

FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Estonia

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Programme short name	EE-CLIMATE
Programme Operator	Ministry of Climate - Estonia (EE)
Host Programme Area	PA13 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
Financial Mechanisms	EEA Grants
Programme grant in EUR	€ 6,000,000.00
Programme co-financing in EUR	€ 1,058,823.53
Final incurred amount in EUR	€ 6,784,488.57
Final incurred rate %	96.11 %

PROGRAMME RESULTS

Programme Objective: Climate change mitigated and vulnerability to climate change reduced

Eligible expenditure: € 7,058,823.53 Amount incurred: € 6,784,488.57

Issues the programme aimed to address

The main objective of the Programme was to mitigate climate change and reduce the vulnerability to climate change in Estonia. The Programme aimed to contribute substantially to the transition to a low-carbon circular economy in Estonia in a smooth, inclusive and informed manner. The resolution of the Estonian Parliament "General Principles of Climate Policy until 2050" states that Estonia needs a transition to a low-carbon economy. The long-term target (which also follows EU common aim) of Estonia is to reduce greenhouse gas emission by 80% by 2050 compared to the emission levels of 1990. The framework and long-term goal for the environment is set by the Estonian Environmental Strategy 2030 where one of the main objectives is the sustainable use of natural resources and reduction of waste generation. It can be reached inter alia through the successful implementation of circular economy. The policy framework consists of many international, European and national strategies and policies.

The programme "Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption" was implemented in cooperation with the donor Programme partner Norwegian Environment Agency. The grants were aimed at projects that promote economic growth, innovation and sustainable development and strengthen capacities in various fields such as education, environment, culture and social inclusion. Two projects were also implemented to increase the resilience of ecosystems.

The implementation of climate change adaptation activities has had social, environmental, and economic impacts on various target groups and contributed to broader awareness-raising. One of the most significant impacts already observed is the public attention these activities have garnered. Several project promoters share their experiences regarding the maintenance, establishment, and management of green areas, wind and solar parks, and the overall application of nature-based solutions. This influence will persist for years to come, as knowledge-sharing is not a one-time activity.

Programme contribution to overall objectives

The Programme contributes to the overall objective of the relevant Programme area, which is to mitigate climate change and reduce the vulnerability to climate change. The Programme achieved its aim. The Programme established some important measures and pilots that were needed to mitigate climate change and reduce the vulnerability to climate change at local level and made an important contribution to raising awareness about climate change. For example, as a result of the Programme Keila City Government developed green roof for public song festival ground, which helps to increase biodiversity and Tartu City Government developed reuse material bank, which helps to reduce

construction material waste. Both examples help to raise public awareness about climate change. Viljandi and Tallinn Cities developed public water taps around the cities, that help adapting to reduce the effects of climate change, such as heat waves.

The Programme contributed to the overall objectives of the EEA Financial Mechanism. First, it promoted the social and economic cohesion in the EEA. As Estonia had some insufficiencies in the field of climate change in the EEA (e.g. public awareness and involving local level, etc.), some of these areas were addressed in the Programme, for example development local level energy and climate plans and development of educational materials for school students were part of the Programme. Before the Programme those areas weren't enough important in Estonia, for example, since the Programme started, only two biggest cities (Tallinn and Tartu) had adopted their energy and climate plans. Also, all the built green areas are accessible to people with mobility impairment.

The Programme also contributed to the second important overall objective – bilateral cooperation. Cooperation with the donor states took place at all levels – at programme and projects preparation level as well as at implementation level. The Programme has significantly contributed into encouraging cooperation between Estonia and Donor states. Cooperation between Estonia and Donor states has been successful and there are many new ideas about how to continue the cooperation in the future. For example, Tallinn City Government continues good cooperation with Oslo City Government.

At the Programme level, there was a fruitful and effective bilateral cooperation with Donor Programme Partner (DPP) Norwegian Environment Agency from Norway. The close cooperation has been a key factor for achieving the goals of the Programme. The Programme would have not been as successful without the cooperation with DPP. They helped to search partners and organise cooperation committee meetings, evaluate the projects etc. Close communication with DPP was particularly important during the Programme preparation and implementation phase. DPP is very skilled and has a long experience with international cooperation. The help provided by DPP was extremely valuable, relevant and appreciated.

Sustainability

In Outcome 1 public awareness and stakeholder engagement were significantly increased, ensuring a broader societal impact and supporting long-term sustainability goals. Key outcomes include the use of developed materials, methodologies, and research in education and public awareness efforts. Additionally, a maritime impact assessment framework is being created using and leveraging project-acquired knowledge. Output 1 contributed with high-quality scientific data and methodologies to Estonia's strategic documents, plans, and methodologies. A significant focus is also placed on analyzing the pathways of 10 alien species and mapping these pathways, which serves as the foundation for Estonia's forthcoming invasive alien species pathways action plan.

The use of eDNA methods in broader monitoring is relatively expensive, but in this regard too, the Estonian Environmental Agency, which is responsible for national monitoring, plans to further develop the methods and analyze in which situations eDNA methods should be used more, which could replace repeated visits by several experts to the same areas and save experts' working time.

The sustainability of Outcome 2 climate change mitigation and adaptation project activities is best ensured. These are mainly ensured by long-term maintenance contracts and cooperation partners, maintenance plans or the position of urban gardening coordinator. In terms of cooperation and networks, several donor partners pointed out that contacts with Estonian partners have been maintained and several donor partners also have ongoing projects with Estonian partners, some even with new partners.

In Outcome 2, 34 of 79 Estonian local municipalities got climate change mitigation and adaptation plans thanks to EEA Grants. A lot of municipalities are not able to implement their action plan, as they

don't have enough finances in their municipalities budget. In case of suitable financing instrument, they are most interested in implementing the climate and energy action plans.

In Outcome 3 The sustainability of pilot projects is ensured by the further implementation of the expert knowledge gained during the projects, the maintenance of contact networks established with the donor country, and the ongoing management and maintenance of the pilot project outputs. The sustainability of the majority of the outputs created within the framework of the pilot projects (repair workshops, circular economy centres, circular renovation banks) requires a functioning business model, which ensures the profitability of the output over a longer period.

Outcome 1: Ecosystem resilience increased

Amount incurred: € 748,266.67

Results

Invasive alien species are a major driver of biodiversity loss. An analysis of the IUCN Red List shows that invasive alien species are the second most common threat associated with species that have gone completely extinct and are the most common threat associated with extinctions of amphibians, reptiles and mammals worldwide. There is a strong link between invasive alien species and climate change, which have ecological and economic implications. Invasive alien species enter new areas both through intentional and unintentional releases, both can have detrimental effects on the ecosystem health and functioning. Where possible, invasive species should be controlled, contained or eradicated in the affected areas. In aquatic ecosystems interception or removal of pathways are probably the most effective strategies for reducing their future impacts.

The programme delivered substantial progress in managing invasive alien species and enhancing ecosystem resilience. It strengthened understanding of the spread, impacts, and control of these species, contributing to the development of preventive and mitigation strategies. The integration of project findings into national systems and methodologies supports improved decision-making in environmental management. Innovations in monitoring and biocontrol provided practical tools for efficient species management, reducing resource intensity. Public awareness and stakeholder engagement were significantly increased, ensuring a broader societal impact and supporting long-term sustainability goals.

The projects achieved all output-level results, significantly contributing to knowledge and management of invasive species in freshwater and marine ecosystems.

Key results include the analysis of entry routes for 10 invasive alien species, enabling preventive measures to protect Estonia's environment. The potential for spread in Estonia's climate was assessed, and control methods for three invasive crayfish species (signal, spiny cheek, and marbled crayfish) were developed and implemented across multiple freshwater locations. Over 20,000 non-native crayfish were removed from 20 water bodies, while indigenous waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*) presence was analysed from 27 lakes.

A workshop and training sessions for environmental protection officials improved skills in identifying non-native crayfish and waterweed, supporting long-term species management. Public outreach included booklets, articles, ferry advertisements, and appearances on widely watched Estonian TV shows. Two academic theses advanced research on the role of European eels as biocontrol agents and the impact of fisheries on signal crayfish populations.

An innovative eDNA method, developed with a Norwegian partner, was tested to detect species in water bodies via water samples. A children's book on invasive species further enhanced public

awareness. Collaboration with donor state partners facilitated joint results and ongoing knowledge exchange.

Public engagement ensured knowledge dissemination and fostering community involvement in environmental protection

The project on marine invasive species evaluated the carbon sequestration potential of coastal habitats, adapted vegetation restoration methods to Estonian conditions, and tested them on Prangli Island's southern coast. It assessed the environmental and ecosystem service impacts of 14 invasive species, modeled their spread, and conducted eDNA-based monitoring in three major ports. An online tool on non-indigenous indigenous species and their impacts onto marine environment is made publicly available. eDNA and new monitoring methods will be used for long-term in national marine monitoring programme. The findings expanded data on invasive species impacts and led to a 5-step impact assessment guide developed together with Norwegian Institute of Marine Research.

