

## **EUCC Baltic Office, Lithuania - Policy Changes achieved through IMPACT project.**

The policy change can be considered as a change in the management of the policy instrument (improved governance). The lessons learned from Romanian, French, Spanish and Italian IMPACT partners allowed to indicate improved protected areas' management through reducing key pressures on coastal nature and ecosystem services in target areas in Lithuania.

A cross sectoral policy toolbox was developed, which comprises regional development and nature conservation, jobs and growth, and solutions for conflicts between the sectors. Community Led Local Development (CLLD) approach was improved, the local actors are actively participating in the decision making process for the sustainable utilization of the coastal ecosystem resources and services.

Most stakeholders were involved in the activities during the first phase of IMPACT project. Specifically, eight stakeholder group and 6 Working group and dissemination meetings were organized. Also, directors of Administrations of Curonian Spit National Park and Pajuris Regional Park, as well as Director of the Department of Cultural Heritage participated in study visits in France and Romania where they had the opportunity of getting information about their best practices. Further involvement of stakeholders on the second phase of the project was not considered necessary.

Activities in both target areas - Curonian Spit National Park and Pajuris Regional Park – were planned in line with the key ideas of the lessons learned during the IMPACT project activities. As a result, the installation of living barriers has improved water quality in Curonian lagoon. The Administration of the Curonian Spit National Park is happy that there are 3 live barriers already installed in Curonian lagoon: they have the opportunity of seeing how they work in different conditions. Also, visitors are very interested in those live lagoons - they purposely come to see them and take pictures. The installed islands have become one of the tourism attractions of the Curonian Spit.

Additionally, a World Heritage Ambassadors' platform has been established by Administration of Curonian Spit National Park. It ensures that local residents and stakeholders play an active role in the UNESCO sites' governance so that their needs and ideas are taken into account within management plans. The Administration of Curonian Spit National Park is proud that the UNESCO Ambassadorship program has brought together a whole bunch of great, outstanding people and professionals in one area. Scientists, publishers, businessmen, ship workers, collectors, artists, politicians, naturalists who have unconditionally loved the Curonian Spit have become ambassadors. The goal of all of us is to raise awareness of Neringa, to take care of its values, to protect it, to initiate various actions and to contribute to this wonder of UNESCO World Heritage in any other way.

To end with, Community Local Development in Pajuris Regional Park has been established, which takes into account the willingness and initiatives to participate in nature management. Created network to further appreciate the uniqueness of our territories and discover nature-friendly attractions such as nature exploration, outdoor activities, sports, culture, crafts, traditional cuisine, fishing, and more by Administration of Pajuris Regional Park and the local community.