



Vistula Lagoon Stakeholder Working Group meeting

| Overview | |
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| Date | 18.09.2020 |
| Location | Vistula Lagoon region |
| Aim of the event | Identifying regional weaknesses and threats to the creation and implementation of a local circular bioeconomy development strategy and generating solutions allowing for the organisation of educational activities in the COVID-19 pandemic. |

Short summary



After a brief introduction by the participants and presentation of the meeting agenda, a discussion was held on the possibilities for educational activities in pandemic times. Meeting participants strongly negated the possibility of carrying out events in school premises due to the COVID-19 related restrictive measures. They also rejected the possibility of conducting educational activities online arguing that the teachers were overwhelmed with additional responsibilities during this pandemic crisis and would not therefore take on additional activities. As an alternative, it was proposed to consult the educational materials developed as a BE-Rural project deliverable and use it as training material for teachers who would then be able to get prepared for giving classes dedicated to the themes of bioeconomy and sustainability at a later stage. Such classes should take place over one or two full days in a facility adapted to the prevailing sanitary and social distancing measures. The representatives of SWG Vistula Lagoon recognised that this idea was currently the only possibility for carrying out effective educational activities within the BE-Rural project. The FLAG "Zalew Wiślany"

Director offered to find such a place in the area where the organization of such a class could be operated. The FLAG "Zalew Szczeciński" Director made a similar offer. It was also suggested that the groups also conduct preliminary talks with teachers about these dedicated classes. It was decided that NMFRI should prepare Polish language versions of the provided educational materials and consult the educators from Strathclyde University to set a date for such a training. Setting dates for at least three educational events until end of November was not received with optimism. Meeting participants raised their concerns about the possibility of organising this kind of classes in the near future, taking into account the increasing number of cases, and the autumn season currently bringing a new wave of COVID-19 infections. They suggested that these educational events should be postponed until end of January 2021. After discussion, it was agreed to try and hold one educational event in both the Szczecin Lagoon area and the Vistula Lagoon area¹.

A discussion was then held on the threats to the creation and implementation of a local circular bioeconomy strategy. Among the main barriers to planning a bioeconomy strategy development based on the use of low value fish species, increasing difficulties in obtaining raw material due to fishing restrictions in place in the lagoons and the reluctance of the local food providers to take risks in running new, unprofitable economic activities in the region were cited. Also, the labour demand for catching such fish, which can be very high, but also very low, depending on the season of the year, was considered as a threat to the success of the local bioeconomy strategy implementation. This latest argument was corroborated by the results of previous workshops held with local governments.

Annex

Agenda

| Agenda | |
|---------------|---|
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Welcome and discussion of pop-up store results and seminars |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | An attempt to define the priorities of the local strategy on the basis of SWOT analysis and information gathered by the project |
| 12:30 – 12:45 | Coffee break |
| 12:45 – 14:00 | Continuation of the local strategy priority setting |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | Organization of educational events |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | Next steps |

Participant list

| Participants | | | |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------------------|
| Name | Surname | Organisation | Stakeholder Category |
| Marcin | Rakowski | NMFRI | OIP facilitator |

¹ A few days after the meeting, the entire "Brać Mierzei" region, i.e. the northern part of the Vistula Lagoon region, was included in a temporary epidemiological danger zone by the Polish authorities.



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| Adam | Mytlewski | NMFRI | OIP facilitator |
| Dorota | Skrzyńska | NMFRI | OIP facilitator |
| Justyna | Rumocka | FLAG "Brać Mierzei" | SWG Vistula Lagoon |
| Michał | Marczak | FLAG "Brać Mierzei" | SWG Vistula Lagoon |
| Andrzej | Wiśniewski | FLAG "Zalew Wiślany" | SWG Vistula Lagoon |
| Monika | Modzelewska-Kozioł | FLAG "Zalew Wiślany" | SWG Vistula Lagoon* |
| Monika | Czajkowska | FLAG "Zalew Wiślany" | SWG Vistula Lagoon* |
| Agnieszka | Piórko | FLAG "Brać Mierzei" | SWG Vistula Lagoon* |
| Małgorzata | Całka | FLAG "Zalew Szczeciński" | SWG Szczecin Lagoon |
| Bożena | Zawistowska | FLAG "Zalew Szczeciński" | SWG Szczecin Lagoon |
| Małgorzata | Chinc | FLAG "Brać Mierzei" | SWG Vistula Lagoon |
| Sylwester | Kramek | FLAG "Brać Mierzei" | SWG Vistula Lagoon |
| Józef | Zamojcin | FLAG "Zalew Wiślany" | SWG Vistula Lagoon* |

* participation on-line



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