

# FIRST NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

JUNE 07<sup>TH</sup> 2017, BUDAPEST, HU

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Summary Notes

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## 1. Participating stakeholders

Organization	Participants
General Directorate of Water Management, Budapest (OVF)	Ágnes Tahy, Róbert Hegyi, Magdolna Ambrus, László Balatonyi, Mihály Keresztény, Márton Pesel (national public authority)
National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre, Forestry Science Institute, Budapest (NAIK,ERTI)	Attila Borovics, deputy director (higher education and research)
Debrecen University, Water and Environment Management Institute	János Tamás, head of institute (higher education and research)
Szent István Agriculture University, Gödöllő, Faculty of Water Management	István Waltner (higher education and research)
VTK Innosystem Ltd. Győr, adviser	Emil Janák (general public)
Budapest VIII. district Mayor's Office, Environment protection officer	Norbert Péter (local public authority)
Hungarian Army Chemical Protection and Information Center (GAVIK)	Dániel Dobos (national public authority)
Head Gardener of City of Nyíregyháza	Sándor Sigmond (local public authority)
Ministry of Agriculture, Freshwater Fisheries Division, Policy Officer (FM)	Csaba Csikai (national public authority)
Herman Ottó Institute Nonprofit Ltd. Environment and Nature Conservation Directorate	András Béres, Barbara Bezegh, Mátyás Prommer, Anna Farkas, Mihály Végh (other)
Association of Climate Friendly Settlements, president	Lajos Kovács (NGO)
Ministry of Agriculture, officer (FM)	Nadin Fadel (national public authority)
Ministry of Agriculture, Head of Department	Adrienn Baksa (national public authority)
Szent István Agriculture University, Gödöllő	Bernadett György (higher education and research)

Table 1 - First national stakeholder workshop participants (23 people)

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## 2. First national stakeholder workshop

The first national stakeholder workshop for the PROLINE-CE project was held on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 in the Conference Centre of Herman Ottó Institute (HOKK), in Budapest. The workshop is part of the thematic work package T1: Capitalization: Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement.

The aim of the workshop was to present the framework, the objectives and goals of the PROLINE-CE project, as well as the results achieved so far to the participating representatives. As organisers we targeted to reach a broad range of stakeholders in order to gain a good insight into the challenges of drinking water resources protection, thus we invited participants from various domains. Universities, scientific institutes, water management bodies, ministries, national parks, mayors offices mainly from those counties where the pilot areas are situated and NGOs concerned with environment and water protection. The input provided by the target groups is essential in further developing best management practices in land use for drinking water protection and flood/drought mitigation. Although the invitation to the workshop was widely distributed the participation was narrower than expected.



Picture 1. Workshop opening by Dr. András Béres, deputy executive of HOI Ltd.

The workshop was opened by a welcome speech of the deputy executive of HOI Nonprofit Ltd. Dr. András Béres, wishing a successful discussion and extension of an invitation to the lunch coming later and provided by the project.

Following the opening remarks Mr. Mihály Végh on behalf of the organizers draw the attention of the participants to a few practical tasks, as filling in and signing the list of participants, filling

in the questionnaires and providing them back to the organizers at the end of the workshop. The participants were asked to actively contribute to the efficient running of the workshop.

## 2.1. General presentation of the HOI project partner coordinator

Presentation “Innovative approach to the effective protection of drinking water supply” provided by Mr. Mihály Végh, policy officer of HOI, detailed the following points:



Picture 2. General presentation by Mr. Mihály Végh, policy officer HOI Ltd.

- General information on PROLINE-CE project (duration, budget, co-financing, etc.);
- Aim of the project, developing international guidelines and practical development tools for sustainable land use for the protection of drinking water resources;
- Pilot areas in Hungary;
- Involving a broad range of stakeholders, strengthening regional cooperation;
- “Road map” toward the “Declaration Charta”;
- Project Leader and Project Partner organisations.

## 2.2 Presentation of Mr. Mátyás Prommer on Best Management Practices, HOI project partner

Presentation “International overview of best practices” provided by Mr. Mátyás Prommer, policy officer of HOI, detailed the following points:

- Protection of drinking water resources by international cooperation and protecting them by mapping the best practices and sharing it by applying a habitat specific approach, carried out in 7 partner countries;



Picture 3. Best practices presentation by Mr. Mátyás Prommer, policy officer, HOI Ltd.

