



# 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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>10:00</b> (15 min) | <b>Welcome by the host organisation</b><br><i>Janne Artell</i> , Research Manager, Adaptive and Resilient Bioeconomy Research Programme (Luke)                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>10:15</b> (30 min) | <b>Why this project was initiated</b><br><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 |
| <b>10:45</b> (15 min) | <b>Expectations of the funding programme</b><br><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                                                           |
| <b>11:00</b>          | <b>Key results and innovations (30 min each)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                       | <b>11:00</b> Lithuania — <i>Evaldas Makrickas</i> , Project manager, Aukštaitija protected areas directorate                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                       | <b>11:30</b> 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                                     |
| <b>12:00–13:00</b>    | <b>One hour break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>13:00</b>          | <b>Key results and innovations (30 min each) — continued</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                       | <b>13:00</b> Estonia — <i>Leila Mainla</i> , Assistant Professor in Horticulture, Estonian University of Life Sciences                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                       | <b>13:30</b> 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; <i>Liene Laurinoviča</i> , Environmental designer of Construction Board, Dobeles Municipality |
| 14:30 (15 min) | <b>Discussion</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Day 2 — Wednesday, 23 September 2026

| TIME           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:30 (5 min)   | <b>Session 2. Strategic impact and future use</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 09:35 (20 min) | <b>Moderator opening message</b> <i>Niclas Wancke</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 9:55 (20 min)  | <b>Nature in health promotion and learning</b> <i>Erja Rappe</i> , Senior Researcher Age Institute, DSc (Agriculture and Forestry), Docent University of Helsinki                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 10:15 (10 min) | <b>The project's strategic output and final potential</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 10:30 (85 min) | <i>Sirpa Kurppa</i> , Friends of Elonkierto Association                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                | <b>Short break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                | <b>Discussion panel</b> — comments and questions from end users                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                | <b>Panellists representing the key target partnering</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                | <b>Regional/local public authorities</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental design <i>Liene Laurinoviča</i>, Dobeles, Latvia</li> <li>Park planning <i>Kärt-Mari Paju</i>, Rakvere, Estonia; and <i>Renata Gražinienė</i>, Biržai District Municipality, Lithuania</li> <li>Health care/therapy <i>Vidas Karvelis</i>, Klaipėda District Municipality, Lithuania</li> </ul> |
|                | <b>Research and educational institutions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental Health from Nature <i>Ann Ojala</i>, Senior Scientist, "Recreation and nature values" group, Luke, Finland</li> <li>Lifelong education <i>Hanne Lakkenborg-Kristensen</i>, Professor, Aarhus University, Department of Food Science — Plants, Food and Sustainability (online)</li> </ul>              |
|                | <b>Strategic exploitation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate partner <i>Pauliina Myllylä</i>, Vocational University Lappia</li> <li><i>Andrea C. Bayer</i>, M.A. Tourism strategist, freelance writer</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                 |
| 11:55 (5 min)  | <b>Closing</b> — <i>Niclas Wancke</i><br>Key takeaways and next steps                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |