

European Peatlands Initiative

- a strong alliance for peatland climate protection in Europe

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Workshop 'Peatlands as natural carbon sinks: Practical implementation and requirements for CAP measures'

09th September 2025, Vilnius (Lithuania)



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Federal Ministry
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Table of contents

01

Why EPI?

Why do we need a pan-European initiative?

02

Current Status

What are we doing to establish one?

03

Future Outlook

What lies ahead in the upcoming months?

A landscape photograph of a bog with a winding stream and rocky terrain. The stream flows through a series of small, interconnected pools, surrounded by low-lying vegetation and scattered rocks. The background shows rolling hills under a blue sky with some clouds.

01

Why EPI?

Why do we need a pan-European initiative?

Peatlands matter



Peatlands matter



Peatlands need collaboration

- nat. governments
- ministries (Envi, Agri)
- EC Directorates
- the Council of Europe



- research institutes
- conservationists
- community forums



- private landowners
- foresters
- farmers and farmers networks

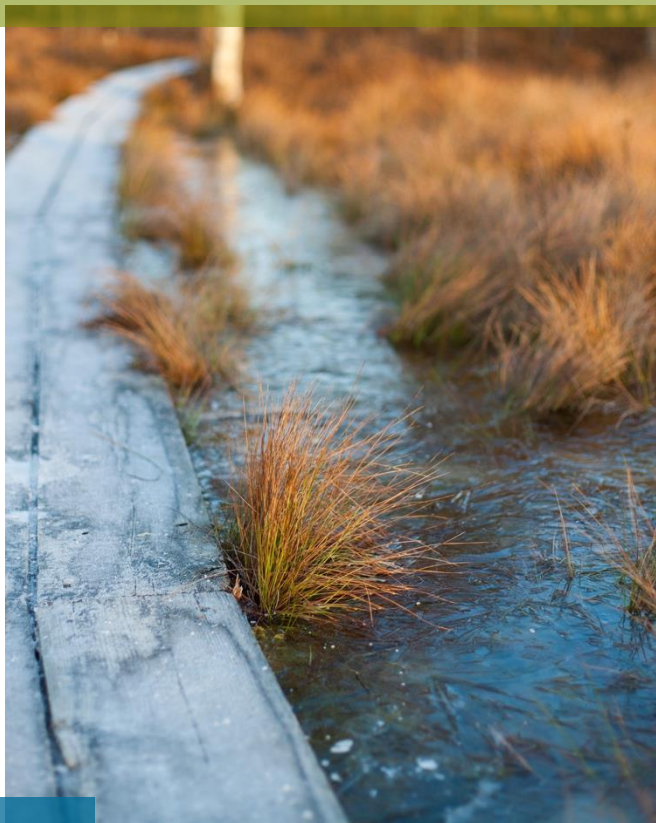


Building the European Peatlands Initiative: a strong alliance for peatland climate protection in Europe

This project is part of the [European Climate Initiative \(EUKI\)](#) of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK).

EPI will...

- Improve the pan-European cooperation between projects, countries and sectors on the peatland-related issues.
- Help national governments and EC to base strategies and policies on up-to-date peatlands data and management best-practices.
- Connect governments and other stakeholders to raise awareness on the essential role of peatlands to achieve global and pan-European climate and sustainability objectives.
- Foster innovation and support the transition towards sustainable land use practices.



