

## 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.  | Põltsamaa case 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

**Kutno County case area, Poland**

#### Name of CA leader and rapporteur:

Katarzyna Izydorczyk (ERCE)

#### Names of contributors to the mid-term review:

Kinga Krauze (ERCE),  
Wojciech Frątczak (ERCE)  
Katarzyna Bańkowska (ERCE)  
Małgorzata Grodzicka-Kowalczyk (PHH)  
Maciej Kowalczyk (PHH)  
Katarzyna Ambryszewska (CDR)  
Janusz Dabrowski (CDR)

#### Status of report

In working progress: Yes

Finalized/closed and date: No still open

#### Report:

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

**1. Moderation/Increased potential for multi-actor cross-sectoral cooperation to increase water retention in the agricultural basin**

Increased water retention is possible through (1) cooperative renovation and management of the drainage system to slow down water outflow, (2) using good agricultural practices to increase soil water retention, and (3) optimization of the landscape structure for regulation of water cycle.

The effective implementation of water retention measures requires **multi-actor cooperation at local level**. For example in case of the river channel retention it is required to couple land owners (farmers) management of the drainage network on their land with the top down actions by water manager/owner (Polish Waters). Support for local and regional authorities is a key element mobilizing local initiatives. To this end, it is necessary to build the potential for multi-actor activities by bridging stakeholders and moderating the cooperation process, which is the main objective of the Kutno County CA in WATERDRIVE project.

In the area of policy, the aim of CA is to propose and test **a new type of advisory services** – water advisor, with an option to be incorporated as a broader programme undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

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

The main objective of Kutno CA is to inspire local cross-sectoral water management in agricultural areas.

**1. Participatory selection of the location of the case area - the Kutno County** - an important provider of agricultural products in the Lodzkie province. The high quality of soil had contributed to the development of intense agriculture and thus to the conversion of the substantial part of hydrogenic landscape. Land acquisition was based on the drainage of originally peatbog and marshland areas and regulation of rivers, followed but changes in the dynamics of water flow in the landscape. Intensive plant production resulted in water pollution (nitrogen). Nowadays the situation gets worse due to superimposed impact of climate change, namely frequencies and duration of both hydraulic and agricultural droughts. Yield loss results in increased interest of farmers in water retention and improvement of water quality.

Additionally, within the Kutno County CA, an **implementation area** was selected: **the Bedlno Commune**, to develop and test procedures for effective cooperation in increasing water retention in agricultural basin.

**2. Launching of a focus group** with the main actors being: (1) water companies - voluntary association of land owners managing parts of a drainage system, (2) catchment and regional water management authorities - parts of the National Water Holding Polish Waters - responsible for water resources management; (4) authorities of the Kutno county, Bedlno commune and neighboring communes, and (5) regional authorities.

The scope of the focus group work was drawn during informal stakeholder meetings and participation to two events organized at the level of the Lodzkie province. The meeting

organized by the Marshal's Office (AO17), which took place on 20 Aug 2019, was attended by representatives of water companies and Polish Waters. They pointed a problem of insufficient cooperation between actors in water sector in the rural areas. Another important forum for discussion among water companies, local authorities and Polish Waters was a consultation meeting of the "STOP Drought" programme organized by Polish Waters (AO5) for Lodzkie province on 13 Nov 2019. The meeting underlined necessity to develop mechanisms of cooperative drainage system management.

**3. The 1st National WATERDRIVE Meeting** under honorary auspices of the Marshal of Lodzkie province – kick off meeting in Poland (13 June 2019, Łódź) was organized by the Polish Project Partners (CDR, ERCE, PHH) to present overall Waterdrive projects objectives and start multi-actors, multi-sectors collaboration. The meeting was attended by 100 participants representing water companies from Łódzkie Voivodeship, local authorities from Kutno County, regional authorities, agricultural advisors form 4 voivodship, Institute of Rural and Agriculture Development PAN, and spatial planners.

**4. The 1st Local WATERDRIVE Meeting in Bedlno** (6 Feb 2020) was organized by ERCE and the Marshal's Office of the Lodzkie province in cooperation with the Head of the Bedlno Commune. The meeting was attended by 45 participants: ab. 20 farmers from implementation area (water company, farmers, community council), 5 representatives of the National Water Holding 'Polish Waters' (local, catchment, regional and national level), water companies and local authorities from the Kutno County, regional authorities, agricultural advisors, experts.