Together, these achievements have improved knowledge, raised awareness, and advanced the management of invasive species, benefiting municipalities, environmental experts, and the public. The projects' legacy continues through national and international collaborations, innovative tools, and public resources.

Performance of projects was rated very high: all objectives were fully achieved.

High quality scientific data and methodologies are base for and contribute to Estonias strategic documents, plans and methodologies "Estonia 2035", "Climate Policy 2050", example seagrass restoration plan under EU Nature Restoration Law, and incorporating invasive species impact assessments into Estonian Marine Strategy updates. Analysis of the income pathways of 10 alien species and mapping the main income pathways is bases for the preparation of the next income pathways action plan.

Key sustainability outputs are wide use of knowledge and materials:

- teaching in general education and higher education institutions,
- raising public awareness on environmental issues and non-ingenous species,
- a uniform methodology for assessing the effects of non-ingenous species to marine ecosystems is being created, based on the knowledge gained during the project.

The specific knowledge of the donor country partner Norwegian Veterinary Institute on eDNA topics helped to achieve the goals set by the project teams in Estonia and to develop eDNA-based monitoring methodologies for new alien species at both, the University of Tartu and the Estonian University of Life Sciences. Cooperation between research institutions in similar projects is of great importance, as it increases the capacity of research institutions to develop new methodologies and create new knowledge that did not previously exist in the research institution.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

For publishing scientific articles, the implementation period was too short. It takes approximately 6 months to get an article published after all the implementation activities are completed. Fortunately, it was possible to publish the article with the help of PO, as the article was published using program management costs.

Public procurements are still an issue and needs more clarification, possibly even a training, as there were a few smaller irregularities related to that. Especially framework agreements and different eradication services ordered from private fishermen as they are not considered as employment

agreement but as providing a service, therefore should be done as a procurement when the estimated cost exceed the threshold of public procurement.

Evaluation report brought out some challenges bureaucracy and administrative burden (such as applying for chemical licences and reporting complexity). A challenge was also non-fulfilment of partners' obligations and change of project manager in the Norwegian partner institution.

Outcome 2: Increased ability at the local level to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate

Amount incurred: € 3,814,611.34

Results

To achieve GHG emissions reduction goals by 2050, it is important to raise awareness on climate change. Awareness on climate change is not as widespread and understood as more general environmental awareness. A study from 2024 about the environmental awareness of Estonian citizens indicates that awareness of climate change is relatively low compared to other environmental issues.

At the local level it is important to raise awareness how climate is changing and how to adapt to it. We had three different objectives to achieve Outcome 2. The first objective was to raise awareness starting from kindergarten. Collaboration of universities have redesigned the curricula upto the end of gymnasium.

The small grant scheme (Call 1 of SGS) of 'Climate change mitigation and adaptation plans' exceeded the PO-s expectations as it was very popular among local municipalities. With 10 implemented projects (Keila, Narva, Pärnu, Rakvere cities and Tartu, Pärnu, Jõgeva, Võru, Lääne and Lääne-Viru counties (6 county level and 4 municipality level plans)) 34 local municipalities received input to their local strategical documents with the compilation of a climate change mitigation and adaptation plan and to be in compliant with national and EU strategies. This plan made the local municipalities think about the actions necessary to take in the near future to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

With the implementation of Call 2 'Climate change mitigation and adaption measures' 8 municipalities with 9 projects all together had the chance to implement activities that are necessary to take in order to adapt to and/or mitigate the effects of climate change.

Within 6 different projects' demonstration areas for climate education and/or community gardens were built to raise awareness of the importance of soil, plants, biodiversity and harvesting, even of pollinators. These activities were implemented in kindergartens (Kohtla-Järve [EE0023](#)), schools (Viljandi [EE0026](#)), educational centres (Pernova [EE0025](#)) and public areas (Keila [EE0022](#), Tori [EE0021](#), Tallinn [EE0024](#)). That raises the awareness of people from a very young age to the elderlies. Pernova education centre developed 4 climate change learning programs for schools and other target groups

Restoring ruined alleyways in Põltsamaa ([EE0019](#)) or planting trees in big, mowed areas, like in Kohtla-Järve city ([EE0023](#)), is participating in mitigating the heat island effect in cities, also acting as a rainwater collectors when the trees are bigger, and preventing flooding. Together with other constructed nature-based solutions a whole public area of the [singing ground in Keila City](#) ([EE0022](#)) has been transformed into a green area with biodiverse flower beds, flower meadows, scent gardens and rain-beds, and unites the nearby areas smoothly with nature. Setting an example by the local municipality the residents can also start to implement these activities on their own land, making biodiversity more popular and common. These activities have also been implemented in other cities like [Tori](#), Kohtla-Järve, Põltsamaa and Viljandi.

Three projects installed rainwater recovery systems to reduce flooding in the urban areas of Märjamaa ([EE0018](#)), Keila and Pernova. Using rainwater to store it and using it when draught hits, is a great example of giving back to nature what it provides.

Drinking water was made available by constructing public drinking water taps in Tallinn (15) and Viljandi (6).

With the help of renewable energy solutions two project promoters are now more energy efficient and have reduced their CO2 emissions which also has an impact on achieving our 2030 renewable energy goals – in Kohtla-Järve installed 8 solar stations on the roofs of public buildings, in Pernova center solution using wind and solar energy with storage capacity.

The implementation of climate change adaptation activities has had a social, environmental and economic impact on various target groups and has contributed to a wider awareness. In the case of these activities, one of the biggest impacts that has already been seen is public attention. Several project implementers are sharing experiences on the maintenance of green areas, the maintenance and construction of wind and solar parks, and the implementation of general nature-based solutions. A similar impact will be seen in the years to come, as sharing experiences is not a one-off activity.

Green solutions (such as flower fields and gardens in city parks) have made urban spaces more natural and visually attractive. Project implementers have refuted the perception that natural solutions are complex and high-maintenance. Biodiversity has also been increased in urban environments by supporting insect and plant habitats. The installation of water taps in cities has received positive feedback, providing people and pets with access to drinking water, which is especially important from a climate change adaptation perspective, as extreme weather events become more frequent.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

The small grant scheme of 'Climate change mitigation and adaptation plans' was supposed to be a quick drafting of the plans, but in reality covid pandemic had a big effect and the war in Ukraine, both which delayed the implementing of the plans. So, for strategic documents, more time than a year would be needed to make a good, thorough and feasible plan.

The 'Climate change mitigation and adaption measures' call was an example of doing big things in a relevantly relatively small amount of time. Although all activities were implemented within the eligibility period it was a big challenge and took more effort from Project Promoters. As a take-away from this, calls with construction activities or those which activities are affected by climate should be announced some months earlier. That would give the promoters reassurance that if a procurement fails or is disputed, they have a buffer time to publish it again.

In evaluation report it was brought out that for projects main challenges for local governments' energy and climate plans and climate change mitigation activities were short implementation time, high construction prices and seasonal problems, bureaucratic obstacles and administrative burden and complexities in the preparation of local governments' energy and climate plans; also monitoring of indicators: outdated data and complex monitoring capacity in local governments.

Public procurements for local municipalities are still a struggle, as there was at least one irregularity. For the upcoming period a training for granted projects about how to conduct procurements, should be highly recommended.

The involvement of donor partners helped to somewhat extence increase the effectiveness of the projects. In the broad sense, the role of donor partners was to share experiences and knowledge with the Estonian project teams, and this purpose was fulfilled by the donor partners excellently. Project

partners and implementers agreed that the donors were an excellent addition to the project with their knowledge and experience. Even those implementers who did not directly involve donor partners in their projects had the opportunity to visit Norway and participate in the sharing of experiences. Thus, the sharing of experiences was not hindered by the fact that the donor partner was not a direct project partner.

Regarding donor partners, the biggest challenge for Estonian implementers was finding them. Since there was not much time to write the project, many did not include a donor partner because the donors did not have time to respond to the Estonian partners or to sort out the affairs in their institutions.

Example of good practice on programme level is overbooking in the funds by supporting additional project in reserve list – this gave one more project opportunity to implement their activities. Overall effect to programme finances – was reducing the leftovers.

Outcome 3: Framework for Circular Economy strengthened

Amount incurred: € 1,559,251.67

Results

Outcome 3 focused on increasing capacity for the circular economy.

