

ACTIVITY REPORT

Most important achievements, activities, and initiatives

Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania

2018



Protecting nature together
with people

www.bef.lt

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AQUATIC WARBLER CONSERVATION

LIFE Magni Ducatus Acrola
2016-2023
In Lithuania and Belarus

The year of 2018 was very significant for the protection of the aquatic warbler. Until now, no one year has required such strength and devotion from the project team, and no one year have there been so many major events both nationally and internationally.





World's first translocation of the aquatic warbler

One of the most important events – the translocation of the aquatic warbler from Belarus to Lithuania was implemented for the first time in the world. We collected 50 nestlings from their biggest population in the Zvaniec fen mire and translocated them to the Žuvintas Biosphere Reserve. These young birds were successfully grown and 98% of them were released, with hopes that they will come back to their new home in Žuvintas after wintering in Africa.

International experts congratulated us with an incredibly successful beginning of the translocation and along with our team, they are eagerly waiting for 2019, when it will become clear whether this conservation measure is really working.

"It is a very exciting moment to be able to observe, the implementation of the translocation is successful so far. Already, the project team has collected a lot of valuable experience, which we can later use to further the conservation of the species." – said Dr. Karl Schulze-Hagen while visiting Lithuania during the translocation. Dr. Karl Schulze-Hagen is a famous aquatic warbler researcher, and the only one so far, who raised and successfully bred these birds in captivity.

Geolocators research

Another important project, which started last year, was geolocators research. Its aim was to find out where aquatic warblers from Lithuania and northern Belarus winter. 60 birds were equipped with the special sensors called geolocators. These devices, that are similar to tiny backpacks, sense daylight. In order to track birds' flight routes, the birds have to be caught again the following year. The geolocators are taken off, and the collected data is analyzed. This information is important not only for planning further species conservation actions, but it also helps evaluate population size fluctuations in Lithuania, and translocation success. The research is implemented by BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team (AWCT). Our teams helped them in Lithuania.



dr. Karl Schulze-Hagen





New biomass processing facility

In the fall of 2018, a new biomass processing facility began operating in the city of Dreverna, Lithuania. Late-mown grass from the aquatic warbler's home in the seacoast and the Nemunas delta is to be recycled there. The facility will not only help solve the biomass utilization problem in the biggest aquatic warbler habitat in Lithuania but will also provide an opportunity for local farmers, who take care of these birds, to get rid of grass which is not suitable for animal feeding.





Webplatform of Young Nature Rangers

Nearing the end of the year, we released a special platform for kids who love nature and want to explore it: www.gamtosreindzeris.lt. It includes lots of interesting activities and games for 7-14 years old kids, as well as leisure and lesson plans for teachers and parents.

As in previous years, we continued visiting farmers in the Nemunas delta, a breeding territory for aquatic warblers. We also organized a traditional welcoming day for the species, in which we not only discussed the protection of birds with local farmers, but also welcomed the returned aquatic warblers with raised special project flags.

In the project's territories of Lithuania and Belarus we continued nature management works by removing shoddy shrubs and reeds. To ensure the protection of these territories in the future, we prepared preliminary nature management plans and discussed them with local communities.

We consistently studied potential habitats for aquatic warblers in Lithuania and recorded them into a GIS database. Using criteria determined by scientists, we made a top 100 list of the most suitable areas. We plan on visiting these territories and collecting more data to seek out the most promising habitats.

Also, we continued a variety of research – about flora, insects and water level. We tested a remote habitat mapping method which uses a drone and satellite images.

Information stands in all the project's territories of Lithuania and Belarus were setup, informing individuals of the unique values of the project territories.



2019 should bring even more challenges, adventures, and experiences. If you want to keep up with how we're doing, subscribe to our project website www.meldine.lt



„LIFE VIVA GRASS“

ASSESSING THE BENEFITS GRASSLANDS PROVIDE FOR HUMAN WELL-BEING AND VISUALIZING THEM ON AN INNOVATIVE GIS TOOL

2014-2018
In Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia



INTEGRATED PLANNING TOOL

The year of 2018 was especially demanding for the project team. Three Integrated planning tool applications were developed. More information about the tool, its application and usage can be found on the project's website.

5 training events for the usage of the tool and ecosystem services were held in Lithuania. Moreover, the ecosystem services of agro-systems (meadows and arable land) were evaluated in Lithuania (as well as Latvia and Estonia)





This year we held 5 visitor days in the project territories, in which we presented project activities and told people about ecosystem services that grasslands provide. Our "Paukščių palydėtuvės" ("Birds farewell") feast that we held with partners in the Nemunas delta attracted a big number of participants (140).

Also, we organized an international seminar on the topic "Ecosystem services concept integration in territory planning for sustainable land-use in grasslands and other ecosystems." This seminar, which took place in Sigulda, Latvia was visited by a large group of 60 experts.

We are pleased that the first Lithuanian bird guide for the Nemunas delta region, released during the project attracted great interest, and

the first edition was distributed within a few months. Consequently, we decided to release a second, larger edition of the guide which was also successfully distributed to those who are interested in observing the birds of Nemunas delta region. The publication also reached the most hard-core bird watchers—author of the guide, Marius Karlonas, presented it in the largest and most famous ornithological tourism exhibition "Birdfair" in UK. Therefore, we hope that news about the impressive grasslands of the Nemunas delta and the ecosystem services they provide – the opportunity to observe the birds – will soon produce results and stimulate the development of nature tourism in the region.





