

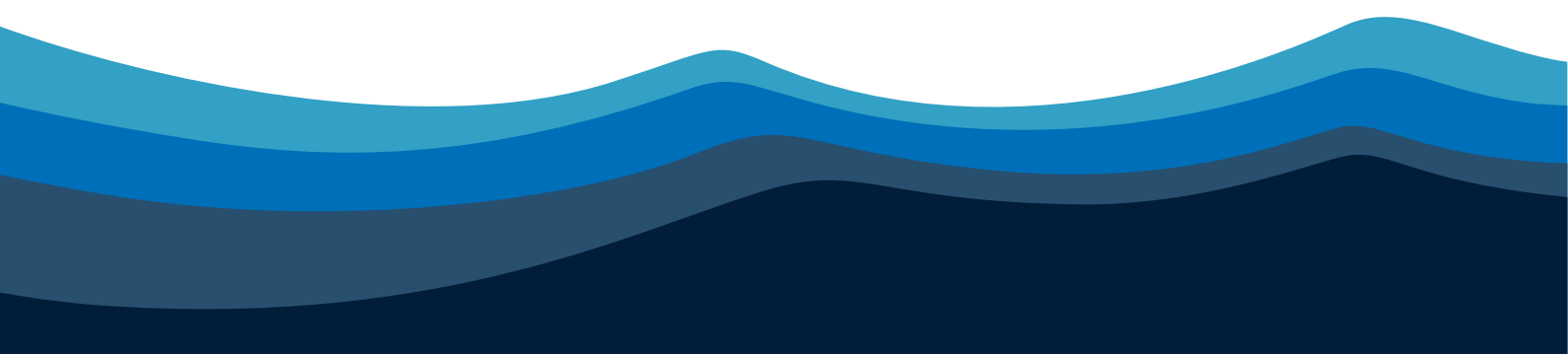


REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE



LIFE IP CleanEST International Conference Report (E.8)

Tallinn 2023



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Summary

The LIFE IP CleanEST International Water Management Conference, organized by the Estonian Ministry of Climate under the CleanEST project, convened in Narva, Estonia, from October 24-26, 2023. This significant event brought together stakeholders, experts, and policymakers from 15 countries to address contemporary challenges in water management. The conference, held at Narva Town Hall, featured a diverse program with presentations, panel discussions, and practical workshops focusing on topics such as digital innovation, funding opportunities, environmental education, and the implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMP).

The conference's primary objectives were to enhance water management efficiency, share knowledge, and increase awareness of environmental issues. The venue's choice, Narva Town Hall, added a historical and cultural dimension to the event, creating a unique setting for networking and collaboration.

Sessions on October 25th explored digital innovation, funding opportunities, and environmental education, with renowned experts providing insights. Workshops on October 26th delved into Nature-Based Solutions, migration route challenges, raising environmental awareness, and coordinating RBMP implementation. The dynamic program allowed participants to engage in hands-on activities, discussions, and collaborative forums.

Additionally, participants had the option to embark on site visits to Aidu Quarry or the Põlula Fish Rearing Center, gaining firsthand experiences of the project's activities.

In summary, the LIFE IP CleanEST conference successfully achieved its goals by fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and providing practical solutions for sustainable water management. The combination of informative sessions, engaging workshops, and site visits contributed to a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in modern water management.

Introduction

Under the Ministry of Climate, the LIFE IP CleanEST project prepared an international water management conference. Convening from October 24-26, 2023, in Narva, Estonia, the LIFE IP CleanEST international water management Conference brought together a diverse assembly of key stakeholders, experts, and policymakers representing 15 different countries. This gathering, organised within the framework of the LIFE IP CleanEST project led by the Estonian Ministry of Climate, was designed to confront the contemporary challenges of water management and unveil pioneering solutions.

The conference's objectives were threefold: to enhance the efficiency of water management, disseminate invaluable knowledge, and elevate awareness regarding issues intertwined with water management. With a thematic focus on promoting efficiency, knowledge-sharing, and heightened awareness, the event served as a platform for collaborative dialogues, fostering practical insights and novel approaches.

The multifaceted program encompassed a spectrum of activities, including presentations, panel discussions, hands-on workshops, and interactive engagements. The discourse throughout the conference revolved around the intricate impact of water bodies on the environment, avenues for funding water projects, and the imperative to propagate information and awareness for effective water management and environmental protection. Presentations and panel discussions dissected challenges, opportunities, and proposed solutions within the realm of water management, with a pronounced emphasis on the pivotal role of the green revolution.

This report serves as a comprehensive overview, about the key facets of the LIFE IP CleanEST conference.

1. Objectives of the Conference

The aim of the conference was to elevate the efficiency of water management through a multifaceted approach encompassing knowledge sharing, collaboration, and heightened awareness of pertinent issues. One key focus was to encourage people to talk and share what they know about water management. Another major goal was to find solutions to the challenges we face with water today. The conference served as a meeting point for a diverse group of people —scientists, government workers, university representatives, and more. Making more people aware of the problems related to water and the environment was a significant aspect. In essence, the conference was like a big gathering where everyone came together to discuss and strategize on how to improve water management and share impactful advice.

The specific objectives outlined were as follows:

- Promote efficiency in water management through knowledge sharing and collaboration.
- Address challenges and opportunities in modern water management, with a particular emphasis on digital innovation.
- Increase awareness of issues related to water management and environmental protection.
- Facilitate dialogue and collaboration among participants from diverse backgrounds, including researchers, policymakers, and representatives from local governments and universities.
- Promote practical approaches for the development and sustainability of the field.

