

Environmental and Community Initiatives (ECo-I): Aims and Achievements

Nord Stream 2 AG | Jan-21



*“The **Environmental and Community Initiatives** promoted by Nord Stream 2 aim to secure the social license to construct and operate in the Project area of influence in Russia. The programme will deliver a net gain for the biodiversity of the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve, and a net positive impact for the people in the Kingisepp District. It will foster our Project’s positive legacy. We are realising this programme in close cooperation with our local partners and stakeholders. Together, we are kicking off a positive change for the region and will keep this positive development in motion in the future.”*

– Caroline de Leeuw den Bouter, Head of Environmental and Social Management



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1. ECo-I: Introduction

Building the Nord Stream 2 pipeline in the most environmentally friendly and sustainable way is our absolute priority. In addition to strict compliance with environmental and social legislation and permit conditions, Nord Stream 2 AG has made a voluntary commitment to comply with the Environmental and Social Performance Standards of the International Finance Corporation (IFC PS), which often exceed the requirements resulting from national legislations.

In Russia, the Nord Stream 2 pipeline makes landfall in the Kingisepp District in the Leningrad Region. It crosses 3.7 kilometres of the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve, which is of both regional and international importance, as the Kurgalsky Peninsula is a Ramsar wetland and part of the Baltic Sea Protected Areas. The local population experiences positive economical spinoffs from the Project activities, but construction may also lead to negative impacts, mainly resulting from traffic. Three rural settlements in the proximity of the landfall are affected by increased road traffic for transporting materials and equipment.

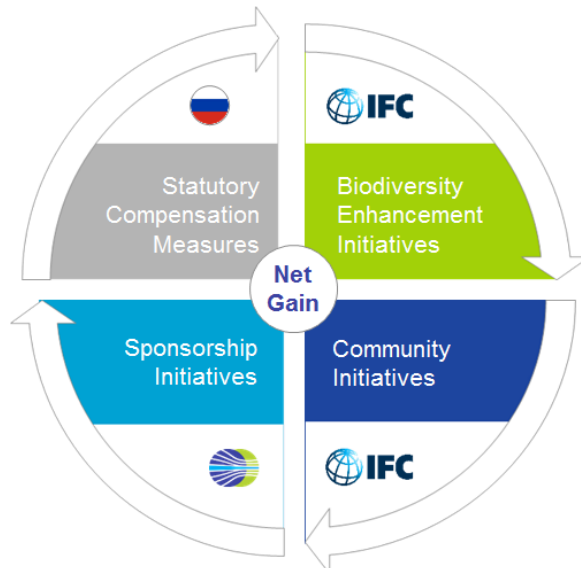
The company has applied strict processes to identify all environmental and social risks and avoid and mitigate negative impacts. Any potential residual impacts on the environment and communities are compensated. This is the target of the Nord Stream 2 **Environmental and Community Initiatives (ECo-I)** Strategy for Russia, which has a clear objective to deliver a net positive impact on the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve and the Kingisepp District.



The ECo-I strategy focuses on the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve and the Kingisepp District.



The **ECo-I Strategy** integrates mandatory environmental compensation and offset measures, voluntary initiatives for local communities and sponsorship initiatives. Four ECo-I components work in harmony to achieve a net gain for the environment and people of the Project area:



Statutory Compensation measures required by Russian legislation;

Biodiversity Enhancement Initiatives, to achieve a net gain for the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve, and required under the IFC PS;

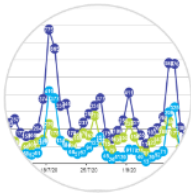
Community Initiatives to improve social infrastructure and benefit communities in the Project's vicinity;

Sponsorship Initiatives to raise awareness of both the Project and its developer while benefiting local communities and environment.

The ECo-I programme identifies synergies between its four components, and integrates environmental and social measures, achieving through this combination an even stronger positive effect on the environment and on people. The programme is expected to extend over a **period of 30 years**.

2. Achievements

The signature of the Cooperation Agreement between the Leningrad Region Government and Nord Stream 2 AG on the implementation of ECo-I, in February 2018, was a milestone to kick off the programme. By the end of 2020, ECo-I delivered its first key achievements:



An extensive body of scientific research has been created, including environmental studies on the marine and terrestrial environment of the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve, sociological surveys on the tourism load and related impacts on the Reserve, social impact assessments and sociological research on indigenous people and vulnerable groups.



A consultation and engagement-based approach that ensures beneficiaries' ownership of social initiatives and promotes local leadership in the realisation of environmental initiatives. The approach has enabled us to kick off the ECo-I initiatives in line with local stakeholders' needs and expectations, and will support long-term sustainability.



The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline includes a 30-year roadmap for its implementation. Support for the administration to develop a Kurgalsky Management Plan proposal has been identified as a key element of the BAP.



The process of preparing a proposal for the Kurgalsky Management Plan began in 2018. A massive body of research and documentation has already been created and various stakeholder engagements took place. Priority measures to counter anthropogenic threats and enhance the reserve's biodiversity values are under implementation.



The largest-ever compensatory fish fry release conducted in the Leningrad Region took place from 2018-2020. Approximately 411,000 Atlantic salmon, brown trout and Arctic char juveniles were released to mitigate potential damage to fisheries. Additionally, previously extinct crayfish were released into a lake inside the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve for the first time.



Based on dedicated research on the impact of invasive species on the biodiversity of the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve, giant hogweed eradication campaigns were carried out in 2019 and 2020. Some 150 hectares have been cleared using an herbicide-free method. Monitoring of the sites will continue.



More than 120 hectares of the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve have been cleared of waste during clean-up campaigns initiated by Nord Stream 2 from 2018-2020. Around 4,000 volunteers hauled 34.5 tonnes of waste. Additionally, the Clean Beach environmental and educational campaign was organised for the first time in the Reserve in 2018 and followed by two more campaigns.



Extensive educational and awareness-raising programmes and activities have been staged. Over 2,000 Kingisepp District children participated in the “My Land” educational programme, while 4,800 locals took part in festivities and community development activities. Positive resonance in social media has been significant.



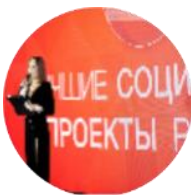
Nord Stream 2 has aided in the preservation of the Izhorian culture and language through contributions to local traditional festivities, the establishment of the Izhora Crafts and Language Centre as part of the local Izhorian museum, and the publication of the first and only modern children’s book in the Russian and Izhorian languages, “A Way to Magic”.



The first large-scale ECo-I community initiative, the Izhora Craft and Language Centre, was inaugurated in 2020. Further initiatives of similar size are also underway, including the Children’s Rehabilitation Centre at the Kingisepp Hospital, and the enhancement of public spaces in Bolshoe Kuzemkino.



The Small Grants Programme is the first dedicated programme to support initiatives from non-governmental and non-profit organisations in the Kingisepp district. 30 winning projects will receive financial support to be implemented in 2021. Likewise, community development activities during local festivities aim to spark responsible behaviour and strengthen community leadership.

