

Activity 2014 report

Feel the pulse - follow us on



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The most important achievements, activities and initiatives

Let's protect nature together with people!



Baltic Environmental Forum, www.bef.lt, 2015



© DELFI (M.Azulis photo)

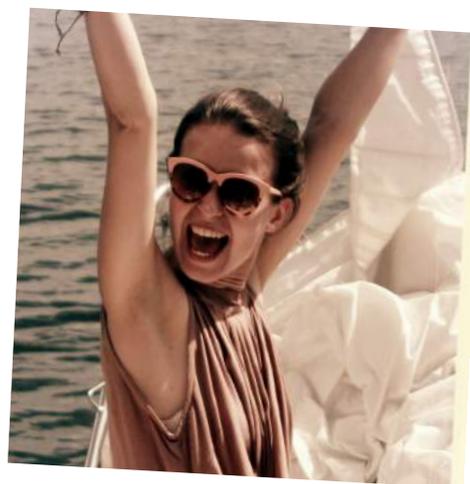
Shining eyes of collective

At the end of the year we think through the work done over the last year, measuring progress and learning from the challenges. We also invite you to have a look on this by look through the pages of our activity report. This report represents our wish to share with you our fruits of labour, which are not always sweet, but, as we believe, are meaningful. There are only the most important activities mentioned in this report, meaning that a lot of diverse initiatives were not included. Still something exceptional happens every year.

2014 was a very active and dynamic year. We gained a lot of experience, learnt new things, grew up and

became more matured. However, one very important characteristic did not get in to this report. Namely, it is the shining eyes of our collective - full of enthusiasm, curiosity and confidence in what we do. This enthusiasm and confidence unites all of us in difficulties and inspires to put ideas into practise. To be fair, what we are lacking is the time.. I believe, that with your support all these ideas could be included in the future reports as accomplished tasks. Finally, I am proud of our organisation and thankful for a team giving the opportunity to work together. Thank you!

Head of BEF Žymantas Morkvėnas



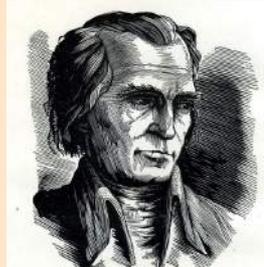
Book the newsletter

» „Our years”

Available only if we receive at least 30 subscribers

➤ Closer and closer to you

This year we want to be even closer to you, thus we will share our minds, experiences, relevant articles and ideas in the seasonal newsletter called „Our years”.



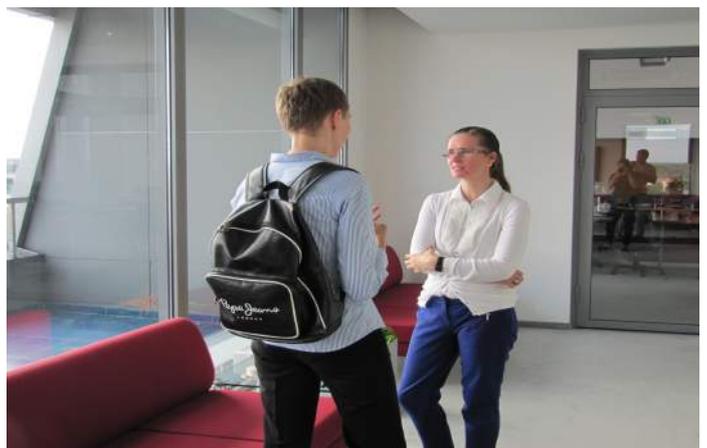
Vytautas Jorkūnas' illustr.



The title was chosen to some purpose. Kristijonas Donelaitis is a well-known and for us the best Lithuanian poet who tried to frame the nature. His famous poem „Years” is the real masterpiece picturing communication of nature. This poem most probably, awoked a deeply hidden inner environmentalist for every single reader and reminded about human being's connection with nature.



We wish that our publications as well as actions would inspire society to get to know, understand and feel the nature. Additionally, we hope that incurred experience strengthens willingness to cherish and protect environment surrounding us.



Our newsletter will be released quarterly. The first number „The joy of spring” will show up in May.



Subscribe



Feel the pulse - follow us on





Environment and protected areas

Aquatic warbler

"Promotion of environmentally-friendly farming practises to ensure the protection of birds located in dwindling agrarian landscape", 2010-2015

Successful partnership – the optimal state of habitats

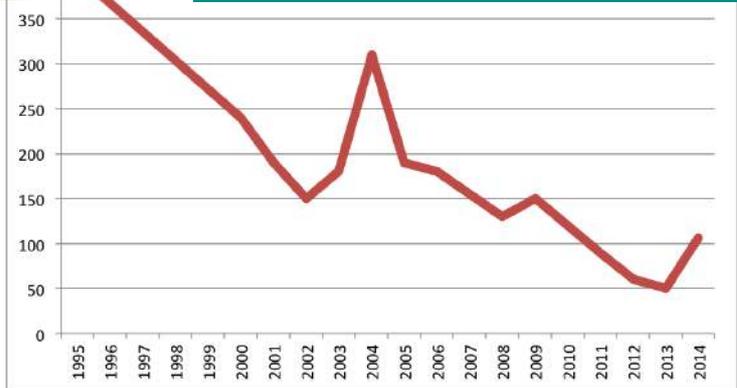


At the beginning of the year, we anxiously have been waiting for a spring flooding in Nemunas delta. We were worried about both- Aquatic warblers and farmers who became our good familiars. Strongly delayed pumping of water in the polder of Šyša river led to extremely unsuccessful transition of Aquatic warblers, and also to really complicated farming conditions for farmers. We closely collaborated with the department of rural affairs of Šilutė municipality and with the directorate of Nemunas Delta regional park . Our main goal was to find the optimal water pumping regime in polders. In more details, we measured water level daily, closely communicated and finally together we reached almost the ideal balance fulfilling the needs of Aquatic warblers and farmers'. Fortunately, a good practise how to employ cooperation of organisations in finding solutions useful for both nature and locals was formed.. The 5th of May was especially exciting day for us as we watched the first Aquatic warblers, which thanks to our efforts successfully passed trough the polder.

