

After three years as a commendable cooperation on the topic of management, protection and recovery of lakes and reservoirs, LakeAdmin's "Regional Administration of Lake Restoration Initiatives" comes to the end. The years of work divided among partners from 9 European nations have been characterized by various activities: creating databases, organizing study and conference visits regarding international topics, active involvement with local stakeholders, elaborating on proposals for planning and governing lakes, analyzing methodologies, processes and projects. Overall, an intense exchange of know-how and implementation of practices that are indispensable in achieving elevated qualitative standards and an improved use of bodies of water throughout various European regions.

In thanking all those who helped in creating such a positive experience, the aim is to continue with the cooperation in order to welcome any new opportunities that arise in Europe.

For results, products and information on the project follow-up please visit the links <https://lakeadmin.savonia.fi/>



LakeAdmin Final Meeting



From 1 to 3 October 2014 the final LakeAdmin international meeting was held in Rieti (Italy) and dedicated to the governing of lakes and reservoirs. 3 different types of events were organized by the environmental sector of the Rieti Provincial Administration which was attended by all European project partners, international management authorities, and local stakeholders.

Lake Policy Advisory Board



On the first day the Lake Policy Advisory Board was held, the internal coordination structure made up of project partners and relative management authorities. The meeting set out to adapt and initiate some of the LakeAdmin proposals within the plans and agendas of regional/local bodies regarding management, protection and recovery of lakes and basins.

Various European Management Authorities attended: The Estonian Environmental Ministry; The Southern Bohemia Region; The Lake Balaton Regional Management Authorities; The Region of Northern Savonia. Representing Lazio was the Authority of the Tiber River Basin, Lazio regional management for economic development and productive activity and Environmental Protection Agency (Arpa Lazio).

All actions taken were focused on assessing various governing models and managing lakes and reservoirs as well as on the positive repercussions of good practices performed by LakeAdmin partners regarding protection, recovery and development of regional lake areas.

For individual contributions visit the link <https://lakeadmin.savonia.fi/communication-platform/lakeadmin-seminars> and/or <http://www.lakeadmin-rieti.eu/notizie/>

Wrap-up Conference



On 2 October the Wrap-up Conference for the LakeAdmin project “Policy tools in regional lake administration” was held, an event open to local stakeholders dedicated to planning and management of lakes and reservoirs.

The event attendees came from various groups: management authorities from natural reservoirs, regional and township institution representatives, regional agencies dealing with environmental protection, and important private economic operators of lake resources.

The meeting's goal was to assess the individual implementation plans as elaborated in the regions pertaining to European partners, dealing with the adoption of proper management, protection and recovery practices which detailed internal plans and agendas. By virtue of management authority representatives attending and their operative agendas and European research centers, an in-depth analysis was also made regarding European policy for water management as well as financial opportunity in the realm of agendas for the new cycle of European funds.

The Conference allowed for a valuable exchange opportunity between very differing territories where attendees were able to display unique experiences accrued in their own territories, providing important news on their lake ecosystems, on the economic potential that the lake offers, as well as on the necessities and difficulties encountered in managing the resource itself.

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Hands-On Visit to Lago del Salto



The 3-day activities detailing the Wrap-up Conference for the LakeAdmin project culminated in a hands-on lake experience. Such a day was densely-packed with meaning, as it took place along the banks of Lago del Salto where members of the European delegation, alongside members of the Rieti State Forestry Corps and its General, with workers and technicians in the Environmental Sector of the Province of Rieti, witnessed the beauty and potential for development that lakes and reservoirs have to offer, as they saw how an advanced and fully-integrated project can serve as a useful tool in raising management and project standards.

Of particular importance regarding relative governing aspects of lakes was the contribution offered up by E.On. spa., an international company and owner of the reservoir. Upon arrival at the dam the E.on. spa director discussed the peculiarities of the structure while providing relative information regarding the reserve and its technical construction. Next up were the Arpa Lazio technicians who put into effect a series of water monitoring activities. Yet another noteworthy moment was drawn

up by the lake's tourism workers and professional fishermen who welcomed the European delegates to help out in retrieving and managing fishing nets. Such tourism professionals tied their experience to potential recreational downtime activity from a lake's perspective.

River Contracts: a new national planning instrument for lake and river areas

A delegation from the Rieti Provincial Administration attended the IX National Table of River Contracts (CdF) held in Venice last 18-19 November 2014.

River Contracts are national and voluntary instruments of governance held over multi-township areas placed within the internal network of bodies of water (river branches, lakes, basins, outlets, coasts etc.) that implement new logic. The aim is to reunite private and public partners with the purpose of developing agreements and commitments to territory maintenance, implementation of an environmentally sound agriculture, ecologically productive areas and a correct use of soil.

The calendar year of 2014, building upon River Contracts, saw a series of important developments in terms of institutional planning. Of particular interest is how last September the Chamber's Environmental Committee made positive changes to legislation by inserting the River Contract into established law (Legislative Decree no. 152/2006 and subsequent modifications).

Such a great leap forward is additionally confirmed by 8 Regions who have adhered to the National Chart³ for River Contracts along with 5 others currently working towards the same objective.

River Contracts – or Lake, Basin, Coastal, Waterway – represent an evolving revolution that starts from the ground up with democratic and communal procedures. A new way to react to the continuous collapse of hydrogeology in Italy, in order to contrast the erosion of an extremely vulnerable territory by means of excessive human intervention and constant lack of maintenance. Therefore, the implementation of UE Water Framework Directive 2000/60 (which introduces systematic policies for surface and underground water redevelopment) and UE Directive 2007/60 (relating to risk evaluation and management of flooding) indicate the absolute necessity for the implementation of effective processes in order to achieve goals in the protection of bodies of water and their surrounding areas

The IX CdF Table aims to provide support for the processes in place by creating four groups of work in the following topics:

- Recognition of the CdF at a national and regional scale, defining quality criteria;
- Support for the River Contracts (resources and opportunities);
- Implementing CdF strategies;
- Information, Promotion, Dissemination and internationalization of River Contracts.

The use of Work Groups pinpoints dealing with extremely significant themes such as: the definition of quality criteria, the institution of process observation, procedures for process implementation, using new 2014-2020 European programming instruments, instruments for communication, participation, training and accessibility to said processes

The participation of the Rieti Provincial Administration at the event was furthermore a proper occasion to exhibit the project's results and vision pertaining to the LakeAdmin initiative, as were displayed on a poster in the appropriate section during the course held on 19 November.

For more information visit <http://www.contrattidifiume.it>

Interreg Europe Programme launch event (Bologna, 2-3 December 2014)

The future of European Interregional Cooperation is called Interreg Europe, the new operational programme which will run from 2014 until 2020.

The City of Bologna, Italy, hosted on the last 2-3 December 2014 the two-day event where the new INTERREG EUROPE was launched. Two inspiring days of learning and networking with organisations from 30 European countries, which had the chance to get the latest information on the programme objectives and to start working on any of the four selected topics under INTERREG EUROPE: research and innovation, competitiveness of SMEs, low-carbon economy, the environment and resource efficiency.

Just like the Interreg IV C, this new programme is a valuable opportunity for potential applicants to get co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund for working with other regions, learning from each other and solving common challenges.

First call proposal foreseen in spring 2015.



More details are available here <http://www.interreg4c.eu/interreg-europe/>