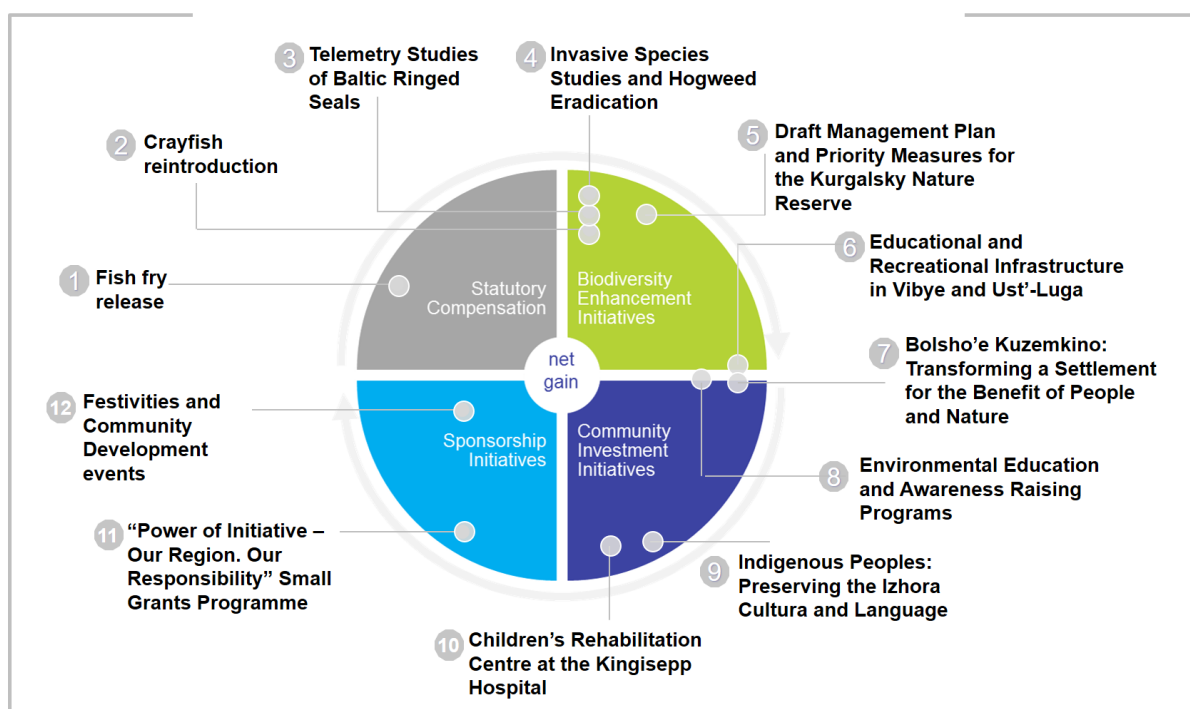


In 2020, ECo-I initiatives were nominated for (and won) some of the most respectable and stringent CSR awards in Russia, including “Leaders of Corporate Charity” Award by the Donors’ Forum Association, “People Investor Award” by the Association of Russian Managers, “Russia’s Best Social Projects” and “Eco Best Award”.

3. A closer look at the initiatives

Since the start of the ECo-I programme in 2018, more than 100 ECo-I initiatives have been realised. At the beginning of the programme, the focus was on scientific research and small-scale “seed” initiatives to establish solid and trustworthy relationships with local stakeholders. The programme moved on to the identification of large-scale initiatives, including infrastructure enhancement. Today, the first large-scale initiatives have been realised, and an increasing number of others are in the planning and implementation phase.

This section of the document features selected initiatives that serve as good examples to tell the ECo-I story. It provides insights into the concept, design and implementation of these highlights.



ECo-I highlights: Overview of the initiatives featured in this brochure.

The fact-finding studies and small-scale “seed” initiatives led to the identification of the specific focus that initiatives should have to ensure long-lasting usefulness and synergy between social and environmental objectives. For example, it was understood that one-off waste cleaning efforts would be more effective if coupled with educational programmes to promote awareness about environmental responsibility, including waste management. Similarly, the invasive species eradication programme was coupled with a broad educational programme carried out in primary and secondary schools of the Kingisepp district to raise children’s awareness of environmental threats and the value of the territory they inhabit.

This bottom-up approach enabled stakeholders to voice their views on the priorities for the territory, from the perspectives of community needs and the social benefits associated with environmental protection. This has ensured that communities developed a sense of ownership for the



infrastructure that was developed or designed with Nord Stream 2. Moreover, almost all initiatives are now being developed with a dual purpose: to promote both community and environmental well-being.

Specific examples of this approach include the development of a playground, which was designed with the input of the children themselves, as well as adults in the community. The interaction between designers and residents also led to the identification of a strong need to develop a community centre for youth and adults. Full synergy between environmental and social purposes was achieved when the centre was also designated, through consensus, as an environmental information point for the Kurgalsky reserve as well.

Selected Eco-I initiatives that represent our approach follow here:



Fish fry release

- > About **411,000 valuable salmon species juveniles have been released** since 2018 as part of compensation measures for any potential fisheries damage by the Project.
- > The fish juveniles were grown at the Luzhskiy and Nevskiy hatcheries of the Federal State Budgetary Institution Glavrybvod facilities in the Leningrad region.

The Russian Environmental Regulator (Rosprirodnadzor) and the Federal Fishery Agency have approved the statutory compensation measures programme to be implemented from 2018 to 2020 as part of the positive conclusion on Nord Stream 2's project documentation in Russia. Compensation measures apply to the construction corridor and areas in its immediate vicinity.

As part of compliance with these obligations, and to reaffirm our commitment to the environment in the area we impact, in the spring of 2019 and 2020 Nord Stream 2 released 147,000 Atlantic salmon juveniles, 48,000 brown trout juveniles and 49,000 Arctic char juveniles into rivers around the Russian part of the Gulf of Finland as compensation for potential temporary damage to fisheries during the construction of the Nord Stream 2's pipeline in Russian waters. These releases, as well as the first campaign in May 2018 when around 167,000 juveniles were released, represent the largest compensatory fish releases carried out in the region in recent years and vastly exceed any potential losses of fish stock that may have occurred as a result of Nord Stream 2 construction activities.

Annual releases of valuable fish species, including those listed in the Red Book, are extremely important for the successful reproduction and replenishment of aquatic biological resources in the Baltic Sea, including commercial species such as those released by Nord Stream 2 as part of the

compensation programme. Releases are carried out under the combined supervision of the Northwest branch of the Federal Fishery Agency and GosNIORKH's own migratory fish monitoring laboratory.



Fish fry release, May 2018.

Nord Stream 2 has developed its compensation programme for damage to aquatic biological resources in cooperation with the St. Petersburg branch of FGBNU VNIRO (GosNIORKh), a leading scientific institute in Russia in the field of biological research of water bodies and aquaculture. The compensatory release of fish juveniles as part of the Nord Stream 2 Project will continue in the coming years throughout the pipeline operation phase.



Reintroduction of broad-fingered crayfish in the Kurgalsky Reserve

- > Broad-fingered crayfish became extinct in the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve in the last part of the 20th century.
- > **The first experimental reintroduction of 1,000 crayfish specimens** into a lake inside the Reserve was made by Nord Stream 2 in September 2020.
- > A larger reintroduction is planned for 2021, subject to confirmation, through monitoring, of the successful adaptation of the initially released specimens.

In 2019, Nord Stream 2 commissioned a feasibility study by the Institute of Limnology of the Russian Academy of Sciences to investigate whether the climatic, hydrological and ecological conditions of the lakes in the area are conducive for the reintroduction of *Astacus astacus* (broad-fingered crayfish). This crayfish, which is a species native to the Leningrad region, once abundant in the lakes of the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve, became extinct in the last part of the 20th century. Complex investigations resulted in the identification of one lake suitable for reintroduction. Nord Stream 2 contracted the Institute of Limnology again for the acquisition of permits for reintroduction, the purchase of adult crayfish, identification of proper sites for their release in the lake, as well as carrying out the actual reintroduction in September 2020. Subject to successful adaptation, which will be verified through monitoring activities, a larger number of specimens will be introduced in 2021.



