

TRAP

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NEWSLETTER



How can we work together? Is win-win situation really possible?

Those were two key questions on the study visit to Soca valley in Slovenia on the 4th of June 2014. Altogether 20 TRAP partners and stakeholders participated.

Fishing and water sports on the same river are two important sectors that emerged and developed at the same time. Cooperation and regulation made it possible to create synergies both for users and ecosystems. The repopulation of native marble trout is one of key indicators on how this can be achieved and TRAP partners were able to see and experience how Tolmin angling club developed this work and how it plays an important role in the region. The afternoon focused on the development of water sports which has grown over the past twenty years. Fishing and water sports are just two of the important stakeholder groups that are present on the river but the study visit identified that cooperation within the catchment can have added value for all stakeholders.

We can "swim" together
in the same river
TRAP Study Visit
to Soca Valley, Slovenia

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TRAP closing conference

Wednesday, 12 November 2014
in Ljubljana, Slovenia

PROGRAMME

9.00 – 9.30 **Registration of participants**

9.30 – 11.00 **Setting the Scene**

Almira Pirih, Managing Director, Soca Valley Development Centre
European Commission, DG Environment representative, tbc.
Antti Toivanen, Managing Director, Kainuun Etu Oy, TRAP Lead Partner
Interreg IV C programme representative
Guido Schmidt, Coordinator of The Water EIP
Raimund Mair, ICPDR International Commission for Protection of the Danube River, tbc.

11.00 – 11.15 **Coffee break**

11.15 – 13.15 **TRAP Achievements**

Transfer of good practices between the TRAP partners
Presentation of results, feedback of experiences, panel discussion of mainstreamed good practices

13.15 – 14.15 **Lunch including exchange of project experience**

14.15 – 16.00 **Insights and next steps**

Round table on policy integration - coordinated by Asel Doranova
Includes representatives of TRAP policy making organisations that have adopted or are in an advanced stage of adopting and improving policy tools.
What is mainstreamed? Why was it important to get involved?
How useful was the experience?
Reflections on TRAP mainstreaming and liaising with regard to on-going and future initiatives by Interreg IVC, Water EIP, ICPDR.

Plenary session & discussion, summary of the conference

FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:

The number of places is limited.
Registration for the conference is obligatory.
Please register at: www.anymeeting.com/PIID=EA57D782844E3B

Participation at the conference is free of charge.
Travel and accommodation costs have to be met by participants.

More information either from TRAP website:

<http://trapproject.eu>
or from Miro Kristan, Soca Valley Development Centre
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Enhancing stakeholder engagement in the Mid-West of Ireland

Policy improvements are being secured in tourism co-ordination and stakeholder engagement through the transfer of good practice from the UK River Trusts to Lough Derg in the Mid-West of Ireland.

This work was led by the Mid-West Regional Authority (MWRA) who, together with the South West Regional Authority and Shannon Development, hosted a stakeholder workshop in October 2012. Following the workshop, and arising from a more in-depth needs analysis, a new tourism coordinator for Lough Derg (one of Ireland's major lakes) was appointed to the MWRA in March 2014 under the INTERREG IVC TRAP Project. This appointment coincided with the publication of a four year 'Lough Derg Roadmap for Experience Development and Destination Marketing' by Ireland's National Tourism Authority, Fáilte Ireland, in collaboration with local organisations.



Enhancing stakeholder engagement is a key objective in the Lough Derg Roadmap. To achieve this, the coordinator will use good practices and techniques developed by the River Trusts (UK), where they have successfully introduced stakeholder engagement at local community level, and transferring this good practice to Lough Derg. As a first step, the tourism coordinator attended the Slimbridge Wetland Centre in the UK for River Trusts training in March 2014. The tourism coordinator identified the most applicable techniques for Lough Derg. A questionnaire was issued to stakeholders in order to kick-start the engagement process and to receive feedback on various issues. Themes included heritage, water, landscape and organisational structures.

