

Time to look back at the year 2024!

The smartest way to start a new year is to look back at what was accomplished last year. That's why, in this newsletter, we will summarize the most significant achievements of LIFE GoodWater IP in 2024!



Wastewater sludge. Illustrative image.

On March 28, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the Wastewater sludge management plan for 2024–2027, developed within the framework of LIFE GoodWater IP. The plan was prepared by the Latvian Water and Wastewater Works Association (LUKA) and the Ministry of Climate and Energy (KEM).

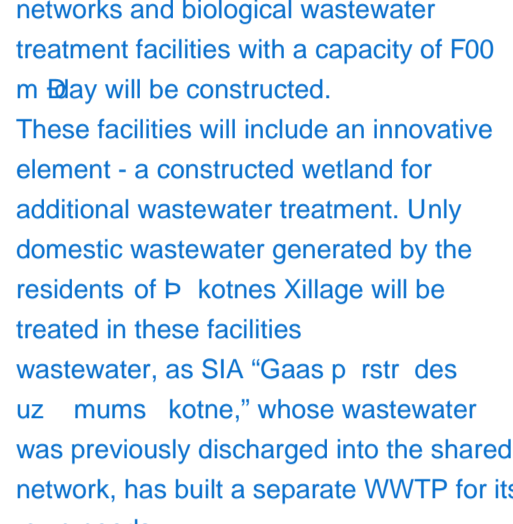
In 2024, two "Small Grant" projects related to wastewater have also been completed!

Measures have been taken to improve the water quality of the Balvi "Salma" WWTP bio-ponds. Innovative methods for pollution reduction have been tested at the SIA "dažu dens" WWTP.



At the SIA "dažu dens" WWTP, the method developed by "P-Agro Minerals" for phosphorus recovery from wastewater has been tested. Publicity photo.

Four more "Small Grant" projects are ongoing. In Sila Lake, located in Augšdaugava Municipality, reeds are mowed several times per season. Reeds are also being harvested and removed in Tšu Lake (South Kurzeme Municipality) and several water bodies in Balvi Municipality. Within the "Small Grant" projects, both innovative and creative approaches are being explored for utilizing the harvested reeds. In Ēģē, the reconstruction of the Pietrupis culvert is planned to improve fish migration.



Reed removal in Sila Lake. Photo: Augšdaugava Municipality.



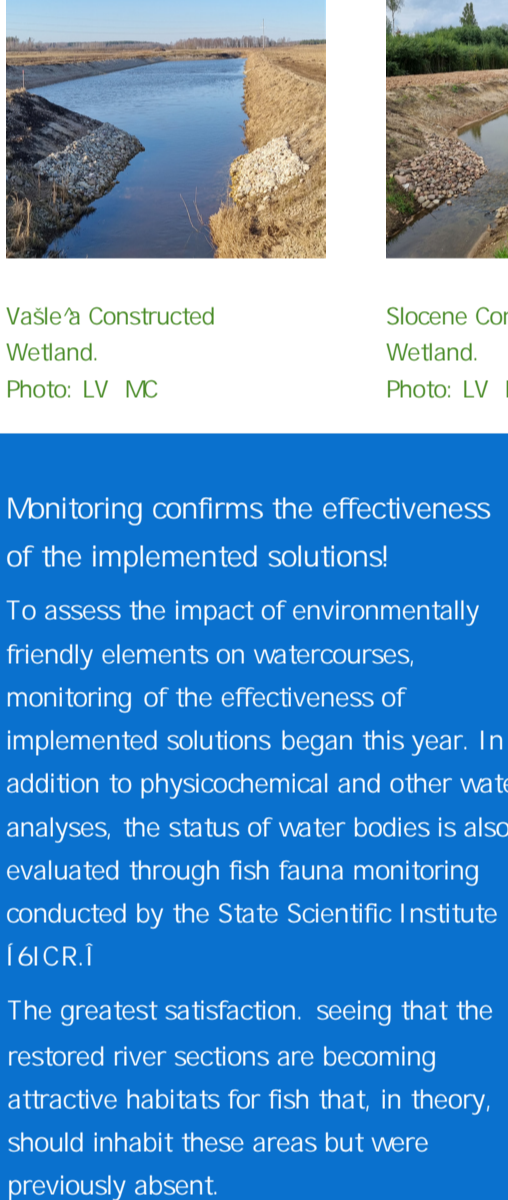
Construction works of N. kotne WWTP. N. kotne WWTP will also feature a 3D model illustrating how wastewater treatment works in practice! Photo: Jelgava Municipality.

