



Synthesis of the Policy Instrument evaluation

This document was elaborated in the frame of the NbS4Local project. The “Adopting nature-based solutions to improve the climate resilience of local governments” Interreg Europe project started at the 1st of March 2023. This document was created by the Lead Partner as the result of the Policy Instrument evaluation.

Adapting to climate change is a key challenge for local authorities. Nature-based solutions (NbS) offer environmentally friendly interventions that build a sustainable approach to societies, restoring and protecting ecosystems. NBS4LOCAL includes six European regions that bring together national, regional and county levels, address site-specific challenges, offer adaptation practices and share the common goal of promoting NBS as an integral part of local-level climate change adaptation interventions, ultimately increasing the resilience of local communities.

The overarching aim of the project is to improve selected policies to support and mainstream NbS, thereby steering climate change support systems towards the systematic application of green solutions in local interventions, and to introduce a framework approach for policy makers and stakeholders to mainstream NbS in evaluation, planning, financing systems and monitoring.

This synthesis will provide a good basis for partners to learn about the policy instruments studied in the partnership in a coherent, thematic way.



1. Methodology for evaluating policy instruments

The questionnaire was meticulously designed to deepen our understanding of the structure, objectives and methodologies inherent in each policy instrument. This strategic approach aimed to facilitate the identification of interconnections between policies and good practices.

Through the questionnaires, partners could better understand their regional status quo and could clearly and thematically identify their needs/knowledge gaps and as such the potential ways to move forward.

The questionnaire served to further elaborate the considerations partners had in the application phase while choosing their potential policies to be improved and this way to understand if the originally set ambitions and targeted developments are still realistic in terms of timing, as well as via the in- depth analysis of the originally foreseen improvements

The questionnaire was completed by each partners in close collaboration with regional stakeholders this way further clarifying if the preliminary identified challenges and knowledge needs are indeed reflecting the entire picture

Upon reflection, similar questions or response options were strategically incorporated into the questionnaires, providing a consistent framework for analysis.



Within the questionnaire, after the contact details, the policy instrument was explored in detail. A general introduction was given first, followed by a more detailed set of questions.

Pertinent questions probed the instrument's scope, operating jurisdiction (local, regional, or national) and the driving force behind its inception—whether rooted in grassroots needs or aligned with regional or national objectives.

Acknowledging the temporal evolution since the drafting of the application, due consideration was given to potential alterations that might have transpired in the policy instrument.

Moving forward, nuanced studies were introduced, focusing on specific areas where improvements were sought. Most of the questions provided pre-defined answers and dove into the social challenges in the territorial context.

These challenges included natural barriers, secondary/mediate barriers, administrative complexities and social issues.

The subsequent questions aimed to explore the legal basis, design complexity, adoption processes and implementation dynamics of the policy instrument.

Within the thematic framework of "Capacities and competences", participants were asked to share their expertise on nature-based solutions (NbS). They were encouraged to share lessons learned with others, and to outline knowledge gaps in water management, urban greening, forestry, land use and other NbS-related areas. The questionnaire unfolded with questions on the adaptation plan.

The stakeholder questions were grouped into a separate section, emphasising the need for stakeholder engagement. Participants were also encouraged to review and update the list of stakeholders.

In the last segment, we sought to respond to expectations about the overall success of the project. In line with the intervention logic of Interreg Europe, changes that could be achieved in the policy instrument as a result of the project were grouped into three categories. A number of questions were designed to align with these three types of changes and it was suggested that the Action Plan (AF) should be consulted to examine the proposed changes. In evaluating the questionnaires, it became apparent that prioritising each possible response would have improved the evaluation process.

	Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme Plus (EEEEOP Plus)	Sustainable Agro-Water-Landscapes (Weerbaar Water+Land+Schap)	Regional strategic programme "Lapland Agreement"	Regional Operational Program: European Funds for Podkarpackie Region 2021-2027; Priority II - Energy and environment	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF-FEDER) 2020-27	Vukovar-Srijem County Development plan 2021-2027
	LP	PP2	PP3	PP4	PP5	PP6
	MOI	VLM	RCL	RRDA	DPA	CEKOM
	Hungary	Belgium	Finland	Poland	Spain	Croatia
OP	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
	national	regional	regional	regional	regional	regional
	2012-2027	2023-2028	2022-2025 (2025-2029)	2021-2027	2020-2027	2021-2027
	New project, Change in management	Change in management, Revision	New project, Revision	New Project, Revision	New project, Change in management, Revision	Revision

