Travel report

Networking visit to the integrated LIFE project of „Coast2Coast Climate Challenge"

May 23, 2019 – Central Region of Denmark

Within the framework of a multi-day Danish networking visit, the second Danish partner we visited was an integrated LIFE project, which main objective is to support the implementation of the CCA (Climate Change Adaptation) plans developed by the Danish municipalities, and to promote the integration of these plans into landscaping. The all-around objective of the C2CCC project is to create settlements resistant to the negative effects of climate change, so-called climate resistant settlements, in a climate resistant region, with the involvement of locally affected people.

The Coast2Coast Climate Challenge IP project was an excellent opportunity to learn about this new and innovative type of project, the integrated project. The project coordinator is the regional agency, and the partnership involves municipalities, universities, public utility companies, NGOs, companies and the Permanent Representation in Brussels. In addition, a circle of broad range of supportive partners was established, with central administration institutions and other companies. Although the 6-year project is only over of its first 2 years, they have already begun to set up a coordinating organization after project's completion.

As part of the integrated project, 24 sub-projects (actions) are carried out, most of which are independent units, under the responsibility of a municipality, while the coordinating beneficiary implements all sub-projects assisting all partners along three horizontal objectives. Examples include the dissemination of knowledge and the change in attitude, and making innovation results available to partners. They have created a drainage and groundwater model based on a full-scale terrain model (available for free by the central government). The system is available free of charge to the 28 municipalities during the six years of the project, and can be used for all types of design and modelling tasks. The basis for online display is provided by SCALGO LIVE software.

Adapting to the effects of climate change in Denmark is an increasingly important political and economic issue; therefore, in addition to the implementation of the IP, a number of other corporate, state and local administrative initiatives are in progress supporting each other. Besides, they involve additional investments, which encouragement and support is a horizontal task expected from the IP.

As a first step, we visited the AquaGlobe Institute, a lifelong learning project that connects Danish water actors as a knowledge base and collects and demonstrates innovative solutions. The Skanderborg Waterworks, which coordinates AquaGlobe, works on a number of projects addressing the problem of the increasing amount of rainfall. Among other things,

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they want to show that rainwater is a value for residents and users of facilities, so they plan their rainwater management solutions accordingly, while also effectively stepping up in the prevention of floods.

We visited one of the 24 subprojects (Låsby Søpark), where a green area for the reception and temporary storage of rainwater was established in the settlement area near the local sports center. The purpose of the subproject is to protect the residents of the village of Låsby from the increasing amount of water, from floods caused by flash floods, but also being the center of community, game and exercise. They have recognized the need for cooperation and complex solutions if Danish (small) cities wish to effectively adapt to climate change and to the more and more unpredictable water flow. Surveys have shown that innovative solutions carried out in partnership (municipal cooperation) cost 70% less to the Municipality than if they had chosen traditional solutions.

We also visited the Gudenå River (Denmark's longest river), which for its size and the number of actors involved, poses many challenges for project implementers. They would like to develop a hydrological model in the project that could estimate the rise of the water level in the Gudenå River. (It is interesting that there is a flooded lake on the river, where the built-in power of the still operating hydroelectric power plant, delivered in 1921, is less than

half the performance of a modern wind turbine. For this reason, it is likely that the power plant will be shut down after 2022 and the lake will be maintained only for its recreational functions.) In addition, various scenarios will be presented in the project, which will illustrate the impact of project actions on nature, water quality and CO2 emission and their consequences. In addition to innovative solutions, the importance of “soft” elements was also highlighted, as well as the importance of comprehensive information and preparation of information materials for land owners living and working along the river, and also to involve and inform stakeholders and residents on the project during group activities.

It has been an important experience to see that communication activities have a prominent role in the project, as well as technical solutions. Getting to know the structure of the LIFE IP project was also an important experience, which would be useful for the development of a potential Hungarian LIFE IP project.

More about the project (in English):

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=6139

http://www.c2ccc.eu/

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