# INSTALLATION OF THE BIRD PROTECTION MEASURES ON THE HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION GRID IN LITHUANIA

## Nr. LIFE13 BIO/LT/001303
*www.birds-electrogrid.lt*

Project Coordinator J. Liaudanskytė-Mažulė
Project Assistant L. Raudonikis

28-29/06/2018, Vilnius

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Lithuania, all regions

**DURATION:** 01/06/2014 – 31/12/2018

**BENEFICIARIES:**

- *Coordinating* – Lithuanian Ornithological Society
- *Associated* – AB "LITGRID" – High voltage electricity grid operator

**BUDGET:** ~ 1,5 mln. Eur

EU contribution – 50% (max 782,630 Eur)

State budget – 24,34 % (max 381,026 Eur)

Own contribution – 25,66 % (max 401,605 Eur)

# The main project objectives:

- Improve the conservation status bird species, through the reduction of their collisions with high voltage overhead electricity transmission lines, and bird electrocution

- Support breeding population of the Common Kestrel and other falcon species, through the installation of artificial nesting sites

## MAIN EU POLICY(IES) TARGETED:

**EU Bird Directive (2009/147/EC) – main focus on Article 5 (protection against deliberate killing)**

# Detailed project objectives:

➢ To reduce significantly bird mortality rate in the areas of their concentrations because of collision with electric lines wires by the help of special installations on the wires of the high voltage overhead electricity transmission lines

➢ To reduce significantly White stork mortality rate because of electrocution through the installation of the special protection protective measures on the pylons of the high voltage overhead electricity transmission lines

➢ To stop the deterioration of the breeding conditions of the falcons (namely, Common kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*) on the pylons of the high voltage electricity transmission grid in Lithuania through the erection of the 500 nest-boxes there

➢ To improve the conservation status of the Common kestrel breeding population in Lithuania

➢ To evaluate the effectiveness of the practical conservation actions on the bird state through the implementation of the adapted detail monitoring programs

➢ To increase public awareness on the bird mortality problem within high voltage electricity transmission lines grid

# The project has 22 discrete actions:

➢ Preparatory actions (3 actions): A.1-A.3

➢ Concrete conservation actions (4 actions): C.1-C.4

➢ Monitoring of the impact of the project actions (2 actions): D.1-D.2

➢ Public awareness and dissemination of results (8 actions): E.1-E.8

➢ Overall project operation and monitoring of the project progress (5 actions): F.1-F.5

# PREPARATORY ACTIONS

- **A.1 Elaboration of the measures for wires marking and bird protection on the utility poles of the high voltage overhead powerlines** – decided partly white and red colors of flight diverts and „spiral" type wires visualization;

- **A.2 Elaboration of national scheme for bird protection on the utility poles within high voltage electricity transmission grid in Lithuania** – precise places (at certain pole level) for installation of the „Wishbone" and „Saucer" devices;

- **A.3 Elaboration of nest-boxes installation scheme for falcons in Lithuania** – precise places (1 km precision) for installation of the nest-boxes

# C.1 INSTALLATION OF BIRD COLLISION MITIGATION MEASURES ON THE TRANSMISSION POWERLINES IN THE IMPORTANT BIRD STAGING AREAS IN LITHUANIA

**5993** "spiral" type bird flight diverters were installed on 18 sites and **87,3 km** length of the electricity lines until 1st April 2018.