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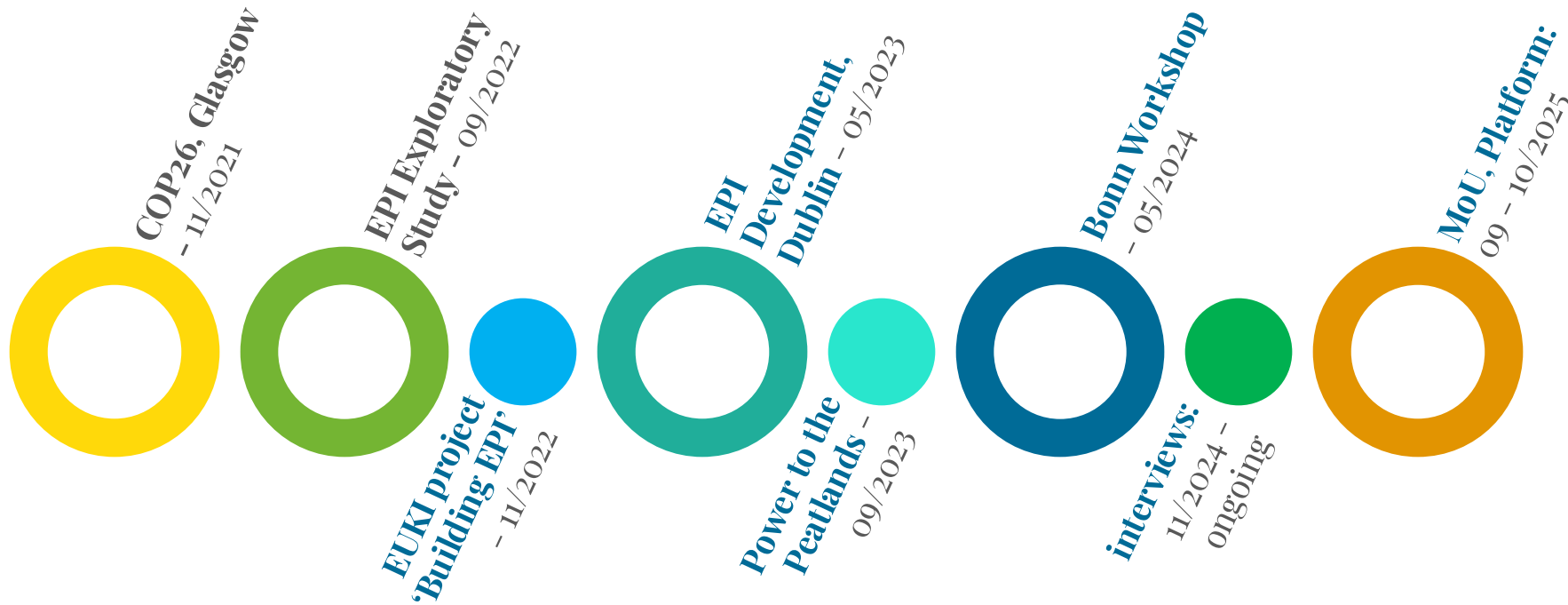
02

Current Status

What are we doing to
stablish one?



From COP26...



EUKI project “Building the EPI”

- Project name: **Building the European Peatlands Initiative - a strong alliance for peatland climate protection in Europe**
- Implementation period: 1 November 2022 – 31 October 2025
- Lead: Eurosite – the European Land Conservation Network [NL]
- Partners:
 - Michael Succow Foundation, a Partner in Greifswald Mire Centre [DE]
 - European Landowners' Organization - ELO [BE]
 - CEEweb for Biodiversity [HU]

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European
Climate Initiative
EUKI

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Bonn Workshop 2024

- **What:** a workshop on **European Peatland Strategies: Exchange on status, progress and future perspectives**
- **Where:** Bonn, Germany
- **Host:** German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)
- **Organisers:** MSF/GMC and Eurosite

Policy brief:

“New Developments in European Peatland Strategies”

Main messages

1. Peatlands are rising on the global political agenda due to their recognised importance for climate, biodiversity, water, and people. National peatland strategies serve as a basis to coordinate peatland restoration and now have been published in Austria, England, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Northern Ireland, The Netherlands, Scotland and Wales, while in other countries they are under preparation.

2. The lack of funds for peatland restoration is a key barrier to implementation. Private funding is widely seen as an indispensable addition to public funds. At the same time, the short-term cycles of CAP payments do not allow for long-term planning; it is crucial for the participation of farmers and landowners to offer them long-term perspectives. The planned EU Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Certification is intended to be an important step towards reliable blended finance and accelerating investment in peatland rewetting.

3. A more regular dialogue and exchange of best practices across Europe would be highly beneficial for national governments. Countries currently engaged in peatland strategy development have expressed strong interest in sharing insights with other European countries, building on their collective experiences. A common European Strategy for peatlands interlinking different policy fields and a European Peatlands Initiative, advised by the Global Peatlands Initiative led by the United Nations Environment Programme, presents an opportunity to form a dedicated platform for this exchange, accelerating progress and fostering collaboration across borders.

In progress:

- **What:** a round of **semi-structured interviews, consultation process**
- **Involved**, among others:
 - a subset of government representatives,
 - UNEP – Global Peatlands Initiative,
 - European Commission – DG Envi, DG Clima
- **Who:** Eurosite & MSF/GMC (EUKI project “Building the EPI”)

At the same time...

