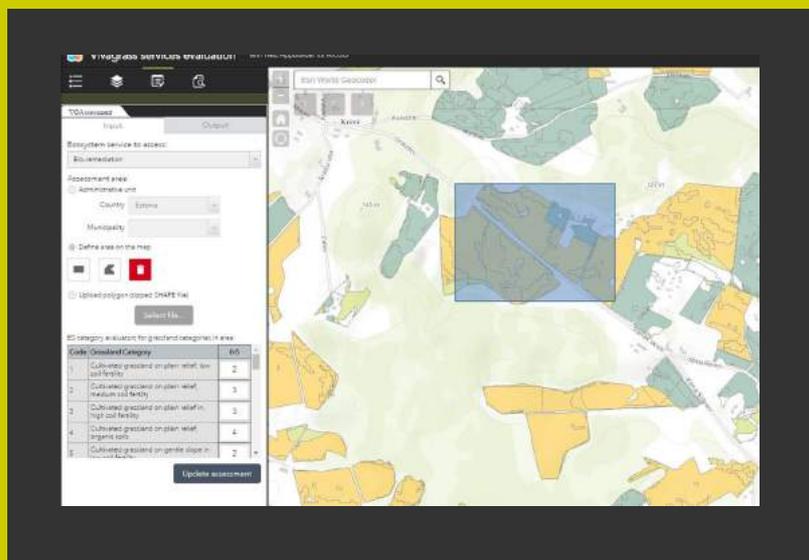
In July the project team has met with Norwegian ornithologist group in Nemunas Delta Regional Park. During this meeting they discussed the opportunities to develop ornithological tourism in these territories and how this could contribute to the conservation of important fields in the region. All participants have agreed that Nemunas Delta region has a very high potential to develop nature tourism but especially ornithological tourism as one of its branches.

The project team has also issued a publication with short descriptions of good practices and recommendations, collected during the field trips in 2015. This publication contained the information for the Baltic countries, explaining how to maintain valuable semi-natural fields.

www.vivagrass.eu



Integrated Planning Tool



LIFE / FIT FOR REACH

Implementing the substitution of hazardous substances in small and medium industrial enterprises of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, 2015-2020.



The project which was started in 2016 will help the companies in Baltic countries to ensure effective management of chemical substances and to implement substitution of hazardous substances

Together with project partners we aim to do the following tasks until 2020:

- Conduct 11 substitution of hazardous chemicals in partner companies
- Conduct a socio-economic analysis and environmental impact assessment for substitution of hazardous chemicals
- Implement small-scale substitution in 30-50 Baltic companies
- Consult companies about REACH and other chemical substance regulations

- Prepare environmental acquisition guidelines which would help the companies to introduce the requirements on raw material suppliers
- Develop and improve current electronic chemical substance management tools for businesses
- Adjust relevant cases of implemented substitutions, recorded in the database SUBSPORT to the Baltic countries and translate them to Lithuanian
- Share the experience with governmental institutions and prepare the trainings for the companies



SUBSTITUTION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

During the first year of the project, a website www.fitreach.eu/lt was created. It is expected that this website will become a nice platform to get comprehensive information in the national languages about safe management of hazardous chemicals.

Moreover, leaflets were issued, which invited and encouraged companies to substitute hazardous substances used in their activities.

There were also trainings organized in 5 biggest Lithuanian cities. The speakers presenting in the trainings were the specialists from Baltic Environmental Forum as well as representing other institutions such as Lithuanian Environmental Protection Agency, Governmental Labour Inspection and Vilnius Regional Environmental Protection Department. In total there were 230 participants engaged in the trainings.



NON HAZCITY

Innovative management solutions to reduce emissions of hazardous chemical substances in the cities of Baltic Sea region, 2016-2019

In 2016 we started a new project called "Innovative Management Solutions for Reduction of Emissions of Hazardous Chemical Substances in Cities of Baltic Sea Region" or so called "NonHazCity". The duration of this project is three years.

The project "NonHazCity" involves 18 partners from the Baltic Sea Region, including municipalities, regional governmental institutions, academic research facilities, wastewater treatment companies and other associated partners. During this project all partners will identify priorities for the sources of hazardous chemical substances in the cities and districts participating in the project. Also, they will contribute to the strategy development which will help the cities to fight the pollution.

This project aims to directly reach minor polluters and reduce the use of hazardous chemicals at the source of the pollution. To achieve this, municipalities, small and medium enterprises and private households will be contacted. We aim to adapt to each target group so that the hazardous chemicals would not get into the wastewaters and finally would not get into the Baltic Sea.

There were even 2 project partner meetings in 2016 (one in Stockholm and one in Hamburg) and activity expert meeting in Gdansk. Most important achievement of the first year of the project was wastewater sample collection in the partner municipalities. The samples were collected in December in Kaunas district and Šilalė municipality, Lithuania. They were collected in various places, for instance, populated territories, hospitals or industrial areas. The samples were sent to Gdansk (PL) and Uppsala (SE) universities and the results are expected to be ready in the beginning of the next year.

One of the project activities that will be started next year is citizen information campaign. We already have a lot of experience in this area, therefore, we expect to get great results and active participation of the society.

<http://nonhazcity.eu>

Find useful information about hazardous substances in various products





Think before your buy

Municipality and business, those who care



FUTURE- PRENEURS

In the year 2016 we have started another project called "Futurepreneurs". It is an international project aimed to encourage entrepreneurship. Therefore, the youth up to 29 years old are invited to participate and develop start-ups and businesses aimed at change. During this project there will be entrepreneurship trainings as well as workshops with qualified mentors.





In the project Baltic Environmental Forum is responsible for identification of environmental issues relevant to Lithuania. The youth will try to find solutions and based on them to develop sustainable business ideas. We are looking forward to their proposals!

Read more about the project:
<http://futurepreneurs.eu/>



PROVIDED SERVICES



We have organised a thematic fieldtrip related to Nuclear Energy

We were asked by our colleagues from Switzerland to assist with an organisation of a fieldtrip about nuclear energy for the representatives of Belarusian media. We were considering this request for a rather long time due to political context. Due to the fact that a nuclear power plant is being built in Ostrovets, which is very close to Lithuanian capital Vilnius, accepting such request is a complicated decision as it could be followed by various conspiracies or negative feedback.

