



© Laagna garden. Photo by voluntary participant

## Community activities day, "Let's do it!"

Estonian Fund for Nature

Every year since 2008, on the first Saturday in May, the community activities day, "Let's do it!", takes place all over Estonia. This is the day of collective action to enhance the landscape. The project was launched and run by a non-governmental project team, which has successfully involved a vast number of voluntary participants. In 2008 the project started with a countrywide action of cleaning up illegally-dumped rubbish. In 2009 local communities gathered together to generate good ideas for sustainable local development. Building on that, since 2010, different collective actions (in Estonian: *talgud*) are taking place all over the country. The project has led to a large number of actions to protect and manage the landscape. Every community, organisation or citizen, can participate in deciding what needs to be done and invite other people to join the initiative. Since 2008, there have been more than 14,700 different landscape management interventions engaging over 433,600 participants. These actions took into consideration the cultural and aesthetic dimensions of the place and improved the quality of the environment. Thanks to the project, local communities have become stronger and the public has become more aware of landscape values in the context of sustainable development.



The Committee of Ministers conferred a Special Mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention to the achievement, within the framework of the 6th Session of the Award 2018-2019.

The project demonstrates that landscape approaches can foster public participation and an awareness of sustainable development issues. Its participative and unifying process has made it possible to mobilise the population around a great diversity of local actions. The bottom-up approach that was followed represents a remarkable example of raising public awareness of the need for a healthy landscape.

Recognised for its great value, and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res (2017)18 of the Committee of Ministers, the project is thus part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe, as a source of inspiration.