NATURA 2000 NETWORK MANAGEMENT OPTIMIZATION IN LITHUANIA

LIFE IP PAF-NATURALIT
2018-2027
In Lithuania

In 2018, a new, very ambitious project has been launched to implement sustainable positive changes in the management of the NATURA 2000 network and to encourage systemic change in our country's environmental protection. The core responsibilities of our organization include integration of environmental protection and agriculture, promotion of extensive farming and entrepreneurship for communities living in protected territories, and raising public awareness.



NATURALIT

3 nature festivals

In 2018, we organized 3 festivals in nature, which not only promoted personal experiences in nature and introduced environmental values, but also introduced the local community to the benefits of protected areas. With the help of local citizens, we organized unique events, and created a setting for local people to sell their home-made products.



Registered visitors	227	49	767
Number of participants signed in	115	76	528
Number of locals in program	7	9	18
Number of locals selling	10	2	7
Would recommend to friends	94 %		93 %



"I was very eager, because somehow I felt, that this was going to be something special... I was right... I really wanted to thank you, we personally live in Klaipėda and when we arrived we saw and were convinced all over again, what sincere, interesting, creative and authentic events can take place in smaller towns. We are very happy, that our four-year-old son had the opportunity to get to know the brilliance of nature, its origins, etc. It seems like nature itself merged with your event... Everything was so real... At least I felt that... and feel that still... Thank you, develop further and continue organizing, because what you did was unreal!"

Participant of the festival "Miško burtai" ("Forest spells")



In addition, we conducted research about people's familiarity with the protected area product trademark.

Public familiarity with the logo is about 43 – 47%. Based on:

- Delfi.lt/grynas survey (1112 respondents, 1 question)
- A survey conducted on the internet and at visitor centers (275 respondents, 17 questions).

During the research we also collected information about improving the trademark. The information we gain is going to be discussed with the protected areas' specialists and the trademark holders, to make recommendations on how the trademark should be improved and how a publicity campaign should be initiated.



DZŪKIJOS
NACIONALINIO PARKO
PRODUKTAS



AUKŠTAITIJOS
NACIONALINIO PARKO
PRODUKTAS



ŽEMAITIJOS
NACIONALINIO PARKO
PRODUKTAS

Products and services marked with a **protected areas product's trademark** are the best you can find in those areas. By buying a product with this trademark you support a small local business that protects the local nature, preserves the environment.



Together with the community of people with disabilities and protected area specialists, we discussed how to make these territories more accessible to people with disabilities. We considered what minimum but significant elements we could change in three national parks to make it easier for all people to enjoy nature.



THINK BEFORE YOU BUY

INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND EFFECTS OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ON ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN HEALTH IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

NonHazCity
2016-2019

In Lithuania and other Baltic Sea region cities



During the project, lectures were held for residents of Šilalė and Kaunas districts, where the latest knowledge was shared and tips on how to create a safe and healthy home environment without hazardous chemicals. Intense work also began in the homes of municipal residents. Homeowners from different settlements were visited by chemical specialists. We checked 10 family's bathroom and kitchen cabinets, and their cosmetics, reading labels and sharing tips on what to give up in the household and how to replace it.

For the third year running, the Interreg Baltic Sea Region project NonHazCity activities were the most intensive this year. 18 partners from different Baltic sea region cities worked together in continuing the project in municipalities. The Šilalė and Kaunas district municipalities, which are participating in the project, have started to prepare chemical action plans, which should be included in their official municipality plans at the end of the project. In regard to the importance

of buying green, specialists also worked intensively with companies based in these municipalities. Special training sessions were held for representatives of different fields. Up to 10 companies based in the municipalities were personally persuaded to participate in the project's activities. They were provided with individual specialist consultation to help eliminate hazardous chemicals used in their activities.





At the beginning of 2018, the special project magazine “Žalias miestas” (“The green city”) was completed, in which information on hazardous chemicals in everyday life, and advice on how to avoid them, were put together in a convenient form. The publication has been a great success and was easily distributed at various events. Other information materials, such as special posters and postcards about the cocktail effect of hazardous chemicals, were also released.

We actively shared information

on the Pagalvok.lt site and the Facebook page, “Pagalvok, kai perki” (“Think before you buy”). This year, we reached almost 1000 followers on this page. We also enjoyed active media attention, thanks to which we were able to share the knowledge we gained during the implementation of this and other projects during which we worked with the general public.



NONHAZCITY VIDAUS REIKALŲ MINISTERIJA



LIFE FIT FOR REACH

SUBSTITUTION OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES IN LITHUANIAN, LATVIAN AND ESTONIAN SMALL / MEDIUM-SIZED AND INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES

2015-2020

In Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia



In addition to obtaining advice, some of the companies have had the opportunity to test alternative chemicals or equipment due to the financial support provided by the project.

Intensive work continued with the main project partners in Lithuania - "Marijampolės pieno konservai" and "Vakarų metalgama". Companies tested a few possible alternatives and now are approaching the final stage - when they decide which option to choose and then, it will be possible to start evaluating the implemented changes.

In 2018, the project "Replacement of hazardous chemicals in small/medium-sized and industrial companies in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia" focused on work with "light-case" companies and causing small-scale changes. In the three Baltic countries, almost 50 companies participated in this year's project. 22 of them are based in Lithuania.

Companies involved are from a wide range of business areas, such as the automotive industry, electronics manufacturing,

metal or textile processing, etc. More companies which were not participating in the project have been provided with specialist advice and have made changes independently. The result of working with companies – deepened knowledge of specialists, improved management of chemical substances in companies, improved working conditions, reduced environmental impact of hazardous chemicals and increased resource usage efficiency.

