



Minutes of the project **DESIRE** kick-off meeting 20-21 March 2019, Greifswald (Germany)

List of presentations (available for downloading):	
Jurgen Kreyling	“Project kick off meeting”
Dominik Zak (Aarhus University, Denmark)	“From small and large kidneys in riparian buffer zones to mitigate nutrient pollution from agricultural land use” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost of different types of buffer zones: Calculations are in progress, will be available in the end of 2019
Jens-Uwe Holthuis, Stiftung Naturschutz im Landkreis Diepholz, Germany	Looking beyond: The CANAPE NSR Interreg project - filling a project with life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact person in each country (?), WP (?) not all communication directly to LP - Personal exchange/talks to locals (to be better accepted, to gain local knowledge) - How the project will continue after the end??? Think and plan
Staffan Lund, SLU, Uppsala, Sweden	The WATERDRIVE BSR Interreg project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for cooperation between projects - Common regional Workshops?
Magdalena Dawidowicz, Policy Area Nutri Coordinator, EUSBSR	EUSBSR and what the flagship status brings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flagship benefits: visibility - 10th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Gdansk (12/13.6.19)

DESIRE project management and administration	
Partner dropout	PP8 (Natural Heritage) from Kaliningrad has left the project, the respective activities and budget will be taken over by PP7 Ministry of KGD
Programme manual (PM)	printed and distributed among PP. Also available: https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/about_programme/Main_documents/2018.05.24_Programme_Manual_v6_clean_cover.pdf
Partnership Agreement (PA)	To be signed before the end of the first reporting period Signed PA is precondition to make advanced payment to the Russian partner. Subsidy contract is the main document of the project! (between LP and Interreg) – its scanned copy has been sent to all PPs
Reporting	PPs prepare report in OBLIGATORY reporting tool to be downloaded: https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/for-projects/reporting.html <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give only facts and actions that are done, no general information, no justification of actions - According to BAMOS (it always contains the most updated project application) - In case of deviations, contact LP and JS/MA and discuss



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you have questions, you are very welcome to contact LP, but first check the Programme manual! <p>OBLIGATORY Staff cost tool as well as Guidance on staff costs to be downloaded: https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/for-projects/reporting.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most mistakes in reports are related to staff costs! (read carefully Programme Manual, pp. 113 – 122) - Timesheets: not always necessary – see details in Programme Manual <p>E.g. Fixed percentage and full positions does not require timesheets Full time means 100 % of working time on the project (even if it is less than a full position according to the national law – see PM, p. 114)</p> <p>Requirements exist and templates of timesheets too, but if the timesheet of your organization answers criteria of the Programme it also can be used (PM, p. 117)</p> <p>In fact, reimbursement for the first period will be transferred to a PP’s account in December 2019/January 2020</p> <p>Deadline for project partners’ reports – in Partnership Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bureaucratic processes take time, going back and forth from one institution to the other, better to do report as soon as possible (postponing issue) - Purchase all devices, supplies in the first report for reimbursement
<p>Public procurement</p>	<p>https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/for-projects/public-procurement.html</p>
<p>First Level Control (FLC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DO NOT CHEAT they will find out - FLC is country specific - https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/for-projects/first-level-control.html - FLC may issue a certificate for only part of declared costs (if not reported properly) - FLC: June is the start of holidays, first check if institutions work and which days exactly they do
<p>Communication plan (CP)</p>	<p>Urgently necessary for DESIRE project! <i>Communication manager</i> is necessary – LP has no extra budget. Discuss possibilities with PPS! Interreg BSR Communication seminar planned in Autumn 2019 https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/communication.html Communication should be centralized – <i>template is available on www</i> Greifswald will try to give communication overview BE CAREFUL with data protection law</p> <p>CP should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication aims, target groups and approaches - Main messages of the project and/or work package - Responsibilities - Indicative budget <p>Additional excel sheets in work plan for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicity actions • Workshops <p>For internal communication: <i>List of responsible people at each PP necessary!</i></p>
<p>Visibility rules</p>	<p>Refer to the funding!!! https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/visibility_rules.html</p>



