

Project "Promoting nature education as efficient mean of awareness raising"



united by borders

"People with Nature" 2nd Newsletter – March 2014

Estonia-Latvia-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007 - 2013

Welcome to the second edition of the „People with Nature” Newsletter. We have lots of interesting updates on implementation of activities in the project areas in Latvia, Estonia and Russia. Much work has been carried out, both individually and jointly, to improve the nature education centres and trails, develop novel nature study programs, and create exciting exhibitions and educational materials for public use. Furthermore, this edition of the Newsletter offers a closer look at the eleven partner organizations involved in this project, as well as their work developing and promoting nature education.

Sintija Kordule

Project Manager of the Beneficiary

Involvement of schoolchildren in activities of the project

The development of international cooperation between schoolchildren of Estonia, Latvia and Russia, in the sphere of ecological education and environment studies holds a special place within our project implementation.

Participation of schoolchildren in the events of the project enables creating favourable conditions for the development of international cooperation and teaching collaboration in the field of ecological education to schoolchildren. It contributes to increasing the participants' awareness of the value of specially protected nature areas, how this helps protect their biodiversity and increase environmental sustainability. Moreover, it helps to form and develop children's field studies skills, and teaches them how to develop informative presentation materials about the specially protected nature areas of the participant countries.

Yuriy Michailovich Gulin

Project Manager and Director of the Pskov regional centre of the development of gifted children and youth



Photo: A.Soms

Materials and tools for nature education

Products for nature education centres consist of a vast array of useful materials and tools, from table game to movies. With the help of different tools, nature education centres (NECs) can more easily educate the public and raise environmental awareness among different target groups. The question is how to develop tools that are the most innovative, effective and attractive for users in Estonia, Latvia and Russia? That is the challenge NECs are facing, and a joint project can give an advantage for reaching this target. Sharing ideas, exchanging experiences and disseminating project outcomes is the most valuable component of the cross-border cooperation.

What has been done so far? More than 10 new study programs and work-sheets, different printed educational materials, short movies and slideshows, models of national park territories, a virtual museum, mobile study day boxes, permanent and traveling exhibitions, and a table game have been created.

Eeva Kirsipu – Vaadi

Project Manager of the Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation



Estonia – Latvia – Russia cross border cooperation programme project “Promoting nature education as efficient mean of awareness raising” or “People with Nature”

Project Short Description

The overall objective of the cross-border cooperation project is to carry out common activities, to elaborate joint approaches for management of nature education centres (NECs), to make nature education more available to society and positively influence awareness of people in order to promote sustainable development of the project 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 resources to next generations.

Project Goals

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 Estonia, Latvia and Russia.

Planned Outputs

The most visible outcomes of the project will be jointly developed modern nature education methods, study materials, as well as trained specialists in order to ensure sustainable nature education development and to inform public about the necessity of nature conservation. It is planned to develop capacity of the nature education centres by ensuring more favourable conditions for successful development of them.

For more information please visit the Lead Partner's website:

www.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/projects/est_lat_rus1/



Hello!

My name is Hugo and I'm the mascot of the project “People with Nature”.

I will tell you about project activities in Latvia, Estonia and Russia.

Our partners and our nature: jointly towards good results

Hugo travels from Latvia...

Nature Conservation Agency

The Nature Conservation Agency (NCA) ensures implementation of unified nature protection policy in Latvia. Nature education is one of the Nature Conservation Agency's priorities in cooperation with society to make better understanding about nature conservation, nature values and different processes in nature.

Nature education activities are related to different projects, too. Project „People with Nature” is one of them and 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.

NCA within the project “People with Nature” improves four nature education centres (NEC) in order to promote wider nature education in the regions of Latvia. Each NEC offers a variety of nature-related study opportunities for children and adults visiting the NECs and presents natural diversity of specially protected nature areas. You can get to know the nature by participating in various research activities, visiting exhibitions and going for a walk along the nature paths and in many other different ways.

Now “Meža māja” is managed by the Nature Conservation Agency, and the new NEC offers nature-related educational activities:

Nature School classes in the Ķemeri National Park

This offer is made for groups of schoolchildren and it includes classes outdoors, following specially developed itineraries where human organs of sense - smell, touch, taste, sight and feelings are used. Classes allow feeling, learning and understanding the world of swamps, forests, coastline, meadows and water in an interactive, lively way.

Exhibition "See what others can't see!"

