



Lithuanian Association to People with Disabilies

## LLI-10 Introducing nature tourism for all UniGreen

# AccessibleTourism For All Are We Ready?

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## To begin with

 https://www.facebook.com/AmigosCadeirantes/videos/1011045138907054/ ?video\_source=pages\_finch\_thumbnail\_video

## Lithuania's achievements in the context of Latvija-L



#### tourism

- ➤ 2003 became a member of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (WTO) in 2003. The mission of the WTO is to develop tourism as an important instrument for promoting international cooperation, economic and sustainable development.
- > 2007 2011 member of the WTO's Market and Competitiveness Committee between 2007-2011.
- ➤ **2015 present** Vice-President of the WTO Regional Commission for Europe and representing Europe at the WTO Sustainable Tourism Committee.
- ➤ **2017 September** for the first time in the 22nd General Assembly of the Republic of China, was elected to the WTO Executive Board and re-elected as Vice-President of the European Commission for the second biennium.
- ➤ 2017 The World Economic Forum has ranked countries according to their tourism competitiveness. In our list, our country was in the 56th place we were ahead of Estonia, located in 37th place and 54th place in Latvia.
- > There is no any LT organization that is a member of Accessible Tourism organizations.

- The regulation of tourism is the competence of every country; the main competence of international organisations working with tourism issues is to provide recommendations, to form tourism development priorities, to help the countries to better adapt to geopolitical situation and constantly changing tourism tendencies. By becoming the members of these organisations the countries undertake to participate in activities, passing the laws and forming of tourism policy taking into consideration the suggestions, declarations and etc.
- Despite the fact that there are many different regulations, declarations, recommendations in Lithuania, tourism is not yet available for all people.
- There are only episodic phenomena of accessible tourism (accessible hotel, regional park's visitor centre or sensory trail, but there is no common vision and strategy of the country.
- "Recommendations on Accessible Tourism for All";
- "UNWTO Recommendations on Accessible Information in Tourism";
- "Accessible Tourism for All: An Opportunity within Our Reach".





### Experience



Big incongruity is seen in tourism area in Lithuania between tourism service demand and supply for people with special needs as it does not satisfy the needs of a relatively big group of people. Having in mind that not only disabled people have special needs to take part in social life, we can also attribute elderly people, families with small children and people with temporal health disorders.

#### Universal design (accessibility) increases:

- service consumers by 40 %
- tourism by 20 %



#### Accessible tourism in the world and Europe



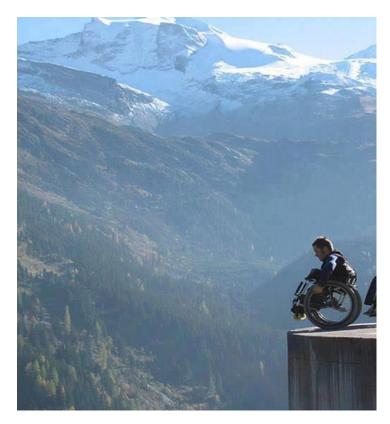
- Accessible tourism for all ensures the accessibility of destinations and tourism products and services for all people despite their physical abilities or disabilities, age, or ability to orientate in the environment and comprises public and private tourist destinations.
- Universal design (UD) is the approach to design of environment and object which are comfortable to use by all people in the very widest sense and no additional installations are needed. UD is favorable and actual in other areas such as sustainable environment, environment protection, safety, aesthetic solutions.
- What is fitted for the weakest will fit the strongest!



#### Accessible tourism in the world and Europe



- Various researches in Australia, USA and EU have proven that disabled tourists are becoming important in tourism market. For example, disabled tourists in Australia make up 11 % of the total tourists, meanwhile in the UK 12 % (2009)
- There are 50 mln. disabled people in Europe. 70 % can travel, but due to unsuited facilities and lack of information cannot do this.
- EU has planned a leap of accessible tourism within 2011-2020 from 744.3 mln to 861.9 mln travels. Annual growth 1.64 %.
- The number of elderly travellers is increasing.
- Accessible tourism is becoming a challenge for global travel industry: new opportunities are needed and investments allocated to to necessary temporal or permanent improvements.



