

SEMINARS

This project will organize several seminars and meetings, which will deal with specific themes of water management. Detailed information will be available at <http://lakepromo.savonia-amk.fi>

PARTNERS

The Municipal Federation of Savonia Polytechnic, Finland, Finnish Environment Institute, Finland, The City of Kuopio, Finland, North Savo Regional Environment Centre, Finland, the County of North Jutland, Denmark, University of Brighton, United Kingdom, Municipality of Roquetas de Mar, Spain, Estonian Agricultural University, Estonia, 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 Center of RAS, Russia, West Sweden/ Tanum, Sweden

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LAKE PROMO

FINLAND



<http://lakepromo.savonia-amk.fi>

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One cannot exaggerate the importance of pure waters to human welfare. Clean and picturesque lakes, ponds, wetland areas and other watersheds offer myriad of ways for relaxation, but also opportunities for the development different branches of economic activity (fishery, tourism, agriculture etc.). Thus, an efficient and integrated water management and restoration is one basic element of any sustainable regional development.



BACKGROUND

It has been estimated that one in every five areas of surface waters in European Union is at risk of being polluted. For example, the problems caused by eutrophication are common throughout Europe, but reasons and thus also the solutions can be totally different in different watersheds. Though there may be abundant knowledge on the different methodological and technological alternatives, finding the appropriate facts at the correct time is by no means simple or straightforward. Any restoration or management plan must take into account the social and communal relations in addition to simply concentrating on environmental and technical aspects.

Any scheme for water management and restoration requires input from several interested parties, but the lack of a 'common language' and clear guidelines can interfere with the ability of the parties to co-operate smoothly and effectively. This is especially true for interregional and transnational schemes, of which there are now an increasing

number due to the Water Framework Directive and European Union enlargement. Local people should be encouraged to participate in planning procedures more actively, but they will need more practical, better organized and transparent information about way how their actions can have a real impact to improve water systems in their immediate environment.

PROJECT

The main aim of this Lakepromo-operation is to promote multilevel and interregional co-operation in the field of water management. The emphasis will be on planning activities to limit eutrophication (i.e. a build-up of nitrate, phosphate and other nutrients) in lakes, wetlands and other aquatic systems.

Moreover, the operation will enhance ways of finding the most eco-efficient and sustainable solutions for different planning problems, which will occur in special target areas. The systematic and organized exchange of experiences and

know-how between different regions will provide a broad and sound foundation for the decisions.

One of the most important aims is also to increase public awareness and visibility regarding the activities of European Union and national authorities in water management.

The goal is to find the best solutions for each specific planning target, and the most eco-efficient ways to use limited resources. This can be achieved by learning from the experiences of others, pooling the related know-how and technology in a structured way. Meetings and seminars are good ways to promote learning and knowledge transfer, but also deeper connections and more practical co-operation will be needed. An integrated information package will be gathered from each partner country dealing with water management activities. This information will be used to in the formulation of joint guidelines begin. This operation will also include planning of actual management and restoration targets. These targets and

earlier experiences with related problems will offer a wide insight into how best to undertake water management.

The partners will represent quite a variety of different regions in Europe. In Denmark and Finland a common problem is the eutrophication caused by agriculture-related nutrients, in Germany the urban lakes are pressurized by urban planning, in Sweden the nutrient load from sewage treatment be diminished, in Spain the main problems are with tourism and coastal eutrophication, in UK it is the disappearance of wetland areas. Hungary and Estonia as new members of EU will need support in meeting the aims from relevant EU-directives and other legislation. Also insights into cross-EU-border co-operation will be available in this operation by inclusion of a partner from Russia.

TARGET GROUPS

All the stakeholders involved in the water management processes: the stakeholders in planning (engineers, biologists, limnologists etc from both the public and private sector), the research and education sector, the water-district authorities – but also the local people.

The Lakepromo-operation is part-financed by the European Union (Interreg IIIC Programme). The total budget of the project is estimated to be 1, 47 m€.

This operation will be implemented during three years (September 2004 – September 2007). The first stage will be the gathering of information packages from each country and the publishing of a joint guide. In the next stage, the partners will work on more practical problems by participating in planning of actual pilot targets (lakes, wetland areas, coastal areas) from each partner country. The experiences from this stage will be compiled in the joint manual.