The interactive exhibition offers to study four main ecosystems of the National Park - swamps, meadows, forests and coastline. The visit of exhibition is included in the Nature School classes for schoolchildren, but it can also be visited individually, by prior appointment.



Schoolchildren explore different activities of the NEC “Meža māja”. Photo: A.Pendere

Lessons and lectures at schools

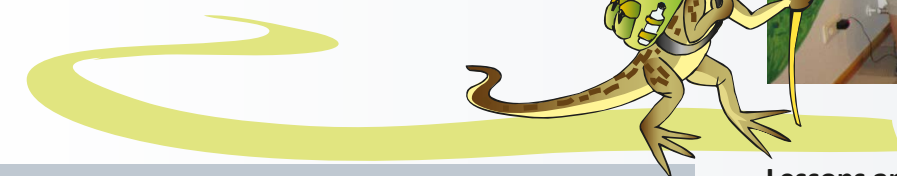
The NEC “Meža māja” actively cooperates with schools in the Pierīga region and offers to visit schools with a variety of interesting classes and lectures on nature conservation topics. Classes are supplemented with exciting tasks and environment-related games.

Nature-related educational activities

Various theme-based events for the general public are organised in the NEC and outside - mostly for families with children, as the events are interesting for adults and children who love the nature. All interested people can attend the annual Birds Day in spring and autumn, as well as the Bat Night event in the mid-summer and many other events which are organised by the NEC with the help of partners of the Nature Conservation Agency.

Address: “Meža māja”, Ķemeri, Jūrmala

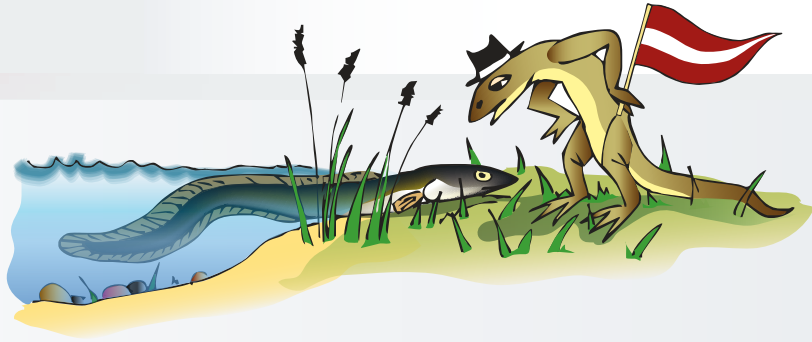
Contact person: Aija Pendere, phone +371 29149365
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NEC “Meža māja”. Photo: I.Vanaga

Nature Education Centre “Meža māja” (Forest House) is located on the shore of the Vēršupīte River surrounded by humid forests. The historical building was first occupied by an entertainment centre and a restaurant, later a children's health home was located there.

Nature Education Centre „Rāzna” in the Rāzna National Park offers the opportunity to visit the exhibition, and creative and interactive activities on different topics for different age groups - both indoors and outdoors. Curious schoolchildren and families with children, local people and tourists are welcome.



Activities in the NEC “Rāzna”. Photo: R.Indriķe

NEC “Rāzna” offers:

- Exhibition "Get to know and feel the Rāzna National Park!"
- Nature research classes about topics:
 - Specially protected nature territory - Rāzna National Park;
 - Animals and insects of the Rāzna NP: in the water, air, forest, meadow, and swamp.
- Environment-related creative workshops
- Nature research games
- Thematic events related to nature topics
- Path of senses near the NEC

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Path of senses. Photo: R.Indriķe

In the northern part of the Gauja National Park, not far from Valmiera, an old forester's house was transformed into **Nature Education Centre „Vecupītes”** where you can participate in the following activities by prior appointment:

- visit the exhibition “Forest stories in Vecupītes” about nature diversity;
- participate in workshops and lectures;
- play environment-related games;
- read study literature and different materials about the nature;
- use worksheets and educational programmes about Latvian trees and animals that were developed here and adapted to local conditions;
- lectures and lessons at schools.



Visitors at the NEC “Vecupītes”. Photo: A.Soms

A 2.8 km long nature path begins near the NEC “Vecupītes” where various ecosystems can be observed. The stands places on the path will help you find out a lot of interesting things. During a walk along this path, you can see the Gauja river and the types of forests on its shores, a lot of tree species growing in Latvia, birds, insects, animals or at least their tracks.