LIFE / FIT FOR REACH



Beginners guide to green procurement for enterprises
- a tool for the better management of hazardous substances



Even more companies have accessed information during special seminars. The seminar cycle, which started at the beginning of the project, still continues. This year, 6 different events were organized in major cities of Lithuania, where the most relevant issues for the companies were presented. This includes the requirements of REACH, classification and labeling of chemicals, inventory, substitution of hazardous chemicals. About 100 participants of various companies from all over Lithuania participated in specialized seminars.

This year, the project also carried out a large-scale business survey. 300 companies were interviewed in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The survey showed that companies' environmental responsibility percentage increases with company size. It has been revealed that environmental concerns and current legislation are the most important factors when it comes to forming environmental principles and seeking alternatives chemicals or other solutions.

The benefits and results of the project were also discussed at a large international seminar in Riga, bringing together three different projects related to chemical substances.



UNISECO

Understanding and improving the sustainability of agro-ecological farming systems in the EU

In May of 2018, the international project "UNISECO" of scientific program "HORIZON 2020" began. 18 partners from 16 European countries are involved. The main objective of this initiative is to strengthen the sustainability of European farming. This will be done by analyzing examples of farms operating in a sustainable way in different European countries, trying to clarify their guarantees of success and evaluating farm results in a wider context (modeling scenarios in regard to demographic trends and socio-economic and ecological society needs). Finally, we will make recommendations for shaping the Common European Agricultural policy in order to increase the sustainability of farming in Europe.

2018-2021

In Lithuania, Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Switzerland and United Kingdom.



www.uniseco-project.eu

During this year, the project team conducted preparatory work – developed and approved the methodologies that will be used to study farms in our country. In Lithuania, we will analyze the sustainability of farming of small dairy and cheese producers. This study will cover environmental, social, economic, and farm management aspects.



DESIRE, Baltic rePAIR - Phase 2

In 2018, together with partners we also prepared a new project proposal. By implementing 2 preparatory projects "DESIRE" and "Baltic rePAIR" we prepared 2 new project proposals related to wetland and peatland recovery and the reduction of nutrients in bodies of water. One of the proposals did not win in the project competition, but the other was lucky and this project is already being carried out.

2018
In Lithuania and Sweden

2017-2018
In Lithuania, Germany and Poland





Futurepreneurs

Futurepreneurs
2016-2018
In Lithuania

www.futurepreneurs.eu

In 2018, the sustainable enterprise promotion project "Ateities lyderiai" ("Futurepreneurs") ended. For future startups, we prepared a "Problem solving" workshop, during which project participants developed and presented sustainable business ideas. Throughout the project, 43 teams were formed by 450 participants and participated in the pre-acceleration program in Lithuania and Poland, of which three Lithuanian companies set up their own businesses.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

GrePPP

Green public procurement of pharmaceuticals in Baltic sea region

The preparatory project #5008 "Green public procurement of pharmaceuticals in Baltic sea region" (GrePPP) of Baltic sea program Interreg ended. The project reviewed sustainable public procurement of pharmaceuticals (SPPP) criteria at local, national, and global levels in Lithuania, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Germany. The

pharmaceutical supply chain is very long and complex and the legal requirements differ between countries. Responsible and sustainable procurement in this area is essential, requiring the involvement of all concerned parties to reduce the environmental impact of pharmaceutical products.





 **Interreg**
Baltic Sea Region



EUROPEAN
REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
FUND

EUROPEAN UNION

RESPONSEABLE

**EUTROPHICATION
IN THE BALTIC SEA:
A STORY OF OVER-CONSUMERISM**



www.responseable.eu



The project's purpose is to bring awareness to people's connection to the sea and to protect it from negative actions. During the project, various methods were implemented and tried, in search of understanding what audience finds this information interesting, how to reach them, what communication strategies need to be used, etc.

This year, a majority of efforts of all 15 partners were directed against the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. Our team actively participated in a social

networking campaign, in which various news about eutrophication and how common citizens can help reduce it was distributed. Various forms of information distribution methods were used—from special videos to games and contests.

After the campaign, participants were asked to complete a survey for understanding whether the project's message was received and how the information could be better presented in the future. Next year, results from the project's four years will be compiled and analyzed.





SERVICES PROVIDED BY BEF

In 2018, we conducted consultations in both Lithuania and outside countries.

We acted as consultants for companies, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies in various environmental, agri-environmental, chemical-use, river basin management, and green public procurement questions, gave recommendations, evaluations, organized announcements and seminars.





GLOBALUS ISSORIAI IR RINKA

A collage of images and charts related to global trends and markets. The collage includes a line graph showing a rising trend, a globe, a group of people in a meeting, a person working at a computer, and various scenes of infrastructure and people in different settings. The images are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some overlapping.

Handwritten notes on a whiteboard, likely detailing the presentation's content.

Volunteer initiatives

Nature treasure trail

In the 4th year running of the unique nature treasure trail, there were unexpected changes. Both trails lost important natural trail objects due to changes in nature and people's activities. In order to be able to renew the trails, we are looking for financial resources.

If you are interested in the trail's renewal, donate to the cause of "gamtos lobiams" ("nature's treasure").

[Donate](#)

"Vidur giru" ("In the woods") festival

This "Vidur giru" festival was brought back in 2018. We are overjoyed that we finally found financial support for the Spring event. The festival will run for at least 10 more years under the project "Naturalit." We believe that a large project team and financial support will help create an even more fun and adventure-filled festival.



