



Interactive session:
challenges and synergies in balancing nature conservation, water management
and other policy objectives

Baltic-Nordic region thematic workshop/ summary from EST group
Lubāns, 29-30 September 2021

EU LIFE Programme integrated project
“Implementation of River Basin Management Plans of Latvia towards good surface water status”



1: Finding balance between policies and stakeholders' interests in migration barriers

- Fish migration barriers and good ecological status of waterbodies have conflicts between policies and intentions of various interest groups. Most complicated objects are those, which have legal aspects in nature conservation policies, water management and heritage protection. Typically, it is hard to determine whose interests are above others
- On one hand, according to nature protection policy, the most natural condition has to be established. On the other hand, ensuring fish migration by establishing fish bypasses is favored by the water management policies. Finally, preserving the conditions as is, is favored by the heritage protection
- The owner might have his own view altogether. Still, the conflict is usually between the governmental bodies, and this may affect the owners' interests. With all the different possible solutions, negotiations can last for a long time and the barrier may decompose in the meantime. This external factor may affect the outcome as well

Issue 2: Surface water and groundwater quality parameters are different, causing conflict in status assessment

- Groundwater quality indicators are determined according to human factors but for the surface water, protecting water habitats is the focus. Because of that, the limit for nickel is 200 ug/l for the groundwater and 4 ug/l for the surface water (AA-EQS). Complications arise when groundwater in good status causes bad status in surface water. This can happen in situations where the surface water comes mostly from groundwater
- Even though the WFD Art 2.3.2 regulates the situation and offers quality criteria for groundwater, which consider these conflicts, it is often not implemented

Thank you!



www.goodwater.lv



@goodwater



@goodwater



LIFE GoodWater



goodwater



goodwater

The integrated project “Implementation of River Basin Management Plans of Latvia towards good surface water status” (LIFE GOODWATER IP, LIFE18 IPE/LV/000014) has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union and the Administration of Latvian Environmental Protection Fund. www.goodwater.lv

The information reflects only the LIFE GOODWATER IP project beneficiaries' view and the European Commission's Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

