

## Study tour to Estonia August 9–16, 2014



### Evaluation

**1. Evaluate the organisation of the study tour on a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being the poorest and 5 the best (please circle your choice)**

a) Accommodation and food	1	2	3	4 (2)	5 (27)
b) Transport	1	2	3 (1)	4 (1)	5 (27)
c) Communication	1	2	3	4 (2)	5 (27)

**2. Evaluate the overall content of the study tour by commenting on the following aspects:**

**a) Relevance of the topics**

- All the topics were, without exception, very actual and useful. Also, even if the topics were far from Moldovan reality, we were able to learn from them in order to start the transformation in our countries.
- The topics were very well selected and highly relevant for the majority of the participants.
- From my point of view the majority of the topics were relevant. I would have loved to be more involved in hiking and swimming.
- Not all of the presenters were related to environmental protection and stuff but that was also a plus – we could have a wider look at civil society processes. Also I liked the fact that we had lots of introductions – to the country, activities and meetings, so that we could understand the context in which the organisations work. Unfortunately, not all the topics were relevant to Belarusian reality (like monitoring the Parliament or public participation development), not

because of the speeches of the country representatives but because of topics that are impossible to handle in Belarus.

- All the topics were very well selected and all of them were highly relevant to our interests.
- Very well selected topics, and very informative.
- All the themes were useful.
- All topics were quite relevant, diverse and interesting. They addressed most of the issues that organisations are dealing with. Probably the format of the presentations could be changed a little but keeping all the content.
- 75% of the whole was relevant.
- All the topics were relevant and useful. The discussed practices are applicable in my country and in my organisation.
- From my point of view the programme was relevant to the topic.
- The topics were interesting, all of them. I don't know if they were relevant for the NGOs themselves. In order to be so, maybe it would be good to make a needs assessment for each participating NGO and to ask us as well to be prepared, and for presentations to be synchronised with our reality. Some of the information we heard is simply unrealistic to be applied in our countries.
- 4.9 out of 5.
- Good.
- All the topics were very interesting and useful, each topic was very relevant and clear for me.
- In general, topics and activities during the study tour were relevant to (1) my educational background (ecology and geography); (2) professional activities at my university; and (3) my current issues and interests in "Ecoproject".
- Good.
- Useful information and experience.
- Fully relevant.
- The topics were very relevant, I got lots of experience, the information we heard was precise and well connected to our activities.
- All topics were relevant, there was useful information and examples for each of us.
- All discussed topics were pretty relevant and I think the programme was very well designed. I would have liked to have more discussions about environmental education programmes.
- Topics were relevant to NGO activities, even if some of them cannot be applied right now for our activities. But for the future development in both of our countries I believe we will use all the provided information.
- The thematic coverage corresponded to the tasks that environmental NGOs usually have to cope with.
- For me, everything was interesting and I will use a lot of ideas in my professional life and share it with my colleagues.

#### **b) Most useful presentations**

- Introduction to the country, overview of Estonian nature, Sagadi nature school, e-Estonia.
- Social impact, crowd sourcing.
- Introduction to Estonia, meeting with NENO, hiking in Viru bog, e-Estonia showroom.
- I loved meeting NENO and getting to know what they are dealing with.
- All of them.