2014 – the year of increasing numbers of Aquatic warbler!

A truly astonishing surprise from Aquatic warblers – for the first time in 10 years the population increased in 2014. It was the greatest reward for the years we had been working on habitats restoration. We counted 106 singing males of Aquatic warbler (in 2013 there were only 50 of them). However, this is not only due to the actions we took. . Probably, there was also an impact of improved farming practises in Nemunas Delta and Pamarys as well as of favorable wintering conditions in west Africa.

The number of singing males of Aquatic warbler in Lithuania



Nevertheless, we just can't hold on our joy hearing the singing Aquatic warblers in restored habitats as we know that this capricious bird assessed our efforts.

The team members of this project in organisation



Environmental agreement with farmers

Unfortunately, the measure we prepared to protect Aquatic warblers was delayed as a new program of rural development was not approved in 2014, which otherwise would have ensured payments for farmers. There was a threat that farmers will refuse additional commitments to environment without getting compensations for that. We didn't give up and started agreements with responsible institutions to initiate contracts with farmers in whose grasslands this rare bird was breeding. The essence of the contract is that farmers delay mowing and animals pasturage allowing birds to breed, and the loss is compensated for farmers. Voluntary environmental contracts with farmers in Lithuania are not widespread so we believe that experience gained this year will be helpful for national environment.

Special measure for farmers to protect Aquatic warbler



One of the most important achievements in 2014 is the inclusion of the final contract of our prepared measure for Aquatic warbler protection in the plan of Lithuanian rural development. Farmers participating in this measure will get compensations for additional commitments. It is really important step in reaching to ensure this rare bird survival in a long perspective.

Sustainable farming in the delta of Nemunas river



Together for protection of endangered bird

From now on, the actions of protecting Aquatic warblers is going to include not only environmentalists but also farmers, who can be involved in the implementation of agrarian-environmental measures that is becoming a quiet usual practise. Owing to these measures, there will be ability to sustain good conditions in Aquatic warbler habitats and to get the financial support for the restoration of these habitats. To our joy agricultural sector is going to support this protection of rare bird and it will reach heedful farmers.

Does the world really need Aquatic warbler?





Environment and protected areas

Aquatic warbler

» „Promotion of environmentally-friendly farming practises to ensure the protection of birds located in dwindling agrarian landscape", 2010-2015

Conference in Finland



We shared our good practice to learn from each other. Our prepared agri-environmental measure is included in the best practice guides in Europe. Participation in the international events let us to confirm the idea that nature protection needs to be done together with people; that human beings (farmers) and their social and economical needs are as important as the globally endangered bird species. The survival of endangered species and consistent concern of them can be ensured only by balance between environmental and local citizens' needs. Happily, this attitude is getting more and more support in Lithuania and in international community.



Over this year, we successfully tested and demonstrated an innovative mowing machine. Additionally, our partner, the directorate of Žuvintas biosphere reserve, actively organized events presenting the manufacturing line for grass biomass pellets that was acquired during the implementation of this project.



2014 was rich in good practise



In media



Together with Nemunas delta farmers and community deputies we were learning from colleagues' practices during the educational trip to the Netherlands. There we acquired familiarity with innovative ways of grass utilization, cases of coordination of environmental and agricultural interests. Inspired by good examples and new ideas we understood once again that Nemunas delta is area with a huge potential, where the harmony between nature and local human beings is possible.

Experience in the Netherlands



Tourism - connecting link

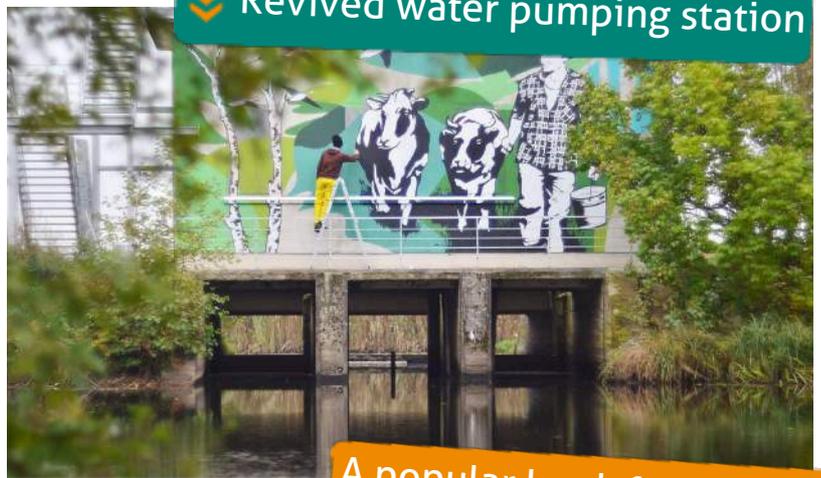


Tourism that stimulates cognition of nature and local culture is an important sphere ensuring successful environmental protection and giving the value of nature to local citizens as well as to society. This idea we bear in mind when planning educational trails, billboards and towers for bird watching. We also seek to do this innovatively and sometimes unpredictably. For example, the old water pumping station in Tulkiaragė polder was transformed into a sturdy watching tower which was decorated by artists who created a painting representing a farmer and Aquatic warbler. We hope that this artistic expression will inspire farmers to carry their activities in a harmony with nature, to protect it and talk about it. In 2015 We are going to invite all the people to the opening of this watching tower and educational trail starting from there.

The largest Aquatic warbler in the world - in Lithuania



Revived water pumping station



A popular book for kids

They can live together



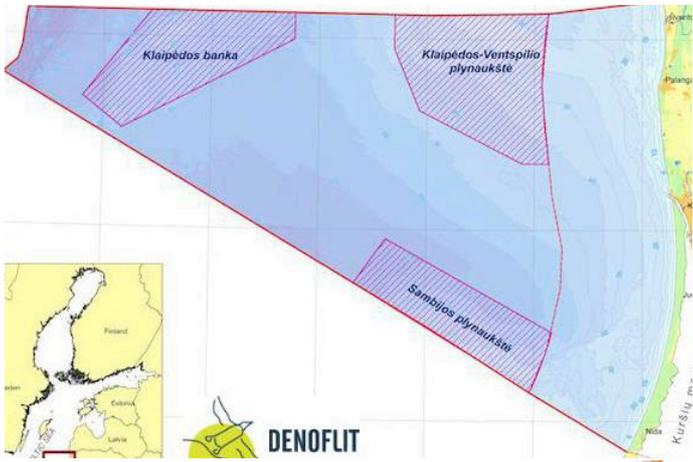


Environment and protected areas

Denoflit

„Marine habitats and species inventory for Natura 2000 network development in Lithuania economic zone in Baltic sea", 2010-2015

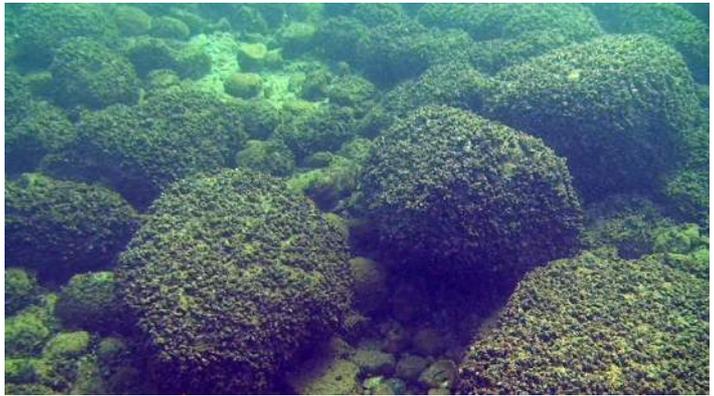
Firstly, the main aim of this project was to evaluate the importance of Lithuanian specific economic zone in the Baltic Sea for the protected marine biodiversity and if needed to establish marine protected areas in the Baltic sea. The team of this project successfully carried out the research of the seabed, fishes and wintering birds. After the evaluation of gathered data, specialists distinguished two remarkable areas of European Union importance, namely Sambija and Klaipėda-Ventspils plateaus, where lies the habitats of reefs and the huge accumulations of marine birds are found. Therefore the first marine protected areas in Lithuania will be established in these plateaus.



Marine protected areas



It is hard for society to explore marine nature and biodiversity. Preserved Baltic Sea marine reefs are under the water, and most of the wintering birds are over the horizon line.



Still, this mysterious marine world is remarkably beautiful and its residents are heroes of extraordinary stories.

There are reefs in the Baltic Sea!



New exposition



Seeking to share the knowledge about the marine nature of the Baltic Sea, together with our partners we prepared material for a new Baltic Sea exposition, which will be opened for visitors of Lithuanian Sea Museum very soon.

This project's team in organization



➤ New illustrated book



Hear and see the Baltic Sea!



Besides, we are preparing a book about the biodiversity of the Baltic Sea. This book is going to reach readers in 2015 and its stories will amaze many of them. The book will accompany readers through the Baltic beaches or while dreaming about calm weekend afternoon on a seaside. Don't miss it - follow information on our website or on „Facebook“.

➤ Presenting project in conference „Litoral 2014“



➤ Fishermen help to carry on fish inventory



For those who are impatient, we suggest to visit Palanga and to study the information board situated near the bridge. You can find the stories about marine birds and the recipe of great black goby there. Save marine from invasive species gourmet!





Agriculture and rural development

VivaGrass

» Integrated planning tool to ensure viability of grasslands, 2014-2018



The area covered by natural and semi-natural grasslands has considerably decreased in the Baltic States throughout the last century as a result of estrangement of people from rural lifestyle. The semi-natural grasslands were converted to arable land, forest or became urbanized. Farmlands were lost to natural succession and overgrew with forests. The loss of biodiversity, soil quality and pollution of water were caused by intensification of agriculture. However, marginal grassland areas or areas not suitable for intensive agriculture still contain high biodiversity. Loss of grassland biodiversity leads to degradation or even destroying of the ecosystem functions and services. To maintain or provide these services artificially would require enormous financial investments.



Integrated tool

To solve this problem is foreseen to create GIS based tool which would help by specific grassland parameters (economical, cosial, environmental, agricultural policy etc.) to choose the most appropriate measures for management of the area. This tool may also demonstrate opportunities of multifunctional grassland use (ecosystem services). This could become a basis for sustainable rural development and incentive for local economics.



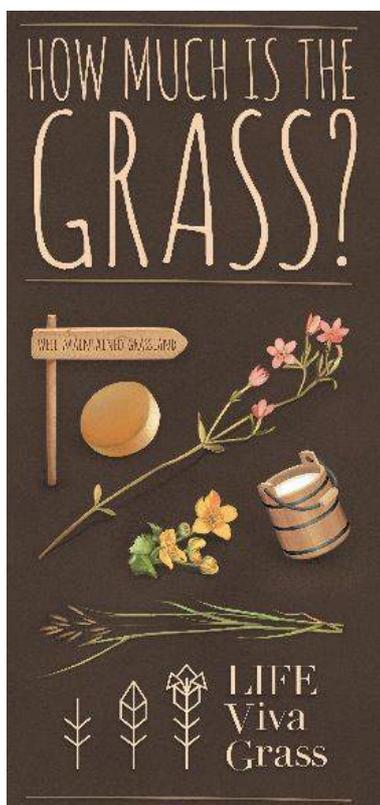
Seeking to get new knowledge in grassland maintenance and to learn innovative ways of managing grasslands, through the short period of time (from June, 2014) there have been already couple of meetings with partners and two educational trips to foreign countries.