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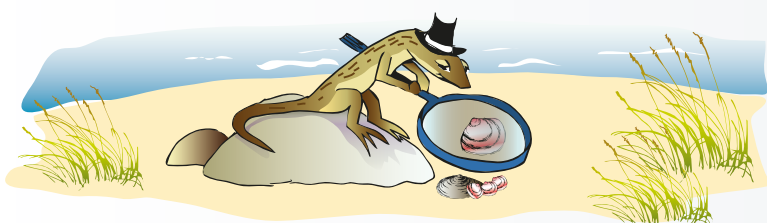
In order to understand better the interaction of the environment and people's practical actions, we invite people of any age to attend classes, workshops and excursions in the **Nature Education Centre „Ziemeļvidzeme”**. Anyone can find something interesting in the cycle of offered classes to go on an exciting journey during which we will learn how to observe and understand regularities in the diverse natural world.



Activities in the NEC “Ziemeļvidzeme”. Photo: L.Jermacāne

Choose a class and come to Salacgrīva in any season!

- What are specially protected nature territories and why are they necessary?
- Baltic Sea
 - Why is sea water salty?
 - Seaweed in the sea and on the shore.
 - What mollusc shells can we find on the beach?
- Animals, their tracks on the shore
 - Shore
 - Getting to know sand dune plants.
 - Plants on the shore and animals in the sea.
 - Shore sand dunes - their location, types, and importance.
- Water
 - Importance and use of water
 - Animals and plants in Salaca
 - Importance of the Gulf of Riga and Salaca.



Nature education activities about the Baltic Sea. Photo: I.Soma

- Birds
 - What are migrating birds?
 - Bird watching in winter
 - Birds' ability to live and to feed in different environments
- Trees
 - What is a secular tree?
 - Trees growing in Latvia, their differences
 - What happens in tree trunk, branches, and leaves?
- Air quality on the coast and in the city or study of 5 species of lichen and their endurance of air pollution.



Outdoor activities in the coastal forest. Photo: A.Soms

Lessons are given indoors and outdoors. Theoretical lectures are enriched by different interesting tasks and nature-related games. The participants can also act as researchers, as various nature research tools are used during lessons - they can learn how to measure the size of a secular tree correctly, how to examine a tiny insect on the shore through a magnifying glass, etc.

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Natural History Museum Support Society

The Natural History Museum Support Society (NHMSS) was founded in 2002 by supporters and specialists of the Natural History Museum of Latvia. The Society mainly works with projects for the general public to get to know the museum holdings and involve them in exploring the unique values of the Latvian nature. Important events include those organised raising awareness about Ramsar, Washington and Biodiversity Conventions as well as Birds Day and Bat Day.

The main projects for NHMSS: activities in the frames of the UNESCO declared International Year of Planet Earth, research of the Latvian population of whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*).

Main exhibitions: „Butterflies in the foreground” and „Knowledge about the unknown”. NHMSS organizes Christmas charity events, and Family days in the Natural History Museum of Latvia.

In the frames of the project in the Natural History Museum of Latvia activity room „**About Earth, Sun and Us**” has been made three new modules and educational programmes for these modules. Now there is an offer: **Programm „What is happening in the air?”** for 2-5 grades and families. What is atmosphere? What does it consists of? What kind of clouds do we know? How the different precipitation is being formed? In this programm visitors can listen, observe and make small experiments and measurements.



Module “Atmosphere”. Photo: NHMSS archive



Module “Lithosphere”. Photo: NHMSS archive

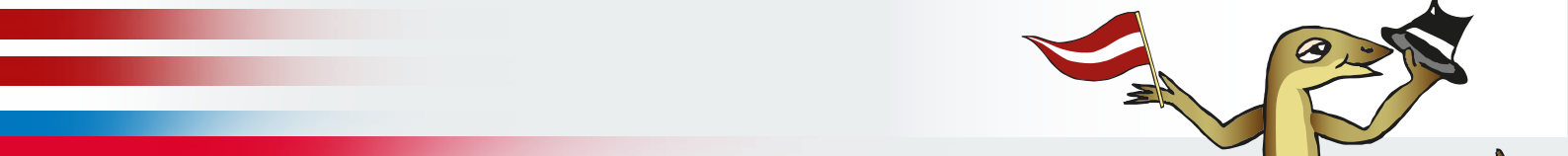
Programm „How the mountains are forming?” for 2-5 grades and families. How the lithosphere is formed? Does any lithosphere forming processes are going on still? Visitors has possibility to place big puzzle that shows lithosphere sheets and try some experiments to understand those great processes.

