

## Action D.2: Monitoring of the Project's socio-economic impact

### LIFE-IP LATVIANATURE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT MONITORING PRELIMINARY REPORT

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of the monitoring to be carried out within the D.2 activity of the LIFE integrated project "Optimising the Governance and Management of the Natura 2000 Protected Areas Network in Latvia (LatViaNature)" is the measurement of the socio-economic impact and related effectiveness of the project's work. The selected indicators are not directly the results of the project outcome (for example, the number of organized meetings or tested methods), but rather a wider impact, which further refers to society and the economy from the achieved result from activities realised. In order to be able to perceive it comprehensively and contextually, in addition to the institutional, social and economic criteria, natural criteria were also chosen as a background to characterize the changes quantitatively and qualitatively of the nature conservation general objectives.

The data of the first report can be perceived more as measurements of the initial state and the first trends. Considerable socio-economic impact will manifest itself in the following years of the project and even after its implementation, which is also expected to continue to be monitored. For this purpose, a digital platform for automated data monitoring has been created, linking to a GIS database and a specially created display design and data framework.

In general, nature protection indicators show slightly worse picture than the public perceives. This, in turn, depends both on the specific knowledge and values of the individual, as well as on the resulting actions in professional work or leisure related to the use of natural resources. Already during the first year of the project's implementation, a very wide public involvement is carried out in various activities, promoting active discussion of issues, leading to the re-evaluation of concepts and various actions linked to them. Society in general uses various ecosystem services very widely, creating close connections with nature, and mostly with cultural ecosystem services in a conscious way. Economic indicators have so far been less analysed in overall and holistic socio-economic interrelationships. The evaluation of their interaction will create an important basis for further monitoring of these indicators and active discussion in the search for better solutions for achieving nature protection goals.

The stakeholders involved in the project are professionally competent, interested and influential in promoting change, as well as appropriate resources have been attracted so that public expectations for enhancing positive changes for the more effective achievement of Latvian nature conservation goals are justified.