2. Venue

The choice of Narva Town Hall as the conference venue added a distinctive touch to the overall conference experience. Located at Raekoja 1, 20307 Narva, Estonia, this historical setting provided more than just a space for presentations; it became an integral part of the networking and collaborative spirit of the event.

The main room of Narva Town Hall was the epicenter of the conference, where participants gathered for keynote speeches, presentations, and panel discussions.

Adjacent to the main conference room was a dedicated space for lunch and coffee breaks. This area not only catered to the physical needs of participants with a variety of culinary offerings but also provided a casual environment for networking during breaks and lunches.

Narva Town Hall offered three additional rooms specifically designated for workshops. These smaller, more intimate spaces allowed for in-depth discussions and hands-on engagement with the presented topics.



Figure 1 LIFE IP CleanEST conference in Narva Town Hall

Beyond its functional aspects, Narva Town Hall's location enriched the conference experience by immersing participants in the local context. Situated in the heart of Narva, the venue provided a unique

opportunity for attendees to absorb the cultural and historical nuances of the town. This geographical connection added depth to the discussions.



Figure 2 The main room of the conference

3. Program of the Conference

The three-day conference offered a comprehensive exploration of water management issues, featuring a diverse range of activities and sessions. On October 24th, participants were welcomed with an evening gathering, setting the stage for networking and engagement.

The following day, October 25th, marked the main conference day, beginning with a morning kick-off that included perspectives from local authorities, government representatives, and European Commission officials. The morning session delved into the theme of "Modernizing Water Management Through Digital Innovation." Renowned experts shared insights on a water-smart society, digital transformation in water governance, and the significance of data-based reporting. The afternoon sessions focused on "Funding Opportunities in the Water Sector," featuring presentations on investment retrospectives, best practices, and discussions on leveraging data, knowledge, and finance for sustainable water management. The day concluded with a spotlight on environmental education's role in water management. The evening continued with a captivating lecture on Narva's history, a guided tour of the town's landmarks and dinner.

The third day featured workshops and a field day, providing practical knowledge and in-depth discussions. Workshop 1 explored "Harmonizing with Nature: Exploring Nature-Based Solutions in Water Management," emphasizing hands-on activities and presentations from experts on nature-based solutions. Workshop 2 addressed "Overcoming Migration Route Challenges: Strategies for Addressing Problematic Dams," offering insights into various countries' approaches to restoring migration routes through dams. Workshop 3, dedicated to "Raising Environmental Awareness in the Water Sector," engaged participants in hands-on activities and discussions on communication strategies and public awareness initiatives. Workshop 4, "Synchronizing Efforts: Coordinating the Implementation of River Basin Management Plans," provided valuable insights and experiences related to RBMP implementation, featuring a World Cafe Forum for collaborative discussions on critical questions.

The day continued with a site visit that offered participants two distinctive experiences. The first option led them to the scenic Aidu Quarry, where they had a hike amidst nature and an opportunity to explore a trail that will go for restoration by the project. Alternatively, participants could opt for a visit to the Põlula Fish Rearing Center, providing insights into the role it plays in introducing salmon to the project river.

For more detailed information on Agenda, please refer to Annex 1 and on Program, please refer to Annex 2.

3.1 October of 25th

The conference kicked off with a welcome and an opportunity for participants to network over morning coffee.

At the opening of the conference, Jaan Toots, Mayor of Narva, set the tone with a local perspective. Kaupo Läänerand, Deputy Secretary-General for Maritime and Water Affairs, provided insights from the Estonian Ministry of Climate. Mari Sepp, LIFE IP CleanEST project manager, outlined the conference's goals and objectives. Keynote speech by Veronica Manfredi, Director for Zero Pollution in the European Commission, enriched the audience with a broader European perspective.

The AHHA Science Theatre provided an engaging and interactive experience for conference attendees.

The conference concluded with closing remarks by Karin Kroon, Water Department Manager in the Estonian Ministry of Climate.

At 18:00, the evening program resumed with a lecture on Narva's history within the walls of Narva Town Hall. Participants had the privilege of delving into the topic of Narva's evolution, gaining a profound understanding of how this town's history intertwined with the broader context of water management challenges.

Following the lecture, participants went on a guided tour of Narva, to encounter with the town's landmarks and natural features. The tour included a visit to the scenic Narva River, a vital watercourse intricately linked to the region's environmental dynamics.

3.1.1. Session 1: Modernizing Water Management Through Digital Innovation

The morning session focused on digital innovation in water management, featuring presentations by renowned experts and a panel discussion on strategic transitions in adapting to the digital landscape. Durk Krol¹, Executive Director at Water Europe, delved into the concept of a water-smart society, exploring innovative strategies to optimize water management for sustainability and efficiency.

¹ [Water smart society - WE - Durk Krol](#)

Prabhu Chandrasekeran², Intelligent Water National Practice Leader at the International Water Association, provided insights into the digital transformation in water governance, emphasizing the role of technology in enhancing water management practices.

Sulev Tõkke³, Project Manager at the Estonian Environmental Board, highlighted the significance of data-based reporting in digitalized water management, showcasing its role as a pivotal component for informed decision-making.

In a dynamic panel discussion moderated by Johannes Tralla, experts such as Ott Velsberg, Prabhu Chandrasekeran, Oliver Grievson, Rivo Uiboupin, and Sulev Tõkke explored strategic transitions needed to adapt water management to the evolving digital landscape.



Figure 3 Session I Panel Discussion - Digital Innovation

²[An Analysis of Digital Transformation in Water Governance - Prabhu Chandrasekeran](#)

³[Data-based reporting - a key component of digitalized water management - Sulev Tõkke](#)

3.1.2. Session 2: "Funding Opportunities in the Water Sector"

Afternoon sessions delved into funding opportunities for sustainable water management. Presentations highlighted investment retrospectives, best practices in Baltic countries, and insights into funding opportunities.