2. Description of the policy instruments examined

2.1. Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme Plus – Ministry of Interior (LP01), Prime Minister’s Office (PP08)

Continuing from the previous EEEOP, the EEEOP Plus, operating under the new framework (2021-2027), introduces new investment areas, notably municipal green-blue infrastructure. The Green-Blue Infrastructure intervention, falling under the 2nd priority axis and specific objective SO2.7, seeks to enhance nature preservation, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, utilizing funds from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

These resources primarily support water utility investments but aren't spatially restricted, aligning with integrated river basin management principles.

Green infrastructure investments, whether integrated or separate from water utility initiatives, must significantly contribute to efficient water utility system operation and maximize the potential of green and blue infrastructure. Notably, extends its influence across various EEEOP Plus priorities, including water management in municipal and regional investments (Priority 1) and renewable energy economy initiatives (Priority 4), particularly in building energy investments. Additionally, green and blue infrastructure is eligible for the Just Transition Fund (JTF), particularly in the context of decontamination and revitalization related to carbon neutrality investments. In essence, the EEEOP Plus strategically integrates green and blue infrastructure interventions, promoting a comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability and infrastructure development in alignment with EU policy objectives.

In the context of addressing environmental problems, a number of challenges have come to the fore, underlining the critical need for a comprehensive approach, in particular by considering NbSs.

Climate-related challenges take different forms in different geographical settings, highlighting the nuanced nature of environmental vulnerability. The recurrent problem of fluvial flooding in lowland areas is of particular concern and requires strategic mitigation measures for sustainable adaptation. In hilly regions, particularly in Western and Northern Hungary, the challenges take the form of flash floods, which pose a direct threat to communities. In addition, the increased incidence of erosion and land degradation amplifies the complexity of environmental management in these areas, requiring a nuanced and site-specific response.

Local capacity is insufficient to effectively address and mitigate these challenges. Limited resources and expertise at the local level are a significant barrier to the implementation of sound strategies. To overcome this, there is an urgent need to strengthen the links between policies, aiming at a more integrated and synergistic approach.

2.2 Sustainable Agro-Water-Landscapes (Weerbaar Water+Land+Schap) – Flemish Land Agency (PP02)

The Sustainable Agro-Water-Landscapes program in Flanders, led by VLM, is a government initiative addressing water-related challenges in agricultural landscapes through nature-based and systemic solutions. The program aims to enhance Flanders' resilience to water scarcity and drought, emphasizing green-blue infrastructure, sustainable water use and circular economy principles. It is part of the broader Water+Land+Schap initiative, spanning over 70 actions across four regions, focusing on smart and sustainable water use, soil quality restoration, and nature-based solutions for river restoration.

The program's overarching goal is to "make Flanders a sponge again" by utilizing nature-based solutions to combat water-related problems exacerbated by climate change. The region faces significant water scarcity and drought risks, ranking highest among European regions. Contributing factors include a dense population, water-intensive sectors, excessive urban paving, and climate change-induced shifts in rainfall patterns.

The policy instrument covers the period from 2023 to 2028, with a continuous impact expected during the monitoring phase. The legal background emphasizes collaboration, encouraging companies, associations, farmers, knowledge institutions, and citizens to work together for more efficient water use and a circular local economy. The program's actions range from investing in green-blue infrastructure to supporting local initiatives, improving legislation and fostering research and awareness.

In terms of knowledge on NbS, the program acknowledges a certain level of understanding but expresses a specific need for solutions integrating with farming for sustainable agriculture, biodiversity and water system restoration.

Stakeholder involvement is crucial, including government actors, local public entities, interest groups, scientific and economic actors. The relationships are generally positive, though challenges arise due to the extensive network.

The Water+Land+Schap program is part of the Flemish climate adaptation plan (VAP), promoting collaboration and supporting initiatives by various stakeholders.

2.3. Lapland Agreement – Lapland regional development programme 2022-2025 – Regional Council of Lapland (PP03)

The Lapland Regional Council represents a comprehensive development vision for the region as set out in the Lapland Agreement. Although it is key to guiding regional policies, the current agreement lacks the emphasis on adaptation and nature-based solutions. Efforts are ongoing to strengthen their position in the revised agreement.

