

Exploit Your Senses to Discover the Green Secrets of Zemgale and Žemaitija!

Green Secrets
LL-00126

Potential of sensory garden network

in cross-border territory of Žemaitija and Zemgale
Feasibility study by

Gintaras Venckus, Lina Jankauskienė,
PP5-NHF

Social Entrepreneurship in Tourism, Eleja, 2024-12-10



About sensory gardens (SG's)



Places, having SG's features in Žemaitija and Zemgale (project territory)



Conclusions and recommendations

Humans and nature.

Humans are positively affected by nature. How to easily understand whether it is effective?

Based on observing human behavior in gardens:

- passing through quickly (no relationship with garden = not effective)
- entering and taking a closer look at what the garden offers
(relationship with engagement = a little effective)
- playing in this space and experiencing this garden, using any elements that might be found there, or staying and relaxing in a friendly sensory environment
(remaining in multidimensional relationships with the garden for some time = effective)



Consciously or unconsciously, creators of green spaces, in pursuit of efficiency, when creating new green spaces or adapting natural ones for visitors, always aim to stimulate positive sensations, to evoke positive emotions (senses → emotions → actions-behavior)

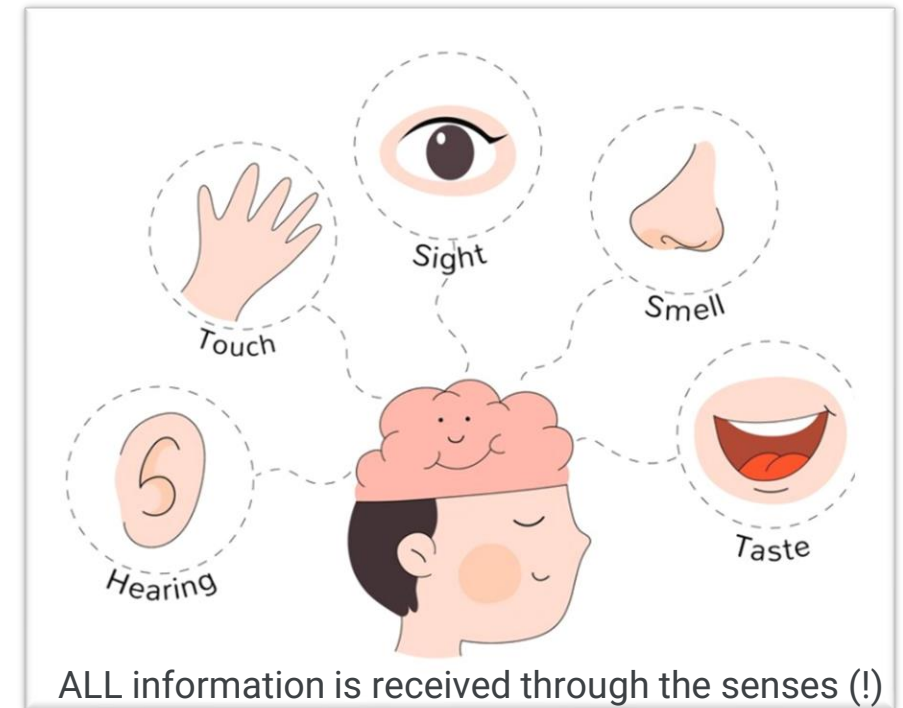
A sensory garden

is a carefully designed outdoor space that focuses on stimulating the five senses.

It is intended to create a rich, immersive experience for visitors, especially benefiting individuals with sensory processing disorders, autism, or those who seek therapeutic environments.

Usually located:

- In special places (hospice, different hospital departments, rehabilitation centers, etc.)
- In public places (as parts of the parks, etc.)



Temperature



Balance



Proprioception

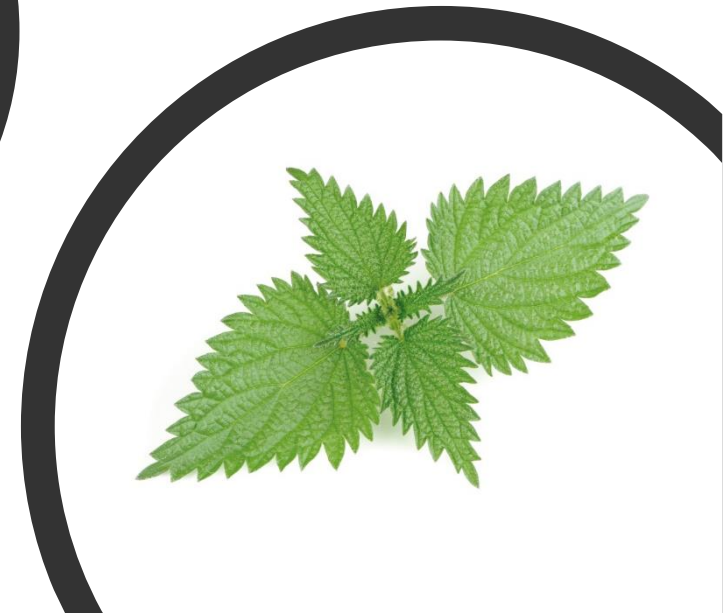


Nociception



‘Taste is indisputable’

affected physiologically or psychologically



‘Taste is indisputable’

Understanding comes from human experience, context, and cultural factors that influence how we perceive and interpret our surroundings or phenomena

Social norms?..

Fashion?..

(fans of vegetable garden hates flowering weed?..)



Disability:
27% of EU population
(older than 16 years)

Most people, especially with disabilities, usually don't want to ask for help, don't want to be served. They would like to... be like everyone else.