Programm „Mole and his neighbours” for 2-6 grades and families. Specially made module shows living-space of mole and his neighbours in the soil and necessary adjustments to life in the soil. Life under the ground is usually unknown for the people. Tasks with interactive sets give possibility to understand connection between the soil and biotopes.



Module “Mole and his neighbours”. Photo: NHMSS archive





Gauja National Park Foundation

The Gauja National Park Foundation (hereinafter - Foundation) is a non-governmental organization which has public benefit status. It is situated in Sigulda, Latvia. For more than 19 years the Foundation works in the interest of nature conservation, preservation of cultural values and areas of sustainable development of the Gauja National Park (also Natura 2000 site).

Tasks of the Foundation are:

- to support and implement initiatives that meet harmonized need of society and environmental protection;
- to promote the formation of society, which has an environmental awareness and responsible behaviour towards the environment;
- to promote environmental education by providing society with information, educating it and by opportunity to participate in environment protection activities;
- to encourage society, especially youth, to involve in nature conservation with the help of movement of Junior Rangers;
- to promote nature tourism development that do not harm nature by creating and maintaining an efficient tourism infrastructure;
- to ensure availability of environment and information;
- to develop a targeted donation and charitable traditions.

The Foundation is situated and work on behalf of Gauja National Park (hereinafter Gauja NP) which territory of 91745 ha is divided into five functional areas. It focuses mainly on nature protection, but it is also used for educational and leisure tourism. Gauja NP includes the primeval valley of the Gauja River and together with its tributaries it forms a particularly original landscape. On the banks of the Gauja, Amata, Brasla, many smaller rivers and brooks there are the biggest Devonian outcrops in Latvia – sandstone cliffs, rocks and caves.

Nature Education Centre – Forest School “Pauguri” in Ligatne

NEC - Forest School "Pauguri" is located in the Gauja National Park, at the Līgatne Nature Trails. The primary purpose of this Nature Education Centre is to introduce people to the flora and fauna of Latvia, as well as to educate them in the field of the nature protection, offering to discover, explore and feel the diverse presence of nature.



NEC “Pauguri”. Photo: Gauja NP Foundation archive

The NEC offers great opportunities for groups of schoolchildren, families and adults, including:

- interactive exhibition "Hide and Seek" (about forest animals);
- the days of biodiversity: Water Day in spring, Bat’s Day in summer, Mushroom Day in autumn, and Nature Day in winter;
- possibility to try stations of feelings;
- teaching materials (worksheets, guides to nature exploration and practical experiments).

Nature education offered at the NEC "Pauguri" is based on hands-on experience, skills and information acquisition, learning important things for real life from nature in nature, and learning about and exploring the basic laws of nature.



Nature education lesson near the NEC “Pauguri”. Photo: Gauja NP Foundation archive



Everyone is welcome to book and visit the Nature Education Centre - Forest School “Pauguri” by prior agreement: +371 26433668 or gnpfonds@gnpfonds.lv.



Dagda Local Municipality

Dagda Local Municipality (Latvian: Dagdas novads) is a municipality in Latgale, Latvia. The municipality was formed in 2009 by merging Andrupene, Andzeļi, Asūne, Bērziņi, Dagda, Ezernieki, Konstantinova, Ķepova, Svariņi and Šķaune parishes with Dagda town that is now the administrative centre.

Dagda district is a place where you can relax, spend a good time and enjoy the local culture. There are a lot of beautiful areas where you can find Latgale natural landscapes, as well as meet warm-hearted, clever and lovely people. Knowledgeable guides will help you explore most remarkable places in Dagda district like manor parks, Castle Mound and churches.



Workshop in the NEC "Jaundome Manor".
Photo: Dagda's Local Municipality archive

Nature Education Centre (NEC) "Jaundome Manor" offers a variety of interesting topics to explore fishes, amphibians and birds, and trainings on environmental issues.

NEC "Jaundome Manor" offer:

- exhibitions and educational activities;
- interactive displays to explore the ecosystem of lake;
- binoculars for bird watching;
- microscopes for further investigations.



Latvian traditions. Photo: Dagda's Local Municipality archive

Since ancient times, lakes of the Dagda district were alluring people with the richness of fish. Today, there is a wide range of tourist services such as bicycling tours, smoke bathhouse, Latgalian culinary heritage as well as other local farmer's offers.

