



Workshop

Sustainable Development in Lake Areas: Empowering Local Initiatives and Civil Society



21 - 24 October 2009

Stawy Milickie (Milicz Ponds), Poland

Supported by



Welcome!

Forum Synergies and Global Nature Fund cordially invite you to a series of four workshops on participatory implementation strategies of environmental policies in lake areas, taking place in Estonia, Poland, Slovenia and France.

The workshops are meant to empower civil society actors to contribute to participatory sustainable development, and shall yield recommendations to local and EU governments about more participatory ways to implement environmental policies.

Goals and Objectives

The workshops are organised in the framework of the project "Sustainable Development in Lake Areas", which is supported by Fondation de France.

The general objective of the project is to support initiatives in sustainable development by exchange on good practice of participatory implementation and local sustainable development. The exchange shall lead to capacity building of private actors, NGOs and local governments in environmentally sensitive areas.

The thematic workshops will contribute to the development of local democracy and to a more participative management of environmental resources, in order to fill the gap between European citizens and their institutions, and also via feed-back to decision makers to contribute to environmental and rural policies that better meet peoples' need for participation.

The project's objectives are

- ☞ to exchange experiences about different participatory implementation strategies of Nature 2000 and WFD in concerned rural areas
- ☞ to give local actors and authorities better access to practical knowledge about sustainable Nature 2000 and WFD implementation strategies via exchange with successful projects
- ☞ to develop political proposals to regional, state and EU governments to use the existing participatory options that are provided from EU-side in order to support sustainable development in rural areas.

The scientific partnership with University of Marburg / Germany assures that the project integrates political knowledge of integrated water body management.





Background

Empowerment of Local Actors

Sustainable development depends on actors – actors that are willing to persistently strive for sustainable ways of life in their daily behaviour and take initiative to generate renewable energy, consume locally grown & organic food, use tourism services that save energy and look for ways of a sustainable life style. Since economic regional development is one crucial pillar of sustainability, governments depend on local initiatives of people and civil society organizations to turn the chances of regulative frameworks and accompanying funding policies into practical action. Therefore an exchange about best practice in motivation and integration of local actors is an important contribution to sustainable rural development and the empowerment of civil society. An exchange between old and new EU member state participants seems particularly useful in this respect since it combines long-term knowledge about EU regulation practices with newly emerging civil society movements.

Participatory Processes

The Aarhus convention, signed in 1998 by most European countries, invites authorities to enhance the public participation in decision-making related with environmental issues. The Natura 2000 network (based on the 'Habitat' and the 'Birds' directives) is requesting from national governments to protect species and habitats of common interest by preserving their current existence. It does not specify by which measures and thereby leaves room for participatory implementation. The European Water Framework Directive is requesting from national states to achieve a "good ecological state" for all surface water bodies until 2015. It expects explicitly the implementation of an active public participation. The three directives – and especially the Habitat Directive – are in many cases seen as very critical by farming organisations and local governments who fear economical constraints. On the other hand, at the local level the participatory implementation options frequently are unknown to the relevant actors because of lack of good examples.

Lake Areas

Lakes, river basins and coastal areas are good topics for exchange workshops about participatory implementation strategies because they fall usually under both Natura 2000 and water framework regulation, they give a common thematic focus, are of high public relevance and give room for integrated development approaches. Furthermore there tend to be serious conflicts of interest between different stakeholders, giving need for mediation and participatory conflict solution. More specifically, a common problem of European lakes is eutrophication from agricultural sources. EU regulation (Nitrogen directive) requests farmers since 2000 to restrict fertilization in order to prevent nutrient runoff to ground and surface waters. But there are implementation deficits, and big leftovers from former times pose a question of acceptable cleanup strategies. All this gives reason to look for more participatory implementation.



The Workshop Sites

The map shows the partners, the workshop sites and the site of the co-ordinating project office.

