**The questions:**

1. Why was the project needed?
2. Why was the EAFRD project funding important for your business?
3. What types of benefits has the project created (business, social and environmental)?
4. What was the biggest challenge involved and how did you overcome the challenge?
5. Do you have any plans for new rural development projects linked to this one?

**The answers**

**AgnėBarcevičienė:**

1. The idea of a garage came to my husband. He was interested in cars since he was a child and he always wanted to develop his own car business. So in 2003 we bought a piece of land in Vilnius area next to road to Molėtai. And we both started to think about bringing the dream of my husband into reality. Step by step we managed to build the garage.The work took time. As long as the economy was stable it was not so bad, but as we got the necessary permits to start implementing our plans, the economic crisis started. But we decided not to put anything on hold as we were not sure how long the crisis will last and what will happen another ten years later. The project and EU support was needed to finish the auto service garage.
2. The funding allowed us to keep developing the business and we were able to open the garage in 2009. As it was the peak of the economic crisis we wouldn’t have opened the garage this quickly without funding.
3. We sent two applications – one for the purchase of equipment, the second one – for the purchase of equipment and development of infrastructure.The financing from the first application allowed us to purchase the more valuable equipment (value – 300.000 lt). The second application allowed us to develop the infrastructure – setting up the paved road, creating the website of the company, purchasing other necessary equipment, for example - computers. The funding had an effect on our business. It also allowed us to create a more employee friendly environment. At the moment we are very proud of our staff and the conditions they work in.
4. The biggest challenge involved was to implement the project accordingly to all of the requirements. The documentation and other administrative tasks were too complicated for us. But we dealt with it by hiring consultants. As the amount of money was quite big we wanted to avoid the administrative hurdles that would come with such responsibility. We were very glad we did that, the work of consultants was really valuable.
5. As the support of EU was really effective and helped to boost our business we would like to implement new projects if the need arises and if we develop new ideas about developing our business.