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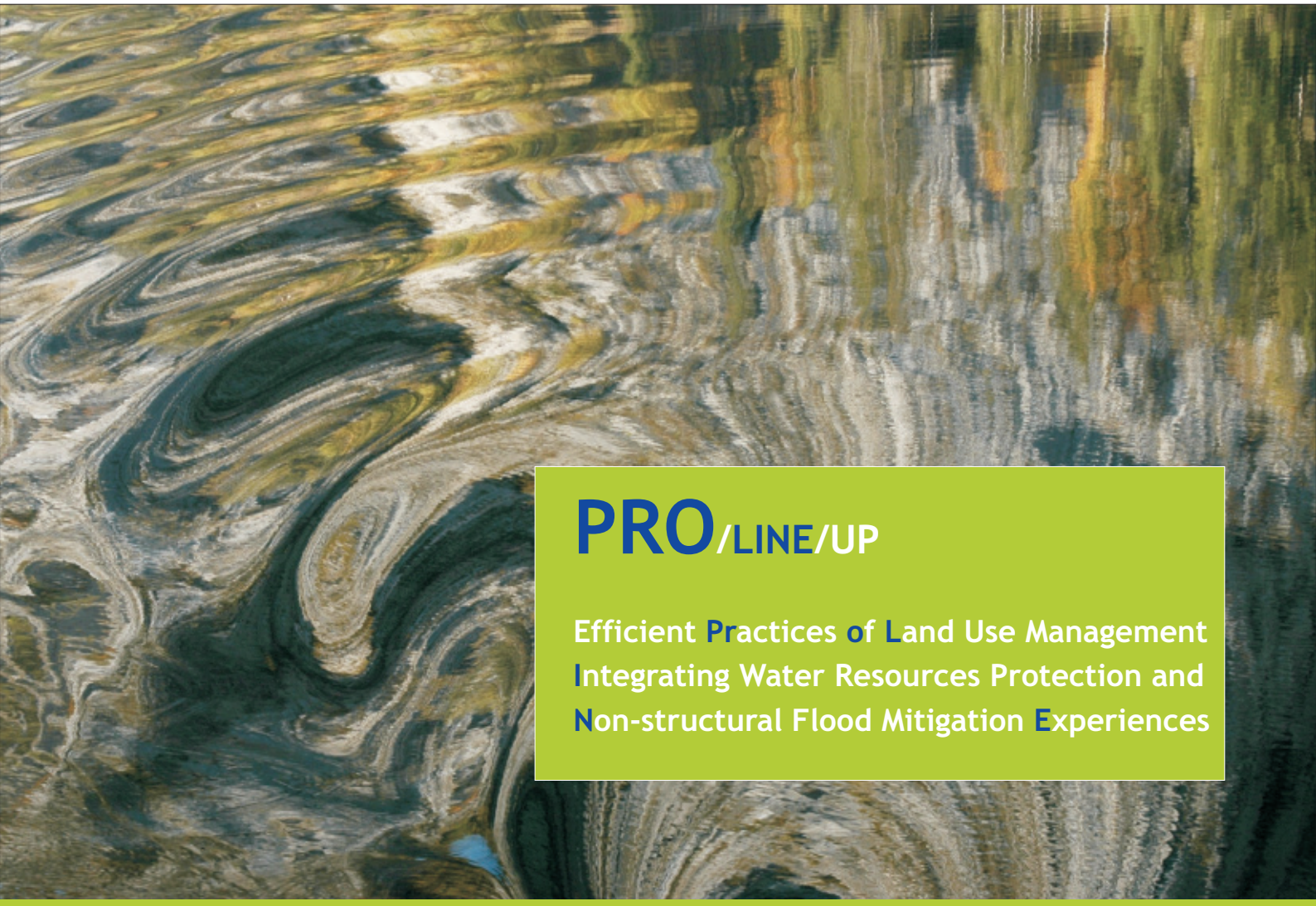
PROLINE-CE



PRO/LINE/UP

Efficient Practices of Land Use Management Integrating Water Resources Protection and Non-structural Flood Mitigation Experiences

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROLINE-CE PROJECT

* Issue 1 * November 2016

EDITORIAL

Safe and clean drinking water was declared a human right by the United Nations General Assembly. Water is a precondition for human, animal and plant life. It is also an indispensable resource for economy and plays a fundamental role in the climate regulation cycle. The protection of water resources and related ecosystems needs to be maintained and enhanced in Europe.

