

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

REPORT

ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

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

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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 document is to provide a framework 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. It is built on the basis of the draft report No. 2023-C5/1 "Interim draft report on development of Framework for training sessions for individual stakeholders for application of the developed tool". The final report includes updates made to the planned framework and specific dates of the national and training workshops planned in spring 2024.

PPC model and Simulation tool are finished and they will be presented within training workshops in each partner country at external level, with stakeholders and consultant organizations participating and providing feedback. 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 contents of the training workshops are described together with a summary of the application requirements in this respect. The framework includes information the next steps to be taken, dates of planned workshops and on the expected outcomes.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS: OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The objective of the 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 is a schematic summary of the requirements set by the LIFE OrgBalt project application:

• <u>Training sessions:</u> 2 events for different target groups per country, 10 in total.





- Target:
 - o consulting and advisory organisations
 - o individual users
- <u>Format:</u> two one-day events including training activities
- Output:
 - 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).
- <u>Training materials</u>: training materials will 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 of GHG emissions reduction measures at the





national and regional level, but also spatial location of the GHG emission reduction measures.

The Simulation tool assesses the effects of various economic activities and policy decisions in agriculture and forestry on profit, employment, and GHG emissions. The concept of the Simulation tool is shown in Figure 1. Initially, agricultural and forestry data collection is conducted to create a detailed land use data layer for each polygon (Step 1). Subsequently, data collection for organic soil is done (Step 2). Following the creation of agricultural, forestry, and organic soil data layers, this data is used to generate working files for three Baltic States including only those agricultural and forestry areas located on organic soil (Step 3). Then, an area is cut from the working files for each potentially applicable scenario based on predefined area selection criteria (Step 4). Finally, the impact assessment on profit, employment, and GHG emissions resulting from scenario implementation is conducted (Step 5).



Figure 1. The flowchart of Simulation tool.





TRAINING WORKSHOPS: STEPS TOWARD AN HARMONIZED APPROACH

ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS

It was agreed upon the following organisational aspects:

- a) Training events' deadline: May 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) <u>Format:</u> 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 National Workshops to ensure networking and to not overload stakeholders.
- d) <u>Target audience:</u> 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) <u>Training materials</u>: 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) <u>Logistic organization:</u> 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.

First round of National Workshops (5 events in total, 1 per country) were held in 2020. One of the Training Workshops for Finland was held in 9.11.2024. because there was a possibility to organize the webinar in synergy with the JustFood project with which the LIFE OrgBalt project is already cooperating, and since this solution was perceived to 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 workshop which will be organized in May 2024.

As the PPC model's and also the Simulation model's results are more Baltic based, it was agreed to organize only one combined workshop in Germany more focused on consultant organizations and NGOs were possible modification and future implementation of the model will be discussed, rather than focusing on concrete results.

Due to possible language barriers it was decided that workshops in Finland will be presented in Finnish. Speakers will provide all the support and materials necessary for those presentations. In such manner a "train the trainers" approach will be implemented.

Event type	<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>
Training Workshop on PPC	<u>4.04.2024.</u>	<u>Latvia</u>
<u>model</u>		
Combined National and	<u>8.04.2024.</u> (10:00-12:00	<u>Estonia</u>
Training Worshop on	<u>EET)</u>	
Simulation model		
Training Workshop on PPC	<u>8.04.2024. (13:00-14:00)</u>	<u>Estonia</u>
<u>model</u>		
National Workshop	<u>10.04.2024.</u>	<u>Latvia</u>
Combined National and	<u>12.04.2024.</u>	<u>Germany</u>
Training Workshop on PPC		
and Simulation models		
Training Workshop on PPC	<u>17.04.2024.</u>	<u>Lithuania</u>
<u>model</u>		
Combined National and	<u>19.04.2024.</u>	<u>Lithuania</u>
Training Workshop on		
Simulation model		
Training Workshop on PPC	26.04.2024.	<u>Latvia</u>
and Simulation models		
Combined National and	30.05.2024.	Finland
Training Workshop on PPC		
<u>model</u>		

Further events are planned as indicated in the table below.





STRUCTURE OF WORSHOPS/TRAININGS

- 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 (at least in one workshop per country): the model backgrounds and objectives
 - c. Presentation of the Simulation model (at least in one workshop per country): the model backgrounds and objectives
- B. PRACTICAL PART
 - a. Training session on how to use the PPC model and how to interpret results (at least in one workshop per country)
 - b. Training session on how to use the Simulation model and how to interpret results (at least in one workshop per country)
- 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.

CONTENT PART

Additionally to the information provided in the short descriptions section on the PPC and the Simulation models, their presentations include brief information on aims for developing those models, their contents, methodologies, formats, information on results and how to interpret them. Practical use of both models will be demonstrated as well. The PPC model will be presented by BC, but the Simulation model will be presented by LBTU. The only exception considering raised concerns regarding potential language issues is Finland where materials will be provided for LUKE to enable provision of presentations in Finnish.

Beside theoretical and practical presentations on both models, each Training workshop will be introduced by general information about the LIFE OrgBalt project presented by SILAVA. This presentation will include information about the project partners and countries involved, idea of the project and its aims, brief background information on organic soils and emissions, tools/models elaborated as well as the main results and demonstration sites.

National workshops and also trainings workshops in Latvia include MA presentation. Within the framework of the LIFE OrgBalt project, the MA is working on the inclusion of climate change mitigation measures in national strategies and action plans with the aim of contributing to the achievement of the LULUCF and climate targets of the





agriculture sector. MA, together with other relevant ministries, is working on the development of National Energy and Climate Plan, the proposals of The EU carbon removal certification framework, Nature restoration regulation and others.

EVALUATION/FEEDBACK

Evaluation of the workshops will be done through survey of participants. Two types of surveys are prepared. One of those is elaborated by LUKE and focuses on participants' opinions on suitability of different CCM measures. The other survey was prepared for assessment of previous LIFE OrgBalt project events to receive feedback on the contents and presentations of each event. Additionally, any crucial questions, comments or suggestions from the participants will be noted in a brief report on each of the events.

