

LL-00232

UrbUmbrella

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A - Project identification

A.1 Project identification

Project ID (automatically created)	LL-00232
Name of the lead partner organisation	Daugavpils valstspilsētas pašvaldība
Name of the lead partner organisation in English	Daugavpils City Government
Project title	Joint nature-based preservation of climate change /humans-threatened urban LV-LT cross-border wetlands umbrella biodiversity by innovative solutions, reintroduction and joint management
Project acronym	UrbUmbrella
Programme priority	Green, resilient and sustainable development
Specific objective	SO 2.2: Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution
Project duration in months	24

A.2 Project summary

Please give a short overview of the project and describe:

- the common challenge of the programme area you are jointly tackling in your project;
- the overall objective of the project and the expected change your project will make to the current situation;
- the main outputs you will produce and those who will benefit from them;
- the approach you plan to take and why a cross-border approach is needed;
- what is new/original about the project.

The urban wetlands of Daugavpils (Latvia) and Zarasai (Lithuania) face common environmental challenges due to their connection by a 12-km waterway within the Daugava River catchment. Home to over 400 rare species, these wetlands are threatened by urbanisation, pollution, climate change, and invasive species. The annual movement of 20 000 cross-border tourists adds further pressure. Given these threats, joint protection and restoration of these wetlands are essential. The project aims to preserve these wetlands by reducing pollution, emulating natural disturbances, and reintroducing key species. A Joint Sustainable Wetland-Management System will be established between the Daugavpils City and Zarasai municipalities, enhancing sustainable conservation and biodiversity protection. The project nature management activities will restore over 30 000 ha of wetland in Daugavpils, control invasive Red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta*), and release 10 juvenile protected European pond turtles (*Emys orbicularis*). Also, visitor infrastructure will be developed in 132 ha to

manage tourism impact. In Zarasai, 9,82 ha of urban wetland on Didžioji Island will be restored, with landscape and visitor infrastructure improvements.

To ensure science-based management, experts will conduct research, oversee activities, and develop long-term conservation recommendations. Public engagement will be enhanced through an AI-supported e-learning tool on www.urbanwetland.eu and an awareness campaign. By cooperating across the border Daugavpils and Zarasai will create a unique sustainable model for urban wetland conservation.

Daugavas upes sateces baseinā esošos Daugavpils (Latvija) un Zarasu (Lietuva) pilsētas mitrājus, ko savieno 12 km ūdensceļš, ietekmē kopīgi vides izaicinājumi. Šos mitrājus, kur mājo vairāk nekā 400 retu sugu, apdraud urbanizācija, piesārņojums, klimata pārmaiņas un invazīvās sugas. Katru gadu šo vietu apmeklē 20 000 tūristu, kas rada papildu slodzi videi. Kopīga mitrāju aizsardzība un atjaunošana ir svarīga to ilgtspējas nodrošināšanai.

Projekta mērķis ir saglabāt šos mitrājus, samazinot piesārņojumu, atdarinot dabiskos traucējumus un atjaunojot nozīmīgas sugas. Daugavpils un Zarasu pašvaldību sadarbības rezultātā tiks izveidota Kopīga ilgtspējīga mitrāju pārvaldības sistēma, kas veicinās ilgtermiņa saglabāšanu un bioloģiskās daudzveidības aizsardzību. Projekta dabas aizsardzības pasākumu rezultātā Daugavpils mitrājā tiks atjaunoti vairāk nekā 30 000 ha platības, tiks kontrolēta invazīvo sarkanvaigu sauszemes bruņurupuču (*Trachemys scripta*) izplatība un savvaļā tiks izlaisti 10 aizsargājamie Eiropas purva bruņurupuči (*Emys orbicularis*). 132 ha platībā tiks attīstīta tūristu infrastruktūra, lai pārvaldītu tūrisma ietekmi. Zarasu pilsētas Didžioji salā tiks atjaunota 9,82 ha mitrāja ekosistēma, kā arī uzlabota ainava un apmeklētāju infrastruktūra. Projektā eksperti veiks pētījumus, uzraudzīs aktivitātes un izstrādās ilgtermiņa saglabāšanas ieteikumus, lai nodrošinātu zinātniski pamatotu pārvaldību. Sabiedrības iesaistes veicināšanai tiks izveidots mākslīgā intelekta atbalstītais e-mācību rīks vietnē www.urbanwetland.eu un organizēta informatīva kampaņa.

Pārrobežu sadarbības ietvaros Daugavpils un Zarasi izveidos unikālu ilgtspējīgu pilsētas mitrāju aizsardzības modeli.

Dauguvos baseinā esošos Daugpilio (Latvija) ir Zarasų (Lietuva) miestų pelkės, besijungiančios 12 km ilgio kanalu, susiduria su bendromis aplinkosauginėmis problemomis. Šioms šlapynės, kuriose gyvena daugiau kaip 400 retų rūšių, pavojų kelia urbanizacija, tarša, klimato kaita ir invazinės rūšys. Kasmet tarp šių pasienio miestų migruoja apie 20 000 turistų, dar labiau didindami spaudimą aplinkai. Visa tai rodo, kad bendros šių pelkių apsaugos ir atkūrimo priemonės yra būtinos. Projektas siekia išsaugoti urbanizuotų vietovių pelkes mažinant taršą, imituojant natūralius trikdžius ir atkuriant svarbias rūšis. Daugpilio miesto ir Zarasų miesto savivaldybės sukurs bendrą tvaraus pelkių valdymo sistemą, kuri prisidės prie darnios gamtos apsaugos ir biologinės įvairovės išsaugojimo.

Vykdant gamtotvarkos veiklas, Daugpilyje bus atkurta daugiau nei 30 000 ha šlapynių, kontroliuojama invazinių raudonausių raštuotųjų vėžlių (*Trachemys scripta*) populiacija, į laisvę paleisti 10 saugomų balinių vėžlių (*Emys orbicularis*) jauniklių. Turizmo srautams reguliuoti 132 ha plote bus sukurta lankytojų infrastruktūra. Tuo tarpu Zarasų miesto Didžiosios salos 9,82 ha teritorijoje bus atkurta miesto pelkės ekosistema, sutvarkytas kraštovaizdis ir įrengta turistams pritaikyta infrastruktūra. Siekiant užtikrinti mokslu pagrįstą valdymą, ekspertai atliks mokslinius tyrimus, prižiūrės veiklas, parengs ilgalaikės apsaugos rekomendacijas. Visuomenės įsitraukimą skatins dirbtinio intelekto palaikoma e. mokymosi priemonė svetainėje www.urbanwetland.eu ir informacinė kampanija. Bendradarbiaudami per sieną Daugpilio ir Zarasų miestai sukurs unikalų tvarų miesto pelkynių išsaugojimo modelį.

A.3 Project budget overview

Programme funding			Contribution				Total project budget
Funding source	Funding amount	Co-financing rate (%)	Other public contribution	Total public contribution	Private contribution	Total contribution	
ERDF	599.483,40	80,00%	149.870,85	149.870,85	0,00	149.870,85	749.354,25
Total EU funds	599.483,40	80,00%	149.870,85	149.870,85	0,00	149.870,85	749.354,25
Total project budget	599.483,40	80,00%	149.870,85	149.870,85	0,00	149.870,85	749.354,25

A.4 Project outputs and result overview

Programme Output Indicator	Aggregated value per Programme output indicator	Measurement Unit	Output	Output Title	Output target value	Programme result indicator	Baseline	Result indicator target value	Measureme unit
Jointly developed solutions	1,00	solutions	Output 1.1	Joint innovative Sustainable Wetland Management System created	1,00	Solutions taken up or up- scaled by organisations	0,00	1,00	solutions
Organisations cooperating across borders (MANDATORY)	2,00	organisations	Output 2.1	Two local public authorities cooperating across borders	2,00	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion (MANDATORY)	0,00	2,00	organisatio

B - Project partners

Partners overview

Number	Status	Name of the organisation in english	Country	Organisation abbreviation	Partner role	Partner total eligible budget
1	Active	Daugavpils City Government	Latvija (LV)	Daugavpils city	LP	468.058,00
2	Active	Zarasai district municipality administration	Lietuva (LT)	Zarasai city	PP	281.296,25

B.1 Lead partner	
Partner number	1
Partner role	LP
Name of the organisation in original language	Daugavpils valstspilsētas pašvaldība
Name of the organisation in english	Daugavpils City Government
Organisation abbreviation	Daugavpils city
Department / unit / division	N/A
Partner main address (registration address)	
Country	Latvija (LV)
NUTS 2	Latvija (LV00)
NUTS 3	Latgale (LV005)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Krišjāņa Valdemāra street 1 LV-5401 Daugavpils
Homepage	www.daugavpils.lv
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Latvija (LV)
NUTS 2	Latvija (LV00)
NUTS 3	Latgale (LV005)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Krišjāņa Valdemāra street 1 LV-5401 Daugavpils
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Local public authority
Legal status	Public
VAT number (if applicable)	90000077325
Contact	
Legal representative	Chairperson Andrejs Elksniņš
Contact person	Head of the Division Olga Tolmačova
Email	olga.tolmacova@daugavpils.lv