Recent studies have revealed that water resources are under increasing pressure, mainly due to land use and climate change which both have strong impacts on water resources in general and drinking water resources in particular. The vulnerability of water resources is therefore constantly increasing.

Drinking water protection is already an integrated part of some land-use management practises, but lagging behind with implementation and realisation. This is where the PROLINE-CE-project comes into play: from the very beginning of the project, stakeholders and decisions makers will be involved and their awareness will be raised, supported by the demonstration of best practice examples carried out in pilot actions in various geographic and thematic fields.

The conclusions gained from these experiences will lead to a "Guide towards Optimal Water Regime (GOWARE)". This is a tool providing a concrete plan for the implementation of sustainable land use and flood/drought management with the overall purpose of drinking water protection beyond project lifetime. To foster the importance of this transnational guiding tool, a commonly developed DriFLU (Drinking Water/Floods/Land use) Charta will be signed by notable representatives from all participating countries.

Not only will PROLINE-CE provide important contributions to already existing EU-Directives, like the EU Water Framework or the EU Flood Directive, but it will also recommend future-oriented solutions for regions outside Central Europe, like Danube, Alpine, Adriatic/Ionian and Baltic Sea Region.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES

BACKGROUND

The protection of drinking water resources regarding land-use management and flood protection is an environmental challenge that is common to all countries in CE. This circumstance asks for adapted and target-oriented land-use activities concerning protection of water resources, balancing conflicts of land-use pressure on water and adaptation to climate change issues despite uncertain prognoses.

According to the CE thematic study "Environmental risk management and climate change" (2014), water management and flood protection is a key issue. Additionally, results of the Regional Analysis (SWOT of the CE programme) mark CE as a vulnerable region concerning water dependency.

The "EU Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Waters" (2013) recognised the importance of integrated land-use and drinking water management as a prerequisite for sustainable development for CE region while identifying the need for sustainability and strong cooperation between municipalities, regions and national states. The common problem of CE region - existing differing implementation levels of best management practices in the regions - underlines the lack of integrated sustainable solutions within CE.
Also the "EU Water Alliance" (2014) determined that the support of capacity development actions for water management constitutes a key measure to achieve EU objectives and that effective instruments are needed to enhance water management competence.

The key challenges - identified by the project partners of PROLINE-CE - regarding land use and drinking water resources management are common to all EU countries:

- protection of drinking water resources,
- balancing conflicting interests of land-use, environmental needs and water protection,
- mitigation of flood and drought impacts on water resources used for water supply,
- adaptation to climate change issues despite uncertain prognoses

Thus a function-oriented and land-use based spatial management for drinking water protection is strongly required. The lack of integrated sustainable land-use management is a result of insufficient information about existing best practices in recharge areas and therefore an integrated proceeding is essential.

GOALS AT A GLANCE

The main objective of PROLINE-CE is the improved protection of drinking water resources as well as protection against floods/droughts in an integrated land use management approach.