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	<p>Mandatory visibility files to be downloaded: https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/visibility_downloads.html</p> <p>Obligatory elements: In English or respective national language!</p> <p><i>Applicable to Russian partners only:</i></p> <p>Voluntary: we have flagship status and “traditional” logo style from Greifswald Mire Centre for projects dealing with paludiculture:</p> <p>Many useful files (templates, postcards, programme area maps ect.) can be downloaded https://www.interreg-baltic.eu/visibility_downloads.html!</p> <p>➤ Each project partner needs to place at least one poster with information about the project (minimum size A3) at a location visible to the public, such as the entrance area of a building/office - Succow Foundation will provide an example of the poster, template is also available among downloads.</p>
<p>Accounting system, Manual p. 142</p>	<p>OBLIGATORY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate accounting system for the project expenditures (cost itemisation list in English, • Use a special stamp with the project name for marking the invoices related to the project !!! the stamp has been provided to PPs during kick off!!!
<p>Budget</p>	<p>Budget flexibility, PM, pp. 148</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total budget cannot be exceeded - Total <i>lines</i> budget can be exceeded by 20% or max. 40,000 EUR (on the cost of another budget line) - Major change of budget requires prior approval by MA/JS - ONLY 1 budget relocation is possible (usually in the middle of the project) - budget line 2 – list of costs p. 123 – cannot be reported in the other BL!
<p>Next project meeting</p>	<p>May/June, Suwałki or Kaunas, a Doodle will be setup Clear picture is needed of who should come to the workshops</p>

<p>Work packages’ Leaders are responsible for implementation of activities of the WPs!</p>	
<p>WP 2</p>	<p>Presentation with overview of the PW attached</p>
<p>2.1 Inventory of peatlands in the Neman basin</p>	<p>In Russia – it is prohibited to provide maps >1:10 000 to international partners - case for negotiation In Belarus – cooperate with NGO Bahna (contact via Marina), use orthophotomaps For economic aspect of the project important is the status of peatlands! RUS: “field inventory” – what does it mean? – Amalj: “it is field trip for PPs”</p>
<p>2.2. Analysis and working with</p>	<p>→ Cooperation with people from Belarus → location of fen and bogs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hierarchical planning philosophy - Compilation of spatial data



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peatland database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic “Gap analysis” - Tactical identify suitable regions - Operational - choosing re-wetting sites - “Dose -response”- effects of re-wetting on different benefits
2.3 Dialogue of multidisciplinary working group on paludiculture implementn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations would be given not only referring to project area but for the whole catchment area
2.4 Integration of peatland management into RBMPs	<p>Proposals from all stakeholders are collected for management plan</p> <p>The Prypiat RBMP is being prepared in BY now – to get in contact with involved people – as the same people might be responsible for the Neman basin</p>
2.5 Developing Agro-environmental schemes (AES) for nutrients and paludiculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no AES specifically for re-wetting and paludiculture yet - but now a new AES is ready (water retention and other packages) - Currently new proposals from LT are on the table for eco schemes under 1st pillar of agricultural payments <p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guarantee long term effect of the project <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species (e.g. birds), how to do paludiculture promoting or without harming species <p>New financial period starts in 2021 → Timeline: planned are 5 periods</p> <p>Activities should be finished by March 2020, if we want to present it for the discussion in ministries</p> <p>Important focus not only on AES, this year EU commission gave an idea (first pillar will have environmental focus) 40 % budget for AES</p> <p>Common agriculture policy was discussed in Norway in February</p> <p>Every state has to come up with a scheme</p> <p>Question & Answer</p> <p>Involvement of non-EU countries, it is not possible to give money for AES to non-EU countries, so we would provide only best practices to them</p> <p>No Problem with non EU countries that provide a big budget as Switzerland</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have to make change in common agriculture policies not only in specified eco schemes • Ministry of agriculture should be involved from the very beginning (M. Dawidowicz used to work in the Ministry in PL) • LT Ministry asks for precise numbers (how much nutrients, how many ha..)
2.6 Economic assessment of ecosystem services	<p>Objective: Increase efficiency of peatlands</p> <p>Output: Decision making Public and Private</p> <p>Comment: Risk Software for farmers to see if process is economically</p> <p>Target groups: farmers, water management authorities, agriculture administrations</p> <p>Study trips to all countries (incl. BY, RUS) are impotrant also for economic analysis component of the project!</p>