Contact	
Telephone no.	+37165404225
Motivation	
Which of the organisation's competences in the thematic field concerned and experiences are relevant for the project?	
Daugavpils City Government is the local governmental establishment that acts according to the Latvian national law "On municipalities", by governing and maintaining the second largest city of Latvia. Main competence is connected with city's public infrastructure, public services, education, medicine, culture, social issues, security etc. It has necessary experience and expertise in the field of nature preservation activities that this project is focusing on. Partners motivation and relevant contribution. Project partners are located in the programme area, close to the LV-LT border (2-14 km), they have many wetlands with relevant biodiversity, used by residents and tourists. Therefore, the protection and restoration of wetlands and their biodiversity, climate mitigation and combating invasive species is an important motivation for both LV-LT Partners. LV-Partner and its structural union Latgales Zoo (LZD) have been implementing this motivation since 1997 (27 years' experience). Therefore LV-Partner has all competences in the thematic field concerned and experiences, relevant for the Project: LZD successfully conducts environmental education, also in IT AI based management and e-learning (>60 000 visitors per year, 15% from LT), has experts - scientists Dr.biol, which are working also in Daugavpils University, with experience in wetland innovative studies (bioindication, IT AI, bioclimatic modelling, Umbrella Key species), conducting wetland research (>24 relevant articles in coauthorship with >20 countries, published in journals WoS, SCOPUS, >50% Quartile 1-2 (see experts publications list with DOI in the attachment)) and international protection of wetlands biodiversity (>120 restored wetlands, >4000 reintroduced rare amphibians and reptiles, participation in >20 INTERREG, LIFE, BioDiversa, WaterJPI, COST related projects).	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	
Daugavpils City Government is designated Lead partner of the project. It takes the overall responsibility for development and implementation of the project and sound financial management of the allocated funds. Daugavpils will act as a link between PP Zarasai city and the Programme management bodies. Its main role is to coordinate and manage all project activities. Project application has been developed together with Zarasai, submitted by Daugavpils. It will also take all the responsibilities that Lead partner should take according to the Programme manual. Daugavpils City Government has sufficient human, financial and technical resources that are relevant for the complexity of the project. Both LV-LT Partners contribution and all main activities in the Project are joint and complimentary for each other, allowing, through mutual cooperation and exchange of experience, to jointly achieve the joint goals of the Project and preserve the biodiversity of the project LV-LT wetlands. LV-Partner role: in accordance with its competence and experience and in a complimentary collaboration with LT-Partner will contribute to these Project activities: 1) Joint sustainable innovative Wetland-management system (IT AI mobile application) with involvement and e-learning of all stakeholders; 2) Joint innovative Wetland bio-expertise (bioindication, eDNA, AI, bioclimatic modelling); 3) Joint innovative nature-based Wetland restoration (Umbrella Key Species, reintroduction, emulation of natural disturbances). Both LV-LT Partners will jointly cooperate with the Joint Independent International Supervising Board from 4 countries.	

Motivation

If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.

Daugavpils City Government has necessary experience and expertise in the field of activities and management of EU and international projects. In previous EU planning period 2014-2020 Daugavpils city implemented many different projects, attracting investments of more than 310 MEUR value, of which 41% from EU structural funds. Daugavpils city is planning to implement projects of more than 378 MEUR value during next EU planning period 2021-2027. Daugavpils has enough human and technical resources to have participated in the implementation of the projects in such programs as ERASMUS+, Europe for Citizens (and now CERV), Interreg Latvia Lithuania, Interreg Baltic Sea Region, URBACT, etc. Daugavpils has more than 10 twin cities in such countries as Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Germany and others. It has experience of organizing high quality international events - e.g. European Landscape Award Ceremony in Daugavpils, International Business Forums etc. Projects are usually carried out by competent project managers and international office.

Both LV-LT Partners have relevant experience in participating in and managing more than 20 EU co-financed and national projects to jointly achieve the goals of the Project and preserve the biodiversity of the Project wetlands.

Wetland-relevant projects of LV-Partner are:

2010-2014. EU LIFE Project LIFE-HerpetoLatvia "Conservation of rare reptiles and amphibians in Latvia" Nr. LIFE09NAT/LV/000239. Lead Partner Daugavpils city council unit Latgales Zoo. Project sum:

772 400 EUR. Relevant experience: wetland ecosystems restoration, reintroduction of juveniles of bred rare wetland herpetofauna species. More information: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE09-NAT-LV-000239/conservation-of-rare-reptiles-and-amphibians-in-latvia>.

2020-2022. EU INTERREG Project Urb-Area "Joint management of urban wetland areas in border region Latvia-Lithuania". Nr.LLI-472. Lead Partner Daugavpils city council. Project sum: 376 140 EUR. Relevant experience: urban wetland restoration, LV-LT cross-border cooperation.

2006-2008. EU LIFE project PHS in NPR "Protection of habitats and species in Nature Park "Razna" Nr. LIFE04 NAT/LV/000199. Project sum: 678 740 EUR. Lead Partner Daugavpils University; Partner:

Daugavpils city council unit Latgales Zoo. Relevant experience: wetlands ecosystem management, restoration and preservation, reintroduction of juveniles of bred rare wetland herpetofauna species.

More information: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE04-NAT-LV-000199/protection-of-habitats-and-species-in-nature-park-razna>.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	374.446,40	80,00%
Partner contribution	93.611,60	20,00%
Partner total eligible budget	468.058,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
Daugavpils city	Public	93.611,60	20,00%

State Aid

State aid criteria self-check	
Criterion I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No Project applicant will not implement any activities and/or offer goods/services for which the market exists.
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No No, there are no activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit, planned in the project.
Criterion II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No No, project applicant does not plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example.
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No The project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience will not gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project).
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 2	
Partner number	2
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Zarasų rajono savivaldybės administracija
Name of the organisation in english	Zarasai district municipality administration
Organisation abbreviation	Zarasai city
Department / unit / division	Investment and Development Department
Partner main address (registration address)	
Country	Lietuva (LT)
NUTS 2	Vidurio ir vakarų Lietuvos regionas (LT02)
NUTS 3	Utenos apskritis (LT029)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Seliai sq. 22 LT-32110 Zarasai
Homepage	www.zarasai.lt
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Lietuva (LT)
NUTS 2	Vidurio ir vakarų Lietuvos regionas (LT02)
NUTS 3	Utenos apskritis (LT029)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Seliai sq. 22 LT-32110 Zarasai
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Local public authority
Legal status	Public
VAT number (if applicable)	188753461
Contact	
Legal representative	Director Aurelijus Banys
Contact person	Specialist Gerda Černiauskienė
Email	gerda.cerniauskiene@zarasai.lt

Contact	
Telephone no.	+370 385 37191
Motivation	
Which of the organisation's competences in the thematic field concerned and experiences are relevant for the project?	
Zarasai region is famous for its forests, water bodies and wildlife. Zarasai District Municipality has the status of a resort area, but it is not very urbanised compared to other Lithuanian resorts. Zarasai has made considerable efforts to preserve its unique natural diversity and to pass on to the younger generation the importance of biodiversity conservation. Naturally, special attention is paid to nature conservation and public education. A lot of effort is needed to preserve the uniqueness of this region. To this purpose, many nature trails, regional parks, and projects have been set up. Project partners from Daugavpils and Zarasai are in the programme area, close to the Latvian-Lithuanian border (2-14 km) and have a large number of wetlands with relevant biodiversity, which are used by residents and tourists. Therefore, the protection and restoration of wetlands and their biodiversity, climate change mitigation and the fight against invasive species are important motivations for both cross-border partners. Zarasai District Municipality Administration has a wealth of experience and knowledge in implementing projects related to nature conservation and has responsible, competent and experienced staff, whose knowledge will be used to implement the activities of the project and achieve its objectives.	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	
Zarasai District Municipality will be a partner in the project and will be responsible for the implementation of the project activities in Lithuania. Zarasai district municipality administration staff will take care of the implementation of the project activities, prepare documents and reports, organise educational events, carry out public procurement, communicate with other project partners on issues related to the project activities, and participate in joint events and activities. The contribution of the Latvian-Lithuanian cross-border partners and all the main activities of the Project are common and complementary, so that through mutual cooperation and exchange of experience it is possible to jointly pursue the common objectives of the Project and to maintain the biodiversity of the wetlands of the Daugavpils-Zarasai cross-border region.	
If applicable, describe the organisation's experience in participating in and/or managing EU co-financed projects or other international projects.	
Both Latvian-Lithuanian Partners have relevant experience in participating in and managing more than 20 EU co-financed and national projects to jointly achieve the goals of the Project and preserve the biodiversity of the Daugavpils-Zarasai cross-border wetlands. Zarasai district municipality has experience in implementing EU co-financed projects. One Interreg project "Improvement of the environmental conditions of the public water bodies in Latvia and Lithuania" No. LLI-476 was successfully completed. Two other projects - "Social inclusion of vulnerable groups in Zarasai-Daugavpils cross-border region through development of integrated social care network" No. LLI-550 and „A living history" ENI-LLB-1-073 will also be completed shortly.	

Co-financing			
Source		Amount	Percentage
ERDF		225.037,00	80,00%
Partner contribution		56.259,25	20,00%
Partner total eligible budget		281.296,25	100,00%
Origin of partner contribution			
Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
Zarasai city	Public	56.259,25	20,00%
State Aid			
State aid criteria self-check			
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?			
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	Project applicant will not implement any activities and/or offer goods/services for which the market exists.	
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No	No, there are no activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit, planned in the project.	
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?			
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No	No, project applicant does not plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example.	
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No	The project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience will not gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project).	
Result of State aid criteria self-check:		No risk of state aid	
State aid relevant activities			
GBER scheme / de minimis			

C - Project description

C.1 Project overall objective

Below, you can see the Programme priority specific objective your project will contribute to (chosen in section A.1.).

SO 2.2: Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

Project overall objective

Now think about your main objective – what do you aim to achieve by the end of your project? Remember your project needs to contribute to the programme's objective.

