

# OPERATIONALISATION STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

NOV. 22<sup>ND</sup> 2018, WAIDHOFEN/YBBS,  
AUSTRIA

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LOCATION: Gemeinderatssitzungssaal, Rathaus  
PP 3 Municipality of Waidhofen/Ybbs

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«THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF BEST  
PRACTICE STRATEGIES  
FOR DRINKING WATER PROTECTION»



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## 1. Invitation



## 2. STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

### **The practical implementation of best practice strategies for drinking water protection**

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#### INVITATION

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2018

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#### Venue:

Gemeinderatssitzungssaal  
Rathaus, 2. Stock  
Oberer Stadtplatz 28  
3340 Waidhofen/Ybbs



 Bundesministerium  
Nachhaltigkeit und  
Tourismus



## Announcement

The project PROLINE-CE (Efficient Practices of Land Use Management Integrating Water Resources Protection and Non-structural Flood Mitigation Experiences in Central Europe), [www.interreg-central.eu/proline-ce](http://www.interreg-central.eu/proline-ce), financially supported by the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2014-2020, can now look back on more than two years of project duration.

Since the first stakeholder workshop on 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2017 in Vienna, a number of reports have been prepared and intensive activities carried out within the pilot areas with the aim of improving existing land use practices in terms of the protection of drinking water resources. The results from the two Austrian pilot areas (drinking water protection areas for Vienna and Waidhofen/Ybbs) will be presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder workshop in the morning.

The experiences and derived "Best Practice" examples from these pilot areas will contribute on the one hand to the development of a transnational Action Plan to achieve the best possible functional land use patterns and on the other hand to the improvement of the so-called "GOWARE" tool (Guide to Optimal WATER REgime).

At the end of the three-year project, the most important goals for future development will be jointly signed by renowned decision-makers from the seven participating project partner countries within the framework of a "DrIFLU (Drinking water/Floods/Land use) Charta". The aim of the 2<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder workshop in the afternoon is to discuss and develop common strategies and guidelines as well as their implementation possibilities at national, regional and local level in this direction.

In order to achieve the broadest and most diverse composition as possible, authorities and services with different responsibilities at national, regional and local level, water suppliers and research institutions will be invited. This meeting should also support further cooperation and networking beyond project lifetime.

Hubert Siegel / Lead Partner BMNT

Markus Hochleitner / Host, Magistrat der Stadt Waidhofen/Ybbs



## A. AGENDA

Moderation: Stefan Kollarits, PRISMA solutions GmbH

09:30 **Registration**

09:45 - **Introduction**  
10:00

- Welcome

10:00 - **Results from the Pilot Areas**  
10:50

Best Management Practices, challenges,  
strategies

- Pilot Area Waidhofen/Ybbs Roland Koeck / BOKU
- Pilot Area Vienna Water Jürgen Komma / TU Wien

Discussion Stefan Kollarits / PRISMA

10:50 - **Coffee break**  
11:15

11:15 - **Possibilities of promoting ecosystem**  
12:15 **services**

- Pilot Area Waidhofen/Ybbs Markus Hochleitner  
Wasserwerk Waidhofen/Ybbs
- Pilot Area Vienna Water Harald Kromp / MA31

Discussion Stefan Kollarits / PRISMA

12:15 - **Lunch**  
13:15



13:15-  
15:15

### Workshop in 3 working groups

- Forestry in the sense of the protection of drinking water resources  
Group leader:  
Roland Koeck / BOKU
- Grassland and pasture farming considering drinking water protection  
Group leader:  
Gregory Egger /  
Naturraumplanung
- General strategies in terms of future drinking water protection  
Group leader:  
Markus Hochleitner /  
Wasserwerk Waidhofen / Ybbs

15:15-  
15:45

### Coffee break

15:45-  
16:15

### Presentation of the results of the working groups

Group leader

16:15 -  
16:45

### Summary and discussion

Stefan Kollarits / PRISMA



## 2. Minutes

### 2.1. Presentation of pilot action outcomes

Roland Koeck from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Institute of Silviculture) presented the **Best Management Practices** developed within the **Pilot Area of the forested drinking water conservation area Waidhofen/Ybbs** (Lower Austria).