Tanel Oppi⁴, Head of Grants and Services at the Estonian Environmental Investment Centre, retrospectively examined challenges and opportunities in investments for sustainable water management, shedding light on financial aspects.

Erik Kosenkranius⁵, from Estonian Environmental Board and Tomas Želvys⁶, from Lithuanian Ministry of Environment, presented best practices in data utilization and governance, emphasizing the value of information in effective water management.

Federico De-Filippi⁷, Project Adviser in CINEA European Commission LIFE Programme Environment and Climate Action, provided insights into navigating funding opportunities, offering a glimpse into CINEA's role in supporting water-related initiatives.

Panel Discussion, Leveraging Data, Knowledge, and Finance for Sustainable Water Management, was moderated by Vahur Tarkmees. This panel discussion involved Federico De-Filippi, Irina Smirnova, Kaupo Läänerand, and Tanel Oppi, exploring strategies to leverage data, knowledge, and finance for sustainable water management.

3.1.3. Session 3: "Water in Environmental Education: Information and Awareness"

The closing sessions of the day centred on impactful communication strategies and environmental education. Presentations covered translating data into action and introduced the BaltAqua project. The panel discussion emphasized the role of environmental education as a cornerstone in water management, featuring experts from various sectors.

⁴ [Investments for Sustainable Water Management - Tanel Oppi](#)

⁵ [Value of data and Good Governance, Best practices in Estonia - Erik Kosenkranius](#)

⁶ [Value of data and Good Governance, Best practices in Lithuania - Tomas Želvys](#)

⁷ [LIFE program Funding opportunities - Federico De Filippi](#)

Laura Cernahoschi⁸, a web and online communications expert in the European Environmental Agency, discussed effective communication strategies, highlighting the journey from data to actionable insights.

Franziska Meergans⁹, Project Manager in International Cooperation and Water Innovation Networks, presented the BaltAqua project, focusing on its contributions to environmental education and awareness.

The engaging panel discussion, Environmental Education as the Cornerstone of Water Management, featuring Franziska Meergans, Kristo Elias, Helin Haga, and Rob Collins, explored the pivotal role of environmental education in shaping water management practices and fostering engagement.

3.2. October of 26th

The second day featured workshops and a field day, offering participants practical knowledge and in-depth discussions. Participants had the opportunity to visit the Põlula Fish Rearing Center and Aidu Quarry.

3.2.1. Workshop 1: "Harmonizing with Nature: Exploring Nature-Based Solutions in Water Management"

Addressed the importance and applicability of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) in tackling environmental challenges related to water. This workshop served as a platform for in-depth discussions and presentations aimed at raising the importance of NBS and their extensive applicability in effectively addressing environmental challenges associated with water. The natural solutions utilise the intricate functioning of natural systems. Participants actively took part in hands-on activities designed to enhance their understanding of NBS. They had the chance to contribute to the creation of a floating wetland. This hands-on project allowed them to apply the principles discussed in the workshop. The creation of a floating wetland served as a representation of the collaborative efforts needed to restore and maintain the delicate balance between human activities and the environment. The floating wetlands will be used on the LIFE IP CleanEST waterbody to help with eutrophication.

⁸[Using data to create environmental impact, EEA's role in providing data and knowledge - Laura Cernahoschi](#)

⁹[Project BaltAqua - Franziska Meergans](#)

Olav Ojala¹⁰ offered a concise overview of Estonia's NBS. The presentation highlighted Estonia's innovative approaches to address environmental challenges, emphasizing the country's commitment to harmonizing with nature for effective water management.

Vincent Riozzi and Tom Gall¹¹ showcased successful NBS in the UK, presenting case studies that demonstrated the efficacy of these approaches in preserving and restoring water quality. Attendees gained insights into practical applications and tangible outcomes achieved through collaborative efforts.

Dalma Varga¹² explored the role of mining ponds in shaping landscape character, emphasizing the connections between mining activities and water ecosystems. The presentation highlighted potential environmental impacts and discussed management strategies to integrate mining activities into the broader environmental context.

Vallo Kõrgmaa¹³ focused on bioremediation as a tool for enhancing water quality. The presentation showcased successful applications of biological processes in improving water quality, emphasizing the alignment of bioremediation with nature-based solutions for sustainable water quality enhancement.

3.2.2. Workshop 2: "Overcoming Migration Route Challenges: Strategies for Addressing Problematic Dams"

Delving into the critical issue of migration route challenges posed by dams, Workshop 2 aimed to unravel concrete examples from diverse countries. The primary objective is to uncover effective strategies and solutions that strike a balance between the interests of various stakeholders while actively contributing to the restoration of migration routes through dams and fish passes. Workshop explored concrete examples from different countries and sought strategies for restoring migration routes through dams. This workshop included a dynamic forum for collaboration and knowledge exchange, bringing together expertise from various regions to collectively explore sustainable strategies for overcoming migration route challenges posed by dams.

¹⁰ [Estonian Nature base solution - Olav Ojala.pdf](#)

¹¹ [Harmonising with Nature Exploring Nature-Based Solutions in Water Management - The Rivers Trust - NBS](#)

¹² [Climate adaption with natural water retention measures at local and regional level - Dalma Varga](#)

¹³ [Bioremediation for Water Quality Enhancement - Vallo Kõrgmaa](#)

Annabel Runnel¹⁴ provided insights into the LIFE IP CleanEST dams, offering a comprehensive understanding of how the projects is tackling the challenges associated with dams. Attendees gained valuable knowledge about the environmental agency's efforts in promoting sustainable dam practices.