Crayfish Reintroduction in the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve, September 2020.



Telemetry studies of Baltic Ringed Seals

- > Only around **100 Baltic ringed seals** are estimated to be present in the Gulf of Finland, due to **notable drop in population** during the last three decades.
- > **Most of the extensive telemetry studies of ringed seals in the Gulf of Finland carried out to date** were conducted by Nord Stream 2 in 2017-2019.

For three consecutive seasons, Nord Stream 2 supported the telemetry study of the Baltic ringed seals in the Gulf of Finland, carried out by an international group of experts from Russia and Estonia, in partnership with NGOs, experts and authorities.

Seal species inhabiting the Baltic Sea are important, unique and valuable components of the ecosystem. The Gulf of Finland is inhabited by two protected species of marine mammals: grey and ringed seals. While grey seal numbers are increasing in the whole Baltic Sea area, the ringed seal population is fragmented and recognised as of special concern by HELCOM (the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission), due to a notable drop in population during the past three decades, and because the dwindling numbers of living individuals makes the population particularly vulnerable to the anthropogenic and natural stressors.

Between the 2017 and 2019 field seasons, 18 ringed seals (representing about 18 percent of the population in the Gulf of Finland) were equipped with GPS tags to collect comprehensive data on their behaviour, movement patterns and general sea-use in the Gulf of Finland, to understand their foraging, resting and breeding habits. Sensors were attached to the pelt with fast-acting glue, and no sedative drugs were used during the process. The sensors recorded environmental data, such as temperature and diving depth, and had an on-board GPS location system that provided geographical coordinates in real time. The studies showed further shrinking in their home range. The relation between density and distribution suggested that a reduction in population size led to population concentration in the best available habitats, since competition is low.

The telemetry study data has enabled experts to assess the present status of the seals and modern threats, and to suggest management and conservation measures. The results have been well-received at various expert meetings and conferences, including a dedicated HELCOM seal expert group meeting.

Nord Stream 2 is also providing financial support to the Baltic Ringed Seals Foundation to expand its technology base to facilitate conservation measures for marine mammals. The only seal rescue organisation in St. Petersburg, it rehabilitates seal pups prematurely separated from their mothers, providing all the necessary food and medical assistance to prepare them for release back into nature. The foundation engages proactively with volunteers as well.



Ringed Seal equipped with a GPS tag on its way back into the Baltic Sea, June 2017 (Photo: Mikhail Verevkin).



Invasive species: Hogweed eradication

- > Surveys have identified four types of invasive plants in and around the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve. The spread of these species, especially giant hogweed, is a threat to the Reserve's biodiversity.
- > Nord Stream 2 AG has ensured the clearance of 150 hectares from giant hogweed in the area and implemented a local education programme on how to handle the plant.

The spread of invasive plant species is one of the threats to the biodiversity of the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve. With the support of Nord Stream 2, a unique study of invasive plant species in the reserve and adjacent territories was performed over the summer of 2018. Experts from the All-Russian Institute of Plant Genetic Resources (VIR), the leading Russian research institute in plant genetics and one of the oldest research institutes of plant genetics in the world, compiled the descriptions of 98 sites, 30 local populations and 96 locations of individual plants of invasive species. Six monitoring sites were established as a result. The assessment of infested territories made it possible to determine how invasive species penetrated the reserve, and for the design a comprehensive eradication programme that aims to contribute to the preservation of biodiversity of this protected area.

In particular, the study revealed that *Heracleum sosnowskyi* (giant hogweed) poses the greatest threat, due to its ability to suppress and replace autochthonous botanical species of high ecological value, rapid spread and hazard to human health.

Nord Stream 2 began a four-phase giant hogweed eradication campaign in the reserve and adjacent territories in May 2019. Approximately 150 hectares of land were cleared of giant hogweed. In 2020, the same area was re-treated because hogweed tends to grow back in cleared areas in the following year, albeit in lesser amounts.

Giant hogweed not only threatens biodiversity, but also to human health, as the sap is toxic to human skin. We therefore developed an educational programme for local residents and school children in the Kingisepp district, to raise awareness on both fronts.



Manual eradication of the giant hogweed adjacent to the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve, July 2020.



Management Plan proposal and priority measures for the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve

- > The lack of a structured **long-term conservation framework for the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve** has been identified as a pressing need by the Committee for National Resources (CNR).
- > Nord Stream 2 has commissioned the development of a **Visioning Study** to assess threats to the reserve and develop a long-term vision for its management. It forms the basis for a Management Plan proposal that is being prepared for finalisation and adoption by CNR.
- > Two **stakeholder engagement sessions** were conducted under the auspices of the CNR to share the findings of the Visioning Study and to seek feedback on the proposed countermeasures to minimise threats and enhance biodiversity.
- > **Priority measures** for the preservation of the Reserve's biodiversity and to counter human-induced threats, mainly associated with uncontrolled tourism, have been identified and are under implementation.

The Kurgalsky Nature Reserve is hugely popular as a recreation area among locals and tourists from St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region. The reserve attracts tourists not only for its unspoilt nature, beaches and scenic landscape, but also for the richness of its habitats and forest edibles such as berries, mushrooms and herbs. Over the past two decades, the reserve has been subject to intense human impacts. According to the **Kurgalsky Nature Reserve Tourism Load Studies**



carried out by the St. Petersburg State University, more than 30 percent of the reserve's land is used for recreational purposes. Over 2,700 cases of violations were recorded over just two months of observations in 2018, and 63,500 vehicles were recorded visiting the reserve between June and September 2019. Most frequently, these include illegal waste disposal, vehicular traffic outside of public access roads that damaged vegetation and rare species, unauthorised felling of trees and haphazard fire pits. According to experts, if this upward trend in human impacts persists, within the next 10-15 years it could cause irreversible disruptions of the environmental balance, negating the reserve's nature conservation function.

In September 2018, at the request of the CNR, the reserve's management authority, Nord Stream 2 began developing a **proposal for a Management Plan for the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve**. The purpose was to create a sustainable development model for the reserve to ensure conservation, restoration, and enhancement of biodiversity, in compliance with the local regulations and the IFC PS 6.

Nord Stream 2 contracted Strelka KB, a leading Russian spatial planning firm, to prepare the Visioning Study and the Management Plan proposal. This Visioning Study assimilates findings from multiple specialist studies conducted over a period of two years, including studies from the St. Petersburg State University Institute of Earth Sciences and Centre for Sociological and Internet Research. It includes an extensive characterisation of biodiversity values and how to enhance them, along with analysis of threats and possible counteractions throughout the reserve's territory. Several measures aim to prevent uncontrolled tourism by diverting activities away from sensitive areas and creating conditions for eco-tourism that would be compatible with preserving biodiversity. The Management Plan proposal will be developed based on the Visioning Study and submitted to CNR for their consideration, adaptation and adoption.

Two **stakeholder consultation sessions** have been conducted by CNR on the Visioning Study. In February 2020, consultations with representatives of the administration, scientific community, civil representatives and local population took place in St. Petersburg, Ust-Luga and Bolshoe Kuzemkino. Moreover, 1,296 people were interviewed prior, during and after the events, providing recommendations on improving the reserve's management system. The second stakeholder consultation in July 2020 took place digitally due to Covid-19 restrictions. Around 900 people accessed the digital engagement platforms and 127 people provided feedback via questionnaires. The feedback was compiled and analysed by the St. Petersburg State University Centre for Sociological and Internet Research and taken into consideration for the preparation of the Management Plan proposal.