Volunteer Initiatives

Environmental protection creativity and heather beer helps the black grouse

For the second year, we are working with the beer crafter "Dundulis" in protecting heath habitats and the black grouse that are found in them. Yes, in trying the "Šnekutis" beer, you can take part in environmental conservation. This crafter makes festive heather beer. It's made in small batches, seasonally, and requires lots of hand labour. Workers pick in the Musteika region, the largest mating habitat for the black grouse.



Wanting to preserve the mating habitat so that it remains suitable for black grouse mating dances, the heath land must be regularly renewed. For example, a small plot should always be plowed or grazed, and cut heather should be removed or eaten. The Dzūkija national park, which protects the black grouse habitat, has problems with getting rid of heather, as it's not suitable for making animal feed nor fire-wood. But the collecting of heather by beer crafter workers is not a bad solution. If at least one hectare (always of a different area) is rid of heather every year, it will be a great way of saving the unique habitat.



Teaching

future environmental and communication specialists



In 2018, BEF LT employees, Žymantas Morkvėnas and Rita Grinienė, continued teaching an environmental communications course at Vilnius University, School of Life Sciences. Our colleague's students, for the second year, were biodiversity master's students.

"It's amazing to see so much enthusiasm and growth. I'm very happy having been able to share my knowledge and experience with the younger environmentalists' generation. I believe that effective communication can help solve a multitude of environmental issues," said Rita Grinienė.



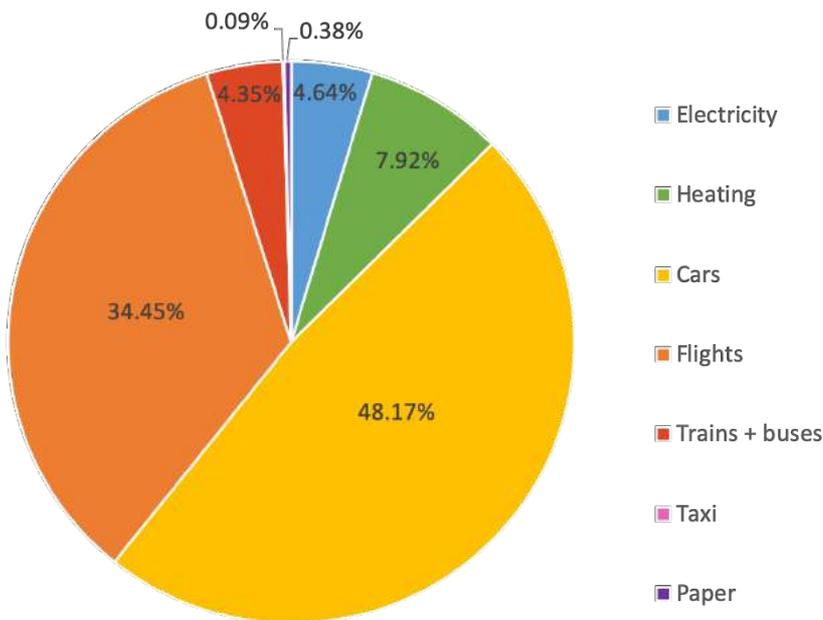
Throughout the whole semester, students worked on various practical assignments. The course's culmination was an event near the National visitor center, where a rock memorial was built for extinct old forests, "sengirės."

Another colleague, Audronė Alijošūtė-Paulauskienė shared her many years of experience in the social responsibility sphere with international master's students at Vilnius University.

OUR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

In our everyday work environment, we cannot avoid using electricity, fuel for cars, and other resources that generate emissions and increase the greenhouse gas effect. Since 2011, we have been counting our organization's carbon footprint, which we express as the amount of CO2 emissions, and use to evaluate our environmental impact as well as our waste.

Composition of the Total CO2 footprint



Most of our CO2 emissions (87%) came from transportation in 2018. This has to do with our quite active work — we organized lots of international seminars and worked actively in various project territories. In second place for highest emissions is heating, varying based on how cold the winter is. In third place, is electricity, which from January 2017 we have been obtaining from renewable energy resources.