This encompasses

- **jointly developed methods and strategies towards an integrated and efficient approach of water management and proposed measures to adapt existing practices;**
- **minimized conflicts between drinking water resources protection and land use activities;**
- **integrated land-use management and a developed implementation strategy for effectively harmonized environmental standards in drinking water recharge areas to improve water- and soil quality and reduce flood/drought risks - tailored to different regional environment- and policy conditions (via pilot actions);**
- **extended cooperation networks and knowledge exchange between partner regions, sector players and different decision makers on policy level to minimize still existing knowledge gaps concerning integrated water- and land-use management, interdependency cycles environment-flood/drought and flood/drought prevention in CE region; and**
- **improved effectiveness and sustainable use of capacities as well as efficient organisational structures of land use management and drinking water protection.**

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

Previous project cooperations were focusing on land-use conflicts, climate change, water resources protection and ecosystem services.

PROLINE-CE´S INNOVATIVE APPROACH WILL BE:

» Synopsis of comprehensive experiences gained within previous projects and studies as a basis for determination of sustainable land use and best management practices for drinking water supply;

» Operationalization of best practice strategies in different pilot actions, clustered on a transnational scale by their thematic and geographic scope;

» Common methodology and vision for integrated water management as an overall frame for the implementation of best practices resulting in“GOWARE” (Guide towards Optimal WAter REgime);

» Transfer of PROLINE-CE results to policy level by means of DriFLU Charta, a joint declaration act signed by notable representatives; and

» Capacity building inside and outside of the programme area via several events and feedback loops for stakeholders with the possibility of public participation as well as different communication measures tailored to the needs of diverse target groups. The structured stakeholder involvement process will support the development of networks beyond the borders of disciplines, regions and countries.

WORK PLAN

T1 Capitalization: Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement

T1.1 Peer review of land use and water management practices
T1.2 Review of best management practices for drinking water supply issues
T1.3 Identification of strategies and measures to be integrated into existing policy guidelines

T2 Pilots: Implementation and Feedback

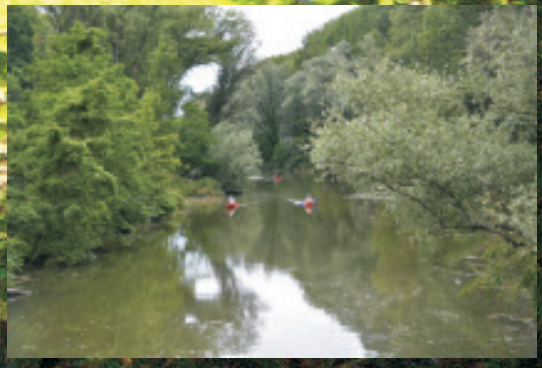
T2.1 Set-up of pilot-specific management practices
T2.2 Implementation of best practices for water protection in pilot actions
T2.3 Outlining of lessons learnt and resulting recommendations

T3 Synopsis: Vision and Guidance

T3.1 Development of measures and funding systems for supporting ecosystem services
T3.2 Development of transnational adaptation plan for integrated land use management
T3.3 Elaboration of recommendations for institutional and organisational structures

T4 Advancement: Strategic Positioning and Commitment

T4.1 Creating synergies for integrated land use and flood/drought management
T4.2 Organisation of transnational events for representatives of operational and decision making level
T4.3 DriFLU Charta and relevant follow-up activities



