



SWARE News

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Issue No.5



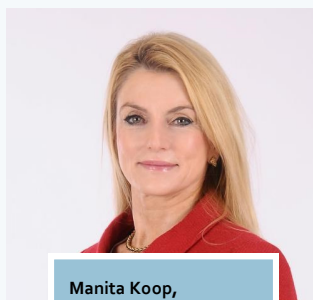
Photo: the core team of SWARE project

Time to act – until 2020 and beyond

The last 2 years of the SWARE project, and by that, Phase 2, have officially begun with the Thematic Working Group meeting in Vidzeme Planning Region last September. Until 2020 and beyond, partners will implement and monitor their regional action plans, that will showcase the success of this interregional cooperation project.

Several successes have already been achieved. For some partners, it was the first time the regional authorities managed to bring together a group of stakeholders on the issue of water heritage. For others, this bond has been strengthened. It is important to continue

this process, and to keep listening to the voices of the region for a better governance and policy. Thus SWARE project will also continue writing the overarching policy recommendations towards the EU institutions for a better sustainable heritage management of waterway regions. Because the project's success is both dependent on regional cooperation and action and, even so importantly, inter-regional cooperation and shared actions for the future.



Manita Koop,
Managing Director

Inside this issue

- Video
- Final partner meeting of Phase 1
- Overarching Policy Recommendations paper
- Full texts of 5 regional Action Plans



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The last 2,5 years for project SWARE has mainly been about **analysing** the existing situations and the improvements needed that was later followed by **interregional knowledge exchange** and action plan drafting.

The effort has resulted into **5 regional action plans**.

Each of those documents focuses on how to fill the gap between the current and the required on a regional scale.



This **video** gives a short insight into the process of good practice transfer and the outcome – the 5 action plans.



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Partners meet in Vidzeme (Latvia)

Closure of Phase 1

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The core team of SWARE in Vidzeme Planning Region, Latvia.

The waterways regions have a special identity, –

was the idea shared during the meeting in Latvia organized by Vidzeme Planning Region on September 20–21. This was the last partner meeting of Phase 1, where the results achieved so far in the project were wrapped-up and evaluated.

During the SWARE project some **overall lessons learnt** were identified:

- It is crucial to have a common vision/goal that translates into a common strategy and a common execution
- Branding is much more than just a communication activity, it also includes spatial planning and development
- Visionary entrepreneurs and volunteers are key factors for success
- Celebration of the successes stimulate the opportunity of more successful projects in the future



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Partners meet in Vidzeme Closure of Phase 1



SWARE Team in Valmiera, welcomed by Vidzeme Planning Region.

Introduction to the city's cultural heritage and history, as well as the use of the „main street” – River Gauja.



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The main results at the end of Phase 1

Action Plans

During the meeting each partner presented the elaborated regional action plan that aims to improve the existing situations and policy instruments of the respective region.

→ **The full text of each action plan** can be found [HERE](#).

The challenge has been to identify the most appropriate **transferrable good practices** learnt from partners and define the **actions** and **roles** attributed to each stakeholder group.

A **shared vision** between all stakeholders is a key to improvements and development.

Overarching Policy Recommendations Paper

During Phase 1 of the SWARE project it was concluded that we are 5 so different regions that have very similar problems related to the management of natural and cultural heritage along inland waterways, therefore it is a reasonable ground for recommendations to tackle these issues also on EU level.

Hence, it was decided to prepare an **overarching document** to **EU institutions** defining precise problems that we share

The elaboration of the document will continue in Phase 2 and, when ready, it will be available on the project's webpage, Library section [HERE](#).



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Stakeholder involvement and consultation

The Action Plan elaboration was conducted in close cooperation with the relevant stakeholders, **discussing** the action plan content in several meetings and **asking for their opinion**, as well as **explaining the role** attributed to them.

The **stakeholder groups are mostly composed of** representatives from public institutions, local governments, NGOs, associations, social enterprises and foundations, destination management organizations, as well as research and educational institutions.