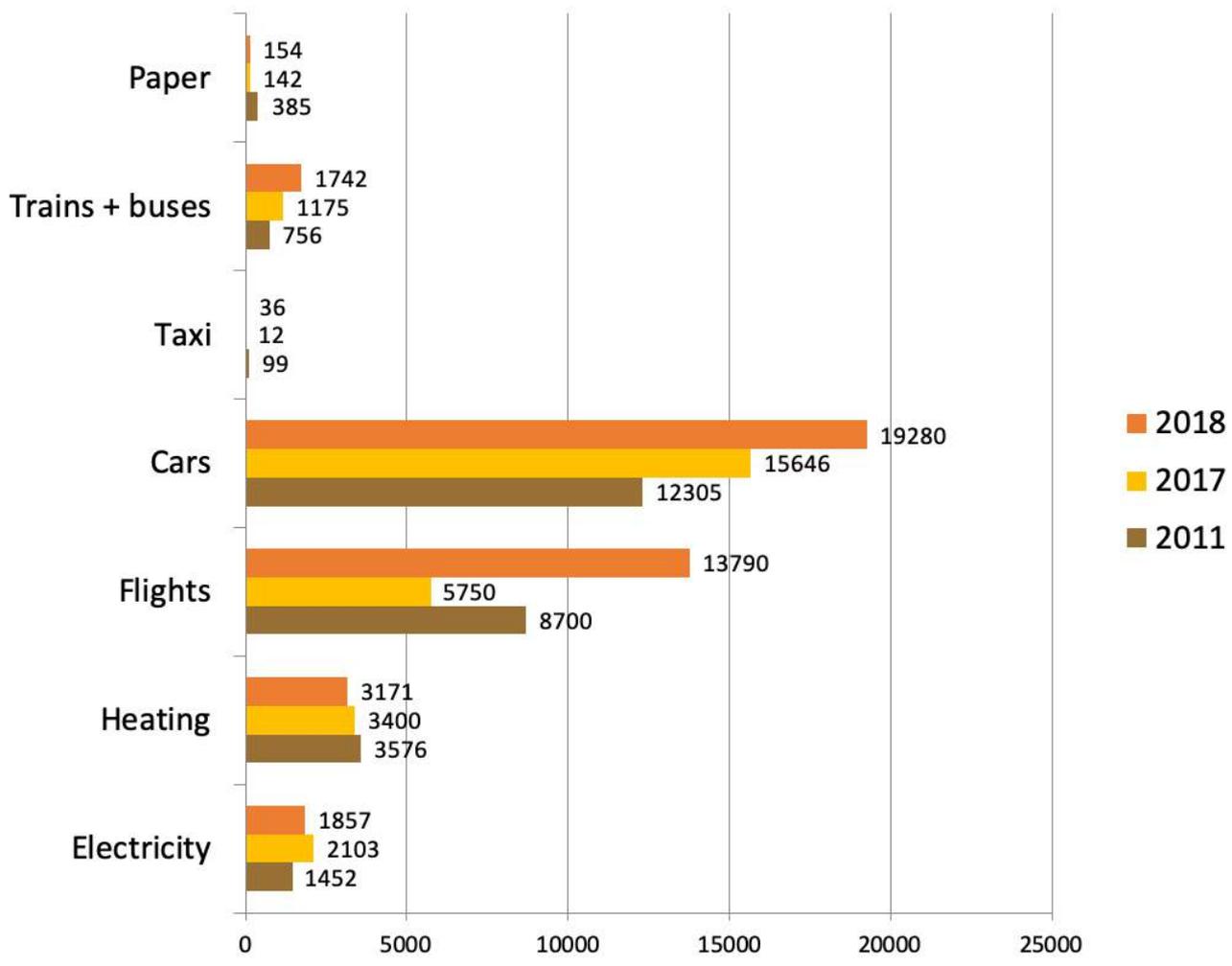


40 tons

We have been counting and recording our carbon footprint for 8 years now, and we have noticed that the amount of generated CO2 is strongly tied to the year's activities. Some years we travel more, have more seminars, or partake in other specific work. 2018 was a real challenge with a multitude of new experiences and assignments. Because the year was quite active, the amount of CO2 we generated was also somewhat greater — 40 tons. It's the largest generated carbon footprint since 2011 (with a general yearly average of – 29 tons).



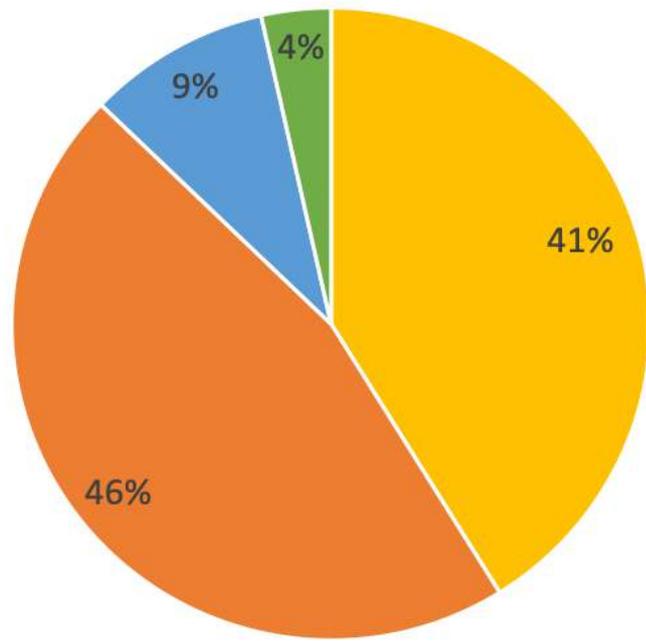
Used resources based on CO2 amounts



Waste

In total, we generated 472 kg of waste, the largest amount since we first began measuring our impact on the environment. The greatest contributing waste product was paper. This is because in the Spring of 2018, we conducted a deep cleaning of our office, and came across lots of old documents. This added tens of kilograms to our waste.