14 partners in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia



The team of the project in our organization





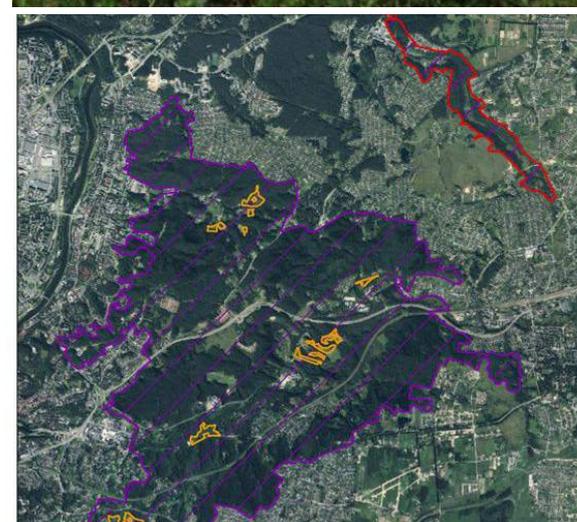
In addition, the website of the project was created, where all new information can be found and also a project presenting booklet in English was released.



Besides, some of the grassland restoration work has been already carried out (schrubs were cut in the area of 11 hectares) in one of the project areas, in Ribiškiai landscape reserve that belongs to Pavilniai Regional Park and in the other areas in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia there is an intensive preparations going on.



The research of grassland exploration were carried in all the countries. In Latvia for this purpose an innovative aerial photography method was used. There are processing meetings with farmers and responsible institutions taking place in the areas of the project. Reaching the main goal of the project, the concept of tool for integrated planning was launched.





Agriculture and rural development

Envieeval

» New methodics, designed for programs of EU village development impact to environment measuring, development and application 2013-2015



Although this project was one of the biggest intellectual challenges for BEF team in 2014, it is certainly important and interesting, because it provides ability to have a closer look into EU's Common Agricultural policy's impact for environment.

BEF team in Lithuania analyze specific questions related to agri-environmental measures and how they influence the areas with huge natural value and biodiversity. During 2014 we together with different researchers from EU states - analyzed data, world practice and created ways how to organize agri-environmental measures' assessment system, seeking to choose the best and the most scientifically sound way.



The result of this work is the prepared logical evaluation system and some analytical studies, helping to evaluate currently applied methods. The logical evaluation system is currently being tested comparing with real data and based on this practice recommendations for European Commission will be made in 2015. These recommendations will contribute to setting the better evaluation methods of the impact of EU agricultural policy measures.



Impact assessment challenges

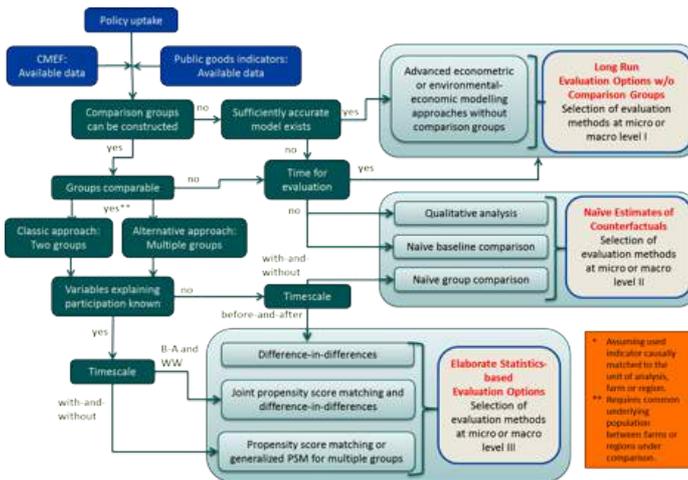
During 2007-2013 years 96 millions euros were payed for farmers while implementing EU rural development programs. Some of the measures from this program were dedicated to environment. Paradoxically, dedicating such a huge part of EU budget for those measures, the evaluation of the impact which they make is vague in most countries. How should we objectively evaluate the impact which was made by agri-environment measures?

How much this impact is related to the implementation of measures and how much to different side effects? How to choose the best evaluation method having limited data? How to evaluate impact of implemented measures in agricultural level? How to match different institutions' data, that they would be combined and could serve in evaluation of EU funds impact? That is just a part of the questions analyzed in this project.

Team of the project in our organization



Fragment of the logical assessment structure



In a broader perspective, this project gives opportunity for our country to show the initiative and actively participate in EU agricultural policy course determination. This means that together with other EU member states we are moving to cleaner and more diverse agrarian landscapes.





Farming and rural development

Hungry for rights »

Global Learning from Local Solutions in Alternative Food Systems, 2013-2016

From farmers' hands to your table



Villages are being abandoned cities are expanding and Lithuanians slowly are losing their connection to the background lifestyle. Thus we see a gap between city and village, fading environmentally-friendly farming methods. A farmer, growing and serving products to the market, has a decisive role for food safety and quality and even for environmental protection. In this context village's and city's solidarity seems to be a necessity. The project, "Hungry for rights" tries to create such a solidarity implementing the idea of short food supply chain.

Farmer – jack-of-all-trades



Farmers to be able to sell their production directly need to have skills in a lot of fields - law, management, marketing, etc. A cycle of training in 3 places over Lithuania (Klaipėda, Molėtai, Varėna areas) where initiatives for short food chain supply already exist was held this year.