However, despite our concerns we have decided to organise this fieldtrip. The main argument was the relevance of this topic. Nuclear energy was always a very important topic, our standpoint was always against it and we do not change our opinion. We do not and will not support any nuclear power

plants in any country until most important issues will be addressed such as nuclear waste disposal and their impact on the environment.

Due to this reason all discussions related to this topic in the public sphere and media are important to us. Therefore, we have organised this fieldtrip and suggested to supplement it, so we have invited the representatives of Lithuanian media to participate in the fieldtrip together with international and Belarusian journalists. They have participated in thematic event in Vilnius, as well as went on fieldtrips to Ignalina and Astravets nuclear power plants.

[Read the articles published after the fieldtrip](#)



Preparation of management recommendations for managed territories of European ecological network 'Natura2000'

State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment is implementing a project funded by Norway and EEA. Until spring of 2016 this project aims to prepare individual recommendations for the management of earlier managed territories of European ecological network 'Natura2000'. The recommendations were being prepared for 50 territories by providing the most economically beneficial and effective territory management mechanisms, which would ensure the balance between natural and farming interests.

In 2016 all recommendations were prepared.

Among other provided services we have also moderated discussions and organised seminars

VOLUNTARY INITIATIVE GAMTOJE.ORG

An initiative supported only by society

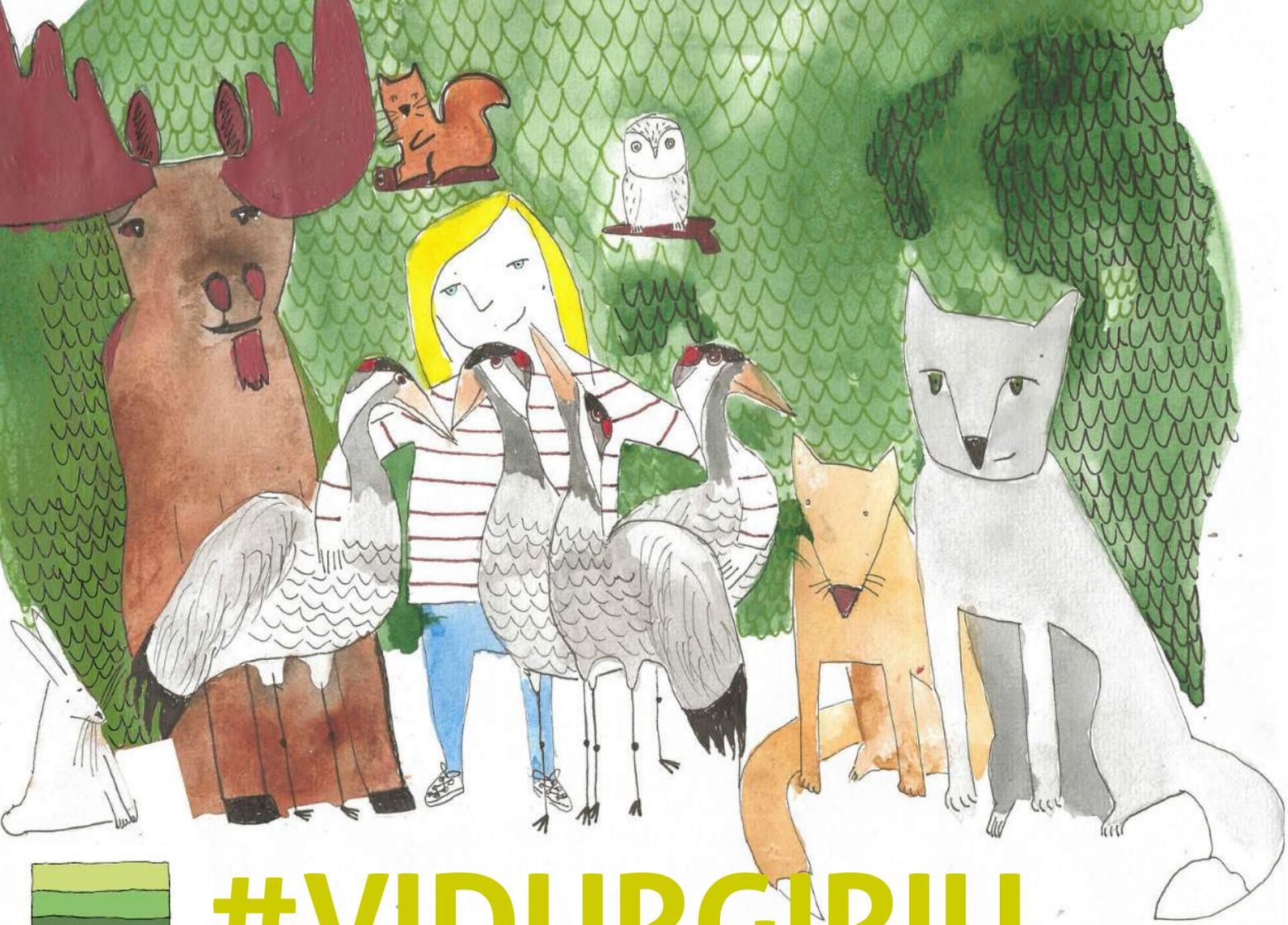


Festival in nature "Vidur girių"

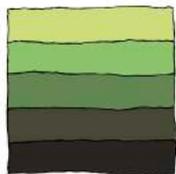
Already for the 3rd year we have invited people, who love nature, to greet the spring surrounded by the songs of cranes in the nature of Dzūkija region. Together with National Park of Dzūkija we have organised a festival called 'Vidur girių' (angl. In the middle of woods). Just like previous year, the event invited to familiarise with the region and its nature comprehensively by spending a night in the bog, listening to a natural night concert, admiring the bonfire that is warmer than ever, participating in excursions tasting buckwheat pies and pastries and listening to melodious dialect of Dzūkija. The main celebrities of the festival were the cranes who traditionally came back after a tour abroad. We are happy that this year locals again offered a longer stay called 'Getting to know the life of local people called 'šiliniai dzūkai''. This was an opportunity to get to know the region and to support it.