The policy instrument aims to enhance knowledge and expertise on NbS for informed policymaking and integrate NbS effectively into the policy framework itself.

In terms of societal challenges, the region faces higher exposure to global warming, soil degradation, heatwaves, shorter snowy seasons and recurrent flooding. The territorial status quo reveals abnormal snow conditions affecting reindeer herding and tourism. Hot summers pose health and construction

risks, while coastal flooding threatens Kemi. Changes in ecosystems impact forestry, agriculture and biodiversity, affecting people's livelihoods.

Additionally, changes affect tourism and result in land use challenges. Administrative hurdles involve institutional silo mentality, outdated infrastructure solutions, coordination gaps, and a lack of knowledge and experience.

The policy instrument spans from 2022 to 2025, with upcoming modifications for 2026-2029. Planned improvements and modifications will be implemented during the drafting of the 2026-2029 policy instrument, impacting planning, financing and monitoring phases.

The policy instrument serves as a funding mechanism. The Lapland Agreement aligns with Finnish land use and construction laws and EU regulations. Stakeholders from diverse sectors participated in its design and continue to be involved in its implementation.

Regional expertise in Arctic conditions, forestry and indigenous perspectives strengthens the project team's knowledge.

Specific knowledge needs are identified, encompassing water-related, urban greening, forestry and land-use NbS topics. The organization is the policy authority for the Lapland Agreement, ensuring direct influence and effective implementation.

Stakeholders include local public actors, interest groups, scientific actors and nature conservation non-profits. A positive relationship with stakeholders facilitates collaboration, and there is confidence in working together effectively. Stakeholders are crucial for their knowledge about NbS, disseminating NbS information and fostering local discussions.

**2.4. Regional Operational Program: European Funds for Podkarpackie Region 2021-2027
(Priority II: Energy and environment) –
Rzeszow Regional Development Agency (PP04)
Podkarpackie Region (APA)**

The policy instrument in focus, Priority Area II, directs its efforts towards the efficient use of energy, limited energy consumption and heightened energy efficiency. It primarily targets the comprehensive modernization of buildings to promote energy-efficient construction and concurrently reduce low emissions. The initiative encompasses thermal modernization measures, the replacement of outdated individual heating sources, and support for the production of electricity and heat from renewable energy sources. Circular cycle solutions and elements facilitating climate change adaptation and mitigation are integrated into all projects where reasonable and possible.

Specific activities supported by the policy instrument include the improvement of energy efficiency in public and residential buildings, energy efficiency enhancements in enterprises and the construction or upgrading of district heating and cooling systems. Furthermore, the policy instrument extends its support to municipal initiatives like the STOP SMOG60 Programme and the modernization of street lighting to energy-efficient alternatives.

In terms of policy instrument development, the emphasis is placed on collaborative approaches, political support, knowledge and expertise on NbS supporting policy making, and the integration of NbS within the policy instrument itself.

Concerning societal challenges, the policy instrument addresses a range of natural challenges such as exposure to global warming, drought, erosion, soil degradation, heatwaves and unusually hot and dry summers. Secondary challenges encompass drinking water pollution, air pollution, high carbon emissions and the lack of major rivers. Administrative challenges include outdated grey infrastructure solutions, lack of coordination, insufficient connection between different government levels, and a scarcity of knowledge and experience. Social challenges involve negative impacts on bioeconomy and tourism, as well as a low rate of energy saving.

The current state of the Podkarpackie Region reveals a fluctuating air quality, particularly during heating seasons, and a contemporary lifestyle contributing to environmental pollution. The introduction of NbS solutions and improved policies is deemed crucial for enhancing air and environmental quality, ultimately benefiting the residents.

The policy instrument spans the period from 2021 to 2027, with anticipated impacts in the mid-term, possibly by the end of 2025, during the planning phase.

Financial resources for the policy instrument are obtained through direct funding, and the legal background involves a multi-step process including proposal submission, consultation, resolution preparation, adoption, and publication.

Regarding knowledge on NbS, there is a recognized need for more information in Poland, especially in the Podkarpackie Region, requiring awareness campaigns to highlight the benefits of NbS.

Knowledge needs cover water-related, urban greening, forestry and land-use NbS topics. The relationship between the Rzeszow Regional Development Agency and the Marshal's Office is strong, enhancing effective policy implementation through active participation in program development and regional consultations.