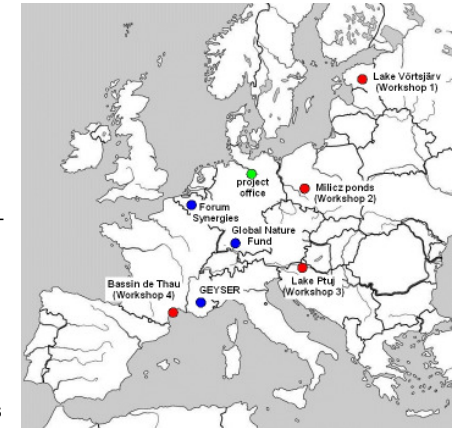
The project's four partner sites, of which Lake Võrtsjärv and Milicz ponds are members of Global Nature Fund's Living Lakes network, show the context of the project in different ways.

Lake Võrtsjärv near Tartu in Estonia, the biggest inner-Estonian lake, is mainly used by fishermen from the five surrounding villages with some recently evolving soft tourism and recreational activities. Nutrient intakes from the last decades caused heavy mud deposits in the shallow lake, deteriorating the water quality especially in summers with a thread of oxygen crises, and causing a reed belt of more than 100 meters to grow on its shore, preventing inhabitants to access the lake as they used to. There is need for an ecologically adapted solution under participation of the different interest groups.

The Milicz ponds near Wroclaw in Poland are a great lake area that has been created by medieval monks for aquaculture. Nowadays they create an almost natural environment with very large numbers of birds and also plant species on the surrounding wetlands. Several ecological NGOs are active in the area and they initiated the LEADER+ process. Involvement of many partners range from environmental farming, fisheries and tourism to habitat improvements and conservation plans. The workshop will take place during the Carp Days – annual event promoting local products and the Barycz Valley region as a place for quiet enjoyment of the rich environment.

Lake Ptuj near Rače, Slovenia's biggest lake, is an artificial water body behind a dam on Drava river. The reservoir suffers from eutrophication from agricultural land use in its catchment area and from heavy metal loads. Initiatives to enhance its quality of water and to develop local tourism are about to begin. Our partner organisation is currently developing a couple of activities around the lake and looks forward to hear from other sites' experiences about ways to mobilize local actors and come to terms with interest conflicts concerning land use in the catchment area.

Thau basin (Bassin de Thau) near Montpellier is the largest lagoon on the Mediterranean coast of France and one of the largest French lakes. The shallow lagoon experiences a high pressure of uses from fishery, mussel cultivation, agricultural land use and nutrient intakes from its catchment area, but also recreational use from its densely populated surroundings. Oxygen crises due to phosphorus loads occurred repeatedly during the hot summer months and, besides their environmental impacts, have caused heavy losses to the fishing industry. Needs for better water quality and for preservation of its ecological value for breeding and migratory birds are obvious. There are conflicts of interest around Thau lagoon – but also significant possible coalitions of interest e.g. between environmentalists and fish and mussel farmers.





Structure of the Workshops

After arrival of the participants in the afternoon of the first day and a welcoming evening, the workshops proceed in three steps.

On the first day the host organisation presents their situation and the foreign guests pose questions to better understand the situation and relate it to their own experiences. The participants are taken to a first field trip to get a more practical feeling about the local situation.

The second day allows the international guests to contribute their views, ideas and experiences with respect to the local situation. Another field trip brings the participants to local initiatives and civil society groups to talk with them about their vision, their practical options and the specific local obstacles to their engagement.

The third morning session is dedicated to politics: How can national and EU policies support local actors to take up the challenge of sustainable development? Towards the end of the session the moderators try to crystallise conclusions in order to formulate a valuable feedback to EU decision makers.

In order to enable the local public to participate in the meeting there is a political evening with a public presentation of the foreign guests and with latest information about EU political tendencies. Local politicians, national and EU governmental officials are invited to explain their view on possible support for sustainable development initiatives. A cultural event with presentation of local culture and room for talk and drinking gives participants a direct contact to the people.

