During the first year of project implementation such equipment was purchased: sound and lighting systems, LED screen and mannequins. Exhibition stands and equipment for craft exhibitions will be produced soon. All this equipment will give conditions for creating and combining a functional, aesthetic, innovative workshops and expositions open to the visitor, giving meaning to the old Lithuanian crafts. Arrangement of exhibits will allow the target group of the project to tell a coherent story of traditional crafts in a more compelling way, creating an emotional circle of history. At the same time, there will be an opportunity to present the exhibits in a modern, thematic space, filling the craft centre with an authentic cultural spirit. The centre will become a cultural, educational and attractive space for guests, with better opportunities to present traditional crafts for Lithuanian and foreign tourists. This is especially expected to affect young people who, having become acquainted with the old craft traditions, will want to engage in the craft themselves and at the same time contribute to the preservation of the old craft traditions.

LED screen

Mannequins

Sound system

Lighting system

Planned repair works of Upytė Craft centre building were done successfully (see photos: „before“ and „after“).

Before

After

Before

After

On 6th of July, 2021 at 4 p. m. creative workshops under the name „Weave your own ribbon!“ for the public will be organized at Upytė Craft Center (Ėriškių str. 16B, Upytė, Panevėžys district) and near Upytė Mound. The creation of a ribbon as an element of Lithuanian national costume will take place there.

It is planned to organize theoretical trainings for craftsmen in Anykščiai during August–September, 2021 with one of the project partners – Anykščiai Art Incubator. These trainings will be on the use of creative design and new technologies in creating craft products and services for tourists, branding of crafts for better visibility and recognition and digital solutions for craft dissemination as well.

Latgale Planning Region as a Lead Partner, together with 5 project partners – Preili County Council (LV), Balvi County Council (LV), Dobele Adult Education and Business Support Centre (LV), Anykščiai Art Incubator – Art Studio (LT) and Panevėžys District Municipality Administration (LT) – is implementing project of the Interreg V-A Latvia – Lithuania Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020, which directly contributes to the Programme Priority 1: Sustainable and clean environment through cooperation, and its Specific Objective 1.1. To increase number of visitors to the Programme area through improving and developing cultural and natural heritage objects, services and products.

The overall project objective: *stimulate sustainable use of traditional skills in craftsmanship by preserving and promoting it as a common feature and joint tourism product of the cultural and historical heritage of the Latvia-Lithuania cross-border area that could attract the interest of tourists.*

Project implementation period: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022.

The Interreg V-A Latvia – Lithuania Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 aims to contribute to the sustainable and cohesive socio-economic development of the Programme regions by helping to make them competitive and attractive for living, working and visiting. The webpage of the Programme: www.latlit.eu. Official EU webpage: www.europa.eu.

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