



LIFE Project Number

LIFE14 CAP/LT/000008

Mid-term Report

Covering the project activities from 01/04/2016 to 30/09/2017

Reporting Date

30/09/2017

LIFE PROJECT NAME

Building LIFE capacities in Lithuania

Acronym: **LIFE LT**

Data Project

Project location:	Lithuania
Project start date:	01/04/2016
Project end date:	31/03/2020
Total budget:	615.486,00 €
EU contribution:	593.886,00 €

Data Beneficiary

Name Beneficiary:	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
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Executive summary

The project 'Building LIFE capacities in Lithuania' has two main objectives:

- Develop Lithuania's capacity to submit quality applications for funding under the sub-programmes for Environment and Climate Action;
- Make a better use of the LIFE programme by supporting on-going and closed projects and to make sure that the results of successful LIFE projects are disseminated and used widely.

The first one and half year of the project was mainly devoted to the first objective in order to boost the awareness about LIFE programme, the number and variety of applicants and the quality of the proposals.

The analysis of participation of Lithuania in LIFE programme revealed that capacity building actions should be taken on raising awareness about LIFE programme in environmental business sector, some events (workshops, meetings, consultations) should concentrate on less popular LIFE programme areas such as Environment and resource efficiency and Climate, joint events with other EU financial instruments should be initiated and the capacity of national environmental institutions to prepare LIFE integrated projects should be increased.

LIFE project partner search tool and project idea database <http://db.lifeprojektai.lt> was created that also includes information on all implemented LIFE projects in Europe. Now the database has low attendance and popularity, therefore it is proposed to further elaborate on the tool and the database and increase its advertisement (i.e. prolong the action A2).

The project organised and participated in 8 regional events (seminars, round table discussions) for business companies where LIFE programme opportunities for environmental technologies and close-to-market projects based on EU environmental priorities were presented and discussed. The difficulty to attract participants from SME to LIFE events was solved by organising some events together with business organisations representing other EU programmes such as Horizon 2020 and European Enterprise Network.

LIFE Info day 2016 and LIFE Fair for the 25th anniversary of LIFE introduced to annual LIFE calls and emerging new LIFE priorities, demonstrated the results and shared the experience of implemented LIFE projects to 200 participants. Four thematic workshops enhanced the understanding on specific LIFE requirements of LIFE applicants and beneficiaries substantially. Four webinars provided live training on preparation of LIFE applications in environmentally friendly way. 7 individual technical consultations contributed to the quality of LIFE proposals as experts could demonstrate LIFE guidelines requirements based on the example and experience of each applicant (that resulted in two approved proposals). Additionally, project staff consulted 61 potential LIFE applicants via email, phone and meetings.

Site visits to Spain and Estonia and participation in complementary LIFE network events and trainings increased knowledge and understanding on LIFE of project staff and LIFE NCP that enabled them to consult potential LIFE applicants, to communicate about LIFE more efficiently and to adapt the gained experience for international cooperation within LIFE.

Project webpage www.lifeprojektai.lt had 2179 unique visitors from the beginning of the project. There were 135 news posted on project Facebook 'lifeprojektai' that has 121 Facebook fans already. 12 press releases have been issued and 4 articles published on national and regional newspapers about LIFE programme, its priorities, calls, results and project events.

The project is mainly running according to the planned schedule with a few small delays: the analysis of participation of Lithuania in LIFE programme and LIFE project partner search tool and project idea database were finalised a few months later than expected, and the webinars were started in summer 2017 instead of 2016 (due to low interest in LIFE programme at the beginning of the project). However, the number of technical consultations provided as well as the number of participants in the technical and financial training offered exceeded the planned outputs by more than 50 %.