The stakeholder group includes government actors, local public actors, interest groups and scientific actors. While the group is considered adequate, efforts will be made to expand it during project implementation, building upon existing good relations and past collaborations. Stakeholders were invited based on their knowledge of NbS, understanding of the policy instrument, and their role in disseminating NbS information for better local discussions.

2.5. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF-FEDER) 2020-27 – Provincial Council of Alicante (PP05), Generalitat Valenciana (APA)

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) serves a crucial role in fostering Regional Development and Cohesion across Europe. In Alicante, Spain, the focus is on addressing specific

challenges, such as water scarcity and extreme climatic events, necessitating a nuanced and strategic approach.

Within the ERDF's investment priorities, strategic directions emerge for the integration of NbS. These directions include promoting a smarter Europe through innovation, digitalisation and economic transformation. Moreover, addressing climate change becomes central in building a greener and carbon-free Europe, positioning NbS at the forefront.

To maximize the impact of the policy instrument, specific attention should be directed towards meticulous policy planning. Furthermore, the effective implementation of NbS strategies at the local level holds paramount importance. A collaborative and inclusive approach, involving stakeholders, is crucial, along with continuous efforts to enhance knowledge and expertise in the practical application of NbS.

Alicante grapples with a spectrum of natural challenges, including global warming, drought, and flooding. These, in turn, give rise to secondary challenges such as crop losses and drinking water pollution. Administrative complexities encompass institutional silo mentality and reliance on outdated infrastructure solutions, while social challenges involve managing population density and mitigating negative impacts on the bioeconomy and tourism.

Situated in the southeast of Spain, Alicante boasts a unique topography and climate. Water scarcity and extreme climatic events are recurring issues, exacerbated by the region's dense population, industrial zones, and tourism pressures. While centuries of managing water scarcity have endowed the region with significant expertise, modern challenges necessitate innovative and sustainable solutions, making NbS crucial for enhancing regional resilience.

The ERDF Valencian Community 2021-2027 covers the period from 2020 to 2027, with planned activities anticipated to yield a mid-term impact. Key phases include planning, financing, and monitoring, each contributing to the overarching objectives.

A critical knowledge gap exists in understanding how to apply NbS in practice in the municipalities, where traditional „grey” solutions often prevail. There is a pressing need for an integrated framework that not only demonstrates the application of NbS but also renders them economically viable.

Stakeholders play a crucial role, ranging from government actors to local entities to interest groups and scientific and economic actors. While existing relationships are generally positive, efforts are being made to broaden the stakeholder group for more comprehensive and inclusive collaboration.

2.6. Vukovar-Srijem County Development Plan 2021-2027 – Competence Centre Ltd. for research and development (PP06), Vukovar-Srijem County (APA)

Vukovar-Srijem County in eastern Croatia has formulated a policy instrument with a mission to cultivate a competitive, innovative, sustainable and green economy. The overarching priorities of the instrument encompass the development of a robust economy, security for stable growth, a green and digital transition and the enhancement of regional competitiveness. These priorities, spanning various sectors, offer opportunities for the integration of NbSs to address climate change, promote a circular economy, and implement ecosystem-based management.

In terms of areas for development, the policy instrument is designed to influence policy planning, financing, implementation, monitoring, stakeholder involvement, collaborative approaches and the integration of NbSs within the policy itself.

Societal challenges faced by Vukovar-Srijem County include natural issues such as global warming, drought, erosion and loss of biodiversity. Secondary challenges involve crop losses, water and air pollution, while administrative challenges include institutional silo mentality and outdated infrastructure. Social challenges encompass negative impacts on bioeconomy and tourism.

Looking at the spatial status quo, the county, which is predominantly engaged in agriculture and forestry, is facing challenges caused by climate change, including drought in the key forestry sector, biodiversity loss and lack of NbS.

The region seeks to address these issues by integrating NbS principles into its policy instrument for the next strategic planning period.

The policy instrument, covering the period from 2021 to 2027, is expected to have a mid-term impact, primarily influencing the planning, financing, and monitoring phases.

Financially, the policy instrument benefits from direct funding and has undergone a comprehensive adoption process in alignment with the Act on the System of Strategic Planning and Development Management of the Republic of Croatia.

Stakeholder involvement is a key aspect, with various organizations representing the government, local public actors, interest groups, scientific entities, and economic actors.

