



FINAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME



Tuesday–Wednesday
September 22–23
2026



Online

All times are in EEST / Helsinki time

Day 1 — Tuesday, 22 September 2026

TIME	Session 1. Opening, background and key results
	<i>Moderator: Niclas Wancke</i>
10:00 (15 min)	Welcome by the host organisation <i>Janne Artell</i> , Research Manager, Adaptive and Resilient Bioeconomy Research Programme (Luke)
10:15 (30 min)	Why this project was initiated <i>Inese Ebele</i> , Director, Latvian Institute of Horticulture, Council Member, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences; <i>Daina Feldmane</i> , Leading Researcher, Institute of Horticulture; <i>Sigita Silvjane</i> , Project Manager, Zemgale Planning Region
10:45 (15 min)	Expectations of the funding programme <i>Project officer</i> , Baltic Sea Interreg Managing Authority
11:00	Key results and innovations (30 min each)
	11:00 Lithuania — <i>Evaldas Makrickas</i> , Project manager, Aukštaitija protected areas directorate
	11:30 Finland — <i>Marja Honkasalo</i> , Senior Scientist, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke); <i>Anja Yli-Viikari</i> , Senior Scientist, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke); <i>Erja Mattila</i> , project coordinator, Elonkierton Ystävät ry
12:00–13:00	One hour break
13:00	Key results and innovations (30 min each) — continued
	13:00 Estonia — <i>Leila Mainla</i> , Assistant Professor in Horticulture, Estonian University of Life Sciences
	13:30 Denmark — <i>Signe Værbak</i> , Research Advisor, MSc (hort.), Ph.D. Aarhus University, Department of Food Science, Research Group Plants, Food and Sustainability/The Green Museum, Denmark's National Museum for Hunting, Forestry, Agriculture and Food



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14:00	Latvia — <i>Sintija Sniedzite</i> , Senior Project Manager, Aizkraukle Municipality, Zemgale region; <i>Daina Feldmane</i> , Leading Researcher, Latvian Institute of Horticulture
14:30 (15 min)	Discussion

Day 2 — Wednesday, 23 September 2026

TIME	
	Session 2. Strategic impact and future use
9:30 (5 min)	Moderator opening message <i>Niclas Wancke</i>
09:35 (20 min)	Nature in health promotion and learning <i>Erja Rappe</i> , Senior Researcher Age Institute, DSc (Agriculture and Forestry), Docent University of Helsinki
9:55 (20 min)	The project's strategic output and final potential <i>Sirpa Kurppa</i> , Friends of Elonkierto Association
10:15 (10 min)	Short break
10:30 (85 min)	Discussion panel — comments and questions from end users Panellists representing the key target partnering Regional/local public authorities • Environmental design <i>Liene Laurinoviča</i>, Dobeles, Latvia • Park planning <i>Kärt-Mari Paju</i>, Rakvere, Estonia; and <i>Renata Gražinienė</i>, Biržai District Municipality, Lithuania • Health care/therapy <i>Vidas Karvelis</i>, Klaipėda District Municipality, Lithuania Research and educational institutions • Mental Health from Nature <i>Ann Ojala</i>, Senior Scientist, "Recreation and nature values" group, Luke, Finland • Lifelong education <i>Hanne Lakkenborg-Kristensen</i>, Professor, Aarhus University, Department of Food Science — Plants, Food and Sustainability (online) Strategic exploitation • Associate partner <i>Pauliina Myllylä</i>, Vocational University Lappia • <i>Andrea C. Bayer</i>, M.A. Tourism strategist, freelance writer
11:55 (5 min)	Closing — <i>Niclas Wancke</i> Key takeaways and next steps