

## **The report from CICPA STUDY TOUR 2018.**

**Study tour organized for Lithuanian and Polish participants of project**

**„Common Initiatives in Conserved and Protected Areas (CICPA)“**

**Cedynia-Pszczelnik, West Pomerania, Poland**

**28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> of September 2018**

### **Friday, 28th of September, 2018 r.**

Polish and Lithuanian participants of 3-day study tour gathered in Cedynia, located in Poland, 80 km south from Szczecin. The team of Community Centre of Culture in Stepnica and Society For The Coast started preparations of cross-border CICPA information point (CICPA Tensts) of Polish-Lithuanian project, dedicated to sharing experiences, knowledge and presentation of actions on Natura 2000 areas in both countries. Preparations finished at 5 p.m.

The next point in schedule of the day was a meeting in Municipality of Cedynia, which aim was a debate of representatives of Project Partners and Associated Partners of CICPA with local autonomies and organizers of Polish-German festival in Cedynia. 31 people from Poland, Lithuania and Germany, from 16 organizations (Kretingale Culture Center, Community Centre of Culture in Stepnica, Centre of Culture and Sports in Cedynia, Society For The Coast, Administration of Seaside Regional Park, EUCC Baltic Office, Municipality of Stepnica, Municipality of Cedynia, Kretingale Eldership, Karkle Community Association, Orzechów Village Representation, Association of Pensioners and Annuitants in Cedynia, Association „Perspektive Oderberg”, Cedynian Angling Society „Miętus”, Karkle Evangelical Lutheran Parish, Publishing house „Jasne”) participated in the meeting. Joint debate started with presentation of Cedynia and town’s cross-border collaboration, especially with German neighbors, on different levels: institutional and personal. Discussion touched problems of non-equal mantaining with cross-border relations on two sides of borders. Interesting point of the debate was joint implementation of events, which started in 2013 on Szczecin Lagoon, with suport of Interreg funds and was transferred to Cedynia, located just in the middle between Szczecin and Berlin – two big European cities. The aim was to support local communities with operation skills, to organize the event by local societies, associations and other stakeholders, only with institutional suport. The event called „Cedynia round-the-clock. Polish-German festival of local products and active citizens” is organized 4th time, as one of main annual cultural and folk events of the region, which highlights many variuos ways of nature exploitation, for agriculture, farming, gardening, cusine and folk traditions, etc.

Mr. Andrzej Łazowski, director of the Centre of Culture and Sports in Cedynia, underlined the biggest success of joint implementation of the event, which was everyday contact between Polish and German inhabitants.

Mr. Andrzej Wyganowski, Mayor of Stepnica, stated fact that the most important is to mantain contacts between neighbouring countries and to keep sharing experiences on various fields.

Mr. Darius Nicius, director of Seaside Regional Park in Karkle introduced participants from Lithuania and recommended to reconcile exploiting of nature with its protection, by all organisations taking part in projects like CICPA.

Mr. Arvydas Urbis, Leader of Karkle Community Association, suggested an idea of cross-border exchange camps and tours devoted to music and culture inspired by nature of neighbouring countries, for representatives of various age groups: young students, adult teachers and retired inhabitants.

Mrs Krystyna Kęsik, representative of Association of Pensioners and Annuitants in Cedyňa, demonstrated importance of activities oriented on older target groups and shared her experiences with organization of this year's tour to Lithuania, dedicated to pensioners from Cedyňa and surroundings.

This caused lively discussion about perspectives to cross-generation projects of nature values cognition. There is still a huge need to teach local actors and activists about local Natura 2000 areas on sides of borders, how to educate generations and different target groups.

Debate was assisted by Mrs Krystyna Korcuć from West Pomerania Library – a Polish-Lithuanian translator .

After discussion, participants went for joint dinner in the centre of Cedyňa.

### **Saturday, 29th of September 2018**

**Joint participation of CICPA target groups in „Cedyňa round-the-clock. Polish-German festival of local products and active citizens”. Fourth annual event, with this year's topic: local pumpkin and local fish.**

45 representatives from 14 Polish and Lithuanian organisations (Community Centre of Culture in Stepnica, Kretingale Culture Center, Folk Band „Stepniczanie”, Theater „W krzywym zwierciadle”/eng: In The Curved Mirror, Non-formal ladies initiative group „Równe Babki”, Society For The Coast, Administration of Seaside Regional Park, EUCC Baltic Office, Western Pomerania Regional Landscape Parks Administration, Non-formal fireshow group „Stepnickie ognie”, Kretingale Eldership, Karkle Community Association, Primary School in Stepnica, Karkle Evangelical Lutheran Parish) were highly involved in activities promoting CICPA project on the field of joint shows, happenings, exhibitions and workshops inspired by nature and presenting sustainable and interactive ways of Natura 2000 areas exploitation. Representatives of project's target groups taking part in CICPA underlined the greatest advantages coming from joining forces with neighbouring organizations from abroad, by action. Representatives of mentioned groups implemented following joint activities:

**11:00-18:00** presentation and promotion point (CICPA Tents): presentation of Lithuanian nature, culture, traditions, touristic attractions, geography, administration and cross-border cooperation with Polish partners.

