



BIOGOV
Interreg Europe



BIOGOV uses multi-stakeholder partnerships and participatory governance to improve regional policies for natural heritage and biodiversity conservation

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An interregional cooperation project for improving natural and cultural heritage policies.

Project Partners

Province of Fryslân (NL)
Flemish Land Agency (BE)
Bulgarian Management Association (BG)
Territorial Studies Institute (Environment and Territorial Planning Ministry) (ES)
Lodzkie Region (PL)
ADEPT Transylvania Foundation (RO)
Mures Environmental Protection Agency (RO)
County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland (SE)
Slovenian Forestry Institute (SI)



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Action Plan
BIOGOV 2020-2022

BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

Improving regional policies for natural heritage and
biodiversity conservation through MultiStakeholder
Partnerships and participatory governance

Lodzkie Region



Projekt: BIOGOV

Partner organisation: Lodzkie Region

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NUTS2 region: Lodzkie Region

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Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme
- Territorial Cooperation Programme
- Other Regional Development Policy Instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed:

1. ERDF Regional Operational Programme
2. Lodzkie Region Strategy for 2030
3. Landscape Audit for the Lodzkie Region



This action plan has been developed with the support of the European Union through Interreg Project BIOGOV 2018-2020.

Biodiversity Governance

Improving regional policies for natural heritage and biodiversity conservation through MultiStakeholder Partnerships and participatory governance

Lodzkie Region works with stakeholders using a multi-stakeholder partnership methodology to find and implement good practices dedicated to improvement and support traditional fruit trees and related biodiversity. Through BioGov project implementation we aim to increase awareness about biodiversity and the need protecting traditional varieties of fruit trees. We also want to create a link between the preservation of biodiversity with nature-based tourism (through identifying new touristic products, develop new approaches to link natural and cultural heritage).

To implement the BioGov project in our region, the following specific objectives have been set:

1. Improvement of the regional policies implementation in the field of biodiversity conservation.
2. Implementation of good practices in the field of biodiversity conservation.
3. Preservation of traditional fruit tree varieties in the region.
4. Creation of new tourist product concept based on traditional orchards and protection of biodiversity.

Executive summary

Natural heritage and biodiversity conservation

1. The state of biodiversity conservation in Lodzkie Region

Lodzkie Region still can be proud of its biodiversity richness both in terms of wildlife as well as agricultural nature. We still have a great variety of old arable crops and rich forest, meadow and water habitats. But at the same time our biodiversity is for sure endangered, especially since our region is affected by strong anthropogenic pressure. A lot of plants are disappearing at an alarming rate and need not only conservation but active protection. The situation is similar with traditional fruit trees. We are witnessing their vanishing. Moreover the problem of biological diversity seems to be overlooked by residents. Citizens perceive the biodiversity protection as an obstacle, as an limitation e.g. in obtaining construction permits or in local economic growth. Many people do not appreciate the potential and biological diversity of the Lodzkie Region.

In Lodzkie Region, due to intensification of production, traditional fruit trees varieties were substituted by plantations with modern fruit trees species. In these plantations most of the biodiversity is gone because of new ways of cultivation and intensive crop spraying. As a consequence there is a high risk of losing traditional varieties of apples, pears and plums from Lodzkie region. Thus there is a great need to encourage landowners to plant traditional fruit trees in order to enhance species richness and protect associated biodiversity. At the moment there are very few orchards with traditional species and almost no places where people interested in traditional fruit trees can obtain old species top-graft cuttings. Losing those traditional varieties would be an irreparable loss for our cultural heritage and identity. In addition, there is lack of knowledge in the society about the importance of biodiversity and its influence on people's life and health.

2. Policy support for biodiversity conservation

In the application form The Regional Operational Programme for the Lodzkie Region 2014-2020 (ROP) was mentioned as a programme which supports biodiversity. It is mentioned in the priority V.4 – Nature protection. The main aim is to support actions connected with environmental protection, better effectiveness of the natural resources exploitation and better adaptation to climate changes. In addition, priority V.4 points out as particularly important activities dedicated to halting biodiversity loss and supporting ecological awareness through different educational, promotional and information programmes.

However, throughout the process of BIOGOV project implementation it occurs that no minor changes can be introduced into ROP 2014-2020. As a result of many discussions during regional stakeholders group meetings, interregional exchanges, peer review visits and other activities it has been decided that Lodzkie Region has to support biodiversity and traditional orchards protection through other documents shaping policies on regional level.