Meelis Tambets presented an overview pf the dams in Estonia that encompassed both challenges and opportunities. This presentation contributed to an understanding of the local context and the unique considerations involved in addressing migration route challenges.

Karin Olsson¹⁵ broaded the scope by providing insights into the Swedish perspective on dams. Furthermore, she delved into the LIFE Connects project, offering a comparative analysis of strategies employed in Sweden to address migration route challenges. This cross-country perspective enriched the discussion with diverse insights.

Pao Fernández Garrido¹⁶ presented a comprehensive overview of dams in Europe, delving into case studies that highlight challenges and innovative solutions. By drawing from experiences across the continent, the presentation provided a holistic understanding of the broader European context in addressing problematic dams.



Figure 4 Participants in the workshop II presentation session

¹⁴ [Overview of LIFE IP CleanEST dams - Annabel Runnel](#)

¹⁵ [LIFE CONNECTS Connecting rivers and people -Karin Olsson](#)

¹⁶ [Freeing rivers from barriers, what is happening in Europe - Dam Removal Europe - Pao Fernández Garrido](#)

3.2.3. Workshop 3: "Raising Environmental Awareness in Water Sector"

This workshop was dedicated to elevating environmental awareness within the water sector, emphasizing the value of water resources, the environmental repercussions of water use, and practical measures and solutions for addressing water-related challenges. Through the exploration of tangible examples and cross-country discussions, the workshop sought to foster a deeper comprehension of collaborative efforts among stakeholders, promoting sustainable and responsible water management.

During the workshop, participants were actively engaged in hands-on activities, providing them with a unique opportunity to apply the concepts discussed. Two key initiatives emerged, allowing participants to take an active role in addressing environmental challenges:

Participants were given the opportunity to conceptualize and design a campaign. Guided by insights from the workshop presentations, they harnessed their creativity to develop strategies that could effectively communicate the value of water resources and promote responsible usage. In addition to campaign creation, participants had opportunity to develop a comprehensive training program focused on agriculture.

Henry Linnard¹⁷ provided a comprehensive overview of communication strategies employed in the LIFE IP CleanEST project, highlighting how effective communication plays a pivotal role in raising environmental awareness. Attendees gained insights into successful communication initiatives in the project.

Vanessa Maria Vella¹⁸ shared insights into the implementation of a national water conservation campaign as a proactive water management measure. Additionally, Julia Bonello¹⁹ discussed the use of water efficiency labels as educational tools within the LIFE-IP RBMP-MALTA project, demonstrating innovative approaches to enhance public awareness.

The team from LIFE IP Rich Waters²⁰ delved into the crucial aspect of measuring and describing the social and economic effects of water measures. This presentation contributed to a holistic understanding of the broader impacts of water management initiatives.

¹⁷ [LIFE IP CleanEST project communication and environmental awareness rising - Henry Linnard](#)

¹⁸ [National water conservation campaign for the Maltese islands - Water be the change - Vanessa Maria Vella](#)

¹⁹ [The use of water efficiency labels as an educational and awareness raising tool - Julia Bonello](#)

²⁰ [Social and economic effects to justify water measures - LIFE IP RichWaters](#)

Annika Vesselov²¹ provided insights into awareness enhancement strategies at AHHA Science Centre, demonstrating playful methods to engage and educate the public about water-related environmental issues. This presentation aimed to inspire creative approaches for fostering environmental awareness.

3.2.4. Workshop 4: "Synchronizing Efforts: Coordinating the Implementation of River Basin Management Plans"

The primary objective of Workshop 4 was to deepen participants' understanding of the critical importance of implementing River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) and the significance of coordination in this endeavor. The workshop aimed to facilitate the sharing of experiences related to engaging diverse stakeholders and encouraged collaboration in the effective implementation of water management plans.

Reeda Iisma²² provided a comprehensive overview of RBPM, offering insights into the strategies and approaches employed by the Estonian Ministry of Climate. This presentation served as a valuable case study, allowing participants to gain a nuanced understanding of successful RBMP implementation within an Estonian context.

Uldis Bethers²³ presented the SWAT+ water quality and quantity modeling systems applied in Latvia and Lithuania. Participants had the opportunity to explore modeling techniques that contribute to effective decision-making in water management. The presentation showcased technological innovations supporting coordinated efforts in the implementation of RBMP.

Rob Collins²⁴ provided insights into England's Catchment Based Approach, illustrating a holistic strategy for water management. By sharing experiences from England, participants gained valuable perspectives on coordinating efforts and engaging stakeholders in a collaborative framework. The presentation highlighted successful approaches to aligning diverse interests towards common water management goals.

In a dynamic and interactive segment of the workshop, participants had the unique opportunity to engage in a World Cafe Forum. This forum provided a conducive environment for collaborative

²¹ [Awareness Enhancement Strategies at AHHA - Annika Vesselov](#)

²² [Overview of Estonian River Basin Management Plans – Reeda Iisma -Estonian Ministry of Climate](#)

²³ [SWAT+ water quality and quantity modelling systems for Latvia and Lithuania - LIFE IP GoodWater](#)

²⁴ [The Catchment Based Approach \(CaBA\) - Rob Collins](#)

discussions on four critical questions, each addressing key challenges and strategies in river basin management:

1. Low engagement: How to raise awareness and support among politicians for the river basin management plans?
2. Prioritization in water management: How to set priorities and how to justify (stakeholders, politicians, EC) prioritization when implementing River Basin Management Plans?
3. Stakeholder engagement: How to motivate target groups to implement water protection measures?
4. Technical solutions: How to initiate a toolbox for RBMP measures to ensure planning, handling, implementing, and controlling the measures?