There were also quite a few new activities such as exceptional workshop of sound operator Vidmantas Blažas and environmental artists Alak Pathak and Tamara. Also, "Montis Magia" club and Beekeeping museum invited to try an ancient tree climbing method which is acceptable for ancient locals or extreme lovers. Moreover, Folk band "Girjaukis" were entertaining participants with folk songs and traditional polyphonic songs called Sutartinės.

In 2016 we were happy to receive the highest numbers of interested people and sponsors. There were more than 120 people participating in the event. The festival was supported by Varėna municipality and the informational sponsors were "Savaitė" and Bernardinai.lt. Thanks to all supporters, almost all our expenses were covered. We had to cover only a fourth of all expenses.

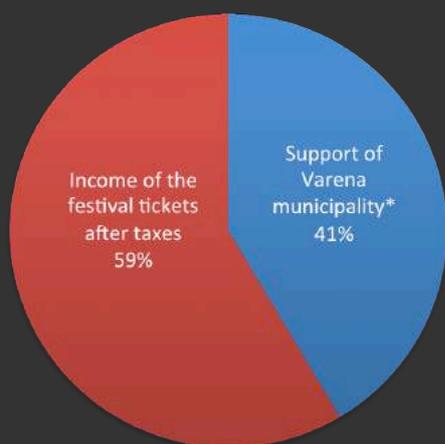


#VIDURGIURIU

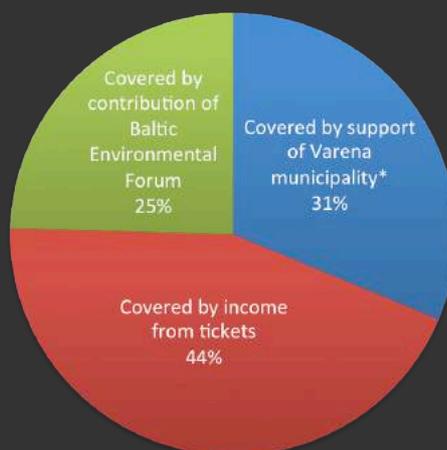


gamtoje.org

Income of the festival



Festival expenditure by source



See
picutres
from the
festival

* The support from Varėna municipality was received by the festival partner – Dzūkija National Park

Special thanks goes to the volunteer Laimis, who actively interacted with the participants of the festival!

IF you have not participated in the festival but would like to experience fun adventures in the nature, we invite you to the adventures written on the pages of the book called "Vidur girių" (Lithuanian version only). A famous environmentalist Euenijus Drobėlis is sharing his exceptional experience. By purchasing this book you will support similar publications about nature.

VOLUNTARY INITIATIVE



GAMTOJE.ORG

Dvarčionys meadow

Where Lithuanian orchids blossom

Dvarčionys meadow maintenance is an initiative that is already happening for the 8th year and it has become a tradition of our organisation. This initiative is always interesting and every year it requires original solutions. This year we have encountered a new challenge – a farmer, who was mowing the meadow for 2 years could not help us anymore. Therefore, we had to search for someone else so we went on an expedition for a few hours in the surrounding areas. We met locals who told interesting stories about the surroundings. Among those locals we have met a farmer

whose name is Vanda and who is still farming in those territories. When she was a child she used to mow Dvarčionys meadow together with her father during winter, when the meadow was frozen. She then used to drive the hay in a horse carriage for 4 km in order to provide it for their cattle. Unfortunately, we have not found a local farmer who could mow the meadow, however, we were assisted by our old friend Valdas. We have mowed the meadow by tractor and have collected the hay using specific tool called "Brielmiaer".

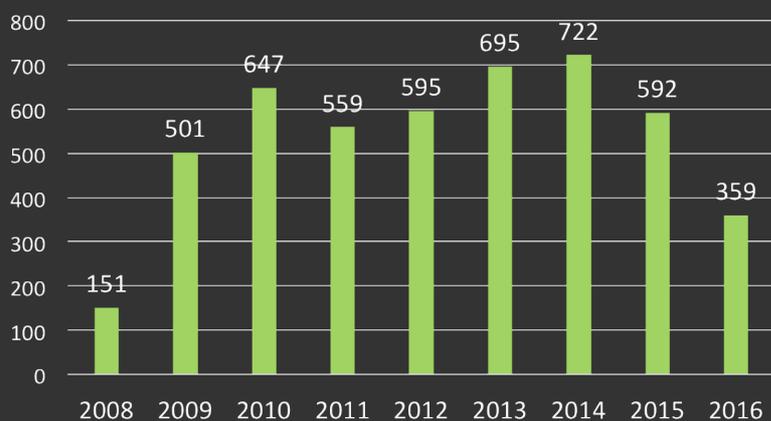
NOTIFY

ABOUT HARMED NATURE

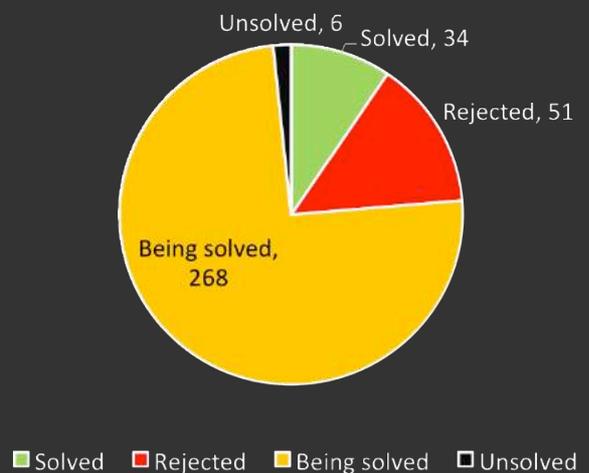


This year a volunteer Vilma has actively contributed to the team working on "Inform about Harmed Nature" initiative. The notification numbers about harmed nature are falling already for 2 years in a row. This year we have received only 359 notifications and that is the lowest number compared to all years the initiative was held. We can only guess what that means. Maybe our society has become more environmentally conscious and the number of environmental issues is decreasing or maybe people started taking more initiative and solving environmental issues on their own. Unfortunately, the initiative was constrained by technical difficulties as the website suffered from a virus attack. This also could have been one of the reasons why the number of received notification has decreased so much. The team is actively discussing about the future of this initiative and it should become clear in the spring of 2017.