PILOT ACTION CLUSTER 1

Mountain forest and grassland sites

Catchment area of Vienna Water Supply, AT
Catchment area of Waidhofen/Ybbs, AT

PILOT ACTION CLUSTER 2

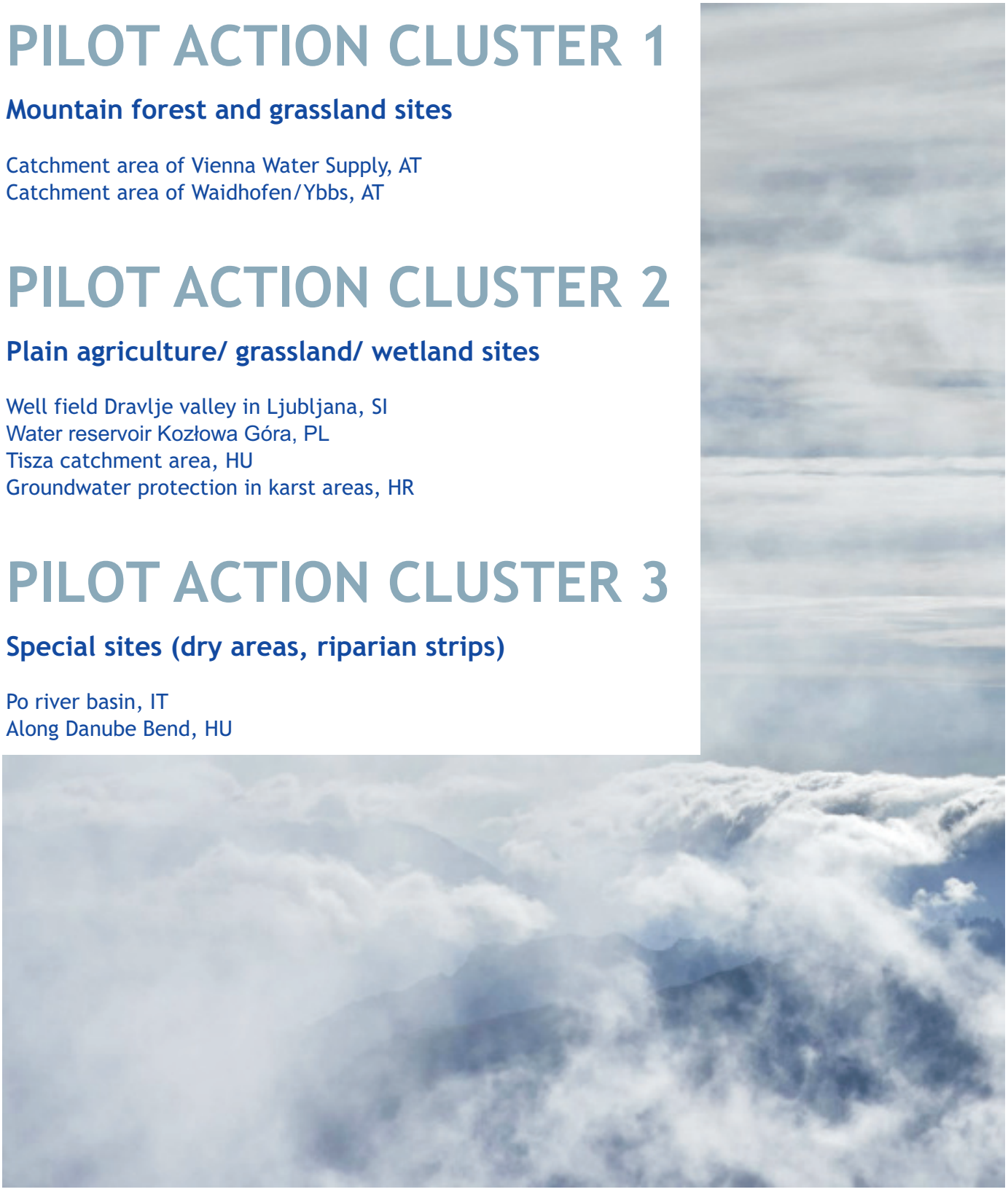
Plain agriculture/ grassland/ wetland sites