- The study tour in general was very useful for me and I absorbed info from every presentation, environmental funding session and the presentation of NENO and Praxis I think were most useful and idea generating.
- Environmental funding, NENO, Good Deed Foundation, Urban Lab, e-Estonia showroom.
- The most useful presentations were about the monitoring of the promises (coalition agreement) of the government and other initiatives of Praxis, and all the presentations in the ministry.
- NENO, Estonian Fund for Nature, Praxis, Good Deed Foundation, nature educational centres.
- Lahemaa National Park, the Ministry of the Environment, NENO, Good Deed Foundation, bike trip, hiking, nature educational centre.
- NENO, Good Deed Foundation, environmental funding.
- NENO, Good Deed Foundation, Let's Do It, Telliskivi Creative Campus.
- NENO and Let's Do It.
- All were very useful, the best for me was the Good Deed Foundation.
- All of them.
- Overview of Estonian nature and environment, Estonian Fund for Nature, working with networks, crowd sourcing, social impact, Let's Do It.
- Good Deed Foundation, emission trading schemes, Let's Do It, bike trip.
- Working with the members of the network, Birdlife in Estonia, Let's Do It, tour in Tallinn and in Viru bog.
- The Let's Do It team motivated me to collaborate with them and of course I will do it with pleasure.
- Hille Hinsberg (Praxis), Urmo Kübar (NENO) about crowd sourcing, Kärt Vaarmari (law centre).
- Urmo Kübar, NENO, Anna Karolin, Good Deed Foundation, Hille Hinsberg, Praxis, hiking with Anne Kurepalu in Viru bog, work with the members of the network, crowd sourcing and crowd funding, Praxis centre for policy studies, Good Deed Foundation and how to measure the social impact of the activities of your organisation, Let's Do It.
- Social impact bond, how to measure social impact.
- Presentations in the national park, including the State Forest Management Centre, meeting with environmental law centre, e-Estonia.
- Meeting with environmental law centre, crowd sourcing, recreational activities and nature tracks in the state forest.
- Being not that much involved in theoretical parts, I haven't felt much interest in some specific details during the lectures, although I admire a lot of your work of getting all the experts to our classes.
- Involvement of CSOs in the decision-making process, environmental education, measuring the social impact. It was very useful to hear/learn about public participation, to see the museums and nature schools.
- Let's Do It.
- Very interesting, but naturally I don't use all the information in my future work because of the specificity of our NGO.
- E-Estonia, hiking in Viru bog.

### c) Best presenters, activities

- Meelika Hirno, Kadi Kenk (Let's Do It), Anne Kurepalu (nature guide), Urmo Kübar (NENO), Maris Ojamurru, Anna Karolin (Good Deed Foundation), hiking, swimming.
- Kaidi Tingas with all of her speeches, social impact girls, perfect guides: city and natural parks.
- Maris Jõgeva and Urmo Kübar (NENO), Kärt Vaarmari (Law centre), Anne Kurepalu (nature guide), Let's Do It team, Hille Hinsberg (Praxis), Elo Zoovik (city guide), Lauri Tammiste (Environmental Investment Centre) and a special recognition to all of the museum teachers.
- Hiking was the best activity as I have never practised it and I was thinking that its going to be boring, I learnt interesting facts and enjoyed the views. Guys from NENO, Good Deed Foundation and Mr. Lauri Tammiste (Environmental Investment Foundation) were great speakers, offering all the explanations and answers.
- Hiking in Viru bod, urban walk, walking tour in the old town
- Best presenters: Hille Hinsberg, Praxis, Anne Kurepalu, nature guide, Anna Karolin and Maris Ojamurru, Good Deed Foundation, Ado Lõhmus (Ministry), Lauri Tammiste (Environmental Investment Centre). Best activities: meeting with the representatives of the environmental ministry/management structure, walking tour in the old town, hiking in the bog, and all the activities in Vihula manor, including team-building night, swimming and sauna.
- Hiking, visiting nature educational centres, NENO, Silvia Lotman (Fund for Nature), bike trip, visiting nature schools, forest museum, Anne Kurepalu !!!!, board game on organisational management issues, crowd sourcing, e-Estonia, urban idea.
- Lahemaa National park, NENO.
- Lauri Tammiste (Environmental Investment Centre), Meelika Hirno and Let's Do It, Anne Kurepalu, nature guide, NENO, Good Deed Foundation.
- I like the organisers of the study tour a lot!
- Estonian Fund for Nature, Praxis, Good Deed Foundation, NENO, Let's Do It.
- Sagadi nature school and everything Anne Kurepalu, nature guide, did!
- Karli Suvisild, e-estonia showroom, Asta Tuusti, Sagadi nature school, Jekaterina Pesotski in the nature museum, Lauri Tammiste, Environmental Investment Centre.
- NENO speakers, Anna Karoline from Good Deed Foundation.
- Urmo Kübar (NENO), Maris Ojamurru (Good Deed Foundation), Anne Kurepalu (nature guide), hiking in Viru bog.
- Silvia Lotman from Estonian Fund for Nature, State Forest Management Centre nature schools, Birdlife/Bird Club of Tallinn.
- Hiking in Viru bog, Urmo Kübar, NENO, Hille Hinsberg, Praxis, urban walk, e-Estonia showroom.
- Good Deed Foundation, Let's Do It, hiking, visiting museums (all of them).
- Urmo Kübar (NENO), Kaidi Tingas, Anne Kurepalu, Meelis Uustal.
- Maris Ojamurru and Anna Karolin (Good Deed Foundation), all the activities were interesting, especially the bike trip and visiting the forest museum.
- Urmo Kübar (NENO), Kaidi Tingas, Anne Kurepalu (nature guide), Meelika Hirno and Let's Do It team, Anna Karolin, social impact.
- Anna Karolin (social impact), Anne Kurepalu (nature guide), Elo Zoovik (city guide), hiking in Viru bog, walking tour and bike trip in Tallinn, board game on organisational management issues.