Your objective should:

- be realistic and achievable by the end of the project, or shortly after;
- specify who needs project results and in which territory;
- be measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

To enhance protection and preservation of climate change and humans affected umbrella key species biodiversity through nature-based solutions in urban Daugavpils (LV) and Zarasai (LT) cross-border wetlands

C.2 Project relevance and context

C.2.1 What are the common territorial challenge(s) that will be tackled by the project?

Please describe why your project is needed in the programme area and the relevance of your project for the programme area, in terms of common challenges and opportunities addressed.

The Joint Project is needed in the programme area, since it is important for the entire united cross-border region of Latvia and Lithuania, which differs significantly from other regions of the countries with large number of transboundary wetlands, lakes (over 800) and rivers (over 5000). Such wetlands are valuable sources of European biodiversity, providing habitat for rare hydrophilic species (over 400) in Europe.

Joint Project has high relevance for the programme area because connected project urban wetlands support here high levels of the biodiversity, mitigate climate change, reduce carbon emissions, remove nutrients, and serve as places for positive mental development, emotional and educational visits people, thereby improving the well-being of programme area residents and visitors.

Common challenges for the programme region are urban development and the ongoing urbanization of their territories, including the degradation of urban wetlands, making their transboundary protection and restoration urgently:

As a result of urban nutrients pollutions, the wetlands become overgrown, dark and unsuitable for habitat of rare and protected species, such as the fire-bellied toad, the European pond turtle, the great newt and other.

Unorganized recreational activities (recreation, fishing, disturbing animals etc.) are dangerous, they lead to the death of eggs and juveniles. Walking dogs during the visits are predators on amphibians, reptiles, eggs and young birds.

Residents are also releasing invasive species into the wetlands, that spreading transboundary, creating common threats to biodiversity and ecosystems in all the programme area.

The wetlands of both territories are highly urbanized, therefore the positive influence of natural disturbances which could counteract such pollutions is not available (impossible are: 1) river floods that carry away contaminated silt from catchment basins; 2) natural thunderstorm small fires of dry grass, which free the nesting areas from being overgrown with grass; 3) the influence of beavers, which free the wetlands from overgrown by bushes; 4) native predators (like otters) which limit invasive species etc).

Common opportunities of the Project are based on their common challenges described above, cooperation and complementarity of LV-LT Partners experiences and skills, high qualification of Project experts-scientists, crossborder water connection of the LV-LT urban wetlands, and therefore they are good base for jointly developing and successfully realizing of the opportunities in a cross-border cooperation:

- 1) Joint innovative Sustainable Wetland Management IT AI System;
- 2) Joint innovative bio-expertise by the Joint team of highly experienced state certified experts in wetland study.
- 3) Joint innovative nature-based successful restoration and protection of both project urban water-connected wetlands.

The opportunities realization in the Project will be supervised by the Joint Independent International Conservation and Scientific Supervising Board.

C.2.2 How does the project tackle identified common challenges and/or opportunities and what are the innovative solutions the project takes?

Please describe innovative solutions that will be developed during the project and/or existing solutions that will be adopted and implemented during the project lifetime. Describe also in what way the approach goes beyond existing practice in the sector/programme area/participating countries.

During the joint LV-LT Project lifetime innovative interdisciplinary solutions in urban wetland management, expertise and restoration will be developed and implemented. This innovative joint interdisciplinary approach goes beyond existing practice in the sector/programme area and participating countries, because for the first time will be developed and implemented for urban wetland preservation these innovative interdisciplinary solutions:

1) Joint innovative Sustainable Wetland Management IT AI System: the innovation is based on the innovative specially developed for the Project goals IT AI mobile application with geolocation and specially trained AI e-Citizen science and AI 4D e-Learning and with interactive involvement all stakeholders;

2) Joint innovative bio-expertise: the innovation is based on the interdisciplinary (amphibian bioindication, AI Citizen science, bioclimatic modelling) pan-European approach of innovative wetland bioindication method, developed and published by the scientists – experts of LV-LT Joint team (Čeirāns et al. 2023, 2020; Scientific reports, Q1) on the base of their own research (>22 related articles in coauthorship with >20 countries, published in scientific journals, WoS, SCOPUS, ~50% Q1-2) and conservation experience (>20 related INTERREG, LIFE, BioDiversa, COST projects: >120 restored wetlands, >4000 reintroduced animals).

3) Joint innovative nature-based restoration of both project urban water-connected wetlands, for the first time in the region will use the joint approach of the Key Umbrella Species concept, nature-based solutions and emulation of natural disturbances.

The innovativeness and realization of these Project innovative interdisciplinary solutions will be supervised by the Joint Independent International Conservation and Scientific Supervising Board (related scientists and conservationists from 4 countries: France, Hungary, Turkey, Ukraine: Hirsh Index>10).

C.2.3 Why is cross-border cooperation needed to achieve the project's objectives and result?

Please explain why the project objectives cannot be efficiently reached acting only on a national/regional/local level and/or describe what benefits the project partners/target groups/ project area/programme area gain in taking a cross-border approach.

The LV-LT joint Project objectives and goals cannot be efficiently reached acting only on a national/regional/local level and should be carried out as cross-border because of:

- 1) The joint Project LV and LT urban wetlands have common cross-border threats and negative factors (climate change, invasive species, over-exploitation, all forms of pollution etc.) and are cross-border connected by short water body (12 km length) in one water system - the catchment basin of river Daugava, therefore they can be preserved and restored only by using joint cross-border management and restoration of these connected LV and LT urban wetlands;
- 2) The Key species and biodiversity of both wetlands are united in common continuous cross-border meta-populations with genetic contacts and with a migration water bridge (the length of this water bridge is only 12 km) between the LV and LT populations, therefore the biodiversity protection and restoration are possible only cross-border jointly in both territories;
- 3) Residents and tourists of the project areas in LT Zarasai and LV Daugavpils (the distance between the cities is only 20 km) actively cross-border visit the project areas in other Project country (>20 000 cross-border visitors per year) for recreation and tourism and influence each other's urban wetlands, therefore their visiting and impact management and their environmental education should be cross-border jointly managed;
- 4) Invasive species (*Perccottus glenii*, Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta*) etc.) can spread between Project wetlands through the joint cross-border waterway and therefore combating them should be carried out cross-border jointly in both countries.

Therefore the LV-LT joint Project partners, stakeholders and territories will gain these benefits in taking a cross-border approach:

- 1) Project cross-border partners: will use Joint innovative cross-border Sustainable Wetland Management IT AI System to preserve their urban green infrastructure, biodiversity and ecological services; will receive joint management experience and experts team, will improve green environment and life quality for residents and cross-border tourists.
- 2) Project cross-border biodiversity: will be sustainably preserved by cross-border Joint innovative nature-based solutions and restoration of both wetlands in the joint water system.
- 3) Project cross-border target stakeholders groups: will take many cross-border benefits (economic, conservation, politics, development, services etc.) and inter-active direct cross-border participation in Joint Wetland management by using the Joint innovative Sustainable Wetland Management IT AI System mobile application.
- 4) Project cross-border area: its joint quality and development will be improved by cross-border restoration and preservation of cross-border urban wetlands and biodiversity.
- 5) Programme cross-border area: will be able to disseminate, adapt and use innovative cross-border sustainable solutions and experience of the Project (Innovative IT AI management of wetlands; Innovative interdisciplinary expertise of wetland ecosystems and biodiversity, Innovative sustainable restoration solutions and experience).

C.2.4 Who will benefit from your project outputs?

In the first column of each row, please select one of the pre-defined target groups from the drop-down list. In the second column explain in more detail exactly who will benefit from your project. For example, if you choose the category education, you need to explain which specific schools or groups of schools and in which territory.

Target Group	Specification
Local public authority	At least two local public authorities - Daugavpils and Zarasai municipalities - their nature protection and preservation professionals, as well as other municipality employees who work within the topic of the UrbUmbrella project, will increase capacity in innovative urban wetland management, using nature-based solutions. Additionally, the target groups for this project include stakeholders such as national, regional, and local authorities, representatives from other municipalities, and nature protection authorities, who will actively participate in events under Activity A.1.1, and in trainings and experience exchange visits under Activity A.2.2. These stakeholders are crucial for the effective implementation of project activities and for ensuring the sustainability of the project's outcomes.
NGO	Local NGOs (from cross-border region of Daugavpils (LV) and Zarasai (LT)) will be invited to participate in the awareness raising activities, as well as in the training and exchange of experience workshop for the responsible specialists of the municipalities and local stakeholders. NGOs (in Latvia: Latgales ekoloģiska biedriba) will serve as the bridge between project implementer municipalities and general public.
General public	Raising awareness activities implemented within UrbUmbrella project will be targeted at general public, in order to educate them on environmental behavior and preservation of natural capital.
Education/training center and school	Biology students from local education centers/schools of Daugavpils (Department of Ecology, Daugavpils University; Anti-Invasive center of Latgales Zoo (LV), schools near to the Project territory (Daugavpils (LV) and Zarasai (LT)) will be invited to participate, in order to raise their capacity on the topic of nature protection and preservation. Creation of joint management system for urban wetlands in cross border region of Daugavpils (LV) and Zarasai(LT) will be supervised by Joint International Supervising Board consisting of 4 scientists from 4 countries* (France, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine, *the countries can be changed).

C.2.5 How does the project contribute to wider strategies and policies?

Please indicate to which strategies and policies your project will contribute. Then describe in what way you will contribute.