Training topics were selected considering the ambition to encourage competitive market members and the legitimate realization of their production, and taking a glance where the knowledge is missing in different areas. Some participants learnt subtleties of farming in objectives of soil quality, production recycling or homeopathic veterinary treatment, the others looked deeper into the legitimization of agricultural production and the topics how to develop value-added products.

Solidarity between city and village



Team of the project in our organization



Study visit to France



To get knowledge about direct selling in Europe, the most active farmers were invited to the project partners' meeting in France.

Slow market



After returning to Lithuania, farmers gathered in two working groups, which will try to implement a short food supply chain case in Vilnius Slow market. Educational activities will start in spring of 2015 and will try to promote seeing the market not only as a rushing buying place, but as a space of meeting and exchanging the values between city and village, with a possibility to learn about responsible consumption. Finally, farmers trading in market will also invite buyers to visit their farms.



Photo Aivar Ruukel



Photo Aivar Ruukel

Mutual benefit for city and village

This year we also gathered active farmers into community. By doing this we aimed to support the environmentally-friendly farming and sustainable rural development, promoting the survival of small and medium size farms as well as the creation of new. The aim was also to encourage village people to be interested in city organizations, whose activities can have an effect to village life quality.



Photo Aivar Ruukel





Chemicals, industrial pollution and

Think before you buy»

Information campaign about hazardous substances in the Baltic states (BaltInfoHaz), 2011-2015



In 2014 we continued campaign „Think before you buy“, informing society about the opportunity to choose products without harmful chemicals and this proper selection importance to health and environment. We showed consumers how to recognize products containing dangerous substances, and encouraged people to find alternative products without these substances.

International conference



In March there was an international conference in Vilnius, where more than 70 specialist from different health societies and substances analysts from 10 countries discussed the dangerous chemicals in everyday products and their influence for health. Interestingly, discussions about the legal but little proactive consumer right to know what kind of risk substances are in the products got a lot of attention. Gathered NGO's representatives underlined that the biggest problem in many European countries remains poor consumer awareness about their rights.

The good start of campaign



The presentation of results from research carried out in 2013 got a huge public and press attention. Namely, it was about dangerous chemical substances in volunteers blood, home dust and products. The results showed that our organisms are polluted by chemicals as well as our home environment is. They come from unpredictable places and goods we use, such as toys and cosmetics. It is worth to choose them responsibly and remember that our decisions and interests have a huge influence for manufacturers.



Team of the project in our organization





substances in



Information about the research and results of dangerous chemical substances in products were published in press and cyber place - there were about 150 articles. We also contributed in preparation of 17 television and 9 radio reports on this topic.

Attention and involvement



The biggest achievement for us is a great people interest in lectures and seminars across Lithuania. In 2014 we visited 11 cities in Lithuania having 1500 participants, with whom we communicated directly, answered to all questions and analyzed products people use. After seminars we got a lot of questions via e-mails, phones. We also were contacted by people who wanted to spread the information and we got to know that there is growing a group of volunteers.

News feed



In 2014 we were actively putting information to our website and in Facebook, updating the latest information about chemical compounds in products, scientific articles about the impact to health and environment, presented the safest alternatives.

Participation in fair „ECO LOGIKA“



15 000 visitors



At researchers' night we invited to think about impact to the Baltic Sea



Chemicals and industrial pollution

Think before you buy

Information campaign about hazardous substances in Baltic states (BaltInfoHaz), 2011-2015



From 2014 you can see campaign information posters in the bigger cities of Lithuania.

Campaign booklets were „cleaned-up“- we delivered almost all printed copies.

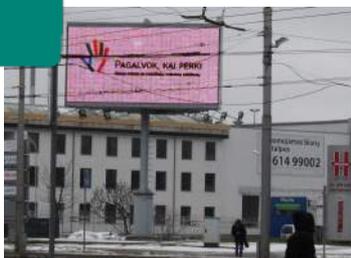


Stands in the streets



ACM screens were showing funny campaign movies. Supporters of this campaign also share these videos in their organisations.

Movies on screens



Movies



www.pagalvok.lt

Strengthening the role of environmental NGOs in shaping climate change policy

» 2013-2014

Important year for climate change policy



In 2014 the world held series of important events on climate change topic. There were the latest scientific climate change reports (IPCC) released, the debates took place and there were efforts to coordinate national positions, aiming to prepare a global agreement on climate change stabilization (UNFCCC). Lithuania, in which the climate change topic is little escalated to the general public, held a presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2013. For these reasons, it became extremely important to speak publicly about climate change and encourage

Advocating climate change



We focused on public awareness on climate change, effects of those processes and decisions necessary to reduce them. We held three events for Lithuanian journalists. We not only represented the actions from all around the world (IPCC reports, NGO position about Lithuanian politicians' actions, debates about the goals for 2030) but also shared advice where to find reliable sources of information when preparing reports on climate change; how to interpret that information and data.

Team of the project in our organization



<http://aplinkosauga.lt/klimatas/>

Strong NGO position



We appealed to the highest politicians of Lithuania twice together with some other NGOs, made some presentations in LR Parliament and Ministry of Environment, demanding to rely on the latest world scientific research and recommendations setting ambitious EU climate change and energetics aims.

Promises from candidates to EU



We joined the action that was organized all over Europe and invited Lithuanian citizens to have a direct pressure for politicians, who are responsible for the position of Lithuania in the global climate change meetings. Approaching European Parliament elections, we urged all the candidates to sign their commitments for active actions in reducing climate change. This action received a huge attention - more than a third of participants (80) of EP elections in Lithuania signed this commitment and two of them (B. Ropė and R. Paksas) were elected. This action will remind them about the commitments they made.

Hot topic!



Discussing on social media



Volunteers helped us!