Workshop Dates

①	Lake Võrtsjärv, Estonia	15-18 June 2009
②	Milicz Ponds, Poland	21-24 October 2009
③	Lake Ptju, Slovenia	21-24 April 2010
④	Thau Basin, France	22-25 September 2010

Conference Venue Milicz Ponds

The conference takes place in the centre of one of the largest Natura 2000 sites in Poland in the village hotel which will be open for the workshop. The Zagroda Grabownica in Grabownica Czeszycka, Borough of Krośnice, Poland. For more information see www.zagrodagrabownica.pl (in Polish).

Participation Fee

Due to the support by the Fondation de France, no conference fee for participation will arise, and invited participants may be granted a 50% reimbursement on their travel costs.

Since the number of possible participants is limited to about 30, please consider your early registration at lakeproject@forum-synergies.eu.

Hosting Organisations, Supporters and Partners

Forum Synergies

Forum Synergies is a European network of practical pioneers in many aspects of sustainable rural development that has gathered rich and varied practical experiences since 1994. Forum Synergies holds contacts to different rural organisations as well as to policy makers on EU level, turning practical experiences into an input for the evolution of EU sustainability policies.

Global Nature Fund (GNF) and Living Lakes Network

GNF was founded in 1998 with the objective to foster the protection of nature and environment as well as animals. GNF's work consists mainly of initiating and implementing nature and environment protection projects to preserve the animal world, the protection of migrating species, their habitat and their migratory routes.

In 1998 the Living Lakes network has been launched by Global Nature Fund. At the moment there are 45 partner lakes represented by more than 55 member organisations. Our vision is that all lakes, wetlands and freshwater bodies of the world should be healthy ecosystems and being used in a sustainable way.

Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczne „Etna” (Environmental Association „Etna”) and Lokalna Grupa Działania „Partnerstwo dla Doliny Baryczy” (Local Action Group “Partnership for Barycz Valley”)

Environmental Association „Etna” (Etna) is an independent, individual membership based, non-profit organisation, founded in 2002, for the environmental conservation and poverty reduction. In the Barycz Valley Etna arranged an international habitat management camp and bird events.

The Local Action Group was established in 2008 for implementation of the Leader+ programme. The LAG is a successor of the Barycz Valley Foundation in this role.

Fondation de France

Fondation de France was established in 1969 to encourage the growth of private philanthropy as an intermediary partner. The foundation sets up action programs in many fields: solidarity, the elderly or disabled, and for the benefit of children. Fondation de France also promotes professionalism in the management of the voluntary sector in France and Europe.

GEYSER

Since 1983, the French non-profit association Geyser is strengthening innovative social practices in rural areas in France and abroad. Its members and staff coordinate networks and working groups, implement training sessions for local actors and build bridges between practitioners, researchers and policy makers. Currently, Geyser is working mainly in the fields of environmental mediation, participatory democracy and ethnoecology.



Programme

Wednesday, 21. October 2009

Welcome

17:00 Arrival of participants at Wrocław Airport/Train Station (pick-up provided)
Bus shuttle from Wrocław to Milicz Ponds (ca. 1,5 hours)

19:00 **Check-in and dinner at Zagroda Grabownica**

20:00 **Welcome from our hosts**
Presentation of the "Barycz Valley Recommends" brand
Roman Guziak, Marta Kamińska, local producers/providers

Thursday, 22. October 2009

Workshop Day I: Understanding the local situation

8:00 Breakfast at Zagroda Grabownica

9:00 Introduction of participants, Introduction of programme
Remembering results of the first workshop

10:00 **Participatory lake area development**
Moderators: Titus Bahner (Forum Synergies), N.N.
☞ Introduction to the Barycz Valley – economic, environmental and social aspects (*local experts*)
☞ Local stakeholders in Barycz Valley and their main interests
☞ Mapping of possible conflicts of interest
☞ Participatory approaches to Natura2000
- participatory methods in Barycz Valley development so far
- inclusion of environmental services in development strategies
- common promotion system for local products and services

tea/
coffee

13:30 Lunch at Zagroda Grabownica

14:30 **Field trip:** Stakeholder participation in habitat management, soft tourism infrastructure and Carp Days sites