One-to-one meetings have been taking place between the tourism coordinator and stakeholders around Lough Derg. Relevant techniques from the River Trusts, including database methods and systems for mapping stakeholders around the lake, are being applied. These techniques will support the development of a new website which will be launched in Autumn 2014. The tourism coordinator will also progress local networks around Lough Derg to integrate tourism with the environment, landscape and water. For example, a group of food tourism activists have been brought together by the coordina-

tor as a pilot exercise. This exercise demonstrated the potential for a new tourism product, the "Lough Derg Food Trail", and feasibility investigation confirmed significant market possibilities. Encouraged by this, the stakeholder group launched the new Food Trail in a pilot promotional event under their own resources, attracting a large number of participants to 13 events as part of the series over the period July – September.

The MWRA are also working to include the Rivers Trust Stakeholder Engagement Toolkit in local plans and programmes. Here, the work of the coordinator in enhancing stakeholder engagement represents a major strengthening of current local systems. The coordinator reports progress to the Lough Derg Marketing Strategy Group whose role is to implement the objectives set out in the Roadmap. This group is an inter-organisational governance structure of stakeholders with representation from the public and private sector. Thus the TRAP project will further cement the work of the existing Lough Derg Marketing Strategy Group. This will provide practical demonstration of how other countries and regions could improve stakeholder engagement with appropriate governance models around specific themes.

In the picture above: Local Produce and Growing Techniques at Sunny Meadow Farm

Sunny Meadow Farm



Integrated Catchment Management in the South West Region of Ireland

Wednesday 30th April 2014 saw the launch of an exciting initiative for the River Allow and its catchment. The initiative is a joint venture and partnership between the South West Regional Authority (SWRA) INTERREG IV funded TRAP project and the IRD Duhallow LIFE+ project.



Members of the River Allow Catchment Management Group on a site visit

The aim of the meeting was to set up a Catchment Management Group for the River Allow catchment. The River Allow Catchment is a sub-basin of the Blackwater River catchment in the South West Region of Ireland and is identified as a single waterbody management unit under the Water Framework Directive. The purpose of the River Allow Catchment Management Group will be to provide a collaborative and coordinated approach towards providing practical improvements of the River Allow Catchment.

There was an excellent turnout at this inaugural meeting which exceeding all expectations by filling the 52 seater bus provided for the event. The day started with a field trip to three sites where IRD DuhallowLIFE+ work has been carried out, to view the results of on-the-ground actions ranging from the provision of silt traps, alternative cattle drinking arrangements to current direct livestock access to the river, invasive species removal, bank restoration work and fencing. Examples of the pressures on the Special Area of Conservation and Freshwater Pearl Mussel in particular were viewed.

The afternoon session commenced with a short presentation by Fran Igoe on the IRD DuhallowLIFE+ project and aspirations for the River Allow process into the longer term, including the need to have a plan to deliver on the future management of the river including the maintenance of the project actions (the latter is known as the after LIFE plan). Fran's presentation was then followed by a presentation by Bryan Riney of the SWRA and TRAP project on the Catchment Management concepts, experience of the Rivers Trust model in the UK and where the process could benefit all stakeholders through mutual decision making.

Bryan informed participants that the Rivers Trusts in the UK are grassroots, bottom-up organisations that undertake action on the ground to protect freshwaters and manage their catchments. The Rivers Trusts do not have any hard regulatory power. They do, however, have a considerable 'soft' influencing power built through a

steady recognition by Government and other stakeholders of the success of numerous Rivers Trust projects – often in partnership with others – in terms of positive cost-effective environmental outcomes. This important element has been a key factor in the growth of the movement as it is seen as an 'honest middle man'. For example, the trusts have a good relationship with their local farming communities, supporting them in establishing a more sustainable and efficient means of farming, identifying also the source of potential Agri-environmental funds to achieve this aim.