Actions within WP 2

Action	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6
Content	Inventory of peatlands in the Neman basin	Analysis and working with peatlands database	Dialogue of multidisciplinary working group on paludiculture implementation	Integration of peatlands management into RBMPs	Developing agri-environmental schemes for nutrients and paludiculture	Economic assessment of ES
PP1 (UG)			Involved			Task leader
PP2 (MSF)			Task leader	Task leader		
PP3 (SGGW)		Involved	Involved	Involved	Involved	
PP4 (OTOP)			Involved		Task leader	Involved
PP5 (KU)		Task leader	Involved			
PP6 (LFN)	Task leader	Involved	Involved	Involved	Involved	Involved
PP7 (MIN)	Involved	Involved	Involved	Involved		Involved
PP9 (BUT)			Involved			
Output and time frame	base, interactive map 1.1.2019 - 30.06.2020	Report 1.7.2019 - 30.06.2020	yearly meetings, strategy 1.1.2019 - 30.06.2021	draft of the chapter for RBMP 1.1.2019 - 30.06.2020	draft of AES covering paludiculture 1.1.2019 - 31.12.2020	report, workshops 1.1.2019 - 30.06.2021
Comments	problem with KR; Jan will help to get the data from KR; Belarus - AP needs to figure out who is the owner of the data; remember about permissions to present the data; data from neighbouring agriculture areas are important	do they use also land use data?!		Finalizing the first draft in the 2nd part of 2019	good practice from Germany (Brandenburg) - financial line for re-wetting within RDP	Ccheck with WP3 data delivery on land use in Neman catchment area!



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Other Remarks	Nerjus - mail to everybody; Nerjus - check the database / website sent by Mateusz	Nerjus - clarifying what kind of data will be used	(1)Wendelin / Jan - identify who will be in the working group (mail to all partners); (2) preparing concept of the model of working; (3) send invitations for Working Group; (4) preparing first meeting (probably in autumn)	(1) Wendelin/Jan prepare and send to PP draft of what could be inside the charter; (2) PL, RU and LT checks proposals and make contact to national authorities	(1) Tomasz-prepare and send general draft to all partners and ask for good practices from western Europe ; (2) and for checking and agreeing with LT final version	
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Detailed work plan discussion	
WP2	Jan Peters, Tomasz Wilk
2.1 Inventory of peatlands in the Neman basin	Clearance project database should be checked by Jan. In Belarus data is open and available but should be asked for official use (might be available from European mire book) Database on Polish wetlands (not detailed enough) Institute of technology in Warsaw is the owner, and database should be updated
2.2 Gathering country specific location data	Comes from package 3 - check WP 3 data delivery about nutrients and land use To be checked if they use land use data
2.3 Dialogue multidisciplinary group	Jan and Wendelin responsible on Working Groups (WG) In LT people were not very enthusiastic In PL water policy people were interested (+ministry of agriculture) Jan will send emails to all partners Preparation for the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Good presentation of the project for good kick-off of the WG (in late summer - autumn)- Prepare a concept what we want from the WG DE, PL, LT, KA are partners
2.4 Integration of peatland managemt. to RBMPs	For LT and PL (river basin management plan) Wendelin/Jan prepare a draft of management plan and send to RU, PL, LT
2.5 Developing agri-environmental schemes for nutrients and paludiculture	Tomasz will prepare a draft of management plan and send to all partners Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Nutrients are important for project but not for AES- To include scientific evidences for communication with ministries etc., require from WP 3 (or from CLEARANCE project)
2.6 Ecosystem services assessment	Achim is joining the project 1 st of June



WP3	Research and Modelling (presentation with overview of the WP attached)
3.1 Review of peatlands rewetting, responses and paludiculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment/evaluation of experiments on nutrient retention • Gradient of nutrient concentration (how much is retained by the plants) <p>Results: Literature review publication, Factsheet on water quality improvement</p> <p>Request: Areas located close to rivers could be used for buffer zone and have potential for paludiculture (2 sites)</p> <p>Connection to other projects- Clearance (Buffer zones, water quality)</p> <p>D. Zak has prepared and shared review literature with Jelena (GU). Literature review will be elaborated till autumn by Jelena Lange</p> <p>Tjorven Hintzke will analyse the results of done mesocosm experiment at GU beginning from Oct.19</p>
3.2 Field research campaigns and data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reference site in <i>each</i> country of the catchment – communication reason (because people believe more when it is done in their country) • Criteria of a reference site to the national partners – by Mateusz and Piotr • Then, proposal of a site by national partners (with other stakeholders) • Are there geodetic stations in BY?
3.4 Hydrological modelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good field data is needed • Hydrological modelling is going to be included in final guidelines • Bayesian approach ?
3.5 Manual - management guidelines for peatland rewetting	<p>If the aim is to get outreach to peatland managing people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the simple factors • With simple keys as YES/NO like a decision support tree • Distance to the ditch dam should be calculated • Very simple and empirical data for people who want to rewet a peatland <p>Output: Might be a book, published by reliable publisher with open access (payment has to be done for publishing) with ISBN number for sharing. Short-term data only will be available in the project – we should work with “probability”. There is some time pressure: less than 2,5 years are left.</p> <p>Each of partner sends their part to national department and all involved & others approved</p>
3.6 Trade-offs in ecosys. services	<p>Communication strategy - publication</p> <p>Each category of people or target group has their own messages - info for communication (target group tailored information)</p>