Our generated waste



■ Unsorted waste ■ Paper ■ Plastic ■ Glass

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2018

Duration	Total budget*	Financed by	Project name	Partners/ executors	Projects website
2014-2019	2 751 426 €	ES LIFE+ programme, Republics of Lithuania, Latvia, 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, Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia, Estonian University of Life Sciences Municipality of Lääne- Saare, Farm Kurese, Pavilniai and Verkiai Regional Park, Dubysa Regional Park, Silute District Municipality JSC Hnit-Baltic, Institute for Environmental Solutions	www.vivagrass.eu
2015-2020	4 458 762 €	LIFE programme, Republics of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia 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, JSC Marijampolės pieno konservai, JSC Vakarų Metalgama, REACH heldesk in Lithuania, REACH helpdesk in Latvia, REACH helpdesk in Estonia, Hendrikson & Ko OÜ, Ecodesign competence centre, TENACHEM, Ltd. Henkel Makroflex AS, Epokate OÜ Maveri Industries AS	www.fitreach.eu
2016-2019	3 541 797 €	European Union European Regional Development Fund, Interreg Baltic Sea Region, Republic of Lithuania and 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, Riga City, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia, University of Gdańsk, Municipality of Gdańsk, Gdańsk Water Utilities, Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania, Klaipeda regional environmental department, Kaunas District Municipality, Šilalė District Municipality, Institute of Applied Ecology, Baltic Environmental Forum Germany	www.nonhazcity.eu
2016-2023	4 097 038 €	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 MagniDucatusAcrola)	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/en
2017-2018	6 250 €	European Union European Regional Development Fund, Interreg Baltic Sea Region and project partners.	Green Public Procurement of Pharmaceuticals of Interreg Baltic Sea Region (GrePPP)	International Stockholm water institute, IVL Svenska Miljöinstitutet, Öko-Institut e.V., Suomen ympäristökeskus SYKE, Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania	-

*-note that this column (total budget) contains the total budget of all the partners in all countries involved in the project

Duration	Total budget*	Financed by	Project name	Partners/ executors	Projects website
2016-2018	104 866 €	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.eu/lithuania
2017-2018	10 701 €	European Union European Regional Development Fund, Interreg Baltic Sea Region and project partners.	Development of Sustainable wetland management by Restoration and biomass utilisation of peatlands in the Neman river catchment to improve water quality of the Baltic Sea (DESIRE)	University of Greifswald, Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP), Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania, Michael Succow Foundation	-
2018	20 009 €	Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation (BaltCF)	Finding holistic solutions to the challenges of eutrophication through municipalities and private landowners (Baltic rePair)	Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania, Sylvén GmbH	-
2018-2027	17 000 044 €	EU LIFE Programme and Republic of Lithuania.	Optimizing the management of Natura2000 network in Lithuania	Environmental Projects Management Agency (coordinating beneficiary), Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, State Service for Protected Areas, Aukštaitija National Park and Labanoras Regional Park Headquarters, Dzukija national park and Cepkeliai nature reserve Directorate, Zemaitija National Park Directorate, Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania, Faculty of Forest Sciences and Ecology of Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Varena State Forest Enterprise, Druskininkai State Forest Enterprise	www.naturalit.lt
2018-2021	4 925 146 €	European Union's H2020 research and innovation programme	Understanding and improving the sustainability of agro-ecological farming systems in the EU (UNISECO)	Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ländliche Räume, Wald und Fischerei (coordinator), Consiglio per la Ricerca in Agricoltura e l'Analisi dell'Economia Agraria, Agricultural University of Athens, Universität für Bodenkultur Wien, The James Hutton Institute, The University Court of the University of Aberdeen, Institut Supérieur d'Agriculture Rhone Alpes, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia, Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania, Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau Stiftung, Geonardo Environmental Technologies, Luonnonvarakeskus, Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet, Gestion Ambiental de Navarra, Asociatia WWF Programul Dunare Carpati Romania, Ustav Zemedelske Ekonomiky a Informaci, European Landowners Organization, Bioinstitut	www.uniseco-project.eu

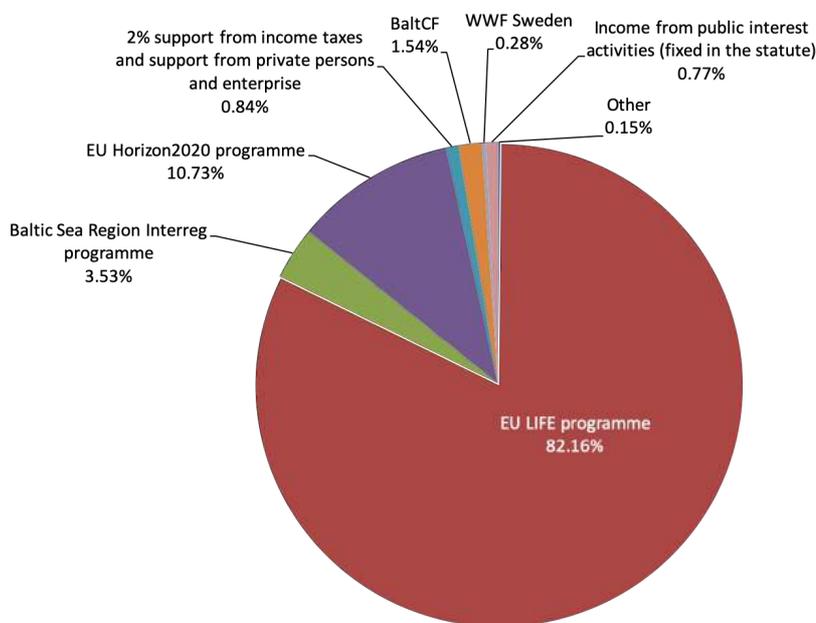
FINANCIAL REPORT

Income

Total income for 2018 year was 1 297 860 euro*. Part of this sum was related with Project expenses from 2017 and another part with Project expenses from 2018 and income from public interest activities.

***A remark.** According to the Lithuanian Republic public organizations legislation, the activity report has to indicate the received income, and this amount does not match with the financial turnover in the balance sheet, because the turnover in the balance sheet is counted cumulatively.

Income by sources



In diagram „Income by sources“ income from EU LIFE programme was calculated together with national co-funding sum, as Lithuania is committed to contribute to the implementation of projects funded by this programme. National co-funding income was 560 968 euro in 2018. It means 43,22 % from all income of the year.

