



KESKKONNAMINISTEERIUM



LIFE IP CleanEST report on the
organisation of International
Project meetings in Phase I of the
Project (Action E.2)

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Ministry of the Environment, Water Department

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Abbreviations

RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
KeM	Ministry of the Environment
KAUR	Estonian Environment Agency
IP	Integrated Project

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Introduction

This report is a deliverable for action E.2 „Networking with other projects and participation in external events“. The aim of this report is to provide an overview of the networking activities of the action E.2, its objectives, expected results, as well as activities during Phase I and planned activities for Phase II. Report on E.2 is to be prepared as a deliverable after every phase, for a total of five times during the Project.

1. The framework of the networking activities

The main aim of the networking activities is to exchange experiences and expertise with other projects. These include LIFE IP projects, LIFE projects and projects from other funding in local, national and in EU level working in the same field: implementing RBMP, cleaning up contaminated sites, reducing agricultural pollution load and building up fish bypasses. One objectives of the action is to ensure that the LIFE IP CleanEST Project is visible among other LIFE IP Projects at a European level. The Action connects to Project C and D actions, strengthening the Project expertise dissemination of E actions. Dissemination of the evidence-based expertise and sharing of the experience in capacity building, stakeholder involvement, project management procedures and development activities has many benefits. It gives an opportunity to replicate the practice both in RBMP level and in awareness level. It helps to reduce the cooperation weaknesses between different levels of government. There is complexity in different legal areas, different responsibilities in governmental and municipality administration areas. As a result, effective networking leads to concrete measures to achieve the goals set in River Basin Management plan. Networking is the key for unity.

1.1 Implementation of the Action

KeM is the coordinating beneficiary of the LIFE IP CleanEST Project and responsible of Action E.2 implementation. Project partners and stakeholders are involved in the action implementation. The ground was prepared during the Project application period. Contacts with LIFE projects from Finland, Sweden, Great Britain, Poland, Denmark, Belgium and Germany were established and kick-off took place in Finland in 2017. Experiences were shared with other projects as well. For example with Interreg Estonian Latvian ["Waterbodies without borders"](#). LIFE IP CleanEST has transboundary waterbody, river Narva in the Project.

The Action is divided into four combined action types. These are internal and external actions combined with national and International networking. Cooperation with complimentary actions is also linked to networking actions.

1.2 The implementation method

The activities of the action were initially mostly planned as contact meetings and seminars. Almost 30% of the Travel cost category was intended for the International secondments. Different traditional activity types such as attending to meetings, organizing them, giving presentations, performing with roll-ups, participating in panels were all planned for the project. Unfortunately, it was not possible to implement many of these activity types due to the COVID-19 situation. When COVID started, most of the actions were postponed. At least half of the year went by in a „hold“ status with all of the networking activities cancelled or postponed during 2020. The web-based solutions started to become common instead of contact meetings. Year 2020 left its mark on the meetings as well as to the planned budget.

2. The networking events in the first phase 2019 – 2020

The first phase of LIFE IP CleanEST included attending to different national and international events and networking activities and presenting the Project in seminars organized by the coordinating beneficiary KeM or by partners. The LIFE 17 IP-s kick-off meeting took place in Brussels in February 2019. LIFE IP CleanEST was represented in the meeting. The Project was represented in several seminars organized by NGOs, Universities, other LIFE projects and associations.

Annex 1 of this deliverable is the list of events including organizers, event names, types, places, representatives of LIFE IP CleanEST Project. Some events were cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 situation, but they are still included on the list of Annex because the LIFE IP CleanEST participation was planned regardless.

The representatives of LIFE IP CleanEST Project participated in other events as well and shared the information about Project in events break-out sessions or other formats. For example, project partner KAUR organized the meeting of the heads of European Environment Agencies in Tallinn in September 2019. LIFE IP CleanEST project manager participated in the meeting and made contacts for future networking.

Summary

Although COVID-19 has been affecting networking events, people have been showing initiative and resourcefulness on finding ways to network and communicate in order to share experiences and expertise. Web meetings have become a new normality starting from the second half of 2020 and the trend is still growing. Most used information sharing format in the first phase was the overall and activity based introducing of the LIFE IP CleanEST Project in seminars and similar networking events.

The preparation for Water IP European Network meeting started during the end of Phase I in December 2020. Swedish LIFE IP RichWaters was the organizer of the event. LIFE IP CleanEST Project gave its input to the topics formulation, including solutions for management issues such as planning cycle throughout phase; reporting and management tools; pillar approach; communication practices; political engagement to IP-s etc., as well as content topics such as in-situ technology use; diffuse pollution and stakeholder engagement. Report on the participation in the event will be presented in the E.2 Phase II deliverable.

As Phase I progressed, the focus shifted from introducing the project to sharing expertise and overviews of first study results. Phase II will further extend networking by focusing on specific topics such as diffuse pollution, ecosystem services, remote sensing solutions and cooperation in transboundary rivers.