Number of notifications received



Problems distribution by status





Nature treasure trails

The visitors of Žemaitija National Park and Verkiai Regional Park are enjoying nature treasure trails already for the second year. There were 24 teams and in total 115 people who came from Vilnius, Klaipėda, Skuodas, Mažeikiai and Tauragė. Even though we have not counted visitors in Verkiai nature treasure trail, the representatives of Verkiai Millhouse restaurant, who were giving out the tools for the trail, claimed that there were a lot of people and that during the weekends some teams even had to wait until other teams finished the tracks and found all the treasures.

In May of 2016 nature treasure trail were full of children's laughter and chattering. There were 80 children from Vilnius kindergarten visiting the trail in Verkiai.

#GAMTOSLOBIAI

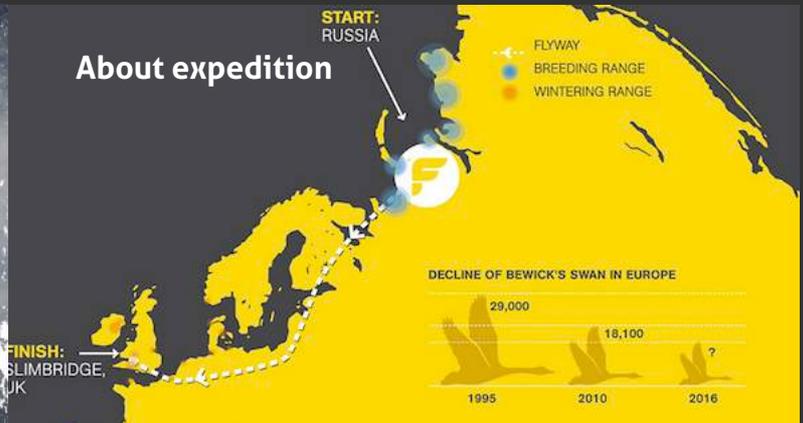
Expedition „Flight of Swans“

In 2016 we had an exceptional opportunity to join exciting international expedition "Flight of the swans". During this expedition the sportswoman and environmentalist Sacha Dench have decided to travel 7000 km through 11 countries to save endangered Tundra Swan.

Sacha Dench flew from arctic Russia to Great Britain and by doing this she joined the challenging flight of tundra swans from their nesting places to the places they winter at. She traveled through Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark, The

Netherlands, Belgium and France. Sacha successfully made it from French coast to Great Britain and was the first woman to ever fly over The English Channel (or La Manche Channel) by a paraglider.

The environmentalist experienced why tundra swans do not manage to complete the journey and invited ornithologists and environmentalists from all over the world to discuss about the conservation of these birds and decreasing wetlands as their habitats.



Together with Lithuanian Ornithological Society, Nature Research Center, Ornithological Station of Ventės Ragas and representative of paragliders Aivaras Akramas, we have assisted to realize this expedition in Lithuania. We have become the coordinators of this expedition in our country so we constantly were in touch with the expedition team, coordinated the activities of assisting Lithuanian organisations and took care of publicity.

Together with students of Vydūnas Gymnasium in Šilutė we have joined a support event, we also encourage the students to write a letter to the students in a Polish school and held a public lecture in the school. During the lecture we directly contacted the paraglider Sacha Dench. We've heard that students loved that!

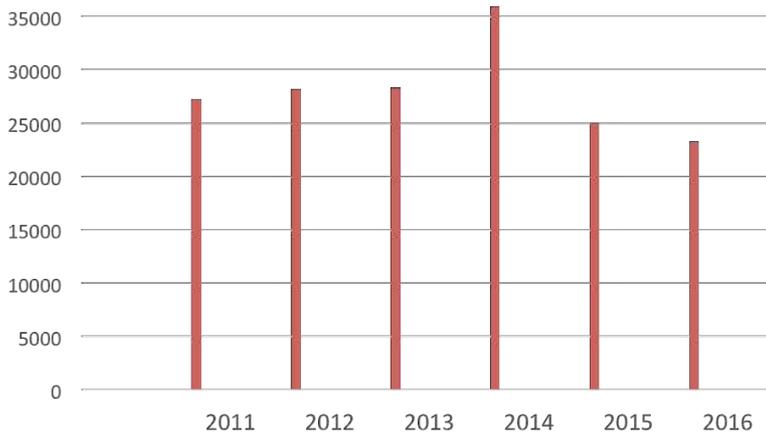
Lecture



Our active communication and published notifications for the press have earned a rather big media attention. There were more than 34 notifications about the expedition in Lithuania and even 3 of them were on television.

OUR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Fluctuation of total CO2 footprint

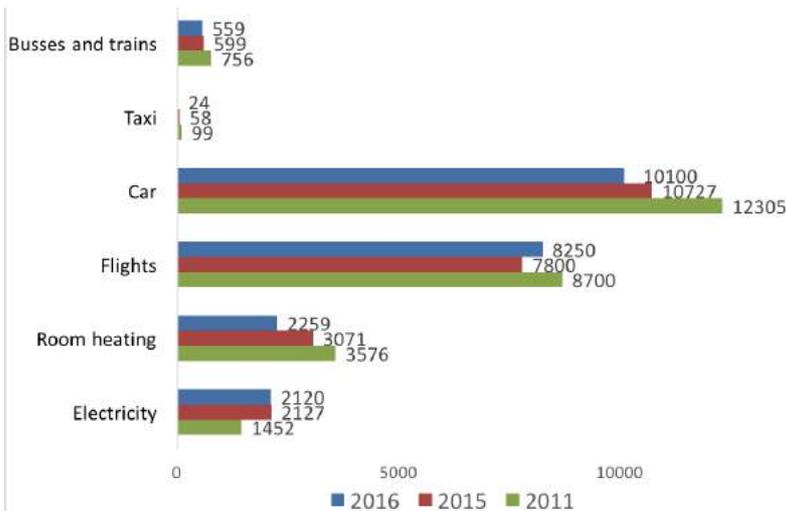


Since 2011 we are estimating the activity footprint of our organization. It is expressed via CO2 emission equivalents and by doing this we evaluate our contribution to greenhouse effect. Also, we estimate how much waste we generate.

