

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	[101081558] - [MITTETULUNDUSUHING EESTI ROHELINE LIIKUMINE] ([ERL]); [ZALA BRIVIBA BIEDRIBA] ([GREEN LIBERTY])
PIC number:	[935345005]; [994801543]
Project name and acronym:	[Citizens' Observatory For Green Deal Financing] — [Citizens4EGDFunding]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	11
Event name:	Citizens research – Virtual tours to recovery projects in Latvia and Estonia
Type:	Conferences
In situ/online:	Online
Location:	Online
Date(s):	02/11/2023; 17/11/2023; 28/11/2023
Website(s) (if any):	<p>Links to the virtual tour videos on Youtube:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Biodiversity and renewable energy – what can go wrong?' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crk-NGKzy94&t=4s (Estonian version with English subtitles) - 'Give rivers space: towards sustainable flood prevention' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJHwqgXD9ro&t=1s (Latvian version with English subtitles) <p>Link to the video shared on EGM's webpage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://roheline.ee/elurikkus-ja-taastuenergia/ (Estonian) <p>Link to the video shared on Green Liberty's webpage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.zalabriviba.lv/isfilma-upem-jadod-telpa-cela-uz-ilqtspejigu-pludu-risku-mazinasanu/ <p>Video shared on the project landing page:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://bankwatch.org/citizens-observatory#Estonia - https://bankwatch.org/citizens-observatory#Latvia <p>Webinars:</p> <p>Webinar 'Let's talk about solutions – how could renewable energy and biodiversity coexist?' - 2 November 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - News: https://roheline.ee/veebinar-taastuenergia-ja-elurikkus/ (English/Estonian) - Article on project landing page (includes link to published EDS): https://bankwatch.org/event/webinar-let-s-talk-about-solutions-how-could-renewable-energy-and-biodiversity-coexist - Recorded webinar:

	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ5W3lws6KM&t=2066s (English)</p> <p>Webinar 'Green infrastructure: the role of Latvia's wetlands in sustainable flood mitigation' - 17 November 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - News: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o https://www.zalabriviba.lv/pasakums-zala-infrastruktura-mitraju-loma-iltgspejiga-pludu-mazinasana/ o https://www.zalabriviba.lv/event-green-infrastruktura-the-role-of-latvias-wetlands-in-sustainable-flood-mitigation/ - Article on project landing page (includes link to published EDS): https://bankwatch.org/event/webinar-green-infrastruktura-the-role-of-latvia-s-wetlands-in-sustainable-flood-mitigation - Recorded webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MP6lyLINEs <p>Webinar 'Green principles and hidden issues in the use of EU public funding' - 28 November 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - News: https://www.zalabriviba.lv/zalie-principi-un-zemudens-akmeni-es-publiska-finansejuma-izmantosana/ - Article on project landing page (includes link to published EDS): https://bankwatch.org/event/webinar-green-principles-and-hidden-issues-in-the-use-of-eu-public-funding - Recorded webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bAmrNFx5y5q
Participants	
Female:	147
Male:	59
Prefer not to say:	10
From country 1 [Austria]:	1
From country 2 [Belgium]:	9
From country 3 [Bulgaria]:	2
From country 4 [Croatia]:	1
From country 5 [Czech Republic]:	1
From country 6 [Estonia]:	71
From country 7 [Finland]:	1
From country 8 [Germany]:	1
From country 9 [Hungary]:	2
From country 10 [Italy]:	1
From country 11 [Latvia]:	113

From country 12 [Lithuania]:	1		
From country 13 [The Netherlands]:	2		
From country 14 [Poland]:	3		
From country 15 [Portugal]:	1		
From country 16 [Romania]:	4		
From country 17 [Slovakia]:	1		
From country 18 [Slovenia]:	1		
Total number of participants:	216	From total number of countries:	18

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

As part of the event number 11, Estonian Green Movement and Green Liberty produced two virtual tour videos and organized three webinars.

ESTONIA

To meet renewable energy goals, many countries are pushing to expedite their permitting procedures and impact assessments for renewable energy projects. While it's beneficial to push for more renewable energy systems, it's imperative that we discuss how we can balance the pursuit of clean energy with preserving our remaining biodiversity. As the rapidly increasing demand for renewable energy and mining for resources has already had a huge effect on biodiversity, Estonian Green Movement was able through field investigations, meetings with associations and interviews with the experts/stakeholders (EIA expert, ornithologist, Professor of Restoration Ecology, Green transition policy advisor) of Estonia, collect the necessary information to develop the material for the trailer and the full video 'Biodiversity and renewable energy – what can go wrong?', which were launched on 23rd August of 2023 on occasion of Climate Network Summer Seminar in Estonia, where the video was first time showed publicly and discussed with networks organisations afterwards.