Within PROLINE-CE guidelines for adequate forest management in drinking water protection/conservation areas were designed, which go beyond the legally defined requirements. In Austria there are no specific legal guidelines for forest management in drinking water protection zones (DWPZ) and currently in these areas discrepancies of normal timber-yield forestry with requirements for drinking water protection can occur (as also observed in Waidhofen/Ybbs):

- Still widespread clear cut application
- Focus on spruce as high timber-yield tree species (at various forest sites)
- Cutting of huge old and vital tree individuals regardless of their importance for the gene pool and stability of the stock
- Excessive forest road construction in DWPZ
- High wild ungulate densities

Therefore it was very important to develop target-oriented Best Management Practices (BMPs). The goal is the sustainable safeguarding of the drinking water protection functionality of the forests - that means fostering the stability of forest ecosystems:

- Avoidance of clear cut management → application of continuous cover forest systems
- Diversity of tree species according to the natural forest community → application of the Forest-Hydrotope-Model (which was already developed for Waidhofen/Ybbs within the previous project CC-WaterS)
- Conservation of old, vital and strong tree individuals → display as “Z-tree” (final crop tree)
- Creation of wild ungulate densities on a forest ecologically sustainable level → development of a new hunting strategy
- Minimizing forest road networks → strategic timber use, skyline-cranes, creation of natural forest areas etc.

General recommendations for forest management in drinking water protection zones:

- Fostering the stability of forest stands
- Limitation of timber extraction to 15-25% of the stand volume





- Guarantee of 70-90% canopy cover of forest stands
- Guarantee of continuous natural regeneration
- Guarantee of deadwood dynamics (standing and lying)
- Fostering structural diversity and age diversity of forest stands
- Adapted silvicultural regeneration techniques (group selection/small-scale gap cuts)
- Waiver of chemicals within forests (fertilizers and pesticides, e.g. against bark-beetles)

During the discussion afterwards especially the actual situation of high wild ungulate densities in Austrian forests in general was discussed in detail. Due to the actual Forest Act enhanced interventions into wild ungulate stocks are only possible if the amount of endangered forest stands is high enough. But at this it would mostly be too late. Especially within DWPZ it should be mandatory to raise the hunting rate to enable regeneration processes of forest stands.

Jürgen Komma from the Technical University Vienna presented the surveys which were conducted within the **Pilot Area “Catchment area of the Vienna Water Supply”: Spatial patterns of surface runoff in karst areas.**

The discharge and input of substances into the karst system (respectively springs) is related to surface runoff in the catchment area (e.g. due to heavy rainfall in summer). The predisposition for the generation of surface runoff as well as the length of surface flow paths was estimated and these parameters were used for the following hydrological model enhanced through precipitation and temperature data together with an already elaborated snow model. The result of these simulations is the relative frequency of surface run-off, which should be the basis for land use management concepts, for example concerning **pasture** (spatial and temporal).

## 2.2. Presentation of measures and funding systems for supporting ecosystem services

Markus Hochleitner from the Waterworks of Waidhofen/Ybbs presented first of all some data about water supply and the related processes during the last years: after about 10 years the Decree for the **drinking water conservation area in Waidhofen/Ybbs** (1.045 ha) was recently issued. 80% are covered by forests. Based on several surveys and expert consultations of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Institute of Silviculture), e.g. development of the Forest-Hydrotope-Model, a **“Guideline for securing the drinking water protection functionality of the forests in the catchment area of the water supply system Waidhofen/Ybbs”** was developed. This guideline contains all the BMPs mentioned before by Roland Koeck. It is envisaged to make contracts with the landowners, who are willing to follow this guideline and to act accordingly. The contracts will have a term of at least 10 years. These transfer payments for the BMP application, actually a compensation for higher expenses (about 40 €/ha.a, in case of areas without forest roads even 80 €/ha.a) will be covered through the water price. About 80% of the landowners are interested in making such contracts. Also the inhabitants were informed continuously about this process.





