



LIFE-IP ForEst & FarmLand

LIFE18IPE/EE/000007

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Restoration of small water bodies

Objectives

- Secure the populations of amphibians, especially *Pelobates fuscus* and *Triturus cristatus*, and improve their breeding condition in intensively used agricultural landscapes
- Attract species from the agricultural lands to protected areas by restoring 100 small water bodies in 10 Natura 2000 sites



Pelobates fuscus (photo: S. Veski)



Larva of *Triturus cristatus* (photo: V. Vuorio)



- In the years 2021-2023, 60 small water bodies have been restored in eight protected areas
- All small water bodies are monitored before and after restoration activities
- The number of small water bodies inhabited by target species increased from 19% to 31% in just two years after the start of restoration works



Restoration of a small water body in September 2022



Top tips

- Restoration of quality habitats is critical to the preservation of amphibian populations
- The habitat requirements of the target species must be taken into account when restoring habitats
- Restoration of aquatic habitats is successful if it is carried out on a landscape scale - by clusters of water bodies



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