*6464 "spiral" type bird flight diverters is expected will be installed on the 92 km length of the electricity lines until the end of the project.*
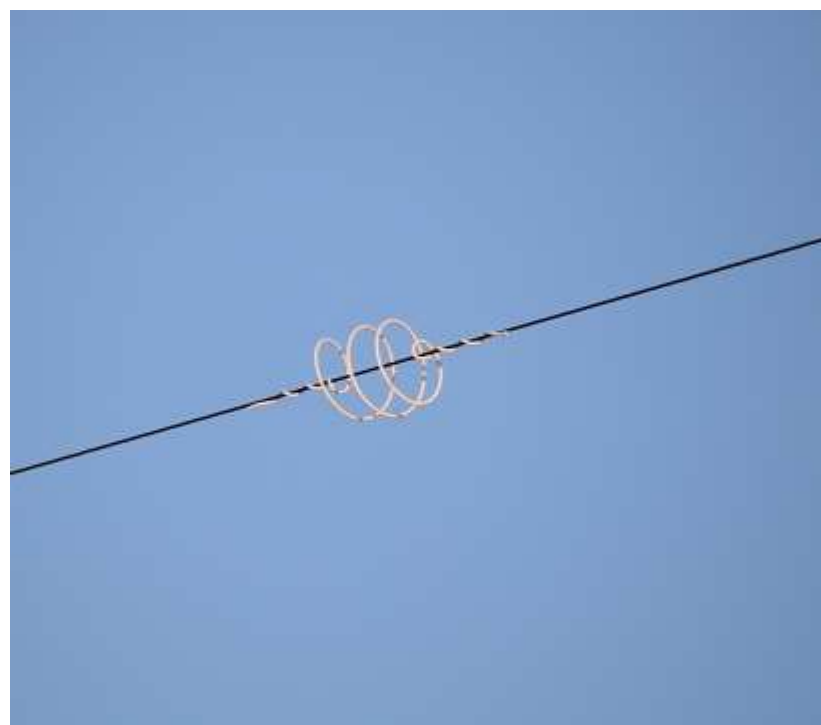
Installation of bird collision mitigation measures in bird staging areas (C1)

Legend

● Installation of the "spiral" type bird flight diverters

© HNIT-BALTIC; GDR10LT ©, Nacionaliné žemés tarnyba prie ŽŪM, 2016; LR Adresų registras © VĮ Registrų centras, 2016; LR saugomų teritorijų valstybés kadastro duomenys ©, Valstybiné saugomų teritorijų tarnyba prie AM, 2015
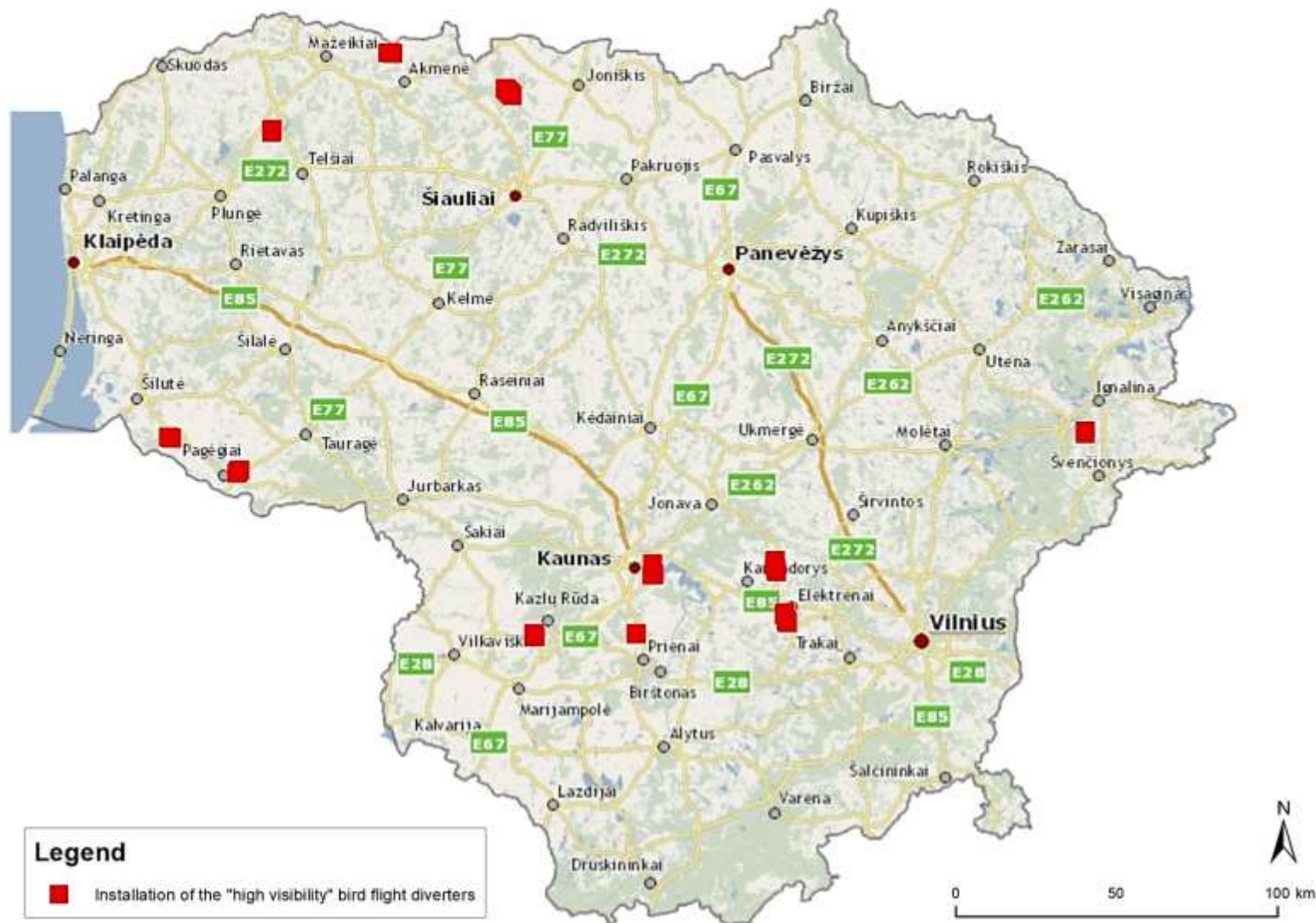
# C.2 Installation of high visibility wires markers on the transmission powerlines in the most sensitive bird areas in Lithuania