During the interactive part of the meeting, the participants discussed the selection of the area to demonstrate water retention increase through controlling the outflow from drainage system (the so-called river channel retention). The pilot activities are to cover both watercourses owned by the Polish Waters and by the Bedlno water company. Additionally stakeholders suggested to develop guidelines for joint activities including retention at a catchment scale, an inventory and assessment of the condition of existing water reclamation facilities, and defining the location of new water damping sites. The important condition of success is not only cooperation and coordination of activities, but above all understanding and acceptance of temporal flooding by the owners of adjacent land.

The parallel efforts should be done to promote and enable landscape retention. During the workshop, attendees discussed the possibilities and limitations of the implementation of targeted agricultural practices (catch crops, deepening, selection of the sowing direction) and landscape shaping measures (buffer zones, afforestation, mid-field bushes and trees, wetlands). Farmers concluded that there was a need to raise common awareness about the role of landscape structure in water retention, as well as to establish financial instruments encouraging land and water owners to cooperate within the catchment area.

5. Follow-up of the Bedlno meeting :

- The **joint operation on existing hydrotechnical infrastructures** by the Bedlno water company and the Polish Waters – about 10 weirs on the Bzura river tributaries, located in the Bedlno Commune, were dammed between 30 April 2020 and 14 May 2020 storing the water on the commune meadows.
- Launching, by the the Marshal's Office of the Lodzkie province, of a **pilote programme** "Integrated water management in a small agricultural catchment area to increase

water retention and counteract the effects of drought" with an aim of rebuilding water resources based on: river channel retention, soil retention and landscape retention. The river basins selected for the pilot area: Stradzewski Channel, Igla, Słudwia, and Moszczenica located within the communes of Bedlno and Zduny.

- Contribution of the Bedlno meeting outcomes to **newly run national program** of "River Channel Retention".

6. Hosting by the Kutno County CA **the 2nd Waterdrive Baltic Regional Conference** planned 18-20 March, 2020 and moved to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Conference is organized in cooperation with WP.4. by SEI and Polish PPs. The first day is planned as visit in CA area and international stakeholders meeting to discuss experiences in local multi-actors cooperation in water management of the Baltic Sea Region case areas.

7. Building a **team of local spatial planning experts** to share knowledge and opinions with WATERDRIVE and to promote the effects of the project (more in GA3.3 mid-term report).

8. The policy meeting held in Bedlno on 14 February 2020. The representatives of the water company and commune departments responsible for investments analyzed regional policies with respect to local climate change adaptation options and efficient use of available financial tools. The outcome was indication of several calls within the Regional Operational Program best fitting investments needs in the Bzura River Catchment.

9. Beyond the CA area there were a few **policy case studies** carried out:

- February/March 2019 – defining a scope of water related services within public agricultural advisory ones with:
  - 1) the questionnaire covering a representative group of the public agricultural advisors,
  - 2) direct formal and informal meetings with farmers and online questionnaires focused on needs of CA farmers with respect to the new type of agricultural advisory services;
  - 3) institutional mapping of the key actors involved in water management. The main challenge in the activity was to make a feasible compromise between meeting local needs and universal, national tools.
- Testing the new type of advisory services in CA (ongoing).
- March/May 2020: Establishing under CDR a multidisciplinary team of experts consisting in representatives of Polish Waters, advisory services, and researchers. The main task of the team is to outline the scope of water services to be included into the national system of public advisory system, and to prepare a special report for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development based on experiences of CA and contributing to better implementation of the new type of advisory services.

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

1. Mapping locations of potential landscape water retention measures (green infrastructure)
2. Establishing an efficient system for river channel retention

3. Definition of spatial planning and legal mechanisms supporting landscape optimisation for increased water retention in catchment scale
4. Development of action plan for improvement of water retention for the Bedlno commune with suggested investments, and funding sources.
5. Hints for development of the training tools for planners (designers and those who decide on planning procedures) and people who can/should join planning processes at the local and regional. The work has begun on collecting information filling the content of the tool. To a large extent, this tool is based on partners' knowledge and exchange of experience. The tool in a form of e-book will be distributed within and after the lifetime of WATERDRIVE.
6. Elaborated profile of the new agricultural advisory services (based on contribution of agricultural public advisors, CA farmers, and external experts).
7. Institutional mapping of the key actors relevant for improved rural water management (regional and national scale).
8. Linking the Waterdrive activities to national efforts by the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development of including the water advisory services into the national framework of Public Agricultural Advisory System in Poland.