Those documents are: the Lodzkie Region Strategy for 2030 and Lodzkie Region Landscape Audit. Especially the first one is important since new ROP of the Lodzkie Region (2020-2027) must be in line with the Strategy. Thanks to this, improvement of the regional policies implementation in the field of biodiversity conservation will be secured.

3. Empowering regional stakeholders

In order to achieve the expected results and to fulfil one of the main objectives of the BioGov project, which was the implementation of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships process, Lodzkie Region created a Regional Stakeholder Group.

RSG meetings has become a unique forum for exchanging knowledge and experiences between participants taking part in the process. As a result, following benefits have been achieved:

- finding the best solutions to meet BioGov's objectives,
- inspiring each other to take different actions under the BioGov's objectives,
- using synergies and increasing efforts in the field of biodiversity protection.

4. What you have learned from the partnership in terms of:

a. Best practices from interregional exchanges and peer reviews

Thanks to interregional exchanges and peer reviews Lodzkie Region has identified best practices which can be adopted and implemented into the regional specific. It was also able to look from the perspective on the regional issues and define best ways to handle them. All good practices used for Action Plan and chosen for implementation are mentioned below.

b. The tourism industry

During the process of international learning became clear that biodiversity protection is and should be connected with the sustainable tourism development. The statement that nature is the basis of all activity for man is a cliché. At the same time, we constantly forget about it. Without protecting biodiversity, we cannot survive as a species. Therefore, it is necessary to propose solutions that make possible to use nature while taking care of its condition. For biodiversity, such a solution can be wisely designed tourism.

5. How implementing the actions will improve the Policy instrument

All the actions mentioned in this Action Plan will have direct impact on improving policy implementation in the Lodzkie Region. By adding provisions on biodiversity protection in the Strategy for 2030 and Landscape Audit - Lodzkie Region ensures that policy improvement on regional level is reached. In addition, through above mentioned actions biodiversity issues will be included also in the new ROP of the Lodzkie Region (2020-2027) since this document must be in line with the Strategy. Also other activities are composed in a way that they support key aspects of the biodiversity protection in our region.

Action Plan

BIOGOV 2020-2022

The following actions are planned for 2020-2022 to improve regional policies for biodiversity conservation in terms of traditional fruit orchards protection.

Strategic level - Improvement of the regional policies implemented in the field of biodiversity conservation.

1

Action 1 Including provisions into Lodzkie Region Strategy for 2030

We want to include into Lodzkie Region Strategy for 2030 provisions for improving regional policies for natural heritage and biodiversity conservation in order to indicate strategic goals within this area.

2

Action 2 Including provisions into the Landscape Audit of the Lodzkie Region

We want to include into the Lodzkie Region Landscape Audit provisions for improving regional policies for natural heritage and biodiversity conservation in order to preserve this richness for the future.

3

Action 3 Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region as a regional knowledge and information centre for the traditional orchards

We want to establish a knowledge and information centre on the regional level which will play a crucial role in supporting regional stakeholders in terms of preservation of traditional fruit tree species and fruit varieties as well as in sharing knowledge on this topic.

Key projects - Preservation of biodiversity and traditional fruit tree varieties in the region.

4

Action 4 Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region project dedicated to traditional fruit orchards preservation

A project dedicated to planting new traditional orchards in the region is going to be implemented in 2020 by the Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region.

Best Practices level – from regional learning

5

Action 5 Supporting biodiversity through the creation of fruit trees in line and field woods

We want to return to an existing tradition of supporting biodiversity through the creation of fruit trees in line and field woods.

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Date:.....

Signature:.....

Stamp of the organisation:.....