Strategy	Contribution
EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	Project UrbUmbrella contributes to the EUSBSR objectives: saving the sea and connecting the region. Through the activities that aim for better nature protection and preservation, as well as reducing human affect on the biodiversity of umbrella key species apmhibians and reptiles, mitigating climate change, reducing carbon emissions, removing nutrients, project will positively contribute to the state of wetlands in both Zarasai (LT) and Daugavpils (LV). These wetlands are part of one water system - the catchment basin of river Daugava, that enters Baltic sea. Thus, the project will contribute to the cleaner water in Baltic Sea, as well. Cross border cooperation and all the joint activities implemented will enhance better connection between people in the regions, thus improving global competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region.

C.2.6 Which synergies with past or current EU and other projects or initiatives will the project make use of?

Project or Initiative	Synergy
current: EU Biodiversa Project A socio-ecological evaluation of wetlands restoration and reintroduction programs in favor of the emblematic European pond turtle and associated biodiversity: a pan-European approach (EMYS-R).	The Joint LV-LT Project make use of the Project 1 experience and knowledge in evaluation of wetlands restoration, bioclimatic modelling, reintroduction programs of pond turtle and associated wetland biodiversity and pan-European approach.
current: EU Horizon2020 COST Action Project European Cooperation in Science and Technology COST Action CA18221, Pesticide Risk Assessment for Amphibians and Reptiles (PERIAMAR).	The Joint LV-LT Project make use of the Project 2 experience and knowledge in international risk assessment, cross-border cooperation in science and technology.
current: LVAFA Project Latgales Zoo/Wetland Park biodiversity IT AI-guide mobile application and QR-posters development.	The Joint LV-LT Project make use of the Project 3 experience and knowledge in development of Innovative IT AI-based wetland management and IT AI wetland ranger mobile application, e-learning AI environment and 4D QR-posters.
current: LAD Project Ecological and socioeconomic thresholds as a basis for defining adaptive management triggers in Latvian pond aquaculture.	The Joint LV-LT Project make use of the Project 4 experience and knowledge in bioclimatic modelling, pond ecosystem bioindication, invasive species distribution triggers and thresholds modelling etc.
past: EU INTERREG Project Urb-Area Joint management of urban wetland areas in border region Latvia-Lithuania	The Joint LV-LT Project make use of the Project 5 experience and knowledge in joint LV-LT cross-border management and restoration of urban wetlands, environmental education.
past: EU LIFE Project LIFE-HerpetoLatvia Conservation of rare reptiles and amphibians in Latvia	The Joint LV-LT Project make use of the Project 6 experience and knowledge in practical restoration of wetlands, combating invasive species, breeding and reintroduction of rare species.
past: LLI-476 "Improvement of the environmental conditions of the public water bodies in Latvia and Lithuania"	The Joint LV-LT Project make use of the Project experience and knowledge in joint LV-LT cross-border management and environmental education.

C.2.7 How does the project build on available knowledge?

Please describe the experiences/lessons learned that the project draws on, and other available knowledge the project capitalises on.

The experiences and lessons learned that the Joint LV-LT Project draws on, and other available knowledge the Joint LV-LT Project capitalizes on, are:

1. Experiences, lessons and knowledge on the development of Joint innovative sustainable Wetland-management AI system:

1.1. IT AI Wetland-management mobile application with geolocation development;

1.2. IT AI Wetland Ranger mobile application with geolocation development and training;

1.3. Wetland e-learning environment 4D integrated with the IT AI mobile application development and connecting with other services.

2. Experiences, lessons and knowledge on the development of Joint Innovative Wetland bio-expertise:

2.1. Wetland innovative bioindication methods;

2.2. Bioclimatic species distribution models.

3. Experiences, lessons and knowledge on the development of Joint innovative nature-based Wetland restoration:

3.1. Nature-based wetland innovative restoration emulating natural disturbance.

3.2. Zooculture breeding and reintroduction of rare Pond turtles *Emys orbicularis*.

3.3. Combating invasive species Invasive turtle Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta*), fish *Perccottus glenii* etc.

4. Experiences and knowledge in cooperation with the Joint Independent International Supervising Board.

C.3 Project partnership

Describe the structure of your partnership and explain why these partners are needed to implement the project and to achieve project objectives. What is the contribution of each partner to the project?

Structure of LV-LT partnership: LV-Lead Partner Daugavpils City Government. LT-Partner: Zarasai district municipality administration. Supervising and consultations: International independent supervising scientific board.

These LV-LT partners are needed to implement the Joint LV-LT Project and to achieve Project objectives because of the main necessary reasons:

1) Necessary connected joint wetlands: LV-LT Partners urban wetlands and biodiversity species populations are connected by cross-border waterway (12 km) and can be preserved only by using joint cross-border management and restoration of these connected LV and LT urban wetlands.

2) Necessary complimentary experience and skills: LV-LT Partners skills and experience are complimentary in the LV-LT cross-border cooperation, all stakeholders involvement, joint cross-border management and its IT AI tools development, wetland bio-expertise and restoration.

Therefore contribution of each partner to the Project has joint nature and can not be separated, as example:

1) LT-Partner: development of cross-border management system, LV-Partner: participation in the development and implementing the system to IT AI application;

2) LV-Partner: development of IT AI management application, LT-Partner: adapting of the application to LT specifics, filling by LT-data.

C.4 Project work plan

Number	Work package name
1	Joint innovative sustainable urban wetland management
2	Joint innovative urban wetland nature-based restoration

Work package 1

Work package title

Joint innovative sustainable urban wetland management

Objectives

Your objectives should be:

- realistic and achievable by the end of the project;
- specific (who needs project outputs delivered in this work package, and in which territory);
- measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

Define one project specific objective that will be achieved when all activities in this work package are implemented and outputs delivered.

To develop IT AI Urban wetland-management system jointly for Daugavpils (LV) and Zarasai (LT) urban wetlands to enhance sustainable management - protection and preservation - of natural capital.

Think about the communication objective that will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective. Communication objectives aim at changes in a target audience's behaviour, knowledge or belief.

N/A

Activities

Activity 1.1	
Title	Creation of joint Urban wetland-management system.
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 4, 19 - 24
	Joint innovative Sustainable Wetland Management System: the system will primarily ensure smart, joint and sustainable management of urban wetlands in Daugavpils (LV) and Visaginas (LT) with the aspect of the innovation. System consists of two parts – 1. “Urban wetland-management system” – it as a document, which will be implemented into partners nature conservation management in both territories. 2. Urban wetland-management tool – new section integrated in already existing website www.urbanwetland.eu with geolocation and specially trained AI e-Citizen science and AI 4D e-Learning

Activity 1.1	
Description	and with interactive involvement all stakeholders. 1) Concept of the system: Joint transborder interactive management-coworking ecosystem of authorities-stakeholders-experts in an environment of specially trained on the project results (expertise, bioindication, bioclimatic models, combating invasive species, natural disturbance emulation and local documents etc), AI with geolocation-based possibilities: citizen science photoreport, geolocated e-guide, e-learning in 4D information space, society think-tank, sending questions to experts, alarms sending to authorities etc. 2) It will be used by LP, PP2 for joint and continuing interactive management of the wetland territories, by external stakeholder Department of Ecology – for education of students. 3) LP and PP2 will integrate the system into their operational frameworks in a way of education of responsible specialists, integrating alarms sending to the common sending system; Department of Ecology will integrate the info about the management system into lectures to students Biologists and Environmental sciences. Detailed explanation attached “Managment_system_details”. New section for wetland e-learning environment on existing website www.urbanwetland.eu (1 piece), integrated with IT AI features will be provided to everyone freely and free-of-charge accessible. The platform aims to achieve a minimal user engagement target of 500–1,000 visits within the first six months. To ensure long-term usability by amateurs, the project will implement a user-friendly design with intuitive navigation and instructional materials, along with a community-driven support system. A post-project maintenance plan will be explored in collaboration with educational and environmental institutions. Created management system and particularly the document D.1.1.1 will be approved by LP and PP2 and integrated into their operational frameworks by the official order from the responsible divisions before the end of the project.
Partner(s) involved	Daugavpils city, Zarasai city

Deliverables 1.1			
Deliverable number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.1.1	Urban wetland-management system	LP,PP2-Documents will define the procedure for joint transborder interactive management-coworking ecosystem of authorities-stakeholders-experts - integrated in PPs work before end of pr. for joint and continuing management of the wetlands, by external stakeholder Department of Ecology–for education.	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.1.1.2	New Wetland Section with IT/AI Features on www.urbanwetland.eu	LP, PP2 1.Exploring Territory: user opens map, selects geolocation and receives information; 2.Learning and Skill Enhancement: user selects a session in e-learning environment, materials; 3.Obtaining Species Information: user selects from the list name of a species and obtains information about it.	Period 3 , 13 - 18
D.1.1.3	Cross-learning workshop	LP,PP2-online workshop: changes in a target audience's knowledge. Participants: LV-LT stakeholders (responsible specialists of Daugavpils un Zarasai as well as neighbor municipalities, 20 participants, workshop lasts for 2 hours	Period 2 , 7 - 12
D.1.1.4	Round-table discussion	LP,PP2-online round-table discussion for changes in a target audience's environmental behavior, knowledge and belief. Participants: LV-LT stakeholders (responsible specialists of Daugavpils un Zarasai as well as neighbor municipalities, 20 participants, workshop lasts for 2 hours	Period 3 , 13 - 18

Activity 1.2	
Title	Joint innovative urban wetland bio-expertise
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 4, 19 - 24
	This experts joint team aims to preserve and restore the biodiversity of the Project wetland areas in Latvia and Lithuania. The primary focus of the experts' works is on using amphibians and reptiles as umbrella species to drive the conservation and restoration of Project wetland biodiversity, to combat invasive species and mitigate climate change through natural disturbance emulation methods and nature-based solutions. The geographical territory of experts' work will include