Within the framework of the project “Increasing the capacity of the circular economy”, a circular economy strategy “Circular Economy White Paper” was prepared; officials, environmental specialists, and general education schoolteachers were trained; contributions were made to raising awareness in the sector more broadly, and proposals were developed for local governments to improve the circular economy. The project was implemented in cooperation with the Norwegian research institute SINTEF, which contributed to the project with its own analysis and research capacity.

The pre-defined project (EE0013) of enhanced capacity on circular economy made it possible for all municipalities in Estonia to start with the circular economy as personal circular economy roadmaps with action plans were developed. Municipality officials were also trained with a circular economy training plan and an electronic manual created within this project. Criteria for five new categories of green public procurement were developed, which can be used by public sector procurers in their procurement process: textile products and services, design and construction of office buildings, design and construction of roads, food products and services, food vending machines, and electricity. We now have environmental criteria for public procurement in 10 categories. Practical training sessions on green public procurement were held, and guidance materials along with short instructional videos were developed.

For children, two environmental educational games were created along with tools for general education schoolteachers to address circular economy topics in schools. For the general public in Estonia, numerous awareness-raising activities took place, such as conferences, fairs, media campaigns, electronic materials, and the development of a dedicated webpage. The sub-activities of the project were diverse, contributing to various areas, including municipalities, schools, the public sector, awareness-raising, guidelines, study trips, and different events and training programs.

With the call 4 “Circular economy pilot projects” the purpose of the grant was to contribute to the development of the circular economy and the introduction of more environmentally sustainable solutions by the public sector. In the frame of this call projects, there are implemented innovative pilot projects that use circular principles and identify the effect of implementation it.

With an open call, three projects were granted to pilot circular economy ideas in local municipalities. One of the most useful solutions for the public were created by the capital city of Tallinn (EE0014),

which concentrated on the creation of a reuse and repair society with 2 reuse rooms (for people to give/take reusable goods for free), 4 repair workshops (to mend different items, such as furniture, textile, wooden items and bicycles) and 2 sewing workshops, which are open for public usage.

Tartu city government (EE0017) piloted methods to prove building materials circularity usage – they developed methods for the usage of leftover materials from renovation and demolition projects. And to demonstrate it, they used circular usage building materials to construct public bicycle pavilions in four locations in the city. Also, a circular usage bank was opened for reusable construction materials. The most important goal of the project was that the principles of the circular economy are now integrated into the process of the renovation wave taking place in the city of Tartu.

The third municipality who piloted the circular economy was Rae (EE0015) with the aim to reduce the environmental footprint of Rae municipality and to lay the foundation for the municipality to achieve zero emissions, thereby contributing to the mitigation of climate change both in Rae municipality and in Estonia in general. They measured the carbon footprint and circular economy potential of the public sector in their municipality and amongst the enterprises in Rae also. With an awareness-raising campaign, they conducted a competition for schools and kindergartens to implement innovation plans as an example for others. The innovative ideas were an installed food-sharing cabinet/fridge, an off-grid outdoor kitchen with a rainwater collection system and solar panels, a cargo bike for commuting and field trips to reduce fossil fuel transportation, a composter for biowaste, and a learning and DIY art and crafts material cabinet for sharing and waste reduction.

With the PO mid-term and final events, all municipalities had a chance to get acquainted with these solutions and get ideas on how to implement their own circular economy solutions in the future.

The results of all three projects raised the awareness of these municipalities about circular economy issues and helped to launch additional activities outside the performance framework, which have a wider benefit for local residents. The creation of circular economy points in Tallinn, the preparation of the opening of the Lilleküla circular economy center and the opening of Estonia's first circular economy bank in Tartu can be considered separate success stories of the pilot projects

The implementers of all three projects assessed the greatest value of involving a foreign partner as the opportunity to learn from Norwegian good practices on how to effectively implement activities that promote the circular economy.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

There is interest in the circular solutions, but economic restrictions, including the ban on earning income, limit the sustainability of pilot solutions. When planning the next programming period, the economic sustainability of project outputs and the need for a functioning business model should be considered more thoroughly than before. Including, if the applicant's project output requires a functioning business model due to sustainability, then direct them to prepare the application in such a way that profit-making from the output is permitted.

The implementing agency organized seminars for project promoters where all projects presented their activities and achievements was warmly welcomed by the PPs. All projects had the opportunity to hear and see what other pilot projects are implementing. The suggestion from PPs was that for a possible collaboration or to learn from each other, the meetings should have started from the beginning, not halfway through the implementation period.

In evaluation report it was brought out that the management of the outputs of the pilot projects (Tartu, Tallinn) are still under risk as the business model and the operator's motivation are of decisive importance. Also some of the impacts of works done appear only over a longer lifespan, eg system of

environmentally friendly public procurements. This should promote sustainable materials and products with a longer lifespan. The potential positive impact is both economic and environmentally friendly, but it is still too early to assess.

Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme

Results

The Climate program in general had good results with bilateral relations, more than half of the projects implemented had a donor state partner, so 14 out of 26 projects, which considering the pandemic was a good result.

In outcome 1 both projects are continuing their cooperation with their donor state partners from Norway (Norwegian Institute of Marine Research and Norwegian Veterinary Institute). The knowledge gained from the project has helped both countries' specialists.

Some local municipalities had contacts from Norway before the implementation of EEA grants projects, for example Tartumaa Association of Local Authorities ([EE0002](#)) or Association of Local Governments of Lääne County ([EE0006](#)) and their cooperation will also continue after the implementation of the project.

The most satisfied PPs were the municipalities who implemented circular economy pilot projects ([Tallinn](#), [Tartu](#)). With their visits to donor state partners, they gained valuable information and saw opportunities to implement similar activities in Estonia. Tallinn's project visited Oslo in November 2022 and Tartu's project visited Oslo in May 2023, all project partners were present. The circular usage bank idea in Tartu's project came from this study-visit.

Nordic countries' experience was used in the preparation of the circular use points and center and the goals for the promotion of the field. This is from the practices of the project's partner city Oslo as well as Oslo's own cooperation partner. Experts from the project partners were also involved, who helped to evaluate how to create the most sustainable and widely used circular use points. Involvement of partners is effective if expectations are clear for all parties and cooperation agreements are specific.

Communication with the representatives of the city of Oslo has continued both in relation to project activities and non-project topics. For example, Tallinn also plans to add reuse rooms in containers to other existing waste stations. Oslo has provided input from its own mobile container specification to procure the containers.

Pernova project also had a donor partner from Norway, they visited Kongsberg kommunale eiendom. The PP and partners received valuable information about the construction of energy-efficient buildings in Norway, the introduction of hydrogen production, and energy-efficient management of municipal facilities. The donor partner also gained knowledge from Pernova - in Pärnu, the organization of more integrated education in Pernova Loodusmaja, the new SMARTPARK classroom, the Gren combined station, whose district heating and cooling system which is the backbone of the energy system (heat, electricity and cooling, local renewable fuels and modern production equipment are produced) of the city of Pärnu, attracted the attention of Norwegians.

Other climate change awareness rising project by University of Tartu was also a great example of positive cooperation – their donor partner University of Bergen supported the latest developments in climate science and helped bring complex information to the wider society.

The cooperation with the Donor Programme Partner has been very good. DPP has helped to organize the mid-term event and consulted throughout the implementation of Programme. Direct communication has been able in events and meetings.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Covid pandemic influenced bilateral relations, but even with that challenge more than half of the projects had a donor state partner who contributed to the implementation of the project. During next implementing period, study trips or meet & greet events should be organized possibly before opening the calls, to make it easier for PPs to get contacts from donor states.

Before starting the project activities, it is necessary to agree with the external partner what the project implementer's expectations are and what the external partner will receive. It will also help to encourage further cooperation if we think about what the longer-term goal is for the involvement of a foreign partner and how the cooperation could continue after the end of the project.

Some projects have faced unforeseen challenges in their activities. In Call 1 "Ecosystem resilience increased" both projects had some challenges with their bilateral activities. One of the projects planned to use chemicals for the first time in Estonia to control freshwater invasive species – similar to Norway. Their partner, the Norwegian Veterinary Institute consulted them in choosing the correct method and chemicals for eradication, but there was an unexpected obstacle – the Estonian Environmental Board didn't give permission for conducting the chemical control in water bodies. So, the analysis was done, but it was not possible to implement the activity in this manner. This obstacle was hard to prevent as the concrete measures and chemicals were selected during the project so it would have been difficult for the Estonian Environmental Board to give their opinion about chemical eradication in advance. Project pivoted and used trapping and biocontrol instead.

Another Call 1 "Ecosystem resilience increased" project had a great cooperation with their Norwegian partner, but the contact person decided to retire and as there wasn't enough human resources, no one took over the management of project and therefore no reports were submitted. The Norwegian Institute of Marine Research therefore resigned from the project and claimed no costs.

