

TWINNING FINAL REPORT



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

TWINNING PROJECTS

FINAL REPORT

Project Title: Implementation of the new bathing water directive 2006/7/EC in Estonia

**Partners: Health Protection Inspectorate of Estonian
Umweltbundesamt GmbH, Austria**

Date: 20th Oktober 2009

Section 1: Project data

Twining Contract Number	EE06-IB-TWP-ESC-02
Project Title:	Implementation of the new bathing water directive 2006/7/EC in Estonia
Twining Partners (MS and BC)	Health Protection Inspectorate of Estonian Umweltbundesamt GmbH, Austria
Duration of the project:	8 th December 2008 – 7 th October 2009
MS Project leader:	Arnulf Schönbauer
BC Project leader:	Dr. Tiiu Aro

Section 2: Content

This section describes the activities of the project. It is divided in nine sub-sections.

2A – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2B – BACKGROUND

2C – IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

2D – ACHIEVEMENT OF MANDATORY RESULTS

2E – IMPACT

2F – FOLLOW-UP AND SUSTAINABILITY

2G –CONCLUSIONS

2H – FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

2I – ANNEXES

Abbreviations

BC	Beneficiary Country
HPI	Health Protection Inspectorate of Estonia
MS	Member State
PL	Project Leader
PM	Project Manager
STE	Short-Term Expert
UBA	Umweltbundesamt (Austrian Environmental Agency)

2A - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the project was to support the Health Inspectorate of Estonia in the implementation of the Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC in Estonia.

The nine project activities were focusing on the preparation of guidelines for administrative staff involved in the implementation of the Directive, compilation of five bathing water profiles and capacity building activities.

Following guidelines were prepared:

- Guidelines for compiling bathing water profiles for the health protection specialists
- Guidelines for management of bathing sites for the health protection specialists
- Guidelines concerning physical environment of bathing sites, surveillance activities, quality management and informing publicity for owners of bathing sites

The five bathing water profiles were prepared for following sites:

1. Stroomi beach (seaside) – in Tallinn
2. Võsu beach (seaside) – in Lääne-Virumaa county, in Võsu settlement
3. Kauksi beach (Lake Peipsi) – in Ida-Virumaa county, in Iisaku municipality
4. Pühajärve beach (Lake Pühajärv) – in Valgamaa county, in Otepää town
5. Pärnu beach (seaside) – in Pärnu town (Pärnumaa county)

Training was provided to staff from the Health Protection Inspectorate and the specialists of local governments were informed on the new requirements concerning bathing waters.

2B - BACKGROUND

Starting Point

The Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC was replaced by “Directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 February 2006, concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC”, which sets new standards for bathing water management. The directive was adopted by Estonia with the Decree of the Government No. 74 from 03.04.2008 “Requirements to bathing waters and bathing sites”.

New requirements of the Directive 2006/7/EC are the necessity for preparing bathing water profiles, to encourage public participation in the implementation of the Directive and the introduction of different microbiological parameters.

The preparation of the bathing water profiles has to comply with legal norms defined in the directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

For the implementation of the Directive 2006/7/EC in Estonia, the responsible body is Health Protection Inspectorate.

In September 2008, Estonian has invited European Union member states to participate in the tender for the Twining Light project EE05-IB-TWP-ESC-02 with the aim to provide assistance in the implementation of the Directive 2006/7/EC.

In October 2008, the proposal from the Austrian Environment Agency was selected by the Estonian counter partners. Following, the twinning contract was prepared by the contracting authority and after signing the notification took place in December 2008.

The notification of the twinning contract took place on the 8th December 2008 with the Action's implementation period finishing on the 7th September 2009.

On 30th January 2009, the implementation phase (work plan) started.

Objectives

Overall Objective(s):

Minimisation of health risks caused by contaminated bathing waters and substandard bathing sites

Project purpose:

Implementation of bathing water directive 2006/7/EC in Estonia.