3.2.5 Site visits

The day continued with a site visits- Both site visits provided participants with unique perspectives, allowing them to witness the tangible outcomes of the project's initiatives in environmental preservation and restoration. These experiences served not only to inform but also to inspire a deeper appreciation for the intricate balance between human activities and the natural environment within the project's scope.

Participants opting for the Aidu Quarry visit embarked on a captivating hike, immersing themselves in the natural beauty of the surroundings. The project's commitment to environmental conservation and trail restoration came to life as participants walked thru hiking trail. This site visit provided a firsthand look at the trail before the restoration.

For those choosing the Põlula Fish Rearing Center, the experienced a journey into the subject of salmon introduction to the project river. The center showcased the vital role it plays in supporting the life cycle of salmon. Participants gained valuable insights into the processes involved in nurturing and releasing salmon into the project river.

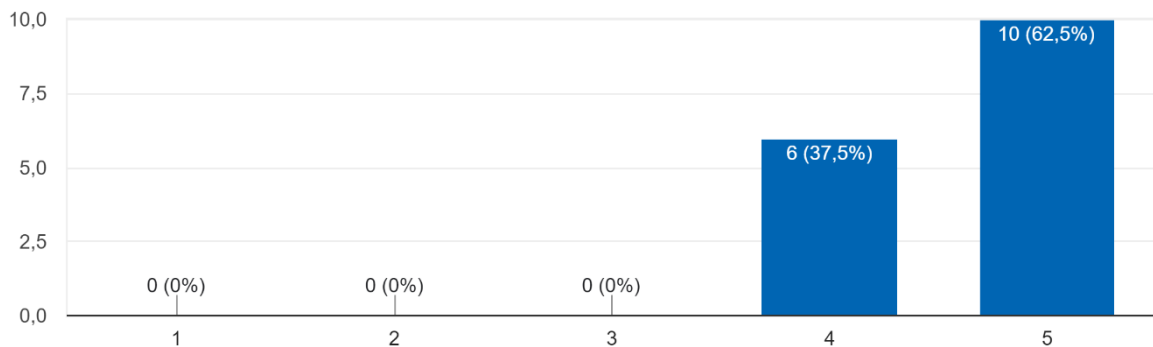
4. Participation and Feedback

For more information about feedback questionnaire, please refer to Annex 3.

Question 1

How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the conference on a scale of 1-5?

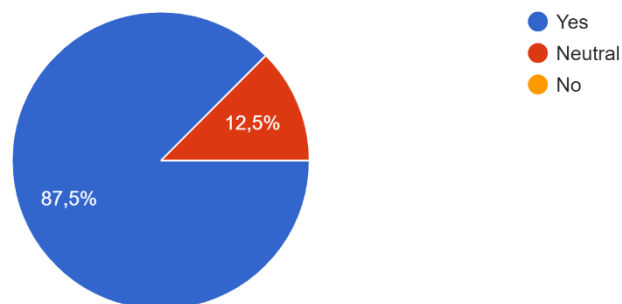
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Question 2

Did the conference schedule and choice of speakers meet your expectations?

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Question 3

What was the most useful topic or session you heard at the conference?

The most useful topic or session at the conference appears to vary based on individual preferences and interests. However, several recurring themes emerge from participants' feedback. Experiences with implementing River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and the application of nature-based

solutions garnered significant attention, with specific mentions of the BaltAqua project in Hungary and Estonia. The cleanEST topic and success stories from foreign projects also stood out as valuable sessions. Additionally, information and awareness-related topics, especially those focusing on water in environmental education, received positive feedback. The workshop on nature-based solutions in water management, as well as sessions on data processing and utilization, were highlighted for their practical insights. Moreover, specific mentions were made of the workshop on environmental education on Day 2 and the presentation by Prabhu Chandrasekeran. Overall, the conference provided a diverse range of valuable insights, catering to the interests of attendees across different domains within the water sector.

Question 4

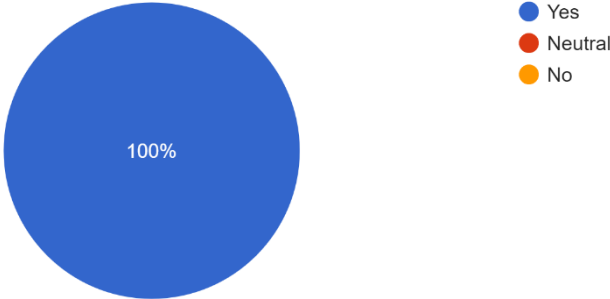
Which topic of the conference was of the least interest to you, and why?

The least interesting topics at the conference varied among participants, reflecting diverse professional backgrounds and individual interests. For some, presentations on dams were less relevant due to the absence of dams in their country. Similarly, digital monitoring, data management, financing, and IT topics were deemed less applicable to certain participants. The country-specific focus of discussions on funding opportunities in the water sector diminished their overall relevance for some attendees. Additionally, abstract or less familiar subjects, such as modernizing water management through digital innovation and the analysis of digital transformation in water governance, were mentioned as less engaging.

Question 5

Did you find any of the conference topics useful for your work or studies?

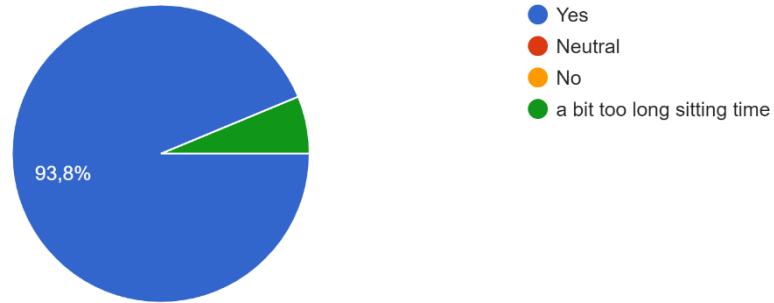
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Question 6

Was the conference schedule well planned and varied?