Last year, work also began on the construction of wastewater treatment facilities in N. kotnes Village!

As part of the project, domestic sewage networks and biological wastewater treatment facilities with a capacity of 500 m³/day will be constructed. These facilities will include an innovative element - a constructed wetland for additional wastewater treatment. Only domestic wastewater generated by the residents of N. kotnes Village will be treated in these facilities wastewater, as SIA "Gaaspriekšdes uz mums kotne," whose wastewater was previously discharged into the shared network, has built a separate WWTP for its own needs.

In 2024, work began on designing various solutions to continue their implementation in nature this year!

- In Pormala, a tributary of the da River, one sedimentation basin has been designed (coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture). In Grauzdupe, a tributary of the da River, two sedimentation basins and two woodchip bioreactors have been designed (coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture). A constructed wetland is also in the design phase (coordinated by XSIA "State Real Estate of the Ministry of Agriculture"). In the Auce and da river basins, the design phase includes three woodchip bioreactors, one saturated buffer strip, and one controlled drainage system (coordinated by the "Farmers' Parliament" association). In Zaube and Auce, design work has started for culvert reconstruction (coordinated by XSIA "Latvian Environment, Geology, and Meteorology Center"). The design of a constructed wetland for Sauka Lake has begun (coordinated by XSIA "Latvian Environment, Geology, and Meteorology Center"). A project application has been prepared for funding the construction of a fishway at the Ropaži PPP dam, and preparatory work has been carried out to start the fishway design process (coordinated by XSIA "Latvian Environment, Geology, and Meteorology Center").



A newly constructed wetland. Photo: Ieva Vītola

We are proud! Work on the Auce constructed wetland - the largest in Latvia and possibly in the Baltics! - has been completed!

By building the wetland:

- environmentally friendly drainage systems have been developed,
- the river flow has been restored over a length of 0.5 km
- fish spawning grounds have been created.
- the riverbed has been cleaned, and sedimentation basins have been created. The work was coordinated by XSIA "State Real Estate of the Ministry of Agriculture."

[Watch the video](#)

The construction of blue infrastructure and the diversification of the forest stand near the forest have also been completed.

A spillway dam and a crescent-shaped sedimentation basin have been created, along with a standard sedimentation basin with a deepened riverbed, an atypical horseshoe-shaped sedimentation basin, and a sedimentation basin filled with woodchips. The work was coordinated by AS "Latvijas Xalsts Meži" and LXMI "Silva."



Crescent-shaped sedimentation basin. Photo: Toms ūtis

[Watch the video](#)



Vašle Constructed Wetland. Photo: LV MC

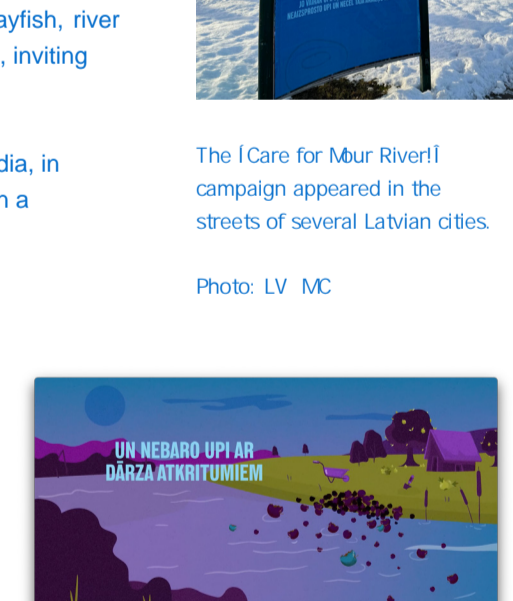


Sloocene Constructed Wetland. Photo: LV MC

A constructed wetland has been created in the Sloocene River. Additionally, three sedimentation basins have been built in three drainage ditches flowing into the Sloocene River. A surface-flow constructed wetland has also been established in the Kāšleja River.