2C - IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Developments outside the project

During the implementation of the project no policy or law were changed in the Beneficiary Country. There were no unusual or unforeseen events, which affected the implementation of the project.

Project developments

In general, the project was undertaken as foreseen in the project proposal.

At the beginning of the project the HPI selected and contracted the map server to provide the facility for the publishing of bathing water profiles together with web maps.

No change of beneficiary country's staff occurred. Only one Short Term Expert had to be replaced by another one since she went at the middle of the project on maternity leave.

In course of the site visits in the 2nd week of June – attended by Estonian and Austrian Short Term Experts - it came evident, that the interpretation of information and data on the first five bathing water sites had to be carried out in a more comprehensive manner than anticipated. Consequently, the finalisation of the bathing water sites was not to be expected before the end of July. This caused a slight delay in the finalisation of the implementation period (work plan) and the action's implementation period (legal duration). With an addendum the implementation period (work plan) was extended till 14th September 2009 and the action's implementation period till 7th October 2009 (for one month).

The last activity of the project was to inform the owners of the bathing sites (staff from municipalities) about the requirements of the bathing water directive and on the new developed guidelines. An information day was planned for the last project month which was August 2009. Unfortunately, only very few people replied to the invitation. Therefore, the information day had to be postponed. In total, four information days were carried out in September and October 2009.

Project Reporting

Following Project Meetings were held:

- Kick-Off Meeting on 2nd February 2009
- 1st Steering Committee Meeting on 23rd March 2009
- 2nd Steering Committee Meeting on 26th June 2009
- 3rd Steering Committee Meeting (final) 31st August 2009

Project visibility

Project documents were prepared in line with the EU communication guidelines.

For the public information about the twinning project were made available on the website of the Health Protection Inspectorate.

The link to this website is: <http://www.tervisekaitse.ee/?mid=1108>

In the published bathing water profiles a reference was given to the European Commission Twining Light Programme as the source of funding for the support during the development.

In September 2009, a presentation on the objectives and the results of the twinning light project with reference to the European Commission Twining Light Programme was given at the National Conference of the Estonian Society of Health Protection.

2D - ACHIEVEMENT OF MANDATORY RESULTS

The project had six mandatory results to be achieved.

Mandatory result 1

Health protection officers (20) have the professional knowledge in compiling bathing water profiles, estimating the risks related to bathing waters and planning their resources.

For mandatory result 1 one benchmark were set up.

- 1) Health protection officers (20) have successfully completed the trainings on compiling bathing water profiles, estimating the risks related to bathing waters and planning their resources and are able to implement the acquired skills;

The approach for this capacity building activity was the train-the-trainer approach. In three missions (each lasting one week) over a time span of around 4 months (March to June) chief inspectors from the four regional offices were training in the compiling bathing water profiles, estimating the risks related to bathing waters and planning their resources.

Also the process of preparing the five first profiles contributed to the knowledge increase in the target group. Based on the draft guidelines, the inspectors started with the drafting of the profiles. During the subsequent mission and side visits in June 2009 STE and inspectors discussed and agreed on the improvement of the bathing water profiles. This "learning by doing approach" proved to be successful.

On 17th July 2009, the activity was completed when a wider group of inspectors from all of the regional offices and the head quarter were introduced in the guidelines and preparation of bathing water profiles.

Mandatory result 2

First bathing water profiles (5) have been compiled and published on the webpage of HPI.

For mandatory result 2 one benchmark were set up.

- 1) First bathing water profiles (5) have been published on the webpage of HPI

A data review and gap analysis started in the first STE mission and was finalised in the second. One result was that from the Estonian Information Centre a significant amount of data relevant for the bathing water profiles can be obtained.

Based on the draft guidelines from the STE (see mandatory result 4) chief inspectors from the four regional offices started with the drafting of the profiles in March 2009.