- Anna Karolin with her full enthusiasm and activism, Anne Kurepalu, nature guide, Karli Suvisild from e-Estonia showroom. Best activities were related to the nature and the board game on Wednesday.
- Hille Hinsberg from Praxis, Jekaterina Pesotski from Nature Museum, Maris and Anna from Good Deed Foundation. Also, all the presenters were very good, they demonstrated very nice experiences and we learnt a lot of useful things for our work.
- Anna Karolin (Good Deed Foundation), Silvia Lotman (Fund for Nature), Kärts Vaarmari (law centre), bike trip (the guide was excellent!).
- Best presenter – nature guide Anne Kurepalu, hiking with her! Forest museum, Oandu nature educational centre, Meelika Hirno, Kadi Kenk (Let's Do It), Anna Karolin (social impact).
- Introduction to the country, walking tour in the old town, overview of Estonian nature (Ado Lõhmus), hiking in Viru bog (Anne Kurepalu), Sagadi Nature school, meeting with NENO, e-Estonia.

**3. Evaluate the presentations and visits on a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being the poorest and 5 the best (please circle your choice):**

<b>Introduction</b> to the country, programme and participants	1 2 3 4 (4) 5 (26)
<b>Walking tour</b> in the old town	1 2 3 (1) 4 (3) 5 (27)
<b>Bike trip</b> to Kadriorg, seaside and song festival ground	1 2 3 (1) 4 (3) 5 (23)

3 people did not take part in the bike tour; one fell and was slightly injured.

<b>Meeting at the Ministry of the Environment</b>	
• Overview of Estonian nature and environment, environmental management structure, <i>Mr Ado Lõhmus, Deputy Secretary General</i>	1 2 (1) 3 (8) 4 (13) 5 (7)
• Environmental funding, <i>Mr. Lauri Tammiste, Member of the Board, Environmental Investment Centre</i>	1 2 3 (4) 4 (9) 5 (16)
• Environmental education, <i>Mrs. Marit Suurväli, Head of the Bureau of Environmental Education</i>	1 (1) 2 (3) 3 (8) 4 (13) 5 (5)
• Cooperation with and involvement of CSOs in environmental decision making, <i>Mrs. Kairi Toiger, Public Relation Specialist</i>	1 2 (1) 3 (4) 4 (17) 5 (6)
• Emission trading schemes, <i>Mr. Jörgen Talkop, Head of Climate and Radiation Department</i>	1 2 (2) 3 (7) 4 (10) 5 (9)
Meeting with the <b>Estonian Fund for Nature</b> , <i>Ms. Silvia Lotman, Head of Executive Committee</i>	1 2 3 (1) 4 (13) 5 (16)
Meeting with the <b>Praxis Center for Policy Studies</b> <i>Ms. Hille Hinsberg, Expert on Governance and Civil Society Programme</i>	1 2 3 (1) 4 (8) 5 (20)
Meeting with the <b>worldwide cleaning campaign/civil movement Let's Do It</b> , <i>Ms. Meelika Hirno, Head of Public Relations and Communication, Ms. Kadi Kenk, Regional Coordinator</i>	1 2 3 4 (5) 5 (24)
<b>Excursion to the Nature Museum</b> , <i>Jekaterina Pesotski</i>	1 2 3 (1) 4 (8) 5 (21)