Activity 1.2	
Description	LP (~ 30 000 ha) and PP2 (~10 ha) territories. Joint innovative bio-expertise: the innovation is based on the interdisciplinary (amphibian bioindication, AI Citizen science, bioclimatic modelling) pan-European approach of innovative wetland bioindication method, developed and published by the scientists – experts of LV-LT Joint team (Čeirāns et al. 2023, 2020; Scientific reports, Q1) on the base of their own research (>22 related articles in co-authorship with >20 countries, published in scientific journals, WoS, SCOPUS, ~50% Q1-2) and conservation experience (>20 related INTERREG, LIFE, BioDiversa, COST projects: >120 restored wetlands, >4000 reintroduced animals). See annexes "TASKS_LT_Wetlands expert team", "TASKS_LV_Wetlands expert team" with detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Joint Project Wetland Expert Team. Expert team joint field works phases: 1. Field verification of existing data and localization of wetland biodiversity restoration works 2. Supervising restoration works and the process of removing/isolating 100 specimens of the Red-eared slider planned within activity A2.1. 3. Monitoring and evaluation of the restoration works results Expert Joint Team Composition: LP: 5 experts-Amphibian 1, Reptile 1, Biotope 1, Environment 1, Bioclimatic 1 PP2: 2 Ecosystem Experts. Qualifications and Experience: certified in accordance with LV or LT legislations. LP Amphibian, Reptile experts should additionally have Dr. degrees in Biology, a strong background in amphibian and reptile habitat restoration and conservation in Latvian and int. pr., and monitoring experience. Reptile Expert should have experience in Pond turtle releasing, bioclimatic modelling, climate change mitigation, invasive turtles removing /isolation. Environment Expert should have certification in accordance with Latvian legislation. Ecosystem experts should have background in habitat restoration and biodiversity conservation and be certified according LV or LT nature conservation legislation. Proven experience in cross-border environmental or scientific projects is preferred.

Activity 1.2			
Partner(s) involved		Daugavpils city, Zarasai city	
Deliverables 1.2			
Deliverable number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.2.1	Urban wetland innovative bioindication report	LP,PP2-Project expert team deliver urban wetland innovative bioindication report.1)Innovative expertise of bioindication Umbrella species populations quantity and their community quality assessments.2)Report will be used by PPsand integrated into their operations in project practical works planning	Period 3 , 13 - 18
D.1.2.2	Bioclimatic species distribution models in urban wetland	LP,PP2-bioclimatic models in format of the bioclimatic spatio-temporal maps for Project territories, for 3 targeted species.Scope is optimality of project territories conditions for targeted species under current climate conditions in 20 y. PPs will use model for management and education for 20 y.	Period 3 , 13 - 18
D.1.2.3	Verified field data and localized restoration plans	LP,PP2-field surveys to verify current biodiversity data; Identify specific sites for biodiversity restoration in LV and LT; Assess presence of invasive species and the suitability of the environment for rare pond turtles; Report findings and recommendations for site-specific restoration activities.	Period 1 , 1 - 6
D.1.2.4	Supervision and progress reports on restoration activities	LP,PP2-Supervise application of natural disturbance emulation methods; Monitor release and adaptation of rare pond turtles in targeted areas; Ensure restoration activities align with project goals and environmental guidelines; Coordinate with local authorities and stakeholders to facilitate restor	Period 2 , 7 - 12
D.1.2.5	Comprehensive monitoring and evaluation reports	LP,PP2-Conduct regular monitoring of biodiversity indicators, focusing on amphibians, reptiles, and invasive species control; Analyze data to assess success of restoration activities; Provide report on project progress and outcomes. After the Project-every 2 years, 3 times by own resources.	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.1.2.6	Educational content for mobile applications and informational stands.	LP,PP2-info content about target amphibian and reptile species for a mob app and educational stands (10-LP; 5-PP); training sessions and workshops for locals; educational materials to raise awareness about wetland biodiversity and conservation practices.	Period 1 , 1 - 6

Outputs

Output 1.1	
Output Title	Joint innovative Sustainable Wetland Management System created
Programme Output Indicator	O.I.9: Jointly developed solutions
Measurement Unit	solutions
Target Value	1,00
Delivery period	Period 4, 19 - 24
Output Description	Joint innovative Sustainable Wetland Management System will be created for smart, joint and sustainable management of urban wetlands in Daugavpils (LV) and Zarasai (LT), thus protecting nature and adapting to climate change. Created document will be approved by LP and PP2 and integrated into their operational frameworks by the official order from the responsible divisions before the end of the project.

Investments

Work package 2

Work package title

Joint innovative urban wetland nature-based restoration

Objectives

Your objectives should be:

- realistic and achievable by the end of the project;
- specific (who needs project outputs delivered in this work package, and in which territory);
- measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

Define one project specific objective that will be achieved when all activities in this work package are implemented and outputs delivered.

To preserve and restore the biodiversity of umbrella key species through nature-based solutions, thus protecting and preserving nature and adapting to climate change, in urban cross-border wetland area in Daugavpils (LV) and Zarasai (LT).

Think about the communication objective that will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective. Communication objectives aim at changes in a target audience's behaviour, knowledge or belief.

To raise awareness and educate general public on preservation of natural capital and environmental behavior that can preserve and protect the nature biodiversity in urban wetlands of Daugavpils (LV) and Zarasai (LT).

Activities

Activity 2.1	
Title	Development and implementation of urban wetlands nature-based restoration emulating natural disturbances
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 4, 19 - 24

Activity 2.1

Description	Joint innovative nature-based restoration of both project urban water-connected wetlands, for the first time in the region will use the joint approach of the Key Umbrella Species concept, nature-based solutions and emulation of natural disturbances (emulating natural disturbance-grass fire by mosaic removing grass layer by bulldozer, emulating natural disturbance-river spring flood by removing mud from catchment basin, emulating natural disturbance-beaver impact by mosaic cutting of bushes and trees falling, emulating natural disturbance-pond drought by improvement permanent pond to temporal pond, regulation of biodiversity zone, regulation of illegal roads, Renovated Anti-Invasive Module for isolation of invasive turtles/climate mitigation and anti-invasive education, Placement of Informative stands in the wetland's territory); combating invasive turtles Red-eared slider (<i>Trachemys scripta</i>) through removing/isolating from owners/wild up to 100 specimens: the removed /isolated from wild/owners and kept red-eared turtles will be relocated to the renovated Invasive Species Isolation Station in the renovated Anti-Invasive Module (Daugavpils city territory, Latgale Zoo, Vienibas str. 27) for removing/isolation of invasive turtles, climate mitigation and anti-invasive education. Naturally restored-area within the Project adjacent to Daugava River in Daugavpils (LV), improved and adapted are within the Project in Zarasai (LT) will be provided to everyone freely and free-of-charge accessible.
Partner(s) involved	Daugavpils city, Zarasai city

Deliverables 2.1

Deliverable number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.1.1	Natural restoration of the area adjacent to the Daugava River in Daugavpils (LV)	LP-Total affected area:30873,13 ha, including: emulating natural disturbance grass fire, river spring flood,beaver impact,pond drought, biodiversity zone, illegal roads, isolation of invasive turtles, and informative stands	Period 4 , 19 - 24

Deliverables 2.1			
Deliverable number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.1.2	Natural restoration of the wetland area in Zarasai (LT)	PP2-Total affected area: 9,82 ha, including: emulating natural disturbance grass fire, river spring flood, beaver impact, biodiversity zone, and informative stands	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.1.3	Releasing of rare young adult Pond turtles <i>Emys orbicularis</i>	LP - 5 years-old (10 pieces LV); according to the Preservation plan for the European pond turtle <i>Emys orbicularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) Latvia; location where the turtles will be released in project territory managed by LP in Latvia	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.1.4	Removed /isolated up to 100 specimens of Red-eared slider (<i>Trachemys scripta</i>)	LP-Removed/isolated up to 100 specimens of Red-eared slider (<i>Trachemys scripta</i>): the removed/isolated from wild /owners and kept in Latgales Zoo will be relocated to the renovated Invasive Species Isolation Station Anti-Invasive Module	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.1.5	Instruction signs, Daugavpils (LV)	LP - Material – for example, natural material roundwood with a diameter not exceeding D=12 cm and a height of at least h=1.5 m. The wood is impregnated.	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.1.6	Wooden paths, Daugavpils (LV)	LP – Paths not less than 1.5 m in width. The wood is impregnated. The total length of the paths is at least 850 m.	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.1.7	Children playground equipment, Daugavpils (LV)	LP – The active zone is enclosed with wooden posts, e.g., roundwood with a diameter not exceeding D=12 cm and a height of at least h=1.5 m. The wood is impregnated. There are at least two playgrounds, each with dimensions not exceeding 20 x 30 m. Each playground includes at least two play elements.	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.1.8	Dog area fencing, Daugavpils (LV)	LP - Material – for example, natural material roundwood with a diameter not exceeding D=12 cm and a height of at least h=1.5 m. The wood is impregnated.	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.1.9	Hygienic mobile module, Daugavpils (LV)	LP - Barrier structures made of natural material (e.g., treated wood). Intended for use by people with disabilities. The minimum module dimensions are in accordance with accessibility requirements, but not smaller than 2 x 2.5 meters.	Period 4 , 19 - 24

