

OUTPUT FACT SHEET

Pilot actions (including investment, if applicable)

Version 2

Project index number and acronym	CE110 - PROLINE-CE
Lead partner	BMNT
Output number and title	O.T2.1 PA Cluster 'Mountain Forests and Grasslands' - implementation, showcasing best management practices
Investment number and title (if applicable)	NA
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	T2 leader: University of Ljubljana, PP04 PA Cluster 1 leader: Roland Koeck, PP1
Project website	https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/PROLINE-CE.html
Delivery date	February 2019

Summary description of the pilot action (including investment, if applicable) explaining its experimental nature and demonstration character

The PROLINE-CE Pilot Action Cluster 1 'Mountain Forests and Grasslands' encompasses the Pilot Action PA1.1 Catchment area of the Vienna Water Supply, and PA1.2 Catchment area of Waidhofen/Ybbs. PA1.1 focuses on alpine pasture management and PA1.2 on forest management, both within the context of drinking water protection.

It was possible to demonstrate in PA1.1 the need to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the field of alpine pastures in order to ensure drinking water supply security. In the course of interactions with relevant stakeholders it was possible to showcase the need to change the business-as-usual behaviour of land users towards an adaptive management of the pastures. The BMPs clearly demonstrated the risk for drinking water supply security in case of continued business-as-usual land use practices. Those risks are in all cases related to water quality standards. The improvement potential of BMP implementation for both water supply security and land-use efficiency became visible for all related stakeholders.

In PA1.2 the urgent need for implementation of BMPs was demonstrated to the municipal council of Waidhofen/Ybbs. In the course of several meetings it was possible to convince the municipal council from the positive effect of BMP implementation on drinking water supply security. The BMPs demonstrated the evident risk of e.g. clear cut applications for drinking water supply security. In case of the second largest spring it was possible to demonstrate this risk also to forest owners who wanted to apply such a forest management practice during project time. This was prevented through direct stakeholder dialogues within PA 1.2, the forest owner is now open for BMP application. For the strategic implementation of the whole BMP package, the set-up process of the GWP (Guideline for securing the Water Protection functionality of the forest ecosystems within the DWPZ) within the municipal council was essential. This was accomplished in May 2018 by resolution of GWP through the municipal council. The GWP will ensure the sustained implementation of the defined BMPs.

NUTS region(s) concerned by the pilot action (relevant NUTS level)

The Pilot Action Cluster 1 encompasses the NUTS regions AT222 and AT223 in case of PA1.1 and the NUTS region AT121 in case of PA1.2.

Investment costs (EUR), if applicable

Not applicable.

Expected impact and benefits of the pilot action for the concerned territory and target groups and leverage of additional funds (if applicable)

The expected impacts and benefits of the Pilot Actions are definitely given. For PA1.1 of Cluster 1 it can be identified that the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for alpine pastures will influence this whole land-use type in the region (NUTS AT222 and NUTS AT223) as the discussion process about drinking water supply security and land use adaptation through BMP implementation was initialized in the project PROLINE-CE. The stakeholders, above all alpine pasture staff and water suppliers will continue thematizing the related issues as the discussion process was started. Benefits for both alpine pasture people and water suppliers are provided through a more efficient land-use management strategy. The impacts on the regional land-use development process are given far beyond project lifetime.

For PA1.2 of Cluster 1 it has to be highlighted that the resolution of the GWP (Guideline for securing the Water Protection functionality of the forest ecosystems within the DWPZ) has already a huge impact on the policy of the municipality of Waidhofen/Ybbs. The city council is informed about the need to implement BMPs for achieving a sustainable drinking water supply security. Land owners (forest owners) already face this situation and are not willed any more to risk their reputation by implementing bad management practices (e.g. clear cuts) which could endanger drinking water quality. Through the sustained application of GWP it will be possible to improve drinking water supply security for the city of Waidhofen/Ybbs and all related municipalities.

Sustainability of the pilot action results and transferability to other territories and stakeholders.

The results of Pilot Action Cluster 1 can be regarded as sustainable, as their impact on all related stakeholders will definitely last far beyond project lifetime.

In the case of PA1.1 the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for alpine pastures were communicated to alpine pasture staff and water suppliers. Both were convinced from the need of BMP implementation. Especially the water supplier will engage in the field of sustainable implementation of BMPs or also in the field of discussions with related stakeholders of the alpine pastures. Through continued efforts for BMP communication and implementation within PA 1.1 the sustainability of the pilot action results will be secured. The staff of Vienna Water will focus on these tasks in continuous way. It is possible to transfer the defined BMPs to other territories within the CE project space, but also to other regions where alpine pastures are existent. The science-based elaboration of the BMPs guarantees transferability and sustainability of the achieved results.

