

2. Media release: INTERREG PROLINE-CE – project at the halfway point

The project consortium can look back on more than one and a half year of intensive work, since after the launching of PROLINE-CE in July 2016, not only a lot of reports were developed by the 13 project partners but also intensive activities within 10 different pilot areas have already been started, aiming at the improvement of existing land use management practices. All this should lead to an enhanced status of our drinking water concerning both quality and quantity.

First of all, surveys of the status-quo in each participating country were carried out. The resulting description of strengths and weaknesses as well as of experiences made within the first series of national stakeholder workshops were summarized in a transnational best management practice report and a catalogue of strategies and measures, to be integrated into existing policy guidelines.

According to the aforementioned studies, agriculture was identified as the land-use type that causes most significant pressures on water quality and quantity, mainly because of the conventional soil tillage and inadequate application of pesticides and fertilizers. Likewise, urban areas with sealed surfaces and insufficient sewage systems as well as poor forest management pose a serious risk from the aspects of water protection and defence against hazardous effects of floods.

Within the pilot areas – clustered according to their geographic specification and natural site characteristics and main land use – some of these conflicts regarding drinking water protection are currently surveyed in detail and necessary measures and actions to achieve a sustainable drinking water supply for the future are pointed out. The outcomes of the different pilot actions will contribute to a transnational action plan for achieving best functional patterns of land. It shall contain the sequence of steps in order to reach a smooth steering of using different land cover types within CE.

The first results will be presented to a broader audience and discussed during a mid-term-conference, which will be held in Ljubljana city center on June 13th, jointly organised with another INTERREG-project, CAMARO-D, funded by the Danube Transnational Programme.