

Seminars

This project will organise several key seminars and meetings dealing with specific themes of water management. Detailed information on these is available at the LAKEPROMO website

Partners

The lead partner for the LAKEPROMO project is Savonia Polytechnic, Kuopio, Finland

Other partners are:

Finnish Environment Institute
The City of Kuopio, Finland
North Savo Regional Environment Centre, Finland
County of North Jutland, Denmark
University of Brighton, UK
Municipality of Roquetas de Mar, Spain
Estonian Agricultural University
Brandenburg University of Technology, Germany
Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary
University of Debrecen Centre for Environmental Management and Policy, Hungary
Northern Water Problems Institute of Karelian research centre of RAS, Russia
West Sweden/Tanum, Sweden

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LAKE PROMO



University of Brighton



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Background

It has been estimated that one in every five areas of surface waters in the European Union is at risk of being polluted.

Understanding the causes and effects of different kinds of pollution in lakes, rivers and wetland areas is key to improving the quality of the natural environment, as well as safeguarding water resources for drinking water, recreation and wildlife.

Problems of eutrophication due to excessive inputs of nutrients from agriculture, forestry and waste water treatment plants are common throughout Europe. These manifest themselves in different ways, including algal blooms, overpopulation of certain species of plant and animals, and the presence of exotic, non-native species. Deoxygenation of lakes and urban streams throughout Europe can also lead to fish kills and problems for subsequent water treatment.

Project

Lakepromo – Tools for water management and restoration processes – is funded (EUR1.4M Total) under the EU INTERREG 3c initiative (www.interreg3c.net), and is aimed at promoting co-operation in the field of water resource management. Focusing on management of lakes and wetland areas in nine countries (Finland, Estonia, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Spain, Sweden, Russia and the UK), a key element is to exchange information about strategies for the management of water quality at several key sites. The lead partner is Savonia Polytechnic, Kuopio, Finland, and in the UK the study area will be in the Pevensey Levels in East Sussex. Over the next three years the university will be co-ordinating a drive to understand the relationship between flow, water level and water quality in the network of ditches that make up this important wetland area, and exchanging ideas on best practice with EU colleagues. Support for this project is also being provided by the Southern Region of the Environment Agency, as well as other local stakeholders.

Summary of studies currently being undertaken as part of the LAKEPROMO project:

Finland (Finnish Environment Institute, City of Kuopio, North Savo, Savonia Polytechnic)
Various projects concerned with lake restoration following deoxygenation of eutrophication processes, particularly in using volunteer participation schemes

Estonia (Estonian Agricultural University)
Research focusing on Lake Võrtsjärv and Lake Peipsi where fishery, recreation and tourism are all important for the local economy

Denmark (County of North Jutland)
Aiming to meet standards of 'good' ecological status in around 40 Danish lakes as part of commitment to EU Water Framework Directive

Germany (Brandenburg University of Technology)
Research on lake-specific eutrophication management in a pilot catchment area, the Scharmützelsee region resolving conflicts between natural heritage protection, ecological quality, fisheries, recreation, sports and the other users.

Hungary (Budapest University of Technology and Economics, University of Debrecen)
Analysis of a variety of lake water quality problems in Hungary

Spain (Municipality of Roquetas de Mar)

Roquetas de Mar suffers environmental problems in its Mediterranean coast and salt lakes. These facts offer a good basis for participation as a reference area with a larger scope of coverage

Sweden (West Sweden/Tanum)

Project focusing on the development and impacts of sewage treatment infrastructure in West Sweden

Russia (Karelian Research Centre)

The main areas of activity will be the assessment of water-ecological potential and development of the scientific basis for the management of water resources of European North Russia.

The Pevensey Levels

The UK part of the project is based around a study of the hydrology and water quality of the Pevensey Levels. This low lying area adjacent to the East Sussex coast is well known for its high conservation and agricultural value, and is designated both as a Ramsar site of International Wetland Importance as well as being a Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI). The site is drained by a network of ditches and water levels are closely monitored and controlled by the Environment Agency in an attempt to try and balance the needs of farmers and wildlife, as well as for water quality and flood defence considerations. However much is still not yet understood in terms of the overall response of the site to seasonal and long-term patterns of water discharges, water abstraction and nutrient inputs. It is hoped that the LAKEPROMO project will address these and other issues.

Target groups

Target groups of potentially interested parties include:

- Environment Agency
- English Nature
- Local Authorities
- Sussex Wildlife Trust
- Southern Water
- South East Water