Monitoring confirms the effectiveness of the implemented solutions!

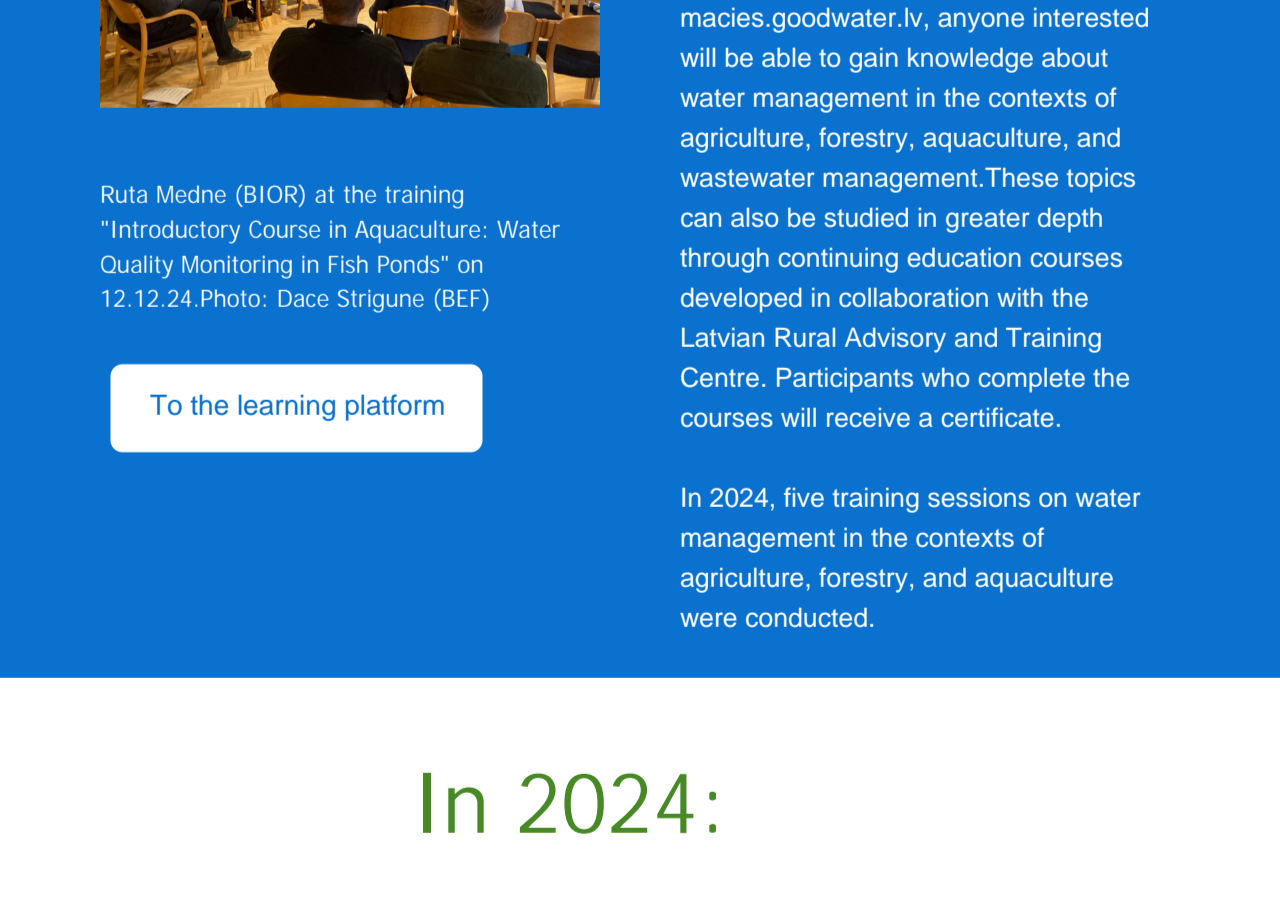
To assess the impact of environmentally friendly elements on watercourses, monitoring of the effectiveness of implemented solutions began this year. In addition to physicochemical and other water analyses, the status of water bodies is also evaluated through fish fauna monitoring conducted by the State Scientific Institute [ICR].



