



## PROJECTS AND EXPERIENCES

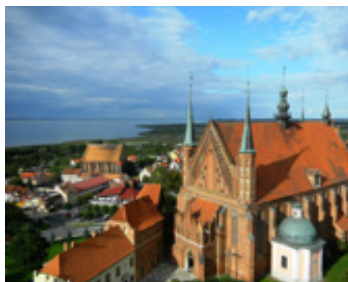
# EXCHANGE MEETING BAUDA RIVER PILOT AREA

## MOMENT'S THIRD EXCHANGE MEETING IN KRYNICA MORSKA, POLAND

Recently, the MOMENT project organised an Exchange Meeting in the pilot area of the Bauda river in Poland the 31st of August and 1st of September. During two intensive days, the state of the art of the project and specific experiences were shared between the 40 participants. The first day, the presentations focussed on the WFD implementation comparison study performed within the project on the one hand and the international cooperation in the water management of the Vistula Lagoon on the other.

The results of the comparison study were presented by Magdalena Kinga Skuza and will be described in one of the next newsletters of the MOMENT project. The report will also be made available on the project homepage for downloading. Mr. Lewandowski presented the cooperation between Russia and Poland regarding the management of the Vistula Lagoon. A Commission under the joint Polish and Russian Council on Cooperation is working with Environmental Protection and Complex Use of the Vistula Lagoon Resources spatial planning. One of the latest developments is LAGOON and the Joint Polish – Russian air and water monitoring.

During the study tour in the afternoon, the group took a small ferry over the lagoon to visit the town and old church of Frombork. From there, a short field visit was organised to the lower parts of the Bauda river, showing the participants what the river looks like near the river mouth.



## ROLE PLAYING GAME IN WATER MANAGEMENT

# EXPERIENCE OTHER OPINIONS

During the second day a role playing exercise was performed that showed all the participants the complexity of composing river basin program of measures in a participatory way, through "virtual" Water Users Partnerships (WUPs). All the participants were divided in different smaller, virtual WUPs.

All these groups received a map of a virtual river basin with several threats and opportunities, spread over the catchment. Moreover, some representatives received background information on the catchment area or the river, simulating the aspect of local knowledge in participatory processes. Being more an experiment or exercise rather than a scientific set-up, the results of the virtual WUP role playing game showed that:

- Differently composed groups might come to the same types of solutions for specific problems
- The solutions and measures can be prioritised in different ways, depending on the way the group is composed
- Discussion a specific problem seemed sometimes irrelevant if the involved stakeholders aren't represented in the debate
- Experiencing the point of view of another stakeholder by representing him in the role playing game can be a useful experience for many

The MOMENT project hopes that this exercise will inspire many others to try and test the participatory development or river basin management plans and programs of measures.

### The concrete objectives of the role playing game:

- Taking the role of another stakeholder and empathise with their perspectives
- Discussing water management with each different stakeholders
- Finding measures that improve the status of the river
- Finding measures that are accepted by the relevant stakeholders or find compromises
- Prioritise measures for an effective RBMP
- Experience the effect of "local knowledge"

## TIPS AND LINKS

More information and other tools for participatory development of water management or role playing games can for example be found on <http://www.harmonicop.uos.de/>



STUDY VISIT IN SWEDEN

# WATER COUNCIL DAY IN MÖNSTERÅS

More than 100 people gathered the 21th of September during the “Vattenrådets dag” or Water Council seminar in the city of Mönsterås in Sweden, with Water Councils being the Swedish variant of the Water Users Partnership. Among the participants there were representatives from the Lithuanian partner in the MOMENT project who were on a study visit in Sweden. During this day, officials, representatives of different larger and smaller stakeholder organisations, members of different Water Councils and many others discussed and informed and inspired each other. The seminar started with information about the roles and methods of different governmental agencies working with water. Together with the MOMENT project and the work in Lithuania, other good examples and practices were presented by, for example, the Water Council of the Alster river in the southeast of Sweden.

The role of a Water Council is not well defined and therefore, the framework of its activities and responsibility was discussed in several smaller groups. Some of the conclusions of these discussions were:

- A water council should prioritise involvement of local people in water management
- A water council should collect local expertise and organise social learning to improve the general knowledge about the river system
- A water council could be the missing link between the local level in a specific catchment area and the existing complexity of responsible authorities

MS. DEA CARLSSON, WATER DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHERN BALTIC RIVER BASIN DISTRICT AUTHORITY, SWEDEN

**Question 1:** What is your main conclusion of the Water Council seminar in Mönsterås?

**Answer Ms. Dea Carlsson:** The fact that so many people with different background and experiences, representing different organisations can agree so clearly on a common statement that we need to improve our water quality.

**Question 2:** Did the seminar change your opinion on the importance of the Swedish water councils for our water management?

**Answer Ms. Dea Carlsson:** This event enforced my vision about the fact that water councils are one of the most important forums for the coming implementation of the best and most cost effective measures at prioritised places.

BO NYMAN, REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE SÖDRA ASSOCIATION OF FOREST OWNERS

**Question 1:** How important is it to allocate time to international speakers for presenting their work on the other side of the Baltic Sea?

**Answer Bo Nyman:** I think this is very important as they too have many challenges to face. And water is a common resource, so everybody is responsible to try to save it.

**Question 2:** Many of the participants were representing water councils or different organisations. What is your conclusion about that?

**Answer Bo Nyman:** Everybody who has a relation to water issues should have the possibility to participate in its management. Water is after all our most important natural resource.

## SOME CONCRETE OUTCOMES OF THE WATER COUNCIL DAY

- Work with Water councils on the lowest level possible: find concrete issues or problems that can engage people.
  - Start up local groups with concrete objectives
  - Built legitimacy bottom up through prioritising local needs, conflicts and possibilities
- Implement local knowledge in higher level management strategies.
  - Start up an inventory of the local knowledge and show people this information will be used
- Financing the council and concrete activities and measures is one of the biggest challenges
  - Try to find effective ways to collaborate with other water councils
  - Financing should be made easier at the administration and authority level
- Understand that money for projects demands a big engagement and time investment. Not everybody in a water council can or wants to invest so much as a volunteer.
- There seems to be a great need for communication, information and education, preferably adapted for specific target groups of stakeholders.
- The way communication happens influences the success. Find the right and different ways to communicate with the different stakeholders.
- Try to confront local participants with experts in specific issues. They can often learn from each other and solve problems in a innovative way. This improves in the same time the local understanding.
- Prioritise inspiring pilot projects. One good concrete measure in the field is far more important than 10 good meetings.

### CONTACT US

Projectleader: Tobias Facchini, tel +46 (0)480 44 83 83, tobias.facchini@rfkl.se  
Financial Manager: Johan Lundbäck +46 (0)480 44 83 42, johan.lundback@rfkl.se

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