In 2016 our CO2 footprint was 23 tons. This is the lowest number in 6 years, i.e. since we started estimating consumed resources. The CO2 footprint is lower by a fifth compared to a mean value of this period. Moreover, it is lower by 7% than in 2015.

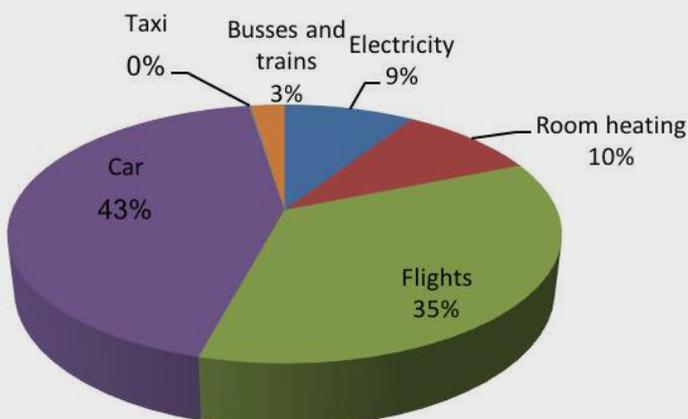
In order to understand the amount better let's try to imagine:

Consumed resources by CO2 amount



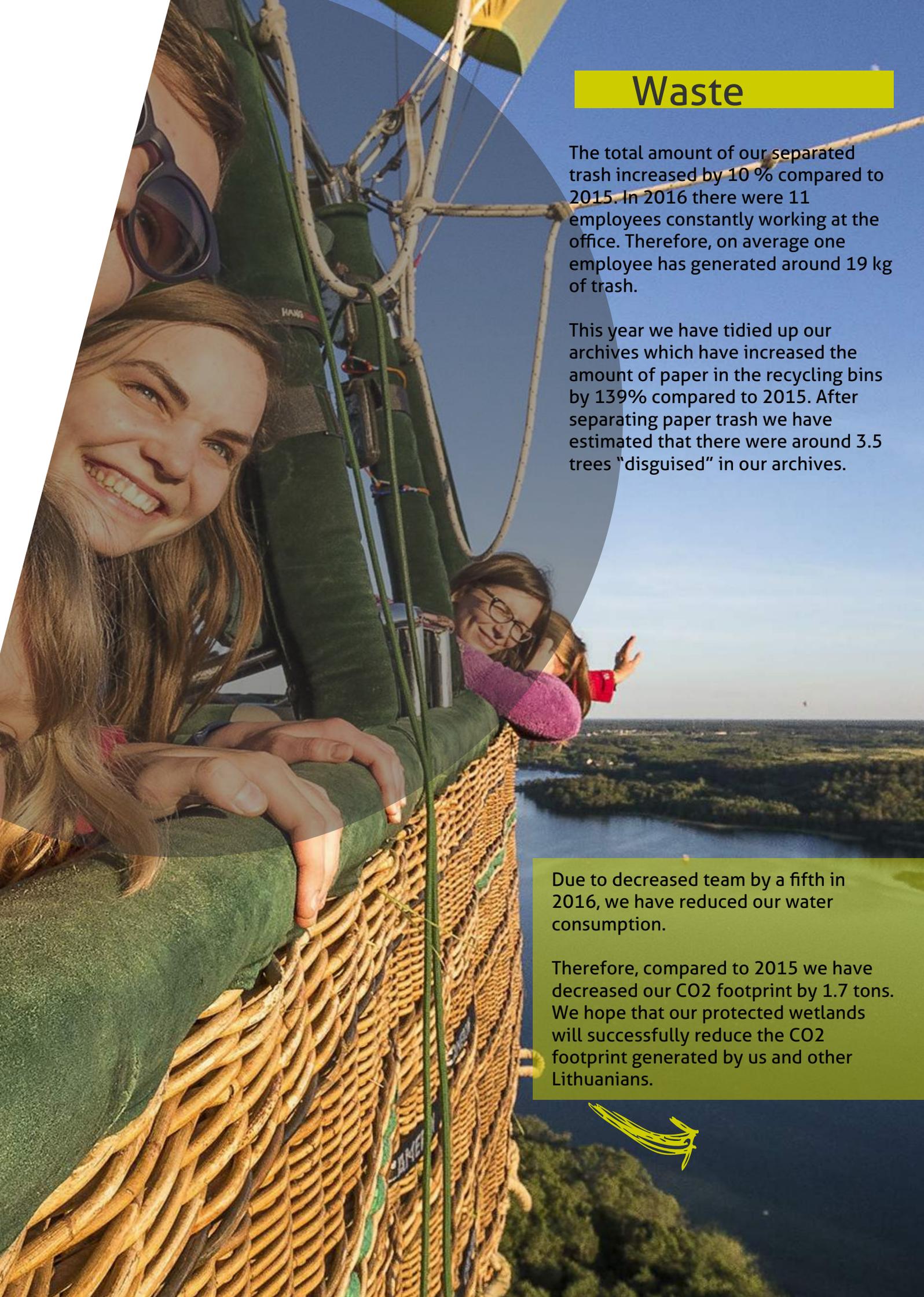
- It is the amount of CO2 that is exhaled by a human living for 75 years (or an average Lithuanian), if he consumes 2500 kCal a day
- The volume of 23 tons of CO2 is approximately 12 500 m³. Such volume would fill 5 average air balloons
- We would get such CO2 amount by burning around 20 m³ of wood
- Such CO2 amount is emitted by 10 cars in Lithuania every year
- Such CO2 amount would be absorbed in one year by a 2.5 ha of wetland

Composition of our CO2 footprint



Our CO2 footprint is highly depending on the intensiveness of our activities that year, i.e. traveling and flying. The biggest amount of the footprint was generated by car traveling (43%) and flights (35%), which amounts to 78% of a total footprint or 18 000 kg of CO2.