Sport and rich cultures traditions attract tourist attention. But the worth visiting event has become the Anna's days festival in the end of July. This festival went down to district history as one of the most unique and exciting festival in the Dagda city.



Interactive nature education lesson.
Photo: Dagda's Local Municipality archive



Dagda Local Municipality.
Photo: Dagda's Local Municipality archive

Address:

Jaundome, Ezernieku parish,
Dagda Municipality

Contact person:

Armands Pudniks





...to Estonia...

Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation

The Peipsi Centre for Transboundary Cooperation (Peipsi CTC), a non-governmental, non-profit organization was established in 1993. Over these 20 years, Peipsi CTC has focussed on environmental education, water management, community development and cross-border and development cooperation. Peipsi CTC carries out projects in the areas surrounding Lake Peipsi. Within the framework of development cooperation, the NGO supports the development of border areas.

Peipsi CTC office is situated in Tartu, Estonia. In cooperation with Kasepää Local Municipality **permanent exhibition “Lake Peipsi Living Room”** in Tiheda village near Mustvee is open to the public and it operates as a small **Nature Education Centre**. Exhibition provides information on the natural conditions of the lake and the life near Lake Peipsi. People can see models of fish species living in the lake, learn about the life cycle of a fish, the food chain of the lake etc. In 2013 with the support of EST-LAT-RUS programme exhibition was significantly improved with interactive hands-on exhibits like birds’ bingo, Peipsi puzzle, the wheel of water plants etc.

Environmental education materials

Peipsi CTC compiles and publishes environmental education materials - from handbooks and brochures to interactive programs on CD-s, DVD-s, in Internet on various topics (e.g. Lake Peipsi, wetlands, water-related mammals, birds).



Study program “Peipsi in a back bag”. Photo: Peipsi CTC archive

Study days, trainings, environmental days, hikes

Peipsi CTC carries out study days for schoolchildren, organizes different trainings for teachers and environmental days for wider public. The topics of study days and environment and science days for children and

youth have ranged from Lake Peipsi, watercourses, invertebrates, mires and bogs, voluntary observation of the nature to sustainable consumption, geography, first aid and much more. Nature camps and hikes also serve the purpose of integration of local Russians and support language learning. In recent years, we have also organized nature hikes for people with special needs. Over the years, more than 120 environmental days and over 20 camps have been organized.



Study program “Peipsi in a back bag”.
Photo: Peipsi CTC archive



Study program “Peipsi in a back bag”.
Photo: Peipsi CTC archive





Tartu Environmental Education Centre

Tartu Environmental Education Centre (TEEC) is an open and diverse organization promoting environmental education among children and adults. We wish to promote a long-lasting and environmentally friendly way of living from generation to generation in Estonia. We hope that people will notice and care about the nature around them. We believe that we can spark interest to increase responsibility and awareness towards nature.



Nature education activities. Photo: TEEC archive

TEEC's organization encompasses three subunits: Tartu Nature House, Environmental Information Centre and Adult Education Centre.

Tartu Nature House offers many nature education activities for school children in 18 different hobby clubs. For example: hiking, indoor plants, young nature friends, environmental media, nature guides, nature friendly handyman, zoology and photography. We also have hobby clubs in Russian language. Addition to everyday work there are camps and competitions, excursions and expositions. Nature House is for students from age 7 to 18.

Environmental Information Centre is open to anyone interested in environmental issues or has questions about hiking, air, water, garbage, ect. There are also organized lot of different public events: environmental bus, bicycle school, movie and nature evenings, lectures, workshops, family club, and mornings for preschool children. Mobile information centre also visit different big fairs and events.

Adult education courses and training programs for kindergartens, schools and employees will all contribute to raising awareness of people. Courses are open to all adults who are interested in nature-related and



The newly opened Tartu Nature House. Photo: TEEC archive

environmental topics. There are also special training courses intended for teachers or office workers. All our courses are based on approved curricula. Popular are courses like the ABCs of nature and outdoor-based education, mushroom and plant identification, sustainable home and office.

Since TEEC's establishment at 2002 we have participated in many national and international projects and find good contact with many organizations. Cooperation is important part of centre everyday work. Jointly with experts we have published different study materials – **books, study program instructions, leaflets, exhibitions** etc.

In autumn 2013 TEEC moved to new Tartu Nature House which provides much better environment for its activities. TEEC's wish is that every person stepping out from Nature House knows that every action changes the world.