Webinar | 'Let's talk about solutions – how could renewable energy and biodiversity coexist?' - 2 November 2023

In addition, EGM organised a webinar with the aim to find solutions on how to minimise the impacts of solar and wind parks on biodiversity.

EGM prepared social media covers and images, also showing the logos of European Commission, EGM, and project logo, in Estonian and English, to be shared with Friend of the Earth Network and CEE Bankwatch Network, Estonian Environmental CSOs and with the other partners for dissemination purposes.

The invitation to EGM webinar was prepared in Estonian and English and published on the EGM's website (reached 1107 on 16.11.23). EGM sent the invitation to 284 contacts through email to inspire people to develop biodiversity rich renewable energy parks.

EGM posted the invitation on Facebook, reaching 678 people. EGM's Instagram post promoting the webinar collected 21 likes and reached 170 accounts. The X EGM's post promoting the webinar reached 91 accounts, had 1 repost and 1 like. In addition, the webinars were also promoted at institutional and networking meetings with other Estonian and European CSOs.

The webinar was also promoted through Bankwatch, EGM, Green Liberty websites, SM promotion (boosted FB post, Instagram post, X post), mail invites to energy and biodiversity related civil servants, NGOs, media and newsletter contacts of EGM and as a result the webinar had 151 registrants.

For the first webinar, a Facebook event was created by EGM reaching a total of 98 people. The webinar was attended by 98 participants (62 women, 28 men, 8 rather not to say) from 15 EU countries (Belgium (7); Bulgaria (2), Croatia (1); Czech Republic (1); Estonia (65); Finland (1); Germany (1); Hungary (1); Italy (1); Latvia (8); Netherlands (1); Poland (3); Portugal (1); Romania (4); Slovenia (1)). The webinar had one moderator from USA (EGM's intern) and 4 speakers [3 from Estonia (2 female, 1 male and 1 male from Norway)]. A few days after the webinar, the recording was published on EGM's YouTube channel in English, collecting a total of 168 visualizations by

20/12/2023.

The participants of the webinar got practical tips on how to retrain and promote nature in solar parks and saw different examples of biodiverse solar parks. Since one of the most relevant non-technical barriers affecting the expansion of the offshore renewable energy sector is the potential environmental risk and related uncertainties, there was a presentation on facilitating nature coexistence with wind farms through AI based computer vision. In addition, we discussed how to ensure successful cooperation with local communities so that renewable energy developments can be located closer to people and not in biodiversity hotspots. The solution-oriented approach in the webinar inspired participants with examples of how to wisely plan renewable energy developments.

During the webinar, the participants actively participated in the discussion, presenting reflections and questions to the speakers. After the webinar, the speakers' presentations were sent to the participants - ["Let's talk about solutions - how could biodiversity and renewable energy coexist?"](#) - along with the recorded webinar (also available on EGM's YouTube channel).

Following the webinar, the participants were asked to fill the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values. Despite the high attendance of the webinar, only two people filled in the survey. Overall, the assessment of the event was 5. With quantitative questions (with rating 1-5), the highest rating went to the questions about overall assessment of the event (with average rating of 5), increased awareness (with average rating of 4) and increased knowledge (with average rating of 4). The format and content of the event was also rated high with the average of 4.5. The lowest rating was at the question of increased skills (2) and increased cooperation (2). Regarding the question of gender equality, 100% of the participants gave positive answers, choosing multiple answers to confirm that the organisers took action to promote gender equality and ensure equal opportunities. 50% of the participants also marked that their perception of the topic changed and 50% declared that they will be likely to react differently from now on when confronted to the topic. 100% of the participants will use to some extent what they learned in everyday life/work.

LATVIA

Webinar | 'Green infrastructure: the role of Latvia's wetlands in sustainable flood mitigation' - 17 November 2023

In Latvia, similarly to the rest of Europe, a significant portion of the land has been drained to create space for human infrastructure, agriculture, and forestry. Historically, more than 90% of Latvia's floodplains have been lost, and rivers have been channelized. This, however, has often led to the destruction of valuable river habitats, deterioration of wetlands, and problems with water quality due to the accelerated delivery of nutrients and pollution into water bodies. Currently various EU Funds in Latvia are actively being used to dredge long-ago-channelized river sections to restore their drainage capacity. Yet this is currently still done with insufficient recognition of the role of valuable wetland ecosystems and their ecosystem service provision such as flood risk mitigation. Moreover, although integration of green infrastructure is often promised, it is very slow due to prevalence of historical drainage practices, outdated legislation and other issues. To raise awareness of the issue, shed light on the situation and Latvia and to foster communication between stakeholders, Green Liberty with the assistance of professional filmmakers, made a short, 16 minute video entitled ["Give rivers space: towards sustainable flood prevention"](#) and premiered the film in a specially designed webinar on the topic "Green infrastructure: The Role of Latvia's wetlands in sustainable flood mitigation", which took place on the 17 November 2023 as a *Zoom* webinar.

