

## **Seagull Water WP 2. Expert meeting, Klaipeda, 1st of April 2003. Minutes.**

Attendants:

Mrs. Dalia Zukiene, Klaipeda City Municipality; Mr. Romualdas Ambrulaitis, Silute District Municipality; Mr. Raimondas Jocius, Kretinga District Municipality; Mr. Evaldas Jankauskas, Kretinga District Municipality; Mr. Vytautas Buivydas, Klaipeda District Municipality; Mrs. Dalia Makuskiene, Klaipeda County Governor's Administration; Mrs Carina Fast, Lessebo Municipality; Mr Lennart Gustavsson, Emmaboda Municipality; Mrs Carolina Gunnarsson, The Regional Council in Kalmar County.

D Makuskiene informed that the LT part has decided to make a common Phare application for all WP: s, to Phare Grant Scheme. The reasons are that this programme makes it possible to apply for more money (300 000 EURO, 80% grants), but also that it's possible to put smaller investments in such a project and a worry that WP4 might not get Phare grants if that WP makes a solitary application. The overall objective of the Seagull project is to form a common strategy; then it is important to keep the different WPs within the same project.

D Zukiene expressed a worry that the other WPs are less prepared, which may decrease the quality of the Phare application. She raised the question if it would be better to make a separate application for each and every work package. This is, of course, a decision which has to be taken by the Lithuanian partners themselves.

Roma Stubriene is co-ordinator for the Lithuanian Phare application.

D Zukiene presented several ideas about activities within the pilot area, aiming to raise the public interest and awareness of water issues. For example: information brochures about the river, seminars, co-operation with NGO:s, excursions, festivals, meetings, information boards along the river, bird-watching, eco-bus. All these activities fit well in the pilot-project part of the Seagull WP2 and the Lithuanian working group will decide what will be given priority in the application. Of course the available budget will limit what is possible.

C Gunnarsson underlined the importance of inviting other municipalities etc. within the ERB area to follow the activities in the pilot area and to take part of the experiences.

L Gustavsson described the work done by the Lyckeby river association (LRA), aiming to encourage the schools to use the river for education. The association has arranged educations and excursions for the teachers from the schools within the river basin area. They have also, in co-operation with teachers and local NGO: s, arranged "visit places" along the river (close to the schools) and produced small leaflets for the children and to the teachers, telling them about flora, fauna, geology, history, birds and so on. The leaflets also suggest simple experiments, possible to perform by the children themselves. The idea is to offer a cheap and simple tool for water- and nature education. The LRA also offers different experts.

The Lithuanian working group has also discussed the possibility to put some investments in the application, preferably a pump station and pipes for transference of waste water from parts of Kretinga village to the treatment plant.

R Jocius underlined the need of better information to the people living in the pilot area, but also the need to learn more about the water framework directive and its consequences. 2/3 of the Akmena-Dane River is within the boarder of Kretinga municipality. It is less people living

in this part of the river basin area than in Klaipeda, but the influence on the water quality is higher, due to bad waste water treatment and the agriculture land. EU has given a memorandum about 14 milj LT for investments in water and waste water.

C Gunnarsson underlined the importance of covering the whole ERB area, not only the pilot area, in the work with water strategies and water priorities. We have to remember that the overall objective is to give input to the overall ERB strategy in Seagull WP1. It's also important to have continuous contacts with the other WP: s, to make sure this will be one common project and not five different.

R Ambrulaitis raised the question about the benefit of the Seagull project for the municipalities outside the pilot area. C Gunnarsson once again underlined the importance of involving all municipalities in the work. The Seagull project has to be seen as a preparation for future concrete projects and investments. If we can make a common strategy and joint transnational development programme of high quality, this will be a strong argument for implementing the suggestions/measures that are given priority.

The Phare WP 2 application needs to cover costs for

- Lithuanian project leader,
- travels and accommodations for international working group meetings and seminars,
- national and foreign experts (if needed),
- interpreters (if needed),
- activities within the pilot area

Lithuania has no regional system for environmental protection. There are resources at national and local level, but not at regional. This is a problem for Seagull WP2 - where to find the resources for co-ordination of regional strategies and where to find qualified experts.

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In the afternoon; study tour along Akmena-Dane River.

1. River mouth. The town is planning a new ferry berth and a guest harbour.
2. Along the river. Inside Klaipeda town nearly impossible for the citizens to reach the sea or the river, due to industrial zones all the way. East of the town there is an area, owned by the town, where people can use the river for recreation, walks etc. The town has raised an information board, presenting facts about the river.
3. The place where Akmena River changes to Dane River.
4. Kretinga village. The first fish migration barrier. The small island in the pond is now cleared up, so that the citizens can use the area for recreation. This part of the village need pipes and a pump station, to transferring the waste water to the existing treatment plant and reduce the pollution of the river. Also problem with flooding in this part of the river.
5. Another of the seven ponds of the river, build in the 1980 decade for irrigation. Today the irrigation system is out of order. A private land owner is planning to build a small water power station.
6. One more pond, where the land owner has built a popular tourist facility.

/Carolina Gunnarsson