Tartu Nature House. Photo: TEEC archive



NGO «Lake Peipsi Project, Pskov»

The NGO «Lake Peipsi Project, Pskov» is a nongovernmental non-profit organization working in Pskov Region, Russia, since 1997.

Originally the organization was created to implement projects in the field of environmental protection in the catchment area of Lake Peipsi (hence – the name of the organization). Gradually, the range and scale of projects grew, and at present the organization leads several project directions, the main of which are nature conservation, education, culture, regional development and civil society.

Mission: to promote the implementation of the principles of sustainable development in the trans-boundary Lake Peipsi Basin region, paying particular attention to the social factor.

In June 2013, the **field-guide «Birds of the Pskov region»** in 2 languages (English and Russian) published. Created for schools and higher education institutions in the region, environmental NGOs, as well as professionals and amateurs, observing in nature. The field-guide includes information on the most common bird species in the Pskov region.

In August 2013, the **Virtual Museum of Lake Peipsi** prepared. Activities directed to the development of modern methods of visual presentation of objects of cultural, historical and natural heritage published on DVD's and in the Internet. The Virtual Museum is a sort of a reference-guide dedicated to biodiversity, environmental values, cultural and historical values of the Pskovsko-Chudskoye (Peipsi) Lake Region. Getting acquainted with sections of the Museum, you can get an idea about the unique flora and fauna of the area, get in touch with the history of its settlement and the life of people on the banks of the lake. The Virtual Museum contains no limiting content and is intended for a broad audience, interested in nature and history of the region. The Virtual Museum is available in English and Russian.

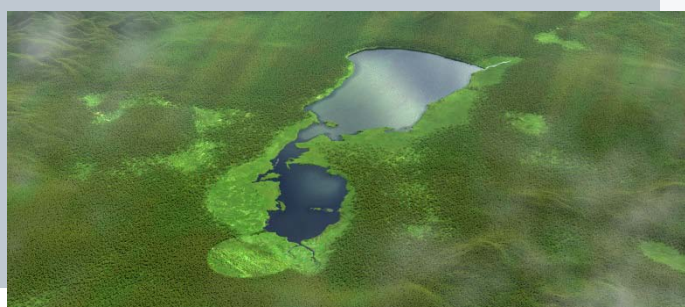


Photo: <http://pskovlake.ru>



Project "People with Nature" team in the National Park «Sebezhsky». Photo: NCA archive

The NGO "Lake Peipsi Project, Pskov" organized the **study trip** for the project "People with Nature" partners from 17 to 20 September, 2013. More than 20 experts from Latvia, Estonia and Russia became familiar with the system of environmental education and awareness in the Pskov region and interactive teaching methods. Visit of different objects such as - visitor centres, hiking nature trails and natural areas of the National Park «Sebezhsky» and the State Reserve «Polistovsky», estates and museums reserves in Pushkinskie Gory and Stary Isborsk was on the agenda of the study trip. In addition, participants of the study trip visited a number of sites of ecological and rural tourism: Eco-park «Zoograd» in the village Pushkinskie Gory, as well as «Honey little farm» and «Olga's Farm» in the Pechory district.



European Cooperation Day's participants in Pskov. Photo: NCA archive





Sebezhsy National Park

The National Park "Sebezhsy" is one of the best preserved places of the Pskov region.

The total area of the National Park is more than 50 thousand hectares. Its territory dominated by different types of forests and many lakes. Overall, this is a unique natural complex, which has 841 species of mushrooms, more than 1,300 species of plants (about 100 - algae, 138 - lichens, 221 - mosses, 860 - vascular plants), as well more than 200 species of birds, 49 species of mammals etc. Among them are very rare species that are included in the Red Book of Russia.

But, not only the nature values of the National Park attract visitors. Here is a rich historical and cultural heritage. Evidence of this is numerous archaeological monuments, neolithic sites, ancient settlements, and burial mounds.

The National Park offers to tourists a tour through the town Sebezhsy, an educational path, boat trips on the lake system. Very popular is one of the most interesting hiking trails on the ridge of glacial origin height of 40 m, with steep slopes covered with pine forest.

Almost any corner of the National Park can be reached at any time of year.

In December 2013 were held some activities, such as: **Joint event of Green Patrol teams** on cleaning the territories of Sebezhsy. It was decided by the Chairmen of Green Patrol teams at the meeting which took place on 15th of November 2013. Teams were cleaning the bus station, town park, playground and also were disseminating the posters about environmental topics.



