



# EXPERIENCES FROM PREVIOUS INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Results from interviews and workshops with stakeholders regarding management of Göta älv and Nordre älv estuaries in Sweden

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# A Swedish interview/workshop study (2014-2015)

Interviews, workshops and follow-up questionnaires with stakeholders regarding management of Göta älv and Nordre älv estuaries

## Aim

To improve and to find out how to improve current management activities in the estuaries regarding three main focus areas/topics.

One of many sub-projects under the EU Interreg-project EMOVE



# EMOVE, Estuaries on the Move

## Aim

- to identify what we know today, what we need to know more about and what needs to be developed to maintain accessible, flood proof, and economically and ecologically sustainable estuaries
- to contribute to increased collaboration between stakeholders from relevant organisations



## Partner organisations

Rijkswaterstaat – Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment  
COWI – Technical consultant company in Sweden  
BAW – German Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institut  
Flemish Ministry of Mobility and Public Works

# The Swedish interview/workshop study – Participating stakeholders

- National, regional and local authorities
- Business organisations (harbour and sewage treatment plant)
- Non-governmental organisations

## **Selection**

- Organisations relevant for the focus area/topic
- Participants working with issues related to estuary management (focus areas).

*and either*

- Managers with possibility to influence decisions

*or*

- Experts with relevant natural science or technical background

## **Participation**

- 19 interviewed
- Several participants at workshops (however only a few of the invited found time to come to workshops).



# Focus areas/topics

- Floods and barriers
- Storm water management
- Disposal at sea and alternative management of dredged material and clean excavated material



# Key findings from interviews and workshops

## *RESOURCES*

- The currently available resources within in each focus area do not match the resources needed to run their business in a sustainable way in the future (2/3 of interviewed).
- Resources are already lacking today (8 of 19 interviewed)



# Key findings

## *NEEDS*

### *Floods and Storm water management*

- There is a need to decide and to make clear who is responsible for what
- Coordination and collaboration needs to be improved
- Governance needs to be clearer



# Key findings

## *SUSTAINABILITY IN MANAGEMENT*

- Storm water management is not handled in a sustainable way from an environmental perspective within their organisation given the conditions today (most respondents)

## *CHANGED/IMPROVED MANAGEMENT*

- More important, greater awareness and focus – *Flooding*
- Higher priority, tougher demands and improved dialogue – *Storm water management*





# Key findings

## *CHANGES AND PLANNED CHANGES*

### *All focus areas*

- Internal groups have been formed to work with the issues
- Several organisations have either strengthened or plan to strengthen the work within the focus areas through new recruitments.



# Key findings

## *COOPERATION*

- The existing cooperation is not enough (most of the interviewed)
- They ought to cooperate with more people (more than half)
- The existing cooperation ought to be intensified (several)

Collaborations outside the organisation have resulted in different:

- strategies, plans and policies
- manuals and models
- information exchange
- reports and investigations.



# Key findings

Several conflicts of interest were mentioned

## *SOLUTIONS TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST*

- improved dialogue and cooperation – (most respondents)
- establishment of clear documents that state who is responsible for what
- more well-founded planning
- increased knowledge sharing and competence building
- better guidance

# Key findings

OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS	SOLUTIONS TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES
Economy/Resources	
Organisation/Responsibilities/ Collaboration	Enhanced and more structured collaboration between authorities and other stakeholders.
Political governance/Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Changes in the political will and the law</li><li>• More well-founded decisions</li><li>• Improved planning: finding sustainable community development solutions</li></ul>
Ownership	
Approach/Ignorance	Enhanced information sharing and knowledge building

Most important to start with



# Key findings

## Conclusions/summary

In order to maintain sustainable estuaries (for current and future conditions) improved **governance and cooperation** within and between the various organisations and units has been identified as an important measure, e.g. through effective **collaboration groups**.

Also **responsibilities** need to be clarified and **knowledge building** enhanced



# No real follow-up study, but examples of what has happened after this study

A water management cooperation/network group was established in the latter part of EMOVE, however it ceased after a while.

Today there is a collaborative group for storm water and downpour consisting of relevant departments in under Gothenburg municipality:

- Circulation and water
- Parks and nature management
- Traffic office
- Real estate office
- (City planning office) – when relevant

Meeting every month



# Examples of what has happened after this study

**Responsibilities** have been more specified

- The Circulation and water authority now has the coordination responsibility for stormwater and downpour
- The City planning office now has the coordination responsibility for rising sea levels, and rising levels in rivers and lakes.

**Strategic and guidance documents** have been produced regarding flooding and sea level rise

**Modelling tools** for sea level rise and flooding have been developed and are used