In the case of PA1.2 the achieved results show a high level of sustainability as the resolution of GWP (Guideline for securing the Water Protection functionality of the forest ecosystems within the DWPZ) through the city council ensures the implementation of all defined BMPs in the related DWPZ. In PA 1.2 the forest owners are invited to contract with the municipality of Waidhofen/Ybbs. These contracts with a validity of 10 years and intended prolongation will ensure the application of the defined BMPs far beyond project lifetime. The land

owners will receive PES (payments for ecosystem services) if they apply the BMP set which actually demands far more than the legally defined management rules. Forest owners show a high level of interest to enter into contract with the municipality. The defined BMPs are transferable to any other forested mountainous drinking water protection catchment area as those were elaborated science-based and have relevance at least in the humid climatic areas of the planet.

Lessons learned and added value of transnational cooperation of the pilot action implementation (including investment, if applicable)

The lessons learnt in Pilot Action Cluster 1 are related to communication processes and possibilities to convince stakeholders from the need to change, like e.g. business-as-usual forms of land-use management. It can be stated that profound knowledge about science-based Best Management Practices (BMPs) in both alpine pasture management and forestry within drinking water protection zones (DWPZ) is all times a good basis for the discussion and knowledge transfer process with all related stakeholders. They can only be convinced from the need to change land-use practices if they see that their cooperation partners are settled in the thematic field and that they can communicate at eye level.

The transnational cooperation ensures that various stakeholders, water suppliers and scientists in the partner countries are confronted with the thematic field of drinking water protection in relation to alpine pastures and forestry within DWPZ. It is of high relevance that the knowledge transfer and discussion process regarding the stated issues is encompassing various nations and stakeholders.

Contribution to/ compliance with:

- relevant regulatory requirements
- sustainable development - environmental effects. In case of risk of negative effects, mitigation measures introduced
- horizontal principles such as equal opportunities and non-discrimination

All activities within Pilot Action Cluster 1 (PAC1) contribute to and comply with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), with the EU Drinking Water Directive (DWD) and the Austrian Federal Water Act. This can be seen as essential as those directives and regulatory frameworks are of high relevance within the Central European programme area and of course for drinking water protection. It is necessary to fill those regulatory frameworks with life and to provide strategies for their active implementation. All the BMPs defined within PAC1 are contributing to this process.

The effects of the defined BMPs on sustainable development are given through their science-based elaboration, which includes also further environmental aspects. All defined BMPs can be regarded as especially oriented

towards environmental protection, as only stable and resilient ecosystems guarantee a sustained protection of water resources.

There cannot be identified any discrimination of related people within the DWPZ of PAC1. Above all it has to be highlighted that the sustainable provision of high quality drinking water in sufficient quantity can be regarded as basic condition for equal opportunities for all people living in a defined area of a DWPZ. High quality drinking water supply is basic condition for successful development of any given human society.

References to relevant deliverables (e.g. pilot action report, studies), investment factsheet and web-links

If applicable, additional documentation, pictures or images to be provided as annex

PROLINE-CE WORKPACKAGE T2, ACTIVITY T2.1 REPORTS:

- D.T2.1.2 Best management practices report. PILOT ACTION: PA 1.1 Catchment area of Vienna Water
- D.T2.1.2 Best management practices report. PILOT ACTION: PA 1.2 Catchment area of Waidhofen/Ybbs
- D.T2.1.4 Descriptive documentation of pilot actions and related issues. PILOT ACTION: PA1.1 Catchment area of Vienna Water
- D.T2.1.4 Descriptive documentation of pilot actions and related issues. PILOT ACTION: PA1.2 Catchment area of Waidhofen/Ybbs

PROLINE-CE WORKPACKAGE T2, ACTIVITY T2.2 REPORTS:

- D.T2.2.2 Partner-specific pilot action documentations. PILOT ACTION: PA1.1 Catchment area of Vienna Water
- D.T2.2.2 Partner-specific pilot action documentations. PILOT ACTION: PA1.2 Catchment area of Waidhofen/Ybbs
- D.T2.2.3 Pilot action cluster report: PILOT ACTION CLUSTER 1 - Mountain Forest and Grassland Sites

PROLINE-CE WORKPACKAGE T2, ACTIVITY T2.3 REPORTS:

- D.T2.3.1 Evaluation reports for each pilot action. PILOT ACTION: PA1.1 Catchment area of Vienna Water
- D.T2.3.1 Evaluation reports for each pilot action. PILOT ACTION: PA1.2 Catchment area of Waidhofen/Ybbs
- D.T2.3.3 PA reports about climate change issues in pilots. Transnational report
- D.T2.3.4 Strategic identification of needs for action for clusters. PILOT ACTION CLUSTER 1 - Mountain Forest and Grassland Sites