Deliverables 2.1			
Deliverable number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.1.10	10 information stands, Daugavpils (LV)	LP - Material – for example, natural material roundwood with a diameter not exceeding D=12 cm and a height of at least h=1.5 m. The wood is impregnated. Information plaque – metal with dimensions not exceeding 1.5 x 1.5 m.	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.1.11	11 information signs, Daugavpils (LV)	LP - Material – for example, natural material roundwood with a diameter not exceeding D=12 cm and a height of at least h=1.5 m. The wood is impregnated. Information plaque – metal with dimensions not exceeding 1 x 0.15 m.	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.1.12	10 QR Code Poster stands, Daugavpils (LV)	LP - Material – for example, natural material roundwood with a diameter not exceeding D=12 cm and a height of at least h=1.5 m. The wood is impregnated. Information plaque – metal with dimensions not exceeding 0.3 x 0.3 m.	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.1.13	5 information stands, Zarasai (LT)	PP2 –each stand size 600m x600m	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.1.14	Bench, Zarasai (LT)	PP2 –size 2500m x600m	Period 4 , 19 - 24

Activity 2.2	
Title	Educational and awareness raising activities for general public on environmental behaviour and preservation of natural capital
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 4, 19 - 24

Activity 2.2**Description**

In order to accompany the activities targeted at protection and preservation of nature and its biodiversity, where a lot of pollution and change is human caused, there are several educational and awareness raising activities planned within UrbUmbrella project. First, training and exchange of experience workshop will be organized for specialists in the field (Daugavpils and Zarasai municipality responsible specialists and local stakeholders). Main content: INTERREG and joint nature-based wetland management, Umbrella species and bioindication, Bioclimatic forecasting and sustainability planning; duration 5 hours; provisional number of participants: 40. At least 20 additional external stakeholders from both countries, such as other municipalities or nature-protection and education organisations at various levels, will be invited to participate. International experts will be involved in this training in person /Zoom as lecturers and/or participants. Second, educational and awareness raising activities for general public on environmental behavior in wetland areas and preservation of natural capital, with focus on cross-border wetland areas, will be organized-activities are planned in both Daugavpils (LV) and Zarasai (LT). Video materials will be produced for promotion of "Joint nature-based preservation of climate change/humans-threatened urban LV-LT cross-border wetlands umbrella biodiversity by innovative solutions, reintroduction and IT AI-based joint management". Those video clips will be used in official social media of LP and PP2 (Facebook, Instagram, Youtube), as well as shared on the relevant regional platforms. All the mandatory communication requirements will be implemented. At least 10 press releases will be published - out of 10 at least 2 press releases in LV and at least 2 in LT (4 in total) will be disseminated among local, regional, or national external media (such as press, external internet portals) for publication. There are two activities planned for the promotion of project results - Project communication and dissemination event for general public - 1 in Daugavpils (LV) and 1 in Zarasai (LT). Events will be organized on the project investment areas - ensuring educational activities, in Daugavpils and Zarasai – each 2 hour event, 200 participants.

Partner(s) involved

Daugavpils city, Zarasai city

Deliverables 2.2			
Deliverable number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.2.1	Training and exchange of experience workshop	LP,PP2-In situ Training and exchange of experience workshop (40 participants, 5h) in Daugavpils (LV), organized by LP, to support capacity building of Daugavpils and Zarasai municipality responsible specialists and local stakeholders having impact on the quality of the environment	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.2.2	Educational and awareness raising activity for general public in Daugavpils (LV)	LP-In situ Activity on environmental behavior. The activity will last for 2 hours in Daugavpils urban wetland territory, 30 participants (local communities, pupils, children, NGOs) from Daugavpils .	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.2.3	Educational and awareness raising activity for general public in Zarasai (LT)	PP2-In situ Activity on environmental behavior. The activity will last for 2 hours in Zarasai urban wetland territory, 30 participants (local communities, pupils, children, NGOs) from Zarasai.	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.2.4	Videos created	LP,PP2-Video materials for promotion "Joint nature-based preservation of climate change/humans-threatened urban LV-LT cross-border wetlands umbrella biodiversity by innovative solutions, reintroduction and joint management" -1 short (up to 1min) video (EN,LV,LT) 1 short (up to 30s) video(EN,LV,LT)	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.2.5	Project profile on www.latlit.eu	LP-Project profile will be created on www.latlit.eu by LP, who will ensure that information is regularly updated by both partners. Project profile on www.latlit.eu will be updated at least once per reporting period.	Period 1 , 1 - 6
D.2.2.6	Project information on official websites of LP and PP2	LP,PP2-Both partners will create UrbUmbrella project sections (2 in total) on their official web-sites, regularly update it with latest news on the project activities.	Period 1 , 1 - 6
D.2.2.7	Informative posters at premises of each LP and PP2	LP,PP2-Both partners will create informative poster about UrbUmbrella project and put it up at their premises	Period 1 , 1 - 6

Deliverables 2.2			
Deliverable number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.2.8	Durable plaque or billboard installed to mark physical investments in Zarasai (LT)	PP2-Durable plaque or billboard will be purchased and installed to mark physical investments in Zarasai (LT)	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.2.9	Durable plaque or billboard installed to mark physical investments in Daugavpils (LV)	LP-Durable plaque or billboard will be purchased and installed to mark physical investments in Daugavpils (LV)	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.2.10	At least 10 social media posts with information about the project	LP,PP2-At least 10 social media posts (2-3 per reporting period) will be published on LP and PP2 official accounts, sharing project info, events, and activities with tagged Programme. At least 4 press releases (2 in LV, 2 in LT) will be shared with local, regional, or national media for publication.	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.2.11	Project communication and dissemination event for general public in Daugavpils (LV)	LP - Event will be organized on the project investment area in Daugavpils - ensuring educational activities, 2 hour event, 200 participants	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.2.12	Project communication and dissemination event for general public in Zarasai (LT)	LP - Event will be organized on the project investment area in Zarasai - ensuring educational activities, 2 hour event, 200 participants	Period 4 , 19 - 24

Outputs

Output 2.1	
Output Title	Two local public authorities cooperating across borders
Programme Output Indicator	O.I.8: Organisations cooperating across borders (MANDATORY)

Output 2.1	
Measurement Unit	organisations
Target Value	2,00
Delivery period	Period 4, 19 - 24
Output Description	As a result of project activities implemented and outputs created, cross-border cooperation between Daugavpils City Government (Latvia) and Zarasai municipality (Lithuania) within preservation and protection of nature, urban wetlands and biodiversity in them will be established. Network of specialists within the field will be created.

Investments

Investment 2.1

Title

Natural Restoration-area adjacent to Daugava River

Expected delivery period

Period 4, 19 - 24

Justification

Please explain why this investment is needed.

According to the "SPECIES AND BIOTOPE EXPERT OPINION about amphibians and reptiles (Umbrella Key Species amphibians and reptiles) population and habitat improvement works in the territory of Daugavpils city,

planned within the INTERREG program project" there are CONCLUSIONS on the impact of the implemented activity or measure on the state of the identified species and habitats and biological value, as well as to the adjacent territory and conditions for carrying out the activity or event:

1) 16 species of Latvian herpetofauna have been found in the studied area, of which 5 are Latvian specially protected species of herpetofauna that inhabit practically the entire territory and habitats that make

4 area as important for the conservation of European amphibian and reptile species and forms the basis and provides an opportunity use these species, that Umbrella Key Species amphibians and reptiles (Umbrella Key Species amphibians and reptiles) for the preservation of populations and habitats of these and other species;

2) Economic and other works and activities planned within the framework of the INTERREG project (Appendix),

necessary populations of amphibians and reptiles (Umbrella Key Species amphibians and reptiles) and

for habitat conservation;

3) The preservation of populations and habitats of amphibian and reptile species in the territory is necessary

educational events for residents and tourists;

4) To preserve the population of terrapins, 10 juveniles in the terrapin are recommended release of turtles into the wild (site number in the species protection plan: 0038).

5) INTERREG must be carried out under the supervision of an amphibian and reptile expert in the area of operation of the project.

EXPERT OPINION as well as LIST of project related scientific articles is attached to the project application.

Please clearly describe the cross-border relevance of the investment.

The cross-border relevance of the LV-LT joint Project investment is very high because of:

1) High cross-border relevance of the joint Project LV and LT investment based on the urban wetlands common cross-border threats and negative factors and cross-border connecting in one water system;

2) Cross-border relevance proves by united Key species populations and biodiversity for both urban wetlands, therefore the biodiversity protection and restoration are possible only cross-border jointly in both territories;

3) Cross-border relevance proves by residents and tourists of the project areas actively cross-border visiting the project areas in both countries, therefore their impact management and environmental education should be cross-border jointly managed;

4) Cross-border relevance proves by invasive species spreading between both Project wetlands through the cross-border waterway and therefore combating them should be carried out cross-border jointly in both countries.

Please describe who is benefiting (e.g. partners, regions, end-users, etc.) from this investment, and in what way.

These Project groups, regions and categories are benefiting from Project investment in the way:

- 1) Project partners: in the way of using Joint innovative cross-border Sustainable Wetland Management IT AI System un preserve their urban green infrastructure, biodiversity and ecological services.
- 2) Project regions: in the way of many benefiting (economic, conservation, politics, development, services etc.) from the restoration of the urban wetlands and biodiversity.
- 3) Project end-users: in the way of many benefiting (economic, interests, services etc.) from the restoration of the urban wetlands.
- 4) Project biodiversity: in the way of sustainable restoration and preservation of urban wetlands.

In the case of pilot investment, please clarify which problem it tackles, which findings you expect from it, how it can be replicated, and how the experience coming from it will be used for the benefit of the programme area.

The Joint LV-LT Project is not the pilot investment, but it has several characteristics effective for findings and result transfer and dissemination in the programme area because of its 1) innovative cross-border connected urban wetlands IT AI management ideas; 2) innovative universal interdisciplinary expertise methods; 3) cross-border nature-based solutions and activities.

The Joint LV-LT Project tackles cross-border problems of 1) cross-border connected urban wetlands and its biodiversity preservation; 2) their effective cross-border management with participation of all stakeholders from both countries.