Accessibility

Universal design = designed for everyone, not discriminating

ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE

HUMAN DIGNITY.





Accessibility. Keyword:
Universal design
(find design solutions together with users!)



Universal design. Examples

What comes first: supply or demand?

Admin: "people with disabilities don't come here"

“If I know there's nothing for me there, so I'm not going there. But I find out where it appears, then I go!”





About sensory gardens (SG's)



Places, having SG's features in Žemaitija and Zemgale (project territory)

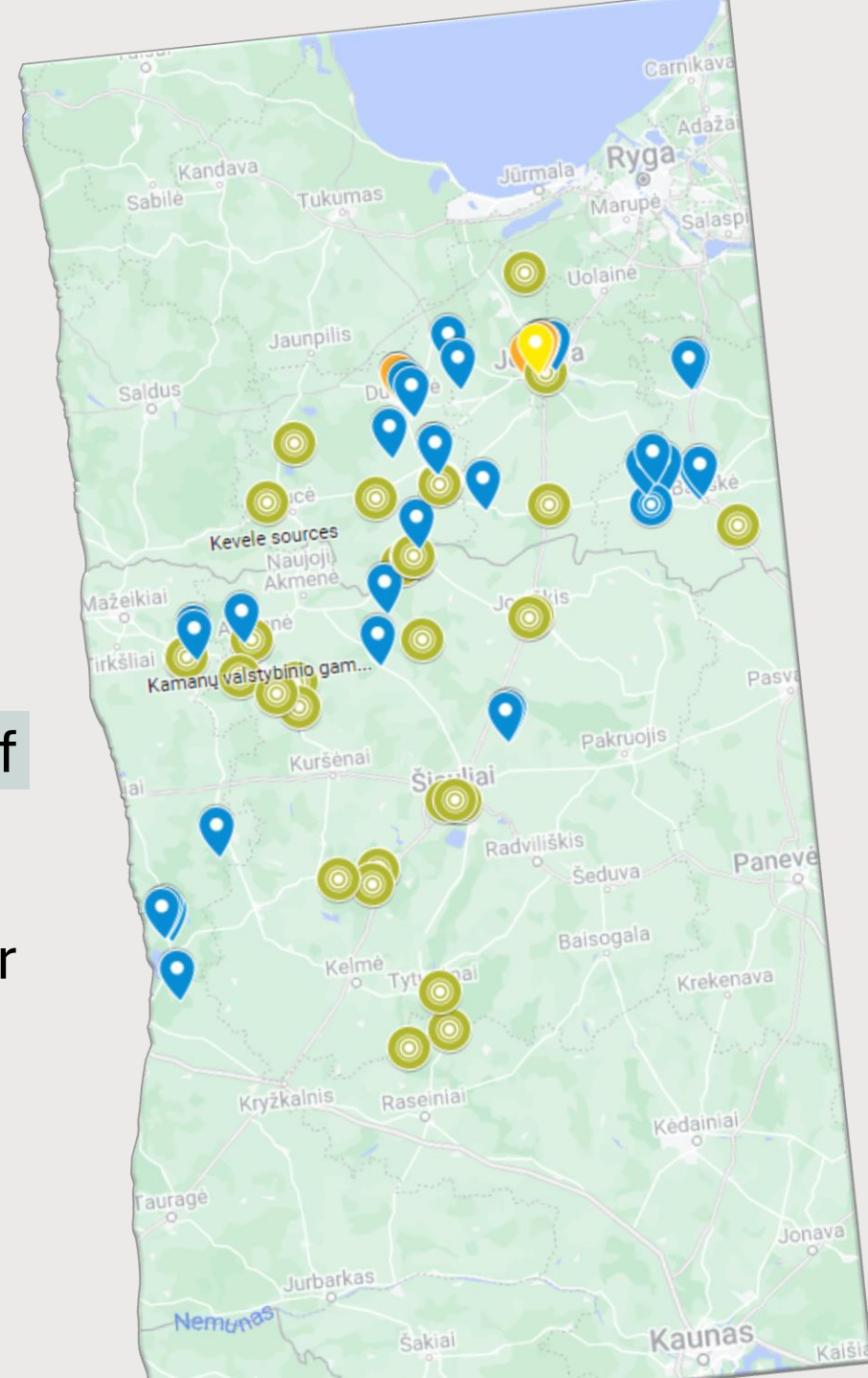


Conclusions and recommendations



Tourism objects (having the features of sensory gardens, in the territory of the project)

