

PROJECT INFORMATION

As at end of the project in June 2006

Republic of Lithuania – Russian Federation, Kaliningrad region – Project phase II: Consequences of the EU WFD for transboundary river basin management



Map of the project region, source: Wiki Commons

Background

After joining the European Union on 1 May 2004 the new EU member state Lithuania had to implement – among others – the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The implementation required a complex reassessment of water bodies of an unprecedented kind. In addition, many of Lithuania's surface waters and groundwaters spread out into non-EU countries, e.g. the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation. The reassessment of these transboundary waters and the preparation of programmes of measures to ensure "good ecological and chemical status" of these water bodies require close cooperation between the riparian states. The improvement of cooperation between the EU member state Lithuania and the

Kaliningrad region / Russian Federation therefore was an important goal of the project.

Project

The goal of the project was to implement the provisions of the WFD exemplarily in a pilot area. The project partners chose the region around Sovetsk and Neman, bordering the Russian Federation, for this purpose. In this region, water supplies were expected to be at risk in the medium term due to overuse and pollution of groundwater resources. In the course of the project, the project partners determined the exact causes of this threat and developed a transboundary management plan together with the Russian counterparts. The plan set the starting point for sustainable water supply in the region.

Regular workshops and meetings of German, Lithuanian and Russian experts ensured an intensive exchange of information and experiences.

- Programme: Advising-assistance programme of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- Project number: 380 01 103
- Region: Lithuania/Kaliningrad
- Duration: 09/2004 – 03/2006
- Project Management: German Federal Environment Agency
- Project Partner Germany: HGN Hydrogeologie GmbH, Nordhausen; www.wasser-hgn.de

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