IN 2012 A REASEARCH WAS CARRIED OUT "ECONOMIC IMPACT AND TRAVEL PATTERNS OF ACCESSIBLE TOURISM IN EUROPE – FINAL REPORT"

## Information about tourism for disabled people in Lithuania is missing



Latvia and Lithuania undergo negative growth in tourism for disabled and senior travelers. The growth in Lithuania is -2,3% (decreasing).

IN 2012 A REASEARCH WAS CARRIED OUT "ECONOMIC IMPACT AND TRAVEL PATTERNS OF ACCESSIBLE TOURISM IN EUROPE – FINAL REPORT"







- Lithuanian Union of the People with Disabilities has done a survey during which 174 disabled people were surveyed. (2015)
- Daily understanding that disabled people in Lithuania usually stay at home is not correct. The survey has shown that 84 % of respondents have been at least on one leisure journey within the last three years.
- The main travel criteria for a disabled tourist: price, safety and information about the travel before travelling.

How many disabled people can you see?











#### Public physical environment



- ☐There are about 255 000 disabled people in Lithuania.
- ☐More than 60 000 of them have movement restrictions. Movement restrictions are not only for physically disabled people, but also for mentally disabled people as well as neurological patients.
- □Persons with restricted movement disorders usually experience indirect discrimination due to unsuited physical environment.
- □There are over 30 000 public buildings or objects (schools, hospitals, malls, public catering companies, theatres, banks, post offices etc.) which should be fitted to meet the needs of the disabled.
- □Only a small part of these buildings is fitted for wheel chair access.
- ☐There are a lot of pseudo-fitted cases.







#### Legal acts



- The Law of Social Integration of the Disabled, 1999.
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2010.
- Law on Construction of the Lithuanian Republic, New edition 2017 01 01.

109. Universal design is a form of products and environment that can be used without special adaptation by children, adults, men, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, people from different nationalities and other groups without special adaptation.

#### Article 5. Essential architectural requirements:

- 6) The buildings comply with the requirements of the universal design, which are specified in normative technical documents of construction, normative documents of safety and purpose of the building.
- 2. Architect of the building is responsible for the implementation of the essential architectural requirements in the construction project.

## Legal acts



- Regulation of the technical requirements for the construction article 2.03.01:2001
- The Order of Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania On STR 2:03:01: 2001 Buildings and Areas. Approval of the Requirements for Persons with Disabilities Needs

The principles of universal design in many ways coincide with the requirements laid down in this regulation, the essential difference is that compliance to the principles of universal design doesn't separate one group of the society: the environment is not adapted only to wheelchairs for people with disabilities but is designed for everyone - mothers with small children in buggies, seniors, the blind people and others. The principle is: what is suitable for people with disabilities is convenient for many.

- European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.
- The Decree of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania On the Approval of 2014-2020 National Progress Program



### What prevents Disabled People to travel?

- Unfitted infrastructure, services.
- Missing information or it is not relevant for the disabled.



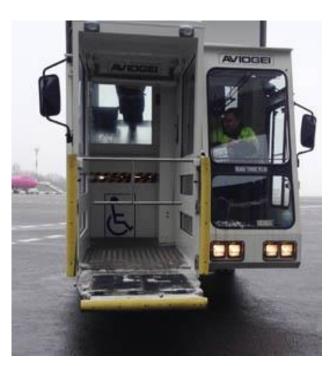
There are many different regulatory acts, various documents and declarations. The authorities focus their attention on environmental barriers (obstacles), but the key is to remove barriers (obstacles) in the minds!

### **Transport**



Every tourist has a possibility to use all types of transport services while travelling.

- Fitted: sea ferries, planes.
- Unfitted:
- Long haul coaches;
- Local intercity busses (some of them are already
- fitted).
- Partially fitted:
- Trains;
- Public transport in the cities;
- Most comfortable way of travelling is by private cars.
- Big problem is the parking lots for the private cars.