Lelde Ābele (VPR) presents the Action Plan for Vidzeme Region to the stakeholders



Daniele Zucchelli, Edo Bricchetti, Dario Parravicini (MCM) present the Action Plan for Metropolitan City of Milan to the stakeholders



Zoltan Bara (Pons-Danubii) in discussions with stakeholders

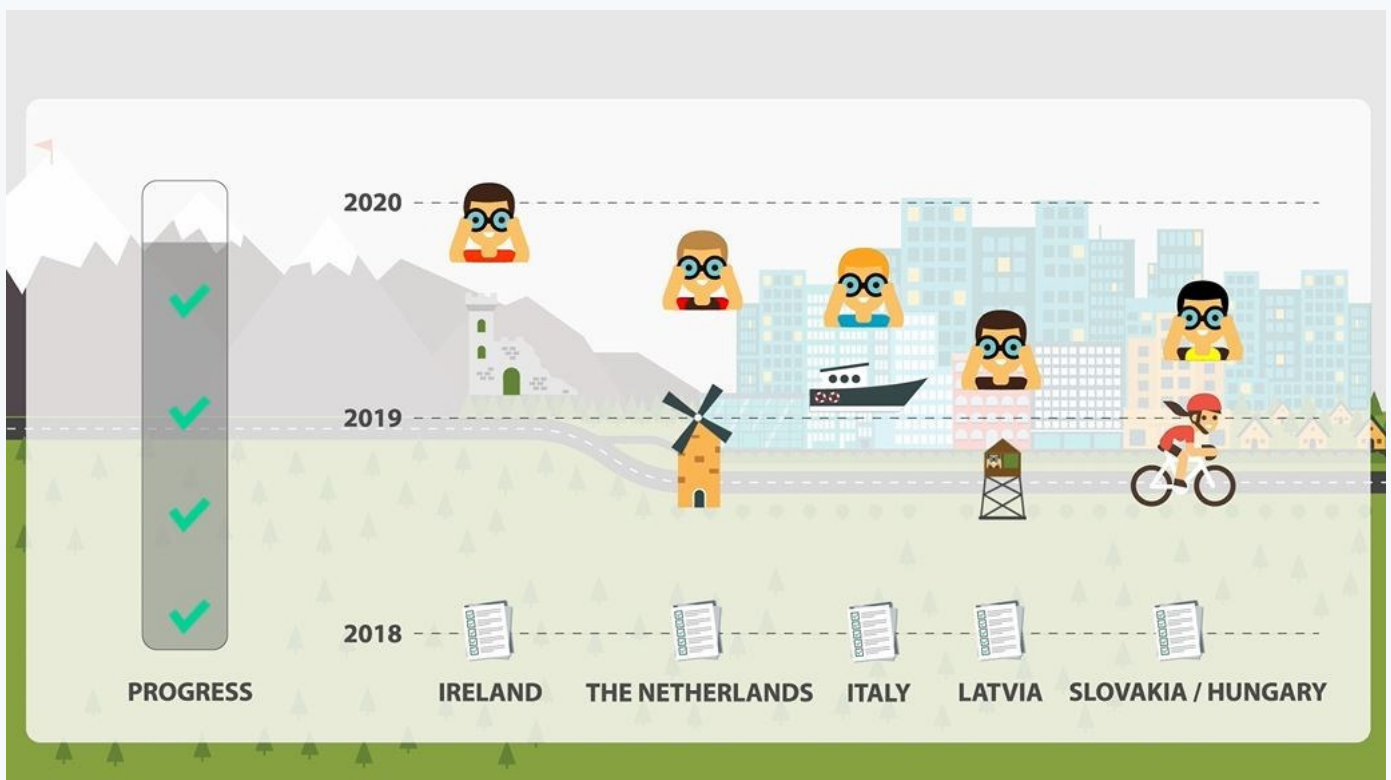
During the last meeting in Vidzeme, partners admitted that **collaboration with the established stakeholder groups will continue** and they will be involved in the monitoring process of



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Stepping into Phase 2: Monitoring



During the next 2 years until 2020 the recommended actions included in the Action Plans will be enforced and partners will monitor the progress.



The project **SWARE** keywords

dialogue among
stakeholders



interregional
policy learning



policy
improvements
sought related
to heritage
management



lessons learnt
incorporated into
action plans

valorisation of
heritage potential



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