**2624 "high visibility"** bird flight diverters were installed on 14 sites and **29,2 km** length of the electricity lines until 1ˢᵗ April 2018.

*2890 "high visibility" bird flight diverters is expected will be installed on the 30,8 km length of the high voltage electricity lines until the end of the project.*

Installation of line markers in the most sensitive areas (C2)

Legend

■ Installation of the "high visibility" bird flight diverters

© HNIT-BALTIC; GDR10LT ©, Nacionalinė žemės tarnyba prie ŽŪM, 2016; LR Adresų registras © VĮ Registrų centras, 2016; LR saugomų teritorijų valstybės kadastro duomenys ©, Valstybinė saugomų teritorijų tarnyba prie AM, 2015

# C.3 Installation of the bird protection measures on the utility poles within high voltage electricity transmission grid in Lithuania

**10333 "wishbone"** type bird protection measures were installed on >1750 utility poles and **6657 "saucer"** type bird protection measures on >2300 utility poles were installed until 1$^{st}$ April 2018.

*10800 "wishbone" and 6900 "saucer" type bird protection measures is expected will be installed on the 3133 utility poles until the end of the project.*
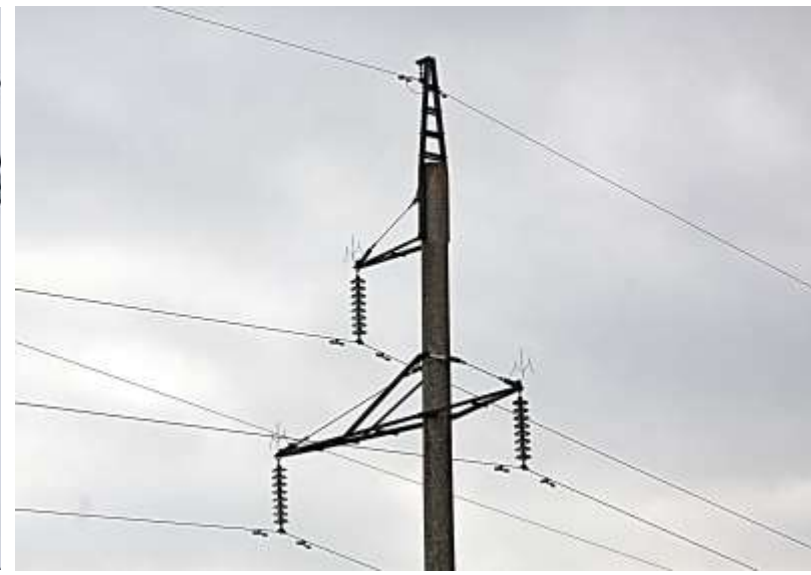
Installation of bird protection measures on the utility poles (C3)