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)

- |   |
|---|
| 1. Political support is crucial as a door opening factor, although later collaboration is based rather on good...   |
| 2. ....Personal communication and relationships as well as a proposal of concrete actions.  |
| 3. A large, multi-level commitment to improve water management in the agricultural landscape among land users, local authorities and experts responsible for processes at regional level.                                       |
| 4. Engaging local small enterprises or societies in organization of the events, e.g. providing refreshments, providing space, serves both as ice breaking and trust / respect building tools                                    |
| 5. The key role of proper institutional system to facilitate involvement of farmers/local landowners in establishing NBS at a local/regional level.   |
| 6. The strong professional/personal knowledge and skill basis as well as institutional embedding of the water advisory system as a precondition for an effective operation of agricultural services at a regional/local levels. |

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

The Kutno county is extremely deforested area with simultaneous high natural capacity of water retention. Still the county is very much exposed to agricultural and hydrogeological droughts. It means that it can modify local practices to restore natural capital and to provide stakeholders with multiple benefits including high insurance value of ecosystems.

The Polish CA is the only one in Waterdrive entirely focused on solving problems of water shortage using NBS and harmonization of green and grey infrastructure.

In the policy area the Kutno CA pushes for establishing of a new type of advisory systems including water resources assessment and management.

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. Reconstruction of drainage system towards increased water provision and local retention   |
| 2. Combining nature-based solution (NBS, green infrastructure) with grey measures  |
| 3. Reintroducing Water officer function (Land amelioration officer before EU accession)  |
| 4. Development of a pilot, whole - catchment - water management programme linking landscape planning, societal engagement, policy recommendations and implementation as demonstration of the best practice |
| 5. Introduction of a hybrid financing tool for water projects: international funds, government funds, local government funds and private funds (water companies - land users)                              |
| 6. Methodological approach to co-creation of the new type of advisory services (multi-disciplinary and multi-actors approach)  |

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

|   |
|---|
| 1. Very extensive knowledge of local farmers, based on local knowledge and tradition, own data collections (e.g. private meteo stations) and multifactor analysis (slope / soils / crops interactions); |
| 2. High willingness to cooperate, land enabling for retention measures, and putting pressure to broadly disseminate knowledge among farmers;  |
| 3. Efficient regional facilitation process that led to strengthening the collaboration between farmers and water authorities;   |
| 4. Recognition of NBS as the important component of water management and drought prevention.  |
| 5. Request to improve knowledge, skills and technical/institutional capacities of agricultural advisors with respect to sustainable water use and drought mitigation.                                   |

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

|             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| Period 1-3: | 40 %  |
| Period 4:   | 30 %  |
| Period 5:   | 30 %  |
| 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 |
|----------------|-------|
| Not considered |       |

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

|   |
|---|
| 1. Establishing shelterbelts  |
| 2. Afforestation of selected, unproductive lands                          |
| 3. Establishing and protection of ecotone meadows and wetlands            |
| 4. Cultivation of catch crops and soil embedding crops (intercropping)    |
| 5. Protection / establishing small water bodies                           |
| 6. Reconstruction of drainage systems towards amelioration of soils.      |
| 7. Counterbalancing direct CAP payments with agri-environmental subsidies |

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

| Persons/Partners                     | Roles/Responsibilities  |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Katarzyna Izydorczyk /ERCE           | Coordination of Kutno CA, main responsibility for reporting, convening and conducting meetings  |
| Kinga Krauze /ERCE                   | responsible for selecting stakeholder participation techniques;<br>expert in term of optimization of the landscape structure for regulation of water cycle  |
| Wojciech Frątczak /ERCE              | leadership of cooperation between water companies, water authorities, and local/regional authorities;<br>coordination of cooperative renovation and management of the drainage system to slow down water outflow; |
| Małgorzata Grodzicka-Kowalczyk / PHH | leadership of cooperation with spatial planning experts   |
| Maciej Kowalczyk /PHH                | responsible for the analysis and selection of financing tools and mechanisms selected for project implementation  |
| Katarzyna Bańkowska /ERCE            | responsible for the economic analysis of determinants of development in rural area for project implementation   |

