



## Promoting nature education as efficient mean of awareness raising

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### People with nature

**Priority 2** Common challenges

**Measure 2.1** Joint actions aimed at protection of environment and natural resources



## Short summary of the project

The main objective of the project is to unite ideas, capacity and tools for improvement of nature education situation and so awareness of the society on sustainable development and integrated nature conservation in the project region of territories of Estonia, Latvia and Russia.

## Overall objective

The overall objective of the cross-border cooperation project is to carry out joint activities, to elaborate joint approaches for management of nature education centers (NECs), to make nature education more available to society and positively influence awareness of people in order to promote sustainable development of the region. It is so necessary to show the values and functions of nature and at the same time to show the ways for further development of mankind that would save our recourses to next generations.

## Specific objective

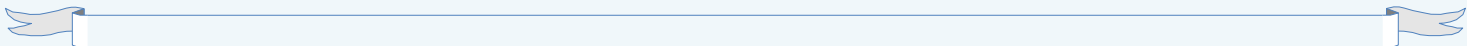
- ✚ to raise awareness of general public on nature conservation in the project area;
- ✚ to create cooperation network between public and non-governmental organizations in Estonia, Latvia and Russia;
- ✚ to exchange experience between partners and target groups, dissemination of project results to other interested organizations;
- ✚ to develop NECs - strengthen capacity, elaborate best practice, secure recognition and accessibility;
- ✚ to advance environmental education methods that attract people and provide knowledge and skills needed for daily life;
- ✚ to train teachers and nature specialists that would secure spreading out ideas of sustainable development of a long term basis;
- ✚ to inform general public about importance of integrated nature conservation that takes into account needs of people, but at the same time secures conservation of nature values and functions necessary for secure and sustainable existence of society.

## Beneficiary

**Nature Conservation Agency** (Pieriga, Latvia)

## Partners

- ✓ **Natural History Museum Support Society (Latvia)**
- ✓ **Gauja National Park Foundation (Latvia)**
- ✓ **Dagda local municipality (Latvia)**
- ✓ **Tartu Environmental Education Centre (Estonia)**
- ✓ **Peipsi Centre for Transboundary Cooperation (Estonia)**
- ✓ **Pskov regional public organization "Lake Peipsi Project, Pskov" (Russia)**

- ✓ **Federal State Institution "The Sebez National Park" (Russia)**
  - ✓ **Pskov regional centre of the development of gifted children and youth" (Russia)**
  - ✓ **State Committee on natural resources use and environment protection (Russia)**
  - ✓ **Saint-Petersburg charitable organization "Biologists for nature conservation" (Russia)**
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## Expected results

- + **Renovated and equipped 14 NECs or parts** for activities with surroundings for effective and comfortable functioning. NECs are facilitated with **necessary equipment** for up-to-date nature education activities and are visited by target groups;
- + **Premises of NECs** are prepared for creation of **exhibitions**. Necessary improvement of close surroundings is made - NECs attractive and comfortable for visitors. **Improved trail** next to NEC and visited by target groups as well as used for nature education activities. **Mobile NEC** is on its duty and is accessible to local people who cannot visit all protected areas developed facilities for NECs and trained competent staff;
- + **Improved knowledge** among nature education specialists, teachers, and municipality representatives **about nature education methods** and possibilities for cooperation in 3 countries;
- + All active learning tools pave a good way to raise **awareness among youth and adults** about nature conservation, human impact and importance of sustainable development in program area. Developed tools will be available on partners' web-pages and to all interested persons for free download;
- + **Concept of NECs' development** will be jointly elaborated by all partners and available for interested people on partners' web-pages. **Web-sites** established, **manual on nature education** in Russian and English put online, **printed materials** translated spread out to wide range of users via NECs and other info centers, **participation in fairs** in Latvia and Estonia, **films and slideshows** about nature for NECs, **local and international camps** as well as **study days** organized;
- + **useful materials for teachers** in daily work, **specialized printed materials, work sheets / study programmes and table game** serve both as materials to be used during activities in NECs, as well as offered to schools and families for unassisted exploration of nature; some of them are suitable for distribution in NECs among visitors as well as during the fairs.

## Final beneficiaries

- + Pre-school children, students, families
- + Teachers and nature specialists
- + Representatives of non-governmental and public institutions
- + Visitors to region both local (Estonians, Latvians and Russians), as well as visitors from other countries

## Duration

**30** months

## Budget

Total budget: **1 499 977, 00** EUR

Programme co-financing: 1 349 979, 30 EUR (90%)

Project co-financing: 149 997, 70 EUR (10%)

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