Legend

▲ "Saucer" type installation for white stork protection

■ "Wishbone" type installation for white stork protection

© HNIT-BALTIC; GDR10LT ©, Nacionalinė žemės tarnyba prie ŽŪM, 2016; LR Adresų registras © VĮ Registrų centras, 2016; LR saugomų teritorijų valstybės kadastro duomenys ©, Valstybinė saugomų teritorijų tarnyba prie AM, 2015

# C.4 ERECTION OF THE NEST-BOXES FOR FALCONS

**526 nest-boxes** for falcons were erected by the 1st April 2018.
*580 nest-boxes for falcons will erected on electricity pylons until the end of the project.*

Erecting of the nest-boxes for falcons (C4)

**Legend**

- Installation of the nest-boxes for falcons

0    50    100 km

© HNIT-BALTIC; GDR10LT ©, Nacionalinė žemės tarnyba prie ŽŪM, 2016; LR Adresų registras © VĮ
Registrų centras, 2016; LR saugomų teritorijų valstybės kadastro duomenys ©, Valstybinė saugomų
teritorijų tarnyba prie AM, 2015

# PROJECT MONITORING

- **D.1 Monitoring of the project actions:** timeshedule of the actions' implementation, deliverables, milestones, reached indicators;

- **D.2 Ex-ante and post-ante monitoring on the effectiveness of the project conservation actions:** occupation of the falcons' nest boxes, abundance of the electrocution cases (mainly, White storks), number of the collissions on the „hot spots" (congragations of the migratory and wintering waterbirds, cranes, raptors)

# PUBLIC AWARENESS AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS (I)

- **18** info stands were erected;

- **Film "At a junction of two worlds"** was produced and broadcasted on national TV;

- Project website **www.birds-electrogrid.lt** created;

- Work with media: >50 articles were published in media, press releases; radio news/reportages; TV reportages, ect.
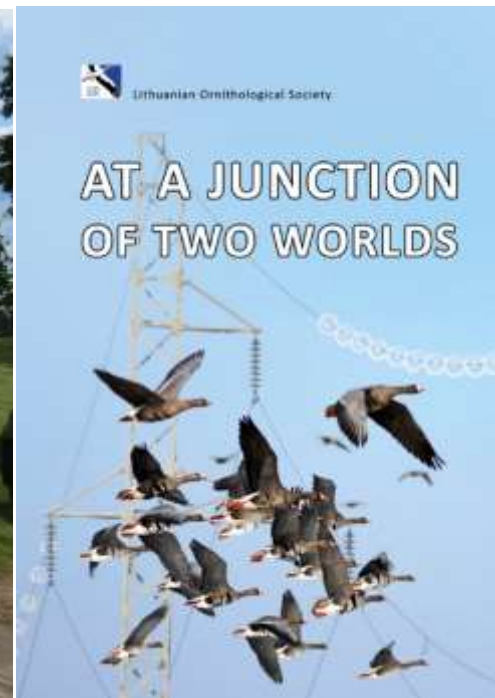
# PUBLIC AWARENESS AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS (II)

- **Production and distribution of printed materials were created:**

  Project leaflet; wall calendars; poster on problem of birds mortality on electricity grid; printed popular brochure for kids on birds conservation within electricity grid; printed popular brochure on birds mortality problems on the overhead electricity lines network.