This was also an unforeseen obstacle and when the institution signed the partnership agreement it was impossible to foresee.

The most important overarching recommendations from evaluation report are:

- In the future, the program operator and the implementation unit could communicate more (in advance) about the opening of rounds, so that applicants can prepare in time; encourage information exchange and cooperation between projects in order to motivate participants and share experiences; to offer substantive and personal advice to project implementers to ensure the quality of the results.
- Continue to support cooperation with an external partner to encourage the adoption of best practices. At the same time, the process of applying and implementing projects should be structured in such a way that the cooperation is bilateral and meaningful. In this way, the partner of the donor country would be more interested in participating in the project, and there is a greater probability that the cooperation will continue even after the end of the project.
- If possible, reduce the administrative burden associated with application and project reporting and the detail of reporting, which increases the motivation of applicants and leaves more time to deal with the content activities of the project

IRREGULARITIES

Case Id	Reporting level	Nature of irregularity	Case opened	Status	Estimated final input to the FMO for cases not closed	Decision	Amount of financial correction
IR 183	EE-CLIMATE-0009	Deviation from public procurement rules/principles	07/02/2023	Closed	-	Project grant amount reduced. Amount linked to irregularity paid back/deducted from payment.	€ 448.32
IR 184	EE-CLIMATE-0011	Deviation from public procurement rules/principles	09/12/2022	Ongoing	08.2024	-	€ 1,296.36
IR 207	EE-CLIMATE-0011	Deviation from public procurement rules/principles	27/09/2022	Ongoing	08.2024	-	€ 1,044.90
IR 300	EE-CLIMATE-0023	Deviation from public procurement rules/principles	14/11/2023	Closed	-	Project grant amount reduced. Amount linked to irregularity paid back/deducted from payment.	€ 39,450.00
IR 326	EE-CLIMATE-0019	Deviation from public procurement rules/principles	10/04/2024	Ongoing	05.2024	-	€ 3,060.72
IR 327	EE-CLIMATE-0011	Deviation from public procurement rules/principles	07/02/2024	Ongoing	08.2024	-	€ 1,746.72

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

		Number of projects contracted	Number of projects completed	Project grant contracted (EEA Grant + national co- financing)	Project grant incurred (EEA Grant + national co- financing)	Project Eligible Expenditure contracted (Includes project co-financing)	Project Eligible Expenditure incurred (Includes project co-financing)
Outcome 1: Ecosystem resilience increased	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
	Contracted through open calls	2	2	€ 799,245.14	€ 748,266.67	€ 880,313.75	€ 880,313.73
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
	Total Outcome 1	2	2	€ 799,245.14	€ 748,266.67	€ 880,313.75	€ 880,313.73
Outcome 2: Increased ability at the local level to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
	Contracted through open calls	10	10	€ 3,524,679.99	€ 3,473,580.32	€ 4,021,451.62	€ 4,086,565.08
	Contracted through small grants scheme	10	10	€ 400,000.00	€ 341,031.02	€ 401,687.60	€ 391,663.25
	Total Outcome 2	20	20	€ 3,924,679.99	€ 3,814,611.34	€ 4,423,139.22	€ 4,478,228.33
Outcome 3: Framework for Circular Economy strengthened	Pre-defined	1	1	€ 900,000.00	€ 783,843.36	€ 922,169.07	€ 922,168.66
	Contracted through open calls	3	3	€ 900,000.00	€ 775,408.31	€ 912,245.07	€ 912,245.07
	Contracted through small	0	0	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00

	grants scheme						
	Total Outcome 3	4	4	€ 1,800,000.00	€ 1,559,251.67	€ 1,834,414.14	€ 1,834,413.73
Total programme costs (Excluding programme management costs)		26	26	€ 6,523,925.13	€ 6,122,129.68	€ 7,137,867.11	€ 7,192,955.79

FINAL BALANCE

Overview of programme expenditure

Programme area (PA)	Budget Heading	EEA Grants	Total grant	Programme eligible expenditure	EEA Grants contribution incurred	Total grant contribution incurred	Programme co-financing incurred	Total eligible expenditure incurred
PA13	Programme management	€ 599,950.00	€ 599,950.00	€ 705,823.53	€ 563,005.06	€ 563,005.06	€ 99,353.83	€ 662,358.89
PA11	Outcome 1: Ecosystem resilience increased (EEA Grants)	€ 680,000.00	€ 680,000.00	€ 800,000.00	€ 636,026.67	€ 636,026.67	€ 112,240.00	€ 748,266.67
PA13	Outcome 2: Increased ability at the local level to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate (EEA Grants)	€ 3,242,419.64	€ 3,242,419.64	€ 3,814,611.34	€ 3,242,419.64	€ 3,242,419.64	€ 572,191.70	€ 3,814,611.34
PA13	Outcome 3: Framework for Circular Economy strengthened (EEA Grants)	€ 1,477,630.36	€ 1,477,630.36	€ 1,738,388.66	€ 1,325,363.92	€ 1,325,363.92	€ 233,887.75	€ 1,559,251.67
	Total	€ 6,000,000.00	€ 6,000,000.00	€ 7,058,823.53	€ 5,766,815.29	€ 5,766,815.29	€ 1,017,673.28	€ 6,784,488.57

Description of budget spending

Programme management

Promotional and information activities to share experiences, expenditures related to the strengthening of bilateral relations and to foster the changes driven by climate education projects and share their results: 1) Environmental education conference was co-organized - incl. guest speaker from Bergen University Museum and two climate awareness projects introduced their materials in the workshops of conference. Oct 2024 2) Higher climate courses to decision makers by climate awareness project. Oct 2024 3) Introduction of climate projects and materials to environment education institutions under Ministry of Climate. Aug 2024 4) Introduction of climate education project to officers in ministries of Climate and Education and Research onsite with workshops in Tartu and Tallinn. Nov 2024 5) Pernova project sharing the best practice to environment education institutions for compiling a climate education teaching programme - video and onsite training. Dec 2024. 6) Additional printing of Pernova climate education project's climate education books for teachers. Implementing agencies expenditures were related to the approval and transfer of payments and transfer of payments to Project Promoters, also projects' monitoring and onsite checks and Communication activities (articles, photographer service - best results were photographed). Expenditures were also related to bilateral activities, such as visiting other beneficiary countries and exchanging experiences.

Outcome 1: Ecosystem resilience increased (EEA Grants)

Projects' expenditures in the second half of 2024 were related to donor partner expenditures, invasive species eradication costs that were on hold because of irregularities, project management and expert's costs, analysis of invasive species, writing reports, business trip costs, etc

Outcome 2: Increased ability at the local level to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate (EEA Grants)

Projects' expenditures in the second half of 2024 were related to different construction works that were done before 30th of April, 2024, but the disbursement claims were put on hold before the final report of the project was accepted. The works included final landscaping, planting, etc; communication costs, workshops, sowing native seeds, also project's final events (publicity) and project management costs.

Outcome 3: Framework for Circular Economy strengthened (EEA Grants)

Expenditures incurred were related to project management costs, project's final events; studies; communication costs; equipment for re-use centres.

Calculation of the final balance

	EEA Grants
Total reported eligible expenditure of the programme	
Total eligible expenditure incurred	€ 6,784,488.57
(-) Total (national) programme co-financing incurred (15.00 % rate)	€ 1,017,673.28
(=) Total grant contribution incurred (85.00 % grant rate)	€ 5,766,815.29
Amounts to be deducted from the total grant contribution¹	
(-) Total advance and interim payments to the programme from the Donors	€ 5,772,167.36
(-) Any co-financing from sources other than the Donors/national ²	€ 0.00
(-) Total interest earned reported	€ 110,207.50
Final balance	

¹ Any funds reimbursed from Project Promoters to the Programme Operator, not paid to other projects or reimbursed to the FMO (ref. Article 9.4.1(b)(iv) of the Regulation should be reported as negative adjustments in the Financial report for the last reporting period (Annex 1). In this case, such funds will be subtracted from the "Total eligible expenditure incurred" of the programme.

² For example, financing from EU structural funds or other EU sources, from the Swiss contribution, etc. This row includes only the financing incurred during the programme eligibility period.