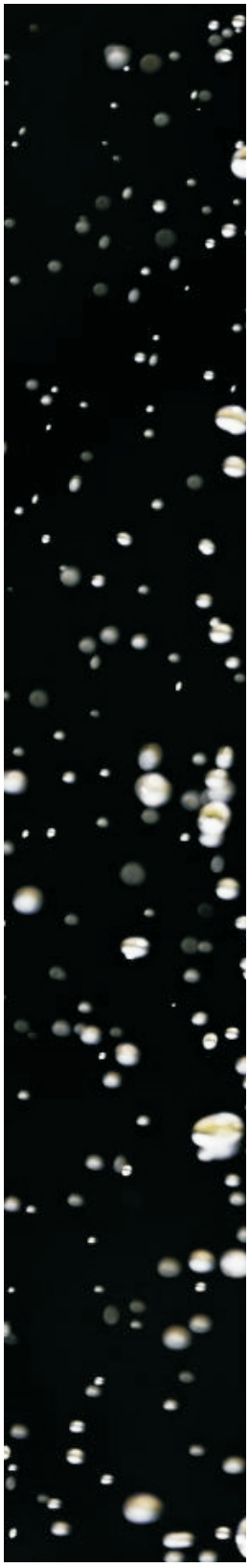
Well field Dravlje valley in Ljubljana, SI
Water reservoir Kozłowa Góra, PL
Tisza catchment area, HU
Groundwater protection in karst areas, HR

PILOT ACTION CLUSTER 3

Special sites (dry areas, riparian strips)

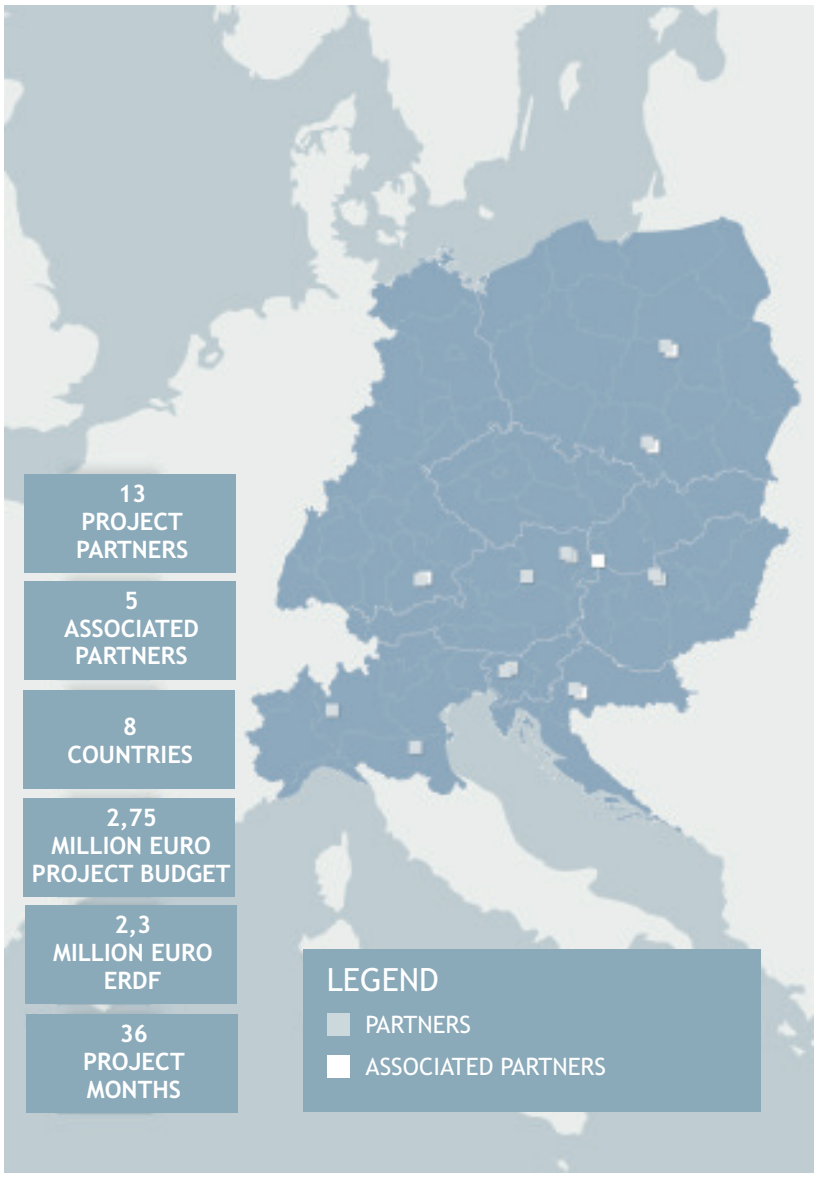
Po river basin, IT
Along Danube Bend, HU





