

1. Media release:

PROLINE-CE – a new INTERREG project has been launched

In the upcoming three years the experts participating in the INTERREG project PROLINE-CE (Efficient Practices of Land Use Management Integrating Water Resources Protection and Non-structural Flood Mitigation Experiences) will focus on the preparation of transnational guidelines regarding an efficient protection of drinking water resources. This objective should be achieved through the development of sustainable and appropriate land use and management measures aiming at the mitigation as well as reduction of droughts and floods under the challenges of climate change. The newly elaborated measures will be implemented and tested in designated pilot areas.

An important aspect of this project, which is intended to be taken into account very critically, is to strengthen and foster close cooperation between all involved countries, regions and municipalities regarding the development of joint, sustainable strategies for the future. To underline and emphasize the importance of the chosen innovative approach of integrated water protection and its implementation at all levels of governance, renowned decision-makers from all seven participating countries (Austria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Slovenia) will be invited at the end of the project to sign jointly a "Declaration Charta".

The 13 project partners - agencies with a broad range of responsibilities at the national, regional or local level, among them water suppliers as well as research institutions - are participating in this INTERREG project funded by the Central Europe Programme 2014-2020 co-financed by the European Union. The Forest Department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management in Austria provides coordination and serves as Lead Partner.

The transnational character of the concerned issue as well as the broad-based project partnership will ensure that PROLINE-CE will not only provide valuable contributions to existing EU directives, such as the Water Framework or Flood Directive, but also deliver forward-looking recommendations being of equally pronounced relevance for regions beyond the Central European programme space (Danube and Alpine Space Programme, Adriatic-/ Ionic and Baltic programme area).