3. Conclusion and Summary

Through the comprehensive analysis of all six policy instruments it became clear that the project partners expect two main types of changes they can undertake to make the policy instruments more effective.

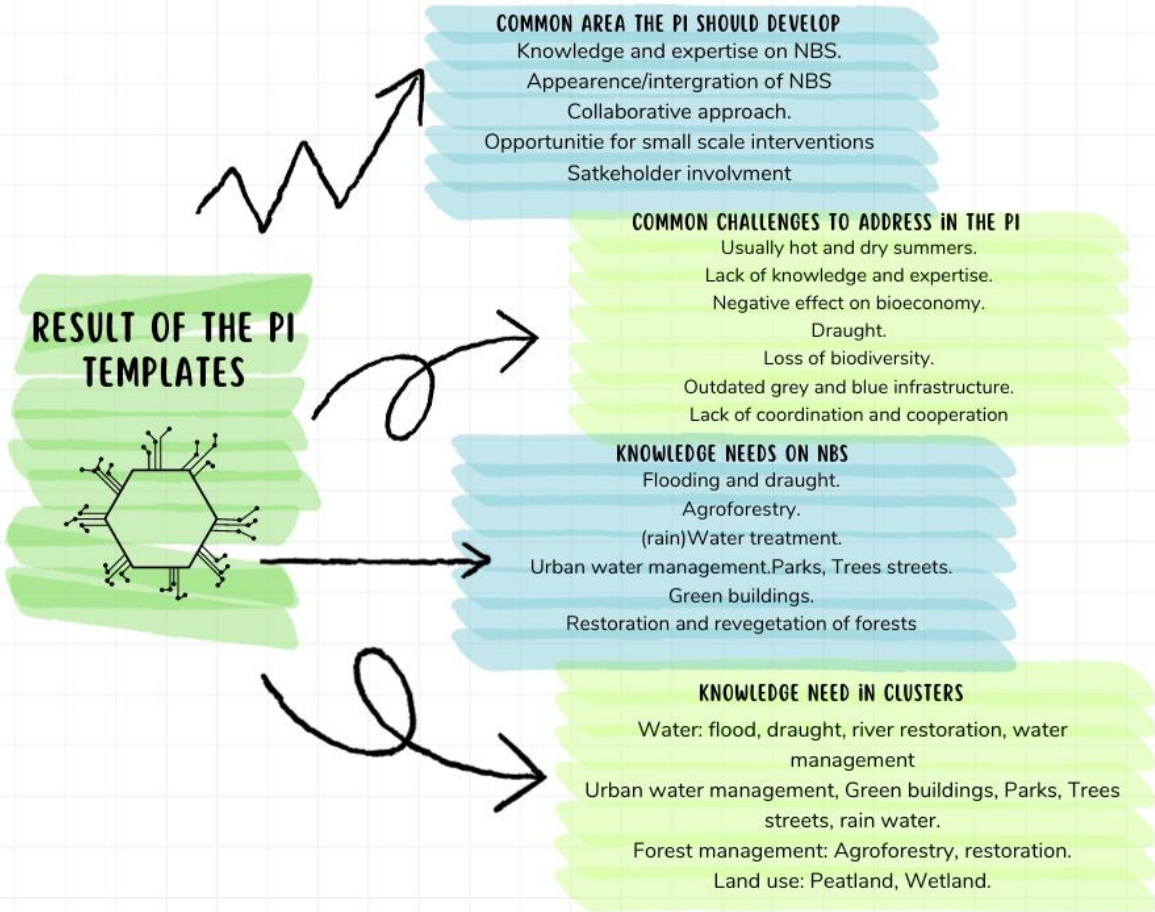
The most significant of these transformative efforts is Type 1 which is characterised by the initiation of innovative projects within existing policy frameworks. This proactive approach is often facilitated by the implementation of targeted calls for proposals, which symbolises a collective effort to proactively address emerging challenges and stimulate innovation.

Furthermore, the second commonly chosen effort is Type 3 represents a more complex and demanding form of transformation. It requires a comprehensive review of the policy instrument itself, building on the collective experience gained during the project. This review may involve the incorporation of new priorities or measures, coupled with a nuanced adjustment of budget allocations between different priorities.

The toolbox for policy instrument to be developed later in the project will highlight types 1 and 3 separately. It will support partners to reach these changes.