Stakeholder consultations on the Visioning Study, February 2020.

On April 30, 2020, CNR announced a set of **Priority Measures for the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve**. These were identified with consideration to the available research and feedback from the February stakeholder consultations. The measures aim to enhance the biodiversity of the reserve and counter anthropogenic threats by regulating tourist flows while still enabling the coexistence of visitations with biodiversity preservation. They include:

- > Restrictions to unauthorised traffic in the reserve;
- > Enhanced information and navigation signage;
- > Stricter enforcement of protective measures and expanded patrolling system;
- > Fire safety measures;
- > Removal of waste and the development of a waste management system;
- > Two visitors' information centres outside the reserve, near the Vibye and Bolshoe Kuzemkino villages;
- > Two eco-education trails: Bolshoe Kuzemkino - Narva Bay and Vibya River Valley - Luga Bay.

These are the first set of measures in a phased approach that reflects the adoptive management model to be employed for the future Management Plan. The model foresees the adjustment of scope of activities based on the outcome of comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of existing measures.

Nord Stream 2 has pledged financial and organisational support for some of the Priority Measures identified by the CNR, and will support their implementation once all required permits have been obtained. The subsequent sections will share some insights on the plans and progress of some of the Priority Measures.



Educational and recreational infrastructure for the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve near Vibye and Ust-Luga

- > **Raising awareness and providing controlled recreational facilities** are key priorities to minimise anthropogenic impacts in the reserve.
- > **Two information centres**, to be located outside the reserve, from which **two organised educational trails** will start are among the first steps to achieve long term sustainability objectives for the reserve.

Vibye is located on the main road to the northern and most common entrance to the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve and experiences about 70 percent of the traffic flow to the reserve. Most tourists arrive from this direction, bringing heavy traffic in the summer. Because providing information to visitors and controlling their flow are paramount for the preservation of the reserve, Vibye offers an ideal location for environmental education infrastructure.



Educational and recreational infrastructure being created near Vibye.

We have joined forces with Chekharda, a Russian architectural bureau, to develop the **visitors' information centre** as a unique landmark just outside the entrance of the reserve. There tourists



can learn the rules of conduct, as well as value and sensitivities of the reserve. Open air facilities, such as camping and barbecue stands are expected to be installed by the centre, providing an opportunity for recreation in a natural environment, but outside the reserve.

The **Vibye River Valley - Luga Bay eco-trail** starts at the visitors' information centre and goes on for 4.3 km through the eastern part of the reserve. About one-third of the trail will be via wooden walkways and 70 percent will follow existing pathways. The trail will be open from spring to autumn, which coincides with the centre's operational season. On the trail, visitors can learn about the local environment through information boards, and observe coastal landscapes and a variety of faunal species, including large flocks of migratory birds.

When local community representatives from Ust'-Luga learned about plans for the trail during the consultation session on the Visioning Study, they also requested improvements to the existing **Ust'-Luga Health Trail**. Located outside the reserve, it will serve as connection between Ust'-Luga, the visitors' information centre, and the eco-educational trail near Vibye. It will also create an 'alternative walking venue' for visitors, redirecting some of the tourism load away from the reserve. Whereas the main purpose of these initiatives is to promote environmental sustainability, they also demonstrate how synergies between different objectives, or pillars, of the ECo-I programme can be achieved, especially when broad stakeholder engagement triggers direct community requests.

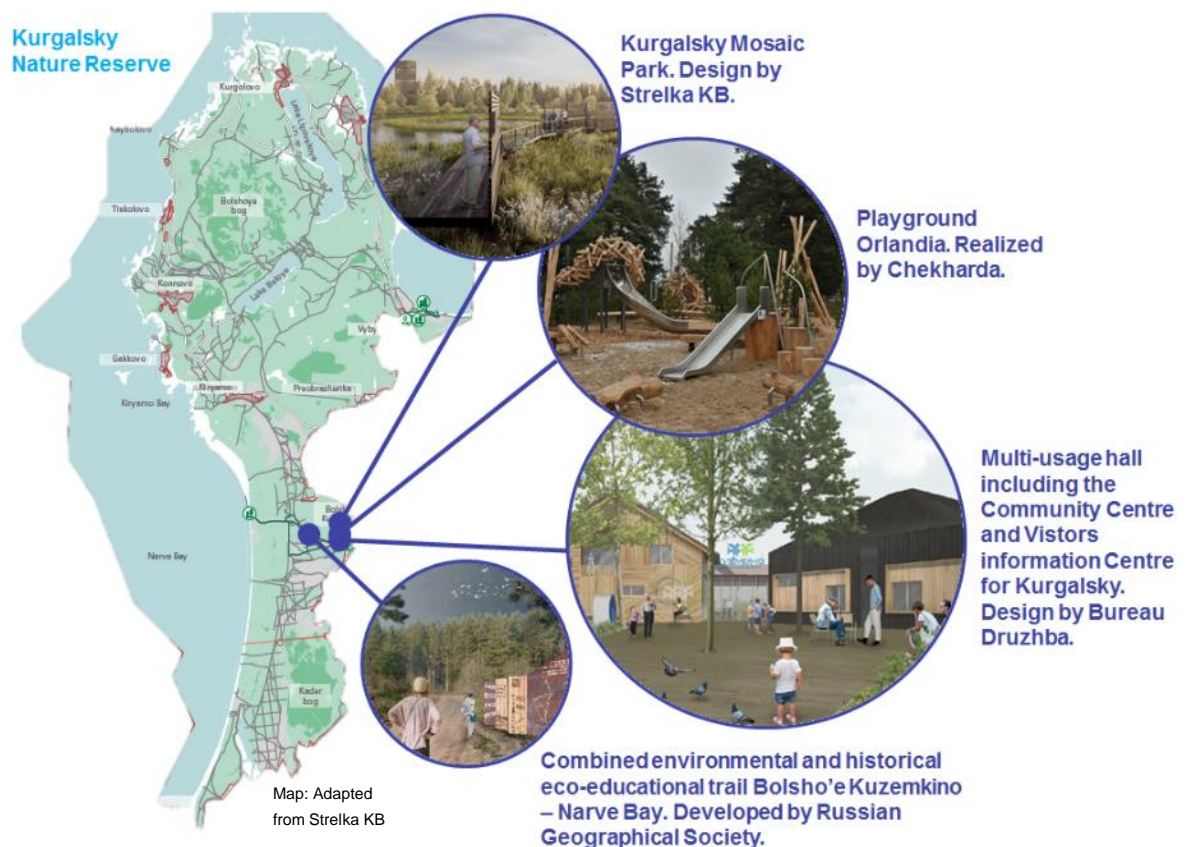


Bolshoe Kuzemkino: Transforming a settlement to benefit people and nature

- > Nord Stream 2 has promoted **several initiatives in the village of Bolshoe Kuzemkino**, the closest community to the construction site.
- > The initiatives aim to **improve the quality of life** of the community and to **raise awareness of environmental issues and biodiversity** protection.
- > Combining a **community centre** with an **information centre** for the **Kurgalsky Nature Reserve**, as well as an **educational trail** through the reserve, is a tangible example of **synergy between social and environmental investments**.

The **village of Bolshoe Kuzemkino** is located on the border of the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve and is the primary entrance to the reserve in the south. Kuzemkino is a small settlement of 1,000 inhabitants. However, in the summer its population doubles due to seasonal visitors, mainly dacha owners. About two-thirds of the rural population of the Project's immediately affected area live in Kuzemkino, just about 3 kilometres away from Nord Stream 2's project site. As there are no industrial enterprises or significant businesses in the village, it experiences no development and most of its population works outside the village. About 50 percent of the permanent population is listed under vulnerable groups consisting of children and elderly people. The identity of the settlement strongly resonates with its proximity to the reserve.

