

FINLAND

Local development

Location

Tampere

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P6 – Social inclusion & local development

Measure

M07 - Basic services & village renewal

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 20 703

EAFRD 7 826

National/Regional 10 807

Private 2 070

Project duration

2017 – 2017

Project promoter

The Water Protection Association of the River Kokemäenjoki

Contact

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<https://kvvy.fi/en/>

River management plan helps Finnish farmers improve aquatic ecosystems

Summary

A strategic management plan for the Orniemenjoki River territory in south-western Finland has been prepared with direct involvement of key stakeholders such as farmers and local authorities. Its proposals have identified rehabilitation actions that farmers can undertake voluntarily using CAP funding to improve water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and related green infrastructure.



Results

- A strategic territorial planning document establishing a coordinated package of water quality rehabilitation proposals for the Orniemenjoki River area.
- Improved awareness and motivation for agri-environment actions in the river catchment area.
- Increased recreational and educational opportunities.
- Identification of 12 sites for rehabilitation works such as small dam constructions and settling basins to help decrease erosion and nutrient leaching.

Lessons & Recommendations

- Integrated territorial planning approaches to river basin management can improve support synergies from public and private sectors.
- Involving key stakeholders throughout catchment management planning helps ensure the success of related proposals.
- Advisory services can be useful complements to planning processes.
- Positive local role models and good practice examples are useful tools for inspiring and motivating farmer participation.

Context

The Orniemenjoki River in the Punkalaidun municipality forms part of the Kokemäenjoki River water system in South-West Finland, which is the fifth largest water system in the country. Its catchment area of 27 000 km² covers seven different administrative regions and eight per cent of Finland's land territory. Its basin has some of the most fertile soils in Finland and is one of the most biodiverse water systems in the Nordic countries. Agriculture and industry are intensive land users in the river catchment area and this has affected the condition of the water system. To safeguard the river basin's sustainability, the Water Protection Association of the Kokemäenjoki River brought stakeholders together to implement and coordinate water management actions. These were to be overseen by local authorities and implemented with support from landowners on a voluntary basis using funds from the state and from other sources.

Objective

The purpose of this project was to develop a strategic territorial planning document for improving water quality in an agricultural area. The plan would reflect state-level water management approaches and help facilitate voluntary cooperation among landowners to implement water management actions.

Activities

The Water Protection Association of the Kokemäenjoki River prepared a comprehensive rehabilitation plan for the Orniemenjoki River area. This dealt with water management problems in the catchment area of the river such as flooding, erosion and waterlogging of fields. The plan's preparation was conducted in close cooperation with the local landowners and the Pohjoisseutu Farmers' Association. The project was supported by the Joutsenten Reitti LAG, the territory of which follows the Kokemäenjoki River for some 100 km.

Using LAG cooperation, the Water Protection Association organised field trips in the planning area for local landowners, citizens, and media.

Main results

- A strategic territorial planning document establishing a coordinated package of water quality rehabilitation proposals for the Orniemenjoki River area.
- The project raised awareness and motivation towards farm-based water management actions in the Orniemenjoki River catchment area.
- Increased recreational and educational opportunities within the project area.
- Identification of 12 sites where landowners could seek CAP support to implement rehabilitation works such as small dam constructions and settling basins to help decrease erosion and nutrient leaching.

Key lessons

- Integrated territorial planning approaches to river basin management are achievable and help to improve the coordination of support from different public and private sector stakeholders.
- All stakeholders should be involved during the development of catchment area plans from an early stage to ensure they are supportive and able to implement the activities being developed and proposed by the planning process.
- Advisory services can be useful complements to planning processes by using expertise to help clarify stakeholder queries and ensure common understanding about planning proposals.
- Positive local role models and good practice examples are useful tools for inspiring and motivating farmers and other key stakeholders to shift towards sustainable water management approaches.

Additional sources of information

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