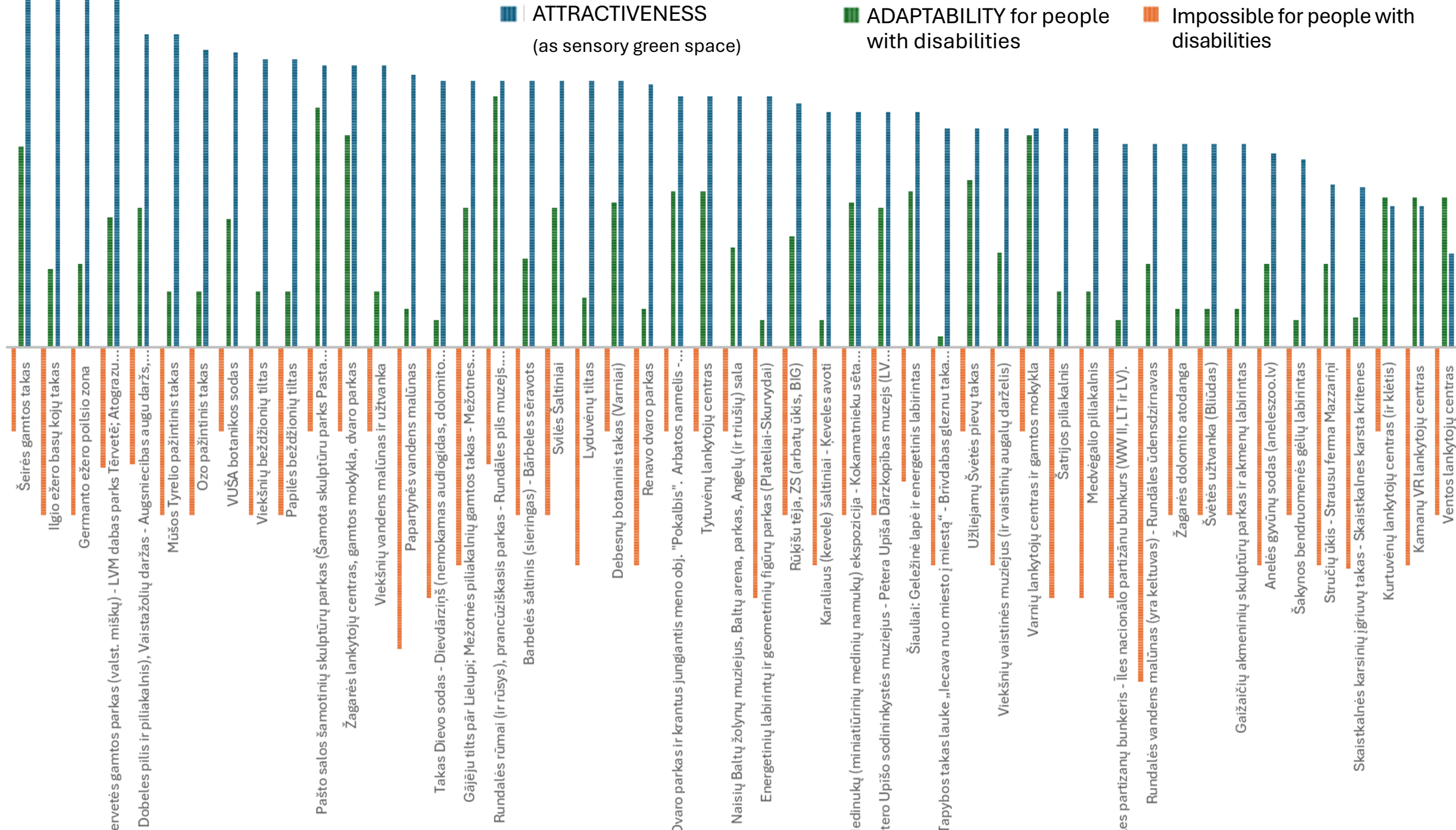
They were selected and evaluated from the position of an unorganized visitor (no prior phone calls, reservations for educations or guide services)



Evaluation of sensory green spaces



Urbanistinis		Žaliųjų erdvė (objektas):	Svilės šaltiniai		
Gamtinis	V				
Juslinių žaliųjų erdvių vertinimas. PATRAUKLUMO (nr.1-5) ir PRITAIKYMO (nr.6) žmonėms su negalia kriterijai:					
			Pastabos, paaiškinimai		
1	Vizualiniai elementai	(max 5)	5		
	Spalviniai ir (arba) tūriniai deriniai		5		
2	Aromatiniai elementai	(max 10)	2.5		
	Audaliniai, savaimė kvėpiantys		2.5		
3	Garsai	(max 45)	30		
	Vėjo garsai medžiuose ir kritimuose (ošimas)		5		
4	Skonis - valgomi (ir nevalgomi) augalai	(max 5)	0		
	Valgomi vaisiai, daržovės, gėlės ir kt. žolės		0		
	Pavojingi (nuodingi) augalai		0		
5	Tekstiniai (lytėjimui) elementai	(max 15)	5		
	Takų ir kt. dangos, sukeliančios pojūčius		2.5		
		(max 16)	8.5		
6	Pritaikymas žmonėms su negalia				
	Kelių ir takų dangų paviršių struktūra (AIŠKI - tinkama, ypač - regai ir judėjimui)		5		
	Taktiliniai indikatoriai vaikščiojimui		0		
	Yra ženklavimas ir informacija Brailio raštu		0		
	Imanoma įveikti su judėjimo (vaikščiojimo) negalia		2.5		
	Yra erdviniai modeliai		0		
	Audiogidas (ar jv. mobilios aplikacijos šiam objektui)		0		
	Trečiųjų asmenų pagalba (žodinė ir fizinė)		0		
	Universalaus dizaino įranga ir sprendimai		5		
	Kitas spec. pritaikymas		0		
		(max 45)	12.5		
	Objektas netinka neregiiui arba silpnaregiui		-2.5	tinka tik su palydovu	
	Objektas neįmanomas įveikti nevaikščiančiam		-2.5	tinka tik su palydovu	
	Objektas nepatrauklus kurtiesiems		0		
		(max -15)	-5		