These changes demonstrate a deep commitment to the dynamic adaptation of the policy instrument and a collective determination to enhance its effectiveness in response to changing needs and partners' expectations.

As we have completed our detailed analysis of policy instruments, it has become clear that cross-cutting issues going beyond regional differences persist. Drought is the most significant common challenge, which means that our climate problems are also the same. This requires a unified approach. It is worth mentioning, that there is a noticeable divergence between partners in understanding and integrating NbSs. Nevertheless, there are some exemplary practices in the partnership that merit further exploration and point to a rich pool of possible solutions. While the integration of the NbS is being implemented on an experimental, noticeable and consistent scale, integration into strategic policy thinking remains an ongoing ambition.





It is clear from the evaluation process that there are a number of small-scale, easy-to-implement (NbS) practices that can be applied immediately. These practices not only offer tangible solutions but also valuable lessons that can inform wider policy development.



Furthermore, the problems and knowledge gaps identified will be incorporated into the capacity building phase of the project (stage 2/stakeholder training/e-learning tool)

In summary, the joint efforts to design and evaluate these policy instruments demonstrate the commitment of partners to address water and climate challenges. As we chart the way forward, let us not only persevere on our common path, but also step up our efforts to share knowledge, apply best practices and improve our policies. Through these concerted actions, we can build a sustainable and resilient future, navigating wisely and with foresight the complexities of our shared environmental landscape.

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Annex 1. Common areas the PI should develop

Common areas your policy instrument should develop						
Policy instrument	Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme Plus (EEEEOP Plus)	Sustainable Agro-Water-Landscapes (Weerbaar Water+Land+Schap)	Regional strategic programme "Lapland Agreement"	Regional Operational Program: European Funds for Podkarpackie Region 2021-2027; Priority II - Energy and environment	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF-FEDER) 2020-27	Vukovar-Srijem County Development plan 2021-2027
Partner	LP, MOI	PP2, VLM	PP3, RCL	PP4, RRDA	PP5, DPA	PP6, CEKOM
	Knowledge & expertise on NbS supporting the policy making	Knowledge & expertise on NbS supporting the policy making	Knowledge & expertise on NbS supporting the policy making	Knowledge & expertise on NbS supporting the policy making	Knowledge & expertise on NbS supporting the policy making	Knowledge & expertise on NbS supporting the policy making
	Appearance/integration of NbS within the policy instrument itself		Appearance/integration of NbS within the policy instrument itself	Appearance/integration of NbS within the policy instrument itself	Appearance/integration of NbS within the policy instrument itself	Appearance/integration of NbS within the policy instrument itself
	Collaborative approach	Collaborative approach		Collaborative approach	Collaborative approach	Collaborative approach
	Opportunity for small scale intervention	Opportunity for small scale intervention		Opportunity for small scale intervention		Opportunity for small scale intervention
	Stakeholder involvement	Stakeholder involvement		Stakeholder involvement	Stakeholder involvement	
	Implementation	Implementation			Implementation	
	Monitoring/indicators	Monitoring/indicators				
	Relation with the local level				Relation with the local level	
				Financing issues	Financing issues	
				Political support		
					Policy planning	

