

Abstract

The INTERREG IVB Project idea - Riverscape

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The overall aim of the RiverScape project is to strengthen, promote and put into practice the idea of Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) within the North-West-European territory. For this RiverScape will provide an internet-based platform accessible to everyone containing tools and methods for planning and execution of IRBM. These tools – models, methods and practices - are foreseen to become standards for North-West-Europe. Using the platform will lead to developing a common NWE approach to IRBM on different levels of scale. Pilot projects of NWE-territory covering various problems and scale of IRBM will demonstrate the performance of the platform and will serve for European reference for realising IRBM.

Focus will be put on tools being developed in former EU-funded projects (like NOFDP) and tools that can be used for planning and execution of projects attaining European policy expressed by EU Water Framework Directive, EU Flood Directive, plans for adaptation to climate change and by territorial cohesion strategies.

The platform will focus on providing tools for decision-making on various levels of scale (local-regional-catchment) by integrating water and other related sectors for the benefit of sustainable regional development (Lisbon and Gothenburg strategy), supported by public involvement (communication).

Riverscape focuses on the NWE program's priority 2: Sustainable management of natural resources and of natural and technical risks. The main topics are:

- Sharing knowledge and experience on tools for integrated river basin management and climate change
- Public participation and communication
- Project development, execution and evaluation
- Decision making and policy development

The WFD, FD and climate change require long term planning. In order to sustain support for this type of plans, Riverscape will develop an exit strategy for maintenance and user support after the formal 5-year project period, independent of structural EU funding.