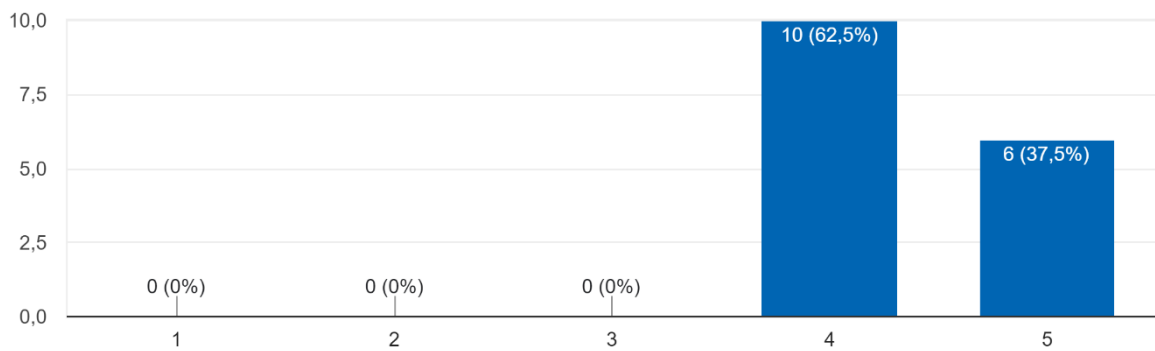
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Question 7

How would you rate the conference's organization and logistics?

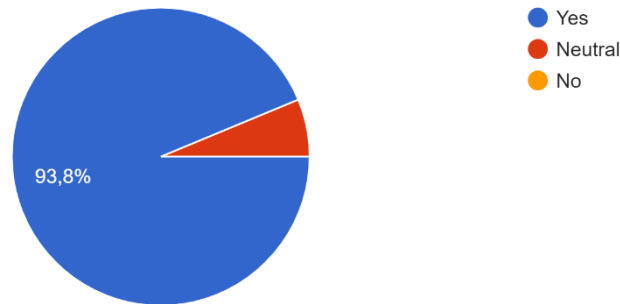
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Question 8

Would you recommend this conference to your colleagues and friends?

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Question 9

What are your recommendations for organising future conferences?

Recommendations were to enhance site visit clarity by specifying footwear and equipment requirements. Allocate more relaxation time between sessions for informal networking. Consistently communicate detailed agendas and logistics, including post-seminar activities. Increase interactive sessions for engagement and idea exchange. Proactively share information in advance to assist attendee preparation. Introduce small breaks between presentations to avoid fatigue. Minimize emphasis on gender in announcements for inclusivity. Ensure panel discussion preparation with advance questions. Provide detailed activity descriptions in the agenda for proper participant preparation.

Question 10

Do you have any additional comments you would like to share with the conference organizers?

The conference organizers received a variety of feedback from participants, encompassing both positive and constructive remarks. The general sentiment towards the event was overwhelmingly positive, with participants expressing gratitude for the well-organized field trip, engaging social program, and enlightening excursion in Narva. The Narvas history lecture in the conference room before venturing out was particularly praised for its informativeness and interest.

Numerous attendees thanked the organizers for their efforts, thanking both the guide and the entire organising team for contributing to the success of the event. The sentiment echoed was that the conference was a fantastic experience, with hopes expressed for future engagements.

Additionally, the AHHA Science Theatre received positive acclaim, described as "really nice and refreshing." The availability of vegan food at the conference was also appreciated, reflecting the organizers' thoughtful consideration of diverse dietary preferences.

Lastly, a participant commended the technical organization of the event, highlighting its impressiveness. The inclusive and thoughtful planning, coupled with engaging activities, contributed to the overall success of the conference. The participants collectively expressed their satisfaction and appreciation for the organizers' hard work, leaving a positive impression on the conference experience.

5. Connection to Project Actions

The conferences directly present results from project actions A, C and D and E.

Session I addressed elements of actions C1, C3, and C4, providing a platform to explore modernizing water management through digital innovation. It laid the groundwork for forward-looking discussions and strategies. Session II delved into C1, C3, C4, and D1, providing nuanced insights into funding opportunities in the water sector. Session III tapped into project actions A1, C1, C10 and E1, E3, E4, E5, this session seamlessly integrated impactful communication strategies and environmental education.

Workshop I included project actions C1, C2, and C8, providing a detailed exploration of key elements associated with NBS. Workshop II encompassed project actions C1, C11, C13, and D1, participants engaged in comprehensive discussions addressing challenges and opportunities in the realm of migration routes. Workshop III was linked to project actions A1, C1, E1, E3, E4, E5, by focusing on impactful communication strategies and environmental education, it underscored the project's commitment to disseminating knowledge and fostering awareness. Workshop IV was directly related to project actions C1, C3, C4, C10, C14 and D2, and cast a spotlight on the critical importance of coordinated efforts in implementing River Basin Management Plans.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Agenda



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE



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Agenda 25-26 October 2023

Wednesday, 25 October 2023 - Conference

09:00-09:30 Registration and Morning Coffee

09:30-10:15 Welcome and Conference Introduction

- ◆ **Jaan Toots** – *Mayor of Narva*
- ◆ **Kaupo Läänerand** – *Deputy secretary general for Maritime and Water affairs in Estonian Ministry of Climate*
- ◆ **Mari Sepp** – *LIFE IP CleanEST project manager in Estonian Ministry of Climate*