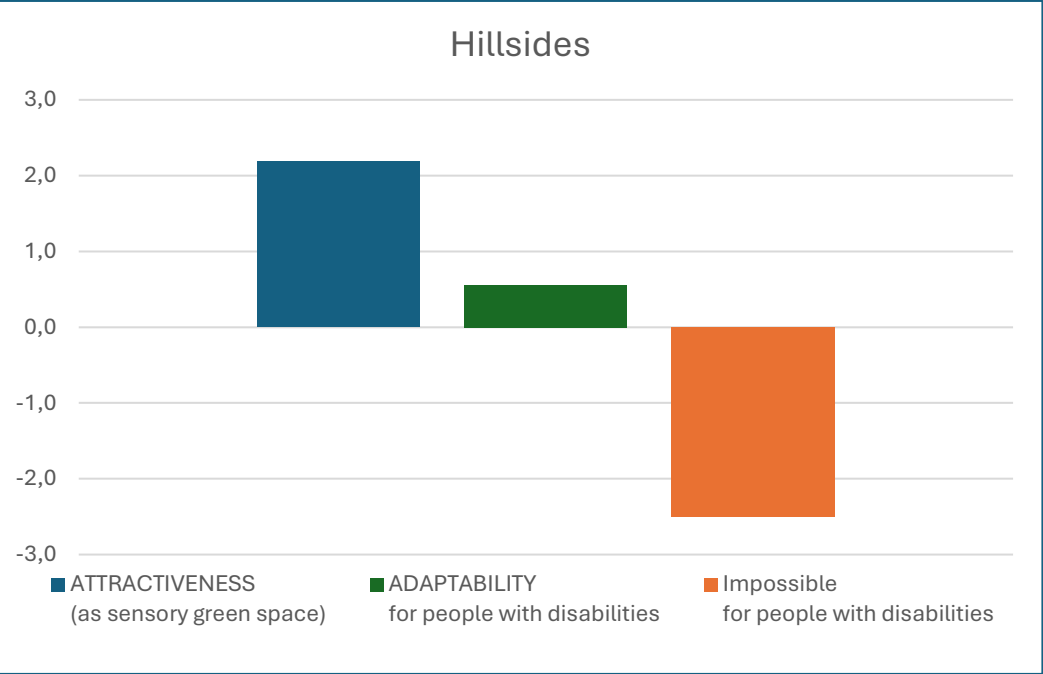
Results will be used for:



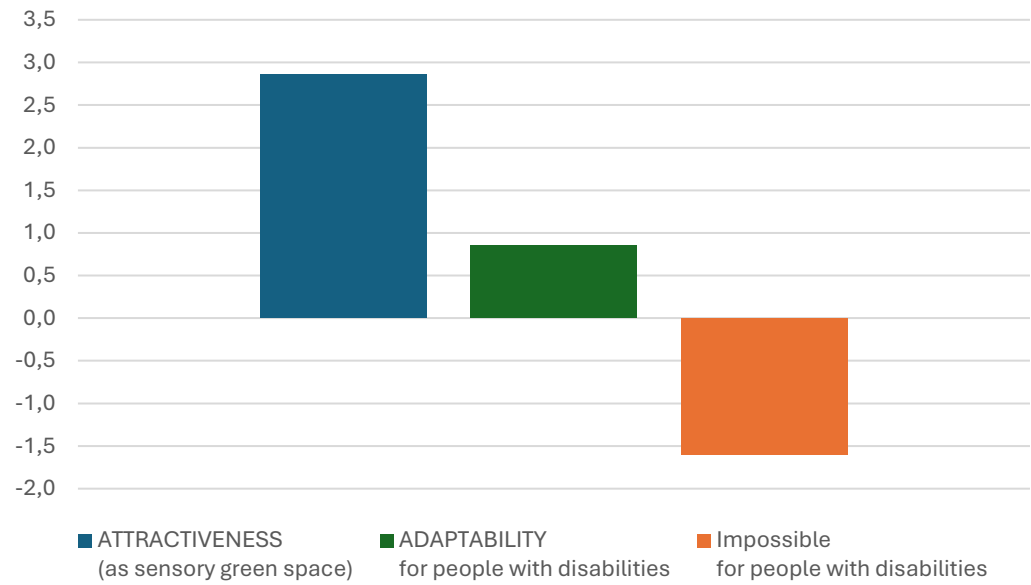
THEMATIC TRAVEL ROUTE WITH
DESCRIPTIONS AND MAP



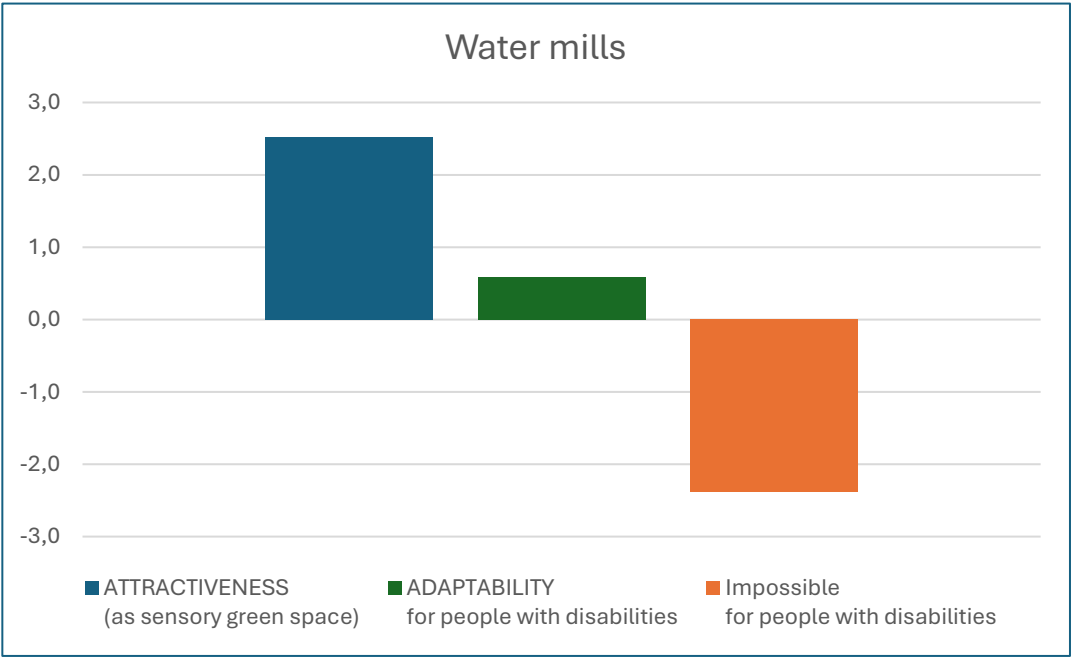
FEASIBILITY STUDY WILL BE
PRINTED

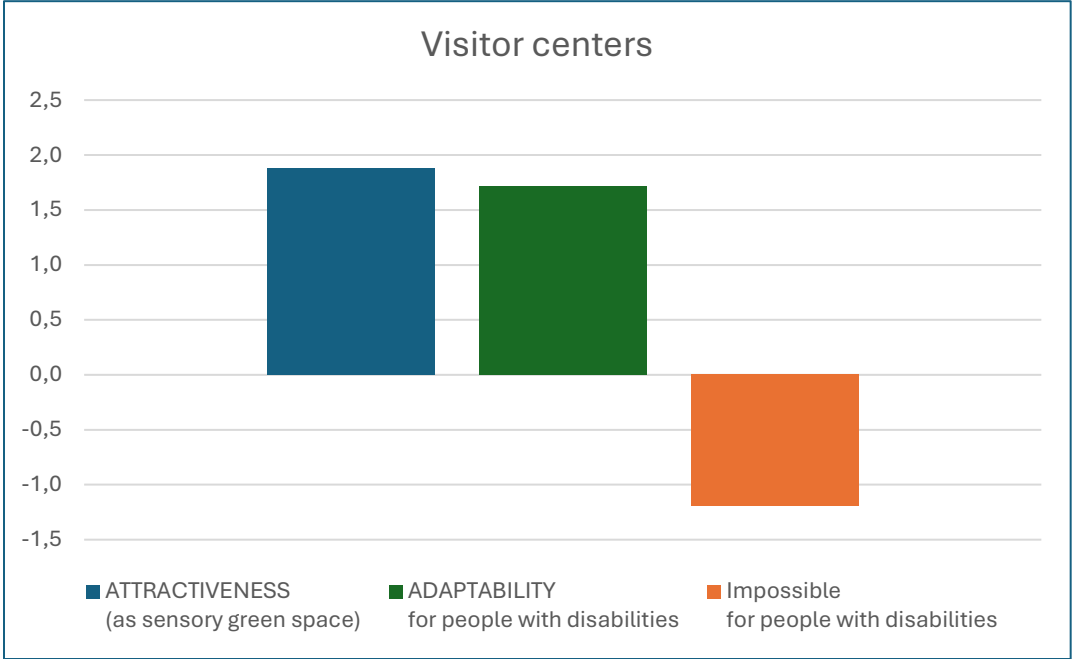


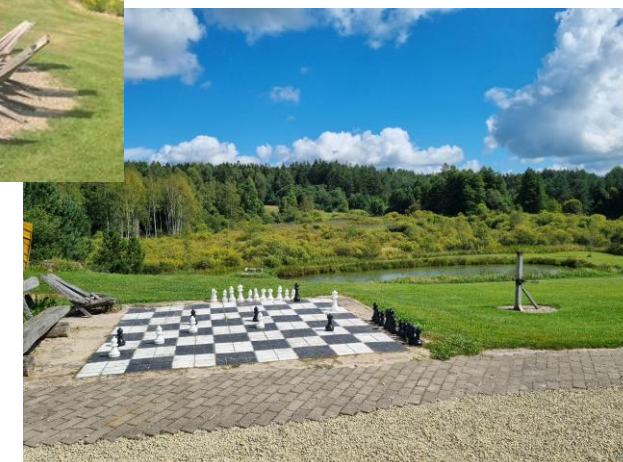
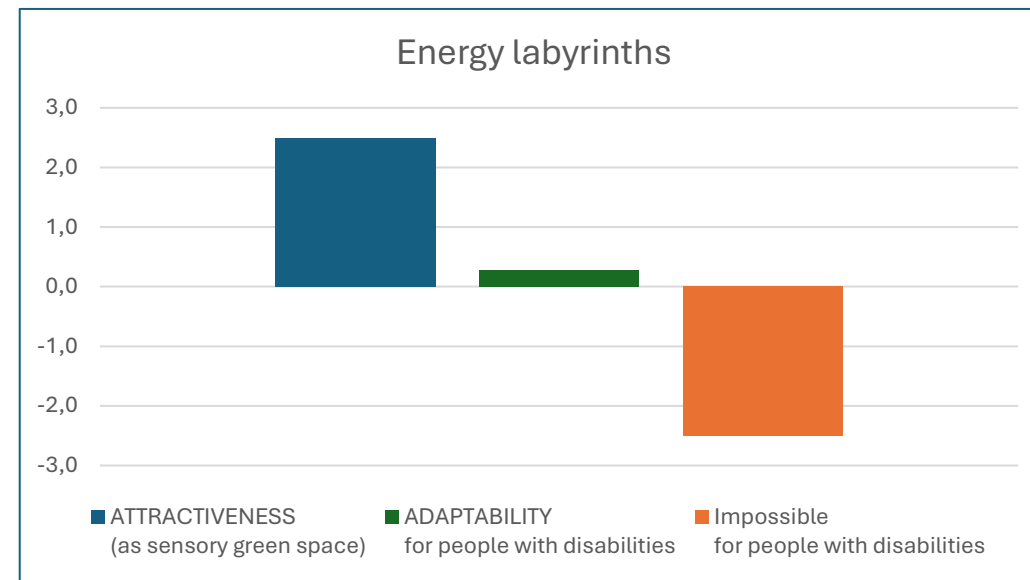
Educational trails

