The contribution of municipalities to landscape management: the mechanism for reporting on the implementation of landscape policy

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Lithuania aims to create a modern national system for landscape protection and management, that would preserve the country's ethnic regions and the identity of the landscape and enhance the landscape ecological stability.
Lithuania signed EL Convention in 2000, ratified in 2002

Ministry of Environment (MoE) is responsible for implementation of EL Convention

The most important partners in the ELC implementation process are:

• Ministry of Agriculture...Culture
• Agencies under MoE: State Protected Areas Service, Environmental Protection Agency, State Forest service and General Forest Enterprise and etc.
• Municipalities administrations
• Universities
• Non-Governmental Organisations

The process of implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Lithuania began with adoption of the National Landscape Policy (2004) and the Government measures of its realization (2005); from 2015 - realization of the National Landscape Management Plan
Lithuanian administrative system ...

- **10 counties**, each named after their principal city. The counties do not have a separate administration, only a regional council from representatives of municipalities.

- The counties are subdivided into **60 municipalities** (53 district municipalities and 7 important city municipalities; municipalities consist of over **500 elderships**).

- The population of municipalities is very different: from 4 thousand in Neringa (resort) to 550 thousand in Vilnius City.

- Lithuania has **5 ethno-cultural regions** (regional factor is very important in the system of landscape planning).
Lithuanian municipalities are governed by the Law on Local Municipality, which provides functions for local administrations: municipality have 44 autonomous and 38 delegated (states transferred) functions, including, landscape (e.g., function nr. 26. “landscape management and protection, protection of greenery, greenery in the territory of a municipality, management and development....”
The principles of cooperation...

- Municipalities - the largest implementers of NLP and ELK
- Municipalities want quality of the environment...but always short of money
- Ministry identified priority actions for near future (next 5 years): active planning of the landscape in the local level, support for the green infrastructure projects, education of society and community involvement in decision-making.
- Two active periods was in order to increase the involvement of municipalities in the landscape management
The most active periods

1. **2012-2015** - when 7 methodological publications were issued to municipal specialists and professionals (designers, planners), 3 competitions were organized (national level), National Landscape Management Plan and recommendations for its implementation were prepared.

2. **2015-2017** - the phase of preparation to the new period of support of EU Structural Funds (2016-2020). Different seminars, presentations, external meetings have been organized seeking to represent landscape management opportunities for local municipalities. During this period municipalities will get the largest support in the field of landscape management and planning.
The contribution of municipalities

2015 information from municipalities:
- 4 green areas management spec. plans
- 2 special plans for Nature frame
- 5 special plans for Recreational areas

Territorial planning documents

The special landscape plan of the of Varena eld.
The contribution of municipalities

1-2. Vilnius city: the public space instead the former stadium

3. Šakiai township: the recreational park

Landscaping
The contribution of municipalities

Legislation and strategic documents of municipality level

- Anykščiai District Municipality Landscape Policy directions (2016)

Cross-border cooperation on landscape:

- Project “City’s green areas and water bodies in Zemgale and Northern Lithuania (Latvia-Lithuania)2013”
The contribution of municipalities

Projects initiated by local communities and NGOs

Lithuanian landscape diversity: a book to summarize local initiatives
Mechanism for reporting on the implementation of landscape policy

European Landscape Convention 2000/2002


The Programme implementing measures for the national landscape policy (2005)

Administrations of municipalities provide information on activities related to landscape and management in the territory of municipality to the Ministry of Environment (each year - April 15).

Ministry of Environment analyzes and summarizes information and send to the Government

Every two years special events dedicated to public landscaping are organized

Municipalities and the Ministry of the Environment have identified priority actions for the future

Recommendations for EU SF support programme


National Landscape Management Plan (2015)

EU SF programme
Municipal contribution to landscape management

Municipalities have a lot of responsibilities in the landscape protection

Municipalities each year send a report on the implementation of the landscape policy;
About 200 -250 positions of landscape management in the report:
Effectively used the EU's support for landscape management and planning

In the local level the very important "players" – the directions of national and regional parks and the local communities

NGO – ALLA, NHF, BEF
The principles of cooperation...

The information is provided in 9 questions groups:
1. Research/ scientific works
2. Events for the landscape with the participation of the public
3. Publications on landscape (history, the best examples of greenery, planning etc. etc.)
4. Legislation and strategic documents of municipality level
5. Territorial planning documents and landscaping projects
The principles of cooperation...