Part of income from EU LIFE programme, WWF Sweden and BaltCF grants was distributed among Project partners, institutional part here was 52,36 %.

2% support from taxes was 637 euro in 2018. Support from private persons and enterprise was 10 287 euro.

Thank you!

Expenses

Total expenses for 2018 year was 739 690 euro. Part of these expenses will be funded from receivable funding income on 2019.

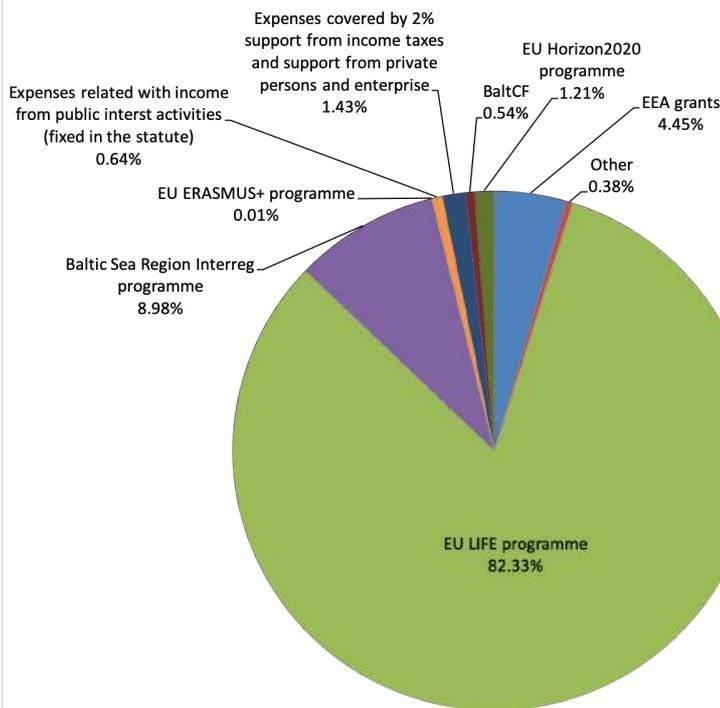
6,07 % of total costs were related with director salary and taxes.

43,84 % of total costs belong to annual personnel costs (with all related taxes).

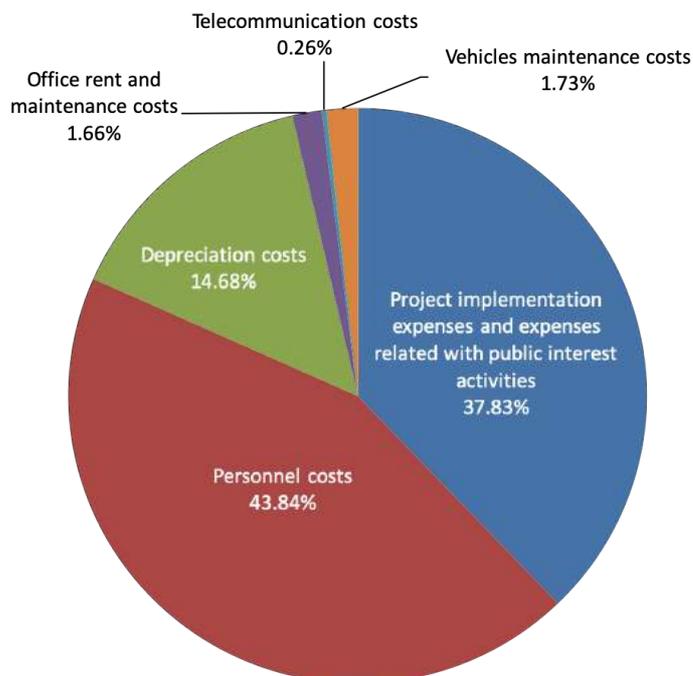
No payments were made to shareholders on 2018.

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

Expenses by sources



Expenses by categories



FINANCIAL REPORT

Employees and shareholders

At the beginning of the year 15 employees worked in organization, 5 of them were part-time employees and 5 persons were on Maternity leave. At the end of the year 20 employees worked in organization, 6 of them were part-time employees and 3 persons were on Maternity leave.

In 2018 shareholders structure hasn't changed. The shareholders contribution is 1 539 euro (with the proportions 97%, 2% and 1 %). Because the organization is public (non-governmental) institution all of shareholders has one vote right (information about public organization shareholders can be found at the State Enterprise Centre of

Long-term asset

For long-term asset organization spent 510 869 euro in 2018 for projects "Stepping stones towards ensuring long-term favorable conservation status of Aquatic warbler in Lithuania (LIFE Magni Ducatus Acrola)", "Optimizing the management of Natura2000 network in Lithuania (LIFE IP PAF-NATURALIT)" and "Understanding and improving the sustainability of agro-ecological farming systems in the EU (UNISECO)" activities:

Asset	Financing program	Worth
Organizational equipment	ES LIFE+ Programme	1,98%
Environmental monitoring equipment		7,42%
Tractor		15,21%
Equipment for biomass processing facility		47,36%
Reconstruction of old farm for setting up biomass processing facility		27,50%
Organizational equipment	ES HORIZON2020 Programme	0,27%
Organizational equipment	Own funds	0,26%
Total		100,00%