<b>Hiking in Viru bog and touring around</b> with Ms. Anne Kurepalu, nature guide	1 2 3 4 5 (29)
Visiting <b>Sagadi Nature School</b> , Ms. Krista Keedus, Head of the Sagadi Forest Centre and Ms. Asta Tuusti, environmental educator	1 2 3 (2) 4 (7) 5 (20)
Visiting the <b>forest museum</b>	1 2 (1) 3 (2) 4 (4) 5 (22)
<b>Visiting Oandu nature educational centre</b> , Mrs. Tiina Neljandik, Head of the Oandu Nature Centre	1 2 (1) 3 (1) 4 (7) 5 (18)
<b>Meeting with NENO - Network of Estonian Nonprofit, summer course on pre-selected topics</b> – NENO, Ms. Maris Jõgeva, Executive Director and Mr. Urmo Kübar, Policy and Participation Expert	1 2 3 (1) 4 (7) 5 (21)
<b>Meeting with Environmental Law Centre</b> Ms. Kärt Vaarmari, Lawyer	1 2 3 (5) 4 (13) 5 (11)
<b>Meeting with the Bird Club of Tallinn</b> , Mr. Meelis Uustal, Member of the Board	1 2 3 (5) 4 (16) 5 (7)
Meeting with the <b>Good Deed Foundation and discussion on how to measure the social impact of the activities of your organisation</b> – Mrs. Maris Ojamuru, CEO and Mrs. Anna Karolin, Portfolio Manager of Good Deed Foundation	1 2 3 4 (4) 5 (25)
Meeting with the <b>competence centre Estonian Urban Lab</b> and getting to know one of their initiatives <b>Urban Idea</b> – Ms Teele Pehk, community expert in Urban Lab	1 2 (1) 3 (4) 4 (11) 5 (13)
<b>Urban walk in Telliskivi Creative Campus</b> – led by Ms. Maria Derlõš	1 2 (1) 3 (3) 4 (10) 5 (15)
<b>E-Estonia showroom</b>	1 2 3 (1) 4 (8) 5 (19)

Sauna 5 plus

Swimming 5

Many presenters were marked with 5 plus

#### 4. How will the study tour impact your current work in your home country?

- It was demonstrated how the CSO sector really works in Estonia and I will think now which practices demonstrated can be used in my everyday work. Though not much can be changed or adapted. But I was truly impressed by the level of activity, development and cooperation of CSOs.
- Ideas for improving the work and specific processes of NGO management, networking and ideas for activities/projects, sharing information about Estonian CSOs with the team.
- Emotional boost! New ideas for my activities in my NGO, for example ecological schools/centres can also be set up in Moldova. Improved network – got to know people who are doing similar things as we are. Inspiration for changing/improving the way we work things out.
- I gained and developed many ideas that after a small adaptation can be implemented in my country. I loved to get contact and I am thinking of a possible partnership between my country and Estonia.