Present at the meeting were representatives from the Irish Farmers Association, the Irish Creamery and Milk Suppliers Association, Macra, individual local landown-

ers, Coillte, SWS Forestry (private forestry sector), the Irish Wildlife Trust, Mary Immaculate (UL), Inland Fisheries Ireland, Teagasc, Cork County Council (planning, roads and environment sections), South West Regional Authority, IRD Duhallow, Rural Social Scheme, Kanturk Trout Angling Club, Duhallow Bird Watch Group, Duhallow Environmental Working Group, Kanturk Chamber of Commerce, Office of Public Works, Environmental Protection Agency.

The process provides not only an excellent opportunity to achieve the objectives of the Water Framework Directive but also provides the framework for a more extensive and proactive structure which can be maintained after both the TRAP and LIFE projects finish.



In the picture above: The inaugural meeting of the River Allow Catchment Management Group

Left: Map of the River Allow Catchment, County Cork, Ireland



Ecosystem Services Policy Tool in the Netherlands

The Dutch water authority Noorderzijlvest is currently working on the development of a policy tool based on the ecosystem services (ESS) principle.

Ecosystem services are defined as services provided by the natural environment that benefit people and include; the products from ecosystems such as food; benefits from ecosystem processes such as the provision of clean water; plus a range of cultural and supporting services. Accounting for ecosystem services contributes

towards better decision making, whereby policy appraisals account for the costs and benefits to the natural environment.

The policy approach adopted by Noorderzijlvest requires that the consequences for natural capital or - the services provided by aquatic ecosystems - be taken into account within the decision-making process within water management, hence improving the likelihood of finding optimal outcomes.

The Noorderzijlvest policy tool also opens new opportunities for stakeholder cooperation with the potential for mutual gains. It is anticipated that the tool will create greater support, acceptance and embedding of water management measures by local and regional stakeholders, since their interests will be taken into account in the decision making process. This provides them with 'ownership' of an issue. The approach can also help to resolve or at least find improved outcomes between competing interests.

A method (or handbook) describing the ESS policy tool will be captured within the Water and Society paragraph of the organization's water management plan (2016-2021). This will assist and inform policy makers within Noorderzijlvest. In order to embed the ESS-approach as described in the handbook, Noorderzijlvest is undertaking several dissemination activities such as workshops for organizations involved in implementing measures within the context of the Water Framework Directive. Workshops on the ESS-approach that target other Dutch water authorities will also be held.



Exploring the ESS concept for practical use - expert dissemination meeting in Tolbert, Groningen, August 27th 2014

Quality management of water resources in Romania

The monitoring of the surface water is a constant concern of the Romanian Government through the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The National Administration of "Romanian Waters" apply this by the implementation of legislation which is harmonized with the EU directives in the field of sustainable management of water resources and conservation of aquatic ecosystems and wetlands.

Through the TRAP INTERREG IVC project the Romanian partner **National Institute of Research and Development for Mechatronics and Measurement Technique** – INCDMTM, Romania, will transfer a good practice from Kainuun Etu Oy, Finland. This good practice is related to surface water monitoring technology & operational aspects and is being applied to the ARGES-VEDEA river basin region in Romania.

The management of data and documentation for the Arges River represents a complex, interdisciplinary operation and involves the cooperation with local water companies, the Romanian Water Administration Department, economical agents, companies, municipalities, etc. In this regard it is proposed to establish a web portal capable of ensuring the collection, storage, evaluation and visualization of relevant information for the area of good practice implementation. The added value is the new and interactive e-based services (web portal) for water monitoring.

The data which will be inputted into the web portal will be:

- permits and licenses of different categories of companies (permits date, validity date, specific requirements)
- measurement bulletins for water quality in certain places, especially in case of the nitrites pollution

- data from hydrological measurements (flow, speed, level, sediments hydrodynamics data, etc.)

This data can be introduced in the web portal:

- manually
- online by automatically processing the existing public data from the governmental and companies websites in the implementation region.

This web portal will also provide:

- Flow Graphs during a period of time
- Sediments hydrodynamics graphs
- Alert level graphs regarding the nitrates pollution.

The web portal will synchronize some of the relevant data (water level, flow, exceeded pollution) with Google Maps for graphic visualization. The data can be viewed and downloaded by all users of the web portal.