Part III – Details of actions envisaged	
Action 1	<i>Including provisions into Lodzkie Region Strategy for 2030</i> <i>We want to include into Lodzkie Region Strategy for 2030 provisions for improving regional policies for natural heritage and biodiversity conservation in order to indicate strategic goals within this area.</i>
1. Background	<p>The work is based on clear rationale and analysis of the state of the art - to protect the natural heritage and biodiversity for the future generations there has to be clear indication of this aim in the strategic regional policy documents. In addition during the peer review visit in Lodzkie one of the suggestions given by peers was to also make use of other strategic documents than ROP to ensure biodiversity protection on the regional level. Experiences show that a combination of interlinked policies on different policy levels and even different policy topics reinforce each other and are the best guarantee for sufficient support.</p> <p>Therefore, Lodzkie Region decided to include provisions in the Lodzkie Region Strategy for 2030. Strategy is one of the most important documents of the regional government defining the vision, objectives of the regional policy in the economic, social and spatial context; it also shows the actions needed to reach those objectives by 2030. Moreover new ROP of the Lodzkie Region (2020-2027) must be in line with the Strategy. Thanks to this, biodiversity issues will also be included in this document.</p> <p>During i.e. Regional Stakeholders Group meetings the necessity of connecting biodiversity protection with the sustainable tourism development has been raised. That is why provisions inspired by BIOGOV implementation will be emphasizing the importance of maintaining and improving the quality of natural and landscape heritage as an integral part of the region's tourist attractiveness. The Strategy will be stressing the need for increasing the inhabitants' awareness of how to make use of natural and landscape heritage for sustainable tourism and recreation development as well as necessity of protection and creation of high nature and landscape value areas, which are the biodiversity hotspots (i.e. traditional orchards).</p>
2. Activities	Including above mentioned provisions into Lodzkie Region Strategy for 2030.
3. Players involved	The collaborating parties are Lodzkie Region, Spatial Planning Office of the Lodzkie Region and Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region.
4. Timeframe	To be implemented in the process of preparing Lodzkie Region Strategy for 2030 which is 2019-2020.
5. Cost	The work of introducing the provisions into the Lodzkie Region Strategy for 2030 requires no specific funding. However the work will be connected to annual funding for the action that is to be done.
6. Funding sources	To be covered by the regular budgets of the Lodzkie Region, Spatial Planning Office of the Lodzkie Region and Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region.
7. Lessons learned from BioGov	<p>During the BioGov project implementation and throughout the whole process of interregional exchanges Lodzkie Region has realized the importance of including those provisions into regional strategic documents in order to strengthen its own role in this respect and to demonstrate the direction in which other regional stakeholders should be heading to improve the situation in the whole area.</p> <p>Lessons learned from the BioGov partners (i.e. Region Västra Götaland – concept of a regional action plan for green infrastructure as a knowledge and planning instrument, Belgium – usage of Landscape Audit as a strategic document) shows also that biodiversity should be supported through sustainable tourism and landscape and natural heritage protection.</p>

Part III – Details of actions envisaged

<p>Action 2</p>	<p>Including provisions into the Landscape Audit of the Lodzkie Region <i>We want to include into the Lodzkie Region Landscape Audit provisions for improving regional policies for natural heritage and biodiversity conservation in order to preserve this richness for the future.</i></p>
<p>1. Background</p>	<p>The work is based on clear rationale and analysis the state of the art - to protect the natural heritage and biodiversity for the future generations there has to be clear indication of it in the strategic regional policy documents. In addition, during the peer review visit in Lodzkie, peers from Belgium shared their experience on possibilities to use Landscape Audit as a tool for biodiversity protection. They also referred to a similar tool recently used in the Netherlands, known as Landscape biography. That is why we want to introduce provisions to the document called The Lodzkie Region Landscape Audit. This is a strategic document at the regional level which will enable the preservation and development of historical heritage for the future. It is an example of the regional policy development on landscape protection, management and planning. Within the framework of the Landscape Audit, priority landscapes of the region will be indicated. We want to point out traditional orchards as a dominant feature and important part of the landscape which should be protected for the future generations. This will ensure protection of the most valuable ones in terms of nature and heritage as well as facilitate responsible and sensible planning also at the local level by adjusting the local spatial development plans of the communes. The inclusion of traditional orchards in the document will enable their effective protection.</p>
<p>2. Activities</p>	<p>Including above mentioned provisions into the Lodzkie Region Landscape Audit.</p>
<p>3. Players involved</p>	<p>The collaborating parties are Lodzkie Region, Spatial Planning Office of the Lodzkie Region and Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region.</p>
<p>4. Timeframe</p>	<p>To be implemented in the process of preparing Lodzkie Region Landscape Audit which is 2020-2022.</p>
<p>5. Cost</p>	<p>The work of introducing the provisions into the Lodzkie Region Landscape Audit requires no specific funding. However the work will be connected to annual funding for the action that is to be done.</p>
<p>6. Funding sources</p>	<p>To be covered by the regular budgets of the Lodzkie Region, Spatial Planning Office of the Lodzkie Region and Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region.</p>
<p>7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV</p>	<p>Good practice from Belgium - Landscape Audit as a tool for natural heritage protection. This is a best practice we want to introduce in the Lodzkie Region policy documents.</p>

