LIFE ORGBALT NEWSLETTER

"Demonstration of climate change mitigation potential of nutrients rich organic soils in Baltic States and Finland"

IN THIS ISSUE

Abbreviations

EU - EUROPEAN UNION
GHG - *Greenhouse gas*
LULUCF - *Land use, land use change and forestry*

Welcome to the fourth edition of the LIFE OrgBalt project newsletter that highlights the project's progress so far. We are proud to see that the development of demonstration sites is finished and the first results from data collection can already be drawn. We are also happy that the project is reaching an even wider audience, for instance participation in United Nations COP26 with our own side event and explanation of depth-to-water maps broadcasted on TV in Latvia.

Interested in what else the LIFE OrgBalt has achieved this far? Read further to get the latest updates on the LIFE OrgBalt activities, developments and events!

THE LIFE ORGBALT PROJECT TEAM

WHERE DO WE STAND?

It has already been more than a year of active implementation of the LIFE OrgBalt project. All demonstration sites have been developed, with regular greenhouse gas (GHG) fluxes and other environmental data collection g. At this point, with full year of measurements the work on data analysis can begin, to contribute to ongoing work with development and testing climate change mitigation methods adapted in the demonstration sites and contributing to improve of GHG inventory system.

Collecting the data of GHG fluxes and other environmental variables in the demonstration and reference sites is a complex task, which is executed with state-of-art methodology. A deeper look into the measuring process will be provided in informative materials to be released soon. For example, a short documentary on the measuring process is in the making, describing the importance of on-site data collection for improving the calculations of GHG fluxes.

Moreover, active work continues in the field of socio-economic analysis of the project activities and adoption of the project results in policy documents. To execute the socio-economic analysis, costs regarding demonstration site development and maintenance are calculated and information that regards other socio-economic indicators is being gathered.

LATEST EVENTS

LIFE OrgBalt organized side event at the COP26 widely attended

IOn November 8, 2021, LIFE OrgBalt partners – Michael Succow Foundation and Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava – organized the side event at the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 Peatland Pavilion “Organic soils and peatlands in the Baltic countries: Mitigation measures & monitoring, paludiculture and Carbon farming approaches”.
Access the OrgBalt presentation

LIFE OrgBalt scientists take part in the technology and innovation festival in Latvia

On September 4, 2021, at the Technology and innovation festival Mehatrons 2021 in Jelgava, Latvia, the LIFE OrgBalt experts – researchers from the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies – presented the LIFE OrgBalt project and presented one of the project's demonstration sites.

LIFE OrgBalt scientists participated CAR-ES forest network seminar in Iceland

OrgBalt scientists joined meeting and seminar organized by Nordic-Baltic network of forest research organizations (CAR-ES network) in the most forest-rich part of Iceland October 5-7, 2021. Latest research findings and ongoing research in the Org Balt were presented in the online seminar, and excellent field excursions on-site were true learning experience on trees, forests and forestry in Iceland made in the past and current work made for the future.

New national project initiated in Estonia to assess GHG fluxes

LIFE OrgBalt scientists from University of Tartu have initiated a new national research project (2021-2023) to assess GHG fluxes from ditches of peatland drainage systems with different land uses. Some of the studied ditches are located at OrgBalt study sites and thus perform as value-added supplement to increase our understanding of full carbon cycle and its dependence of climatic conditions in drained peatlands.

Depth-to-water maps explained on the Latvian TV channel RĪGA TV24

On July 3, 2021, on Latvian television channel RĪGA TV24 program “Would Have Know” Jānis Ivanovs, LIFE OrgBalt expert and scientific assistant at the Latvian State Forest Research Institute “Silava”, talks about the depth-to-water maps developed in the project, how they were elaborated and where they can be used.

Watch the interview here

Project achievements discussed at the 4th LIFE OrgBalt Steering Group meeting

On June 29, 2021, the 4th Steering Group meeting of the LIFE OrgBalt project was held to introduce international stakeholders with the project progress during the first half of 2021.