Since 2018, Nord Stream 2 has engaged in a number of small-scale initiatives to support Kuzemkino, building trust with the local community and acquiring a better understanding of the needs of its population. Two examples include the removal of illegal waste and the improvement to the kindergarten under the ECo-I programme. It soon turned out that the settlement was ready for larger-scale infrastructure initiatives, and that it has the potential to become a showcase for the ECo-I approach of combining social initiatives with biodiversity conservation initiatives, to achieve an even bigger overall impact for both people and nature.



Infrastructure in progress near Bolshoe Kuzemkino.

In 2019, in partnership with the Chekharda Architectural Bureau and with the support of the Kuzemkino administration, we launched the initiative “Building Together”, aimed at **developing the settlement’s social infrastructure**. In the spirit of co-design and local participation and ownership, the zoning and future functionality for the village multi-usage community centre were developed. The **playground “Orlandia”** is the first component of the enhanced public spaces. The children of Kuzemkino were invited to the construction site to put the final touches to the playground, which opened in February 2020.



Finalising the playground “Orlandia” together with the children of Bolshoe Kuzemkino, February 2020.

During various engagement sessions, locals voiced the need for a community centre and sports facility. To develop the concept and design for the **multi-usage hall of Kuzemkino** and adjacent public spaces, we partnered with Druzhba Architectural Bureau. Three engagement sessions were held with the community to discuss the concept, giving locals direct input into its development. Besides community and sports facilities, the multi-usage hall will also accommodate the second **Visitors’ Information Centre for the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve**, given that about 30 percent of the total traffic flow to the reserve goes through Kuzemkino.

The area around the multi-usage hall will encompass an eco-technology, an alley of fame dedicated to historical events and veterans of the area, a community gathering point, and a youth and sports area. Construction is planned to start in 2021.

A participatory approach was pursued from the first steps. In the future, cooperation with key local stakeholders and capacity building activities will enable the community to take over operation and management of the multi-usage hall.

The Kuzemkino community centre and the Visitors’ Information Centre will also be the starting point for the **combined environmental and historical educational trail “Bolshoe Kuzemkino – Narva Bay”**. A network of well-preserved historical fortifications built in the 1930s, are found in the vicinity of Bolshoe Kuzemkino and inside the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve, including permanent gun emplacements, reinforced concrete pillboxes and dummy firing points in various states of preservation. We have partnered with the Leningrad Region branch of the Russian Geographical Society to develop and realise this 15.7-km trail. The trail will represent a kind of open-air museum in addition to helping visitors to discover the landscape, plants and wildlife of the reserve while outlining the precepts of nature conservation and directing visitors on a pre-defined route. The Russian Geographical Society has started the development of the trail, along with organising a local exhibition on veterans from the settlement. Additionally, ecological and environmental education activities will be organised around the eco-trail, including classes for the pupils of the



Krakolye school in Ust-Luga, and workshops for residents of Kuzemkino and the Youth Guide School for local children of middle and high school age, and more.

Nearby, the multi-usage hall, on a 15-hectare disused land plot, directly adjacent to the reserve and currently designated for industrial purposes, the **Kurgalsky Mosaic Park** is envisaged. The park will recreate habitats found inside the reserve and affected by the pipeline construction, therefore directly contributing to fulfilling Nord Stream 2's biodiversity offset requirements under the IFC PS. The park will become the reserve's cultivated extension, fostering similar types of natural environments with comparable ecological functionality, and thus enhancing the neighbouring reserve's environmental balance and biodiversity. The Park will also have eco-educational and recreational elements, such as educational trails and resting areas, aiming to attract visitors and enabling them to learn more about local biodiversity and ecosystem. Our ambition is to provide a less vulnerable alternative to the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve for visitors, better equipped for an array of leisure activities and capable of pulling some of traditional tourists away from the more sensitive areas of the protected territory.



Education and awareness programmes

- > Since 2018, Nord Stream 2 has supported a series of **environmental awareness and clean-up activities**, as well as two large scale **educational campaigns** focusing on environmental topics and the natural and cultural heritage of the Kingisepp District.
- > Overall, **more than 6,000 volunteers**, schoolchildren and activists have participated in the programme, and many more have been reached through public and social media outreach activities.
- > Looking ahead, Nord Stream 2 will continue to implement **environmental and cultural education programmes** around ECo-I topics and priorities.

Environmental and cultural awareness-raising activities and educational programmes benefit the population of the Kingisepp District and the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve alike. Environmental education especially aims to support the local population and activists to become agents of positive change for their environment, with a focus on the reserve. Since 2018, Nord Stream 2 has supported five Clean Beach campaigns, and two large-scale environmental and cultural educational programmes focused on the schoolchildren of the Kingisepp District: "My Kurgalsky" and "My Land":



An overview of educational and awareness programmes.

“Clean Beach” and “Make it Clear, I am Responsible!” campaigns

The international clean beach campaign, as part of **HELCOM's litter programme**, was launched in 2014. The aim is to clean up shores with volunteers, as well as raising public awareness of litter in the Baltic Sea and freshwater environments. In September 2018, the **Clean Beach environmental and educational campaign** was organised for the first time in the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve with the support of Nord Stream 2. Over 320 volunteers took part in the two-day initiative. Approximately 3 tonnes of waste were collected from the coastal areas of the Lipovskoye Lake and Narva Bay within the reserve.

In September 2019, Nord Stream 2 supported the second round of the Clean Beach campaign inside the reserve. More than 250 volunteers were engaged in the clean-up of around 30 hectares of the most polluted areas of the coastline and forest. Among the 11 tonnes of refuse collected, there were car parts, old television sets, household furniture and general litter, a third of which has now been sent for recycling. The event was also used for educational activities on the reserve, environmentally friendly behaviour, as well as waste and recycling.

A third Clean Beach campaign was organised in August 2020 combining water sport activities with environmental awareness-raising and waste cleaning. Over 60 participants took part in this event and a total of 5 hectares were cleared of waste.

Nord Stream 2 also supported the Clean Beach initiative in St. Petersburg in May 2018 and 2019. More than 500 people took part in each event, collecting over 300 bags of recyclable waste. The events included educational activities, including environmental quests and the establishment of information points on principles and practices of waste collection.

In September 2020, Nord Stream 2 supported clean-up events and soft patrolling of the reserve's territory by volunteers within the **“Make it Clear, I am Responsible!” eco awareness campaign**, driven by the Kingisepp-based NGO, Family Info Centre. About 150 volunteers took part in 5 clean-up events, clearing 120 hectares of the reserve's territory of waste, with the total weight exceeding 7 tonnes. The “soft” patrolling of the reserve by volunteers, who explained the value and sensitivity of Kurgalsky's precious features, was received very well by visitors to the reserve.



“Make it Clear, I am Responsible!” eco awareness campaign, September 2020.

“My Kurgalsky” Environmental Education Programme

The “My Kurgalsky” educational programme was realised by the St. Petersburg-based charity “Biologists for Nature Conservation” (also known as “Baltic Fund for Nature”), and aimed to raise environmental awareness among the local community through various activities. These included theoretical and practical classes in kindergartens and schools across the Kingisepp District, environmental field trips to the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve and group litter clean-up.

