

EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

Second Stakeholder Seminar of the Water Quality (PA4) and the Environmental Risks (PA5) Priority Areas

"EUROPEAN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WATER SECTOR"

INTRODUCTION OF WATER FOOTPRINT (WFTP) APPROACH IN URBAN AREA TO MONITOR, EVALUATE AND IMPROVE THE WATER USE

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Project leader institution

- Department of Industrial Engineering of the University of Padova (Veneto, IT)
- Financial and administrative capacity as well as experience to handle multi-participant international projects
- Leader in the field of water footprint methodology and its application



Aim of the project

- Develop and test an urban water footprint methodology under different conditions, make it useful for policy purposes
- Water footprint: the amount of water consumed directly or indirectly by a person, process, organization, geographical unit
 - Direct consumption (drinking, washing ...)
 - Indirect consumption (food, clothes ...)
 - Pollution of water bodies (in excess of capacity to absorb)
 - Land use
- Model tailored to an urban area → Calculating water footprint → Testing water management scenarios
- Monitor, evaluate and improve water use
- Testing the applicability under different conditions (different countries, different geography, different hydrology). For example:
 - Innsbruck: gravitational water supply, no need for treatment, ample water
 - Wrocław: transmission of water from another river, extensive treatment and long treatment process

- Funding instrument; INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE FUND
- Time frame of the project; November 2012 - November 2014
- Ratio of co-financing; generally 85% financing, varying levels of national co-financing
- Project partners: 5 countries, 9 organisations:
 - Department of Industrial Engineering of the University of Padova (Veneto, IT) – Lead partner • Giacomo Rumor Foundation Veneto Productivity Center (Veneto, IT) • MUNICIPALITY OF VICENZA (Veneto, IT) • Unit for Environmental Engineering, University of Innsbruck (Tirol, AT) • alpS Ltd. (Tirol, AT) • Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Nuremberg and Central Franconia (Mittelfranken, DE) • Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences (Dolnoslaskie, PL) • Municipal Water and Sewage Company S.A. in Wroclaw (Dolnoslaskie, PL) • ENEREA Észak-Alföld Regional Energy Agency Nonprofit Llc (Észak-Alföld, HU)

Application procedure

- The project consortium was built starting from the Italian partners; other partners were chosen based on:
 - Location within the project area;
 - Past experience in related projects and calls;
 - Proved experience in the field;
- The project partnerships was structured in order to have similar entities in the three pilot regions (public body, university and service company)
- The project partnership agreed to focus only on Central Europe Programme;
- Submission involved all the project partners and lasted 6 months from the beginning of discussion among partners;
- Contact with national contact points were sporadic; the submission was through excel file (slow and complicated);
- 1 year and 2 months passed between the project submission and the kick-off meeting.

Project realization - administration

- Project schedules, deviation from schedule;
 - Unexpected obstacle: the original partner from Hungary backed out and was replaced by a new Hungarian partner. Approval by the JTS took 9 months, slowing the work packages where the Hungarian partner had a major role.
 - Slow first year, very dense and fast second year. Delay was not approved, because the financing cycle was coming to end (2014)
- National co-financing was useful
- The organisation has to have sufficient liquidity (reimbursement every 6 months, but usually with some delay)
- Sometimes very detailed control of cost items by the controllers
- Marketing materials (pens, folders, bags etc.) produced by each partner instead of delegating this task to one partner (e.g. the one responsible for communication)

Project realization - content

- Smooth cooperation among partners
- Even distribution of workload – everyone made a decent contribution
- Some long lasting professional relations were established
- A lot of outputs and activities were planned (reports, leaflets, training materials, meetings, workshops, website entries, newsletters, press briefings, interviews etc.). Were they really all necessary or it would have been good to focus more attention on content?
- After project closing, further development possibilities/ideas: upgrade and extension of the methodology to the river basin level (including areas outside the urban setting)
- Overlapping partnership will submit a new proposal also under Interreg Central Europe in spring 2016

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Thank you