Compared to 2015 this has almost remained the same. The footprint of consumed electricity and heating amounted to 20% of total footprint. Compared to 2015, the heating footprint decreased by 25%. This could be associated with warmer Lithuanian winters and shorter but less stable cold periods.

A group of people are in a hot air balloon basket, floating over a landscape with a river and trees. The basket is made of woven wicker and has green cushions. The people are smiling and looking out. The background shows a clear blue sky and a green landscape with a river.

Waste

The total amount of our separated trash increased by 10 % compared to 2015. In 2016 there were 11 employees constantly working at the office. Therefore, on average one employee has generated around 19 kg of trash.

This year we have tidied up our archives which have increased the amount of paper in the recycling bins by 139% compared to 2015. After separating paper trash we have estimated that there were around 3.5 trees "disguised" in our archives.

Due to decreased team by a fifth in 2016, we have reduced our water consumption.

Therefore, compared to 2015 we have decreased our CO2 footprint by 1.7 tons. We hope that our protected wetlands will successfully reduce the CO2 footprint generated by us and other Lithuanians.



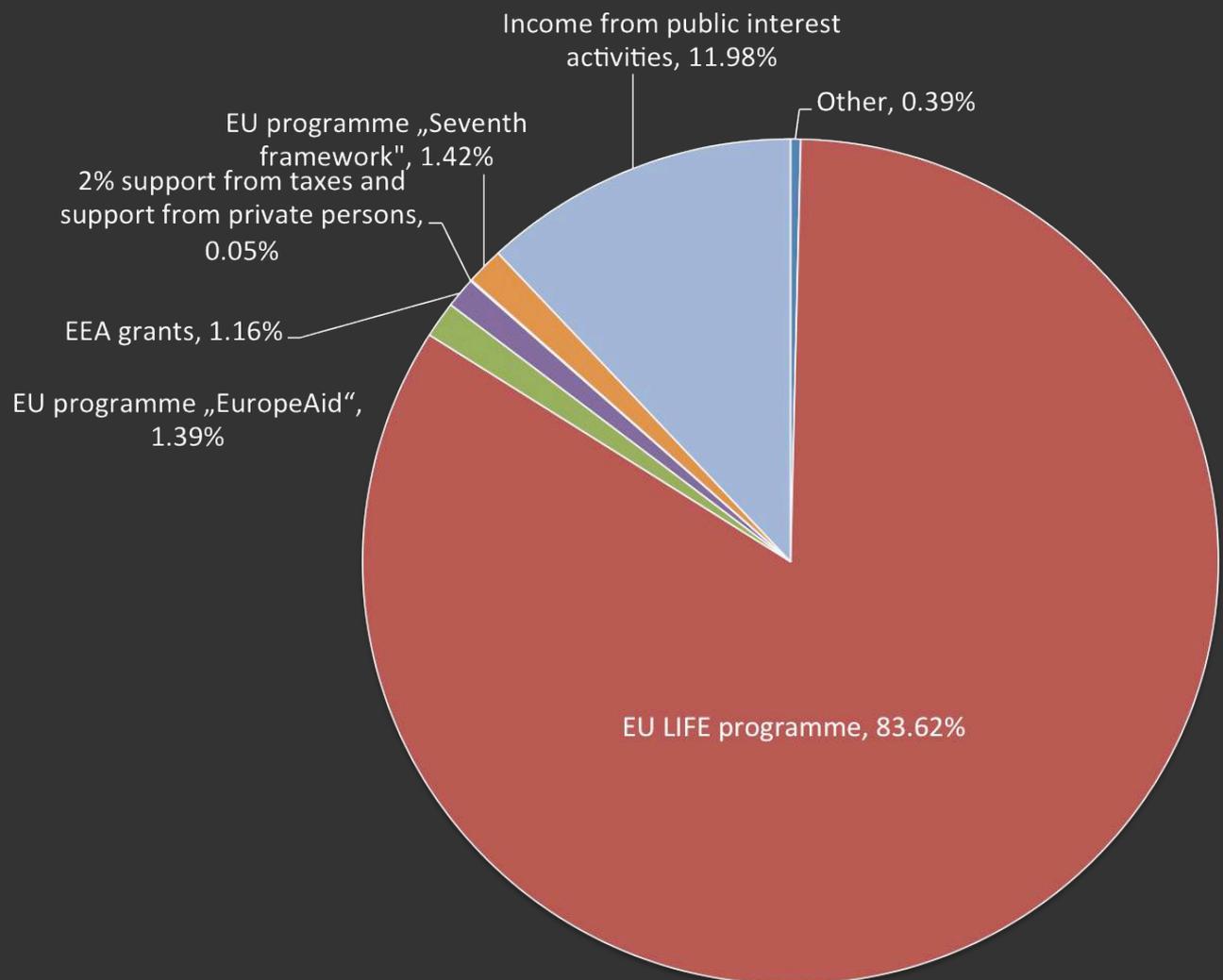
In 2016 ongoing projects

Duration	Total budget	Financed by	Title	Partners	Website
2014-2018	2 751 426 EUR	EU LIFE+ Programme, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, Administration of Latvian Environmental Protection Fund, Estonian Environmental Investment Centre and the 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, Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Municipality of Lääne- Saare, Farm Kurese, Pavilniai and Verkiši Regional Park, Dubysa Regional Park, Šilutė District Municipality, JSC Hilt-Baltic, Institute for Environmental Solutions	www.vivagrass.eu
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	Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania (Coordinating Beneficiary), Nemunas delta regional park, Bioforsk	http://bef.lt/index.php?id=117
2014-2016	174 629 EUR	Customer: State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment (EEE and Norway grants)	Preparation of recommendations for European ecological network "Natura 2000" site management	Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania, Nature research center, Law office of Domas Balandis	-
2015-2020	4 458 762 EUR	LIFE Programme of the European Union Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Estonia and the 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 (APIE), 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	www.fitreach.eu/lt