The project was launched in April 2019 with the participation of all 23 kindergartens in the Kingisepp District, over 1,400 children and the delivery of 46 interactive classes, focusing on the

values and vulnerability of the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve, as well as on the invasive and hazardous giant hogweed plant. 32 lectures followed in September with the participation of over 1,100 schoolchildren from 16 schools. 550 school children were engaged in the “Plant a Tree” contest on landscape design projects for their school backyards, using typical Leningrad area plants. Three-day family eco-camps with 40 participants were organised in September, providing the families with the opportunity to experience the reserve and enhance their knowledge and skills relevant for eco-conscious behaviour inside this valuable territory.

Three garbage clean-up campaigns were organised with the engagement of 542 people, during which 13 tonnes of waste were collected and 23 hectares of the reserve were cleared. The environmental campaigns united the efforts of volunteers and residents to preserve the unique nature of the Kurgalsky peninsula.



“My Kurgalsky” Programme: Clean-up event, September 2019.

“My Land” Cultural Education Programme

The comprehensive educational programme “My Land” has been realised in cooperation with the Leningrad Region branch of the Russian Geographical Society. The programme raised awareness among the local youth about the unique natural and cultural heritage of the Kingisepp District and the Outer Islands of the Gulf of Finland. It targeted Kingisepp’s youth and covered all schools in the district.

Over 2,000 children from 17 schools of the Kingisepp District took part in the programme during its first stage, participating in a series of workshops with experts. A creative research competition “We Know and Love Our Land” was also organised. A mobile exhibition, “The Lost Worlds of the Baltic,” dedicated to the Outer Islands of the Gulf of Finland was held in the Kingisepp’s schools, while an open-air exhibition “The Nature of the Leningrad Region” held in Kingisepp, Ust’-Luga, and St. Petersburg, was visited by over 30,000 people.



“My Land” Programme exhibition, July 2020.

During the second and third stage of the project, two scientific expeditions and two children's archaeological field studies to the Outer Islands of the Gulf of Finland took place. Scientists explored the islands and carried out seasonal field works. The archaeological expeditions were particularly engaging for children; the young researchers discovered an archaeological Bronze Age site, with fragments of ancient ceramics and the remnants of a fireplace on the Moschnyi Island. During the excavation of the first Kerstovo burial ground, rectangular stonework was discovered with calcined bones on its surface, as well as iron objects indicating that the site dates to the Roman age. The discovery drew attention to potential for studies by historians in the area.



“My Land” Programme expedition, July 2019.

The “My Land” conference, held at the Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences, wrapped up the programme’s results and impacts. Kingisepp District schoolchildren participated in real scientific research, delivering two collective reports at the conference on their participation in the archaeological excavations.

For the final stage of the programme in 2020 a photo album that was presented to participants during the Kingisepp Day celebrations. There was also an open-air exhibition with 15 double-sided stands featuring visuals on the programme and the unique natural and cultural heritage of the Kingisepp District and the Outer Islands of the Gulf of Finland.



“My Land” Programme: Book presentation, August 2020.

Looking ahead...

Nord Stream 2 will continue initiatives on raising environmental educational and awareness under ECo-I. These span across the different themes of the programme and contribute to both social development and environmental protection, bringing significant value to the company’s overall sustainability objectives.

The cooperation with the Leningrad-Region branch of the Russian Geographical Society (RGS) continues around the realisation of the **combined environmental and historical educational trail** inside the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve, starting in the village of Bolshoe Kuzemkino. This process will be accompanied by **environmental awareness and educational activities** for the local population with RGS. In autumn 2020, an exhibition on the local history was prepared together with locals and displayed in the settlement, focusing on the stories of local veterans. In 2021, RGS will deliver a number of lectures to pupils on environmental topics and conduct a Tour Guide School for local youth in the context of building the trail.

Nord Stream 2 has also launched the programme **“Kurgalsky – Reserved to be clean”** together with the Moscow-based NGO Ecocentre Zapovedniki. It will unfold in 2021, and deliver eco-educational events and activities to promote environmentally responsible behaviour among locals



and visitors of the reserve. In particular, the programme will raise awareness and aims to change people's behaviour with regards to littering inside the reserve. Multiple studies performed on behalf of Nord Stream 2 have shown that the issue of litter and refuse dumping must be addressed comprehensively from multiple perspectives, including outreach efforts to visitors, local population and seasonal dacha residents. The programme will encourage the spirit of volunteering and raise people's awareness on environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.



Indigenous peoples: Preserving the Izhorian culture and language

- > The majority of the **Izhorian ethnic group** live in the Leningrad Region, and nearly 40 percent of Russia's total Izhora population resides in the Kingisepp district.
- > The **Izhora Crafts and Language Centre**, one of the flagship community initiatives in line with Nord Stream 2's Policy on Indigenous People and IFC PS 7, has been operating successfully since 2019.
- > The **first and only modern children's book in both Russian and Izhorian languages** has been published.

Izhorians are one of the ethnic groups living in the Kingisepp and Lomonosov districts of the Leningrad region. According to the 2010 Census, 266 Izhorians were registered in Russia, with the largest number - 43 people - living in the village of Vistino, in the Kingisepp District. In 2009, the Izhorian language was included in the UNESCO World Atlas of Endangered Languages, as "under significant risk of extinction".

Even though a dedicated impacts assessment in line with the IFC PS7 has confirmed that Nord Stream 2 does not directly or indirectly impact the indigenous peoples, the company voluntarily supports the Izhora Museum in Vistino under the ECo-I programme, to contribute to the preservation of the language and traditions of the Izhorians.

Since 2018, we have supported the annual **Izhora Culture Festival** there. In 2020, Nord Stream 2 realised the **Izhora Craft and Language Centre**, right next to and in close cooperation with the museum. The centre provides visitors with opportunities to learn about traditional Izhorian culture and language, as well as master pottery skills. It can accommodate approximately 110 trainees working at potter's wheels and 150 students making clay whistles annually. At the official inauguration in March 2020, the Leningrad Region Governor, Alexander Drozdenko, joined the pottery class and made a traditional clay plate in honour of the event. In its first year of operation, about 300 trainees had an opportunity to work at the potter's wheels, 150 students made clay whistles, and the centre welcomed over 1,300 tourists and visitors to its lectures and workshops.



Izhora Crafts and Language Centre in Vistino, March 2020.

Nord Stream 2 has handed over the Izhora Crafts and Language Centre to the administration of Vistino. While the operation of the centre is fully covered by the local administration, the company continues to support it and the museum, and to help strengthen their expertise. Nord Stream 2 also plans to continue supporting the annual Izhora festivities.



Izhora Festival, July 2019.

The centre also displays the **children's book, "A Way to Magic"**, authored by a local Izhorian potter and published with the support of Nord Stream 2. Written in both Russian and Izhorian, it tells the story of an Izhorian boy who visits a pottery workshop and learns about the fascinating

occupation of a potter. Since its publication in July 2020, the book has been distributed among the schools and kindergartens in the Vistino, Ust'-Luga and Kuzemkino rural settlements, and during local events and celebrations. A passage from the book reads: *"And if you don't believe me, go to the pottery workshop and see everything with your own eyes."* Or, in Izhorian: *"A ku että uzo, tulkkaa pattuurin perttii ja näettä kaikkia omil silmiil..."*



The author with his book "A Way to Magic", July 2020.



Children's rehabilitation centre at the Kingisepp district hospital

- > A pressing need to **upgrade rehabilitation services for children with cerebral palsy** in the Kingisepp District has been identified together with the Leningrad Region governmental administration.
- > An innovative concept for the centre has been developed – **the centre will provide top-notch rehabilitation services for children** with long- and short-term needs, and offer regular services for families in remote rural areas.

