

# watersketch

Strategies for Sustainable River Basin Management

**Watersketch - Newsletter II**

**Vol.12-05**

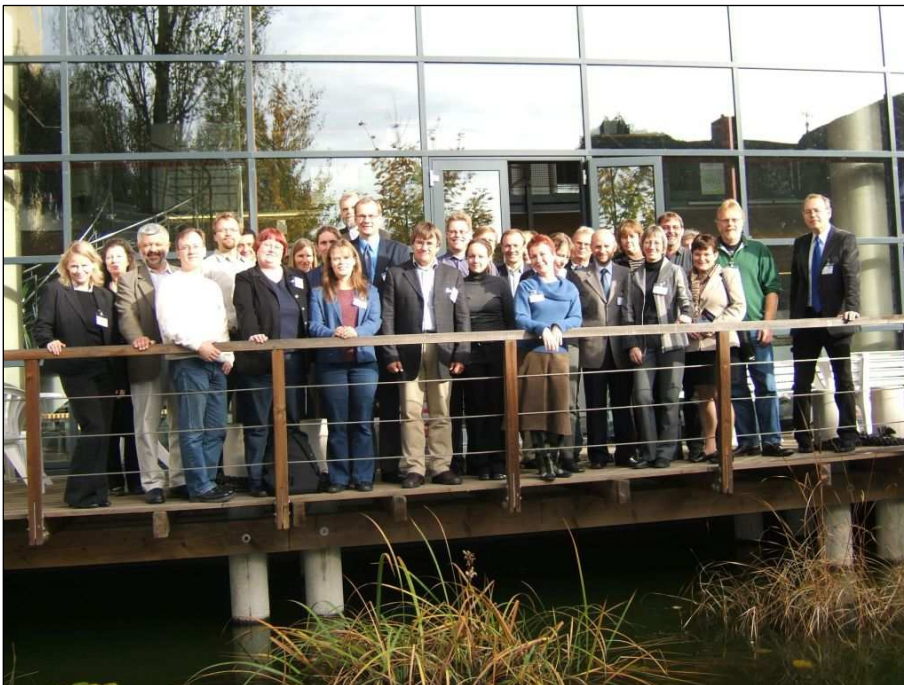
**December 2005**

*Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter of Watersketch!*

*This volume reflects the year 2005 and gives an overview about the upcoming activities in 2006.*

## Watersketch Mid-Term Workshop

November 2005: Project presented provisional results to the public



*Watersketch partners at the mid-term meeting in Hamburg, Tutech Innovation, 3 November 2005. Photo: Sabrina Seegers, TuTech*

### What Watersketch is all about

Rivers and lakes have numerous different functions such as traffic routes, electricity supplies, habitats for animals and recreation areas for people. The Watersketch partners want to develop strategies for sustainable river basin management in order to do justice to different economic, ecological and social functions. Case studies in the partner countries will cover the most relevant challenges.

The results of Watersketch will support decision-making of spatial planners. A final web-based toolbox will make the results available to others.

**After half of the project time, a public mid-term workshop took place in Hamburg, Germany, on 2nd November 2005.**

*“Human pressures on watercourses of Baltic Sea Region – how to couple spatial planning and sustainable development”*: Watersketch invited authorities in response for river basin management and spatial planning at national, regional and local level, as well as researchers dealing with the topic and NGOs interested in contribution of planning.

Aim of the mid-term workshop was to present the provisional results gained during the first half of the project. The

goal was to highlight the pressures caused by different human activities on watercourses described via numerous case studies in the Baltic Sea Region. The workshop looked also at the ambiguous network of environmental legislation and policies and directed the development of tools and methods required in sustainable river basin planning.

Directly after the public workshop, the project meeting started with the steering committee in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> November. On the next day, the partners planned the steps for 2006. This included the progress report of the project workpackages (WP 1-4) and the schedule of meetings for the

upcoming project period. Financial issues were discussed in the management group on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

#### PROJECT MID-TERM

Project time is July 2004 - June 2007 and during this time, the project will clarify and analyse ambiguous and conflicting interests of river basin planning and management. Watersketch will collect the main methods and tools needed for river basin planning according to EU Water Framework Directive. Tools will be applied in seven case studies in Finland, Poland, Lithuania, Germany and Denmark.



Project part-financed by EU Interreg III B

# North Jutland: Meeting on WFD and Tools of Public Participation

## How to combine directives and public needs

**September 2005: Meeting on directives and conventions (WP1) and on tools and principles (WP3) was held in Aalborg, Denmark.**

Do you know a place, where regional beer is cultivated in aquaculture plants? Where seals are swimming beside researchers and divers?

The Danish county of North Jutland (Watersketch partner) is a place, where things like that could happen to you - people try to combine culture, nature and economy in an innovative way of life. The Watersketch meeting in Aalborg, situated at the Limfjorden in the North of Denmark, presented local problems and solutions to the project partners. The County of North Jutland administers planning and environment, thus it is responsible for the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD).

On the first day of the meeting, the leaders of WP 1 presented a draft report on directives and conventions affecting sustainable river basin management planning in Europe. Regarding the WFD, the partners pointed out, that the aspect of institutional interplay is highly relevant and that it could be important to incorporate this issue in some of the case studies. As WFD is only a framework directive, its legal status is somehow lower compared to many other EU directives. The member states have a lot of freedom in implementing it to the national legislation. The partners identified one



*Partners in a training session on internet tools of public participation, North Jutland County, 15 September 2005. Photo: Peter Norskov Kristensen*

additional interesting aspect: the indirect consequences of the WFD implementation, which are not obligatory according to legislation. For example, the WFD implementation process can indirectly create new strategies or promote new funding mechanisms for environmental activities.