Harald Kromp from Vienna Water presented their strategies concerning **target-oriented land use management in the catchment areas of Vienna Water (Hochschwab; Rax, Schneeberg, Schneealpe)**. Due to the WHO-guidelines the risk has to be minimized through measures and controls and so-called Water Safety Plans have to be developed. The most important issue is that the spring tapping has to be kept clean. Quite half of the drinking water conservation area is owned by the City of Vienna so that it is easier to manage land use in these areas and to involve all parties (e.g. ÖBF, Alpine associations, regional authorities), e.g.:

- Ongoing monitoring, control and documentation of all activities in the catchment areas in order to ensure a sustainable drinking water supply for the City of Vienna.
- Ongoing adaptation of existing plants to the state of the art, additional construction of objects and facilities only to a very limited extent, in individual cases examination of variants of suitable concepts for implementation
- Simple feasibility as well as operation and maintenance of technical systems in the alpine area lead to enhanced acceptance by the operator
- Vehicles, machines and equipment in DWPZ with conditions regarding inspection, maintenance and operation with biodegradable fuels

Following land uses have to be regulated within the DWPZ of Vienna Water:

- **Forestry:**  
Engineering planning of forest roads, soil-conserving timber harvesting (skyline-cranes, only on dry or frozen soil), diversity of tree species and tree-age, natural regeneration of forest stands, prohibition of chemicals, regulation of game stock through own staff, consulting of forest owners, flood protection constructions, etc.
- **Agriculture:**  
No direct influences in the karstic-alpine spring water protection areas, as agriculture in terms of arable land does not exist there
- **Alpine pasture farming**  
Farmer on-site guarantees permanent control and quick reaction in case of incidents, fencing of sensible areas (e.g. dolines), huts/stables, secured supply and disposal (incl. dead livestock), faecal removal, roads with use restrictions, participation in pasture management plans, paddock operation, protection of diverse vegetation, redemption of grazing rights, avoidance of severe measures by swidden or spreading slurry, water trough strategies, use suitable seeds, awareness raising, etc.
- **Tourism, Huts**  
Awareness raising (signage within DWPZ), no intensification of climbing assistance, objects and footpaths, no major events, sewage: establishment of cooperatives, contracts, alternative concepts (composting toilet, biological treatment plants, sewers/ sewage channels, etc.)

Vienna Water is permanently pursuing research and further surveys, especially concerning influences on water quality in karst regions (since 1994).



## 2.3. Carousel discussion

As there were only 17 participants we decided not to divide this audience into 3 groups, but to discuss the 3 thematic issues according to the Agenda (forestry, pasture, common strategies towards drinking water protection) step by step considering following questions:

- Implementation of BMPs - actual status?
- Which framework conditions (legislation, funding system, awareness raising etc.) have to be improved/modified? What could be really implemented and how?
- How should the coordination between different departments be conducted or improved on national and regional level in the future?

### 2.3.1. Forestry according to drinking water protection

The problem within Austrian forestry is the business-as-usual way of actuation. The Austrian Federal Forest Act would provide a well suited frame, but actual management habits are another story. Especially in case of hunting communication processes are very difficult and emotional. The only way to be successful in terms of creation of wild ungulate densities to a forest ecologically sustainable level is the regulation of game stock through own staff. The hunting laws of the Federal States should enforce mandatory enhanced hunting rates, if the function of drinking water protection is endangered (based on permanent monitoring). In case of Waidhofen/Ybbs most of the hunters belong to local cooperatives - therefore they should be convinced that it is very important to regulate game stock to guarantee good drinking water quality in their region.

At the very moment there exist only a **few best practice examples** which are considering drinking water protection - in principle they are connected with the pilot areas in Waidhofen/Ybbs, Steyr (CAMARO-D) and the catchment areas of Vienna Water within PROLINE-CE (and also several previous projects).

Based on these experiences it can be stated, that **individual conversations** are more successful than group discussions. Advantages for the landowner/farmer have to be found, for example ecological stability of forest stands provides economic benefit.

These Best Practice examples and measures (within the pilot areas) should be **disseminated** on national level and **periodically evaluated**.

### 2.3.2. Agriculture/Alpine Pasture management taking into consideration drinking water protection

Gregory Egger from bureau “Naturraumplanung” conducted surveys in the catchment area of Vienna Water and told about his experiences made within his several studies and contacts with



the affected stakeholders: the most important issue for the farmers, alpine pasture staff, etc. is that the recommendations respectively explanations how to manage the relevant land use in the future have to be as simple and understandable as possible.