Actions within WP 3

Action	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6
Content	Review of peatlands rewetting, responses and paludiculture	Field research campaigns and data collection	Case study peatlands: nutrients, carbon, habitats	Hydrological modelling	Manual - management guidelines for peatland rewetting	Trade-offs in ecosystem services
PP1 (DE)	Task leader				Should be involved according to Mateusz	
PP3 (PL)		Task leader	Involved	Task leader	Task leader	Task leader
PP4 (PL)		Involved			Involved	Involved
PP5 (LT)		Involved	Involved			
PP6 (LT)					Involved	
PP7 (RU)		Involved			Involved	
PP9 (PL)	Involved	Involved	Task leader		Involved	Involved
Output and time frame	O3.1 - Peatlands as nutrient sinks - publication and factsheet (PP1) /30.06.2020/	O3.2 – Database of field-collected information (PP3) /30.06.2020/	O3.3. - Report - nutrients, carbon balance and eutrophication (PP9) /31.12.2020/	O.3.4 - Groundwater flow models of study peatlands (PP3) - /31.12.2020/	O3.5 – Report - manual for peatland rewetting (PP3) /31.12.2020/	O3.6 - Ecosystem services - restoration and trade-offs 1.07.2020 - 30.06.2021/
Output type	Publication/factsheet	Database	Report	Models	Report/booklet?	Press release/policy brief/policy paper;
Remarks		Respective AOs (PL; RU, LT, BY); technical assistance preparation required			All AOs - additional meeting required	Policy outreach required (PA Nutri?) preparation actions required



Detailed work plan discussion	
WP 3	Mateusz Grygoruk
3.1	Input will be provided by Dominik Zak (literature review) Evaluation of mesokosms analysis will be delayed (mainly 2 nd to 3 rd milestone)
3.2 and 3.5 connected require input of everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Visits this summer to Belarus, Lithuania, Kaliningrad<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ provide with the devices for the monitoring and arrange field research→ potential attendance of locals shall be checked → cover travel costs?- information of the peat depth / stratigraphy (Lithuania) needed- very roughly information about the region necessary- Need Database of Russian area → accurate measurements- Best would be to work with rewetted, not-natural peatlands ?
3.5: Output	<p>Manual → Book, e.g. scientific manual (with risk analysis), Think about what you expect, would be best to be indexed)</p> <p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- who would be interested in such a book: Bird watchers, Ministry people, a list of all stakeholders shall be drafted at first, NGOs should be invited, Need people responsible for local areas- manual should be provided in national languages for provision of consultancy- Invite stakeholders to meetings to prepare them and get the book approved → to address their ideas, Invite them in a private way <p>Contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pilot site and modelling, outputs from field research campaigns, economic part (3.6) by Achim Schäfer,- In the end of the first phase there should be a workshop to<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ arrange together what will be the input→ should be related to each topic→ involve 30-40 experts in peatland management- Different Fractions of people from Belarus - avoid to only invite one of them (?) - Aiming for selected people- Merge information with similar translation in every language- Stakeholder meetings in Russia, Belarus must be in Russian language- Limited money for translation<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Question if it covers the cost



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Not in a hurry with that meeting, should be next year and include already first results in the presentation- Questioning if Book is the best idea for the Output<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Book takes a lot of time and needs to be ready by September 2020 → Manual in national languages online→ Maybe start with a PDF, Open Access Output and after that write the book→ Check if the material is ripe enough to be a book. Needs to be good quality material → scientifically it needs to be proven that it is the right way- Springer → publisher- Don't need to be focused only on the Neman catchment<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ data from a comparable peatland is fine as well- Project needs to have long term effects → the book can be used also after finishing date- Rewetting little lakes, overgrowing with sphagnum and thypa for the next two years??<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ spreading of Thypa not in general a problem, but we need to find a good use for the biomass- Not task of the Work package to choose the right management of area manual, correct use of money- Want to have an eco-hydrological manual, included risk analysis for phosphorus and other nutrients- Needs to be done by hydrologist → without proper hydrologist it can't be done- Russian part has problems with a lack of hydrologists<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ need face to face meeting, training with the models→ ditch box method??
Comments and general discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Excel list for all the data of all the WPs- Out of WP → until next week what has been discussed- WPs depending on each other
Note	Till 28 March outputs of work plan should be sent among WP's