Annex 2. Common challenge to address with the PI improvement

Common challenges you want to address with the policy improvement at your territory						
Policy instrument	Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme Plus (EEEEOP Plus)	Sustainable Agro-Water-Landscapes (Weerbaar Water+Land+Schap)	Regional strategic programme "Lapland Agreement"	Regional Operational Program: European Funds for Podkarpackie Region 2021-2027; Priority II - Energy and environment	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF-FEDER) 2020-27	Vukovar-Srijem County Development plan 2021-2027
Partner	LP, MOI	PP2, VLM	PP3, RCL	PP4, RRDA	PP5, DPA	PP6, CEKOM
	Unusually hot and dry summers	Unusually hot and dry summers	Unusually hot and dry summers	Unusually hot and dry summers	Unusually hot and dry summers	Unusually hot and dry summers
	Lack of knowledge and experience	Lack of knowledge and experience	Lack of knowledge and experience	Lack of knowledge and experience	Lack of knowledge and experience	Lack of knowledge and experience
	Negative effect on bioeconomy	Negative effect on bioeconomy	Negative effect on bioeconomy	Negative effect on bioeconomy	Negative effect on bioeconomy	Negative effect on bioeconomy
	Draught	Draught		Draught	Draught	Draught
	Loss of biological diversity	Loss of biological diversity	Loss of biological diversity		Loss of biological diversity	Loss of biological diversity
	Outdated grey infrastructure solutions	Outdated grey infrastructure solutions	Outdated grey infrastructure solutions	Outdated grey infrastructure solutions	Outdated grey infrastructure solutions	
	Lack of coordination and cooperation		Lack of coordination and cooperation	Lack of coordination and cooperation	Lack of coordination and cooperation	Lack of coordination and cooperation
	Erosion	Erosion		Erosion		Erosion
	Soil degradation	Soil degradation	Soil degradation			Soil degradation
	Recurrent flooding	Recurrent flooding	Recurrent flooding		Recurrent flooding	
	Drinking water pollution	Drinking water pollution		Drinking water pollution	Drinking water pollution	
	Damage of infrastructure caused by flooding	Damage of infrastructure caused by flooding	Damage of infrastructure caused by flooding		Damage of infrastructure caused by flooding	
	Lack of connection between different levels of government	Lack of connection between different levels of government		Lack of connection between different levels of government	Lack of connection between different levels of government	
		Crop losses in agriculture	Crop losses in agriculture		Crop losses in agriculture	Crop losses in agriculture
	Negative social impact		Negative social impact	Negative social impact	Negative social impact	
			More exposed to global warming	More exposed to global warming	More exposed to global warming	More exposed to global warming
	Heatwaves		Heatwaves	Heatwaves		
	Flash floods	Flash floods			Flash floods	
	High carbon emission			High carbon emission		High carbon emission
	Institutional silo-thinking		Institutional silo-thinking		Institutional silo-thinking	
			Negative effect on tourism	Negative effect on tourism	Negative effect on tourism	
			Low rate of energy saving	Low rate of energy saving		Low rate of energy saving
			Extreme rise of average temperature	Extreme rise of average temperature		Extreme rise of average temperature
	Heavy local rainfalls	Heavy local rainfalls				
		Dense population			Dense population	
	The lack of safeguard measures in general		The lack of safeguard measures in general			
	Air pollution			Air pollution		
	Persistent and recurrent inland flooding					
	Health effect of heatwaves					
	Drying up of watercourses and thus deterioration of water quality					
	Awareness raising lack or low rate of resources (e.g.: water) saving technologies in general					
			Shorter winter season			
			Land-use challenges (mining, wind power)			
			Climate impacts on agriculture incl. reindeer herding			
			Heavy local snowfalls			
			Melting of snow coverage and shorter snowy season			
				Lack of major rivers		
						Invasive alien species influence the forest

Annex.3.

Knowledge needs on NBS

Knowledge needs on NBS						
Policy instrument	Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme Plus (EEEEOP Plus)	Sustainable Agro-Water-Landscapes (Weerbaar Water+Land+Schap)	Regional strategic programme "Lapland Agreement"	Regional Operational Program: European Funds for Podkarpackie Region 2021-2027; Priority II - Energy and environment	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF-FEDER) 2020-27	Vukovar-Srijem County Development plan 2021-2027
Partner	LP, MOI	PP2, VLM	PP3, RCL	PP4, RRDA	PP5, DPA	PP6, CEKOM
	Flooding, drought	Flooding, drought	Flooding, drought	Flooding, drought	Flooding, drought	Flooding, drought
	River restoration/rivers' floodplain	River restoration/rivers' floodplain	River restoration/rivers' floodplain	River restoration/rivers' floodplain	River restoration/rivers' floodplain	River restoration/rivers' floodplain
	Agroforestry	Agroforestry	Agroforestry	Agroforestry	Agroforestry	Agroforestry
	(Rain)- water treatment	(Rain)- water treatment	(Rain)- water treatment	(Rain)- water treatment	(Rain)- water treatment	
	Water quality	Water quality	Water quality	Water quality		Water quality
	Urban water management	Urban water management	Urban water management	Urban water management	Urban water management	
	Parks, gardens, tree streets, etc.	Parks, gardens, tree streets, etc.	Parks, gardens, tree streets, etc.	Parks, gardens, tree streets, etc.	Parks, gardens, tree streets, etc.	
	Green buildings (walls, roofs)	Green buildings (walls, roofs)	Green buildings (walls, roofs)	Green buildings (walls, roofs)		Green buildings (walls, roofs)
	Restoration or revegetation of forests/afforestation	Restoration or revegetation of forests/afforestation	Restoration or revegetation of forests/afforestation	Restoration or revegetation of forests/afforestation		Restoration or revegetation of forests/afforestation
	Integration of trees to landscape	Integration of trees to landscape	Integration of trees to landscape	Integration of trees to landscape		
	Sustainable forest management	Sustainable forest management	Sustainable forest management			Sustainable forest management
	Forest fires	Forest fires	Forest fires	Forest fires		
	Intact forests	Intact forests	Intact forests	Intact forests		
	Peatland, wetland	Peatland, wetland	Peatland, wetland	Peatland, wetland		
	Erosion	Erosion	Erosion			
	Drylands (grass land) management	Drylands (grass land) management		Drylands (grass land) management		
	Soil- and water farm management	Soil- and water farm management	Soil- and water farm management			
		crop rotation/diversification	crop rotation/diversification			
		no- tillage solutions	no- tillage solutions			
		livestock/fertilizer management/biochar	livestock/fertilizer management/biochar			
	The balancing of grey and green infrastructure					
			Arctic mountainous areas			
						Fragmented forest plots
						Urban forestry