- The ideas that have come to my mind and good practices I have seen during the study tour cover not just my work field but other spheres as well. Regarding my work: this study tour offered me the conformation that we are on the right path and changes will come soon. We will be trying to implement the ideas that NENO and Good Deed Foundation offered us during the sessions and increase our impact in society.
- It needs some time to realise what will work in my country and what not. But anyway, by now I have some ideas about changing our website (add some “success stories” for example) and some approaches to work (maybe trying to create a more sustainable network type of organisation, not a “spider” one). But still I think there is a big difference in environmental work in our countries (Belarus and Estonia), so in most cases the Estonian framework and approaches cannot be brought directly to Belarus (our public participation rate is very low, the legal environment is not so friendly and effective).
- I met with many interesting people and I am looking forward to working with them. I got more motivated to continue my volunteering, I am inspired by others.
- I can present best Estonian practices to our target groups, I put photos on the IFRD fb page, I will try to organise a study tour to Estonia again.
- The study tour will definitely have a great and positive impact on my future activities. First of all, I would like to introduce some social impact measurement procedures within my organisation.
- I will use ideas for measuring social impact and put success stories on our organisation’s website. I will also use some ideas of interactive work with children. And maybe also crowd sourcing.
- I got acquainted with new friends, most of them are great professionals, who, I hope, will be of help in case it’s needed.
- New knowledge and ideas for the CSO work, ideas on how to improve current activities, methods to involve people, motivate the public, evaluate actions, and establish relations with authorities.
- I managed to understand the overall level of the NGOs here. That’s why I have got nice ideas to implement at home in order to develop my organisation. Meeting with NENO was of particular importance for me as I have succeeded in outlining similar relations in the network to practice at home.
- I got lots of ideas and useful contacts. This brings me new possibilities in my work.
- After the study tour, knowledge of NGO working methods was filled with a large spectrum of information, I got new colleagues for future cooperation, I saw and tasted the Estonian lifestyle.
- Improved process of social impacts of the activities of our organisation.
- We will try to implement good examples of Estonian experiences in Belarus. The situation in Belarus is not that positive, Estonian examples have given us a motivation to make a change.
- This study tour motivated me to be more active and to get involved in all of the environmental activities. I hope to collaborate in the future with other participants. Now when I go home I will have a meeting with the Moldovan team of Let’s Do it. I am so happy that I started to cooperate with them on this study tour.
- I will organise a seminar for members of NGOs to play the management game. I will propose some activities for NGOs on the following topics: urban education, urban walk, crowd sourcing for public participation in urban spatial planning, analyses, watchdogging, advocacy.
- I will use the information gathered at the Oandu nature educational centre, the State Forest Management Centre, Sagadi nature school and the forest museum during the creation of the

environmental centre in Krupki town in Minsk oblast. I will think about new initiatives with the use of crowd sourcing and crowd funding, e-Estonia etc.

- It gave me a lot of information to think about how to improve our work and the visibility of our actions. It also gave me more information and ideas for future cooperation and partnership.
- The tour gave me additional knowledge and experience. I obtained inspiration to continue my work further professionally.
- It has strengthened my knowledge. I have found new partners and ideas for future projects. Why not to implement them together with Estonian partners?
- I got at least five new project ideas after this study tour, and three concrete projects and partners with whom we would like to cooperate. There was also a great impact on my personal development.
- I met a lot of people, ideas and inspiration. I am going to implement some of the thoughts I got in Estonia in my daily activities. New projects will come soon.
- Have many thoughts, need some time to digest.
- I already have some ideas about three future projects and I am sure it will be possible to implement in Moldova something of the Estonian amazing experience.
- During this study tour I already managed to develop and put on paper two project ideas for the future, one of them directly related with experience exchange with Estonian experts on monitoring public policies, especially those related to rural development, agricultural policies and environmental policies. The other project idea is based on collaboration with Belarus colleagues including Estonian practices.

##### **5. Give any other comments/observations here**

- I am impressed by the level that Estonian CSOs have reached. I hope one day (and even before I die) my country will see something similar to this.
- The programme was too intensive but very inspiring and useful. We had an opportunity to compare, communicate and reflect on the Estonian experience in environmental governance. The concept of “good citizen” and of the responsibility of everyone in Estonia are very impressive. Especially the trust in government☺
- In just a few days the organisers succeeded in presenting to us the essence of Estonia. It was a fabulous experience and I hope it was only the beginning of future cooperation.
- I have learnt a lot of new things about Estonia: about the singing festival, swimming in bogs, good PR for national culture, traditions, treasures etc.
- The study tour was excellent! The best organisers, the greatest hosts! Many thanks to Kaidi and SECTOR!
- Thank you for the entire organisation, it was really an amazing tour! Especially I liked the fact that the study and entertainment components were well balanced. Perhaps there could have been a few more interactive components in the study programme.
- Everything was too perfect to be forgettable. As a final comment just big thanks to Kaidi for perfect organisation and huge effort given to this study tour☺ I am sure that very soon everyone will see concrete results and the fruitful impact of the study tour.
- Thank you for a really thought-out organisation and programme. Usually there are lots of obstacles in the course of the programme but in this study tour I was stunned by the level of