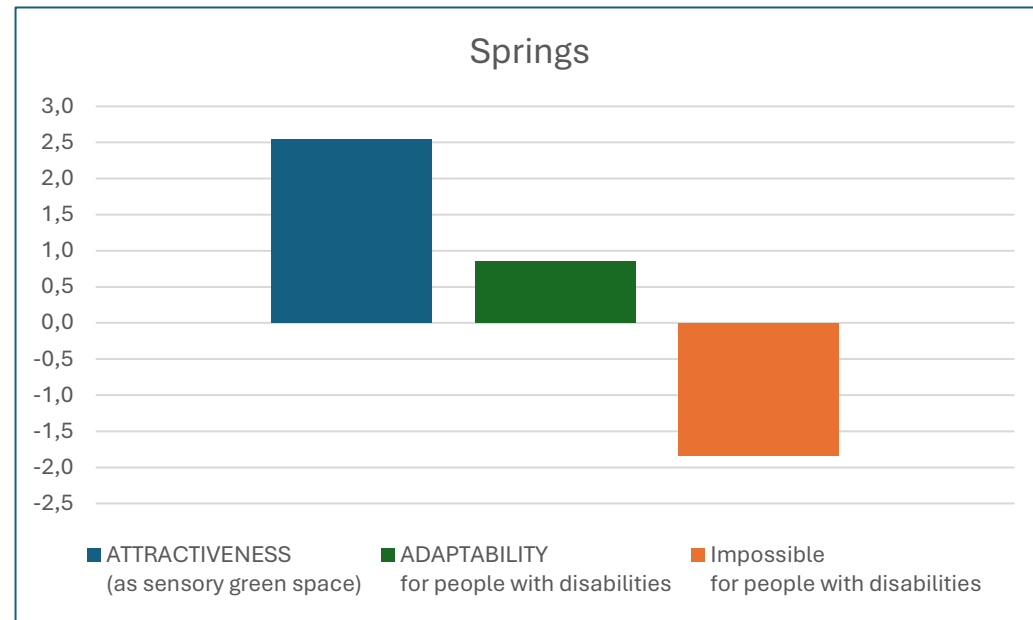


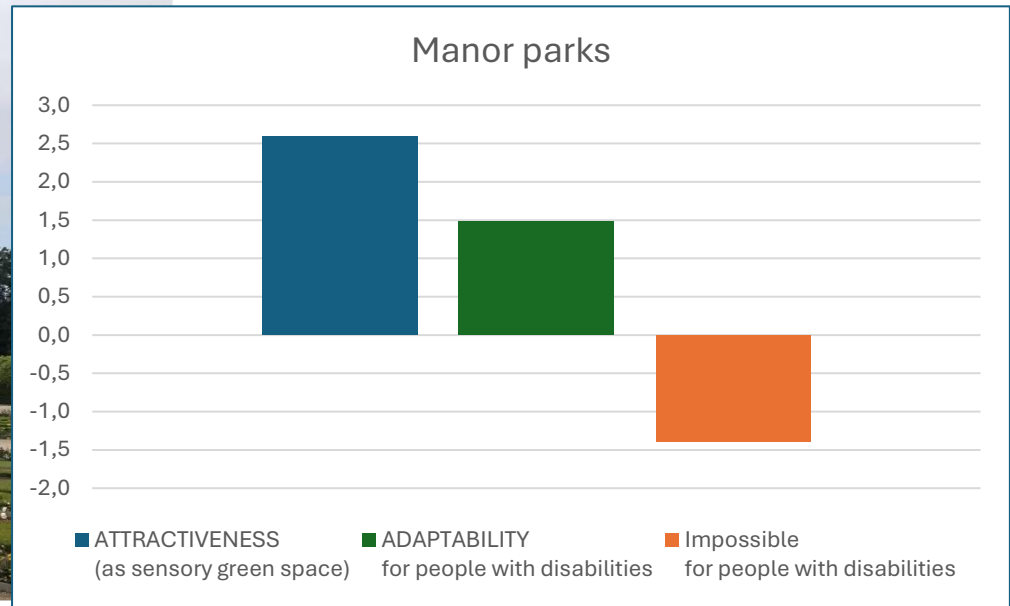




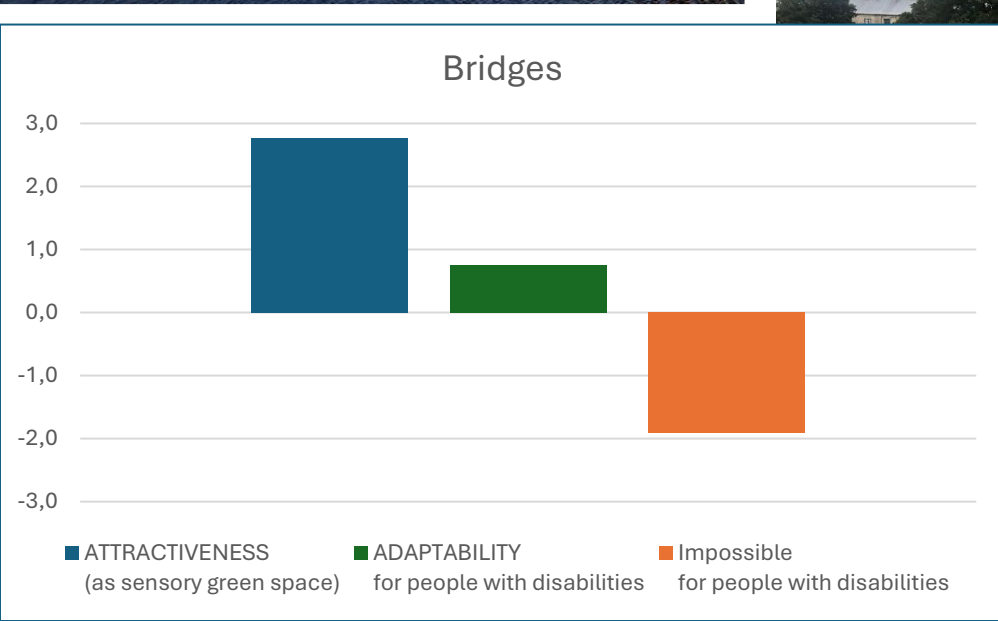