#### Access. Pavement surfaces. Tracks.









#### Access. Pavement surfaces. Tracks.











## Often tourist routes leads through the Old Town Latvija-Lietuva (Klaipėda)



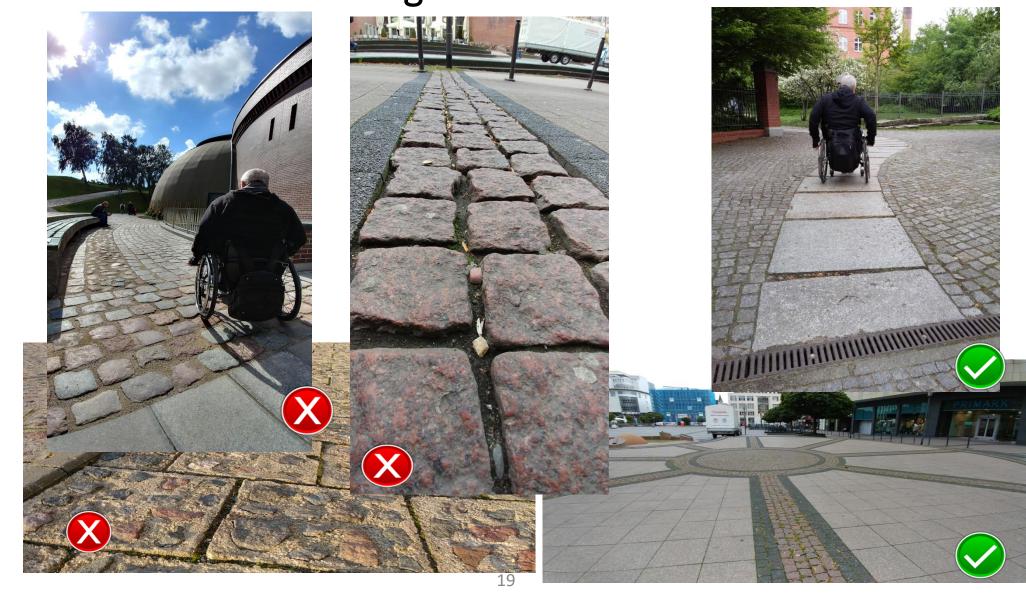






Extremely inappropriate coating from bricks of broken rough stone.