2016-2019	3 541 797 EUR	European Regional Development Fund "Interreg Baltic Sea Region" programme, Republic of Lithuania and the project partners	Innovative management solutions for minimizing emissions of hazardous substances from urban areas in the Baltic Sea Region (NonHazCity)	City of Stockholm (lead partner), City of Västerås, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Turku University of Applied Sciences, Pärnu City Government, Pärnu Water, Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia, Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia, Baltic Environmental Forum Germany, Riga City, University of Gdańsk, Municipality of Gdańsk, Gdańsk Water Utilities, Klaipėda regional environmental department, Kaunas District Municipality, Šilalė District Municipality, Institute of Applied Ecology, Associated municipal entities from Turku, Hamburg and Lübeck	www.pagalvok.lt
2016-2023	4 097 038 EUR	EU LIFE Programme, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and project partners	Stepping stones towards ensuring long-term favorable conservation status of Aquatic warbler in Lithuania (LIFE Magni Ducatus Acrola)	Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania (Project coordinator), Kretinga State Forest Enterprise, Zuvintas Biosphere Reserve Directorate, State Scientific and Production Amalgamation "Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Biological resources"	www.meldine.lt
2016-2017	104 866 EUR	ES ERASMUS+ programme and project partners	Futurepreneurs	Sunrise Valley Science and Technology Park, Vilnius University, Baltic environmental Forum Lithuania, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, VU Business School, Enterprise Lithuania, MITA - Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology, Startup.lt, Lithuanian innovation center, Civitta, Pure Birds, Swedbank, Knowledge economical forum	www.futurepreneurs.lt



Financial report

Income by sources



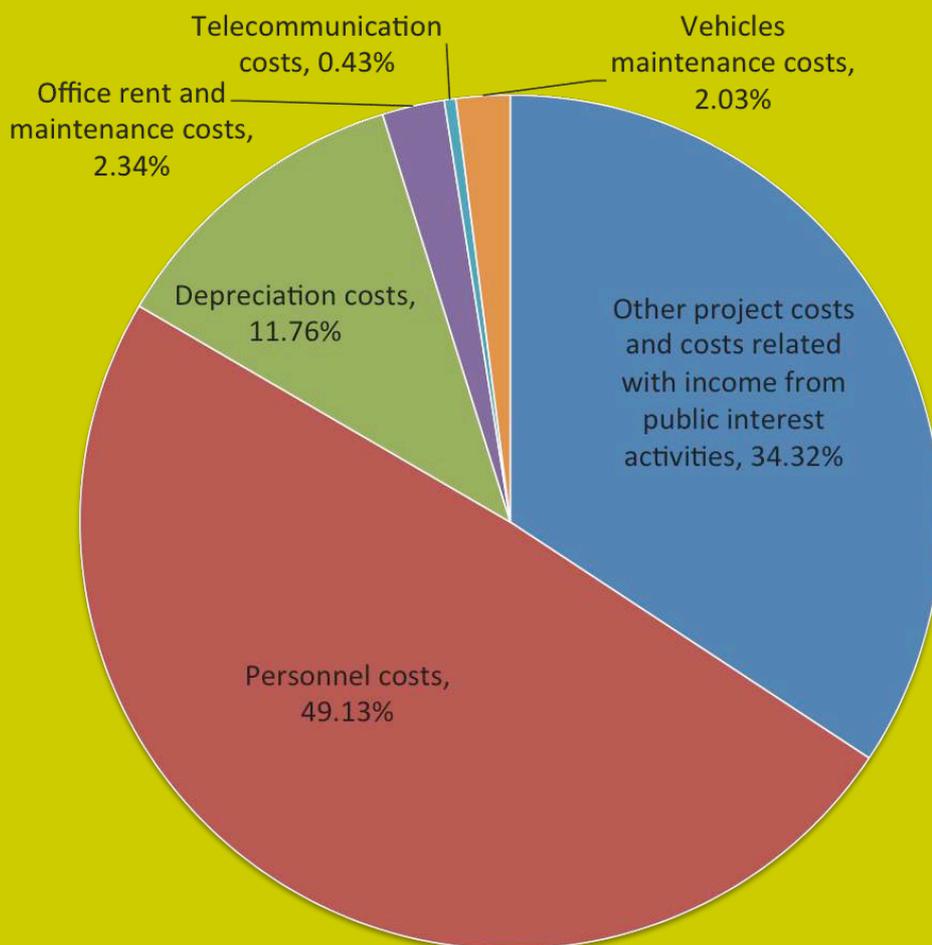
Total income for 2016 year was 1 395 841 euro. Part of this sum was related with Project expenses from 2015 and another part with Project expenses from 2016 and income from public interest activities.

In diagram „Income by sources“ income from EU LIFE programme 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 261 661 euro in 2016. It means 19 % from all income of the year.

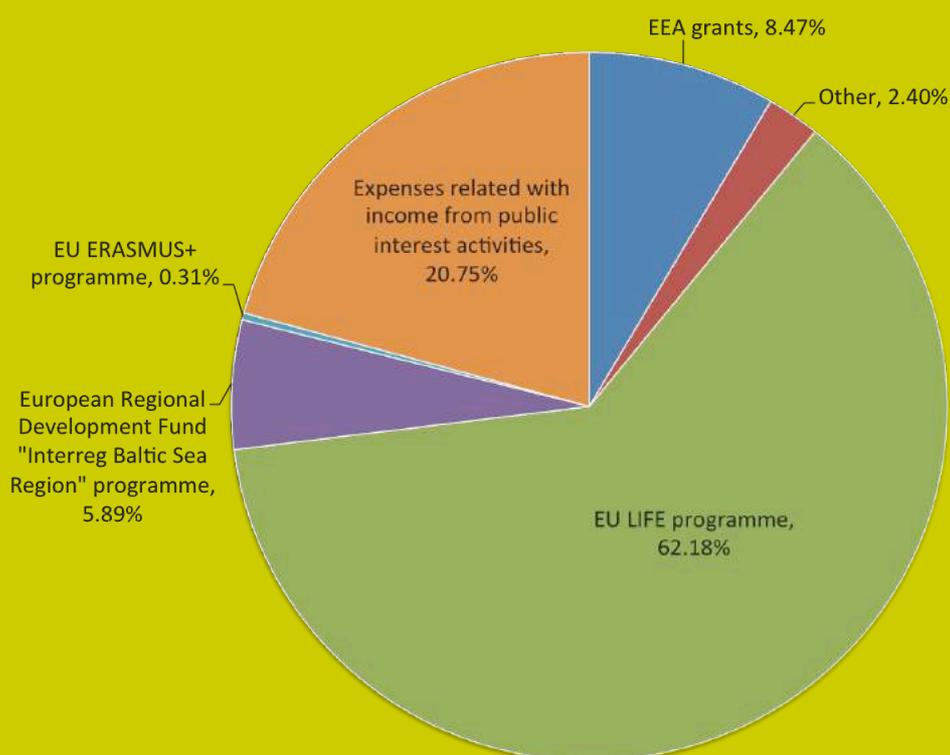
Part of income from EU LIFE programme and EEA grants was distributed among Project partners, institutional part here was 77 %.

