

Nordic-Baltic LIFE Platform Meeting

# Human meets Nature: Stories of LIFE

Field Trip No 3.

## Fish Restocking and Mining Legacy

9th of September, 8:30-17:30



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE

This field trip links aquatic ecosystem restoration, post-industrial landscapes and cultural heritage and offers engaging overview of how Estonia addresses environmental challenges. We will visit the RMK Põlula Fish Rearing Centre, embark on an action-packed safari in Aidu Quarry and explore Kohtla-Nõmme underground mining museum.



The day begins with a visit to **RMK Põlula Fish Rearing Centre**, where populations that have declined or disappeared from local waters - salmon, whitefish and sturgeon – are restored. We can learn about breeding and rearing methods used to ensure the survival of fish after their release into the wild. We also visit nearby Lavi natural spring, which water reaches the ground by natural discharge and flows into centre and is used for Fish rearing. The centre is actively involved in several projects, including [LIFE Revives](#), [LIFE Baltic Sturgeon](#), [LIFE SIP AdaptEST](#), and [LIFE IP CleanEST](#).

Journey continues to the **Aidu Quarry**, to one of Estonia's most striking post-mining landscapes. Once an active oil shale open-pit mine is now filled with water, creating a remarkable network of light-blue lagoons. This distinctive colour is caused by the interaction of water with limestone and gypsum crystals. We have an opportunity to experience an adventurous off-road truck safari through dramatic limestone formations and viewpoints. It's a rare perspective on how natural processes and industrial legacy have reshaped the landscape.



Lunch is served in the Tulivee Seaside Resort by the Baltic Sea.



Last stop is the **Kohtla-Nõmme Mining Museum**, where we descend into an authentic underground mine. This provides an insight into Estonia's oil shale mining history, the daily life of miners, and the broader industrial development of the region.

*The field trip is guided by specialists from the RMK Põlula Fish Rearing Centre, adventure tourism guides at Aidu Quarry, and project experts. Comfortable weather-appropriate clothing and footwear is obligatory for the hike.*