



# About ALFAwetlands project

European Wilderness Society

03.10.2023

# ALFAwetlands overview

- Coordinator: The Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), Finland
- Funding from EU: 8 M€
- Project timeline: 01.06.2022-30.11.2026
- Project duration: 54 months
- 14 partners +1 affiliated entity
- Call: *Horizon-CL5-2021-DI-01-08: Restoration of natural wetlands, peatlands and floodplains as a strategy for fast mitigation benefits: pathways, trade-offs and co-benefits*



# ALFAwetlands offers:



## ➤ KNOWLEDGE

improves geospatial knowledge base of wetlands to verify efficiency of ecosystem scale restoration practices

## ➤ CO-CREATION

co-creates socially fair and rewarding pathways for wetland restoration

## ➤ SUSTAINABILITY

develops sustainability indicators to maximise climate change mitigation and biodiversity

## ➤ MODELLING

develops policy relevant scenarios for climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem

# Project partners



Project coordinator:



RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
NATURE AND FOREST





# ALFAwetlands team

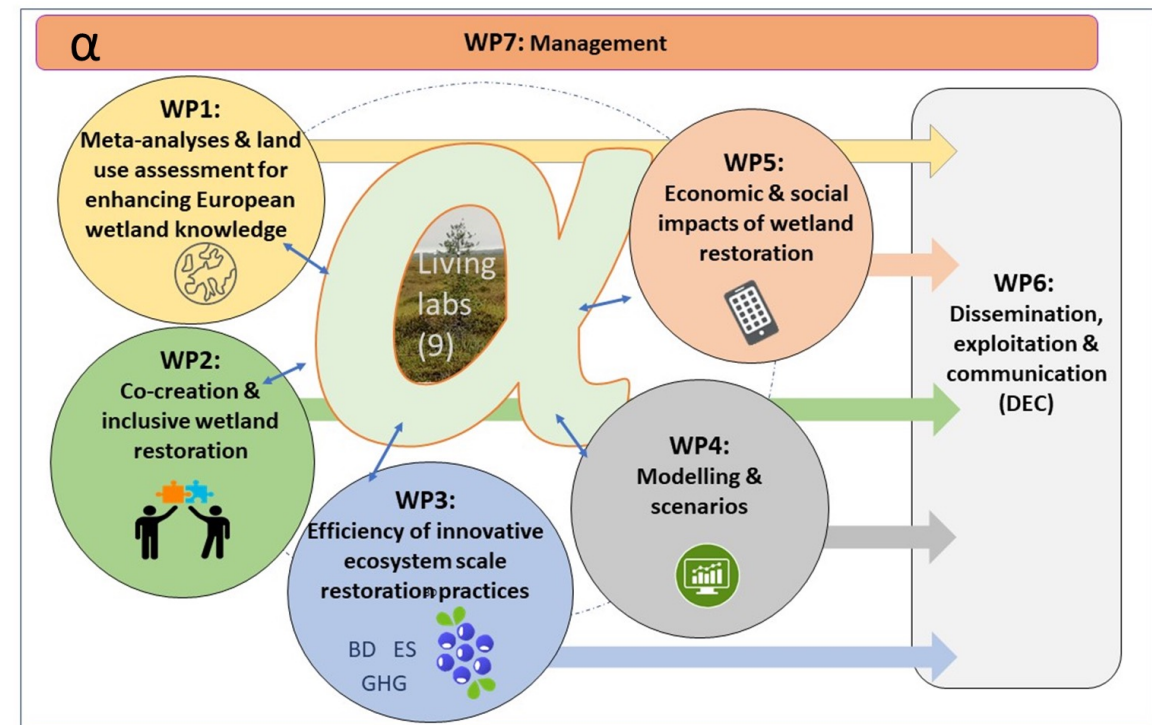


# ALFAwetlands - wetland restoration for the future

An **ultimate goal** of the ALFAwetlands is to improve the geospatial knowledge base of wetlands, to evaluate the pathways of wetland restoration that incorporate a co-creation process, and to provide information and indicators for sustainability to maximise climate change mitigation, biodiversity and other benefits.

The **cross-cutting theme** is climate change mitigation, which at the same time supports biodiversity and is socially just and rewarding

Living Labs play a key role in supporting and integrating interdisciplinary research on ecological, environmental, economic and social science at local level





# ALFAwetlands Work packages



- WP 1. Meta-analysis & land use assessment for enhancing European wetland knowledge
- WP 2. Co-creation & inclusive wetland restoration
- WP 3. Efficiency of innovative ecosystem scale restoration practices
- WP 4. Modelling & scenarios
- WP 5. Economic & social impacts of wetland restoration
- WP 6. Dissemination, exploitation & communication (DEC)
- WP 7. Project management



# Main expected results



- Geospatial knowledge base of wetlands to verify efficiency of ecosystem scale restoration practices
- Geodata needs for policy instruments on national & European levels
- Field-tested methods for participatory wetland restoration, handbooks etc.
- Tool: Best practices for cost-effective restoration of peatlands & restoration of floodplains
- Improved methods for GHGE and removals reporting from wetlands and the LULUCF sector
- Modelling impacts of upscaled wetland restoration options on biodiversity and ecosystem services provision
- Policy relevant scenarios for climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Socio-economic impacts of wetland restoration, especially on BES benefits and costs of different measures and wellbeing impacts from local to EU levels

# European Wilderness Society role



- ✓ Leading WP 6-Dissemination, exploitation & communication
  - Task 6.1 Supporting dissemination, exploitation & communication
  - Task 6.2 Engaging stakeholders, building capacity & establishing synergies
  - Task 6.3 Managing & exploiting project outputs
  - Task 6.4 Best practices tool for wetland restoration
  - Task 6.5 Advocating for & supporting evidence-based policymaking
  - Task 6.6 Citizen science & Living Labs open days
- ✓ Coordinating activities of the AT-HU LL

