

Cover letter for the project of VillageWaters for data collection

VillageWaters (Water emissions and their reduction in village communities – villages in Baltic Sea Region as pilots)

Wastewaters of the scattered dwelling are after agriculture the second largest source of eutrofying nutrient emissions of scattered loading to Baltic Sea. The reduction of the eutrofying emissions from the scattered dwelling is an essential part of EU environmental policy for reaching good water quality in all member states of the EU. Also the EU legislation aims to achieving a good status of water bodies in the EU.

The main challenge of this project is to compile a tool, which helps to find the most effective, practical, cost-effective and environmentally friendly wastewater treatment solutions for the scattered dwelling households, villages and public bodies in order to decrease their wastewater emissions into the Baltic Sea to the level set by the forthcoming EU water legislation. Wastewater treatment systems are assessed for technological, economic, environmental and social aspects in order to find out the potentially best-fitting systems for the improved wastewater treatment in the households of scattered dwelling regions. The objective is also to support the end-users' needs to avoid unnecessary investments and operating costs when shifting to improved waste water treatment, and thus encourage them to implement new treatment systems.

The main output of the project is the information tool, which utilizes the data collected in the project. It is an easy-to-use information retrieval, exchange and processing tool designed to help users to find appropriate, specific and helpful information on the small scale wastewater treatment solutions for their needs. It will propose the best-fitting wastewater treatment systems meeting the circumstances and the priority criteria set by any individual user, primarily in the partner countries. The tool is applicable for all user groups interested in the topic all over the Baltic Sea Region, and to some extent also outside of it. The utilizers of the information tool are the households and people of the Baltic Sea countries, but it can be utilized also by municipalities, decision makers, authorities, environmental NGOs, technology development and water companies, policy-makers and advisory SMEs and research institutes. With help of the information the emissions are reduced locally and also in the whole Baltic Sea region. The tool can be utilized everywhere, where the information stored in the tool is applicable.

The tool will also include discussion and communication forums through which it connects and brings the target groups together to discuss, exchange data and ideas, assess and commit planning, implementation and management of waste water treatment systems. The services of the information tool are useful for all who are making decisions on the waste water treatment issue. They can provide information tailored for many special areas of expertise and interest, and thus benefits a broad set of users making decisions on the waste water treatment issue. Hence the tool will help to improve the state of the local waters and the Baltic Sea in such a way that the total environmental impact would not increase.

Project has tentative project intranet and webpages: <https://villagewaters.eu/>. Its schedule is 1.3.2016-28.2.2019 (6 periods). Funder is Interreg Baltic Sea Region (BSR), <http://www.interreg-baltic.eu/home.html>. There are 13 partners from 5 countries (Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland), Natural Resources Institute Luke (Finland) as a lead partner.

INFROMATION SOURCES AND THE COLLECTORS OF THE DATA

The data used in information tool will be collected from companies manufacturing and selling household and village-scale wastewater treatment technologies as well as from installation, consulting and maintenance companies from all partner countries. The data will be collected also from pilot villages of the project, which have renewed their wastewater treatment systems as well as from households, which have changed their wastewater treatment system respectively. In Estonia the data collection is conducted by the Tallinn University of Technology, in Finland by the Natural Resources Institute Finland Luke, In Latvia by the Latvian University, in Lithuania by the Vytautas Magnus University and in Poland by the Institute of Technology and Life Sciences. The data collection is done by interviews, and the data will be put onto forms made for this purpose. The data collection form is also available in VillageWaters webpage for manufacturers and vendors of wastewater treatment technologies to update the information. The data should be as correct and error-free as possible.

HOW THE DATA WILL BE USED

The collected data will be used in the information tool compiled by the project. It includes technical and functional data of the technologies as well as economic, environmental, social and availability data. Based on the collected data information tool makes it possible for the users to compare different technologies, choose the best suitable alternative and check the availability of technologies. The companies will appear in the tool on their own names.

THE TERMS OF THE USE OF THE DATA

The information tool will be built and maintained in the implementation phase by the project partners. After the implementation phase the maintenance of the tool will be moved to a new administrator, who keeps the tool updated and running. The original detailed data collected from a company will be used only based on a valid consent of the company and only by the information tool. The company has the right to check its data stored in the tool any time from administrator, as well as ask the administrator to update the data, to deny its use, and to remove the data from

databases from the tool. In case the tool will be closed, all the data stored in the databases of the tool will be removed.

The members of the research consortium reserve themselves the right to utilize the data collected from a company in other contexts with the consent of the company and under an agreement made on the terms of the usage of the data.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR THE COMPANIES, WHICH GIVE DATA TO THE INFORMATION TOOL

With help of the information tool the potential clients compare alternatives for their wastewater treatment systems. Hence, the tool provides a free and broad marketing channel for the companies and increases the visibility of their products and services. The functional area of the tool is the whole Baltic Sea area. Companies can benefit on the data they deliver to the information tool when developing their own technologies. As a response to the data delivery the companies will have the environmental impact assessment results, which cover the whole life-cycle of each of their products. The results will be detailed by different energy and material inputs. Moreover, they will get corresponding assessments for the investment and running costs of their technologies.