

REPORT

ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

DEMONSTRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION MEASURES IN NUTRIENTS RICH DRAINED ORGANIC SOILS IN THE BALTIC STATES AND FINLAND

WORK PACKAGE

REPLICABILITY TOOLS

(C5/1)

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LIFE OrgBalt compiled the first regional Baltic/Finnish GHG emission factors for managed nutrient-rich organic soils (current and former peatlands), which have been made available for the customary scientific review and further verification for national GHG inventories in the hemiboreal region in Finland and the Baltic countries. While the project analysed selected CCM measures for drained organic soils in agriculture and forestry and developed spatial models and tools, it also identified remaining knowledge gaps. To bridge the remaining limitations and fill the gaps, it is essential to continue GHG measurements and model development, as well as to broaden and complete the scope of the evaluated CCM measures in the after-LIFE-project period, notably by including rewetting and restoration of peatlands that are currently considered to be among the most recommended CCM measures on drained peatlands in the EU. In addition, the developed Simulation and PPC models still include limited macroeconomic considerations and lack an assessment of all environmental impacts. For all these reasons, these models should be used carefully in CCM strategy development for the identification of gaps in climate neutrality transition policy and funding frameworks and need further optimization for broader applicability as decision-making tools.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

PPC	Private Public Communication
CCM	Climate Change Mitigation
GHG	Greenhouse gas
LBTU	Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies
MA	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia
BC	BALTIC COASTS Association
SILAVA	Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava"
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
KPI	Key performance indicators

INTRODUCTION

The goal of this brief analysis is to provide an update on the activity that have been carried out and the ones that are planned in the next future in order to train individual stakeholders, policy makers, consultant organizations, institutions and NGOs on the functioning and main contents of the PPC model and the Simulation models developed respectively under Action C4 and C5 of the LIFE OrgBalt project. A first short analysis of the application's requirements and of potential solutions for the organization of these events was made at the beginning of the project while developing the [LIFE OrgBalt Communication strategy and Replicability Plan](#).

As the PPC model was further developed and deeper analysis started both at internal levels with all partners, in particular with the Ministry of Agriculture (MA) and the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LBTU), and at external level, with stakeholders and consultant organizations, to outline the main contents of the workshops and the main target groups. Synergies between the PPC model and the Simulation model, but also differences, were investigated in order to understand how to divide training workshops' contents and targets and how to train interested stakeholders at best. The main results of this analysis with some first structured general proposals for the organization of training workshops were presented to partners during the 21st progress meeting which took place at the University of Tartu on 13 June 2023. During summer 2023 individual meetings with each partner country followed. Concerns, suggestions, first draft plans were collected and shared during the 22nd progress meeting where an even more structured general proposals for the organization of the training workshops was presented and discussed. During the meeting which took place in Helsinki on 31 August, partners concern, restrains and proposals were shared so to agree on a general coordinated overall structure.

Further in this document the main objectives and proposed contents of the training workshops will be described together with a summary of the application requirements in this respect. The results of individual meetings with partners which took place in July and August 2023 will also be summarized. The analysis ends with a draft timeline of the next steps to be taken and on the expected outcomes.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS: OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The goal of the planned training workshops is to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of both the PPC and the Simulation models and equip them with the skills to apply it in practical scenarios and /or to further train interested users. Below a schematic summary of the requirements set by the LIFE OrgBalt project application:

- Training sessions: 2 different target groups addressed events per country, 10 in total.
- Target:
 - consulting and advisory organisations
 - individual users
- Format: two one-day events including training activities
- Output: 500 individuals reached through targeted training sessions and other events. This target is better unpacked and clarified in the KPI report (last version submitted in 2022).
 - A total of 300 professional is expected to be reached through training events, educational events, networking activities and the final conference.
 - A minimum of 25 participants is expected for each organized national (10 events in total, 2 per partner country) and training event (10 events in total, 2 per partner country).
- Training materials: training materials should be elaborated in English and translated into the five official languages of the participating countries – Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian, Finnish and German.

THE PPC AND SIMULATION MODELS: A SHORT DESCRIPTION

In order to better understand the characteristics of the two models, which will be the main focus of the training workshops, a short description is provided below.

The PPC model is based on the analysis of seventeen scientific scenarios derived from seventeen climate change mitigation (CCM) measures which have been implemented on sixteen demo sites within the LIFE OrgBalt project's partners' territories. Thirteen demo sites are located in Latvia and three are located in Finland. An additional CCM measure has been taken from the project LIFE REstore. Each scenario derives from a combination of existing characteristics divided at first by type of land (agricultural land, forest land, wetland) and consequently into two data input levels (first and second), which eventually provides specific financial and socio-economic indicators for each CCM measure which can be applied on the given land plot. First level input will define the type of CCM measure that can be implemented on a given territory. They include land type, land use, management system and drainage system. Second level input will return financial, economic and socio-economic indicators to estimate the environmental, financial and socio-economic benefits of each CCM measure that will be evaluated as applicable under the given conditions. For a detailed description of the model and a first analysis of its results see the documents "C2/5 - Methodology for socio-economic analysis of the proposed measures" and "C4/4 - Report on

economic benefits of CCM measures for nutrients-rich land management practices on farm level.

The Simulation model is a data-based tool for policy planning and decision making at regional and national level. It allows to evaluate the impact of climate change mitigation measures selected within LIFE OrgBalt project on socio-economic indicators and GHG emission reduction at national level for three Baltic States. The results of the model is not only an impact assessment but also a spatial location tool of GHG emissions reduction measures at the national and regional level.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS: STEPS TOWARD AN HARMONIZED APPROACH

ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS

On 26th April 2023 a meeting with the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre (LLKC) was organized to understand how the model could serve the agricultural and the forest sector. Support in disseminating the training activities among stakeholders and individual users was also discussed. LLKC welcomed the initiative and agreed to support its organization. The following main points were also discussed.

