



GREEN CONCEPTS FOR CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES comparison in Latvia, Lithuania and Poland



	LATVIA	LITHUANIA	POLAND
Are such concepts created at all? Are they popular?	Yes. They are becoming popular	Yes. They are becoming popular	Yes. They are becoming popular
Are there any examples of cities/municipalities that have implemented it?	GC mostly concern nature trails, tourism and sustainability strategies in place on national, regional and municipal levels. Events, such as concerts and festivals, some with sustainability goals have created plans for recycling and minimizing trash, offering free drinking water fountains etc.	Smaller pilots, mostly transitions to green fuel. No systematic approach yet	Yes, some cities in the Great Masurian Lakes or National Parks or cities near the individual lakes
Examples	Green Railways nature trail in Vidzeme region, LAMPA Conversation Festival	Green Port Concept in Klaipeda	Most often they concern water reservoirs - The restoration of Lake Łuknajno
What are the limitations of potential implementation?	Information should be more available in the digital format for the potential tourists. Lack of funding and perception that green initiatives would be more costly	Lack of funding, competences and knowledge at all levels, including decision makers	Financial situation, politics, lack of recipients' awareness, resistance to changes
What is the reception of such a GC?	Positive	In general – positive. Criticism of unreal assumptions	In general – positive. Criticism depend on the financial circumstances that have a direct impact on the people affected by the idea and on the ease of implementation or low cost
Are such gc made public somewhere? Where do they exist?	Primary information channel – Nature Conservation Agency	Public media, announcements on public communication channels	Websites of cities or local government units, communication channels. Inconsistent and unstructured way in which they are communicated
What is the practical and fastest legal path for implementing such a green concepts?	Nature Conservation Agency is the administrative body responsible for implementing nature conservation policy and legislation	Fast way do not exist. Except the EU and national funding is allocated not only to municipalities but also to individual initiatives	No systematic approach to implementing green concepts



Summary:

The summary of green concepts shows some similarities but also differences in the identification of green concepts and their functioning in each of the 3 countries.

The similarity is that green concepts are becoming more and more popular and their reception is rather positive. In all countries, the obstacles are the financial situation, politics, lack of recipients' awareness, resistance to change.

In **Latvia** green concepts concerns deposit system for bottles and cans recently implemented, which will reduce the amount of plastics entering the environment, including from tourism related activities and initiatives to make events like concerts and festivals more green (e.g. water dispensers are provided to limit the use of bottled water). In **Lithuania**, green concepts refer to the pursuit of green fuels. In **Poland**, most likely due to the presence of a large number of natural lakes occupying a large part of the country's territory, many green concepts concern the protection of water reservoirs. In **Lithuania** and **Poland**, the lack of a systematic approach to the implementation and announcement of green concepts was identified. In **Latvia**, the NCA is responsible for coordination and management of protected areas, carries out monitoring and projects to improve the state of habitats and biodiversity, maintains data system OZOLS regarding biodiversity, raises awareness about nature conservation issues, supports sustainable tourism practices in protected nature areas and cooperates with stakeholders concerning conservation of biodiversity and area management.

Conclusions and recommendations:

The international exchange of experiences can improve functioning of “**Green concepts**” ideas. One of the identified problems is inconsistent and unstructured way in which they are communicated. An Institution in such as *Latvian Nature Conservation Agency* may serve as an example of such type of activity, since it publishes these green projects (<https://www.daba.gov.lv/en/projects>) and the results of their implementation and that other countries in our region could implement a similar solution.

For example, a **nationwide portal can be created**, where such proposals could be submitted (then, for example, various organisations, associations, etc. could submit projects there) so that they would not be lost in the numerous pieces of information. The challenge of such an idea would be who would lead and coordinate it. Maybe just such an institution as the *Latvian Nature Conservation Agency*? In turn, Lithuania and Latvia can draw inspiration from Poland regarding the green concept of lakes. For example, their communes, such as Gulbene, may see the solutions successfully implemented in Poland, e.g. “*Ekomarina*” in Giżycko (<https://www.ekomarinagizycko.pl/>) or in Ryn (<https://www.miastoryn.pl/pl/page/ekomarina>).

Final conclusion is that **all Partners will create such a green concept** based on our pilot projects, which will be shared with interested entities.

More information about the project: <https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/lakes-connect/>

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