We are glad for media attention we had - around 50 articles showed up in press on television and radio mostly because of the events we organized. The topic has become quite relevant and we can see how constantly there appear new articles about this topic. Although this project was finished in 2014, you can still follow the most important information about the climate change on Facebook. And so to say, that is the only Facebook page about the climate change in Lithuania at the time. We hope that society will still be curious about climate change and will become involved in discussions on this topic. All in all, we don't have a second Earth!

Other initiatives

Maintenance of grassland in Dvarčionys

» 2008 onwards

justas.gulbinas@be

» The story of hay in the city



Not so many cities in Europe can boast about having natural grasslands in urban areas, with rare plant and bird species. But so is unique the grassland in Dvarčioniai. Location in the city area means both uniqueness and difficulties to preserve it.

» Restoration of the grassland - cutting scrubs



Grassland has to be mowed every year, cut grass has to be raked up and removed to prevent accumulation of biomass and this way support variety of different plant and bird species.



» Mowing

We had no problems with mowing this year due to a new grass cutting machine „Brielmaier" and did all the work (even mowed the most wet places) ourselves. Although hay was a high quality, there was no one wanting to rake and use it.



» There is a lot of hay!
» And good one!

We decided to rake hay in a popular way of ancient times and to organize community. We invited residents of the capital city to enjoy hot summer and fussy nature by swinging the rakes. It was not a big group of enthusiasts. Despite their activity we could not manage the area of four hectares in one day. We tried to find an alternative and starting looking for a farmer living nearby who could rake the rest of hay with his tractor. But to find this in Vilnius area is much more difficult than you could think of. Farmers are almost gone from that area and the rest are not keen to do something (there are a lot of grasslands near them, however, transportation is not cost effective and the conditions are complicated due to the wet soil). Offering high quality hay did not change their mind. After a long time of searching, finally we found a farmer, who raked the hay and put it into the piles. For this work we gave him some contributions from public support.



» Raking: working together



Hay as a gift



Only one thing was left, namely, to remove hay from the grass. We spread a notice that we are giving away hay. A part of hay was taken by the locals, who still have cattle, some of it was taken by a woman from Vilnius to fertilize the garden and some went to Vilnius University Botanical Garden to create „live“ sculptures. Nevertheless, a large part of the hay was still left lying on the grass. debegulėjo pievoje.



The festival of hay?

We wish to realize a hay festival in Dvarčioniai in 2015. However, to do this (as well as haying) we need some public support. During the festival we will invite people to get to know about the values of the grass, to discuss about biodiversity in the city. We are looking for the new ways and ideas how to maintain the grasslands, how to use hay and how to make this field suitable for education of city residents and recreation. We wish that everyone could enjoy the grassland of Dvarčioniai.



Magic of Christmas Eve

We thought about a new idea to change the meaning of hay by using it in different way (to create an added-value). Maybe it is strange to think about St. Christmas Eve in summer but we thought about the Lithuanians tradition to pull a small piece of hay when sitting by the St. Christmas Eve table, that helps to predict the future. Dvarčioniai grassland is a very important ecosystem so, by our philosophy, we decided that delivering some hay for our relatives and friends would make them happier. We held a Christmas Eve workshop in a summertime and sent a crisp greetings to our counterparts in winter time.



After the spring work



In total, we have visited and worked in Dvarčioniai grassland five times in 2014.



Enjoy this grassland together!



Other initiatives



Gamtoje.org



2008 onwards

rita.norvaisaite@be



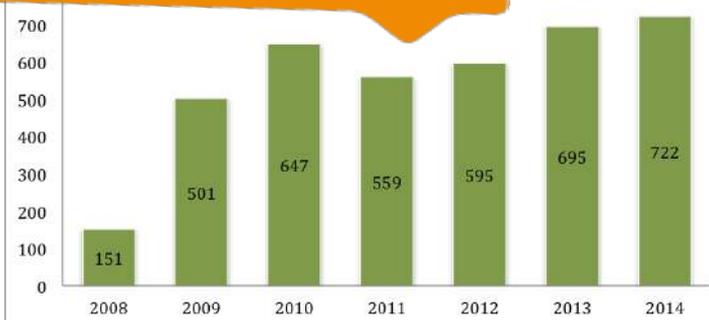
Gamtoje.org -is a space for expression and leisure of Baltic Environmental Forum. It combines a number of initiatives, which are united by one aim. That is to help people to experience the nature, to realise the importance of nature and to stay there.

When talking about experiencing and staying out in the nature, we are thinking firstly about the slow way to know and find the nature. Do you remember how a Little Prince was trying to tame a fox? Everything here is very similar - to know cycles of nature you need firstly to stay for a while in the forest, to touch the moss or wrinkled wood trunk, to taste strawberries, sea buckthorn, rowan and to smell the nature in different times of the year.

Reporting about harmed nature



Growing number of reports



We got the greatest number of reports in 2014. The number of reports is expanding and it shows that this initiative is worth doing. The most active citizens reported a double-digit number of reports. There are more than 20 of the activists.



Growing number of reports led us to find some contributors, who wanted to support this initiative. We started a partnership with The association of Manufacturers and Importers . With their help and our old friends „Hnit-Baltic“ we began preparing a bulky waste site map of Lithuania. It should help to reduce accumulation of trash in the forests and roadsides that is one of the biggest problems noted by our announcers.



We held a special photo session for aukok.lt illustrations

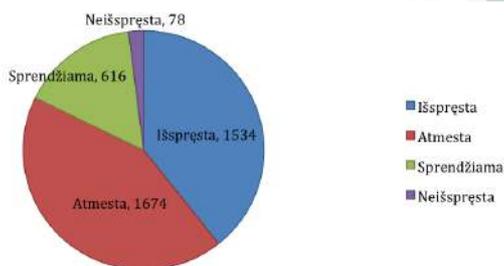


At the end of the year, after being selected we got the right to collect a financial support for initiative on a website aukok.lt. Even though, the number of supporters is expanding, we have collected only a small part of necessary funds. We hope to collect at least a half of the sum needed. Otherwise, we must stop the initiative „Report about harmed nature“.

