

Poland:

- Elbląg High-Plain Landscape Park
- Tolkmicko Municipality

Lithuania:

- Žemaitija National Park
- Klaipėda University

Sweden:

- Lund Municipality
- Sjöbo Municipality
- Linnaeus University

Denmark:

- Slagelse Municipality

Associated organisations:

- Polish General Directorate for Environmental Protection (GDOŚ)
- Association of Lithuanian state parks and reserves
- Lithuanian Ministry of Environment
- Swedish Heritage Board
- Swedish Forest Agency
- Skåne County Administrative Board
- European Network for Implementation of Landscape Convention (RECEP-ENELC)
- Visions and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010 (VASAB)

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LIFescape

IMPLEMENTING EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE
CONVENTION IN THE SOUTH BALTIC REGION

LIFescape

As a reflection of our identity and diversity, the landscape is the living natural and cultural heritage and the basis of all socio-economic activities.

local activities

The **European Landscape Convention** (ELC) was adopted in 2000 in Florence and came into force in 2004. 27 countries, among them Poland, Lithuania, Sweden and Denmark obliged themselves to acknowledge the importance of landscape protection in their legislation, raise public awareness of landscape problems and promote international cooperation in this field. Far too few of these postulates have been realised so far.



Degradation of naturally and culturally unique landscapes is processing everywhere in Europe. Landscape fragmentation, improper land management, chaotic and out-of-style building patterns are wide spread, while public awareness of the importance of landscape protection is generally low. Still, some countries have developed more effective patterns for landscape planning and management than others.

LIFEscape project will join the forces of landscape planners - experts and practitioners from Poland, Lithuania, Sweden and Denmark to share their experience and work-out innovative managerial solutions best suited for each region.

Participative approach seems to be the most effective means of landscape protection. Local stakeholders: inhabitants, authorities, entrepreneurs, developers, NGOs and young people will be empowered to actively take part in the current spatial planning processes of their community. Their awareness of landscape problems, and acceptance of the regulations will increase, thus improving the effectiveness of protection measures.

International exchange and cooperation: Each of the participating countries has a different level of compliance to the ELC implementation. Through professional exchange and trans-national cooperation, partner countries can copy each other good practices. By doing so, bottom-up impulses will be produced, which can change the legal system from within.

Goal of LIFEscape project is to speed up implementation of the Landscape Convention in the participating countries, by working out innovative solutions for participative landscape planning.

main project outputs

- **Toolbox** containing tools and methods for participative landscape planning, based on the requirements of the ELC as well as international best practice examples. The Toolbox will cover innovative tools& methods such as landscape visualisation or estimation of individual landscape quality goals.
- New or updated local **spatial plans** or **management strategies**, having into regard landscape values.
- Intensive **awareness-raising and capacity-building campaign** will accompany all actions in the pilot areas. Its elements will be local media coverage, activities for children and young people, study visits to other partner areas, social events such as painting and photography contests as well as the project website.
- **South Baltic Landscape Forum**, a transnational cooperation and advisory body.
- **Policy recommendations** will be transported to the national ministries responsible for spatial planning and nature protection.

LIFEscape project is all about practical solutions. For these purpose, 4 exemplary pilot areas were chosen, which will apply the identified best-practice methods. Project partners, using help of professional facilitators, will working problem-oriented with and for the stakeholders (Local Activity Groups).

Pilot area 1: Tolkmicko, Warmia-Mazury, Poland

Located inside the Elbląg High-Plain Landscape Protection area on the coast of the Vistula Lagoon, Tolkmicko has height differences of up to 200 m. directly by the sea shore, beautiful forests, high biodiversity and interesting heritage buildings. However, its open landscapes are threatened by the rapidly developing residential housing.



Pilot area 2: Žemaitija, Telsiu, Lithuania

Located inside the Žemaitija National Park, also this area with outstanding natural values is facing growing pressure for construction and tourist facilities. Using innovative methodology, with help of tools such as 3D visualisations and interactive landscape maps, a landscape management strategy will be created together with the stakeholders.



Pilot area 3: Vombsänkan, Skåne, Sweden

The Klingaväl river valley is an internationally important area for biodiversity and landscape values and assigned as both RAMSAR and NATURA 2000 area. In the open wet meadows rare birds are breeding and the landscape contains many remnants of cultural heritage. In this pilot area the two municipalities Lund and Sjöbo will work with stakeholder participation in landscape planning and management.



photo: Ingevar Nilsson

Pilot area 4: Tude Å, Zealand, Denmark

Delta area of river Tude is leading to the ancient viking fortress Trelleborg. For this pilot area goal will be to work out new land management patterns to improve the landscape view between the sea and the fortress. Participative landscape planning process will include visualisations and joint preparation of a spatial plan.

