



WATER PRO



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Sharing best practice to improve water quality



Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme
2014–2020



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in your future
European Regional Development Fund

Background

While the agriculture and mining extractive industries are important sectors for the economy of Northern Periphery and Arctic areas, their activities cause significant risk to the vulnerable environment through water and land pollution.

Nutrients in agricultural runoff are one of the major contributors to eutrophication and algae blooms. Ammonium nitrate based explosives used in mining operations often result in nitrogen leachate via runoff.

Global climate change will increase the frequency of floods and water runoff volumes in Northern Periphery and Arctic areas increasing yet further the potential for pollution.

The Challenge

The expertise in water and stormwater runoff management in the Northern Periphery and Arctic region is scattered and unequally distributed and needs to be strengthened in order to ensure continuous economic growth while protecting natural resources.

The tight water quality targets set by the Water Framework Directive will require new and more comprehensive tools to prepare regional and local authorities and local communities for current and future challenges.

Given the lack of expertise, interdisciplinary and international collaboration is essential to enable knowledge transfer and stimulate innovation in good management practices.





The Goal

The overarching goal of WaterPro is to develop eco-efficient tools and models for water and storm runoff management practices and environmental protection for the Northern Periphery and Arctic sparsely populated region.

This will be done through development of a Tool-Box of good management practices and a communication platform for agriculture and mining extraction runoff management. In addition, several innovative, low cost practices will be implemented in actual pilot sites and their treatment and cost-efficiency evaluated.

The ultimate goal of WaterPro is to enhance the preparedness of responsible authorities and local resource users to protect the water quality of the Northern Periphery and Arctic region's coast and freshwater, protect human health and ecosystems and stimulate sustainable economic growth & development.



Objectives

Provide more eco-efficient runoff management tools and models in the Northern Periphery Area in anticipation of the worsening effects of climate change.

Provide a faster transfer of knowledge and develop wider cooperation within the Northern Periphery Area for improving runoff management systems and techniques.





Partners will:

Carry out a literature review of good practices in agriculture and water management in extractive industries in Northern Periphery and Arctic areas.

Create a good practice guide, which can be used to compare different practices which can support decision-making for authorities and operators when selecting different measures.

Construct a communication and collaboration model which can be tested and further developed in real environments.

Develop ideas by learning from co-partners and organizations.

Project Partners:

Savonia University of Applied Science, Lead Partner (Finland)

Geological Survey of Finland (Finland)

Luleå University of Technology (Sweden)

Agricultural University of Iceland (Iceland)

Lough Neagh Partnership (North Ireland)

Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (North Ireland)

Heriot Watt University (Scotland)

Donegal County Council (Ireland)

Agricultural Agency (Faroe Islands)

Also including 17 associated partners from the Northern Periphery and Arctic areas (including local and regional authorities, enterprises, sectoral agencies and interest groups representing the main target groups & stakeholders).

