

STØTTET AF

Promilleafgiftsfonden for landbrug

Mid-term report and review – May 31, 2020 Case Areas level (CA)

CA Leaders

No.	Name	Leader
1.	Kutno County case area, Poland	Katarzyna Izydorczyk
2.	Zuvintas Reserve and agriculture case area, Lithuania	Elvyra Miksyte
2.	Gurjevsk case area, Kaliningrad, Russia	Irina Popova
3.	Jelgava case area, Latvia	Ingars Rozitis
4.	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone pilot area, Estonia	Kaja Peterson
5.	Ljuga River case area, Leningrad, Russia	Mikhail Ponomarev
6.	Southern Finland drainage case area, Finland	Mikko Ortamala
7.	Result-based payments scheme case area, Sweden	Emma Svensson
8.	Västervik case area, Sweden	Gun Lindberg
9.	Odense case area, Denmark	Frank Bondgaard

Name of CA and location

Nitrate Vulnerable Zone in Central Estonia, with a total territory of 3250 km²

Name of CA leader and rapporteur:

Kaja Peterson, SEI Tallinn

Names of contributors to the mid-term review:

Kaie Kriiska, SEI Tallinn

Status of report

In working progress: Completed by end of period 3

Finalized/closed and date: Completed by end of period 5

Report:

1. What is the CA objective in bullet points? (max 2000)

- The pilot area under the WP4 aims at the evaluation of the implementation of the action plan of NVZ 2016-2020 with a view how to improve of the water management in an area of intensive agricultural production and unprotected surface and ground water systems.
- Bring together the decision makers upon the implementation of the NVZ action plan and discuss the options for better performance.

- Develop proposal for additional water-soil-related measures to improve the water quality in NVZ.
- Communicate the proposal to decision makers at national and regional and local level

2. Describe the key elements of your CA and progress of work until end of P3. (max 6000)

Several surveys were conducted to understand the governance of NVZ, such as the analysis of the legal and governance system, soil fertility analysis, soil carbon storage analysis, and a proposal for water-soil-protection measures has been made. A special NVZ task force was established to review the intermediate and final results of the pilot area surveys, discuss the options for improving of the implementation of the NVZ action plan and the water quality in NVZ. A summary report on the findings of the analysis has been developed under WP4.2. The aim of the report is threefold. Firstly, it reviews the agriculture-related water policy regulations and the role of state and local authorities in the implementation of NVZ action plan in Estonia. Secondly, the report summarises the perceptions of representatives of local governments located in NVZ about their role and capacity in the water management. Thirdly, the initial water and soil related agri-environmental measures of the Estonian CAP 2021-2027 strategy are reviewed. Finally, conclusions on the issues to promote better management of NVZ and application of water and soil related actions are drawn.

3. Describe the final CA outputs like (focus groups, implementation plans, investment plans and other). (max 6000)

As described above, a task force (a focus group) was established to discuss the findings of the analysis and the proposal for additional measures to improve of the water status in NVZ, was established. One of the targets of policy analysis was the action plan of NVZ 2016-2020. Policy analysis aimed at understanding the effectiveness of implementation of the action plan and what other measures could be useful to consider in the renewal of the action plan.

4. Please, list the five most important experiences from your work in the CA that you would like to share with the Waterdrive target groups. (max 3000)

Since the pilot case targeted the water policy and the effectiveness of implementation of the policy (action plan), the most important is to bring together the decision makers from

different ministries and agencies and discuss the water issues in agriculture beyond their administrative borders. This was the ultimate aim of establishing of the NVZ task force.

Administrative changes (like adopting new measures) take a lot of communication, explanation and follow-up activities, and by the end of the day, only a short list of amendments are agreed.

The biggest inertia at political level seems to be with result-based payments

5. What makes your CA unique in relation to the other CAs we have in Waterdrive?

The Estonian pilot case is a policy oriented case - how to improve the policy and policy implementation at national and regional (NVZ) level.

6. Please, list what you consider the five most important innovations (technological or methodological) that can bring added value to water management in agricultural landscapes of the Baltic Sea Region.