There is an urgent need for high-quality, complex rehabilitation services for children in the Kingisepp District. Over 200 children with disabilities who require long-term rehabilitation services are registered in the district, among them 30 children with cerebral palsy. Many more children require short-term rehabilitation for issues such as accident injuries. This situation is combined with a lack of complex rehabilitation programmes in the Kingisepp District. Moreover, the affected



families often live in rural areas and face additional obstacles to accessing the limited services that are available.

Nord Stream 2 has joined forces with the Leningrad Regional Government and the P. N. Prokhorov Kingisepp Cross-District Hospital to establish an innovative Children's Rehabilitation Centre in Kingisepp. The centre aims to provide accessible, high-quality, multi-disciplinary long- and short-term rehabilitation services for all children in the Kingisepp District.

Aiming to have the facility serve as a model rehabilitation centre in line with the international standards and the provisions of recent Russian legislation, we have been aligning closely with the Leningrad Region Health Committee, as well as the Kingisepp Hospital to decide on the target audience, services and characteristics of the rehabilitation team. An expert advisor brought on board by Nord Stream 2 has developed a concept for the centre based on the findings of dedicated sociological research and best practices review. The centre is planned to be incorporated within the existing structure of the Kingisepp Hospital. A dedicated interdisciplinary working group will oversee its establishment.

The initiative also aims to include a mobile rehabilitation unit, with which the centre's medical staff can perform regular home visits to children in the rural areas. Operation is planned to begin in 2021, and will be integrated into the permanent centre once it starts its operation, and will complement en-bloc rehabilitation sessions there.



Small grants programme: “Power of Initiative – Our Region. Our Responsibility”

- > Kingisepp is the first district in the Leningrad region with a dedicated programme to support initiative groups and non-profits.
- > “Power of Initiative” has **catalysed the emergence of small initiatives from the community**: 13 presentations and trainings, 2 online webinars and 19 individual consultations have been delivered in the kick-off phase of the programme in support of applicants.
- > **64 project applications were received** in November 2020. **30 projects were selected** to receive financial support for their implementation.

“Power of Initiative - Our Region. Our Responsibility” empowers local communities to be active agents in positive change for their communities and their environment. It is designed to build community leadership and mobilise bottom-up actions to tackle issues of local importance. Small, community-driven projects are supported through grants, training and capacity-building. The

programme is based on the notion that environmental and social issues can be best addressed through actions that are designed, implemented and owned by the communities that benefit from them.



Power of Initiative training session for applicants, September 2020.

“Power of Initiative” launched in September 2020 after social diagnostics and assessment of Kingisepp District residents’ needs, which helped set the foundation for the design of the grants programme and define the focus areas. These span the ECo-I pillars and the objectives of Nord Stream 2’s approach to sustainability and encompass environmental protection, youth initiatives, sports, health and safety, improved public spaces, vulnerable groups, and culture and traditions. The programme’s concept was developed by the specialised Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). The awards consist of grants of up to €580 for community groups and €3,500 for non-profit or publicly-funded institutions. “Dobry Gorod”, a specialised St. Petersburg-based NGO with considerable experience in running grant awards, was brought on board to administer the programme. They provided applicants with consultations and trainings and will organise the project evaluation and selection process.

Some 64 project applications were submitted during the application stage in November 2020 - 19 from initiative groups and 45 from non-profit and municipal organisations. In February 2021 the Expert committee selected 30 winning projects, which will receive financial support to be implemented in 2021. The projects implemented under the umbrella of “Power of Initiative” will be monitored over several months. Submission of applications for the next annual cycle will start in September 2021.



Festivities and events for community development

- > Since the launch of the ECo-I programme, Nord Stream 2 has supported local festivities with meaningful contributions.
- > This fosters **trusting relationships with communities**, raises **awareness of social and environmental topics** under the ECo-I programme, and promotes **community cohesion and active leadership** locally.
- > During the Covid-19 pandemic, contributions to festivities shifted partially to an online format, allowing Nord Stream 2 to demonstrate continued support in challenging times.
- > **In 2020** alone, 20 NGOs were engaged and 14 community activists were involved in organizing the community events, reaching **4,800 participants**.

Upholding the principle of neighbourly relations, Nord Stream 2 has supported **local celebrations and festivities around national and local holidays** through our sponsorship initiatives. We have supported local celebrations during Victory Day, Father's and Mother's Day, Knowledge Day, Elderly Day, New Year's festivities and more. These contributions have helped to create platforms for bringing communities together and fostering their pride. We have combined our contributions with **educational and awareness raising components, promoting development and education in areas of public concern, as well as ECo-I topics**, through lectures, community activities, cultural performances and more. During 2020 Father's Day festivities in Kingisepp, for example, the "Ecolab" was set up to engage families in various activities around pro-environmental practices, local traditions and culture.



Father's Day, Kingisepp City, September 2019.



During the **Covid-19 pandemic**, we continued to engage with local communities on topics at the heart of the ECo-I Strategy: environmental sustainability, supporting vulnerable groups and community development. During the height of the pandemic, festivities support was shifted to online formats, while Nord Stream 2 supported the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and food packages to vulnerable groups of our neighbouring communities. The interactive social media campaigns were developed by the Kingisepp-based NGO Family Info Centre, continuing the tradition of supporting the May festivities for local communities in the Kingisepp District, while raising their awareness on good environmental practices and preservation of historical memory.

The online contest **“Make it clear, I’m responsible”**, a digital precursor of the clean-up and volunteer patrolling campaign under the same name, ran from May 1 to June 15, 2020 and was organised to mark the Labour Days. The goal was to raise environmental awareness and engage communities in a conversation on the topic. It motivated people to share their experiences and success stories via social media on taking personal responsibility for the environmental practices at home and in the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve. 58 applications outlining pro-environmental were received and five winners were selected by the jury to be awarded bicycles, while 30 other finalists received eco bags. The 10 best green eco-tips for sustainable living and tourism are being compiled and published online. The online contest reached 72 percent of VK.com users from the Kingisepp District, with 151,000 unique viewers, 702 likes and 45 reposts.

The **“Generations Dialogue” Online Media Campaign** was launched on May 9, 2020, marking the 75th anniversary of the Victory Day. It was aimed at promoting family values and care for elders, while bringing together old and young in the Kingisepp District in a conversation about the memories of the World War II generation. It encouraged families to retain family memories and values of the older generation through interviews. Thirty-five emotionally compelling life stories of 35 veterans from Kuzemkino and Ust'-Luga were recorded, posted in the social media accounts of the local Kingisepp communities and compiled in online and print editions. 81 percent of the VK.com users from the Kingisepp District were reached, with over 175,000 unique viewers, 1,214 likes and 37 reposts recorded, as well as posts and articles on other social media platforms. The print editions were distributed among the participants and profile organisations, such as schools, libraries, museums and administrations.



Life Stories Book for Generation's Dialogue, May 2020.

While festivities support is planned to be continued under the ECo-I programme for some time, we take care to ensure that benefits to the community last beyond the lifecycle of the company's support. In this context, our partner NGO Family Info Centre has delivered trainings for local activists and engaged community leaders in first-hand event organisation. In 2020, 22 active local experts and leaders were trained over two days in organising events. Moreover, an Event Planning Manual has been prepared and distributed as well to provide another tool in aiding the practical implementation of community initiatives in the future.