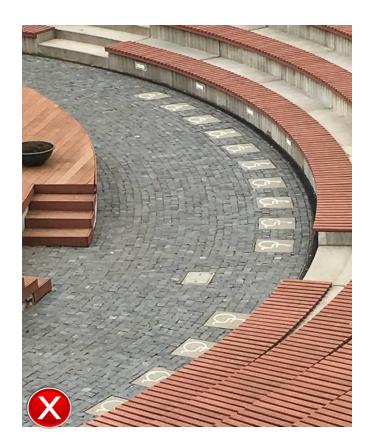


## Extremely inappropriate coating from bricks of broken rough stone





Church Anykščiai



Amphitheater Telšiai

#### Rain water runners



AKMENMIS GRISTAS, JOUBES







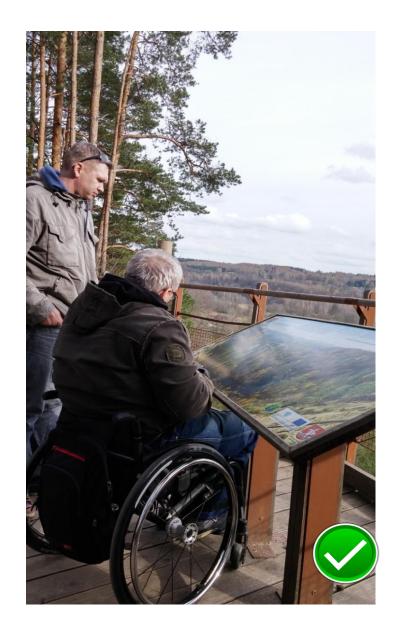


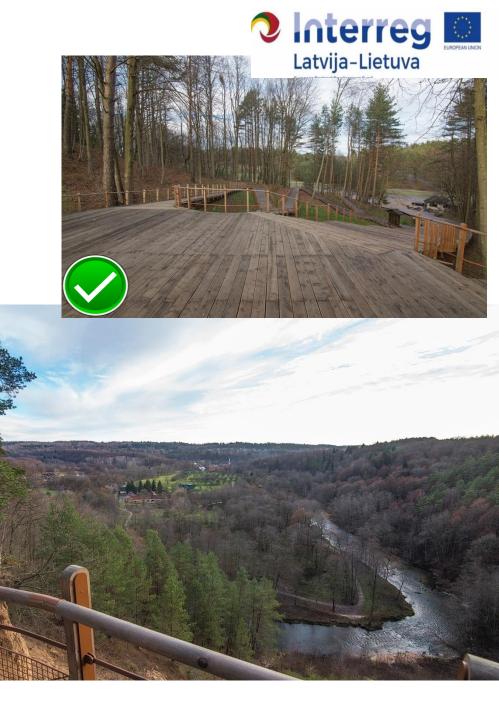
#### Rain water runners





## Pučkoriai outcrop





#### Touristic recreational track of Kernavė









### Information boards





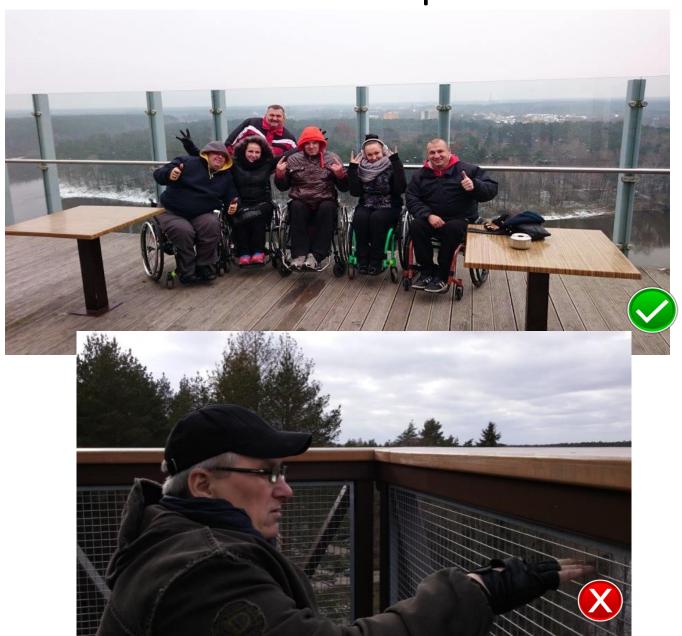






## Observation towers and platforms





## "Route" to the toilet in Neringa

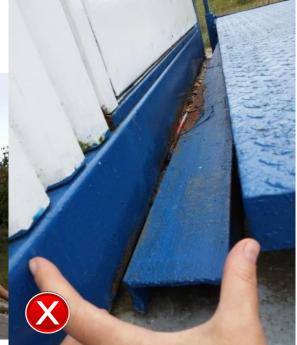












## Pseudo adaptation in Nida







#### Accommodation



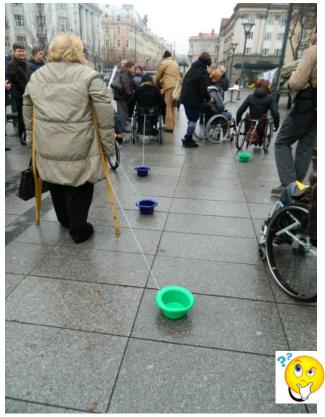
- O The rooms fitted for the disabled people can basically be found in big cities and resorts. There are 1-2 rooms in a hotel fitted for disabled. There are no chances to accommodate groups of people in one hotel due to the lack of fitted rooms.
- O Rural tourism most dynamic tourism area, however the farmsteads are not fitted practically for the disabled. Out of 383 farmsteads on the web portal <a href="www.atostogoskaime.lt">www.atostogoskaime.lt</a> only 41 is partially fitted for disabled.
- A bit better situation can be found in camping sites: in the web portal <a href="https://www.camping.lt">www.camping.lt</a> 25 camping sites offer their services, 15 of them are fitted for the disabled.
- O There are some regions which have no accommodation unfitted for the disabled people.

#### **Toilets**

- big problem absence of toilets!
- out of 48 public toilets only 2 are fitted!









## Common problem in the same object: one part is perfectly fitted and one part is?





## In nature - exploit as little technology as possible







#### The technique:

- OBreaks down
- olt is damaged by weather conditions
- OSlows people's self-movement





## Fitting possibilities









## Adapting and adjusting possibilities











### Picnic sites







## Important improvements with minimal effort









### What leisure activities would a disabled

person like?

- Fishing;
- Field and table tennis;
- Basketball;
- Volleyball;
- Paint ball;
- Boat swimming or canoeing;
- Water activities;
- Swamp marches;
- Bird observation;
- Winter activities: skating, skiing, sledging.