Following sites were chosen for the first five profiles:

- ❖ Stroomi beach (seaside) – in Tallinn, the bathing place owner is North-Tallinn Municipal Government;
- ❖ Võsu beach (seaside) – in Lääne-Virumaa county, in Võsu settlement; the bathing place owner is Vihula Rural Municipal Government;
- ❖ Kauksi beach (Lake Peipsi) – in Ida-Virumaa county, in Iisaku municipality; the bathing place owner is Iisaku Rural Municipal Government;
- ❖ Pühajärve beach (Lake Pühajärv) – in Valgamaa county, in Otepää town; the bathing place owner is Otepää Rural Municipal Government;
- ❖ Pärnu beach (seaside) – in Pärnu town (Pärnumaa county), the bathing place owner is Pärnu municipal Government

During the subsequent mission STEs reviewed the draft profiles and the inspectors prepared an improved version of the bathing water profiles.

In the 2nd week of June, a joined site visit by Estonian and Short Term Experts to four bathing sites was carried out. As a result of this visit the profiles were reviewed.

Finally, the five bathing water profiles were published on the 18th August 2009 on the website of the Health Protection inspectorate.

The link to this website is: <http://www.tervisekaitse.ee/?mid=1100> .

Mandatory result 3

Specialists of local governments (100) are informed of the new requirements concerning bathing waters.

For mandatory result 3 one benchmark was set up.

- 1) Information days for the specialists of local governments (100) have been conducted and the specialists are informed of the new requirements concerning bathing waters;

The demand for training was assessed in the first STE mission. Training were schedule for the very end of the twinning project since the training had to be build up on the guidelines prepared for mandatory result 6 (finalised according to work plan in June) and the published bathing water sites.

The training for specialists of local governments was scheduled for the 17th August 2009 and invitations were send out to all of the Estonian Municipalities. By 13th August only six

people have confirmed their participations, in spite of repeated enquiries. Therefore the information day was postponed.

In September and October, four (4) information days were arranged for the municipalities, of which three were conducted. The invitations and the program were sent to all municipalities in Estonia. Additionally, inspectors sent e-mails and phoned to persons who were responsible for the management of bathing sites.

Altogether 33 persons took part from the information days, 25 of them were from municipalities.

A lot of municipalities informed the HPI that they are unable to participate. The main reasons were related to economic recession and budget constrictions in order to save costs for transportation. Additionally, some persons were on forced vacation and were not able to participate.

One can suppose that the participation numbers could have been influenced by approaching elections of local municipal government in October. Bathing water has a relatively low importance in comparison with other social issues.

The feedback from those who participate was entirely positive. The inspectors got good feedback from municipalities concerning beach management.

The date and location of the information day were:

29. September 2009 in Toila, East-Estonia (Virumaa region).

02. October 2009 in Tallinn, North-Estonia (Tallinn region).

07. October 2009 in Pärnu, West-Estonia (Pärnu region). the information day.

05. October 2009 in Tartu, South-Estonia (Tartu region).

Note: This information day was canceled because of small interest. Only two persons were registered to 1st of October. The municipalities were informed and were suggested to take part from information days in Tallinn or in Pärnu.

In addition, all bathing owners can obtain information by contacting the responsible inspectors in regional offices or from the website of the Health Protection Inspectorate.

The link to this website is: <http://www.tervisekaitse.ee/?mid=1108>

Mandatory result 4

Guidelines for compiling bathing water profiles have been worked out for health protection specialists.

For mandatory result 4 one benchmark was set up.

- 1) List of potential sources of dangerous substances prepared by March 2008. Guidelines for compiling bathing water profiles for the health protection specialists have been completed and accepted by the Steering Committee

In the first mission the structure of the guidelines were agreed between the HPI staff and STEs. In the following two missions the guidelines were drafted by the STEs and commented by the HPI staff of the central office.

The draft of the guidelines were used in the preparation of the first five bathing water profiles. Comments from the chief inspectors who were preparing the profiles were taken into consideration when reviewing the guidelines.