The findings expected from the Joint LV-LT Project are: 1) innovative cross-border connected urban wetlands IT AI cross-border management system and its IT AI cross-border mobile application tool with participation of all stakeholders in the management; 2) innovative interdisciplinary cross-border expertise system and models; 3) cross-border nature-based and emulated urban wetlands restoration solutions system.

Joint LV-LT Project findings and results can be successfully replicated because 1) innovative cross-border connected urban wetlands IT AI cross-border management system is universal for the region; 2) IT AI cross-border management mobile application with participation of all stakeholders can be used anywhere – all you need is only training the AI with new local data; 3) innovative interdisciplinary cross-border expertise and restoration systems can be used in all the region, because the same Key Umbrella amphibians species are living here.

The experience coming from Joint LV-LT Project will be used for the benefit of all the programme area because of 1) programme-area oriented Project innovations and findings; 2) easy and simple transfer of Project findings and innovations to new programme area territories (introduction of new geolocations and AI training on new area documents).

Location of the physical investment	
Country	Latvija (LV)
NUTS 2	Latvija (LV00)
NUTS 3	Latgale (LV005)
Street House number, Postal code, City	Area adjacent to Daugava River , LV-5400,

Risk associated with the investment

Describe the risk associated with the investment, go/no-go decisions, etc. (if any).

- 1) There are not any risks associated with the LV physical investments (go/no-go decisions, agreements etc.) because LV-Partner Daugavpils City Government is the owner/user of all LV Project territories and its structural unit Latgales Zoo.
 - 2) Emys orbicularis juveniles LV releasing is agreed by the permission of the LV State Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia, Decision Nr.3.15/306/2013-N.
- Public procurement procedure can influence the start date and completion date of practical works. Financial risks are connected with public procurement procedure as there could be higher prices than it is planned by the costs estimates. In this case partners will take a decision on new procurement procedure with revised volumes or to add finances from municipal budget, if reallocation of the project budget will not cover possible overspending.

Investment documentation

Please list all technical requirements and permissions (e.g. building permits) required for the investment according to the respective national legislation. Attach them to the Application Form.

- 1) LV Emys orbicularis juveniles releasing. Permission of the State Nature Conservation Agency of Latvia, Decision Nr.3.15/306/2013-N
- 2) Statement from Daugavpils municipal construction supervising office that Non construction documentation for "Nature-based wetland innovative restoration" works is needed

For investments in infrastructure with costs planned under CC6 'Infrastructure and works' with an expected lifespan of at least five years, please indicate how expected adaptation (resilience) of infrastructure to negative impacts of climate change will be addressed.

Investments in infrastructure are expected to have a positive impact on climate change, implementing all the foreseen activities within the UrbUmbrella-AI project.

Ownership

Who owns the site where the investment is located?

The implementation of the project is planned in Daugavpils Ruģeļi neighborhood. The project territory crosses several land properties. The owner of them is Daugavpils City Government. Documents that prove the ownership are attached to the application form.

Who will retain ownership of the investment at the end of the project?

Daugavpils City Government will retain ownership of the investment in Daugavpils city at the end of the project and doesn't plan to change ownership form or rights in long term.

Who will take care of the maintenance of the investment? How will this be done?

Daugavpils City Government will take care of maintenance of the investments from the municipal budget sources. Day-to-day maintenance and small-scale repair works will be done by relevant municipal structures.

Investment 2.2

Title

Improvement and adaptation of wetland in Zarasai

Expected delivery period

Period 4, 19 - 24

Justification

Please explain why this investment is needed.

To preserve the landscape structure, biodiversity and historical value of Zarasai Great Island, to maintain the ecological stability of the territory, and to improve the living and working conditions of people, it is important to preserve the remaining natural ecosystem hotspots in urbanized areas. It is important to maintain the optimum balance between built-up and open areas for recreation and health, as well as ecological and aesthetic relationships. Urban green spaces not only provide an aesthetic environment, but also have a positive effect on the microclimate, improve air composition, reduce noise, prevent erosion, and meet the public's needs for a healthy lifestyle and recreation. The Great Island is notable for its areas of importance for protected species and habitats, with rare and protected species such as the Blue Gentian, the European fire-bellied toad (*Bombina orientalis*), intermediate wetlands, hay meadows, and the habitat of the Deathwatch beetle (*Xestobium rufovillosum*). The site is in the centre of Zarasai, and is much visited by visitors, but residents are not aware of the importance and significance of this favourite place. If this biologically important area would not be protected, the species will be at risk of extinction, as the impact of climate change is very significant for the whole environment around us. The aim of this project is to manage this unique area in a way that respects nature conservation requirements, and to raise awareness of the diversity of protected species and the importance of their conservation. REPORT on Biodiversity status of Zarasai Great Island Park and measures to improve it is attached to the application

Please clearly describe the cross-border relevance of the investment.

The joint project will combine the resources of the two neighbouring countries for a common goal - to improve the condition of the similar Daugavpils and Zarasai ecosystems of water bodies and wetlands, and to preserve rare species and create suitable conditions for their habitat. Daugavpils and Zarasai are in the same geographical location, so the nature and the surrounding environment are very similar, and the problems faced by both municipalities on environmental issues are very similar. A joint project will help to tackle a common problem together, with a lot of cooperation, knowledge sharing and selfless transfer of good practice to the partner. Coordinated joint actions will bring the two municipalities together and improve mutual understanding in finding solutions to common problems in the future.

Please describe who is benefiting (e.g. partners, regions, end-users, etc.) from this investment, and in what way.

The implementation of this project and the achievement of its objectives will contribute to the mitigation of climate change, the preservation of biodiversity in cross-border regions, and will increase the knowledge of visitors, tourists and residents about the rare and protected species that inhabit in the Daugavpils-Zarasai city centre of neighbouring countries. The investment will improve the conditions of the wetlands on Zarasai Great Island and will create the proper conditions for the growth of rare plants and animals. Wetlands and hay meadows play a very important role in the whole ecosystem and have a positive impact on climate change. The Great Island receives a lot of visitors from neighbouring countries, tourist passing through and residents. It is one of the most significant sights in Zarasai. Visitors will be introduced to the uniqueness of this corner of nature, they will learn how to deal with the sight of a rare species, enjoy the tranquillity of the area and breathe fresh air.

Not only individuals who are concerned about climate change and the preservation of biodiversity, but also the municipalities of Daugavpils-Zarasai will benefit from the project by strengthening the cooperation between the neighbouring border towns, by reinforcing the relationship, by sharing experience and information on how to maintain and care for the condition of the crossborder water bodies.

In the case of pilot investment, please clarify which problem it tackles, which findings you expect from it, how it can be replicated, and how the experience coming from it will be used for the benefit of the programme area.

Location of the physical investment	
Country	Lietuva (LT)
NUTS 2	Vidurio ir vakarų Lietuvos regionas (LT02)
NUTS 3	Utenos apskritis (LT029)
Street House number, Postal code, City	Salos 3, 32104, Zarasai

Risk associated with the investment

Describe the risk associated with the investment, go/no-go decisions, etc. (if any).

According to scientists' recommendations and suggestions, significant investment is needed to improve conditions for the island's rare flora and fauna. If this biologically important area of Zarasai is not managed, climate change and a lack of human awareness could lead to the disappearance of many rare species that live in the wetlands, hay meadows, and centuries-old trees of Lake Zarasas Great Island. The project will help to improve the habitats of protected species and make them attractive for the biodiversity that lives there. The environment would be managed according to scientific recommendations in order to have a positive impact on climate change.

Investment documentation

Please list all technical requirements and permissions (e.g. building permits) required for the investment according to the respective national legislation. Attach them to the Application Form.

The environmental improvement works planned for the project do not require a building permit under current legislation in Lithuania. The planned works are listed in a plan, drawn up, based on the recommendations of biologists, to determine which works should be carried out to maximise the benefits to protected species and the environment.

The management work will be supervised by a specialist with environmental expertise to ensure that the environment is not harmed.

For investments in infrastructure with costs planned under CC6 'Infrastructure and works' with an expected lifespan of at least five years, please indicate how expected adaptation (resilience) of infrastructure to negative impacts of climate change will be addressed.

After the end of the project, the Zarasai District Municipality will continue to maintain the landscaped area according to the recommendations of the scientists, the mowed mesophyte meadows will be managed in accordance with the requirements of environmental protection, and the fallen trees will be retained as a natural habitat for micro-organisms and will only be removed in accordance with the recommendations of specialists.

Ownership

Who owns the site where the investment is located?

The plot of land where the management works are planned belongs to the Zarasai District Municipality.

Who will retain ownership of the investment at the end of the project?

Zarasai District Municipality will remain the owner of the site after the end of the project and will own the investments made during the project.

Who will take care of the maintenance of the investment? How will this be done?

Zarasai District Municipality will take care of the investment after the project completion. The area will be maintained and managed according to scientific recommendations to avoid negative impacts on climate change and protected species. After the project is completed, the management and maintenance of the landscaped environment will be financed from the budget of Zarasai District Municipality.

C.5 Project Results

What do you expect to change because of the activities you plan to implement and the outputs you plan to deliver? Please take a look at the programme result indicators and select those that you will contribute to.

