

Community Programme for Sustainable Development (CPSD)

1.8.2013 – 31.12.2014

The research and development project aims to enhance the quality of life of local people in Finland, Latvia and Lithuania through shared knowledge and cooperation in nature protection and sustainable tourism development. The overall aim of the project is to contribute to shared stewardship of the common natural, historical and cultural heritage by carrying out the first steps towards providing demand-based learning possibilities for local communities inside protected areas of Nordic–Baltic countries.

The project aims to provide possibilities for local communities to learn about natural areas management and tourism development. Learning together can promote local entrepreneurship and responsibility in resource uses, making local communities more sustainable.

The set of activities carried out to meet the educational needs of the mentioned target group will be called "Community programme" and the project aims at transferring it as a best practice example to other protected areas in Nordic–Baltic Region and beyond via EUROPARC Federation and its Nordic–Baltic Section Network. The project is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers (NORDPLUS Adult) and the participating organisations.

The areas involved in the project are Oulanka and Syöte National Parks in Finland, Kemer National Park in Latvia and Grazute Regional Park in Lithuania. The main target group of this project are local residents living either inside or close to these protected areas regarding them as a key to both sustainable maintenance of common natural and cultural heritage and raising awareness of the broader society about the importance of these areas and nature conservation, in general.

The goals of the project are:

- Gathering scientific background for future action: implementation of the surveys of local inhabitants on different educational needs in the target protected areas.
- Analyzing survey results and planning further action: identifying needs, comparing and discussing experiences, working out action plans to address the needs in each territory.
- Creating a community programme model.
- The project is coordinated by the Directorate of Grazute Regional Park. The project partners are Metsähallitus Natural Heritage Services / Osthrobothnia and the Department of Geography, University of Oulu in Finland and Kemer National Park Fund in Latvia. The Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia is also involved in the project.

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Partner information

Oulanka National Park (www.outdoors.fi)

Syöte National Park (www.outdoors.fi)

Kemer National Park (www.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/visiting/zemgale/kemer_national_park1/)

Grazute Regional Park (www.grazute.lt)

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