The finalisation of the English version of the guidelines happened in June. The Steering Committee accepted the English version at its second Steering Committee meeting in June 2009. Subsequently, the guidelines were translated into Estonian in August, accepted by the Steering Committee meeting in September 2009 and made available on the website of the Health Protection Inspectorate.

The link to this website is: <http://www.tervisekaitse.ee/?mid=1108>

The guidelines and how to use them were introduced to staff of the HPI regional offices in a seminar in August 2009.

Mandatory result 5

Guidelines for management of bathing sites have been worked out for health protection specialists.

For mandatory result 5 one benchmark was set up.

- 1) Guidelines for management of bathing sites for the health protection specialists have been completed and accepted by the Steering Committee

In the first mission the structure of the guidelines were agreed between the HPI staff and STE. In the following two missions the guidelines were drafted by the STE and commented by the HPI staff.

The finalisation of the English version of the guidelines happened in June. The Steering Committee accepted the English version at its second Steering Committee meeting in June 2009. Subsequently, the guidelines were translated into Estonian in August, accepted by the Steering Committee meeting in September 2009 and made available on the website of the Health Protection Inspectorate.

The link to this website is: <http://www.tervisekaitse.ee/?mid=1108>

The guidelines and how to use them were introduced to staff of the HPI regional offices in a seminar in August 2009.

Mandatory result 6

Guidelines concerning physical environment of bathing sites, carrying out surveillance activities, quality management and informing publicity have been worked out for owners of bathing sites

For mandatory result 6 two benchmarks were set up.

- 1) Guidelines concerning physical environment of bathing sites, surveillance activities, quality management and informing publicity for owners of bathing sites have been completed and accepted by the Steering Committee

In the first mission the structure of the guidelines were agreed between the HPI staff and STE. In the following two missions the guidelines were drafted by the STE and commented by the HPI staff.

The finalisation of the English version of the guidelines happened in June. The Steering Committee accepted the English version at its second Steering Committee meeting in June 2009. Subsequently, the guidelines were translated into Estonian in August, accepted by the Steering Committee meeting in September 2009 and made available on the website of the Health Protection Inspectorate.

The link to this website is: <http://www.tervisekaitse.ee/?mid=1108>

The guidelines and how to use them were introduced to staff of the municipalities at the information days in September and October 2009.

Overview mandatory results achieved

MANDATORY RESULT	ACTIVITY numbers matches with project fiche	expected BENCHMARKS numbers matches with project fiche	Deadline [in project months]	Delay +/- [months]	ASSESSMENT to date	Self- assessment Rate HS: Highly satisfactory S:Satisfactory U: Unsatisfactory
<p><u>Mandatory result 1</u> Health protection officers (20) have the professional knowledge in compiling bathing water profiles, estimating the risks related to bathing waters and planning their resources</p>	<p>2. Identifying training needs and working out the training schedule 4. Training of personnel in compiling profiles and risk estimation procedures - “training of trainers”</p>	<p>1. Health protection officers (20) have successfully completed the trainings on compiling bathing water profiles, estimating the risks related to bathing waters and planning their resources and are able to implement the acquired skills</p>	5 th	0	Completed; 25 health protection officers were trained	HS
<p><u>Mandatory result 2</u> First bathing water profiles (5) have been compiled and published on the webpage of HPI</p>	<p>1. Reviewing of existing data 3. Working out guidelines and methodology for compilation of profiles for bathing sites for HPI inspectors 4. Training of personnel in compiling profiles and risk estimation procedures - “training of trainers” 5. Working out profiles for bathing sites 9. Publishing of maps and profiles on the webpage of HPI</p>	<p>2. First bathing water profiles (5) have been published on the webpage of HPI</p>	6	1	Completed 5 bathing water profiles published	HS