Keynote speech: **Veronica Manfredi** - *Director for Zero Pollution in European Commission**

Session 1: Modernizing Water Management Through Digital Innovation

10:15-10:40 Presentation: Examining the Concept of a Water-Smart Society
Durk Krol - *Executive Director in Water Europe**

10:40-11:05 Presentation: An Analysis of Digital Transformation in Water Governance
Prabhu Chandrasekeran - *Intelligent Water National Practice Leader - International Water Association*

11:05-11:20 Presentation: Data-based Reporting: a Key Component of Digitalized Water Management
Sulev Tökke - *Project Manager in Estonian Environmental Board*

11:20-12:00 Panel Discussion: Strategic Transitions in Water Management: Adapting to the Digital landscape

- ◆ **Ott Velsberg** - *Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications**
- ◆ **Prabhu Chandrasekeran & Oliver Grievson* - *International Water Association***
- ◆ **Rivo Üiboupu** - *Tallinn University of Technology*
- ◆ **Sulev Tökke** – *Estonian Environmental Board*

12:00-13:00 Lunch and Networking

Session 2: "Funding Opportunities in the Water Sector"

13:00-13:15 Presentation: Investments for Sustainable Water Management: A Retrospective on Challenges and Opportunities through Financier's Lens
Tanel Oppi - *Head of Grants and Services in Estonian Environmental Investment Centre*

13:15-13:45 Presentations: Value of Data, and Good Governance: Best Practices in two Baltic Countries
Erik Kosenkranius - *Deputy Director General in Estonian Environmental Board*
Tomas Želvys - *Senior advisor on water and subsoil questions Lithuanian Ministry of Environment*

13:45-14:00 Presentation: Navigating CINEA's Funding Opportunities in the Water Sector
Federico De Filippi - *Project Adviser in CINEA European Commission LIFE Programme Environment and Climate Action**

14:00-14:30 Panel Discussion: Leveraging Data, Knowledge, and Finance for Sustainable Water Management: *Moderated by Vahur Tarkmees*

- ◆ **Federico De Filippi** – *CINEA**
- ◆ **Irina Smirnova** – *Advisor of Narva Municipality*
- ◆ **Kaupo Läänerand** - *Estonian Ministry of Climate*
- ◆ **Tanel Oppi** - *Estonian Environmental Investment Centre*

14:30-14:50 AHHA Science Theatre

14:50-15:10 Café and Conversation



Session 3: "Water in Environmental Education: Information and Awareness"

15:10-15:40 Presentation: From Data to Action: Impactful Communication Strategies

Laura Cernahoschi - *Web and online communications expert in European Environmental Agency**

15:40-16:10 Presentation: BaltAqua project

Franziska Meergans - *Project Manager in International Cooperation and Water Innovation Networks*

16:10-16:45 Panel Discussion: Environmental Education as the Cornerstone of Water Management: How to Learn and Engage?

- ◆ **Franziska Meergans** - *International Cooperation and Water Innovation Networks*
- ◆ **Kristo Elias** - *Estonian Public Broadcasting*
- ◆ **Helin Haga** - *AHHAA*
- ◆ **Rob Collins** - *The Rivers Trust*

16:45-17:00 Closing Remarks

Karin Kroon - *Water Department manager in Estonian Ministry of Climate*

18:00 - 19:30 Site visit in Narva

19:30 - 22:30 Joint dinner



Thursday, 26 October 2023 – Workshops and Field day

9.00 – 12.00 Conference Workshops

Workshop 1: "Harmonizing with Nature: Exploring Nature-Based Solutions in Water Management"

Introduction: The workshop provides a platform for discussing and presenting the importance of natural solutions and their applicability in addressing environmental challenges. Natural solutions are based on mimicking and utilizing the functioning of natural systems to more effectively tackle the environmental issues related to water that we are facing.

- ◆ **Overview of Nature-Based Solutions in Estonia** - Olav Ojala - *Estonian Ministry of Climate*
- ◆ **A Showcase of Nature-Based Solutions in UK** - Vincent Riozzi & Tom Gall - *The Rivers Trust NGO*
- ◆ **The Role of Mining Ponds in the Landscape Character** - Dalma Varga - *LIFE LOGOS 4 Water*
- ◆ **Bioremediation for Water Quality Enhancement** - Vallo Kõrgmaa - *Estonian Environmental Research Centre*

Workshop 2: Overcoming Migration Route Challenges: Strategies for Addressing Problematic Dams

Introduction: To delve into this topic, we will explore concrete examples from different countries. Our aim is to discover strategies and solutions that can effectively balance the interests of various stakeholders while working towards the restoration of migration routes through dams.

- ◆ **Overview of LIFE IP CleanEST Dams** - Annabel Runnel - *Estonian Environmental Agency*
- ◆ **Overview of Dams in Estonia** - Meelis Tambets - *Wildlife Estonia NGO*
- ◆ **Overview of Dams in Sweden and LIFE Connects project** - Karin Olsson - *LIFE Connects**
- ◆ **Dams in Europe: Case Studies, Challenges, and Solutions** - Pao Fernández Garrido - *Dam Removal Europe**

Workshop 3: "Raising Environmental Awareness in Water Sector"

Introduction: The focus of this workshop is to enhance environmental awareness, focusing on the value of water resources, the environmental impact of water use, and effective measures and solutions to address water-related challenges. Through concrete examples and discussions from various countries, we aim to promote a deeper understanding of how different stakeholders can work together to ensure sustainable and responsible water management.