LIFE projects – investment to Lithuania's nature and economy

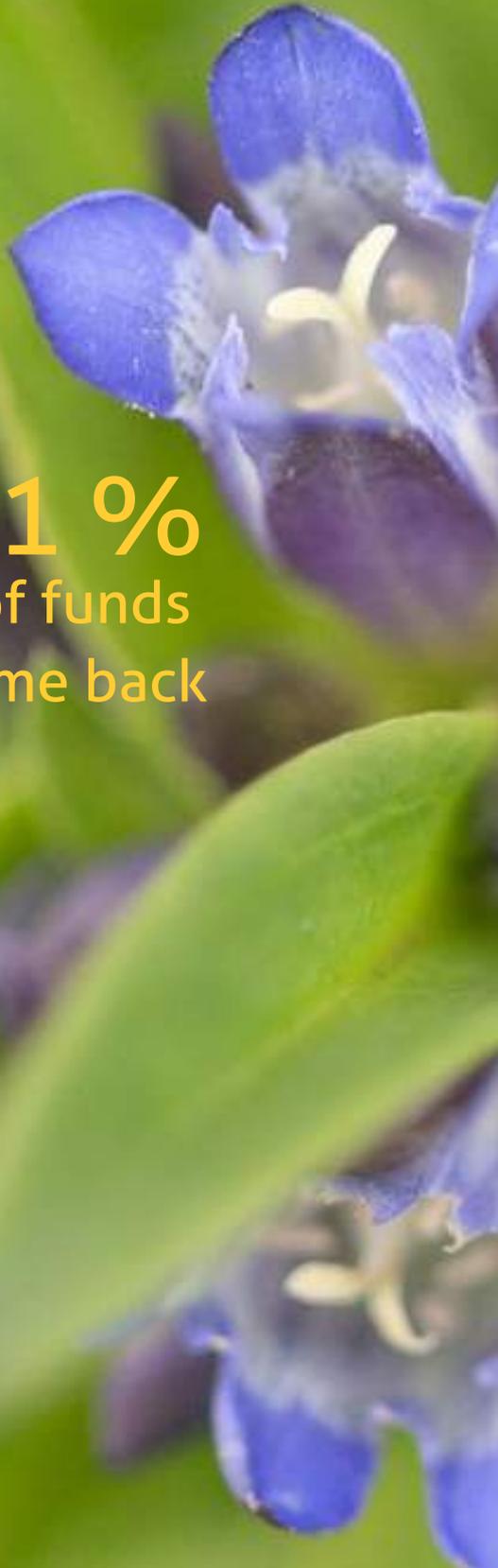
The most important goal of the LIFE projects is, of course, practical work for Lithuania's nature. The LIFE programme significantly contributes to the implementation of Lithuania's commitments to the EU in the field of nature conservation. A big part of nature management and research that is very much needed for our country is done thanks to this programme.

EU investments (60-75 %) constitute the biggest part of the LIFE projects' budget. Project partners contribute to the projects with their own financing and Lithuania (Ministry of Environment) also provides a share of general co-financing.

After implementation of the project, a large amount of money that had been provided for the project by Lithuania, is returned to the budget of Lithuania in the form of taxes. E.g. 91 % of money that Lithuania gave as general co-financing for the first Aquatic Warbler project ("Baltic Aquatic Warbler", no. LIFE09 NAT/LT/000233), came back to the budget of our country. So, the realized national co-financing for the project, excluding the money that came back for the country as taxes, was 36 755 Eur, while the project attracted 1,47 mln. Eur of Europe's investments to Lithuania.

It is also important to note, that the money that came to Lithuania in such a way entered the Lithuanian market when products and services were bought from suppliers of our country.

The LIFE programme is specifically dedicated to environmental protection and it cannot finance projects in any other field or sector. The decision on funding projects within the program is made by the European Commission after applying with your project idea to the international project contest. Every year, many project applications from all over the Europe are submitted to the contest. E.g. in 2018 more than 1000 project proposals from all over Europe were submitted. The LIFE programme is recognized as one of the European Union's most effective measures for protecting nature and the environment.



91 %
of funds
came back



Fejū
* bulkės

The chalkboard also features a drawing of a glass jar with a lid and a small insect, possibly a bee or fly, to the left of the word 'bulkės'.

Support
Baltic Environmental
Forum Lithuania

Help us share the magic and invite people to explore nature!

By supporting our work, you will by part help with such missions:

- Organizing activities to draw people into nature (to experience it in no hurry, and learn to recognize it). Such activity examples are nature festivals "Vidur giriu" ("In the woods"), "Miško burtai" ("Forest spells"), "Vidur ežeru" ("On the lake"), nature treasure trails, etc.
- Will help save the globally endangered aquatic warbler.
- Will be a part of informing the general public about hazardous chemicals in everyday products.
- Contribute to the release of new publications about nature.

Donate



VOLUNTEERING

HELPING SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

We give motivated individuals the opportunity to work to protect the environment with us. If you are enthusiastic and want to make a difference, and environmental protection is an important area for you, we welcome you to join us.



In 2018, we had quite a lot of volunteers. For the first time ever, two volunteers from the United States, Ieva Juškaitė and Jonas Rociunas-Englert, worked with us. They arrived as a part of the program "We Connect Lithuania." One of this program's participants, Ieva, can deservedly be titled this year's volunteer of the year, as her dedication, responsibility, and consistency was unmatched. Thank you, Ieva!

We also had a multitude of aquatic warbler volunteers, who mostly helped during the translocation—helped catch bugs, observe the young birds. A big thanks for their work! We recorded their experience in a short video.



Volunteering



BEF Team:



We work to be happy





BALTIC ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM LITHUANIA

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