Annex 1

List of networking events in LIFE IP CleanEST Phase I

Organiser	Event	Time	Place	LIFE IP CleanEST participants	Participation topic	Event type
Neemo LIFE Team	LIFE 17 integrated projects kick-off meeting	6.02.2019	Brussels, Belgium	Olav Ojala, Antti Tooming	LIFE IP CleanEST presentation	Participation in external events (international)
Public Union World Wide Fund for Nature Ukraine	National Amber Workshop	7.06.2019	Kiev, Ukraine	Olav Ojala	Development of an integrated water management and its modern tools in Estonia	Participation in external events (international)
University of LIFE Sciences	Seminar of Natura 2000 borealarea	14.10.2019	Tallinn Zoo, Nature Education Centre	Mari Sepp, Olav Ojala, Timo Kark	Introduction of LIFE IP CleanEST Project in seminar "Knowledge marketil". Roll-up, screen, videos.	Participation in external events (international)
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Baltic LIFE CAP seminar	7.-8.11.2019	Sigulda, Latvia	Olav Ojala, Timo Kark	LIFE IP CleanEST presentation	Participation in external events (international)
Estonian Environment Agency	Biodiversity Conference	13.11.2019	Tallinn Zoo, Nature Education Centre	Timo Kark	Migration Barriers in LIFE IP CleanEST project	Participation in external events (national)
Ministry of the Environment Estonia	Junior officials from Netherlands water institutions visiting Estonia	15.11.2019	Ministry of the Environment, Tallinn	Mari Sepp	LIFE IP CleanEST presentation	Participation in external events (international)

Projekt "LIFE Ecosystem Services" Latvija	"Value of Nature - practices and experiences in use of ecosystem services assessment"	15.01.2020	Riga, Latvia	Marko Vainu	Water ecosystem services in LIFE IP CleanEST project	Participation in external events; Networking with other projects (international)
Estonian Environment Agency	The working group of water habitats	27.01.2020	Environmental Board Office, Rakvere, Estonia	Timo Kark, Mari Sepp, Tatjana Rein Liisi Marits, Jekaterina Kärme	Katrin Kaldma, KeA CoastNet LIFE ekspert introduces the Pearl oysters restoration action plan in Mustoja and Altja river.	Networking with other projects (national)
KeM, LIFE coordinator (Krista Tõnisson)	LIFE projects introduction to KeM employees	9.03.2020	Ministry of the Environment, Tallinn	Mari Sepp, Tatjana Rein	LIFE IP CleanEST Project introduction; cooperation with other KeM LIFE projects.	Networking with other projects (national)
TLÜ, KAUR, NHF, Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Estonia	The Nordic Hydrological Conference 2020: Hydrology and Water-related Ecosystems	10 - 13.08.2020	Tallinn University	To be determined	The meeting was postponed till August 2022 due to the COVID situation.	Participation in external events (international)
Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic	International Conference Contaminated sites 2020	10 - 12.06.2020	Trnava, Slovakia	Olav Ojala	The meeting was cancelled due to the COVID situation.	Participation in external events (international)
SETAC	Setac Europe 30th International meeting	3-7 mai 2020	Dublin, Ireland	To be determined	Postponed due to COVID situation	Participation in external events (International)

Estonian Water Association	Veeühingu aastakoosolek	20.02.2020	Tallinn Technical University	Arvo Iital (presenter); Tatjana Rein, Harry Liiv (participants)	Agricultural Studies in LIFE IP CleanEST	Participation in external events (national)
Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities	Seminar for cities and municipalities	18.03.2020	Not determined	Andres Jaadla	Rakvere Soolikaoja ditc and contemporary City space as part of CleanEST Project. The meeting was cancelled due to the COVID situation.	Participation in external events (national)
Lithuanian Ministry of the Environment	LIFE programme information days	23.04.2020	Web (364 viewers)	Timo Kark	The use of LIFE programme in Estonia and LIFE IP CleanEST presentation	Participation in external events (international)
Water Quality working group	Working Group meeting	8.07.2020	Rakvere, Estonia	Vallo Kõrgmaa (other CleanEST partners); Risto Hiljanen, EHP Environment OY (Finland)	Soolikaoja Study (Vallo Kõrgmaa); knowledge sharing about Finnish monitoring systems	Participation in external events (national/international)
PurFest (NGO Puritse Development Centre)	Purtse and Erra restoration information day	31.07.2020	Outdoor event (30 participants)	Tatjana Rein, Raimo Jaaksoo	LIFE IP CleanEST projekt presentation to local people and stakeholders	Participation in external events (internal)
Baltic LIFE CAP	Intruduction of Baltic LIFE projects	August 2020	Estonia	Olav Ojala	LIFE IP CleanEST tutvustus	Participation in external events (riigisisene)

Ministry of the Environment, Estonia	Estonian Water Commission annual meeting	10.12.2020	Web	Mari Sepp, Tatjana Rõõm	LIFE IP CleanEST concluded actions in Project I phase and planned actions for II Phase	Participation in external events (internal)
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