- In case of forests in different countries various approaches to management can be detected; although no unified EU regulation exists but a demand for developing “multi-functional forest” is present;
- Grasslands are the most modified habitats, decreasing in their size, endangered by afforestation, appearance of invasive species and nitrogen deposition; need for further legislation and additional conservation efforts, focussing on ecosystem services aspects and adequately financed projects for regional cooperation efforts;
- Wetlands as most productive ecosystems, with high biodiversity degree are also the most endangered ecosystems as well. Usually are interlinked with other systems, thus a strong transnational regulation is needed.
- Agricultural areas have the most significant shaping effect on European landscapes. Soil erosion, compacting strongly can influence water quality aspects. There is a trend of

turning towards ecological services and for finding new innovative tools for drinking water resource protection.

## 2.3 Presentation of Ms. Ágnes Tahy on discussion themes for the stakeholder workshop, OVF representative

- Efficiency of legislation on protection of drinking water resources
- Vegetation regulations interventions on floodplains (flood risk management)
- Draught strategy - effects of irrigation development on water resources
- A specific discussion theme, the question of agro-forestry was raised, which generated very lively discussions later on during the workshop



Picture 4. Presentation of workshop discussion themes, Ms. Ágnes Tahy, OVF

## 2.4 Presentation of Attila Borovics, Forestry Science Institute, on agro forestry practices as a new approach to agricultural production, water resources protection and nature conservation

- Potential new/old role of trees within the agriculture: protection, hedgerows, bee pastures, alternative income source, forming mosaic-like landscapes, increasing biodiversity, creating favourable micro-climatic conditions, etc.,
- Why agro-forestry is popular again: using natural resources in a sustainable way, generates new sources of income, functioning as a “joyful” job, creates basis for producing premium quality raw food materials, etc.,



Picture 5. Presentation on agro-forestry theme by Mr. Attila Borovics, ERTI

- Thus one of the most urgent tasks is to bring in harmony the objectives of forestry, water management and nature conservation,
- In the future, the pure water will be one of the most valuable products of forestry like timber or other non-timber forestry products.

## 3 Interactive stakeholder discussion

According to the instructions on “Targeted events” and “First national stakeholder workshop series” the second part of the workshop was aiming at discussing the themes indicated by



speakers during their previous presentations. The audience decided not to break-up into smaller groups as the size of the group could ensure an efficient discussion on the planned topics.

After the lunch break provided by the host of the event (HOI Ltd.) the participants returned for the discussion and were asked to discuss the selected topics. The moderated discussion became very lively and different opinions were debated. The discussion was moderated by the representatives of the PP HOI and PP OVF.

The topics were:

- efficiency of legislation on protection of drinking water resources
- vegetation regulations interventions on floodplains (flood risk management)
- draught strategy - effects of irrigation development on water resources
- as specific discussion theme the question of agro-forestry was raised, which generated very lively discussions later on, around the end of the workshop.

Items discussed and considered as important to deal with in the continuation of the project:

- In Hungary forests appear as clusters not as land cadastre data
- it would be desirable to turn some agricultural areas into wooded lands
- need for enhancing the adaptation potential is important
- promotion of “Silva pastorata” initiative supporting the regulated grazing in forested areas, even in orchards
- EU practices are more flexible than HU ones
- greening is an important issue
- need to turn towards a complex landscape utilization
- it is crucial the arrangement of land ownership situation
- use of remote sensing could be an efficient tool
- targeting a water catchment level thinking/approach
- reasonable development of irrigation; not only investments should be done as development but a reasonable and cost efficient management is desirable as well
- introducing water saving technologies is a must.

Afterwards, the representative of the PP HOI Ltd, Mr. Mihály Végh closed the workshop with some final remarks, and requested the participants to give back or fill-in and then send back the questionnaires to HOI. He thanked also for the active participation of speakers, experts and other attendees.

As follow up, the summary notes of the workshop, the PowerPoint presentations, the list of participants and expression of appreciation to all attendees will be sent out.