

ROADMAP

ON FOSTERING THE REPLICABILITY OF DEMONSTRATION AND PILOT ACTIVITIES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES



Prepared within the LIFE GoodWater IP
**Action C15.2. Fostering the replicability of demonstration and pilot activities in
 transboundary river basins**

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Roadmap on fostering the replicability of demonstration and pilot activities in neighbouring countries

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Background

Latvia has shared surface water bodies with two EU Member States – Lithuania and Estonia. The bi-lateral cooperation is endorsed by cooperation agreements between Ministries of the Environment of the countries signed in 2003. In practice, the closer cooperation between ministries and/or river basin management competent authorities take place during the development and updating of river basin management plans (RBMPs). During the LIFE GoodWater IP, the Latvian Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development (MoEPRD) and Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre (LEGMC) will update 3rd and 4th RBMPs.

Cooperation also takes place in the frame of the cross-border cooperation projects involving public institutions as well as researchers and municipalities. During the phase 1 of the LIFE GoodWater IP project the following cross-border projects are implemented:

Estonia:

- DAML - Daily Allowable Maximum Loads to decrease nutrient load to the Gulf of Riga, led by Estonian Ministry of the Environment (01.05.2020 – 30.04.22)
- Water act: Joint actions for more efficient management of common groundwater resources led by LEGMC (01.06.2020.-31.05.2022.)

Estonia is also implementing the LIFE IP CleanEST project (<https://lifecleanest.ee/en/>) that is focused on improving the status of water bodies in Ida-Viru and Lääne-Viru Counties.

Lithuania:

- TRANSWAT - Joint management of Latvian – Lithuanian transboundary river and lake water bodies (01.10.2020 - 30.09.2022)
- MEDWwater - Pharmaceuticals in wastewaters – levels, impacts and reduction (01.08.2020 - 07.04.2022)
- ESMIC - Estimation, monitoring and reduction of plastic pollutants in Latvian-Lithuanian coastal area via innovative tools and awareness raising (01.10.2020 - 30.09.2022)

Lithuania is implementing LIFE IP Nature project "Optimizing the management of Natura 2000 network in Lithuania". (<https://naturalit.lt/en/>)

The overall goal of the LIFE GoodWater IP project is to improve the status of water bodies at risk in Latvia by means of the full implementation of the measures laid down in the Daugava, Gauja, Lielupe and Venta River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). The project will develop, test and demonstrate various measures that could be replicated in other catchments not only in Latvia but also in neighboring countries. Therefore, the aim of C15 Action to encourage uptake of innovative measures beyond national boundaries.

Objectives of the Roadmap

- outlining plausible ways to foster replicability of the LIFE GoodWater IP project activities, mainly measures to reduce pressure to surface water bodies, in transboundary river basins.

The Roadmap is a guiding instrument for the project partners as well as will be used for communication with involved experts in the working group and task forces.

Approach in implementation of the Roadmap

1) **Transboundary RBM working groups (WG)** – two working groups will be set up – one will be set up individually with Estonia and one with Lithuania. The WG will be built on a base of an already existing cooperation platform (cooperating group between ministries of environment and river basin authorities); however, the mandate for these new WG will be to foster the replicability of demonstration and pilot activities in neighbouring countries. It is foreseen that some of the WG meetings will be arranged at the Baltic level to ensure wider cooperation and information exchange.

2) **3-4 Task Forces (TF)** - three to four TF will be established involving relevant experts and stakeholders from local and regional level. The project will develop measures to reduce point source and diffuse source pollution as well hydromorphological alterations. Thus, the thematic TF will be appointed to foster replication of specific measures. TF can be set for bilateral cooperation as well as Baltic level, if more efficient.

3) **Involvement of stakeholders** - majority of the Project activities are site and catchment specific; therefore, further replication depends a lot on the involvement of **relevant stakeholders** at regional and local level. This will be ensured by organizing events (for example field visits or trainings) for specific target groups.

As majority of the project's activities will take place in the 2nd and 3rd phase, the exact tasks on replication will be implemented in those phases and will be agreed in parallel with the discussion on the new RBMPs 2028+. Thus, the Roadmap will be adjusted in the middle of the project implementation. Phase 4 will be used to evaluate the effectiveness as well as to outline a new Roadmap for transboundary cooperation. Here, the engagement of the stakeholders outside the project partnership will be also crucial.

The partners will also encourage various stakeholders to implement identified relevant measures in projects funded by the cross-border cooperation programmes Estonia-Latvia and Latvia-Lithuania. The programmes will be implemented 2022-2027.

WG and the relevant TF will meet bi-annually to discuss the progress of the implementation of the Roadmap as well as to discuss proposed water management measures to be included in the RBMPs.

Tasks, timeline and responsibilities

	Task	Milestones	Main responsible partner	Other involved
1.	Setting up the WG – letter to neighbouring Ministry.	30.03.2021.	MoEPRD	LEGMC, BEF-LV
2.	Identified the key potential for replication in transboundary water bodies (with EE and LT)	12.2021	BEF-LV	LEGMC, BEF-LV Baltic Coasts
3.	Setting up Task Forces (TF)	12.2021	BEF-LV	MoEPRD, LEGMC Baltic Coasts
4.	Developing a template/key information requirements to foster the replication of the measures	06.2022	Baltic Coasts;	MoEPRD, LEGMC BEF-LV
5.	Collecting the technical and financial information according to the template	From 06.2022, continuously	Baltic Coasts	All relevant partners
6.	1 st discussions on measures (collected information) for replication, supplementing information or other	From 12.2022	BEF-LV MoEPRD	LEGMC Baltic Coasts
7.	Reviewing the proposed measures to be suggested for RBMPs (2-3 measures)	12.2023	BEF-LV Baltic Coasts	MoEPRD, LEGMC
8.	Midterm evaluation of the Road map (Report on Demonstration and pilot activities replicated in the neighbouring countries)	12.2023.	BEF-LV	MoEPRD, LEGMC Baltic Coasts
9.	2 nd discussions on measures (collected information) for replication, supplementing information or other	From 01.2025	BEF-LV MoEPRD	LEGMC Baltic Coasts
10.	Reviewing the proposed measures to be suggested for RBMPs (2-3 measures)	12.2026	BEF-LV Baltic Coasts	MoEPRD, LEGMC
11.	Evaluation of the Roadmap (Report on Demonstration and pilot activities replicated in the neighbouring countries)	12.2026	BEF -LV	MoEPRD, LEGMC Baltic Coasts
12.	A synthesis report from implementation of transboundary RBM WG	03.2027.	BEF-LV	MoEPRD, LEGMC Baltic Coasts

Results

- Cooperation between neighbouring countries strengthened to ensure better management of transboundary rivers of Latvia.
- Replicability of demonstration and pilot activities in transboundary river basins ensured.