Result 1	
Programme result indicator	R.I.6: Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion (MANDATORY)
Measurement unit	organisations
Baseline	0,00
Target value	2,00
Delivery period	Period 4, 19 - 24
Result description	As a result of project activities implemented and outputs created, cross-border cooperation between Daugavpils City Government (Latvia) and Zarasai district municipality administration (Lithuania) within preservation and protection of nature, urban wetlands and biodiversity in them will be established. Network of specialists within the field will be created. Before the end of the project formal agreement to continue cooperation after the end of UrbUmbrella-AI project implementation will be signed between the project partners.
Result 2	
Programme result indicator	R.I.5: Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
Measurement unit	solutions
Baseline	0,00
Target value	1,00
Delivery period	Period 4, 19 - 24

Result 2**Result description**

New innovative solutions will be taken up for the organizations of Daugavpils (LV) and Zarasai (LT) - Joint innovative Sustainable Wetland Management System, which innovation is based on the innovative specially developed for the Project goals section integrated in already existing website urbanwetland.eu with geolocation and specially trained AI e-Citizen. It will ensure smart, joint and sustainable management of urban wetlands in Daugavpils (LV) and Zarasai (LT) by integrating document in their work before end of project.

C.6 Project Time Plan

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	After End
WP1 Joint innovative sustainable urban wetla...					
A1.1 Creation of joint Urban wetland-man...			D1.1.3	D1.1.2	D1.1.1
			D1.1.4		
A1.2 Joint innovative urban wetland bio...	D1.2.3	D1.2.4	D1.2.1	D1.2.5	
	D1.2.6			D1.2.2	
O.1.9				O1.1	
WP2 Joint innovative urban wetland nature-ba...					
A2.1 Development and implementation of u...				D2.1.1	
				D2.1.2	
				D2.1.3	
				D2.1.4	
				D2.1.5	
				D2.1.6	
				D2.1.7	
				D2.1.8	
				D2.1.9	
				D2.1.10	
				D2.1.11	
				D2.1.12	
				D2.1.13	
				D2.1.14	
A2.2 Educational and awareness raising a...	D2.2.5			D2.2.1	

	D2.2.6			D2.2.2	
	D2.2.7			D2.2.3	
				D2.2.4	
				D2.2.8	
				D2.2.9	
				D2.2.10	
				D2.2.11	
				D2.2.12	
O.I.8				O2.1	
Result indicator					
R.I.5				R2	
R.I.6				R1	

C.7 Project management

In addition to the thematic work you will do in your project, you will need time and resources for coordination and internal communication. Please describe below how you plan to organise yourself to ensure the project work runs smoothly.

C.7.1 How will you coordinate your project?

Who will be responsible for coordination? Will you have any other management structures (e.g., thematic groups, WP managers)? How will the internal communication work?

LP will be responsible for project overall coordination. Each partner will appoint local project manager that will be the main responsible person for the project coordination, management within their organization. Internal communication within project will be realized via email, Zoom, as well as phone calls. Each project period - every 6 month, project managers will organize project management meeting online via Zoom to ensure that project is being implemented in accordance with a plan, to evaluate possible risks, to ensure project results are achieved. Both partners each will appoint work group for the project with order within their own organization - project manager, financial manager, project legal adviser, project supervisors. Both partners will participate in the implementation of project WP, activities. Where necessary other stakeholders will be involved. PP2 Zarasai has planned the budget for staff costs within the project. PP2 Zarasai will cover office and administration costs from their own resources. LP Daugavpils has sufficient financial, technical and human resources to ensure staff costs necessary for project coordination and implementation from their own municipality budget. Expenses are planned within the project for implementation of all WPs activities. All coordination activities are planned online. If it will be necessary to visit Zarasai or Daugavpils for management issues, PPs will finance the travel expenses from its own municipality budget, due to the fact that distance from Daugavpils to Zarasai is less than 30 km.

C.7.2 Which measures will you take to ensure quality in your project?

Describe specific approaches and processes and responsible partners. If you plan to have any type of project evaluation, please describe its purpose and scope here.

In order to ensure quality in the project implementation following processes are planned - clear roles are set in the project, each partner will appoint project manager, who will be responsible for partner activities, LP is responsible for overall quality of the project. Project management online meetings are planned every 6 month while implementing the project with a purpose to review project activity implementation, if its going according a plan, what risks there are, what changes need to be applied.

C.7.3 What will be the general approach you will follow to communicate about your project?

Who will coordinate project communication and how will he/she ensure the involvement of all partners? How will the communication function contribute to transfer your project results? Please note that all communication activities should be included in the work packages, as an integral part of your project. There is no need to repeat this information here.

Both LP and PP1 will appoint project manager for the implementation of the project, they will be the main people responsible for implementation of communication activities, as well. LP will take an overall responsibility, but both partners will contribute. LP will communicate with PP on everyday basis through email, phone, Zoom. IRL meetings will be organized where necessary, since Zarasai and Daugavpils is less than 30 km apart - it will be possible to organize those. Partners will ensure the correct and necessary use of Programme logo according to the Programme rules. PPs will ensure the implementation of all mandatory and recommended publicity activities.

C.7.4 How do you foresee the financial management of the project and reporting procedures for activities and budget (within the partnership and towards the programme)?

Define responsibilities, deadlines in financial flows, reporting flows, project related transfers, reclaims, etc.

Daugavpils as LP of the project will take the overall responsibility for sound financial management of the allocated funds. It will appoint project accountant (costs financed by Daugavpils municipality from its own budget). Separate bank account will be open for the project SnowPower to ensure correct financial flow in accordance with program's requirements and national legislation. Project accountant together with project manager will ensure timely reports of financial funds. All the necessary documentation will be collected and stored. LP will be responsible to transfer allocated funds to PP based on the project budget in accordance with program's requirements and national legislation.

C.7.5 Cooperation criteria

Please select all cooperation criteria that apply to your project and describe how you will fulfil them. Joint development, joint implementation and joint financing are mandatory, while joint staffing is optional.

Cooperation criteria		Description
Joint development	Yes	The LP and PP jointly developed the project UrbUmbrella. It integrates ideas, expectations, priorities and contributions from both partners. They share understanding of the project objective to enhance protection and preservation of umbrella species biodiversity through nature-based solutions in urban cross-border wetlands, and will both contribute to achieving of its results. Project partnership is balanced - it is relevant to the project objectives and expected results, activities will be implemented by both partners. It is expected that both PPs will benefit from the project results, and will both bring their knowledge and competence to the project and its area.
Joint implementation	Yes	LP and PP will jointly coordinate and implement activities of the project. LP will be responsible for overall communication, but each partner will appoint a project manager. Regular zoom project management meetings will be ensured, regular communication between those meetings will be ensured via Zoom, email, phone, if necessary IRL.
Joint staffing	Yes	LP and PP will jointly coordinate the project and implement its activities, the functions of project managers from LP and PP2 will not duplicate, but the staff on both sides of the border will work together on the project.
Joint financing	Yes	Both project partners have formed the joint budget of the whole project.

C.7.6 Horizontal principles

Please indicate which type of contribution to horizontal principles applies to the project, and justify your choice. Projects with NEGATIVE CONTRIBUTION will be REJECTED!

Horizontal principles	Type of contribution	Description of contribution
Sustainable development	positive effects	Project UrbUmbrella supports Programme priority 2 "Green, resilient and sustainable development". Its activities are directly related to resource efficiency and environment-friendly behavior. Project will carry out nature-based solutions that will enhance nature and biodiversity protection and preservation, thus having direct positive impact on the environment and climate.
Equal opportunities and non-discrimination	positive effects	Project activities carried out will not discriminate based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation. All the available learning activities, as well as signs installed in the wetlands, will be available for everybody, increasing the possibilities of all groups to participate in the society.
Equality between men and women	positive effects	Project UrbUmbrella will ensure that equal rights and responsibilities, equal access to resources and project outputs and opportunities to use them are granted to everyone.

C.8 Long-term plans

As a programme, we would like to support projects that have a long-lasting effect in the territory and those who will benefit from them. Please describe below what you will do to ensure this.

C.8.1 Ownership

Please describe who will ensure the financial and institutional support for the outputs/deliverables developed by the project (e.g., tools), and explain how these outputs/deliverables will be integrated in the work of the institutions.

Daugavpils local government will retain ownership of the investment in Daugavpils city at the end of the project and doesn't plan to change ownership form or rights in long term. Daugavpils local government will take care of maintenance of the investments from the municipal budget sources. After the completion of the investment project, the ownership right remains with Zarasai municipality, it doesn't plan to change ownership of the investment area. Sanitary cleaning, day-to-day maintenance and small-scale repair works will be done by relevant municipal structures.

C.8.2 Durability

Some outputs/deliverables should be used by relevant groups (project partners or others) after the project's lifetime, in order to have a lasting effect on the territory and the population. For example, new practices in urban transport need to be used by local authorities to have cleaner air in the city, and the whole population will benefit from this. Please describe how your outputs/deliverables will be used after the project ends and by whom.

Project UrbUmbrella aims to produce results that will exist beyond its' lifetime. Cooperation created between the specialists in Daugavpils (LV) and Zarasai (LT) will become established structure due to the signed cooperation agreement which indicates further commitment to jointly manage urban wetlands in the area. All the produced materials, signs and application will be available for general public and those interested even after project implementation, for at least 5 years after the end of the project. Activities in the project are organized in a way that ensures long-term effect, mostly on the preservation and protection of nature biodiversity.

C.8.3 Transferability

Some outputs/deliverables that you will deliver could be adapted or further developed to be used by other target groups or in other territories. What will you do to make sure that relevant groups are aware of your outputs/deliverables and are able to use them?

Each PP will put all project information on their official web-sites. LP will ensure that project section on latlit.eu is regularly updated. All the activities will be documented, described. Municipalities in other territories can learn from UrbUmbrella project experience - to integrate cross-border cooperation to enhance protection and preservation of climate change and humans affected umbrella species biodiversity through nature-based solutions in urban wetlands. Those who are interested can adapt and further develop this approach.