your organisational and management skills. Surely I will use that experience at home when organising our events of different kinds. Thank you!

- The best study tour I ever participated in. Thanks a lot!
- Dear Kaidi, I am very glad to meet you! I think you have realised your tasks in this tour very well. It was a great pleasure to participate. Thank you, best wishes to you and your family! Estonia is a wonderful country!
- I enjoyed the tour and conversations with the colleagues very much, thanks a lot!
- It would be good to go for a walk, not to use the bus when it's a walkable distance. Thanks for giving us lots of free time in the city! Huge thanks for taking care about vegetarians and vegans but I would prefer to have fruits not cookies during the coffee breaks. I have enjoyed Estonia a lot! I am very grateful to the organisers for their help and care. A lot of positive experience! Though there was some negativity as well, I do realise that it might be the problem of my perception and not your fault. Any uncomfortable situation takes me out of my comfort zone and gives me change to become better☺
- We learnt a lot of cultural things about Estonia – it was interesting! Excursions and activities were also just fantastic!
- Kaidi – the best of the best☺
- From my point of view the work is better assimilated when more practical sessions are added. All the information was very useful and interesting to find out, but because of the lack of practical activities tiredness was fitting over the effort to pay attention.
- The study tour was better than I expected! I am really impressed by Kaidi, she is really the best organiser. The study tour was very interesting due to her. I am happy that I got to know participants from Belarus and I now have friends there. Thank you for this really the best study tour!
- Very well structured tour, the team was very friendly. A lot of possibilities to share experiences and establish relations for future cooperation, many possibilities to get to know each other, both national teams.
- Even if I do understand that the study tour was accomplished by visiting organisations and listening to presentations, I would have preferred to have trainings and workshops in order to assimilate the information better. Presentations were very useful, but again, it would have been better to get more involved.
- The programme was very intense, I would probably recommend spreading it over a longer period of time, so all the participants could have enough time for socialising and be in a good mood and shape each day. Sometimes it was really tiring, so for me it caused problems with concentration.
- In my opinion, maybe next time it would be better to have more common workshops and activities where the participants are divided into groups and are mixed. In this way participants will socialise more, communicate and get experience from another country. It was a great idea to have a visit to Tallinn on the first day. Maybe the next study visit should last for two weeks just to be sure that the summing up session would be repeated a few times. Great job! Many thanks! Warm hugs!
- Need more art (I mean eco art).
- Amount of food could be decreased, better to give fruits during the coffee breaks. The introduction day was excellent! I really suggest a more careful selection of participants, as young volunteers could not relate to some of the presented practices. Entertainment part was

also very good. Better mixing of two language groups could have been promoted through group activities and discussions. Selection of presenters was excellent.

- Everything was excellent! Thank you and congratulations to Estonia!
- I got new knowledge on different parts of organisational activities and plan to improve my work in my organisation. As shown by the examples of Estonian NGOs we have the same thing to strive for. I got inspiration for individual activity and a lot of ideas. Thank you!
- I think it would be good to meet organisations that want/can cooperate with our countries. It would have been good to meet organisations/funds that support projects that can be launched in our countries or that we could apply for. Sometimes I felt that the group was too big and too inactive and this was making me sad.
- I would like to have more contact with people who do practical work (farmers etc.).
- If everybody from the whole group would speak only English – obligatory – it would have created better integration and more ideas for cooperation between Belarusian and Moldovan NGOs.