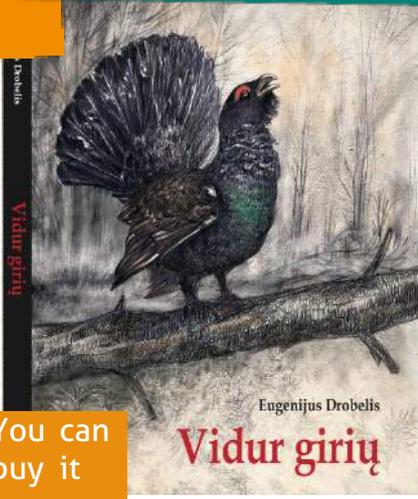
Distribution of the problems by their



Aistė
Volunteer helped us



New book about experience in



You can also feel some nature being at home. Books can serve for this. In 2014, we released a book of well-known naturalist dr. Eugenijus Drobelis about the memories and adventures from nature called „In the middle of the woods”.

You can buy it

Activities in nature



Festival „In the middle of the woods”



We decided to introduce this book out in the nature. That became some kind of two day festival in nature where the mystery of Čepkeliai wetland, the smell of cakes from Dzūkija, screaming cranes and joyful emotions merged. Everyone who wanted could try the work of ecologist and participate in crane accounting.



Stay together in the nature



There was a large group of participants - over 100. They had an opportunity to get to know the subtleties of nature photography, visited wetland of Čepkeliai, tasted and listened about the local heritage. Later on the participants were divided to the smaller groups to take a part crane accounting in the National Park of Dzūkija. In those places friends of nature spent a cool night (it was -6 outside), at the time of dawn they got out from their warm sleeping bags and settled down to listen awakening nature. The time which we usually spend sleeping became a memorable adventure that day.

Searching for the treasures of nature



In collaboration with TEO, we could finally implement an old idea, the search of treasures in the nature. We created two continuous versions of routes, based on ecoteering concept. This concept was developed by well-known nature communicator Chris Rose. With his approval we tried this in Lithuania, in the National Park of Žemaitija and the Regional Park of Verkiiai. You will find out more about this in the near future.



Projects of 2014

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/denoelit
2011-2015	1 683 396 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.pagalvok.lt
2013-2014	153 453 LTL	NGO Programme Lithuania, funded by EEA Grants and project partners	Strengthening the role of environmental NGOs in climate change policy-making	Baltic Environment Forum Lithuania (Project coordinator) Sustainable Development Initiatives – DVI The Lithuanian Environmental NGO's Coalition	http://aplirkosau.lt/klimatas/
2013-2015	1 738 444 EUR	EU programme "Seventh framework " and project partners	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 – institute, Bundesforschungsinstitute 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 Agria, Italy, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece, Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania	---

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, Pavilnīai and Verķiai Regional Park, Dubysa Regional Park, Silute District Municipality, JSC Hnit-Baltic, Institute for Environmental Solutions	http://vivagrass.eu/

Finansinė ataskaita

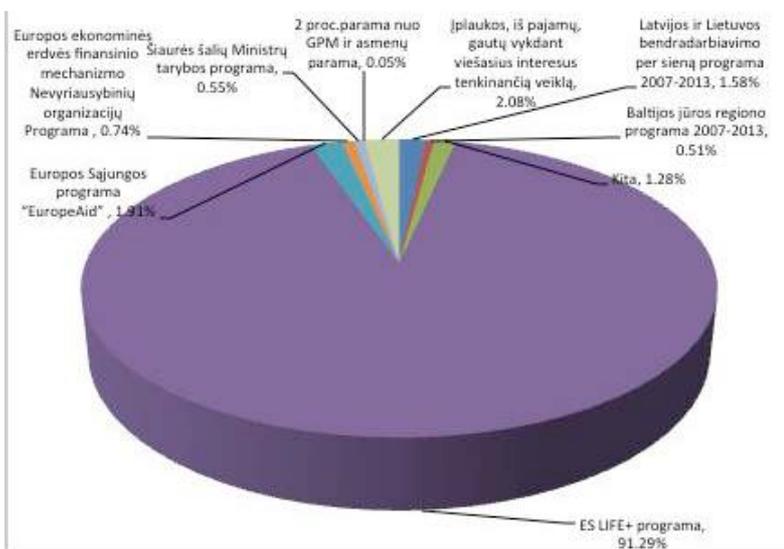
Income

Total income for 2014 year was 2 781 483 litas. Part of this sum was related to Project expenses from 2013 and 2014 while some income came from public interest activities.

In diagram „Income by sources“ income from EU LIFE+ programme and BSR programme 2007-2013 was calculated together with national co-funding as Lithuania is committed to contribute to the implementation of the projects funded by these programmes. National co-funding income was 486 527 LLitas. It means, 19 % from of above mentioned programmes and 17 % of all income of the year.

Part of income from EU LIFE+ programme and NGO Programme Lithuania, funded by EEA Grants, was distributed among Project partners, institutional part here was 52 %.