A handful of fast-flowing fish! After the restoration of the Marupe section, it is now inhabited by young brown trout or salmon, bearded stone loaches, and minnows. Photo: Āspars Abersons [ICR]

The greatest satisfaction, seeing that the restored river sections are becoming attractive habitats for fish that, in theory, should inhabit these areas but were previously absent.

[Video on monitoring](#)



Cleanup event in Gauja National Park. Photo: R. Dolfs Tutlītis

Last year, six cleanup events took place. A total of 100% of participants cleaned rivers flow more freely!

During cleanup events in Zaube, Auce, Zača, Sloocene, and Gauja National Park, we continued our efforts by removing fallen trees that obstruct river flow, tackling beaver dams, and clearing waste from the rivers.

A special thanks to the participating companies KŌoca-Ōola PBŌ Latvia, Lidl Latvija, FactSet Latvia, UP Ōorporate Bank plc Latvia Branch, and AS Pampri.

We also express our gratitude to landowners, municipalities, and their institutions Ē especially the Pampri and Zirī Parish Association Ēfor believing in the idea of "freeing" rivers and actively contributing to its realization.



Landscape tour in Randu meadows. Photo: Randis Ģdvardes



Traveling exhibition in Pape. Photo: Ģstere Tamma

We continued exploring waters through three landscape tours in Randu meadows, Ōngure, and Torakalns.

In 2024, a new traveling exhibition "Lake Present: from Littorina to the Present" was also launched.

Last year, we particularly engaged the public on two topics.

The connection between decentralized sanitation systems (ŌKS) and water quality was highlighted in the campaign "For Ōlean Water in Your Glass." As part of the campaign, informational seminars were organized in Rēlgava, Rēkabpils, Saulkrasti, and Xalmiera.



The [Care for My River!] campaign appeared in the streets of several Latvian cities. Photo: LV MC

We encouraged people to love their rivers through the campaign "Ōare for Your River." Three creatures - the noble crayfish, river lamprey, and salmon - represented their river homes, inviting everyone to manage riverbanks with respect.

Tips for river-friendly living were shared on social media, in public spaces, magazines, radio, and even featured in a segment of the TX show "Xides fakti."

[Video about obstacles](#)

[Video about pollution](#)

Ruta Medne (BIOR) at the training "Introductory Course in Aquaculture: Water Quality Monitoring in Fish Ponds" on 12.12.24. Photo: Dace Strigune (BEF)

[To the learning platform](#)

We worked hard to increase the most valuable resource: knowledge!

At the end of the year, work was completed on the development of four educational programs focused on water-related topics. On the platform macies.goodwater.lv, anyone interested will be able to gain knowledge about water management in the contexts of agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and wastewater management. These topics can also be studied in greater depth through continuing education courses developed in collaboration with the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre. Participants who complete the courses will receive a certificate.

In 2024, five training sessions on water management in the contexts of agriculture, forestry, and aquaculture were conducted.

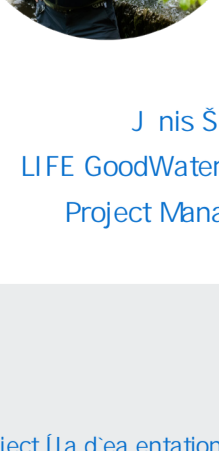
In 2024:



Free flow has been restored along 34 km of various river sections in 2024. Over the entire project period, this now exceeds 58 km!



The project has been represented at more than 30 events!



The project has been featured in various media more than 220 times!

We have accomplished a lot, but there is still much to do! Three intense years of work lie ahead, during which we must complete ongoing initiatives and compile the results.

That's why I encourage everyone to stay focused and continue working with enthusiasm and energy to achieve our ultimate goal - cleaner and healthier waters in Latvia for future generations.

Let the waters flow!



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2024-2027

We integrated project implementation of LIFE GoodWater IP into the management plan of Latvia's River Water Quality Improvement Program (LIFE GoodWater IP) and the State Budget Program "Water Quality Improvement and Water Management" (2024-2027).

