LABEL Midterm – conference: A successful event

From 24th to 26th November 2010 the midterm conference of the INTERREG IVB project LABEL took place in Martfü, Hungary.

The event was well attended with over 120 participants and allowed a deepened exchange between the project stakeholders in the Elbe catchment and the responsible in the Danube catchment area. The midterm results of LABEL were presented and critically reflected by means of the Hungarian perspective of Danube and Tisza.

On the first day the main focus was on flood risk management and the implementation of the EU flood risk management directive. Besides the presentation of the interim results of the LABEL Working Group RISK, the Hungarian approaches were presented in several presentations of different areas of expertise. In spite of partly different problems the representatives of the specific states, countries and regions identified and discussed lots of common ideas.

The following day addressed the adaption to flood risks. The mid-term results from LABEL to the topics housing in risk areas, tourism and navigability were presented and discussed with the Hungarian experts. A joint final discussion focused the main messages of the conference.

The event was concluded with an excursion to retention polders at the Tisza, finalized in 2010.
Politics workshop on the topic water tourism

Based on the results of the regional tourism studies, which are part of the project LABEL, evolved the wish of a joint politics workshop on the topic water tourism with the aim to discuss the identified common aspects, and to communicate them to the relevant stakeholders.

Beside the administrative districts and touristic associations, many small and medium touristic enterprises of the Elbe region showed interest in the workshop. Furthermore, regional and national administrations, as well as chambers of industry and commerce took part.

The workshop focused on networking. In different working groups the opportunities and potentials of tourism along the Elbe were defined and recommendations for improvement of the risk adapted water tourism were compiled.

Furthermore, all representatives asked for a closer cooperation in the Elbe area. This is no easy task due to large differences in infrastructural facilities in the regions. For further development of the infrastructure along the Czech part of the Elbe, the Czech Ministry for Regional Development announced subsidies. The Ministry of Economy Saxony-Anhalt, affirmed its intentions for closer coordination of water tourism activities along the Elbe. Representatives of existing water-tourism networks underlined that a future joint marketing of the Elbe tourism should be aspired.

Responsible partner: Ministry of State Development and Transport, Saxony-Anhalt (MLV), DE; Ludwigslust County, DE, in collaboration with the chamber of industry and commerce (IHK) Magdeburg, DE. Pictures: Foto Müller, Stendal

More information: http://www.label-eu.eu/events/workshop-on-water-tourism.html

Tourism at the European watershed between Danube and Elbe

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria accomplishes a study within the project LABEL, in which cross border strategies for adaptation to the rising flood risk in the Austrian Elbe catchment area are developed: A characteristic in the area is the Schwarzenberg'sche Schwemmkanal, a man made water way over the watershed between Danube and Elbe, which primarily was created for timber transport to Vienna. In close cooperation with the Czech Region of South Bohemia the sustainable touristic use, combined with environmental aspects, will be enhanced across borders.

Special focus is laid on environmental education of the visitors regarding the water related protection function of the forest. Even the recent political history of the border region is hardly prepared.

The following ways of improving the tourism potential are seen:

• Completion of the visitor information system at the canal
• Development of a educational trail along the alluvial canal
• Design a Folder
• Development of school offers
• Reconstruction of the guiding system for visitors alongside the alluvial canal

Responsible Partner: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria, AU
LABEL – A convincing example of European Spatial Development

An important basis for the project LABEL is the realization, that sustainable flood prevention in the Elbe catchment area requires a multinational and interdisciplinary acting. In these premises joint strategies and specific measures are prepared. In this respect the project provides a convincing description, how to solve the cross border challenge „Risk management“ in an European collaboration.

The German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS) integrated the project as a successful example into the event „Territorial agenda in action! On the way to an European spatial development policy“, which took place on the 1st March 2011 in Berlin, Germany.

The speech of Dr. Peter Heiland from the consultant office INFRA-STRUKTUR & UMWELT, Prof. Böhm und Partner demonstrated the surplus value of a transnational approach as well as the potential for improvement for the instrument INTERREG B.

About 250 representatives of politics and administration visited the conference, including distinguished guests like the EU- commissioner for regional politics, Dr. Hahn, and Dr. Scheuer, Parliamentary State Secretary in the BMVBS.

