

COOPERATION PLATFORM FOR STAKEHOLDERS

CHALLENGE

Small water bodies may experience a high anthropogenic pressure related to various land use and discharge from waste water treatment plants and industries in the drainage area. The lack of a holistic approach, decision support from local and regional authorities for integrated water management as well as vague cooperation among interest groups of the water basin may aggravate the situation.

SOLUTION: COOPERATION PLATFORM FOR DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS

Water Users Partnership (WUP) is a new method to implement measures through local and regional stakeholder cooperation. The WUP concept involves stakeholders that influence or are influenced by water in a given catchment area. The objective of the partnership is to gather local knowledge and expertise. Furthermore, the WUP implement concrete actions and innovative measures that combat negative impacts from anthropogenic activities. WUP provides an opportunity to establish efficient cooperation mechanisms between industrial companies and water utilities, and to organise a decision making process in a mutually beneficial manner. WUP also allows different stakeholders with opposite interests to find a common ground to act in an efficient and sustainable manner where environmental prosperity is taken as a first priority.

Project BEST- Better Efficiency for Industrial Sewage Treatment

MAIN STEPS TO CREATE WUP (in case of wastewater treatment)

Defining the main problem, such as quality of wastewater inflows to the municipal WWTP from industrial area

Defining main stakeholders and legal background for the partnership

Inviting all possible stakeholders to join the partnership

Establishing permanent secretariat which will maintain WUP operation

IMPLEMENTATION AND HISTORY OF THE TOOL

WUP in the Kaliningrad region was established in 2017 in Guryevsk Municipality as a subdivision of local deputy council (within the WaterNets RU project). The head of social issues commission (which is one of the Deputy Council commissions) chairs the WUP. Regular WUP meetings serve as a discussion platform where all water management issues can be raised. WUP constantly looks forward to enhancement of its membership and encourages different parties to join.

As the results of WUP awareness of conditions in catchment area of Guryevka River has been rising and strict cooperation between water users, authorities, WWTP and society has been established.



For more info
Project BEST- Better Efficiency for Industrial Sewage Treatment www.bestbalticproject.eu
Project WaterNets.ru <https://icld.se/en/article/cross-border-network-to-improve-water-quality>
(in English)
http://ecatk.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=categories&id=259&Itemid=420 (in Russian)