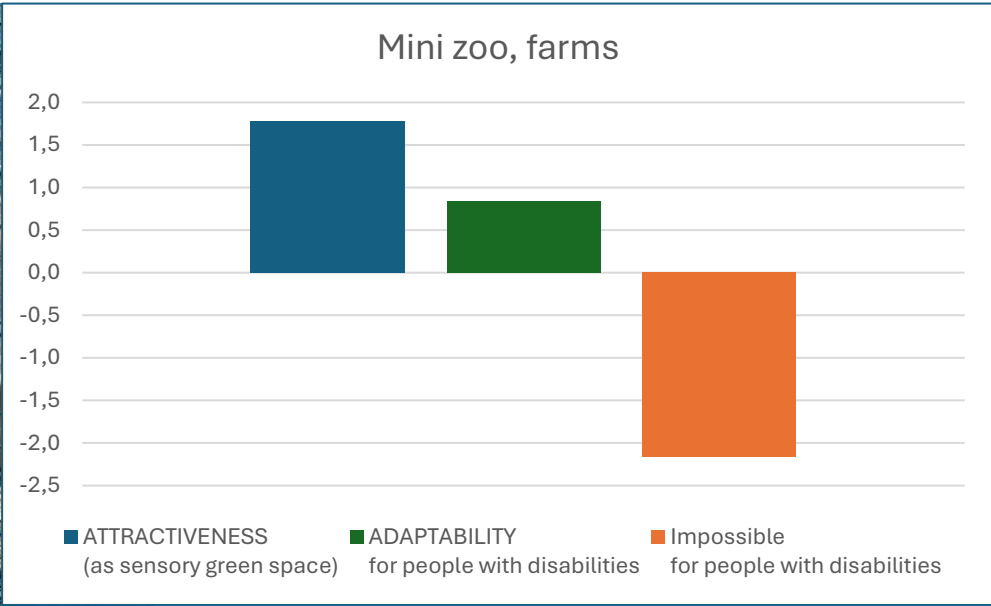
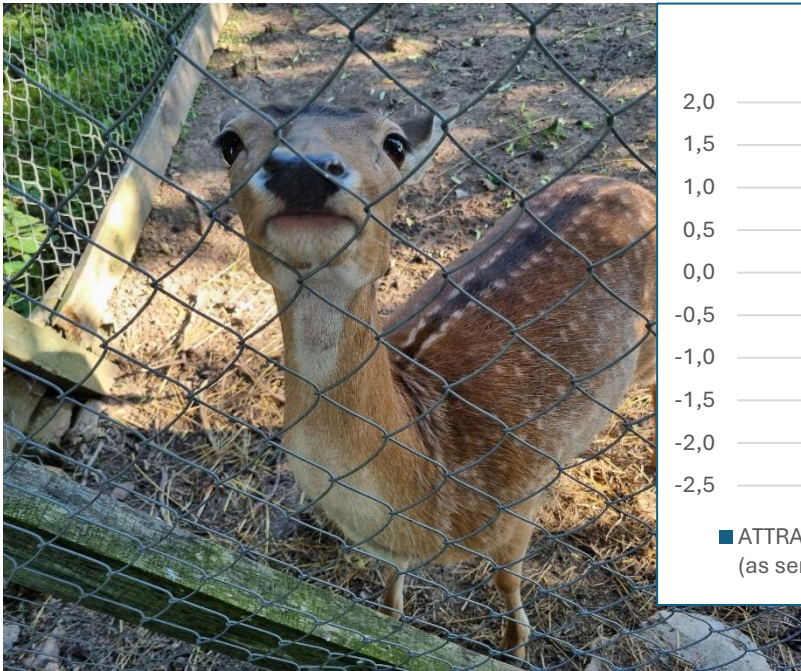