Further information: http://www.label-eu.eu/events.html

Responsible partner: Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development e.V. (DV), DE;
Pictures: Christian Huttenloher, DV

LABEL moving exhibition on its way from May 2011 on

The LABEL moving exhibition is mainly based on the successful moving exhibition of the previous project ELLA. In the last weeks, an update and completion of the material was advanced. From May on, the LABEL exhibition can be visited in the partner regions.

Further information: http://www.label-eu.eu/events.html

Water tourism in Pilsen Region

The development of water tourism in Pilsen Region has a lot of potential, especially for vacation and sport navigation along smaller rivers. The use, further development and expansion of the infrastructure though is affected by existing flood risks.

The association DHV CR GmbH realized the study “Evaluation of the conditions for water tourism in Pilsen Region” within LABEL. The focus lies on the evaluation of the existing infrastructure alongside the rivers Berounka and Otava, and the complex use of the tourism potential.

Specific problems in flood risk areas were identified, possible solutions for single locations suggested, and further measures for an adapted development of water tourism recommended. Six of the 36 analyzed camping grounds proved unsuitable concerning the flood protection. It is therefore useful to involve the potentials of water tourism within the improvement of flood protection.

Based on an upcoming workshop, the measures for support of water tourism in Pilsen Region will be integrated into the maps of the municipalities and the region.

Responsible partner: Pilsen Region (Plzensky kraj), CZ; assigned with the study: Association DHV CR GmbH;
Pictures: Region Pilsen
**LABEL - Headlines**

Conference „Elbe without borders“ of the projects LABEL and SAWA from 14th to 15th June 2011 in Hamburg, DE

Die INTERREG IV B Projects LABEL and SAWA deal with adaptation to flood risks in two different programme areas. The two days conference enables a deepened exchange between the activities of the projects LABEL and SAWA and their project partners as well as with further interested stakeholders. You will find more information here:

http://www.label-eu.eu/events/elbe-without-borders-hamburg.html

Politics workshop from 13th to 14th April 2011 in Prague, CZ

A politics workshop concerning flood protection in a regional and transnational context will take place in April. You will find more information and the official application here:

http://www.label-eu.eu/events/politics-workshop-prague.html

Workshop on legal issues in international river catchments

A workshop concerning the upstream-downstream-problem concerning measures of the preventive flood protection in international river catchments took place from 20th to 21st January 2011 in Dresden, Germany. Among other things it was discussed, whether the existing instruments are necessary, appropriate and sufficient to allow an optimal balance of interests between the parties. For more information and the documentation of the workshop see:


**The LABEL Partnership**

**Germany**

Lead Partner / PP 1: Saxon State Ministry of the Interior

PP 2: Ministry of State Development and Transport, Saxony-Anhalt

PP 3: Thuringian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Nature Preservation

PP 4: Saxon State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture

PP 5: Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture and Geology

PP 6: Ludwigslust County

PP 7: German Federal Institute for Hydrology

PP 8: Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development e.V.

**Czech Republic**

PP 9: Ministry of the Environment,

PP 10: Usti Region

PP 11: Region of South Bohemia

PP 12: Pilsen Region

PP 13: Hradec Králové Region

PP 14: Central Bohemia Region

PP 15: Liberec Region

PP 16: Pardubice Region

PP 17: Elbe River Basin Authority

PP 18: Vitava River Basin Authority

**Austria**

PP 19: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

**Hungary**

PP 20: Middle-Tisza district Environment and Water Directorate

**CONTACT**

**Saxon State Ministry of the Interior:**

Wilhelm-Buck-Str. 2
D-01095 Dresden

Dr. Fritz Schnabel
Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Kühl

Tel.: +49 (0)351 / 564-3456
Fax: +49 (0)351 / 564-3459

Mail: regionalentwicklung.eu@smi.sachsen.de

**External Coordination:**

**INFRASTRUKTUR & UMWELT**

Professor Böhm und Partner

Julius-Reiber-Str. 17
D-64293 Darmstadt

Dr. Peter Heiland
Dipl.-Geogr. Stefanie Greis
Dipl.-Ing. Uwe Seibel

Tel.: +49 (0)6151 / 8130-0
Fax: +49 (0)6151 / 8130-20

Mail: label@iu-info.de