Iceland 
Liechtenstein
Norway grants


Norway
grants

(=) Final balance payable to the Programme Operator	€ 0.00
(=) Final balance payable to the Donors	€ 115,559.57

ANNEXES

*The Annexes are intended **for internal use only** and will not be published.*

Annex 1: Financial report for the last reporting period

	Programme eligible expenditure as per Programme Agreement	Programme eligible expenditure after the flexibility measures have been applied
Programme management	€ 705,823.53	€ 705,823.53
Outcome 1: Ecosystem resilience increased (EEA Grants)	€ 800,000.00	€ 800,000.00
Outcome 2: Increased ability at the local level to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate (EEA Grants)	€ 3,753,000.00	€ 3,814,611.34
Outcome 3: Framework for Circular Economy strengthened (EEA Grants)	€ 1,800,000.00	€ 1,738,388.66
Total	€ 7,058,823.53	€ 7,058,823.53

Part A - Statement of actual expenditure incurred and interest earned

Incurred expenditure - summary

Start date of incurred expenditure period 01/07/2024

End date of incurred expenditure period 30/04/2025

	Previously incurred expenditure	Incurred this period	Total to date	Total Budget	Available balance
Eligible expenditure	€ 5,977,625.03	€ 806,863.54	€ 6,784,488.57	€ 7,058,823.53	€ 274,334.96
EEA Grants	€ 5,080,981.27	€ 685,834.02	€ 5,766,815.29	€ 6,000,000.00	€ 233,184.71
Co-financing	€ 896,643.76	€ 121,029.52	€ 1,017,673.28	€ 1,058,823.53	€ 41,150.25

Incurred expenditure - details

Title: Programme management

	Previously incurred expenditure	Incurred this period	Total to date	Budget	Available balance
Eligible expenditure	€ 438,190.13	€ 224,168.76	€ 662,358.89	€ 705,823.53	€ 43,464.64

Brief description of actual expenditure incurred

Several EE-CLIMATE programme results and awareness rising activities were done on this period. Implementing agencies expenditures were related to the approval and transfer of payments and transfer of payments to Project Promoters, also projects' monitoring and onsite checks and Communication activities (articles, photographer service - best results were photographed). Expenditures were also related to bilateral activities, such as visiting other beneficiary countries and exchanging experiences.

Eligible expenditures

Eligible expenditure - EUR
€ 224,168.76
Total
€ 224,168.76

Title: Outcome 1: Ecosystem resilience increased (EEA Grants)

	Previously incurred expenditure	Incurred this period	Total to date	Budget	Available balance
Eligible expenditure	€ 610,701.04	€ 137,565.63	€ 748,266.67	€ 800,000.00	€ 51,733.33

Brief description of actual expenditure incurred for the outcome

Projects are closed. Projects' expenditures in the second half of 2024 were related to donor partner expenditures, invasive species eradication costs that were on hold because of irregularities, project management and expert's costs, analysis of invasive species, writing reports, business trip costs, etc

Eligible expenditures

Project	Eligible expenditure - EUR
EE-CLIMATE-0011	€ 57,559.69
EE-CLIMATE-0012	€ 80,005.94
Total	€ 137,565.63

Title: Outcome 2: Increased ability at the local level to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate (EEA Grants)

	Previously incurred expenditure	Incurred this period	Total to date	Budget	Available balance
Eligible expenditure	€ 3,553,270.28	€ 261,341.06	€ 3,814,611.34	€ 3,814,611.34	€ 0.00

Brief description of actual expenditure incurred for the outcome

Projects are closed. Projects' expenditures in the second half of 2024 were related to different construction works that were done before 30th of April, 2024, but the disbursement claims were put on hold before the final report of the project was accepted. The works included final landscaping, planting, etc; communication costs, workshops, sowing native seeds, also project's final events (publicity) and project management costs.

Eligible expenditures

Project	Eligible expenditure - EUR
EE-CLIMATE-0016	€ 119,125.56
EE-CLIMATE-0026	€ 30,002.11
EE-CLIMATE-0025	€ 48,554.95
EE-CLIMATE-0019	€ 63,658.44
Total	€ 261,341.06

Title: Outcome 3: Framework for Circular Economy strengthened (EEA Grants)

	Previously incurred expenditure	Incurred this period	Total to date	Budget	Available balance
Eligible expenditure	€ 1,375,463.58	€ 183,788.09	€ 1,559,251.67	€ 1,738,388.66	€ 179,136.99

Brief description of actual expenditure incurred for the outcome

Projects are ended. Expenditures incurred were related to project management costs, project's final events; studies; communication costs; equipment for re-use centres.

Eligible expenditures

Project	Eligible expenditure - EUR
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EE-CLIMATE-0014	€ 91,342.37
EE-CLIMATE-0015	€ 24,073.72
EE-CLIMATE-0017	€ 68,372.00

Total

	€ 183,788.09
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Interest Earned

Interest generated on accounts established by the Programme Operator for funds intended for regranting for 2024

EEA Grants	Total
€ 57,689.45	€ 57,689.45

Interest generated on accounts established by the Programme Operator for funds intended for regranting for 2025 (from 1 January until the submission of the Final Programme Report or until an earlier date if reporting until the Final Programme Report date is not possible)³

The date until which the interest is reported for 2025: 30/04/2025

EEA Grants	Total
€ 3,567.87	€ 3,567.87

Cumulative Interest generated on accounts established by the Programme Operator for funds intended for regranting

EEA Grants	Total
€ 110,207.50	€ 110,207.50

Comments

Interests earned is filled by CA

³ In line with Article 9.4.5 of the Regulations, any interest earned on the bank account of the Programme Operator between the date of the Final Programme Report and the reimbursement date (i.e. final balance payment either to the Donors or to the Beneficiary State) will also be included in the reimbursement. The FMO will contact the Certifying Authority before making the payment or issuing a debit note to request information on the remaining amount of the accumulated interest.

Programme Operator

Full legal name: Ministry of Climate - Estonia (EE)

Programme Operator signature

I certify that I am duly authorised to sign this financial report for the last reporting period and the final balance of the programme. I have thoroughly reviewed the actual expenditure incurred declared in Part A and the calculation of the final balance of the programme, and confirm that the information provided is accurate. I confirm that this programme is carried out as described in the Programme Agreement and that the incurred expenditure is correctly represented.

Overall implementation status (including milestones):

Projects were finished on the first half of 2024. Programme management were used for awareness activities that supported and maintained the programme and its projects' aims.

Question	Answer	Comment
Management and control systems of the Programme Operator set up fulfilling the general principles set out in the Regulation and approved by the National Focal Point (Art 5.7)	Yes	The setup of management and control system for the programme started in 2019. The compliance audit of the management and control system of the EE-Climate programme has started in April 2020 and finished 13 July 2020.
Separate interest-bearing bank accounts dedicated to the funds intended for regranting established and maintained (Art 5.6.1 (m))	Yes	Responsibility of CA.
Information and publicity obligations fulfilled (Art 3.3)	Yes	EE-CLIMATE Programme webpage is operated by the webpage of Ministry of the Climate. Information about the open calls can be found on the webpage of Implementing Agency.
Monitoring and verifications conducted to ensure quality and/or regularity of implementation (Art 5.6.1 (g) and Art 5.6.2)	Yes	Monitoring has been carried out with every payment claim for every project and on-site monitoring visits (check-ups) have been done for 13 projects.
Annual monitoring of a sample of projects conducted (Art 5.6.1 (i))	Yes	All projects have reported their final project reports and these were checked by Implementing Agency.
Project-specific statistical data is entered and up to date in the reporting database (Art 5.6.1 (s))	Yes	Both E-toetus and Grace have been updated with the latest information.
Special conditions and Programme-specific rules set out in the programme agreement fulfilled (Art 5.6.1 (x))	N/A	There are no programme-specific rules set out in the programme agreement.

All irregularities, their investigation and any remedies taken reported (Art 5.6.1 (v))	Yes	All occurred irregularities are reported
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For the Programme Operator

Signed in on

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Certification of actual expenditure incurred and co-financing

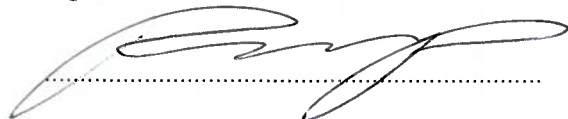
Start date of incurred expenditure period	01/07/2024
End date of incurred expenditure period	30/04/2025
Actual expenditure incurred this period	€ 806,863.54
Co-financing committed to date	€ 1,017,673.28
Co-financing for incurred expenditure paid	€ 1,017,673.28
Interest earned 2024	€ 57,689.45
Interest earned 2025	€ 3,567.87

In relation to the Financial report for the last reporting period and the calculation of the final balance of the programme, the Certifying Authority hereby certifies that:

- (i) the summary of eligible expenditure submitted by the Programme Operator is in full conformity with the supporting documents;
- (ii) the supporting documents have been examined and found to be authentic, correct and accurate;
- (iii) the summary of eligible expenditure is based on verifiable accounting which complies with generally accepted accounting principles and methods;
- (iv) the summary of eligible expenditure falls within eligible expenditure under the Regulation for the implementation of the EEA / Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021;
- (v) the summary of expenditure is incurred as part of the implementation of the Programme in accordance with the Programme Agreement;
- (vi) sufficient audit trail exists;
- (vii) co-financing committed to date has been made available;
- (viii) co-financing in relation to incurred expenditure has been paid;
- (ix) when relevant, that the interest earned at Programme Operator account is correct.