The webinar was heavily promoted through Bankwatch, EGM, Green Liberty websites, social media promotion (boosted FB posts, Instagram, LinkedIn and X posts), also more than 150 e-mail invites to drainage, wetland management and similar field related civil servants, experts, municipalities, NGOs and contacts of Green Liberty were sent (directly or through multiplier contacts, such as representatives of municipality unions and various organisations). The event was also promoted through the Green Liberty newsletter, which was sent to 52 recipients. As a result the webinar had 146 people registered.

104 people (74 female, 28 male, 2 rather not to say) from 7 EU countries attended the event (excluding those that attended also the previous webinar organised by EGM): Estonia (6), the Netherlands (1), Belgium (2), Austria (1), Lithuania (1), Slovakia (1), Hungary (1), Latvia (91). The webinar had 1 moderator from Latvia and 7 speakers (5 male, 2 female) - 6 from Latvia and 1 from Hungary. The event had synchronous translation between Latvian and English and it was 2 hours long.

Content: In this webinar we looked at the problem from various angles, by catching a glimpse of flood mitigation and floodplain management related challenges faced in Latvia and seeing good examples from elsewhere in the EU. The webinar was moderated by a nationally famous TV weather journalist and contained the speakers:

- Senior expert from REKK.AQUA, the Water Economics Unit of the Regional Centre for Energy Policy Research (Hungary), shared flood risk mitigation experiences from the project

Land4flood, including from examples where flood risk is being reduced by effective use of flood-peak polders, followed by a Q&A. [View presentation](#)

- Manager of a large floodplain territory from Latvia shared the experience of managing vast natural floodplains in Sita Nature Park of the Lubāns Wetland complex (Latvia), an internationally important Natura 2000 site for birds, followed by Q&A. [View presentation](#)
- Biodiversity expert from Green Liberty presented the short film “Give rivers space: towards sustainable flood prevention”, followed by a Q&A.
- Experts and researchers from the field of water management, flood prevention and wetland restoration met in a short panel discussion, where the main challenges faced by Latvia of achieving the sustainable flood prevention goals were identified and possible solutions discussed. Participants of the panel discussion included speakers from Ministry of Environment and Regional development (Water resources unit), Ministry of Agriculture, Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre and University of Daugavpils. The panellists highlighted various challenges and barriers faced by the drainage field in Latvia. Some of them included:
 - the need for change in legislation,
 - the lack of information and research regarding flood retention practices and the role of wetlands,
 - the need to maintain the existing drainage systems,
 - the lack of funding and support for wetland managers with a thought to consider the flood retention mechanisms presented by the first speaker – support schemes used in some places in Austria.

On the same day as the webinar, the recording was published on Green Liberty’s YouTube channel in Latvian, collecting a total of 59 views by 10/01/2024.

All participants were sent the recording, links to the presentations of the webinar and the link to the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values. Despite the high attendance of the webinar, only three people filled in the survey.

The average assessment of the event, accounting for all the assessed quantitative criteria, was 4.03 (with rating 1-5). With quantitative questions (with rating 1-5), the highest rating went to the questions about the preliminary information provided before the event (average rating of 5) as well as the adequacy of the use of the online application (average rating of 5). The overall assessment of the event was evaluated with average rating of 4.3, increased awareness with average rating of 4.6 and increased knowledge (with average rating of 4.3). The format and content of the event was also rated high with the average of 4.3, except the chosen methodology, which was rated with 4.6. The lowest rating was at the question of increased skills (2.3) and increased cooperation (1.3). Regarding the question of gender equality, 100% of the participants gave positive answers, choosing multiple answers to confirm that the organisers took action to promote gender equality and ensure equal opportunities. 100 % of the participants also marked that their perception of the topic had changed to some extent and all of them also declared that they will be likely to react differently from now on when confronted to the topic to some extent. 100% of the surveyed participants will use to some extent what they learned in everyday life/work.

The short film was made available to the public on Youtube on 28/11/2023 and until 27/02/2024 has generated 334 views. It was also promoted on social media with Facebook posts, X as well as Instagram and LinkedIn posts.

