



PROGRAMME:

European Union Interreg V-A South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020.

OBJECTIVE:

To increase and promote cross-border tourism in the hardwood deciduous forests in the southern region of the Baltic Sea, improve and strengthen cooperation of companies that operate in the national and international tourism sector.

TASKS:

- To increase popularity of natural objects and the number of visitors in deciduous forests;
- To bring together local communities, local tourism associations, and natural and legal persons for joint working;
- To create new tourism products and services;
- To prepare common strategy in order to increase and promote international tourism in the hardwood deciduous forests in the whole southern region of the Baltic sea; activities of

the project will be carried out in carefully selected territories.

PARTNERS:

- **Lead Partner:** Swedish Forest Agency;
- **Partners:**
 - Region Blekinge;
 - County Administrative Board of Blekinge;
 - Regional Directorate of State Forests in Gdansk;
 - Pomorskie Tourist Board

Associated partners:

- Samogitian Rural Tourism Association;
- Lithuanian Fund for Nature;
- Plunge district Municipality;
- Telšiai State Forest Enterprise;
- Samogitian Rural Tourism Association.

BUDGET:

- Total cost of the project - 1,493,252.65 EUR
- The budget of Žemaitija National Park Administration – 302,885.00 Eur.



1 EXPOSITION OF PLATELIAI VISITOR CENTRE

Plateliai Visitor Centre offers a lot of information about the places of interest as well as interactive and modern exposition "The Mysteries of Žemaitija Land". Every visitor will find something special to satisfy his or her interests in an interesting two-storey exhibition. Exposition of nature is arranged on the second level of the centre. You can follow the footprints of the wolf and listen to the sounds made by various birds. Bird songs are played at different times of the day, as if they would follow the clock. You will get a chance to get acquainted with different birds of the park, such as swans (mute swan and whooper swan), common mergansers, goldeneye ducks, hazel grouses, mallards and other birds.



2 "BIRDS DORMITORY"

When you come to Plateliai Visitor Centre, the employees will direct you towards Plateliai observation deck, located close to the Plateliai Lake. Breath taking views of Pilies and Veršų Islands that are steeped in legends open up from the deck. On the way to the observation deck we suggest you to look for unusual structure, joyfully called the "Birds dormitory". You will see a lot of nesting boxes of various sizes, made for birds. Every box has a picture of the bird, which might nest in that particular nesting box. This "dormitory" has residents and there is a great chance to see the house sparrow, great tit or a common starling.

3 ŠEIRĖ TRAIL

When taking this walking trail (4.1 km), arranged in Plateliai Scenic Preserve, visitors can get acquainted with the relief of the region, Šeirė Forest, Gaudupis Swamp, Piktežeris Lake, Plateliai Lake, common and rare plant, mushroom, animal and bird species. There is a great chance to hear, and even see a lot of sparrow birds, that nest along this trail, in the woods and in the nesting boxes, built especially for these birds. There are a lot of chaffinch, willow warbler, frua filoskopio, wood warbler birds, several kinds of typical warblers, European robins, as well as red-breasted flycatchers, coal tits, common crossbills, treecreepers, and various kinds of thrush birds. Blue tits, marsh tits, coal tits and great tits, European pied flycatchers, starlings and wrynecks nest in the nesting boxes.



4 BIRD OBSERVATION PLACE

A small tree house, surrounded by trees and bushes is installed and adapted for observation of the birds that reside in Pakastuva Pond. This plant covered pond is a part of Pakastuva Telmological Reserve, and you can see, hear and observe a wide variety of birds, such as common crane, great bittern, spotted crane, mute swan and whooper swan, marsh harrier, harrier, grey heron, white heron, mallard, common goldeneye, common snipe, European penduline tit, reed warbler, great reed warbler, reed bunting and others. Some of them only eat in this pond, while others nest in it, as well. All you need is to get up early, don't forget your binoculars and be patient.



5 PAPLATELĖ TRAIL

This walking trail (2.3 km) is located in Žemaitija National Park, on the eastern shore of Plateliai Lake. The trail is winding through the forest-covered hills and along the banks of Sultekis Pond. The view of Sultekis Pond and the surrounding coniferous forest opens up from the observation tower. While up on the tower overlooking 6 hectare pond you can see and hear the sounds made by a great bittern, grey heron, mallard, Eurasian coot, common goldeneye, common crane, common snipe, black woodpecker, great and lesser spotted woodpecker, common raven, honey buzzard, marsh harrier, common buzzard and other birds.



6 BARSTYTALIAI OBSERVATION TOWER

Barstyčiai Swamp is one of the largest wetlands of Žemaitija National Park, formed during the Soviet times. The mosaic of water and swamp-flora in between the land islands is a home to the numerous birds that can be observed from 5 metre height observation tower. Here you can see and hear the sounds made by great bittern, grey heron, great white heron, white stork, whooper swan, common teal, mallard, garganey, common goldeneye, marsh harrier, common buzzard, spotted crane, Eurasian coot, common crane, lapwing, common snipe, green sandpiper and others.



7 ILGIS LAKE BIRD OBSERVATION PLACE

In order to see the birds that reside and nest on Ilgis Lake, you need to go to Laumalenkiai Village and look for the small house on the shore of Ilgis Lake. It is a perfect place to see, hear and observe numerous species of the birds, such as smew, common merganser, white tailed sea eagle, osprey, marsh harrier, common buzzard, great bittern, tufted duck, grey and white heron, great crested grebe, whooper swan, mute swan and others.



8 JOGAUDAI OBSERVATION TOWER

Not far from Luoka, in Jogaudai Village, you will find a 5 metre height observation tower and will be able to observe various birds of the forest, such as common buzzard, sea eagle, marsh harrier, mute swan and whooper swan that migrate from one water body to another; listen to the great bittern that makes noise at Luoka Lake and to the sounds made by other water and forest birds.

DIRECTORATE OF ŽEMAITIJA NATIONAL PARK

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