For the Certifying Authority

Signed in Tallinn on 28.04.2025



Pärt-Eo Rannap
Head of the Certifying Authority

Annex 2: Communications

Best projects

Project title	Project code	Project promoter	Confirm the PLI is updated in GrACE
Creation of pilot areas for nature-based solutions to increase biodiversity in Tori Municipality	EE-CLIMATE-0021	Tori Municipality (EE)	Yes
The transition of civic amenity sites into reuse and repair centres	EE-CLIMATE-0014	Strategic Centre of Tallinn (Tallinn City EE)	Yes
Creating a Pernoja Climate Education demonstration area "Smart Park" /Pernoja kliimahariduse näidisala "" SMART PARK" loomine	EE-CLIMATE-0025	Pernoja Educational Centre (EE)	Yes
Close-to-nature solutions at Keila Song Festival Grounds / Looduslähedased lahendused Keila lauluväljakul	EE-CLIMATE-0022	Keila City Government (EE)	Yes
Eradication of aquatic invasive species in Estonian freshwaters / Invasiivsete võõrliikide tõrje Eesti magevetes	EE-CLIMATE-0011	Estonian University of Life Sciences (EE)	Yes

Communication activities

To foster the changes driven by climate education projects and share their results, several communication activities were organized by the Ministry:

- 1) Environmental education conference was co-organized - incl. guest speaker from Bergen University Museum and two climate awareness projects introduced their materials in the workshops of conference. Oct 2024
- 2) Higher climate courses to decision makers by climate awareness project. Oct 2024
- 3) Introduction of climate projects and materials to environment education institutions under Ministry of Climate. Aug 2024
- 4) Introduction of climate education project to officers in ministries of Climate and Education and Research onsite with workshops in Tartu and Tallinn. Nov 2024
- 5) Pernoja project sharing the best practice to environment education institutions for compiling a climate education teaching programme - video and onsite training. Dec 2024.
- 6) Additional printing of Pernoja climate education project's climate education books for teachers.

Alltogether 4 television shows presented 6 EEA grants projects.

Professional photos were made from all physical infrastructure projects.

5 new articles about project results in online media on 2024.

18 social media coverage in 2024 (FB and Instagram).

2 #OurStories videoclips were published on Programme website and FB-page

Project stories

2

Media coverage

Television show - Summer TV "Elamusi täis Eesti" (Estonia full of emotions) has presented 3 of our Call II projects:

- Close-to-nature solutions at [Keila Song Festival Grounds](#)
- Restoration and renovation of the green infrastructure alleys of the town of [Põltsamaa](#) to alleviate the urban heat island (video streaming from 8:20)
- Creating a Perno Climate Education demonstration area "[Smart Park](#)"

Television show "Jälg" (environmental television show) has presented 2 of our Call I projects and 1 of our Call II projects:

- Eradication of aquatic invasive species in Estonian freshwaters
- Impacts of invasive alien species and climate change on marine ecosystems in Estonia
- Close-to-nature solutions at [Keila Song Festival Grounds](#)

Published articles about some of the best examples of implemented projects for a wider public with simple wording so that everybody could understand the benefit of the actions taken with these projects:

1. All press-releases and articles are published on EIC website www.kik.ee:
1. January 10th, 2022 – an advertisement by EIC in the newspaper Eesti Päevaleht about the opening of the Call III "Raising awareness on climate change".
1. January 10th, 2022 – a press release by EIC about the opening of the Call III – "Universities and research institutions have an opportunity to raise awareness on climate change among children".
1. April 18th, 2022 – an article by EIC in the newspaper Postimees "Why is it important to preserve biological biodiversity in the city?".
1. April 18th, 2022 - a press release by EIC about the opening of the Call II – "EIC supports local municipalities to cope with Climate change".
1. June 16th, 2022 - a press release by EIC about the results of the Call III – "University of Tartu will raise awareness on climate change".
1. October 19th, 2022 - a press release by EIC about the results of the Call IV "Circular Economy pilot projects" – "An example for everybody! Local municipalities are heading towards circular economy with bold solutions".
1. November 7th, 2022 - a press release by EIC about the results of the Call II – "Green roofs, community gardens and harvesting rainwater – seven local municipalities are going to mitigate climate change".

1. 3 articles in papers (Postimees, 30.05.2023):
 1. <https://roheline.postimees.ee/7782153/poltsamaa-linn-leevendab-rohelusega-linnasudame-kuumasaari> (The city of Põltsamaa alleviates heat island effects with greenery)
 1. <https://roheline.postimees.ee/7782150/pelgu-uhisaiaga-luuakse-linnaelanikele-roheline-linnaruum> (A green urban space is created for the citizens with the Pelgu allotment garden)
 1. <https://roheline.postimees.ee/7782129/tori-valla-elurikkuse-suurendamine-on-kogukonna-kokkukasvamise-lugu> (Increasing biodiversity in Tori municipal is a story of growing together as a community)
1. 3 Articles in papers (Postimees, 5.06.2023):
 - “[Keila lauluväljak saab looduslähedase kuue nii välimuselt kui ka olemuselt](#)” (Keila song-festival ground shall have a nature-based outfit both in appearance and in nature);
 - “[Kohtla-Järve suurendab linnaruumis elurikkust](#)” (Kohtla-Järve is increasing biodiversity in urban areas);
 - “[Pärnusse tuleb Eesti esimene kliimahariduse näidisala ja taastuenergia toimiv õuesõppeklass](#)” (The first model area for climate education and renewable energy outdoor study-class in Estonia will be created in Pärnu).
1. 5 articles in Delfi online media, November 2024:
 1. Renewed Keila songfestival grounds with nature-based solutions is well adapted: [Looduslähedaste lahendustega uuenenud Keila lauluväljak on hästi omaks võetud - Delfi](#)
 1. Pernova SmartPark teaches everything concerning climate change: [Pernova SmartPark õpetab kõike kliimamuutustega seonduvat - Delfi](#)
 1. Circular economy centres are inviting to restore repair and reuse with the help of a master: [Ringmajanduskeskused kutsuvad meistrite käe all parandama, restaureerima ja korduskasutama - Delfi](#)
 1. Tori municipality is looking for solutions for climate change together with the community: [Tori valla elurikkuse projekt otsib koos kogukonnaga lahendusi kliimamuutuste mõjudele - Delfi](#)
 1. The city of Põltsamaa is continuing the restoration of alleys and renewal of green infrastructure: [Põltsamaa linn jätkab alleede taastamist ja rohetaristu uuendamist - Delfi](#)

Social media coverage 2024:

- Instagram
- 14.03.2024: 10% of waste in Estonia comes from the Construction sector: https://www.instagram.com/p/C4fyUK_tjS9/?fbclid=IwY2xjawHHtXleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHQft5pbY9xnUo02KS-PvUwUuHkx7FxrPmHndcNYczSojSmsxhHHKt76LEg_aem_TC-Cqbq0GLxjJCWAuW7s6A (Reach 261)
- 24.05.2024 the new Singing festival ground in Keila is ready: https://www.instagram.com/p/C7WWP7wNudd/?fbclid=IwY2xjawHHr_xleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHS96Xk37Or8T08a0aLgctKJOBvJzpzmwYmQny9B9ZtUI8ZRTAoVRGVz_w_aem_afrnvJa-8lidrW36N8XX6w (Reach 286)