1. As the WP4 surveys have demonstrated the primary issue for farmers is soil fertility, since this enables better yields, better yields again enable profits and economic sustainability of farms. So, the water-measures should be tied to soil measures. This gives the best outcome of the measures

2. As the WP4 surveys have demonstrated farmers and local governments expect better communication and cooperation with the state authorities to find the best solutions together. That is why the advisory system needs strengthening.

3.

4.

5.

7. List some unexpected outcomes from the Waterdrive cooperation so far. (max 3000)

1. I am positively surprised to have a lot of motivation among the Waterdrive partners to develop new measures and improve the current ones to reduce the nutrients' runoff and improve the water quality.

2.

3.

8. Estimate how the workload in your CA is distributed over time by estimating workload in % by Period?

Period 1-3: 80 %

Period 4: 10 %

Period 5: 10 %

Total: 100 %

1. List and motivate any changes required in P4 and P5 compared to descriptions in the original application. (max 3000)

Change desired	Motiv
Changes may appear once the new CAP measures have been agreed across EU and BSR countries.	Currently it is the prime time for developing new water-soil-related measures in agricultural

2. List the most important agri-environmental measures you work with in the case area.

1. In the NVZ most of the agri-environmental measures are related to water and soil protection. Based on WP4 survey in NVZ, there is a need for grasslands, both permanent and short-term, to ensure the soil carbon storage and soil fertility.
2. Also, in addition to the water-soil measures, biodiversity measures are important to consider.
3. To support financially the organic farming practices
4.
6.
7.

3. List Waterdrive partners/persons and their roles/responsibilities in completing the CA outputs.

Persons/Partners	Roles/Responsibilities
Kaja Peterson, SEI Tallinn	WP4 leader; NVZ pilot case team leader
Kaie Kriiska, SEI Tallinn	WP4 member, NVZ pilot case team member
Kaidi Kaaret, SEI Tallinn	WP4 member, NVZ pilot case team member
Piret Kuldna, SEI Tallinn	WP4 member, NVZ pilot case team member

4. Up-date the CA workplan for P4 and P5 by completing the below table/workplan. You find the Waterdrive master workplan on the SharePoint site.

Activities, bench-marks, deliverables, outputs	Deadline
P4 and P5 : Continuation of the regular meetings of the NVZ task force	Once in 6 months
P5: Summarising the updated NVZ action plan	Nov 2021

5. Perform a SWOT analysis for the CA process as a management support for P4 and P5. List at least five considerations for each category.

Category	Considerations
Strengths	Strong commitment of national authorities and farmers associations to work together towards common goal
Weaknesses	Policy changes take time, there is no quick change
Threats	The updated NVZ action may not bring a substantial change in the water-soil management in NVZ, the poor water quality may continue
Opportunities	Communication of the needed policy changes increases the understanding of the urgency of action

6. List the most important cooperation initiatives with Waterdrive groups of activities and/or case areas. (max 3000)

Group of activities/case areas	Type of cooperation
WP2 and WP4	Communication and joint action in case areas in WP2 and pilot cases in WP4.
WP4 and WP5	Development of policy recommendations

7. List the target groups most relevant for your CA results communication. (max 1000)

Target groups
Decision makers at national level and local level

8. List the five most important elements in a participatory toolbox to support strong local action. (max 2000)

1.Strengthen the farmers' associations
2.Strengthen the cooperation between farmers, local governments, state authorities and advisors.
3.
4.

5.

9. List the five most important considerations when it comes to leadership and coordination to support strong local action. (max 2000)

1.Strengthen the farmers' associations

2.Strengthen the cooperation between farmers, local governments, state authorities and advisors.

3.

4.

5.

10. List the five most important policy recommendations to support strong local action. (max 3000)

1.Strengthen the farmers' associations

2.Strengthen the farmers' advisory systems

3.Strengthen the cooperation between farmers, local governments, state authorities and advisors.

4.

5.

11. Any other comments or issues?

Add attachments:

- a. Add a PPP with approx. 5-10 slides for presentations of your CA at the Waterdrive website. The PPP should be understandable for the target groups. Use the Waterdrive presentation template.
- b. Add any other material supporting mid-term review and reporting as you wish.