One big task of the WFD is the public participation (PP). The County of North Jutland presented different instruments of PP. The county uses instruments like internet (3-D modelling, priority game and public hearing databases) and direct contact to people (mobile exhibition in trailers). The Danish

approaches of PP were supplemented by the Finnish partner SYKE, who made good experiences with tools like meetings, newsletter and questionnaires in the Oulujoki river basins. After an intensive discussion, the partners underlined that PP differs between the countries very much, depending on the historical background and mentality. Thus, the instruments must be carefully chosen for each case.

The partners want to increase their knowledge on PP in 2006 by co-operation and combined meetings with other projects.

## Dissemination: Events – Brochures - Website

### How to reach people

“Watersketch is part-financed by the European Union.”

What does that mean to the project and to the dissemination of results? On a two day seminar (Berlin, 24-25 November 2005) of the BSR INTERREG III B Joint Secretariat, Watersketch was informed about different communication strategies:

- **Taste: Tell a story to everyone**
- **Date: Details are the essentials**
- **Kiss: Keep it short and simple**

The project tries to reach people in a simple and detailed way by seminars, workshops, brochures and poster. Main instrument is the website, which was improved in November - December 2005. At the moment, a

second project brochure is being developed to describe the case studies of the partner countries in a more detailed way. The new project brochure will be available in March 2006.

Newsletter 3 is planned for June 2006; material can be handed in until 30 April 2006.

# Jeziorsko Reservoir: Water Supply, Hydropower, Nature and Recreation

Multi purposes concentrated in Polish case study

In June 2005, the status quo of the Watersketch case studies (WP 2) was presented at the Technical University of Lodz. The progress was reported for each case. Focus of this meeting was the Polish case study of the Jeziorsko water reservoir. An intensive study tour completed the theoretical background very clearly.

The Jeziorsko reservoir, constructed 20 years ago, fulfils main functions referring to flood protection in the Warta valley. It also controls water resources over an extensive area of Central Poland. Owing to the reservoir dimension, it is of supra-regional importance and plays a significant role in water resource management of Poland.

In the history of the reservoir, technical infrastructure referring to sewage and waste management of drainage basin has not been sufficiently developed. As a result, despite continuous improvement, neither quality standards of surface water in rivers flowing into the Jeziorsko nor water quality standards in the reservoir itself have been met. Consequently, the physicochemical and biological quality of this reservoir has been degraded owing to the absence of centralised wastewater treatment facilities in towns along the Warta River and non-existence of waste disposal facilities in the villages near the Jeziorsko reservoir. Due to the lack of control over the sources of pollution, at present the Jeziorsko reservoir hosts polluted water and toxic blue green algae blooms which limit recreational prospects.

The absence of sustainable management of water resources has caused an unavoidable failure to achieve intended objectives. Providing water to arable land and industries, reducing flood losses and promoting tourism were important objectives to achieve at the time of the construction of this reservoir. Lack of harmonisation of economic objectives of this reservoir with environmental and social concerns has brought about a serious threat to the ecosystem and tourism.



Partners are visiting the Jeziorko reservoir, 16 June 2005. Photos Sirkka Lehto

Only recently within sustainable management of water resources, actions have been undertaken in Poland with the use of planning tools such as spatial planning, environmental protection programmes, development of technical infrastructure programmes and protection programmes for natural resources. The analysis of errors and past negligence allows us to optimise the

planning process and realisation of new investments in the area of water resources management in Poland at present.

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## events in 2005

### March - April

30 -1 Vilnius: WP 1 – WP 3 Project Meeting

### June

15 – 17 Lodz: WP 2 – WP 4 Project Meeting  
30 Hamburg: Workshop: The role of EU-WFD for river basin planning to achieve sustainable use of watercourses

### August

22-23 Stockholm: Water Week

### September

14 – 16 Aalborg: WP 1 – WP 3 Project Meeting  
21 – 23 Falmouth, England: Conference and project exchange with CYCLEAU

### November

2 – 4 Hamburg: Mid-term Workshop and Project Meeting

### December

14 Hamburg: Workshops on EU-WFD and sustainable river basin management

## events in 2006

### February

1-3 Helsinki: WP 3: Meeting and internal workshop on using the tools

### April

4-5 Pori: Finnish Watersketch seminar  
12 Hamburg: Seminar on Sustainable River Basin Management  
24 - 25 Opole, Poland: International conference *Current Issues of Sustainable Development*

### May

16 – 17 Malmö: Interreg Seminar

### August

6-9 Stockholm: Waterweek  
Vingsted Centred: Nordic Water 2006

### September

25-26 Helsinki: Symposium of participatory planning

### November

Klaipeda: Workshop of tools. WP 2 / WP3 and management group meeting

## imprint

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## partners

### Lead Partner: Finnish Environment Institute SYKE

- TuTech Innovation (GER)
- National Environmental Research Institute (DK)
- County of North Jutland (DK)
- Lodz Technical University, Faculty of Process Environmental Engineering (PL)
- Kaunas University of Technology (LT)
- Coastal Research and Planning Institute (LT)
- Hamburg Ministry for Urban Development and the Environment (GER)
- North Ostrobothnia Regional Environment Centre (FIN)
- Kainuu Regional Environment Centre (FIN)
- University of Turku, Satakunta Environmental Research Institute (FIN)
- Regional Council of Satakunta (FIN)
- Northern Environmental Research Network (FIN)
- Council of Oulu Region (FIN)
- Regional Council of Kainuu (FIN)