- Facebook
- 1.04.2024 Circular Economy in everyday life means practical things:
<https://www.facebook.com/KeskkonnainvesteeringuteKeskus/posts/pfbid0BTheDUZuUG6YkHKAFmV1vkJitUom9nNekCg6hMWssVF2aY9NTnYaaHGXP6fW6JGJ> (Reach 476)
- 8.04.2024 Restored windows are beautiful and last for a long time:
<https://www.facebook.com/KeskkonnainvesteeringuteKeskus/posts/pfbid02eqiz7FGbTnQnQDvGyy51skcQm7DYL7Y1NBcC6cRvVeZC5vUypcsFJBQKCYPVczcacl> (Reach – 504)
- 15.05.2024 EEA grants implemented projects:
<https://www.facebook.com/KeskkonnainvesteeringuteKeskus/posts/pfbid02FJVJETgt5MzEnnDo7rhU29EFVSw4co7shHcCjJbGSEgMQrLFqb35VSx1TvXhsK57I> (Reach 932)
- 15.05.2024 EEA grants implemented projects:
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/738021881744471> (Reach 247)
- 22.05.2024 the new Singing festival ground in Keila is ready:
<https://www.facebook.com/KeskkonnainvesteeringuteKeskus/posts/pfbid0hsE4JvPUwrxY5KWixTpYJCKyBWFzNpWzz7xVB2jb1bdE71PNpmAnqp5zBhSW9W1nl> (Reach 1155)
- 14.06.2024 We went to visit the outdoor learning class in Pernova Nature house:
<https://www.facebook.com/KeskkonnainvesteeringuteKeskus/posts/pfbid02w7jfdsZNT4Jigg2w5rq9LSdow18aBDCWmRA2G6TLzqCRxgQSpqDeDSwE1niJGAJQI> (Reach – 800)
- 16.10.2024 Public announcement for getting new ideas for EEA grants new period:
<https://www.facebook.com/KeskkonnainvesteeringuteKeskus/posts/pfbid0b13cbzdC7Dot6u7hGHCMiRB2ZEK4t1cnKXP2u7FihapLh9hmuLJE9EGTeEAn1gkQI> (Reach 397)
- 23.10.2024 The Circular Usage Centre in Lilleküla:
<https://www.facebook.com/KeskkonnainvesteeringuteKeskus/posts/pfbid02GyUtryGtNu2zxak4iUR8qVzDeX8m6njeionhEnHdYHjeQpd8bfscuUAa2bFzSAvI> (Reach 1578)
- 24.10.2024 The bicycle pavilions in Tartu (Wooden architecture competition):
<https://www.facebook.com/KeskkonnainvesteeringuteKeskus/posts/pfbid0268k9MftDqvFfSoHwARKsswJwJRxpq6zvnxmFTspEMxz3MrhZkym5H5cJvJmGveMol> (Reach 587)
- 8.11.2024 The bicycle pavilions in Tartu (Wooden architecture competition):
<https://www.facebook.com/KeskkonnainvesteeringuteKeskus/posts/pfbid0pJizwHDoouAHLz5A8X4UbmUStwqSrcUCeGhVN6Cjia1vU4PkjeDGZVKckjJMoJWVl> (Reach 440)
- 7.11.2024 Introduction of TV Show - Keila Singing festival ground nature based solutions and ecosystem resilience projects
<https://www.facebook.com/kliimaministeerium/posts/pfbid09ECrcvkYKWWtG4mUbN8i8m9bujw9P3ruKYNV5AH1tLPzpskA9fJAMCvaZGyEKcnSI> (Reach 527)
- 6.09.2024 Invitation to Pelguala opening
<https://www.facebook.com/kliimaministeerium/posts/pfbid0316CPCYzH3H2YS5BxoeHDyqPbXCCLwiZR5bcnzQF67jNkMr7XBXXDcyuXuCMX6JeQI> (Reach 1049)
- 7.05.2024 Live! Participating link to Climate seminar to Local Governments
<https://www.facebook.com/kliimaministeerium/posts/pfbid03sijsWQB87PDkX4L5Wdncwh4rtLjBTiBeKFEeikZ4rswmxzdVhma6ERbgNYo1Sd7I> (Reach 1995)

- 7.05.2024 FB event Climate seminar to Local Governments <https://www.facebook.com/events/426036930159610> (Reach not available)
- 31.01.2025 #Ourstories videoclip about Keila singing festival grounds restoration with nature-based solutions
<https://www.facebook.com/kliimaministeerium/posts/pfbid02d99F7XCMzHoA5YwtGDYYGMPApuoBF7PnFJWjp5BAekSr1sYDLAuWHS2iKKPAT83zI> (Reach 2360)
- 30.01.2025 #Ourstories videoclip about work with indigenous species
<https://www.facebook.com/kliimaministeerium/posts/pfbid02AmDby7UWctuzPwgbhxfH9vj2vW287UDVv7R2Zuomj56ybCLJwXoWRfaTMYfh5WJAI> (Reach 1382)

Website and social media

Link to programme website		Total number of page views in the reporting year 2024	
https://kliimaministeerium.ee/en/mini...		670	
Platform	Specific link or handle for the account	Number of posts published in the reporting year 2024	Number of followers
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/kliimaministeerium	8	11000

Visuals

All the EE-CLIMATE photos and videos can be found on EEA

Library <https://eealibrary.org/menu/100-2014->

[2021?Country=109&page=1&Programmes=Climate%20Change%20Mitigation%20and%20Adaptation](https://eealibrary.org/menu/100-2014-2021?Country=109&page=1&Programmes=Climate%20Change%20Mitigation%20and%20Adaptation)

EE0025 – Creating a Pernova Climate Education demonstration area "Smart Park" - [All assets - EEA & Norway Grants media library](#)

EE0019- Restoration and renovation of the green infrastructure alleys of the town of Põltsamaa to alleviate the urban heat island – [All assets - EEA & Norway Grants media library](#)

EE0021 - Creation of pilot areas for nature-based solutions to increase biodiversity in Tori Municipality - [All assets - EEA & Norway Grants media library](#) and [All assets - EEA & Norway Grants media library](#) and [All assets - EEA & Norway Grants media library](#)

EE0024 - The Pelgu allotment garden construction and follow-up activities in urban gardening - [All assets - EEA & Norway Grants media library](#)

EE0014 - The transition of civic amenity sites into reuse and repair centres - [All assets - EEA & Norway Grants media library](#)

EE0022 - Close-to-nature solutions at Keila Song Festival Grounds - [All assets - EEA & Norway Grants media library](#)

EE0026 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in Viljandi town - [All assets - EEA & Norway Grants media library](#)

EE0017 - CIRCULAR RENOVATION IN TARTU - [All assets - EEA & Norway Grants media library](#)

Annex 3: Evaluation report

Title	Date of report	Website link to the evaluation	Upload a copy of the report
EE-CLIMATE	30/10/2024	https://kliimaministeerium.ee/en/mini...	EE-CLIMATE programme evaluation Executive summary.pdf

Annex 4: Final results

Objective: Climate change mitigated and vulnerability to climate change reduced € 7,058,823.53 € 6,784,488.57								
Outcome 1: Ecosystem resilience increased								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of regions with pressure on indigenous species	Cumulative number	20	0 (APR 2023)	-	-	0	0	-
Number of marine regions with climate regulation services improved	Cumulative number	0	1 (APR 2023)	-	-	3	3	-
Output 1.1: Invasive alien species impact and pathways analysed								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of invasive alien species whose pathways are analysed	Cumulative number	0	37 (IFR 2024)	-	-	37	10	Target value changed – University of Tartu (UT) 27, Estonian University of Life Sciences (EULS) 10
Number of invasive species analysed for impact	Cumulative number	0	14 (IFR 2024)	-	-	14	8	Achievement from marine ecosystem (UT)
Output 1.2: Measures to reduce invasive species implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of localities where alien species have been targeted	Cumulative number	0	20 (IFR 2024)	-	-	20	20	-
Number of invasive species combated	Cumulative number	0	3 (IFR 2024)	-	-	3	4	Elodea nuttallii was not confirmed present in EST, therefore not combated

Number of professional staff trained	Cumulative number	0	40 (IFR 2024)	-	-	40	30	EULS 30, UT 10
<i>Gender</i>								
Female	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Male	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Not specified	-	-	40	-	-	40	-	-
Output 1.3: Restoration of carbon-sequestering marine habitats piloted								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of habitats that sequester and store blue carbon restored	Cumulative number	0	1 (IFR 2024)	-	-	1	1	-
Outcome 2: Increased ability at the local level to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of people self-reporting increased awareness on climate adaptation and mitigation	Cumulative number	0	0 (APR 2022)	-	-	20,500	10,000	2% more from Estonian population (from 81% to 83% in 2 years) consider them-selves as more aware on climate adaption and mitigation. The survey was made amongst people from 15-74 years.
Number of municipalities supported to come into compliance with national or EU mitigation/adaptation strategies	Cumulative number	0	34 (IFR 2024)	-	-	34	6	6 county level and 4 municipality level plans = 34 municipalities
Output 2.1: Local level climate change mitigation and adaptation plans developed								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		