Webinar | ‘Green principles and hidden issues in the use of EU public funding’ - 28 November 2023

Green Liberty had announced the 2023 the year for the advocacy of environmental interests. During this webinar, we presented what public funding of the European Union is available for Latvia’s development already now, and overviewed the green principles that are in place for the use of public funding, as well assessed how efficiently this funding is currently being absorbed, taking the transport sector as an example. In addition, we also learned how each of us can engage in these processes and in shaping Latvia’s climate policy to help finance sustainable projects and how to be active in our communities. An important part of the event was also the reflection on the experience of Green Liberty with regards to various aspects of public participation throughout 2023 - the year of advocacy of environmental interests.

The webinar was an hour and 30 minutes long and it was in Latvian for Latvian audience. The event was promoted on social media: Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn, as well as invitations were sent to about 150 people by e-mail.

The event had in total 22 participants but 14 of them are reported, since the rest participated also in one of the previous events. All of the participants are from Latvia: 11 females and 3 males. The event had 4 speakers from Green Liberty and a moderator from Green Liberty (2 females and 3 males). The event consisted of 4 presentations followed by Q&A after each presentation and short final questions

after the presentations.

Content:

Energy transition and EU funds expert from NGO Green Liberty highlighted the main aspects of accessibility of EU funds for the accomplishment of environmental goals and presented Green Liberty's experience. Main issues and progress regarding EU Recovery and Resilience Fund (including the newest developments regarding RePowerEU chapters), cohesion policy funds, Modernisation fund and Social climate fund was presented. Both positive achievements (investments) were presented as well as negative or problematic investments were discussed. The work and potential for participation in EU funds monitoring committee was promoted. [View presentation](#)

Climate change and energy expert from Green Liberty presented the work by the project 'Towards Climate neutral EU: effective use of EU funds' (EUKI). The developed green principles in implementation of EU funds were presented, as well as an extensive best practice investment database developed by the project with some concrete examples that illustrate the above-mentioned principles. Clear recommendations were given for future decision makers as well as people involved in project monitoring, such as – not investing into projects without clear benefit for the society, taking care to establish information and exchange with local communities, avoidance of "green washing" among others. [View presentation](#)

Manager of the company 'ELEPORT Latvija', expert at NGO Green Liberty presented how EU funds have been used in sustainable transition of transport sector. He presented his analysis of 28 projects financed by various EU funds for the total of 413,7 million EUR funding with EU funding of 271 million EUR. The reviewed projects included investments in science, technology, infrastructure and various vehicles. In summary, many good projects have been executed and some critical infrastructure has been introduced. Unfortunately, in multiple cases the benefit to wide society and needs beyond the needs of the project have not been sufficiently addressed. "Green washing" issues have also been recognized, with e.g. investments into LGN powered busses for example. [View presentation](#)

Biodiversity expert from Green Liberty summarised the results of various discussions in the year for protection of environmental interests which took place, mostly on various aspects regarding civil society involvement and public participation. Some of the main civil participation events were reflected on, including various demonstrations throughout 2023. A SWOT analysis was presented for public participation for environmental protection. In overall the presenter stressed that in Green Liberty's view public participation activity has grown in recent years and are no longer contained within environmental NGOs, politicians are becoming more careful and aware about environmental concerns, the activity of local communities is increasing. However, there are still significant issues with public participation in Latvia, with the most urgent topics being – lack of timely consultations with society, 'tick the box' exercise approach from public institutions and also – non-violent communication issues in public discussions (with participants often being too aggressive in communication). [View presentation](#)

After the event presentations and link to the recording of the event were sent to the participants, as well as the link to the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values. Unfortunately, a mistake was made in the instructions to the survey, so people indicated the wrong date (17/11 was indicated instead of 28/11). 2 participants filled in the survey.

The average assessment of the event, accounting for all the assessed quantitative criteria, was 4.05 (with rating 1-5). With quantitative questions (with rating 1-5), the highest rating went to the questions about the online application (average rating of 5) as well as the overall assessment of the event, provided preliminary information, increased awareness, increased knowledge and the choice of topic (4.5). The lowest rating was at the question of increased skills (3) and increased cooperation (3). Regarding the question of gender equality, one of the two participants gave positive answers, confirming with multiple answers that the organisers took action to promote gender equality and ensure equal opportunities. 100 % of the participants also marked that their perception of the topic had changed to some extent and all of them also declared that they will be likely to react differently from now on when confronted to the topic to some extent. 100% of the surveyed participants will use to some extent what they learned in everyday life/work.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).