- 2023 - Eurosite [Peatland Restoration and Management Group](#)
- 2022 - LIFE MultiPeat: [European Peatland Policy Working Group](#)
- **national and regional** initiatives and platforms
- 2025 - new Horizon projects focusing on paludiculture
 - [PALUS DEMOS](#): PALUdiculture large-Scale DEMONstrationS
 - [PaluWise](#): Paludiculture demonstrations providing multi-actor approaches and recommendations towards large-scale deployment in the EU
 - [Paludi4All](#): Socio-economic and Climate and Environmental Aspects of Paludiculture
- 2025 - [LIFE SUPER EU](#): Scaling Up PEatland Restoration in EUrope
- 2025 – GPI and partners - [Peatland Breakthrough](#)
- 2026 - **2nd Power to the Peatlands Conference** in den Bosch, the Netherlands



03 Future Outlook

What lies ahead in the
upcoming months?

Main goals...

By the end of October 2025, we aim to:

1. establish the **EPI preparatory group**;
2. create the platform that will bring the **pan-European peatland community** together;
3. Connect with **national peatlands initiatives**
4. **Share the latest info** on crucial peatland topics, upcoming projects & events

September 2025, Vilnius (Lithuania)

Preparatory Group for the Establishing of the European Peatlands Initiative

- Memorandum of Understanding (non-legally binding) -

Peatlands are vital for climate action. Despite covering only 3 - 4% of Earth's land surface, they store a third of the world's soil carbon, making them natural carbon sinks. However, in Europe, drainage and unsustainable land use threaten this crucial function. To meet Europe's climate and biodiversity goals, practical options for peat-conserving agriculture and restoration of peatlands need to be scaled up.

The European Peatlands Initiative (EPI) is an initiative that aims to accelerate positive action for peatlands across the continent. The EPI is advised by the Global Peatlands Initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-GPI). To drive the initiative and to accelerate peatland restoration and protection, the EPI works with all relevant stakeholders to collectively make a positive impact for European peatlands at scale and at speed.

Building on the momentum and outcomes of UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, the Irish Government led the first exploratory phase of the EPI. This transitioned into the preparatory phase at the Development Meeting held in Dublin in May 2023. One of the meeting's key conclusions was the need for a dedicated task force – the Preparatory Group – comprising government representatives and a select group of stakeholders, to carry forward the next phase of the EPI development process. The need for the EPI was reaffirmed at the inspiring workshop 'European Peatland Strategies: Exchange on status, progress and future perspectives', which was jointly organised by the Michael Succow Foundation (MSF), Partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC) and Eurosite, and hosted by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) in Bonn (Germany) in May 2024.

The EUKI project 'Building the European Peatlands Initiative: A Strong Alliance for Peatland Climate Protection in Europe', aims to support the establishment of the EPI. This Memorandum of Understanding marks the launch of the Preparatory Group, emphasising the shared vision and mission of the EPI and outlining the objectives, roles and responsibilities of the Preparatory Group.

Thank you!

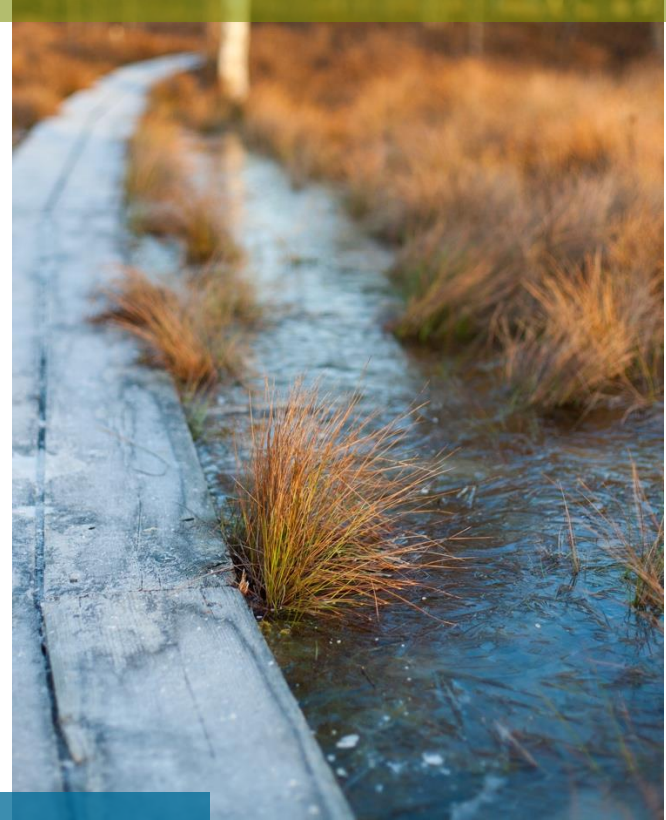


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