WP 4	Rewetting and paludiculture
Leaders of WP4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry for Natural Resources and Ecology of the Kaliningrad region Amalj Samerkhanova - State Budgetary Institution of the Kaliningrad region Nature Park Vishtynetsky - Lithuanian Fund for Nature Nerijus Zableckis (LFN)
Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1. Demonstration sites selection and preparation 4.2. Implementation of rewetting and paludiculture on pilot sites 4.3. Demonstration of paludiculture- educational centre and paludiculture exhibition (Michael Succow Foundation) 4.4 Cross-sectoral dialogue on paludiculture biomass utilisation
Kaliningrad	
Basic info	60 000 ha peatlands in Kaliningrad
Aim	Restoration of functionality of peatlands the landscape degraded by drainage for agriculture and forests and paludiculture development
Activities	Maps, Recommendations
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The peatland inventory report and e-maps for online data base - Virtual museum (for different interest groups e.g. tourists, stakeholders)
Activity 4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of engineers and co-workers (working group). For engineering design for rewetting. Trainers for trainings are pensioners - melioration experienced, they have plans and maps of melioration, old maps are found with ditches - It might be a state-aid activity in EU countries! - 4 workshops and a study visit to Greifswald <p>Goal: nature conservation area + paludiculture</p> <p>Operators: might be big agri companies, Conflict of interests between ministries exist</p> <p>In study site owner of Baltic Reed company has all equipment, Addresses of possible stakeholders are collected</p> <p>Communication strategy:</p> <p>Partner Federal Educational body giving drivers to agriculturalists</p> <p>Public council in reserve (is in communication with the foundation)</p>



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Comments:	<p>River council in other areas and Neman British company Colagra is bringing miscanthus to Cherniakovo area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultivation of Miscanthus requires drainage of peatlands – conflict with DESIRE purposes!• Miscanthus cultivation in peatlands must be avoided to avoid GHG and other emissions – W. Wichtmann• Reed biomass can be used for all the same purposes as Miscanthus biomass with no risk! (Miscanthus can become invasive species!)
Lithuania	
Basic info	Green areas in the map show potential areas for paludiculture 300 - 400 in biosphere reserve restoration area
Associated partner: Who else plays a role in the project?	
Barys Adamovich (BY)	Belarusian State University: Water quality and water purification question of peatlands
Testing institution	National Environmental Monitoring System (since 1993) conducts a test of water quality (nsmos.by)
Tests	- Chemical monitoring (inorganic solids, physical properties and gas composition, organic matter, nutrients - P, N, metals: iron, copper, zinc, nickel, chromium, manganese, cadmium, lead); mercury, arsenic in transboundary parts of watercourses. Biological investigations (plankton, benthos, phytoplankton)
Monitoring results of Naroch lake	Monitored since 1939 by Warsaw University and since 1946 by Belarusian University Is considered as a best practice example of restoration in 1981 year Naroch lake (the biggest in BY) has a small surface catchment area
Comment	No funds for Belarus in DESIRE Interreg
Iryna Raiskaya APB (BY)	Possible peatlands for rewetting in BY in the Neman catchment
Basics	98 000 km ² - 22 % of country area belongs to Neman river basin, Neman river is 46 % fed by rivers of Belarus
Possible piloting sites for rewetting	4 sites - drained peatlands, 3 of them are given to forestries, and the last is used for agriculture 2,500 ha area of sites



Actions within WP 4

Action	4.1	4.2	4.3
Content	Demonstration site selection and preparation	Rewetting and paludiculture on pilot peatlands	Cross sectoral dialogue on paludiculture biomass utilisation
PP1 (DE)			Involved
PP2 (DE)			Task leader
PP3 (PL)			Involved
PP4 (PL)			Involved
PP5 (LT)			Involved
PP6 (LT)			Involved
PP7 (RU)	Task leader	Task leader	Involved
PP9 (PL)	Involved	Involved	Involved
PP10	Involved	Involved	Involved
Output and time frame	O4.1 – Documents for pilot sites rewetting 1.1.2019 - 30.06.2020	O4.2 – Rewetted pilot peatlands 1.1.2019 - 30.06.2021	O4.3. - training concept, 2trainings for team + engineers, workshop minutes and documentation, Study visit to Germany (5d) 1.1.2019 - 30.06.2020
Output type	Report	Wet peatlands, paludiculture in place	4 workshops, Report
Remarks			Potentially company (reed harvest) involvement Webinars?