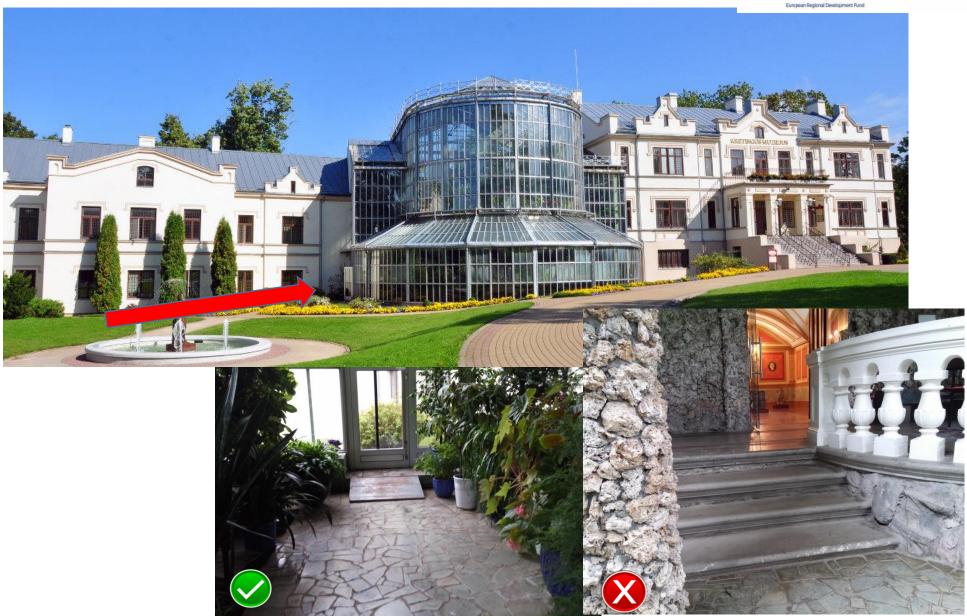
## It is not enough to apply the objectimportant to distribute the correct information about accessibility



- Nobody will know about created tourism objects, infrastructure or services without it promotion...
- This often hampers tourists to find the objects they want.
- It may be complicated to orientate for a national or international traveller while travelling in Lithuania: hard to understand and find various services place, sightseeing object which are fitted for the disabled. In the website of the State Tourism Department under the Ministry of Economy there are recommendations of tourism labelling information (2008), however none of them informs a disabled tourist about the facilities for disabled. (http://www.tourism.lt/informacija/Naudojimo\_rekomendacijos.pdf)
- The lack of road signs, tourism information stands, and rest areas is a clear problem for traveling around Lithuania...

## Museum Kretinga





#### Important cooperation





It is not enough to equip an object. Lack of visitors on the object may be the outcome of the absence of transportation possibilities to reach the object. The question of public transport remains open as well as condition of the streets, pavements, ramps and elevators.