- A practical approach focused on the model's direct / indirect / long-term benefits was strongly suggested for the workshops to be useful for land owners in addition to organizations and institutions.
- It was also suggested to focus on opportunities rather than obligations and to foresee an information campaign in autumn 2023 (articles, press releases, video) to promote the workshops in advance.
- The possibility to include the model on the LLKC webpage to make it available to a larger audience after the end of the project was also introduced.

During the summer individual meetings with all project's partners took place precisely in July and August 2023 to evaluate all concerns and constrains and understand how training could be organized in the most homogenous way, while taking into consideration all partners feedbacks and requests along with application's requirements. Before the meetings a first draft structure was shared to discuss both organisational and content issues and to identify the need of potential deviations from the application's requirements. The final goal was to have a main defined training events structure with minimum requirements that should be met by all partners keeping a flexible approach both from a logistic and a content point of view. The following main contents, to be divided among the two planned events basing on the identified target audience were shared and discussed:

A. THEORETICAL PART

- a. Theoretical introductions on the project's achieved results also focusing on their potential implementation into policy documents
- b. Presentation of the PPC model: the model backgrounds and objectives
- c. Presentation of the Simulation model: the model backgrounds and objectives

B. PRACTICAL PART

- a. Training session on how to use the PPC model and how to interpretate results
- b. Training session on how to use the Simulation model and how to interpretate results

C. FINAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- a. Feedback, assessments (needed improvements to make the models more useful for final users, how to disseminate the models, transferability potential, etc.) collected through post-It Note feedbacks, brainstorming sessions, questionnaires, etc.

The following organisational aspects were also proposed and discussed:

- a) Training events' deadline: February (1st training) - April (2nd training) 2024
- b) Objective: present the project's final results, present the two models, provide participants with the skills to apply the model in practical scenarios.
- c) Format: two training events per country, ten in total, addressing different target groups (a minimum of twenty-five participants on an average is desirable). Training events will be organized in place or online basing on available resources and might be combined with other events to ensure networking and to not overload stakeholders.
- d) Target audience: it was agreed to divide the target audience by sector (forest / agricultural) or by expertise / role. In any case the direct (by the project's expert) or indirect (through consultant organisation) training of both consulting and advisory organisations and individual users should be ensured.
- e) Training materials: Video tutorials in English with subtitles and presentations in English and Latvian will be provided by LBTU and BC.
- f) Speakers and trainers
 - a. SILAVA / MA
 - b. BC
 - c. LBTU
 - d. Partners experts / Institutional representatives
- g) Logistic organization: for workshops to be held in Latvia the logistic organisation will be ensured by BC and MA. For workshops to be held in

partner countries, each partner is responsible for the organization of the event and the involvement of stakeholders, institutions, consultants' organization and all final users potentially interested. BC will coordinate the whole task to ensure a harmonized approach and to provide partners with all the necessary support.

RAISED ISSUES

Below a short summary of the main issues raised by partners during individual meetings.

- The possibility to organize the two workshops in cooperation with other projects and within the framework of already organized events was raised. The proposal seems to be perfectly understandable and should not compromise the objectives of the workshops, but should rather ensure higher participation from stakeholders who would be less overload with events and information.
- The partner LUKE requested to organize the first workshop already in November 2023. Since the reason is related to the possibility to organize the webinar in synergy with the JustFood project with which the LIFE OrgBalt project is already cooperating, and since this solution would ensure the participations of landowners which would be otherwise difficult to reach with a separate event, this option has been considerate as feasible. A presentation of the model and its main contents and objectives was shared. Training materials will be provided later on and presented during the second workshops which will be organized in Spring 2024.
- Being the PPC model's results and possibly also the Simulation model's results more Baltic based some partners might organize only one meeting more addressed to consultant organizations and NGOs were possible modification and future implementation of the model will be discussed, rather than focusing on concrete results. The model will be however further tested by partners to see if some scenario's results might apply to their conditions (at least at a general level). The creation of "plastic" pilot cases to present results for the specific country conditions will also be considered.
- Language barriers: some partners highlighted the risk of having a lack of involvement if the seminars will be held in English. Speakers will provide all the needed support and are ready to give presentations in English. However local experts can decide to provide themselves information on the models in the local language. A "train the trainers" approach can be implemented to provide partners with all the necessary information and materials where needed.
- Private owners' involvement: concerns have been shared on the difficulties encountered in involving stakeholders. The project experts will work with consultant organizations to identify the best approach, making the training

workshops a real occasion to know more about future policy requirements, colleagues' experiences, national and EU current policy plans and so on.

CONCLUSION

So far partners have been worked together to balance application requirements with stakeholders' needs and with specific country-related issues (e.g., lack of data on that specific country). The PPC model has been discussed and revised several times to make it more user-friendly and to improve the input base. As a result, the original structure has been simplified and data have been updated with the last results on GHG emissions. The training workshops come to the end of the models building process to provide final users with tools for the evaluation of the required investment and the financial and economic return of the CCM measures applied within the project. These events will also be an occasion to collect feedbacks on the model functioning and on the usefulness of the provided results.

More meetings have been planned both among partners and with consultant organizations to discuss how to best organize training workshops and to understand how the PPC model and the Simulations model could best serve all involved stakeholders.

Preparation meetings will also take place, if necessary, before each training workshop. All further developments, a description of the organized workshops and a summary of all gained feedbacks will be reported in the document "Final framework for training sessions for individual stakeholders for application of the developed tool" to be developed by June 2024.