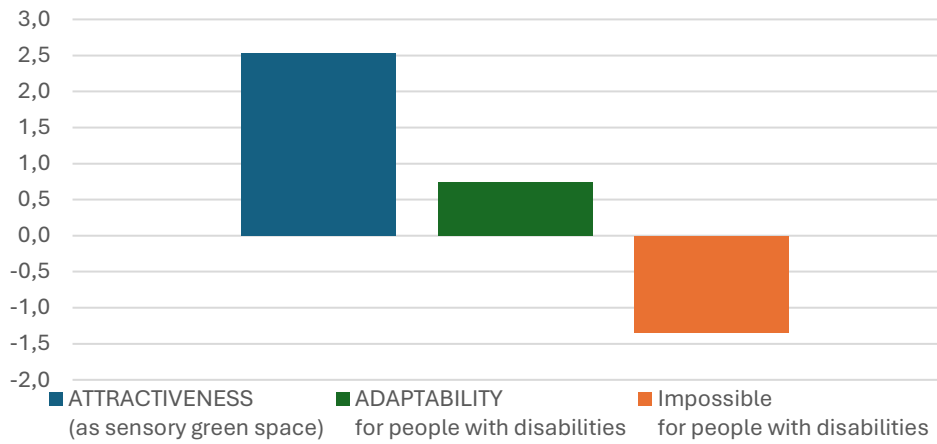






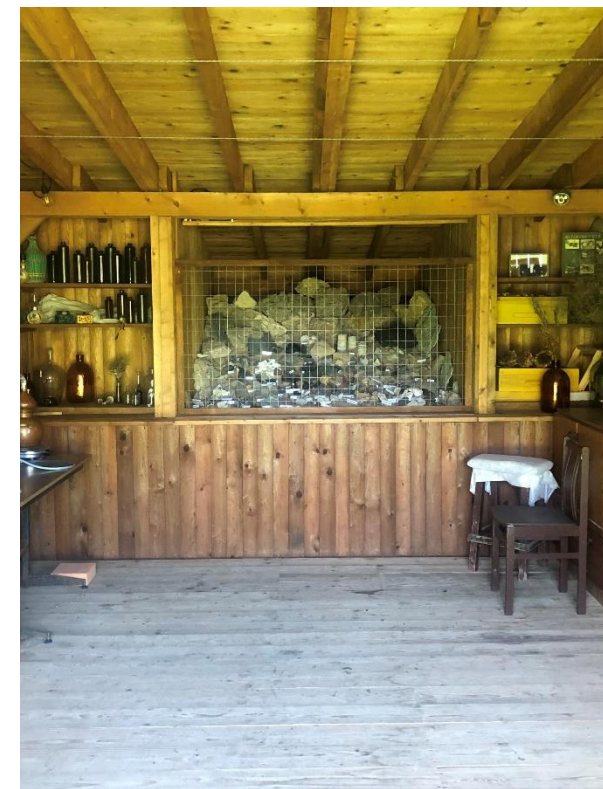


Urban town community zones









Šiauliai university botanical garden



Museums, arousing the senses

Pictures:

Viekšniai apotheca museum and garden

Ile international partisan bunker (Īles nacionālo partizānu bunkurs)

Samogitian Diocese Museum (Žemaičių vyskupystės muziejus, Varniai)

Jelgava old town house (Jelgavas vecpilsētas māja)





About sensory gardens (SG's)



Places, having SG's features in Žemaitija and Zemgale (project territory)



Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions and recommendations

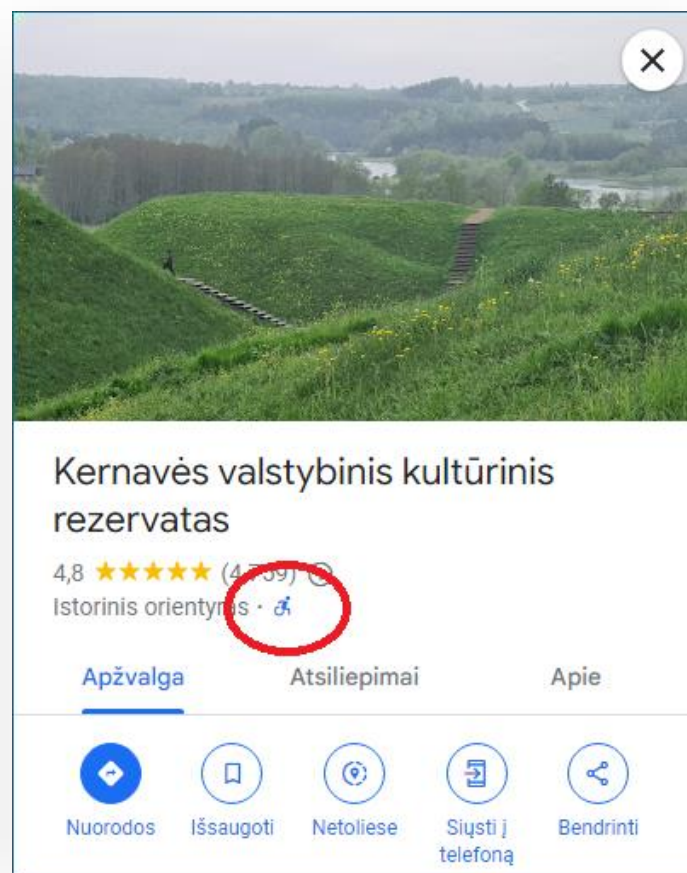
1. Arrange environment not only for visual, but also for other senses

Conclusions and recommendations

2. Information.

2.1. Improve existing information system

- add info about accessibility for people with disabilities
- add 3D models, audio



Conclusions and recommendations

2. Information.

2.2. Create barrier-free approval/certification system

Example, Bayern (Germany):

Bayern Tourismus Marketing GmbH (BayTM)

The foundation of the state marketing organisation goes back to an initiative of the Free State of Bavaria. The GmbH is owned by six main and 22 other shareholders from the Bavarian tourism industry, whose interests it represents, among others. BayTM is institutionally funded by the Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy.



Conclusions and recommendations

3. Accessibility.

3.1. Improve infrastructure

- I. No barriers for wheels (and weak legs)
- II. More tactile markings
- III. Install automatic door opening and closing system
- IV. Braille, where necessary (but no necessity for all texts on information stands – it's easy to read with/through mobile devices)
- V. Renew WC; make it accessible for everyone

Conclusions and recommendations

3. Accessibility.

3.2. Help to move!

I. Offer tow devices for wheelchairs



II. Offer wheelchairs installed with offroad tires or similar vehicles

III. Offer a qualified helper-instructor-guide (he also must make instructions how to use tow devices or other vehicles)





Thank You!