# Dissemination and experience exchange



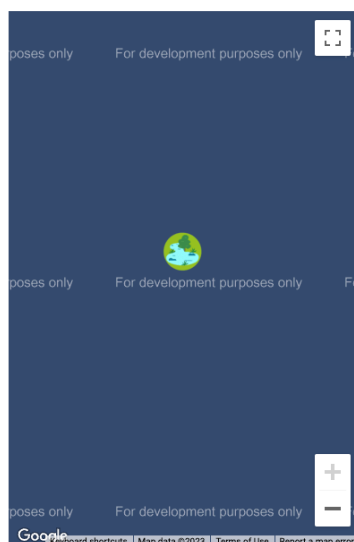


# Austria-Hungary Living Lab

<https://alfawetlands.eu/living-labs/all-living-labs/#austria-hungary-country>



## Austria & Hungary living lab



### Co-creation on floodplain

📍 Lake Fertő, Hungary & Neusiedler See-Seewinkel National Park, Austria

■ Floodplain

[Read more](#)

### Legends

- 🌾 Agripeat – agriculture on peatland
- 🌊 Coastal wetland
- 🌿 Constructed wetland
- 🌳 Drained peatland forest: non-productive
- 🌳 Drained peatland forest: productive
- 🌊 Floodplain
- 🏠 Peatland extraction area
- 🌿 Water management





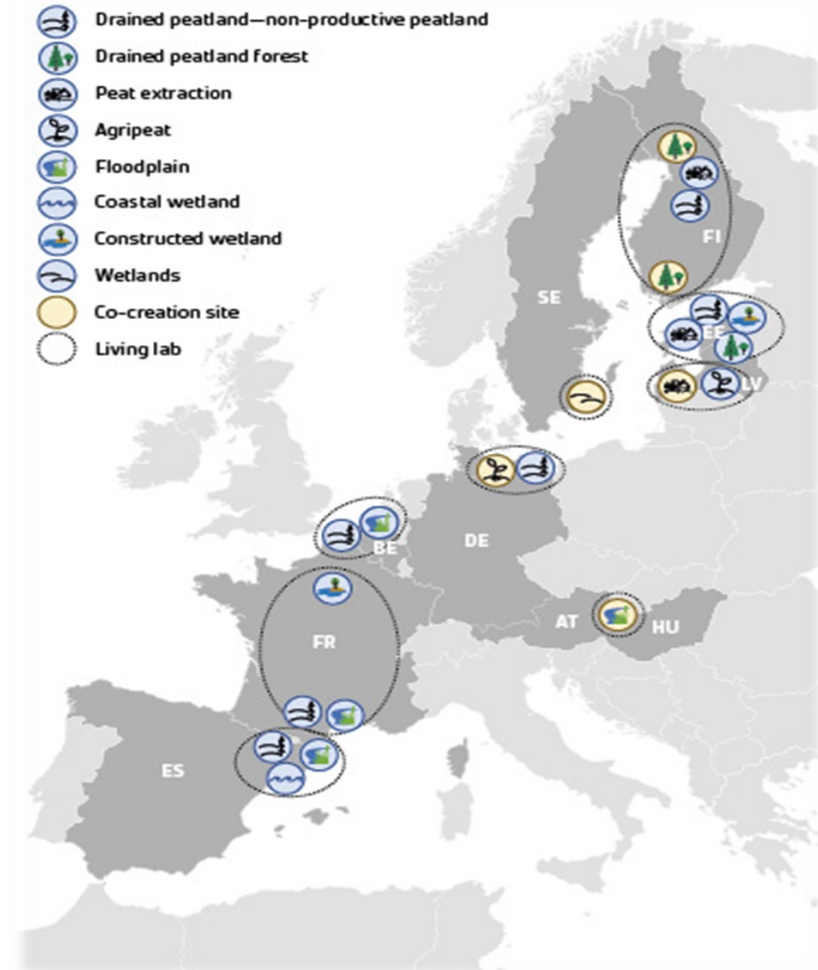
# ALFAwetlands Living Labs



**Act as a system** where all ecological (measurements, experiments, monitoring etc.) and most of the social science related work (e.g. co-creation process) and partly modelling are conducted

Each country has only **one Living Lab**, and it may contain several sites (ideally between 1-10)

A wide range of wetlands and their land uses are covered in LLs (e.g., drained peatlands used for forestry, agriculture, peat extraction, flood-plains, coastal wetlands)



<https://alfawetlands.eu/living-labs/>

# ALFAwetlands Living Labs

- Peatland management options studied incl.
- Water level manipulations
- Continuous cover forestry
- Flood-tolerant crops
- Sphagnum sowing
- Mowing fen meadow, periodic flooding
- Rewetting, (partial) tree removal
- Restoring hydrology
- Berry cultivation
- Ash fertilization
- Agroforestry
- Afforestation



SWEDEN



BELGIUM



FRANCE



SPAIN



ESTONIA



FINLAND



GERMANY



LATVIA



AUSTRIAN HUNGARY

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# Exemple: Living lab in France



## Garonne site:

Biodiversity & ecosystem services of alluvial floodplains studied. Propose a methodology that considers climate and water impacts

## Rampillon site

Co-creation on constructed wetland. biodiversity survey (amphibians, aquatic macroinvertebrates), and water quality monitoring



## Pyrenees site:

Restoring unproductive drained mountain peatland with high biodiversity values



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