Part III – Details of actions envisaged

Action 3	Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region as a regional knowledge and information centre for the traditional orchards <i>We want to establish a knowledge and information centre on the regional level which will play a crucial role in supporting regional stakeholders in terms of preservation of traditional fruit tree species and fruit varieties as well as sharing knowledge on this topic.</i>
1. Background	During the BioGov project implementation it became clear that there is a necessity of establishing a regional knowledge and information centre for the traditional orchards in order to coordinate different actions within the area. Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region are the best choice because of their long standing work and experience in nature and traditional orchards protection. This institutions is also well known in the region and country because of achievements in the area.
2. Activities	This will be an ongoing process consisting of following steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• creating and maintaining section on the Lodzkie Park's website dedicated to traditional orchards• organising trainings dedicated to traditional orchards maintenance,• providing information within the above mentioned area to Lodzkie Region citizens and stakeholders,• supporting other initiatives dedicated to traditional orchards protection.
3. Players involved	Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region
4. Timeframe	To be implemented by 2022
5. Cost	The work will be connected to annual funding of the institution.
6. Funding sources	To be covered by the regular budget of the Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region
7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV	Good practice from Belgium - Regionaal Landschap Haspengouw & Voeren project dedicated to traditional orchards protection through the restoration and management of neglected orchards and through the communication and awareness-raising actions.

Part III – Details of actions envisaged

Action 4	Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region project dedicated to traditional fruit orchards preservation <i>A project dedicated to planting new traditional orchards in the region is going to be implemented in 2020 by the Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region.</i>
1. Background	<p>In 2020, the Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region is going to implement the project with a total value of 100,000 PLN called: „Memorial fruits”. The main focus of the project is to plant new traditional orchards in the Lodzkie Region. We strongly believe that these actions will contribute to the preservation of traditional fruit tree species and fruit varieties in the region. The trainings for interested parties will also help to increase their awareness for the need of preserving and maintaining of traditional orchards in the region.</p> <p>A project called "FRUIT-LANDSCAPE" implemented by the stakeholder from Belgium was an inspiration for this action. During peer review visit in our region, Regionaal Landschap Haspengouw & Voeren presented their way of dealing with traditional orchards protection through the restoration and management of neglected orchards and through communication and awareness-raising actions.</p>
2. Activities	<p>The project consists of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• purchase of traditional varieties of fruit trees and shrubs,• new traditional orchards planting as well as creation of fruit trees alley on local roadsides,• trainings on the maintenance, nursing and creation of traditional orchards,• creation of an album about old orchards and elaboration of other thematic publications,• cooperation with the regional stakeholders in order to promote knowledge on traditional orchards,• attending and organizing different events in order to promote knowledge on traditional orchards. <p>In addition, the seedlings of traditional fruit trees and shrubs, together with information on their qualities and requirements, will be donated to all interested people and institutions. Moreover, to summarize the project's achievements a conference will be organized.</p>
3. Players involved	Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region
4. Timeframe	To be implemented in 2020
5. Cost	100 000.00 PLN (ca. 23 255 euro)
6. Funding sources	To be covered by the regular budget of Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region
7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV	Good practice from Belgium - Regionaal Landschap Haspengouw & Voeren project dedicated to traditional orchards protection through the restoration and management of neglected orchards and through the communication and awareness-raising actions.

Part III – Details of actions envisaged

Action 5	Supporting biodiversity through the creation of fruit trees in line and field woods <i>We want to return to an existing tradition of supporting biodiversity through the creation of fruit trees in line and field woods.</i>
1. Background	During the peer review in our region, visiting guests indicate old fruit alleys along paths as a good practice of Lodzkie Region as an example of combination biodiversity, landscape and tradition protection with educational and rising awareness aspects. We would like to go back to this tradition and use it in a bit modified and refreshed way.
2. Activities	We are aiming at planting traditional fruit trees in lines or as a field woods in order to support biodiversity and to preserve melliferous plants for pollinating insects. This action will be part of the “Memorial fruits” project.
3. Players involved	Landscape Parks of the Lodzkie Region and other regional stakeholders
4. Timeframe	To be implemented in 2020
5. Cost	around 4 000,00 PLN (ca. 930 euro)
6. Funding sources	To be covered within the frames of the “Memorial fruits” project’s budget.
7. Lessons learned from BIOGOV	Feedback from project partners visiting Lodzkie Region during the peer review indicated fruit alleys along paths as a good examples of combination biodiversity, landscape and tradition protection with educational and rising awareness aspects. Good practice from Sweden – management of roadsides by the Swedish transport administration in a way of ensuring biodiversity protection and melliferous plants for pollinating insects.