Annex.4 Knowledge needs on NBS in clusters

Knowledge needs on NBS						
Policy instrument	Environment and Energy Efficiency Operational Programme Plus (EEEEOP Plus)	Sustainable Agro-Water-Landscapes (Weerbaar Water+Land+Schap)	Regional strategic programme "Lapland Agreement"	Regional Operational Program: European Funds for Podkarpackie Region 2021-2027; Priority II - Energy and environment	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF-FEDER) 2020-27	Vukovar-Srijem County Development plan 2021-2027
Partner	LP, MOI	PP2, VLM	PP3, RCL	PP4, RRDA	PP5, DPA	PP6, CEKOM
Water related topics						
	Flooding, drought	Flooding, drought	Flooding, drought	Flooding, drought	Flooding, drought	Flooding, drought
	River restoration/rivers' floodplain	River restoration/rivers' floodplain	River restoration/rivers' floodplain	River restoration/rivers' floodplain	River restoration/rivers' floodplain	River restoration/rivers' floodplain
	(Rain)- water treatment	(Rain)- water treatment	(Rain)- water treatment	(Rain)- water treatment	(Rain)- water treatment	
	Water quality	Water quality	Water quality	Water quality		Water quality
	Urban water management	Urban water management	Urban water management	Urban water management	Urban water management	
	Erosion	Erosion	Erosion			
Urban greening related topics						
	Parks, gardens, tree streets, etc.	Parks, gardens, tree streets, etc.	Parks, gardens, tree streets, etc.	Parks, gardens, tree streets, etc.	Parks, gardens, tree streets, etc.	
	Green buildings (walls, roofs)	Green buildings (walls, roofs)	Green buildings (walls, roofs)	Green buildings (walls, roofs)		Green buildings (walls, roofs)
Forestry related topics						
	Agroforestry	Agroforestry	Agroforestry	Agroforestry	Agroforestry	Agroforestry
	Restoration or revegetation of forests/afforestation	Restoration or revegetation of forests/afforestation	Restoration or revegetation of forests/afforestation	Restoration or revegetation of forests/afforestation		Restoration or revegetation of forests/afforestation
	Integration of trees to landscape	Integration of trees to landscape	Integration of trees to landscape	Integration of trees to landscape		
	Sustainable forest management	Sustainable forest management	Sustainable forest management			Sustainable forest management
	Forest fires	Forest fires	Forest fires	Forest fires		
	Intact forests	Intact forests	Intact forests	Intact forests		
Land use related topics						
	Peatland, wetland	Peatland, wetland	Peatland, wetland	Peatland, wetland		
	Drylands (grass land) management	Drylands (grass land) management		Drylands (grass land) management		
	Soil- and water farm management	Soil- and water farm management	Soil- and water farm management			
		crop rotation/diversification	crop rotation/diversification			
		no- tillage solutions	no- tillage solutions			
		livestock/fertilizer management/biochar	livestock/fertilizer management/biochar			
Other topics						
	The balancing of grey and green infrastructure					
			Arctic mountainous areas			
						Fragmented forest plots
						Urban forestry