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Katarzyna Ambryszewska /CDR | Overall management of work on new type of advisory services in CA |
| Janusz Dąbrowski /CDR       | Ongoing delivering of work in CA.                                 |

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   |
|---|------------|
| 1. Survey and status assessment of the existing drainage (water damming) facilities by Polish Waters - process facilitation (report)  | 30.09.2020 |
| 2. Development of a leaflet "Why is it worthwhile to retain water in ditches?" to raise farmers' awareness and acceptance of the channel water retention programme                | 30.09.2020 |
| 3. Recognising the acceptability of nature-based solutions by farmers (report)  | 30.09.2020 |
| 4. Participatory mapping of potential areas increasing landscape water retention (enabling wetlands, ponds, buffer zones, mid-field trees and bushes, afforestation ) (report)    | 31.12.2020 |
| 5. Co-design of new water damming system both on state and private lands, based on the hydrological model – cooperation with external experts outside Waterdrive project (report) | 31.03.2021 |
| 6. Co-creation of the Integrated Action Plan for Bedlno commune for increased water retention   | 31.06.2021 |
| 7. Development of guidelines and identification of formal pathways to replicate the Bedlno process, to be made available to other water companies/municipalities                  | 31.06.2021 |

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  | Good contacts with stakeholders; well selected area – with active water companies and decision makers, and agricultural advisory services; good data base; extensive knowledge on water related issues among farmers |
| Weaknesses | Lack of system solutions for multi-actor and multilevel collaboration; very weak landscape planning / protection law; weak knowledge transfer between farmers and information owners;                                |



|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Threats       | Coronavirus (economic burden); limited water resources; no funding for expert work: engineering and design, modelling; |
| Opportunities | Water Law; hot topic due to droughts 2018-2020; natural capital also as a basis for NBS;                               |

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   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| A.3.2                          | Learning from the use of the model / application for determining locations of potential landscape water retention measures (green infrastructure)   |
| A.3.3                          | Definition of spatial planning and legal mechanisms supporting landscape optimisation for increased water retention in catchment scale based on Kutno County CA                                 |
| A.5.2                          | Testing a draft version of the Waterdrive training and education package together with stakeholders, e.g. participants from case area (water companies, local authorities and spatial planners) |
| A.5.2.                         | Survey-based assessment of farm economic performance under BaU and NBS schemes – monetary valuation of insurance value of NBS   |
|                                |   |

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

| Target groups  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water companies</li> <li>• National Water Holding Polish Waters - water management authorities at catchment, regional and national level</li> <li>• Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Inland Navigation</li> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</li> <li>• Regional authorities</li> <li>• Local authorities</li> <li>• Agricultural advisors</li> <li>• Farmers/Landowners</li> <li>• Spatial planning offices</li> <li>• Agricultural school</li> </ul> |

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

- |  |
|--|
| 1. Catalogue of techniques supporting collaborative work (e.g. Lotus method) with the examples of optimal uses, weaknesses and strengths |
| 2. Know how on Living Lab methodology: 1. Preparatory work, 2. Process organization, 3. Application cases, 4. Pros and cons              |

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

- |   |
|---|
| 1. Deep knowledge of local situation  |
| 2. Well-developed social network: formal and informal connections               |
| 3. Good knowledge of threshold conditions – biophysical and formal (legal)      |
| 4. Understanding of the system: information flows, interactions between actors, |
| 5. Giving more voice to local actors  |

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

- |  |
|--|
| 1. Support for corporative applications to agri - environmental schemes (not individual ones but support for whole communities to reach one goal)  |
| 2. Lack of dedicated fund / subsidies: too many limitations, no support for public-private initiatives (e.g. management of wetlands crossing private / state grounds), not all local goals covered by the funding programmes, no possibility to merge subsidies for different agri-environmental measures, |
| 3. Enhancing the water monitoring service (for both quality and quantity / use) and establishing of easily accessible digital data base to support sustainable use of water  |
| 4. Creation of funding mechanisms that enable local authorities and non-farming residents of rural areas to take actions towards water retention   |
| 5. Opening a fast track for Green Deal applications with dedicated Technical Assistance mechanisms;  |
| 6. Legal and funding mechanisms enabling land managers to take more holistic approach to ecosystem services at catchment level, covering both water quality and overall water management.  |

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.  
*will be prepared*
- b. Add any other material supporting mid-term review and reporting as you wish.