

COOPERATION POTENTIAL BETWEEN NGOS AND BUSINESSES IN WATER MANAGEMENT

About water resources

Water is essential resource for human wellbeing as well as for ecosystems. However, people are not always using this resource with sufficient care. Insufficiently treated waters are discharged into ecosystems thus causing environmental problems at first locally and then as freshwaters flow to the sea, the Baltic Sea is the one who suffers at the end.

Nutrient pollution of waters is still an issue

Nutrient (phosphorus and nitrogen) load from economy sectors is still the key challenge for many Nordic countries to stop overgrowth of water bodies.

Therefore, it is important to take different measures to avoid or minimise pollution, thus protecting our waters.

Focus of cooperation

Pollution of the water ecosystems can be prevented directly or indirectly by different activities:

- Researching and inventing new technologies;
- Applying the right technologies;
- Investing in either in new production or treatment technologies;
- Informing different water users on pollution aspects;
- Consulting and providing expertise on specific water management problems
- Educating relevant stakeholders about the water management

To perform these activities effectively different actors shall cooperate

Cooperation frames

The networking between stakeholders is the key cooperation frame for developing and implementing relevant joint water management measures.

Despite of different missions - public interests versus commercial outputs, NGOs and businesses can benefit from close cooperation. For example, water companies can offer technologies and their expertise, while environmental NGOs can offer their dissemination contacts as well as advocate for high environmental standards towards policy and decision makers.

Water technology companies are used to present themselves in trade exhibitions which are visited mainly by experts in the field. NGOs, in turn, can provide a forum represented by diverse groups, like inhabitants, municipalities, etc. The different communication can facilitate new projects in the regions, knowledge transfer between stakeholders. All will contribute to better water management.

The legal status of the networks can be diverse: from establishing an association or just virtual networking using internet tools.

Networking examples for inspiration:

www.finishwaterforum.fi
www.videsrisinajumi.lv
www.evak.fi
<http://www.bef.lt/en/maps.php>
www.balticrivers.eu

Contacts for cooperation:

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