The actual situation and problems on-site are massive measures (milling and shredding of the upper soils with ground vegetation) on alpine pastures to create more feed-crop areas. This measure is a really enormous mechanical intervention and the vegetation after these actions can recover only with a rather slow pace. The problem is that these pastures are not owned by the city of Vienna (Vienna Water), therefore it is very difficult to convince the farmers respectively owners to change their behaviour. Traditions in general are not easy to modify in the mind of the affected stakeholders.

Through livestock treading on shallow soils vegetation gets lost on these areas with all negative effects (erosion etc.). As consequence the aim should be adequate **pasture management**: fencing of sensible areas (e.g. dolines), paddock operation, adequate livestock units, grazing management (“Koppelwirtschaft”), etc.

As best practice example a project in the Tyrolean National Park “Hohe Tauern” was presented: first of all intensive conversations with the affected farmers were conducted - they were asked what they want; then the preconditions under which they may continue to manage their pastures, were set out. These are measures, which support nature protection. General framework conditions were determined, which the farmer has to comply with. This roadmap is only possible as a “**complete package**”: a kind of compromise (trade-off) between the needs of the farmers and the ideas of the experts.

**Communication (at eye level), awareness-raising** of problems **on site**, improvement of alpine pasture management - drinking water protection should not be mentioned extra, because the proposed expert-recommendations are in any case considering also drinking water protection issues; economic arguments are more successful than ecological ones); very important is that landowners and all stakeholders are present on site (so that nobody feels passed over and complains afterwards).

### 2.3.3. Common strategies towards future drinking water protection

Concerning general topics considering future drinking water protection following issues should be envisaged in addition to the previous mentioned recommendations:

- cross-sectoral coordination and thinking
- drinking water protection not only provides benefits for water suppliers, but also for foresters, nature conservation, the economy and the general public



## 3. Main Results/Feedback

### 3.1. Impact and benefits for the stakeholders

As the audience consisted mainly of stakeholders which are already aware of existing problems in terms of drinking water protection and adequate land use in Austria the focus of this event was more laid on knowledge exchange. On the one hand the experts could spread their experiences made within their surveys and on the other hand the involved water suppliers of Waidhofen/Ybbs and Vienna could provide their point of view from their daily work. And the representatives of the different authorities could give information on the legal basis and possible funding systems due to EU programmes, like Rural Development Programme.

The compilation of the audience was really various, although only 17 people participated: representatives from national, regional and local authorities coming from different field of actions (forestry, agriculture, water management), water suppliers and respective associations as well as diverse scientific experts. Due to this broad compilation different points of view could be covered and accordingly discussed in detail.

### 3.2. Transferability to other stakeholders and territories

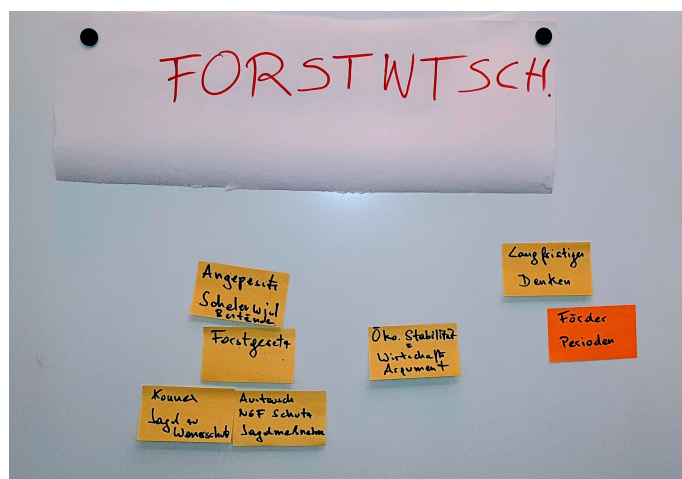
During this workshop it was stated that the mentioned best practice examples concerning drinking water protection and necessary steps for adequate land use should be spread around to other regions in Austria. One possibility within the project duration is the presentation of project outcomes during an event of the ÖVGW (Austrian association for Gas and Water) in May 2019, where most of the Austrian water suppliers are present.

### 3.3. Lessons learnt

The number of participants is not as important as the compilation of the audience. The broader the audience, coming from different fields of action and competences, the more diverse are the inputs. Also the discussion process is more intensive and in detail. Furthermore it was the advantage, that we were not forced to divide the group for the discussion process in the afternoon. So we could discuss all various issues with the whole audience and everybody was very ambitious and interested in those presented topics.



