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Project NEAR-TS/2017/391-409 «LANDSCAPE ORIENTED AND COMMUNITY LED RURAL AREA DEVELOPMENT OF YASELDA RIVER»

Overall goal: To enhance the capacity of the local authorities for community led sustainable development of the Yaselda river area, an IBA (the area important for birds) Ramsar Site.

Project tasks:

- Assessment of the potential for entrepreneurship development in the ecoregion based on the locals' and experts' opinions;
- Formation of an eco-region management system based on the initiative of the population;
- Marketing promotion of the ecoregion;
- Dissemination of successful project implementation experience to other protected areas of the Yaselda River Valley.

Target groups:

- Local authorities and educational institutions of Bereza, Drogichin, and Ivanovo districts of Brest region;
- Local organizations and proactive initiative groups;
- People living in villages surrounding the project territory;
- visitors of the Sporovsky Reserve per year: tourists, environmentalists

Project duration: 36 months., 7.10.2019 - 7.10.2022

Project budget: 747.549 EUR



The boundaries and location of the Sporovsky reserve



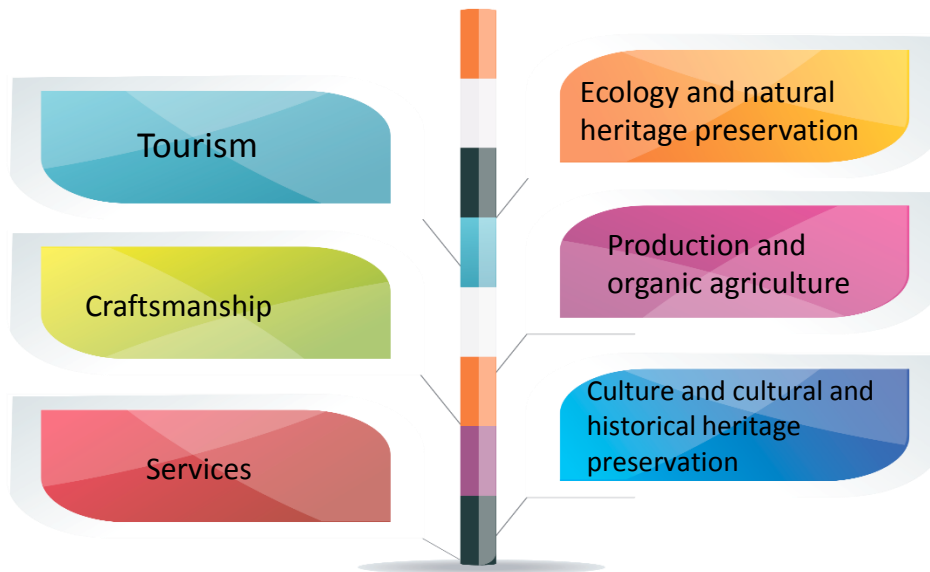
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Key groups of project activities:

- ✓ expertise and research the regions potential;
- ✓ seminars, training, exchanges of experience;
- ✓ development of strategic documents (including on improving the biodiversity of the ecoregion) and mechanisms for their implementation;
- ✓ environmental support;
- ✓ ecoregion promotion activities; regional forums;
- ✓ partnership building at regional, national and international levels;
- ✓ financial/technical support for initiatives;

Key areas of financial support for initiatives to boost employment and self-employment



EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE PROJECT:

- ✓ The local capacity has been enhanced, enabling the local authorities to ensure the community led governance of the ecoregion and the local proactive initiative groups to participate in the governance process;
- ✓ The newly created Regional Council is an effective participatory tool for the ecoregion development;
- ✓ A landscape oriented and community led model has been introduced for the ecoregion sustainable development, taking into account the local development strategies; eight (8) local development centers, created at the village councils or educational institutions, have strengthened the model;
- ✓ The centers have enabled over 1,500 people to improve their skills in business, oriented to the ecoregion needs and potential; 150 of these people have improved their self-employment activity. The ecoregion provides 25 new types of services and goods
- ✓ Over 30 local initiatives contribute to the regional environmental conservation, employment growth and community self-governance;
- ✓ The breeding area of aquatic warbler has expanded by up to 21% against the level 2015 (up to 11 000 hectares);
- ✓ The ecoregion has created conditions for branding of local products made of local raw materials and has raised its profile as an environmental business region;
- ✓ The project has been multiplied across the entire ecoregion and the Brest region nature reserves;
- ✓ At least 5,000 residents of the ecoregion n have noted better opportunities to influence the local decision-making process, as well as increased business activity.