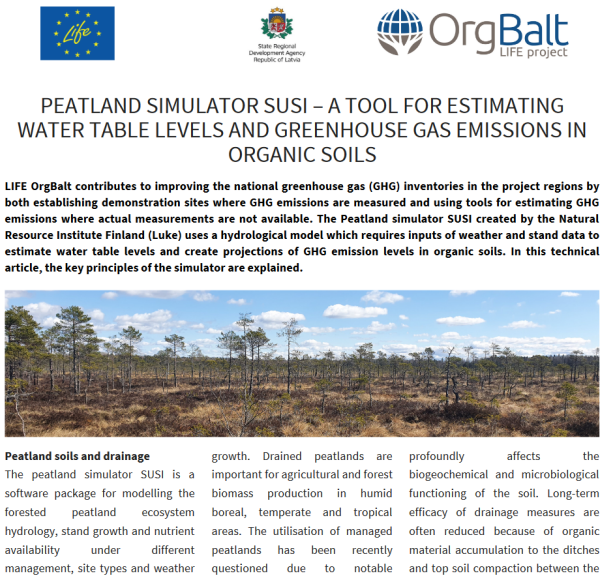
Access the presentations here

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

Information for practitioners: Peatland simulator SUSI

The Peatland simulator SUSI created by the Natural Resource Institute Finland (Luke) uses a hydrological model which requires inputs of weather and forest stand data to estimate water table levels and create projections of GHG fluxes from organic soils. In this technical article, the key principles of the simulator are explained.

Read the full article



PEATLAND SIMULATOR SUSI – A TOOL FOR ESTIMATING WATER TABLE LEVELS AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN ORGANIC SOILS

LIFE OrgBalt contributes to improving the national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories in the project regions by both establishing demonstration sites where GHG emissions are measured and using tools for estimating GHG emissions where actual measurements are not available. The Peatland simulator SUSI created by the Natural Resource Institute Finland (Luke) uses a hydrological model which requires inputs of weather and stand data to estimate water table levels and create projections of GHG emission levels in organic soils. In this technical article, the key principles of the simulator are explained.

Peatland soils and drainage

The peatland simulator SUSI is a software package for modelling the forested peatland ecosystem hydrology, stand growth and nutrient availability under different management, site types and weather growth. Drained peatlands are important for agricultural and forest biomass production in humid boreal, temperate and tropical areas. The utilisation of managed peatlands has been recently questioned due to notable profoundly affects the biogeochemical and microbiological functioning of the soil. Long-term efficacy of drainage measures are often reduced because of organic material accumulation to the ditches and top soil compaction between the

Climate change mitigation and adaptation: two different, yet inseparable strategies to tackle climate change

In the light of the current human made climate crisis, it is crucial to employ several approaches to adjust to the impacts of climate change and to reduce the causes of climate change. Within the LIFE OrgBalt project, experts and practitioners explore various practices for adaptation and mitigation in the agriculture and forestry sectors in the project regions. The article explains the meaning of both strategies and their implementation within LIFE OrgBalt.

Read the full article

Climate change: why should we care?

Climate change is partly driven by human activities and affects our live and that of future generations. It is up to us to make a change for a liveable future on earth. In this article climate change is explained from a LIFE OrgBalt project view.

Read the full article

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

Duration: 08/2019 - 08/2023
Project code: LIFE18 CCM/LV/001158
Total PROJECT budget: 3 360 948 EUR
EU LIFE funding: 1 844 004 EUR

The LIFE OrgBalt project aims to improve GHG reporting data (activity data and emission factors) available for nutrient-rich organic soils. Furthermore, the project aims to identify and to demonstrate sustainable, resilient, and cost-effective climate change mitigation measures applicable in nutrient-rich organic soils and to provide tools and guidance for the elaboration, implementation, and verification of the results of climate change mitigation policies. The project is implemented by eight partners from five EU Member States – Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland and Germany and unites representatives from public administration institutions, and scientific and non-governmental organizations.

FIND OUT MORE!

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To receive our newsletter send us an email or submit a request on our project website

info@baltijaskrasti.lv

The Project "Demonstration of climate change mitigation potential of nutrient rich organic soils in Baltic States and Finland" (LIFE OrgBalt, LIFE18 CCM/LV/001158) is implemented with the financial support of the LIFE Programme of the European Union and of the State Regional Development Agency of the Republic of Latvia. www.orgbalt.eu