

# “Building the European Peatlands Initiative: a strong alliance for peatland climate protection in Europe”



Leonor CESAR DAS NEVES  
Policy Officer, ELO

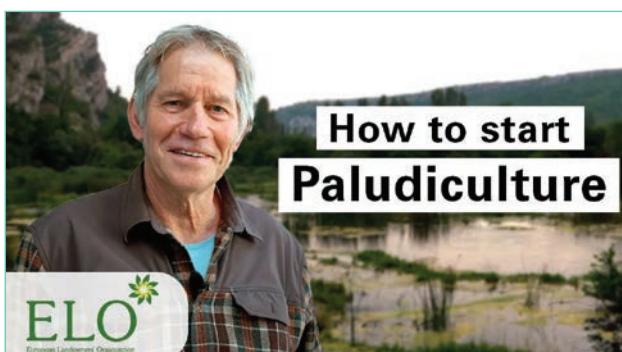
The EUKI EPI project was launched to address one of Europe's pressing climate challenges: the rapid degradation of peatlands. Funded under the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN), the project set out to create the first pan-European alliance for peatlands.

## Why was the project created?

The initiative addressed three gaps across Europe: a lack of EU-level peatland policy guidance, limited cross-country collaboration, and low awareness among landowners, decision-makers, and the public about peatlands' climate importance. Through EPI, these gaps became opportunities to connect. Thanks to our partners—Eurosit, the European Land Conservation Network (lead partner), the Michael Succow Foundation, Greifswald Mire Centre, and CEEweb for Biodiversity—and to everyone who contributed to events and discussions across Europe.

## Key achievements:

1. Europe-wide stakeholder network: The project brought together landowners, farmers, foresters, scientists, NGOs, and government representatives from over a dozen countries, creating a platform for cooperation and knowledge exchange.
2. Policy engagement: Workshops, roundtables, and dialogues ensured peatlands were considered in the EU Nature Restoration Law, CAP eco-schemes, and LULUCF Regulation. Highlights included the 24 January 2025 workshop in Oulu, Finland, on sustainable peatland forestry, which informed the subsequent Peatland Forestry manual by ELO.



## 3. Practical tools and guidance

EPI produced brochures, guides, and decision-support materials to make complex environmental solutions accessible for landowners, farmers, and forest managers.

- **Farming (in) Peatlands:** Balances productivity with sustainability, highlights funding gaps, and offers policy and collaborative solutions for sustainable agriculture on peat soils.
- **Peatland Restoration:** Explains why peatlands matter, with practical steps for rewetting, habitat recovery, and monitoring, promoting benefits for ecology, economy, and education.
- **Peatland Forestry:** Provides climate-smart forestry techniques to reduce emissions, protect water regimes, and combine conservation with productive forest management.

Find the brochures online on our website, or get a paper copy at the next Forum for the Future of Agriculture on Tuesday, April 14, 2026

## Your contribution: #PeatlandsMatter Campaign

EPI produced 11 thematic videos to raise awareness on peatlands, featuring land managers, scientists, policymakers, EU representatives, and community members across Europe. Video 7 highlights Rosie Snowden (UK), Humberto Delgado Rosa (EU), Jüri-Ott Salm (Estonia), and Allan Phillips (Belgium), sharing insights on peatland conservation and restoration. It is paired with an 8-minute practical guide on paludiculture, showing how wet peatlands can be sustainably managed for agriculture and forestry, restoring ecosystems, maintaining carbon storage, and providing economic opportunities – linking directly to EPI's broader resources on peatland agriculture, restoration, and forestry.

## Legacy and future outlook

The EUKI EPI project laid the foundation for a stronger, co-ordinated European movement for peatland protection. By building networks, producing practical tools, and amplifying stakeholder voices, it fostered long-term collaboration. Partners continue to work together, inspiring new proposals, partnerships, and EU-funded initiatives for peatland restoration, paludiculture, and carbon-neutral rural landscapes. The project may have ended, but its momentum continues.

Thank you for your contribution.