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MANDATORY RESULT	ACTIVITY numbers matches with project fiche	expected BENCHMARKS numbers matches with project fiche	Deadline [in project months]	Delay +/- [months]	ASSESSMENT to date	Self- assessment Rate HS: Highly satisfactory S:Satisfactory U: Unsatisfactory
<u>Mandatory result 3</u> Specialists of local governments (100) are informed of the new requirements concerning bathing waters	2. Identifying training needs and working out the training schedule 8. Information days for owners of bathing sites by HPI inspectors	3. Information days for the specialists of local governments (100) have been conducted and the specialists are informed of the new requirements concerning bathing waters	6	3	completed 25 specialists of local government participated in the information day	S
<u>Mandatory result 4</u> Guidelines for compiling bathing water profiles have been worked out for health protection specialists	3. Working out guidelines and methodology for compilation of profiles for bathing sites for HPI inspectors	4. Guidelines for compiling bathing water profiles for the health protection specialists have been completed and accepted by the Steering Committee	5 th	0	Completed Guidelines available and in use	HS
<u>Mandatory result 5</u> Guidelines for management of bathing sites have been worked out for health protection specialists	7. Working out guidelines for management of bathing sites for health protection specialists	5. Guidelines for management of bathing sites for the health protection specialists have been completed and accepted by the Steering Committee	5 th	0	Completed Guidelines available and in use	HS
<u>Mandatory result 6</u> Guidelines concerning physical environment of bathing sites, carrying out surveillance activities, quality management and informing publicity have been worked out for owners of bathing sites	6. Working out guidelines for owners of bathing sites	6. Guidelines concerning physical environment of bathing sites, surveillance activities, quality management and informing publicity for owners of bathing sites have been completed and accepted by the Steering Committee	5 th	0	Completed Guidelines available	HS

2E - IMPACT

No unexpected results in the twinning project occurred.

2 F - FOLLOW-UP AND SUSTAINABILITY

After the project implementation phase the Health Protection Inspectorate will include parts of the guidelines in their quality manual which is a binding document of the work process for health inspectors.

After the end of the bathing season in October, the Health Protection Inspectorate has scheduled an internal workshop where the process of drafting the first five bathing profiles will be reviewed. If necessary, the guidelines and the quality hand book will be adapted.

For the bathing season 2009 in Estonia 56 bathing sites were registered. It is the intention of the Health Protection Inspectorate to encourage more municipalities to register their bathing places as official bathing sites for the bathing season 2010 and beyond.

2G - CONCLUSIONS

Overall Assessment

The project proved very successfully in meeting its expected results. All stakeholders have been involved in the project. Trainings were carried out which strengthened the technical capacity of the target groups.

The guidelines which were developed by the STE were already used by the beneficiary.

The cooperation between the staff of the beneficiary country and the short term experts was very good. No difficulties in communication, mission set-up and implementation occurred.

The main target group of the project which had been the staff of the Health Protection Inspectorate had the require means to participate in the project.

Only the Staff from the municipality could not participate in the expected number as the financial means were not available.

2H – RECOMMENDATIONS: lessons learned

The implementation of the project went smoothly and the co-operation between the Beneficiary Country's staff and Short Term Experts was very good. The infrastructure provided to the project by the BC was all the time in very good order and enhanced the work process very much.

The only remark from this project is that when the end of the implementation phase (work plan) of a six months project falls into a longer holiday season, timely completion of all activities is very difficult. Particularly, when activities have to be scheduled at the end of the project as they build up on the results from previous activities.

2I – ANNEXES

The annexes are available in electronic format (as DVD). These are:

- Mission reports
- Guidelines developed in course of the project
- Bathing water profiles developed in course of the project
- Minutes of the Steering Committee Meetings
- Inception Report
- List of Participants

Section 3: Expenditure

The expenditures are shown in a separate report which is accompanied by a certified audit report.

For the administration of the Member State

[Arnulf Schönbauer, MS Project Leader]

[signature]

[date]

For the administration of the BC

[Dr. Tiiu Aro, BC Project Leader]

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