Number of local level energy and climate change mitigation and adaptation plans developed	Cumulative number	0	10 (IFR 2024)	-	-	10	6	Instead of the initially planned 6 projects the budget allowed to finance 10 smaller projects.
Output 2.2: Mitigation and adaptation measures implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures implemented	Cumulative number	0	21 (IFR 2024)	-	-	21	6	6 county level and 4 municipality level plans
Output 2.3: Increased public awareness on climate change								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of people reached by general awareness-raising activities	Cumulative number	0	303,903 (IFR 2024)	-	-	303,903	10,000	All project's activities reached at least 303903 people. Target was exceeded multiple times with large information campaigns.
Number of schools taking part in climate change education programmes supported by the programme.	Cumulative number	0	94 (IFR 2024)	-	-	143	30	143 Schools took part in the education programmes (143 out of total 501 schools in EST)
Outcome 3: Framework for Circular Economy strengthened								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Estonian Government is in compliance with the EU strategy for Circular Economy	Binary	No	Yes (IFR 2024)	-	-	Yes	Yes	-

Output 3.1: Enhanced capacity on Circular Economy								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Strategy on Circular Economy completed	Binary	No	Yes (IFR 2024)	-	-	Yes	Yes	-
Number of professionals trained on Circular Economy	Cumulative number	0	100 (IFR 2024)	-	-	100	100	Pre-defined project carried out 5 trainings in different regions, where 100 professionals were trained
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	100	-	-	100	-	-
Number of categories for Green Public Procurement developed	Cumulative number	0	5 (IFR 2024)	-	-	5	10	5 categories were developed before the project implementation and 5 with the project
Number of people reached by awareness raising campaigns	Cumulative number	0	200,000 (IFR 2024)	-	-	200,000	10,000	The media campaign included TV, radio, social media, outdoor advertising, screens in public transportation and it reached at least 200 000 different people.
Number of schools participating in Green Schools Competition	Cumulative number	0	36 (IFR 2024)	-	-	36	30	36 schools registered, 20 submitted their video for the competition
Output 3.2: Measures for Circular Economy implemented								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		

Number of circular economy pilot measures implemented	Cumulative number	0	2 (IFR 2024)	-	-	3	4	The budget was limited and only 3 projects were granted and all 3 of them were implemented.
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Level of trust between cooperating entities in beneficiary states and donor states	Scale 1-7	6.63, Based on the survey carried out on behalf of the FMO	6.94 (APR 2023)	-	-	6.32	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	-
Level of satisfaction with the partnerships	Scale 1-7	6.61, Based on the survey carried out on behalf of the FMO	6.75 (APR 2023)	-	-	5.94	4.50, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	-
Share of cooperating organisations that apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnerships	Percentage	N/A	75.00 % (APR 2023)	4	5	80.00 %	50.00 %	The bilateral partnerships were evaluated very effective.
Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between beneficiary and donor state entities supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of the programme			Target value	Briefly comment on significant differences between achievement values and target values
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of training courses organised by donor state and beneficiary state entities	Cumulative number	0	26 (IFR 2024)	-	-	26	10	Projects had all together 26 training courses,

								including PO organized trainings
Number of projects involving cooperation with a donor state partner	Cumulative number	0	14 (IFR 2024)	-	-	14	5	All together 14 projects had donor state partners

Annex 5: Contracted projects

Project code	Project title	Project Promoter	Implementation modality	Outcome	Number of donor project partners	Project grant contracted (EEA Grant + national co-financing)	Project grant incurred (EEA Grant + national co-financing)	Project contract status
EE-CLIMATE-0011	Eradication of aquatic invasive species in Estonian freshwaters / Invasiivsete võõrliikide tõrje Eesti magevetes	Estonian University of Life Sciences (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 1	1	€ 399,745.14	€ 350,456.70	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0012	Impacts of invasive alien species and climate change on marine ecosystems in Estonia / Invasiivsete võõrliikide ja kliimamuutuste mõju Eesti mereökosüsteemidele	Tartu University (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 1	1	€ 399,500.00	€ 397,809.97	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0022	Close-to-nature solutions at Keila Song Festival Grounds / Looduslähedased lahendused Keila lauluväljakul	Keila City Government (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	0	€ 606,829.17	€ 606,829.17	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0016	Climate change education to promote climate action	Tartu University (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 499,800.00	€ 497,061.64	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0019	Restoration and renovation of the green infrastructure alleys of the town of Põltsamaa to alleviate the urban heat island	Municipality of Põltsamaa (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	0	€ 378,420.00	€ 370,044.97	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0024	The Pelgu allotment garden construction and follow-up activities in urban gardening	Tallinn Urban Environment and Public Works Department (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	0	€ 368,976.33	€ 368,976.24	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0025	Creating a Pernova Climate Education demonstration area "Smart Park" / Pernova kliimahariduse näidisala "SMART PARK" loomine	Pernova Educational Centre (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 351,172.49	€ 351,172.49	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0023	Climate change adaptation activities in Kohtla-Järve	Kohtla-Järve City Government (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	0	€ 306,297.50	€ 266,311.74	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0020	Construction of Drinking Water Taps	Tallinn Urban Environment and Public Works Department (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	0	€ 299,464.56	€ 299,464.56	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0018	Establishment of a rainwater recovery system in the Metsanurga area / Metsanurga piirkonna sademevee taaskasutussüsteemi rajamine	Märjamaa Municipality (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	0	€ 298,379.75	€ 298,379.32	Completed

EE-CLIMATE-0021	Creation of pilot areas for nature-based solutions to increase biodiversity in Tori Municipality	Tori Municipality (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	0	€ 215,339.44	€ 215,339.44	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0026	Climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in Viljandi town	Viljandi city government (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	0	€ 200,000.75	€ 200,000.75	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0004	Climate change mitigation and adaptation plan in Narva City	Narva City Government City Economic Board (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 50,000.00	€ 48,903.94	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0009	Rakvere Climate change mitigation and adaptation plan "Climate Neutral Rakvere 2035"	Rakvere City Government (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	0	€ 50,000.00	€ 16,867.96	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0002	Tartu County Climate change mitigation and adaptation plan	Tartumaa Association of Local Authorities (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	2	€ 45,000.00	€ 44,854.59	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0003	Pänumaa Local Municipalities' common Climate change mitigation and adaptation plan	The Association of Local Authorities of Pärnu County (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 44,595.00	€ 41,855.24	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0007	Lääne-Virumaa Climate change mitigation and adaptation plan	Lääne-Viru Association of Local Authorities (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 44,235.00	€ 42,747.26	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0005	Climate change mitigation and adaptation plan in Pärnu City 2030	Pärnu City Municipality (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 43,744.32	€ 42,183.70	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0008	Võru County Climate change mitigation and adaptation plan	Võrumaa Association of Local Authorities (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 39,951.00	€ 31,469.31	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0010	Jõgevamaa Climate change mitigation and adaptation plan	Jõgeva Municipality (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	0	€ 36,450.08	€ 36,071.79	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0006	Läänemaa Local Municipalities' Climate change mitigation and adaptation plan	Association of Local Governments of Lääne County (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	1	€ 31,404.60	€ 25,120.24	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0001	Climate change mitigation and adaptation plan in Keila City	Keila City Government (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 2	0	€ 14,620.00	€ 10,956.99	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0013	Enhanced capacity on Circular Economy	Keskonnaagentuur (EE)	Pre-defined project	Outcome 3	1	€ 900,000.00	€ 783,843.36	Completed

EE-CLIMATE-0014	The transition of civic amenity sites into reuse and repair centres	Strategic Centre of Tallinn (Tallinn City EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 3	1	€ 357,942.53	€ 246,460.26	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0017	CIRCULAR RENOVATION IN TARTU	Tartu city government (EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 3	2	€ 336,684.15	€ 328,481.02	Completed
EE-CLIMATE-0015	Circular Economy project in Rae Municipality	Rae Rural Municipality Government (Rae EE)	Call / Small Grants Scheme	Outcome 3	0	€ 205,373.32	€ 200,467.03	Completed

Annex 6: Partially completed projects

For partially completed pre-defined projects or other projects receiving a grant equal to or greater than EUR 2,000,000 (including national co-financing but excluding project co-financing)

No entries found.

For partially completed non-predefined projects receiving a grant of less than EUR 2,000,000 (including national co-financing but excluding project co-financing)

No entries found.

Annex 7: Conditions and special concerns

Description	Tracking	Marked as fulfilled in GrACE	Date of fulfilment	Briefly describe the measures taken
<p>1. The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator ensures that project promoters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project in their ownership for a period of at least 5 years following the completion of the project and continue to use such buildings for the benefit of the overall objectives of the project for the same period; Keep any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project properly insured against losses such as fire, theft and other normally insurable incidents both during project implementation and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project; and Set aside appropriate resources for the maintenance of any buildings purchased, constructed, renovated or reconstructed under the project for at least 5 years following the completion of the project. The specific means for implementation of this obligation shall be specified in the project contract. 	Continuous tracking	N/A	-	Project sustainability checks, or follow-up checks, are carried out within three to five years after the approval of the final project report to ensure that the support is used as intended, assets are preserved, and the project objectives are achieved.