## 4. Photos





## Press article (Ybbstaler)

### Wald und Wasser

Expertentagung in Waidhofen

Am 22. November fand im Rathaus der Stadt Waidhofen das zweite Stakeholder Meeting im Rahmen des Projektes Proline-Ce des Central Europe Interreg Programmes der Europäischen Kommission statt. Das Format dieser Veranstaltung zielt auf eine Einbindung der lokal und regional zuständigen Ämter und Betroffenen, um Ergebnisse, die im Rahmen des Projektes für die Themenstellung „Wald und Wasser“ vor Ort erarbeitet worden

sind, vorzustellen und zu diskutieren. In Anwesenheit der Vertreter der österreichischen Projektpartner – BM für Nachhaltigkeit und Tourismus (MR DI Hubert Siegel); Wiener Wasser (Dr. Markus Werderitsch und DI Harald Kromp) sowie der Stadt Waidhofen (Dr. Franz Hörlesberger; Ing. Markus Hochleitner) – wurden unter anderem die Ergebnisse der Pilotaktionen im Bereich des Wasserschongebietes der Stadt Waidhofen sowie der

Quellschutzgebiete der Stadt Wien im Bereich des Hochschwab- und Raxgebietes präsentiert und in kritischer Diskussion erörtert. Dabei kristallisierte sich heraus, dass eine schlagfreie Bewirtschaftung der Wälder sowie ein geordnetes Weidemanagement in den relevanten Gebieten wesentliche Grundlagen für eine nachhaltige Sicherstellung einer qualitativ und quantitativ erforderlichen Trinkwasserversorgung darstellen.



Stakeholder kamen im Großen Sitzungssaal zusammen, v.l.n.r. Bundesministerium für Nachhaltigkeit und Tourismus Hubert Siegel, Wasserwerk-Bereichsleiter Markus Hochleitner, Jürgen Komma, Roland Köck, Eduard Kotzmaier, Thomas Lengger, Gregory Egger, Elisabeth Huter, Anna Pomassl, Richard Bauer, Stefan Kollarits, Elisabeth Gerhardt, Harald Kromp (Wiener Wasser), Markus Werderitsch (Wiener Wasser) und Bereichsleiter Bezirksverwaltung Franz Hörlesberger.

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## 5. Participant list

**PROLINE-CE Stakeholder Workshop Waidhofen/Ybbs - Teilnehmerliste**  
22. November, 2018

**Interreg**  
CENTRAL EUROPE  
PROLINE-CE

Nachname	Vorname	Institution/Organisation	Unterschrift
Bauer	Richard	BMNT - Abteilung III/4: Waldschutz, Waldentwicklung und forstliche Förderung	
Egger	Gregory	Naturraumplanung Egger	
Gerhardt	Elisabeth	Bundesforschungs- und Ausbildungszentrum für Wald, Naturgefahren und Landschaft	
Hochleitner	Markus	Stadt Waidhofen/Ybbs - Wasserwerke	
Hörlesberger	Franz	Magistrat der Stadt Waidhofen/Ybbs - Wasserrecht-Naturschutz, Forstbehörde	
Huber	Rainer	MA49	
Huter	Elisabeth	NÖ ABB	
Köck	Roland	Universität für Bodenkultur Wien	
Kollarits	Stefan	PRISMA solutions GmbH	
Kotzmaier	Eduard	BMNT - Abteilung III/5: Wildbach- und Lawinenverbauung und Schutzwaldpolitik Gebietsbauleitung NÖ West	





**PROLINE-CE Stakeholder Workshop Waidhofen/Ybbs - Teilnehmerliste**  
22. November, 2018

Nachname	Vorname	Institution/Organisation	Unterschrift
Kromp	Harald	Wiener Wasser MA31	
Lengger	Thomas	ÖBF - Förster Revier Leiben Revierleitung	
Pomassl	Anna	Österreichische Vereinigung für das Gas- und Wasserfach	
Siegel	Hubert	BMNT	
Werderitsch	Markus	Wiener Wasser MA31	
GLITZNER	CHRISTOPH	MA49	
KOMMA	Jürgen	TU WIEN	