

Via Rural Development – towards the greener future: *Lithuanian experience*

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Structure of the presentation

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- Principles and scope of the EU rural development policy;
- EUSBSR and PA Bioecenomy;
- Lithuanian experience.

Main objectives of the EU rural development policy

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Fostering the competitiveness of agriculture



Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action



Achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment

Scope of Rural development

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Habitats

Biodiversity



Rural Economy

Climate Change



Food



**Forests, Energy
Biomass**



Economic Viability

**Culture
and Values**



**Resource-
management**

EUSBSR, objectives and purpose

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SAVE THE SEA



- Clear water in the sea;
- Rich and healthy wildlife;
- Clean and safe shipping;
- Better cooperation.

CONNECT THE REGION



- Good transport conditions;
- Reliable energy markets;
- Connecting people in the region;
- Better cooperation in fighting cross-border crime

INCREASE PROSPERITY



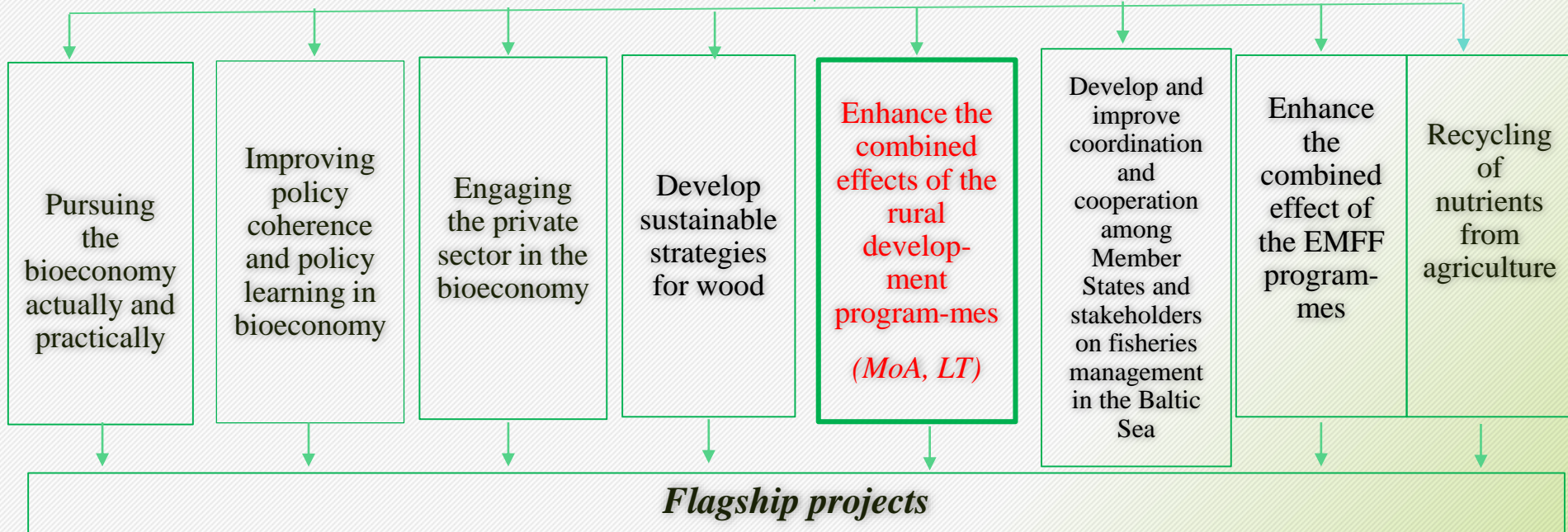
- Baltic Sea region as a frontrunner for deepening and fulfilling the single market ;
- EUSBSR contributing to the implementation of Europe 2020 Strategy;
- Improved global competitiveness of the Baltic Sea region;
- Climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management.