Joint event of the Green patrol. Photo: NP "Sebezhsy" archive



Boat trip in the National Park. Photo: NCA archive

The action "Save the green fir"

This action is designed to instill environmental friendliness to the children and adults.

In connection with this action were held two events:

Craft competition „Alternative fir"

The competition was attended by 247 people. Contest participants were pupils of Sebezhsy primary and secondary school, Kuznetsovskaya high school, Sosnovoborskaya high school, primary school of Sutoki, Malakhovskaya elementary school, Sebezhsy specialized school. All participants received diplomas, and the winners were awarded with diplomas and gifts.

Christmas matinees for children of Sebezhsy town and Sebezhsy district

More than 500 children took part in the matinees organized within the program of the **mobile Nature Education Centre**.

Matinee program:

- Environmental puppet show "New Year's story, or the New Year and all that ...";
- games and competitions.



Staff of the National Park offers puppet shows about nature protection. Photo: NP "Sebezhsy" archive

Pskov Regional Centre of the Development of Gifted Children and Youth

State budget educational institution of further education for children “Pskov Regional Centre of the Development of Gifted Children and Youth” is the centre of intellectual and creative development of schoolchildren of the Pskov Oblast.

About 8,500 children get academic support in the Centre annually. The following departments work within the Centre:

- On-site and off-site multi-subject school (having 11 subject branches);
- Regional “School of Olympiads’ participants” which prepares schoolchildren for the final stage of the all-Russian schoolchildren’s Olympiads.

The Centre organizes and implements annually about 30 intellectual events; besides, it organizes participation of the schoolchildren of the Pskov Oblast in all-Russian events (Olympiads, exhibitions, conferences, and contests). A half of all the participants become winners and runners-up.

In 2012 the Centre became a partner of the project “People with Nature”. The Centre’s area of responsibility is organization and implementation of the international children’s ecological camp “Sebezhs-koye Poozerye”, study days of ecological education of schoolchildren, International contest of schoolchildren’s creative works, International exhibition of schoolchildren’s creative works, and release of field guides.



International children’s ecological camp.
Photo: Pskov Regional Centre of the Development of Gifted Children and Youth archive



From 22 to 27 July the delegation of schoolchildren of the Pskov Oblast took part in the International Children’s Ecological Camp on the territory of entertainment centre «Leiputria», Latvia.

The action "Save the green fir"

To form and develop schoolchildren’s skills of carrying out field studies **three field guides** have been published: *Invertebrates, Water plants, Birds*.



Field guide about birds. Photo: Pskov Regional Centre of the Development of Gifted Children and Youth archive

A poster has been issued to organize the **international contest of schoolchildren’s creative works “People with Nature”**.

In summer of 2014, international cooperation among schoolchildren of Russia, Latvia and Estonia in the sphere of ecological education and studying the environment in order to protect the biodiversity and increase environmental sustainability of specially protected nature areas will be continued. The delegation of schoolchildren of Pskov Oblast will take part in the international schoolchildren’s camp on the territory of Estonia.

In 2014, we are going to draw up the results of the **international contest of creative works of schoolchildren** and organize the exhibition „The international contest of schoolchildren’s creative works “People with Nature”



Saint-Petersburg Charitable Public Organisation “Biologists for Nature Conservation” (Baltic Fund for Nature)

The work of the Baltic Fund for Nature aimed to increase the level of understanding of wildlife by involving youth in regular observations in nature and project volunteer activities concerning nature conservation and biodiversity protection in the Baltic Sea Region. We offer access to rich and diverse of knowledge, skills and experiences within the network of schools, youth clubs and nature conservation organisations on the North-Western Russia.

We organize Biodiversity days twice a year. These events consist of programs both for schoolchildren and teachers. Program for students incorporate hands-on activities, practical information on typical landscapes: forests, wetlands, and Baltic Sea coastal biotopes. Often students have to become nature detectives, making surveys and records using our questionnaires and guides. Relatively 150 students take part in the nature camps and other Biodiversity Days every year. Module for teachers is always related to environmental education and includes presentations, materials for discussions, experimental exercises. We invite more than 60 teachers to grow up their professional skills and knowledge.

There are also trainings for teachers, which usually take place twice a year. They help teachers to organize outdoor activities for school students aged 9-13 who are interested in wildlife. Some of these trainings are organized as bus educational tours to places of outstanding natural beauty and/or specific biological interest, and are related to “local biodiversity component” in school national curriculum.