THE PROLINE-CE PARTNERSHIP

comprises 13 financing partners and five associated partners, originating from eight central European countries. Partners have different roles and can be grouped into three main categories: governmental institutions with policy support and policy implementation functions (national institutions, ministries and authorities), water suppliers and research institutions. The three-year project was launched in July 2016 and is co-funded by the Central Europe Programme.



PARTNERS

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management; Forest Department; Austria (Lead Partner)

Municipality of the City of Vienna, MA31; Austria Vienna Water

Municipality of Waidhofen/Ybbs, Waterwork; Austria

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering, Department of Geology; Slovenia

Public Water Utility JP VODOVOD-KANALIZACIJA Ljubljana; Slovenia

Herman Otto Institute, Environmental Directorate; Hungary

General Directorate of Water Management; Hungary

Croatian Geological Survey, Department of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology; Croatia

Regional Agency for Prevention, Environment and Energy in Emilia-Romagna; Technical Directorate and Hydro-Meteo-Climate Service; Italy

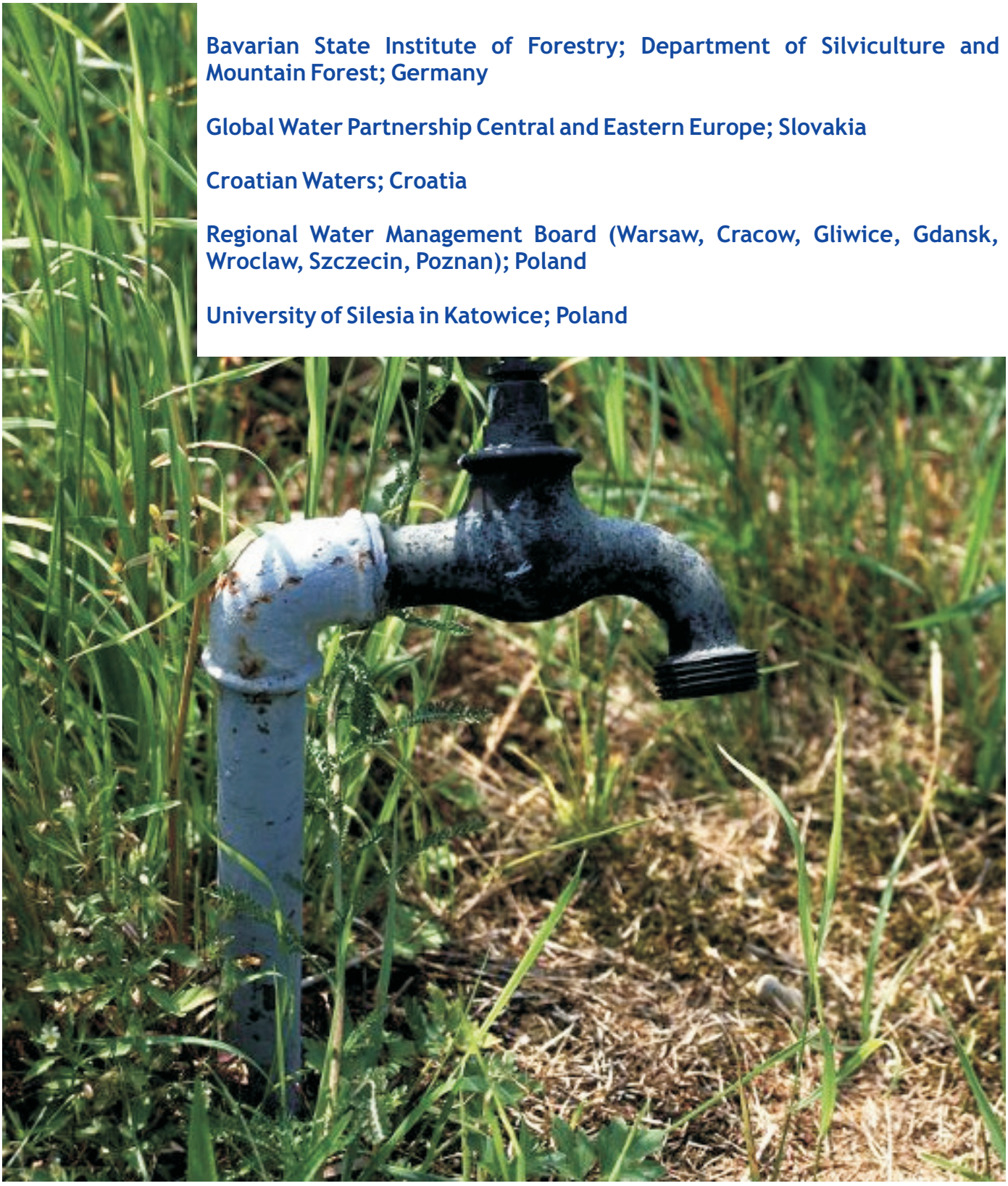
National Water Management Authority; Poland