The information is provided in 9 questions groups:
6. Projects initiated by local communities and NGOs
7. Cross-border cooperation on landscape
8. Information about the staff responsible for implementing the European Landscape Convention and National Policy of Landscape
9. Other important information

The amount of information varies greatly - from 1-2 up to 15-20 page.
Awareness-raising (artical 6A): iniciatives at national level 2015-2016

National visitor centre was opened in 2015
Main porpuse – to provide knowlege about the most valuable areas of Lithuanian Protected Areas, help to choose natural routes and to tour throught country.
Contests and events

National contests 2015-2016

– Contest of landscapes best reflecting the features of Lithuanian ethnografical regions (2015)-

- Contest of the Tree of the year, due to the contest of the European Tree of the year. (2016);
The Contest of Regional Landscapes

2015 was the Year of Regions in Lithuania. Country has five ethnographic regions with specificities and differences in:
- natural environment
- settlement structure
- building architecture and colours
- small architecture
- road network
- regional dialects.

MoE organized the Contest of Regional Landscapes - contest of landscapes best reflecting the features of Lithuanian ethnographical regions (2015)
27 participants
Education on landscape: work with local communities

- New trends in municipal work on landscape - education programs for local population
- This is a general direction in the implementation of landscape projects in municipalities until 2022.
- The Public Participation Program is mandatory for all projects funded by the Ministry of the Environment (EU SF)
Publications for professionals

Management Methodology for Greeneries (MoE, 2013)

Landscape Guidelines for Roads and Railways (MoE, 2013)

Lithuanian Landscape types and its spatial characteristics identification study (MoE, 2013)
Building Design Guides for Lithuanian ethnographical regions (2013)
Identification and assessment (article 6C): planning documents

- National Landscape Management Plan was adopted in 2015
National Landscape Management Plan

Preparation took place in 2012-2015
Scale 1:200 000, 1:400 000

National Landscape Management Plan:
- delivers the guiding provisions for landscape formation, protection and management,
- determines the main directions and actions which ensure the proper quality of landscape and fulfil the requirements of ELC.

Publication: Recommendations of implementation and methodology of preparation of LMP
2. Landscape management directions
3. Visual aesthetic potential
European Landscape Convention
Landscape Award of the Council of Europe
2013
The Committee of Ministers attributed a special mention for giving attention to the urban landscape as common good to
U-parks U-turn we love
Utėna district Municipality
Lithuania

LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
„U-PARKS. U-TURN WE LOVE“
Landscape management in the State parks
The most important landscape works:

**Local level:** cooperation between municipalities and state parks directorates

National and regional parks programs to get to know the landscape:

- Visitor centres (30) and training program to know the landscape
- Visitor view towers for experiencing and enjoying landscapes (25)
- State parks landscape monitoring programme (34)
Visitor center of Krekenava RP: landscape presentation
Visitor view towers 25
Once again ...... about the mechanism of coloboration
The phrase "carrot and stick" is a metaphor for the use of a combination of reward and punishment to induce a desired behavior. It is based on the idea that a cart driver might activate a reluctant mule by dangling a carrot in front of it and smacking it on the rear with a stick.

THE STIC EFFECT:
- Specific project selection criteria from Landscape and Biodiversity conservation Action Plan for 2015-2020 (2015)
- Events for municipalities staff: trainings, competitions, courses
- Strict selection criteria for projects:
- Clarity of project selection: regional project planning (projects are selected by regional development councils - each municipality has 1 vote plus 1 vote representative of the Department of Regional Development)

All municipalities can apply
....about the mechanism...and carrot effect

The funds will be 22 300 741 EUR / 7 ears
45 mln. EUR / 7 ears for National and regional parks and for 8 oldest historical parks
Landscape planning in Lithuanian municipalities 2017-2020(2)
The new EU financial programming period for 2015–2020(2)

For landscape protection during this period Lithuania has planned the following:

– to review and update general planning documents for 30 municipalities with the aims to improve quality of protective measures for landscape aesthetic values and for nature frame/ecological networks;

– to prepare and to implement 10 landscape management projects for transfrontier territories with the aim to improve the aesthetic quality and represent the diversity of landscape in Lithuania;
– to implement ~30 green infrastructure projects with the aim to strengthen ecological stability of landscape, to improve functionality of nature frame and to manage territories affected by erosion, etc.;
– to implement management projects for 8 historical parks of state importance. The aim of the projects is to protect and reveal the value of these territories and to ensure the long lasting results;
– to further eliminate the abandoned ownerless buildings in rural areas which have negative influence on landscape aesthetic value;
– to continue preparation and implementation of management plans for protected areas.
Planning documents examples: phase of problem identification

Skatinama tvarkyti didesnes teritorijas, apimančias daugiau nei vieną sklypą, todėl nurodoma, kad teritorija gali būti ir ne vientisa. Siekiama, kad tvarkomos teritorijos apimtų kuo didesnę želdynų sistemos dalį, todėl vengtina tvarkyti atskirus mažus plotus.
Thank you for your attention
Welcome to visit and enjoy the landscapes of Lithuania