2% support from taxes and support from private persons was 662 euro. **Thank you!**

Expenses by categories



Expenses by sources



Total expenses for 2016 year was 433 833 euro. Part of these expenses will be funded from receivable funding income on 2017.

49 % of all expenses belong to annual personnel costs (with all related taxes). 12 % of personnel costs were related with director salary and taxes. No payments were made to shareholders on 2016.

Operational costs of the organization are directly related with projects administration and they are not separated.

Financial report

Employees and shareholders

At the beginning of the year 12 employees worked in organization, 3 of them were part-time employees and 2 persons were on Maternity leave. At the end of the year 13 employees worked in organization, 3 of them were part-time employees and 4 persons were on Maternity leave.

In 2016 the shareholders structure has changed and 2 new shareholders joined the organization. But at the end of the year one of shareholder's stopped the membership and transferred his rights to existing one. The shareholders contribution is 1 539 euro (with the proportions 97%, 2% and 1 %), but because the organization is public (non-governmental) institution all of shareholders has one vote right.

Long-term asset

For long-term asset organization spent 75 348 euro in 2016 for projects "Creation of mechanisms to secure good quality of open habitats in Nemunas Delta regional park", "Innovative management solutions for minimizing emissions of hazardous substances from urban areas in the Baltic Sea Region (NonHazCity)" and "Stepping stones towards ensuring long-term favorable conservation status of Aquatic warbler in Lithuania (LIFEMagniDucatusAcrola)" activities:

Long-term asset	Project	Share, %
Computer and printer	"Interreg Baltic Sea Region" programme	6,60%
Mower Talex FAST CUT300	EEA grants	9,16%
Binoculars, photo and computer equipment	EU LIFE programme	34,00%
Rake and shredder blades for the Brielmaier mower		11,85%
Car		38,39%
TOTAL		100,00%



MOMENTS FROM THE LI

We flew in a hot air balloon



First challenge - lying in the basket



Full of excitement and joy



We finished our journey in the evening



Ceremony for the novices



FE OF OUR TEAM 2016

We continued our donation traditions



There were new donors



We celebrated the endings and new beginnings together



We donated a printer for children's hospital



Our office was complemented by woofs and Barsa



There were also ones who were trained and lost

We planted our apple tree



MOMENTS FROM THE LI

We celebrated our Christmas and New Years with a trip to Kaunas



Fans of Čiurlionis art



Both Ritas tried the horses of Kaunas



Visited churches, museums and doughnut shops



In the impressive funicular

FE OF OUR TEAM 2016



Participated in a protest against night vision hunting gear



Symbolically commemorated important dates to Lithuania

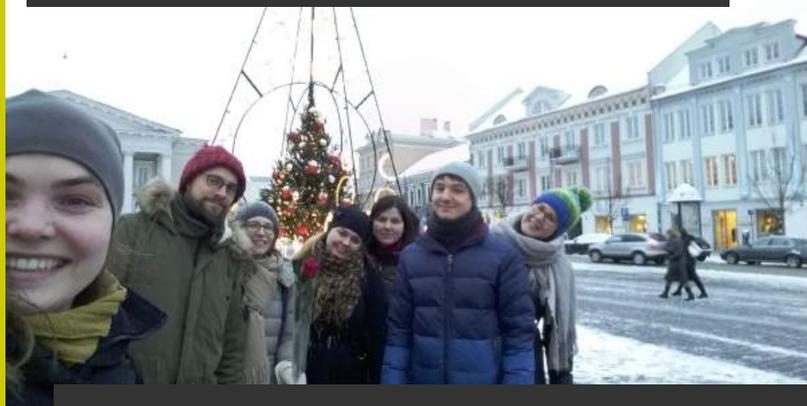
Said goodbye to Kęstutis in the Parliament



And we saw Rita like that all the year :)



We got a rose from the minister



Visited Christmas trees in Vilnius



SUPPORT ACTIVITY OF **BALTIC ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Most of our initiatives for nature protection and encouraging people to experience it could not be realised without society's support.

Help us to maintain current and realise new ideas.

By supporting our activity you contribute to these activities:

- Activities encouraging people to be in nature (experience and explore it without hurry). Examples of such activities are the festivals "Vidur Girių", "Vidur Vandenių", nature treasure hunt tracks, etc.

- You will help to conserve globally endangered Aquatic Warbler.

- You will contribute to the increase of societal awareness about hazardous chemical substances in everyday products.

- You will contribute to issuing new publications about nature.

You can also support separate activities. Indicate the name of the activity on the payment purpose section.

SUPPORT

LT98 7044 0600 0792 6435

A close-up, vertical shot of a traditional woven basket, likely made of wicker or reeds, with a leather strap and buckle. The basket is positioned on the left side of the frame. The background is a dark, clear night sky with a full moon visible in the center. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the basket and the moon's surface.

HELP US FLY!

In 2016 we received 448.74 eur from 2% income tax donations. We allocated these donations to the organisation of the festival in nature "Vidur Giriq".

BEF **TEAM:** WE WORK SO T



VOLUNTEERS



THAT WE WOULD BE **HAPPY**

ON MATERNAL LEAVE:



We are a non-governmental organisation, which believes that we must save our planet together with people and not from them.

THANK YOU FOR ALL
THE WORK WE DO
TOGETHER!

We protect our nature
together with people



Baltic Environmental Forum, www.bef.lt, 2017