Silesian Waterworks PLC; Poland

Technical University of Munich; Chair of Hydrology and River Basin Management; Germany

Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change Foundation; Impacts on Agriculture, Forests and Ecosystem Services (IAFES) Division; Italy

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS



Bavarian State Institute of Forestry; Department of Silviculture and Mountain Forest; Germany

Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe; Slovakia

Croatian Waters; Croatia

Regional Water Management Board (Warsaw, Cracow, Gliwice, Gdansk, Wroclaw, Szczecin, Poznan); Poland

University of Silesia in Katowice; Poland

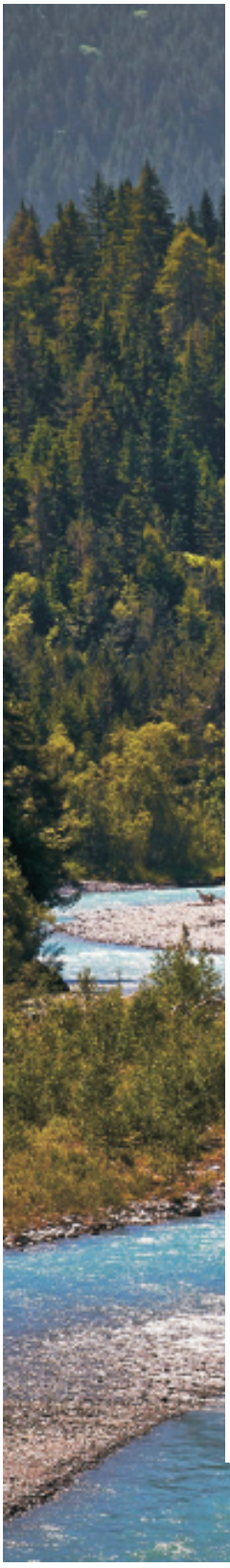
PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING

organized by the project partner "Technical University of Munich" was held at the Oskar von Miller Forum in Munich, Germany, on September 6th-7th, 2016. The two-day event was attended by 38 participants of project and associated partners from seven countries. It was an opportunity for project partners to present themselves and their expectations towards the project and to find a common understanding and methodology for the joint implementation of activities planned within four thematic work packages as well as the coordination of the nine pilot studies.

On day two, the Lead Partner presented project and financial management related issues and communication aspects to the project's Steering Committee. In the afternoon the participants had the possibility to take a glance at the drinking water protection areas of Munich. A guided tour to the Taubenberg a best practice example for water protection forest management - brought the meeting to a perfect end.

Drinking Water supply near Munich with project partners Photo: PRISMA

CONTACTS



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