Biodiversity day's activities for schoolchildren.
Photo: Baltic Fund for Nature archive



Teacher indoor training.
Photo: Baltic Fund for Nature archive

Nature education programme “Naturewatch Baltic” and mobile Nature Education Centre of the Baltic Fund for Nature

Naturewatch Baltic during the “People with Nature” project has produced **outdoor educational programme** especially for the work of the **mobile Nature Education Centre**. This programme is based on a set of activities tested during Biodiversity days event, includes usage of mobile nature trail and set of equipment.

We produce **informational brochures, leaflets, postcards and posters about local and regional wildlife**. The target group of our methodic materials is teachers and other educators (including employees of other nature education centers). Also we produce **slide-shows and digital interactive brochures**, first one is about peatbogs.



Training for teacher.
Photo: Baltic Fund for Nature archive



State Committee on Natural Resources Use and Environment Protection

The State Committee on Nature Management and Protection of the Environment of the Pskov region is the executive body of the Government authority in the field of nature and environment.

The objectives of the Committee are:

- Implementation of state policy in the use, protection and restoration of natural resources and environmental protection within the jurisdiction.
- Development and implementation of measures to ensure the safety, health and environmental quality, natural resources, development and exploration of mineral resources area.

The activities of the Committee include:

- Forest management
- Subsoil management
- Water management
- Fishery / Water Bioresources
- Hunting management
- Environmental protection

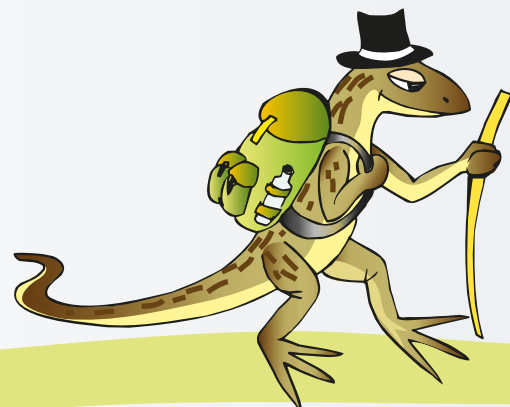


Photo: State Committee on Natural Resources Use and Environment Protection Archive

The Committee within the project is responsible for opening of the **Nature Education Centre** where all the information about protected areas of the Pskov region will be presented. Furniture, computers and office equipment have been almost purchased by the end of 2013. Target groups are students, teachers, experts and all people who are interested in protected areas of the Pskov region. **Brochures of protected areas of Pskov region** were published in 2012\2013 and distributed to libraries, interested organisations, schools and institutes. The **Day of Biodiversity** and a **training** were organized and hold in May 2013. The **Red Book of rare and endangered species** will be published in 2014 and will be also presented in the Nature Education Centre. More Days of Biodiversity and trainings will be organized in 2014 for experts, teachers and interested people.



Photo: State Committee on Natural Resources Use and Environment Protection Archive



Project activity calendar

March 25 Study day organized by NCA at the NEC "Ziemeļvidzeme", in Latvia	March 27 - 28 Seminar about improvement of the NECs capacity and staff professional acquirments, organized by NCA, in Salacgrīva, Latvia	April - May 1 training organized by SCNR, in Russia 1 training organized by NCA, and 1 seminar organized by NHMSS, in Latvia	April - May - June 3 study days organized by PCTC, in Estonia 9 study days organized by NCA, and 2 study days organized by NHMSS, in Latvia
June 3 -4 EST-LAT-RUS Programme Annual Event in Gatchina, in Russia	June 9 - 11 Working Group and Steering Committee meeting, organized by NCA in the Kemer National Park, Latvia	June 16 - 20 International youth camp, organized by TEEC and PCTC, in Estonia	August 19, 21 and 22 Local final events organized by NCA, in Ķemeri, Lipuški and Vecupītes, Latvia
August 23 Local final event organized by GNPf, in Latvia	August 26 Local final event organized by TEEC and PCTC, in Tartu, Estonia	August - September International exhibition of schoolchildren's creative works organized by CGC, in Pskov, Russia	September 11-12 Final project event of the PWN project organized by LPP, in Pskov, Russia

Contacts:

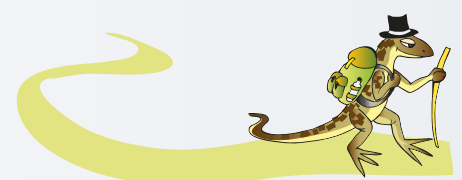
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