16:30 Transfer to Milicz (venue: Milicz Town Council)

17:00 **Natura2000 – chance or obstacle (political evening)**
1. introduction - view of young people (students from local schools)
2. debate with participation of panel speakers – local and regional politicians, experts, international guests (moderated)

tea/
coffee

20:30 Bus transfer to Zagroda Grabownica
Evening buffet and open talks

Friday, 23. October 2009

Workshop Day II: The View from Outside

8:00 Breakfast at Zagroda Grabownica

9:00 Field event:
Open Day at the State Fish Farms
Bus transfer to Ruda Sulowska

9:30 Fish harvest, Bird watching, Educational festival

11:00 *venue: State Fish Farm facilities*
Meeting with fishermen and ornithologists
How should stakeholders be included in Natura2000 implementation?

tea/
coffee

13:00 Lunch at Zagroda Grabownica

14:30 **The view from outside**
Moderators Titus Bahner, N.N.
I. Summarising round (moderators, participants)
☞ what seem to be the main obstacles for participatory development of economic and civil society activities seen from outside?
☞ comments from hosts
☞ structuring the causes
II. Presentation round (participants)
☞ *group work:* what own experiences can participants contribute concerning such obstacles?

16:15 tea/coffee

16:30 **II. Presentation round (continued)**
☞ presenting group results
☞ questions from hosts
III. Feedback round (hosts)
☞ which of these experiences do hosts find most interesting with regard to the local situation?
☞ feedback from participants
The feedback round may be extended to the evening if the group work yields too many interesting results.

19:00 **Dinner at Zagroda Grabownica**

20:00 **Social evening**



options:

- Visit to the LAG Center and town of Milicz
- field walk in forest with possibility to hear to the red deer mating calls
- participants presentations, screening of DVDs

Saturday, 24. October 2009

Workshop Day III: The Political Dimension

8:00	Breakfast at Zagroda Grabownica
9:00	<p>Morning session: policy conclusions <i>Moderators Titus Bahner, N.N.</i> How can national and EU policies support local actors to take up the challenge of sustainable economic development?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Remembering the situation of Lake Vörtsjärv (first workshop) ☞ Summarizing the political frame for economic activity in the Barycz Valley Natura 2000 area ☞ <i>group work</i>: How could politics help in empowering local initiatives? ☞ presentation of group results ☞ Open discussion: How far is the Barycz Valley from SD?
11:30	<p>Workshop evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Feedback from participants (object language) ☞ Open discussion ☞ Conclusions for next workshop <p>Invitation to Forum Synergies' next events</p>
13:00	Lunch at Zagroda Grabownica
14:00	<p>Departure of participants Bus transfer is provided to Wrocław Airport / Train Station</p>

General Information

Time Zone	Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) plus 1 hour
Weather	<p>In October the weather in Poland can be warm and sunny or cold and rainy. The average temperatures for October range from 7°C to 12°C. You may find some helpful weather forecast at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/weather/forecast/56 or http://new.meteo.pl (good and reliable but in Polish).</p>
Workshop Language	The workshop language will be English.



Currency	Polish new Zloty PLN (Exchange rate in August approx. 1 Euro = 4,1 PLN)
Communication	The international code for Poland is +48. Mobile phone networks cover most areas
Electricity	Generally, 2 types of electrical sockets (with or without earthing) can be found. Voltage is 230V. Information on adapters and plugs is available under http://kropla.com/electric2.htm

Address of Conference Venue

Zagroda Grabownica
 address: Zagroda Grabownica • Jolanta Bogatsu
 56-320 Krośnice, Grabownica 42 a
 phone +48 384 55 02, email zagrodagrabownica@gmail.com
<http://www.zagrodagrabownica.pl>

Hosts and Conference Team

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