Action:

„Enhance the combined effects of the rural development programmes“

POLICY AREA BIOECONOMY (out of 13):
Bioeconomy + Reinforcement of sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries

Actions:



RDPs Measures that could be linked with the EUSBSR

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➤ **Agro-environmental and forestry measures:**

- Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (Article 21):
 - Measure “Afforestation and creation of woodland” (Article 22);
 - Measure “Establishment of agroforestry systems” (Article 23);
 - Measure “Prevention and restoration of damage to forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events” (Article 24);
 - Measure “Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems” (Article 25);
 - Measure “Investments in forestry technologies and in the marketing of forest products” (Article 26);
- Measure “Agri-environment-climate” (Article 28);
- Measure “Organic farming” (Article 29);
- Measure “Natura 2000 and Water framework directive payments” (Article 30);
- Measure “Forest-environmental and climate services and forest conservation” (Article 34);
- **Measure “Knowledge transfer and information actions” (Article 16);**
- **Measure “Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services” (Article 17);**
- **Measure “Basic services and village renewal in rural areas”: support for investments in broadband infrastructure (Article 20);**
- **Measure “Co-operation” (Article 35);**
- **Other investment measures:**
 - Measure “Investments in physical assets” (Article 17);
 - Measure “Farm and business development” (Article 19);
- **LEADER co-operation activities: transnational co-operation (Article 44);**
- **National rural network (Article 54);**
- **European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for agricultural productivity and sustainability (Title IV).**



General information about Lithuania

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Population: 3 million

Ethnic composition: Lithuanians: 83.5%, Poles: 6.7%, Russians: 6.3%, Belorussians: 1.2%, other: 2.3%.

There are 115 ethnicities in total in Lithuania

Area: 65,3 thous. sq. km

Largest cities according to the population (thous.):

Vilnius (553,200),

Kaunas (373,700),

Klaipėda (191,600),

Šiauliai (132,700),

Panevėžys (118,800).

Rural areas: cover 97 % of LT territory; 30 % of inhabitants

Administrative division:

10 counties,

60 municipalities,

546 neighbourhoods.

Language: Lithuanian

Independence:

declared: 16 February 1918

restored: 11 March 1990

Political system: Parliamentary democracy;

Currency: Euro

Membership: EU (1 May, 2004), NATO (29 March, 2004)

Nature

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- **Seaboard:** ~ 90 km
- **Forest area:** 1972 thou ha (covers **30,2%** of territory);
- **Protected landscapes:** cover **12 %** of territory;
- **Regional parks and nature reserves:** cover **30%** of territory;
- **There are:**
722 rivers (21 of them are longer than 100 km);
more than 3 thou lakes (they cover up to 1,5 % of territory).





Lithuanian RDP 2007-2013: *Bioeconomy related projects (1)*

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Organic farm of Feliksas Vaitelis

- farm meets the description of a closed cycle.
- *Moto*: “What is received from the soil - comes back to the soil”

Scope of activities:

- traditional crops: wheat, barley, triticale, peas.
- beef cattle.
- Cattle feed – crop/vegetables grown on the farm.

Important!

Only part of seeds, fuel, equipment, machinery and mineral supplements for livestock's health maintenance is purchased from the outside.



Lithuanian RDP 2007-2013: *Bioeconomy related projects (2)*

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Diversification into non-agricultural activities: Farm of Alma Rutkauskienė

Scope of activities (part or them – organic):

- traditional crops: rape, wheat, barley.
- beef cattle.
- **New!** Fuel pellets production from straw (95 %) and a mixture of sawdust. Pellet production line produces 0,7-1,2 t/hour. 1500 t production per year – exported.



Lithuanian RDP 2007-2013: *Bioeconomy related projects (3)*

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Encouragement of rural tourism activities: renewal of ethnographic style homestead of Vytenis Perkauskas

Services provided:

- sauna, hot tub, kayaking, horseback riding, cycling, mushroom and berry picking, local food.



Future trends of Bioeconomy related projects in the Baltic Sea Region

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- wind farms;
- solar power plants;
- biogas production;
- renewable energy, use of wetlands; ecological agriculture promotion;
- use of medicinal herbs (e. g. for tea, in cosmetics, etc.);
- use of non-standard farm production (e. g. for instant soup or of non-standard vegetables);
- wellness and wellbeing tourism (e. g. project ProWell implemented by Norway, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Denmark);

DEFINITION OF RURAL WELLBEING: *ProWell*

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“Realized on the basis (resources and needs) of the local community,

benefitting mostly the local community (give added value to the local community).

It should offer access to nature, provide local food and other local ingredients, including staff,

the owner/host/provider should show a personal attitude in his/her operations (personal meeting with staff is important). All these should take place in a rural setting.”

*It can be summarized under three **Ls**, all taking place in a rural setting; or under **four Rs**:*

- 1. Rural (Local) community,*
- 2. Rural (Local) providers,*
- 3. Rural (Local) products in a Rural setting*



Thank you for your attention!!!

