

Information: www.sigmaforwater.org

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Water is one of the vital sources of life and also a crucial factor for environmental quality as such. However, it is recognised that 1/3 of the EU population lives in areas in which water resources are under substantial pressure.

In recent decades human activities have had many negative impacts on the various water (eco) systems within EU regions. These negative impacts include increased pressure on existing water systems, such as poor water quality, pollution, water shortage and lack of available drinking water, exhaustion of flora and fauna and generally a reduction of the environmental quality of the area.

In addition a lot of regions face challenges to deal with water quantity which require them to enlarge the water retention capacity due to anticipated climate change.



Since many regions within the EU have to tackle similar challenges, namely new lake and wetland development, thought have arisen to form a partnership. This has resulted in 11 partners with their own specific knowledge, experience and interesting good practices working together in the international project Sigma for Water.

Sigma for Water stands for Sustainable InteGral Management Approaches for Water areas. Sigma is a Greek symbol for sum, which reflects the integrated approach and the interregional cooperation needed to tackle the faced challenges.

The project Sigma for Water is financed by the Interreg IVC program with 11 partners in 8 countries. The length of the project is January 2010 until the summer of 2013 with a total budget of € 2.5 million, including 1.9 million ERDF and a regional budget of € 200,000 - 250,000 is available.

The project aims at development of new lakes and wetlands, which significantly increase water quality in the water system, and at making the water system more flexible in terms of quantity. This will be worked out by exchange of experience, knowledge and good practices.

The regional and transnational activities within the project are organised around the aim and fall into three components:

1 Management and coordination

All partners will work together and will be responsible for managing their own inputs. This is combined with strong central coordination in which various tasks are divided among the partnership.

2 Communication and dissemination

At the start of the project a communication plan will be developed with the goal to transfer good practices and results within the project internally and externally.

3 Exchange of experiences

Partners will jointly develop high quality integrated master plans on the development of new lakes and wetlands that will improve the quality of the water system and environment. The expertise and experiences will be exchanged.

Results

- High quality integrated master plans + action plans for new lakes and wetlands that will improve the quality of the water system and the environment;
- Improved adaptability for future changes in the climate for the participating regions;
- Improved policies in the regions participating in order to continue the developments initiated here;
- Transfer of existing and developed good practices to mainstream Structural Funds via action + funding plans focused on implementation of the master plans;
- Transfer of knowledge from more (4) to less (4) experienced countries