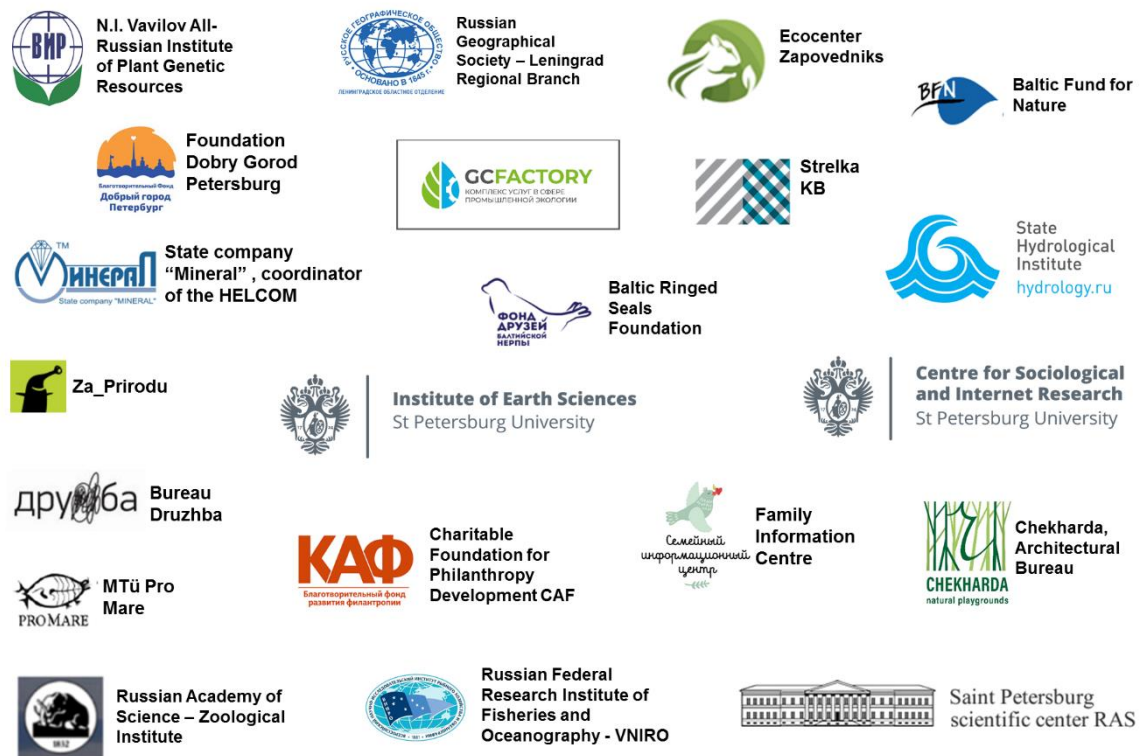
4. Stakeholder engagement – at the heart of decision making

The ECo-I strategy aims catalyse long-lasting positive change for the Kurgalsky Nature Reserve and people of the Kingisepp District. It also addresses the challenge of realising measures prescribed by the IFC PS in a way that is compatible with the local context. The essential features and success factors for initiatives include a solid basis of scientific research and assessments, design and execution with a broad network of competent and enthusiastic partners, and implementation following stakeholder consultation and engagement.

The programme takes place in cooperation with all relevant levels of the responsible public administration. On February 27, 2018, Nord Stream 2 signed a joint five-year **Cooperation Agreement with the Leningrad Regional Government**, which gave rise to a task force that has since met five times, proving to be an effective alignment mechanism for the initiatives with regional, district and municipal administrations.

The ECo-I Programme cooperates with a **large network of partner organisations and contractors** that are scientific, academic, public and private. And while Nord Stream 2 works with renowned scientific and academic institutions, it is also building the programme with local entities. This ensures that the programme stays rooted in the area and with the people it is meant to benefit, and will be carried into the future beyond our involvement.

ECo-I: Partnerships - examples



More concretely, and depending on the contents, scale and duration of an ECo-I initiative, several consultations and engagement sessions may be organised during its life cycle. Throughout this process, a strict governance and compliance framework is applied. Stakeholder consultations and engagement sessions, often conducted under the auspices of the administration in charge, along with the support of our partners and contractors, help obtain feedback that is taken into consideration during the conceptual and implementation phases of the ECo-I initiatives.

A **wide range of consultation and engagement forms** are used, ranging from informal recreational engagement, such as the case with children's involvement in the Kuzemkino playground construction activities, to formal consultation through round tables for the Visioning Study and Kurgalsky Mosaic Park, or public participation for the Enhancement of Public Spaces, Combined Historical and Educational Trail, and more. Opinion polls are yet another form of engagement, successfully used by the St. Petersburg State University during the Tourism Load studies and the architectural bureau, Druzhba, working on the multi-functional hall.

Even during the **Covid-19 pandemic**, we continued our stakeholder engagement uninterrupted, keeping those involved abreast of various upcoming initiatives, and consulting on design and implementation plans with them. New online engagement formats were employed successfully and efficiently. During 2020, all in-person activities were implemented with strict consideration for health and safety measures, promoting social distancing, mask wearing and the use of hand sanitiser.

Consulting the community on the ECo-I initiatives is just one part of our engagement. We go the extra mile to strengthen the community and its activists, creating opportunities for them to be not only the beneficiaries of the initiatives, but also proactive contributors through first-hand actions. Community development activities help them acquire and practice new skills, gain a sense of ownership of the initiatives, take responsibility for moving the initiatives forward and become hand-over implementation partners following Nord Stream 2's exit.



Stakeholder consultation and engagements: September 2019.



5. Initiatives Gaining Wider Recognition

In 2020 environmental and community initiatives of Nord Stream 2 were recognized by the judges of Russia's most respected and stringent CSR awards, including Leaders of Corporate Charity by the Russian Donors' Forum, People Investor Award by the Association of Russian Managers, and the Best Social Projects in Russia and Eco Best awards.

The ECo-I winning project were published in special awards' catalogues with the best corporate social responsibility practices in Russia to be shared with business and expert communities, as well as relevant governmental organisations.

The awards generated over 40 articles in federal and trade media, mentioning Nord Stream 2 among the most socially responsible companies with best CSR practices in Russia, significantly contributing to the development of social and environmental domains and benefitting both the society and nature.



For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.nord-stream2.com/>

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About Nord Stream 2 AG

Nord Stream 2 is a pipeline through the Baltic Sea, which will transport natural gas over 1,230 kilometres from the world's largest gas reserves in Russia, via the shortest route to consumers in Europe.¹ With an annual capacity of 55 billion cubic metres, the pipeline will enhance security of supply, support climate goals and strengthen the internal energy market. Natural gas transported by Nord Stream 2, will increase competition within Europe. Further, by making more affordable Russian gas available, the pipeline will not only create an appealing alternative to LNG imports, but it will also reduce overall import prices.²

Nord Stream 2 AG is the project company established to plan, construct and subsequently operate the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. Gazprom is the 100 percent shareholder of Nord Stream 2 and provides up to 50 percent of the estimated project cost. To ensure its long-term financing, Nord Stream 2 has entered also into financing agreements with leading energy companies such as: ENGIE S.A. (France), OMV AG (Austria), Royal Dutch Shell plc (UK/Netherlands), Uniper SE (Germany) and Wintershall Holding GmbH (Germany).

www.nord-stream2.com

¹ Natural gas currently has the second-largest share in the EU's energy mix, as the fossil fuel with the lowest greenhouse gas and particulate emissions. The greenhouse gas footprint from Nord Stream 2 will be more than two times lower than that of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporters.

² <https://www.nord-stream2.com/company/rationale/?modal=modal-8&tab=0>.