



# WATER USERS PARTNERSHIPS (WUP)

FOR EFFECTIVE WATER MANAGEMENT



# THE WUP CONCEPT

Water Users Partnership (WUP) is an innovative method to implement river basin based measures through local and regional stakeholder co-operation. The WUP concept involves stakeholders that either influence or are influenced by water in a given catchment area or by stakeholders that share an interest of the common water for different reasons, e.g. NGO:s, Water Authorities and the academic sector. The objective for each WUP is to gather local knowledge and expertise. Furthermore, the WUPs implement concrete actions that combat negative impacts from anthropogenic activities. They also assist and encourage municipal/regional and/or national/international authorities to do the same.

## SUCCESSFUL PILOT CASES OF WUPS

7 pilot areas in Sweden, Poland, Lithuania and Russia have acted as the base for managing water through Water Users Partnerships. Activities included organising local and regional stakeholders, and testing concrete pilot measures aiming at reducing the outflow of nutrients and hazardous sub-



Seven pilot areas where WUPs have been established during 2010-2012



stances. As a result, WUPs proved to be catalysts speeding up the implementation process and avoiding unnecessary obstacles. By collecting and analysing local data and merging local expertise each of the WUPs was able to conclude the unique features of its catchment area. The WUPs has also provided a deeper acceptance from the local community to implement required measures through their own involvement and understanding of the local area's problems and possibilities, where water is seen as a resource for local development.

## From local and regional to national and international

All of the drainage areas around the Baltic Sea are unique with different environmental problems and possibilities. A common solution solving their problems is therefore not possible, instead each and every area needs to identify and tackle their own concerns in their own way. At the same time it is crucial that experiences and knowledge learnt by each individual area are shared and spread around the entire Baltic Sea. Therefore the establishment of WUPs should now seek to become a recognized practice of water management on a wider scale.

### Support from

**EUSBSR** in the latest revised version of its Action Plan exemplifies Water Users Partnerships as an encouraged mean of river basin co-operation.

**HELCOM** has recognized WUPs as a unique approach to manage water through local and regional stakeholder participation.

**Euroregion Baltic** has listed facilitating water cooperation among its strategic actions and commits to support projects implementing WUPs at the political level through the members of its Water Core Group.

# WaterNets project

The Regional Council in Kalmar County has taken an initiative to further develop the WUP concept through the WaterNets project. WaterNets consortium includes also Union of the Baltic Cities Commission on Environment from Turku (FI), Coastal Research and Planning Institute of the Klaipeda University (LT) and South Baltic Water District Authority from Kalmar County (SE). The application for funding from the EUSBSR Seed Money Facility has been successful and current activities are targeted at submitting a complete application to the new Baltic Sea Region Programme for a main stage project at the end of 2014.

The central objective of WaterNets is to involve strategic stakeholders from all over the Baltic Sea region, therefore making WUPs recognized by all Water Authorities, at different levels, as an accepted approach of managing water at a local/regional level.

## Contact us

Project manager:

Tobias Facchini,  
The Regional Council in Kalmar  
County  
tel. +46 (0)480 44 83 83  
[tobias.facchini@rfkl.se](mailto:tobias.facchini@rfkl.se)

