



FINAL SEMINAR PROGRAMME



Tuesday–Wednesday
September 22–23
2026



University of Helsinki, Viikki
Campus (Cultivator II building,
Room B105), Finland (hybrid)

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>Henna Rinne</i> (PhD in Marine Biology) Senior Specialist at the Ministry of the Environment in Finland, A vice-member in the Monitoring Committee of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme
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, Elonkierron Ystävät ry
12:00–13:00	Lunch 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



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13:30 Denmark — *Signe Værbak*, 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
14:00 Latvia — *Sintija Sniedzite*, Senior Project Manager, Aizkraukle Municipality, Zemgale region; *Daina Feldmane*, Leading Researcher, Latvian Institute of Horticulture; *Liene Laurinoviča*, Environmental designer of Construction Board, Dobeles Municipality

14:30 (15 min)

14:45 (15 min)

15:00–17:00

Discussion

Short break (coffee to go)

Parallel sessions (rotations)

- Virtual laboratory and AR (30 min; 10 participants per session) **Building A, lobby**
- Experiential activity in the local Maaherra garden (Stations A & B) - **Maaherranpuisto, behind Viikinkartano building**

Day 1	Time	VirtuLab	AR	Garden (A)	Garden (B)
	15.00-15.30	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3 + 4	Group 5 + 6
	15.30-16.00	Group 2	Group 1	Group 5 + 6	Group 3 + 4
	16.00-16.30	Group 3	Group 4	Group 1	Group 2
	16.30-17.00	Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1
Day 2 morning	8.30-9.00	Group 5	Group 6		
	9.00-9.30	Group 6	Group 5		

19:00

Seminar dinner — Hotel Arthur (Helsinki city centre)



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Day 2 — Wednesday, 23 September 2026

TIME

08:30 (60 min)	Virtual laboratory and AR (Groups 5 and 6) (see above)
	Session 2. Strategic impact and future use
09:30 (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 (coffee to go)
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>Leila Mainla</i>, Assistant Professor in Horticulture, Estonian University of Life Sciences 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
12:00	Lunch and farewell coffee End of the day approximately at 13:00