Income by sources



Expenses

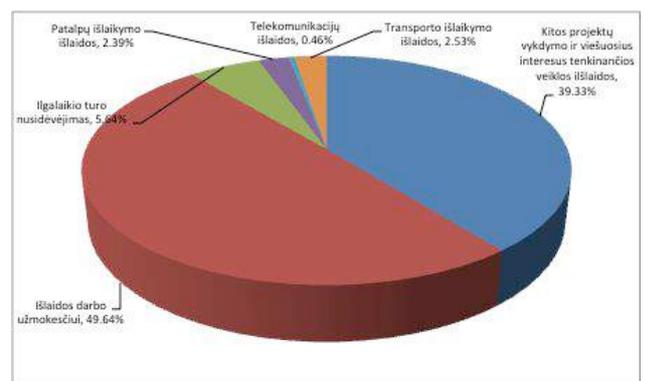
Total expenses for 2014 year was 1 776 472 LLitas. Part of these expenses will be funded from funding income of 2015.

50 % of all expenses belong to annual personnel costs (with all related taxes). 19 % of personnel costs were related to director's salary and taxes.

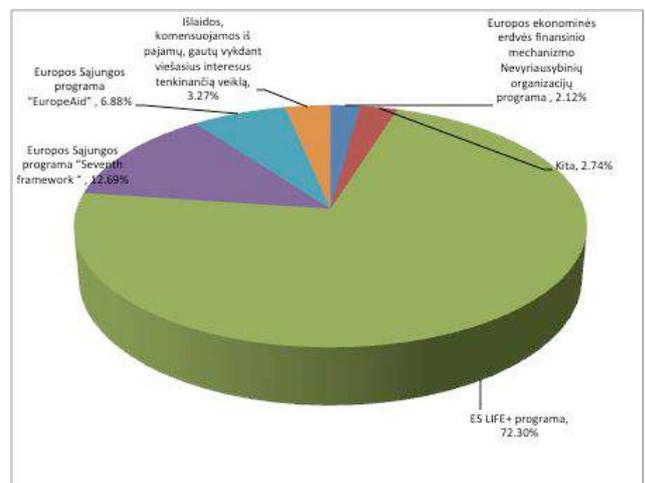
No payments were made to shareholders in 2014.

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

Expenses by categories



Expenses by sources



Employees and stakeholders



At the beginning of the year 13 employees were working in organisation, 5 of them were part-time employees and 3 persons were on maternity leave. At the end of the year 18 employees were working in organisation, 5 of them were part-time employees and 3 persons were on maternity leave. Shareholders and their contribution (99 % and 1 %) did not change from the establishment of the institution on 2003 10 14 and was 5 211 litas.

Long-term asset

For long-term asset organisation spent 3687 litas in 2014.

Long-term asset	Project	Share, %
Computer Apple Mac Pro13.3	LIFE VivaGrass (50%)	100,00%
TOTAL		100,00%



To support » We can protect nature and reveal it's value together!

In 2014, societies support stood for 0,05 % of incomes. Having a greater support we could implement more arising ideas spending more time for the direct activities and not for the preparation of reports.

Moments from our life in 2014

Cleaning up



Continuous tradition of blood donation



Mentioned Lithuanian memorable days



Aivaras presented his song



We created a decoration for Užupis Christmas tree



We relaxed in Trakai, thanks to Jūrātė



We mentioned Christmas and New Year with symbolic trip to the Pavilniai Regional Park



We visited one of the project „Vivagrass" areas



Kęstutis was captured by his favourite hawthorn



You cannot run away from the cases of „Report about harmed nature"



Supporting environment - it is like a stump singing baritone



Not formed practise

There is no tradition by society in Lithuania to support environmental protection. „What is out there to support?" - asks Lithuanian surprised like he had seen baritone singing stump. So far the tradition to support poor, children, homeless animals is rooted but the continuous support to NGOs –is still a rare thing in Lithuania. Meanwhile, in the world it is a widespread phenomenon. It is an usual practise to deliver a constant part of incomes for organization, whose ideas and principles of activities are believed to be valued in society.

≡ The first steps in Lithuania

We, Baltic Environmental Forum, try to hold a good practise in Lithuanian society that people would support environmental ideas and believing that it will help to get not more freedom for NGOs in this sphere and will also gather citizens and increase their responsibility and participation.

At the end of 2014, we started to collect financial support in website aukok.lt. Our initiative „Report about hurted nature" was the first environmental initiative in this website.

aukok.lt
aukojimo portalas

Freedom to act



„Greenpeace" is a perfect example of organization, which annually collects millions of sums only from society support. That gives it absolute freedom in action - no commitments for external organizations, minimal documentation and accountability. „Greenpeace" is responsible only for their direct supporters - society - and is free to implement ideas.

Full transparency



In 2015 we are going to activate communication by giving opportunity to society to contribute to the environmental field they are excited about. While organizing the visit of Dalai Lama, we understood that society needs transparency. Thus we will specify where the money from funds will be used and publish the financial and activities reports.

You can support» Protect the nature and reveal its value together!

Most of the initiatives to preserve nature and promote people's individual experience, could not exist without public support. You can help us to maintain current and future ideas.

Report about harmed nature

This initiative solves environmental problems captured by citizens. It exists and develops only with public support.



Support

Gamtoje.org

This initiative merges actions promoting connection between human beings and nature. We are seeking not only to solve the problems of harming nature, but also to offer various activities which could help people to know the nature around us, to feel and cherish it. Initiative exists and develops only with public support.



Support

Support our actions

By supporting the overall action of Baltic Environmental Forum you would contribute to these initiatives:

- www.gamtoje.org;
- [protection of Aquatic warbler](#);
- [campaign „Think when you buy“](#);
- [maintenance of Dvarčioniai grassland](#);
- [development of new environmental publications](#);
- [other activities](#).



Support



Baltic Environmental Forum: save nature tog



gether!

BEF team

» Common values



If you you like what we do how we do:

- Support our;
- Volunteer - just contact us;
- Like us and share our ideas on Facebook;
- Subscribe our newsletter.



We are NGO, that believe, that we must save our planet not from people, but together with them.

Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania

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Baltic Environmental Forum, www.bef.lt, 2015