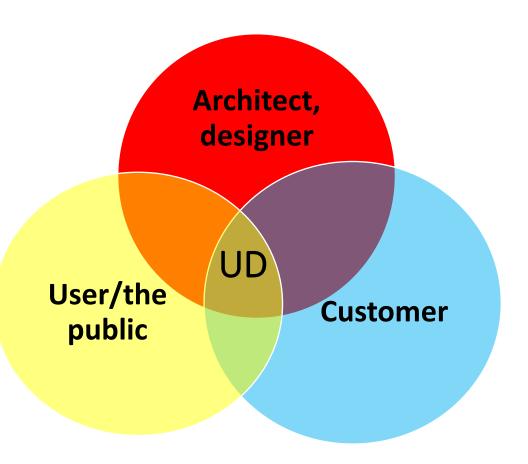
## Agreement



Architect, designer

User/the public

**Customer** 



## http://www.vilnius-tourism.lt/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/neigaliuju\_E Latvija-Lietuva



#### OBJECTS FOR VISITING:

- 1. Aušros Vartai (Gate of Dawn)
- Folk Artist Jonas Bugailiškis' Art Studio-
- Church of St. Theresa
- Church of the Holy Spirit and Monastery
- Museum of Amber Figures
- Basilian Gate
- Philharmonic Society
- Church of St. Casimir
- Town Hall
- 10. Contemporary Art Centre
- 11. Russian Orthodox Church of St. Michael
- 12. French Cultural Centre
- 13. Vilnius Picture Gallery
- 14. Church of St. Paraskeva (Piatnica)
- Social Institutions Information Centre -Souvenir Shop
- House of Signatories
- 17. Pilies Street
- 18. Church of St. Francis from Assisi (Bernardine)
- 19. Church of St. Anne
- 20. Exposition Halls Titanikas
- 21. Sereikiškių Park
- 22. Juškus Gallery
- 23. Part of the Park (Valley of Syentaragis)
- 24. Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania
- 25. Monument to Grand Duke Gediminas
- 26. Cathedral Square, Bell Tower
- 27. Tile Miracle
- 28. Cathedral and Chapel of St. Casimir
- 29. Monument to King Mindaugas
- 30. New and Old Arsenal
- 31. Funicular and Gediminas Castle Hill
- 32. Museum of Applied Art

A shorter route is also possible:

33. Money Museum

#### VILNIUS OLD TOWN







#### Route for People with Movement **Disabilities**

#### EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS:

Narrow pavement



No adapted toilet available



Adapted toilet available



One step at the entrance



Admission fee is charged / paid services



Check opening (visiting) times



Ring a special bell on entering



One room adapted to the disabled



Two rooms adapted to the disabled

Well-adjusted to visiting / easily acces-



Object to be viewed from the outside



Information board available



Only the ground floor is adapted to be



Only one part adapted to be visited



Uneven pavement / doorstep at the entrance



Lift / special chairlift



By arrangement. Advance booking only

· when a person travels from Pilies Street to Cathedral Square (without turning into Maironio Street) -

Total length of the offered route is about 3 kilometres.

· when one travels from Pilies Street to Cathedral Square (without turning into Maironio Street) and the route ends in Cathedral Square (without turning into Arsenalo Street) - about 1.5 kilometres.

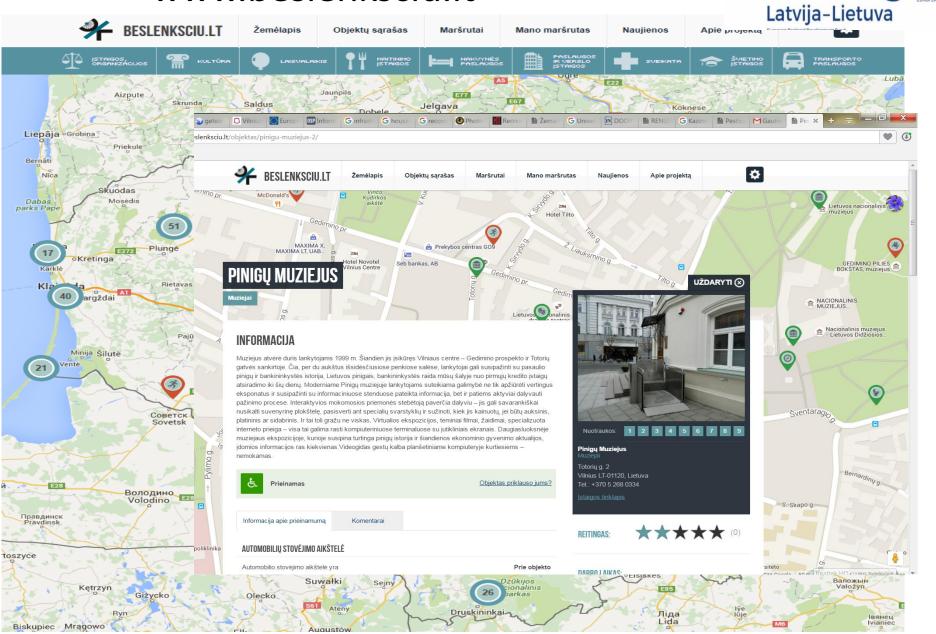
You are recommended to become acquainted with the route prior to travelling and to assess your physi-

cal condition and your strength. We recommend you to travel together with an accompanying person.

Duration of the route is 2 - 4 hours (the duration depends on whether you visit museums or not).

#### www.beslenksciu.lt





#### www.universali-architektura.lt







## Thank you for your attention Ačiū ☺

#### Ginta Žemaitaitytė



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## LLI-10 Introducing nature tourism for all **UniGreen**

Conference

## **Accessible Nature Tourism**

19.10.2017

**Plateliai** 