Presentation of CICPA project, project ideas, realised aims and future plans, meetings point for local community and guests, presentation of Partners and Associated Partners, photo exhibitions about fishermen lives on Szczecin Lagoon.

**12:00-17:00** Polish-Lithuanian handicraft workshops and Polish-Lithuanian CICPA SPICE workshops.

**12:30-12:45** Street performance by Theatre „In the Curved Mirror” from Stepnica. Performace inspired by legends about Baltic Sea and Szczecin Lagoon.

**12:30-13:00** main stage: Official opening of the Festival, by Mayor of Cdynia, Cedynian Angling Society „Miętus” and the Centre of Culture and Sports in Cdynia. Official and warm welcomming words to CICPA project. Presentation of guests from Lithuania and Poland: Mr. Darius Nicius, director of Seaside Regional Park in Karkle and Mr. Arvydas Urbis, representative of Karkle Community Association, Mrs Martyna Rabska-Osipowicz, project manager in Society For The Coast. Translation assistant on stage: Mrs. Krystyna Korcuć.

**14:00-14:30** main stage: Polish-Lithuanian song and dance for everyone. Svajūnė Anužienė form Kretingale Culture Club with Polish and Lithuanian participants (Folk Band „Stepniczanie”, Kretingale Eldership, Seaside Regional Park representatives, non-formal ladies initiative group „Równe Babki”). Main stage.

**14:00-17:00** lunch in local bar for CICPA participants, between tasks and activities.

**15:30-16:00** main stage: concerts of Folk Band „Stepniczanie”, among regional music bands.

**16:30-16:45** Street performance by Theatre „In the Curved Mirror” from from Stepnica, inspired by life of fisherman.

**18:00-19:00** PPs and APs meeting devoted to the possibilities and arrangements for a new joint project.

**19:30-19:45** Fireshow „Fire from Stepnica”.

Local Cedynian organizers of „Cdynia round-the-clock. Polish-German festival of local products and active citizens” were impressed by cross-border organizational skills of Polish and Lithuanian project Partners. CICPA activities were presented as the parts of the main event plan and printed in a form of local folder. Mr. Andrzej Łazowski, director of the Centre of Culture and Sports in Cdynia admitted, that these two days of CICPA in Cdynia were a great advantage for his organisation to transfer knowledge and to learn from Polish-Lithuanian experience, while planning of next cross-border cooperation for local community.

After very active day devoted to sharing traditions, participants of CICPA Study Tour were invited to thematic dinner. The thematic menu was composed especially for the "Cdynia round-the-clock" Festival: pumpkin cream soup and a local vendace from Moryń lake. Dinner was accompanied with folk songs singed by Polish and Lithuanian participants. A lot of ideas and inspirations came up after second day of the study tour.

## **Sunday, 30th of September 2018**

### **Study tour to Lithuanian historical sites and natura valuable and unique areas of West Pomeranian region.**

Field trip by bus, organized by Mrs. Dorota Janicka and Mr. Igor Szakowski, representatives of Western Pomerania Regional Landscape Parks.

As a first point of Sunday’s trip, the group of 36 people visited Pszczelnik – a territory given by administrative district of Myslibórz, to Republic of Lithuania. This is a historical place, where in 1933, two brave Lithuanian aviators Stasys

Girenas and Stepas Darius crashed their plane „Lithuanica”, flying from New York to Kowno. Both aviators are very famous Lithuanian heroes. In Pszczelnik there is a monument reminding about this tragedy and small local museum dedicated to memory of Lithuanian heroic aviators. Our visit to Pszczelnik gave Polish and Lithuanian project’s participants an unusual possibility to experience Lithuanian history on West Pomeranian lands, with extraordinary support from Mayor of Myslibórz Municipality (Mr. Piotr Sobolewski), representatives of Myslibórz District Authorities and Honorary Consul of Republic of Lithuania in Szczecin, who joined our study tour in Pszczelnik.

After 1,5 hour, the group went by bus to Cedyński Landscape Park, searching for cross-border projects, cofinanced with EU funds, implemented by Western Pomerania Regional Landscape Park Administration together with local municipalities and communities (Moryń, Siekierki, Stary Kostrzynek, Osinów Dolny).

Organizers of the Study tour invited CiCPA participants for a lunch served in family inn „Zajazd Odra”, serving Polish dumplings with a status of product with culinary heritage certificate.

tradition, the group enjoyed We stopped for a group photo on the westernmost point of Poland located on the riverside of Odra.

Representatives of Western Pomerania Regional Landscape Park Administration encouraged CiCPA Participants to spend more time in Regional Landscape Parks within the next visit to Poland.

The tour finished at 14:30 in Cedynia, where participants left from to Stepnica, Szczecin and Berlin (Lithuanian group).