- ◆ **Overview of communication in LIFE IP CleanEST project** - Henry Linnard - *Estonian Ministry of Climate*
- ◆ **The implementation of national water conservation campaign as a water management measure** - Vanessa Maria Vella; **The use of water efficiency labels as an educational and awareness raising tool** - Julia Bonello - *LIFE-IP RBMP-MALTA*
- ◆ **Measuring and describing social and economic effects of water measures** - Rosita Ericsson, Lova Lind, Asta Gulijeva - *LIFE IP Rich Waters*
- ◆ **Awareness Enhancement Strategies at AHHA** - Annika Vesselov - *AHHA Science Centre*

Workshop 4: "Synchronizing Efforts: Coordinating the Implementation of River Basin Management Plans"

Introduction: The aim of the workshop is to deepen participants understanding of the importance of implementing the RBMP and the significance of coordination. Additionally, it seeks to share experiences regarding engaging various stakeholders and ensuring collaboration in the implementation of the water management plan.

- ◆ **Overview of Estonian River Basin Management Plans** - Reeda Iisma - *Estonian Ministry of Climate*
- ◆ **SWAT+ water quality and quantity modelling systems for Latvia and Lithuania** - Uldis Bethers, PAIC, University of Latvia
- ◆ **Overview of England's Catchment Based Approach** - Rob Collins - *The Rivers Trust*

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 17:00 Field trip

Bus 1: [Põlula Fish Rearing Center](#)

Bus 2-3: [Aidu Quarry](#)

17:00 – 20:00 Travel to Tallinn

Annex 2 – Program



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Programme

LIFE IP CleanEST project international conference “The Interplay of Water and Politics: Understanding the Influence of Water Management on Decision-making”.

Wednesday, 25 October 2023 – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Narva, Estonia

[LIFE IP CleanEST](#) is an integrated water management project led by the Ministry of Climate of Estonia, that focuses on improving the status of water bodies in Ida-Viru and Lääne-Viru counties of Estonia.



The seminar will be held in the project area in Ida-Viru county, Narva city and its surroundings in North-East Estonia.

Green – Tallinn

Red – Narva

For participants flying in, the airport is situated in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. Participants who travel by their own car, can drive directly to Narva. For those flying in can choose between taking a bus or a train from Tallinn to Narva.

Tickets and timetables for [trains](#) and [bus](#) from Tallinn to Narva.

Accommodation in Narva <https://www.visitnarva.ee/stay>

Programme

Day 0, Tuesday 24 October 2023 – Arrivals

We recommend participants who travel by plane to arrive to Tallinn by the 24th of October and then take a bus or a train to Narva to settle in a day before the conference. Informal welcome-gathering will be organised in Narva on the 24th of October from 19.00. Venue *TBD*.

Day 1, Wednesday 25 October 2023 – Conference

09.00 - 17.00 Conference at [Narva Town Hall](#) Please see Agenda file for more information.
18.00 - 19.30 Site visit in Narva
19.30 - 22.00 Joint dinner. *Venue TBD*.

Day 2, Thursday, 26 October 2023 – Conference and field trip day

09.00 - 12.00 Conference at [Narva Town Hall](#)
12.00 - 13.00 Lunch
13.00 - 17.00 Field trip by buses organised by LIFE IP CleanEST project for all participants
17.00 - 20.00 Departure from Narva to Tallinn with the same buses*





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*The bus stops in Tallinn Airport for participants wishing to start their journey home right after the conference. Participants continuing their stay in Tallinn will be taken to the city centre

*Participants who travel by their own car don't have to travel to Tallinn in case the Tallinn is not on their way to home

*Transport will be organised from field trip back to Narva for participants plan to continue their stay in Narva after the conference

If you wish to stay in Narva after the conference, more information about Narva can be found from official visitors website <https://visitnarva.ee/>

Public transport from Narva to Tallinn:

[Train schedule and ticket purchase website](#) | [Bus schedule from Narva to Tallinn](#)

[From Tallinn train station \(Balti Jaam\) to the Tallinn Airport](#)

[From Tallinn Bus Station \(Bussijaam\) to the Tallinn Airport](#)

*Please contact the project communication manager Henry Linnard
(henry.linnard@kliimaministeerium.ee) for any additional information or technical assistance.*

*Event held in the frame of the project LIFE IP CleanEST, project number: LIFE 17IPE/EE/000007,
<https://lifecleanest.ee/en>; Facebook: [@LIFEIPCleanEST](#)*



LIFE IP CleanEST Conference Feedback Questionnaire

* Viitab kohustuslikule küsimusele

1. How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the conference on a scale of 1- 5? *

Märkige ainult üks ovaal.

1 2 3 4 5

Very Very satisfied

2. Did the conference schedule and choice of speakers meet your expectations? *

Märkige ainult üks ovaal.

Yes

Neutral

No

Muu: _____

3. What was the most useful topic or session you heard at the conference? *

4. Which topic of the conference was of the least interest to you, and why? *

5. Did you find any of the conference topics useful for your work or studies? *

Märkige ainult üks ovaal.

- Yes
- Neutral
- No
- Muu: _____

6. Was the conference schedule well planned and varied? *

Märkige ainult üks ovaal.

- Yes
- Neutral
- No
- Muu: _____

7. How would you rate the conference's organization and logistics? *

Märkige ainult üks ovaal.

1 2 3 4 5

Poo Excellent

8. Would you recommend this conference to your colleagues and friends? *

Märkige ainult üks ovaal.

- Yes
- Neutral
- No
- Muu: _____

9. What are your recommendations for organising future conferences?

10. Do you have any additional comments you would like to share with the conference organizers?

Google pole seda sisu loonud ega heaks kiitnud.

Google Vormid