

Soils2Sea: Future governance approaches for reducing excess nutrients at local farm scale – Part II

13-14 October 2016 | Water Treatment Plant in Wierchowisko

Programme	
Thursday, 13.10.2016	
From 18:00	Arrival - welcome coffee
	<p>Film Screening of Soils2Sea – the Movie</p> <p><i>The film script was developed and produced by Grit Martinez (Ecologic Institute, Berlin) and Anne Berrini (berrini films, Berlin). It tackles the goal of BONUS Soils2Sea from a socio-cultural and historical perspective with a special focus on the Soil2Sea case study site in Poland.</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>
19:00	Networking Reception
Friday, 14.10.2016	
9:00 – 9:30	Arrival - welcome coffee
9:30-10:45	<p>Opening and Welcome to the Workshop <i>Mr. Babczyński and Mr. Cierpiał, Water Treatment Plant in Wierchowisko; Prof. Grzegorz Malina, AGH & Dr Grit Martinez, Ecologic Institute</i></p> <p>Presentation Soils2Sea Project <i>Dr Przemysław Wachniew (Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza im. Stanisława Staszica w Krakowie, Wydział Fizyki i Informatyki Stosowanej)</i></p> <p>The future: Storylines and Scenarios for the coming years <i>Dr Nico Stelljes, Ecologic Institute & Dr Przemysław Wachniew (AGH)</i></p> <p>Discussion</p>

10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:15	<i>Tour through the Waterworks.</i>
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 - 14:30	Workshop, Round I World Café Round <i>Table 1: Rural revival</i> <i>Table 2: Restoring the river</i> <i>Table 3: Farm management</i>
14:30 - 14:45	Coffee Break
14:45 – 15:45	Workshop, Round I MoSCoW method <i>Table 1: Rural revival</i> <i>Table 2: Restoring the river</i> <i>Table 3: Farm management</i>
15:45 – 16:15	Wrap Up
16:30	Adjournment

Summary of the workshop

Introduction

The second BONUS Soils2Sea workshop in the Polish case study region was held on 13-14 October 2016. It started on the evening of October 13th with the premiere of the documentary film "Soils2Sea: Reducing nutrient loadings into the Baltic Sea". The film was shown at the school in the community of Mykanów. The movie illustrates the societal story of implementing the EU's Nitrates Directive and regional realities in the EU member states, particularly in the Kocinka catchment area in south central Poland. The 35-minute film can be viewed on the BONUS Soils2Sea website. The film was developed and produced within BONUS Soils2Sea by Dr. Grit Martinez (Ecologic Institute) and Anne Berrini (berrini films) with support from Dr. Przemyslaw Wachniew (AGH University in Krakow).

Filmed across several small and larger scale farms in the Kocinka catchment, the film features perceptions, interpretations, and suggestions for actions by farmers, water treatment specialists, local policy makers, and scientists from an observatory perspective. Many of the protagonists of the film were present at the premiere and also joined the workshop the following day. The premiere was followed by a discussion with Dr. Przemyslaw Wachniew (AGH) and Dr. Grit Martinez (Ecologic Institute).



On October 14th the workshop continued at the Water Supply and Sewerage Joint Stock Company in Wierzchowisko. In total 18 people attended the workshop. The attendees were project partners from BONUS Soils2Sea, farmers, actors from the community of Mykanow, a representative from a fisheries-association, a representative of Czestochowa County, and a representative from the Water Treatment Plant.

In the first part of the workshop, Dr. Przemysław Wachniew (AGH) presented project results with a focus on the Kocinka catchment and Dr. Nico Stelljes (Ecologic Institute) introduced the workshop methods and the scenarios to be discussed. These presentations were followed by a guided tour through the water company by Marcin Folwaczny. He explained how the drinking water is produced with application of the innovative biological denitrification installation.



World-Café and MoSCoW on Scenarios

BONUS Soils2Sea has an objective of developing proposals for new governance regimes suitable to spatially differentiated nutrient regulations.

The group work was carried out to gather stakeholder views on governance and monitoring issues on the basis of three proposed governance regimes (scenarios) (See Appendix A):

- Scenario A – Rural revival
- Scenario B – restoring the river
- Scenario C – farm management

The group work was organised according to the World Café method with three groups (tables). Due to limited time resources, there was no changing of tables, as it is normally foreseen in a World-Café. Subsequently, the findings were prioritised using the MoSCoW method. The key conclusions to the questions from the groups are given in the following.

Scenario A: Rural revival

The idea of the revitalisation of the rural economy was in general seen in a positive light. Especially for the farmers it could be a good opportunity to produce regional products in a more ecological way. The water company (as part of this group) could support this approach by information campaigns and promotion of household connection to the sewage system. Support from the authorities (connected to funds from the EU), especially in monitoring aspects is needed in order for this scenario to work.

While not every farmer would favour an approach of creating a regional label or exploiting the idea of local agro-tourism, other farmers could certainly be interested. It was stated, that farmers could create regional products (such as spirits), establish agro-tourism schemes, or pursue the idea of regional labels. Information about these possibilities would strengthen this approach.



Scenario B: Restoring the river

The scenario B was more focused on the river, having the goal of ensuring the healthy functioning of the ecosystem. It was stated that the anglers can support this by monitoring certain parameters of the river and also advise where proper measures could be undertaken. Creating buffer zones along the river was discussed in more detail at the table. There are a lot of different fields adjoined to the river with a lot of different owners. It has to be certain that the owners are compensated for turning their land into buffer zones or for preventing their degradation. It was suggested to establish a meeting and information point for the landowners to inform and exchange with other landowner but also with the authorities. Constructed wetlands were a second measure that was discussed. Especially for small farmers, this could be an interesting alternative if this would be compensated well.

Concerning monitoring, the stakeholders on this table stated they rather see an authority, like the Environmental Protection Inspectorate, to be in charge. The river could be a good place for carrying out the monitoring, as it can be seen as the outflow of the catchment. In this way, the overall monitoring could be reduced. An unsolved issue is wells (both new and old) in the area, for which not a lot of information exists. Monitoring attempts could also include these wells, because they sometimes can cause overflowing.

Overall, it was stated that for this scenario to work, considerable financial support would be required.

Scenario C: Farm management

The scenario C implies strong State level support for the agricultural sector, which in the view of the stakeholder would lead to a growing agricultural sector with usage of more fertilizer. In general this would have a negative impact on the environment.

In order to have this emphasis in agriculture, a shift in politics would be necessary. The Agricultural Chamber together with other representatives of farmers, the EU, and maybe a strong farmers' party have a strong influence on the decision making in this scenario. These decision, especially if driven by the EU, are seen as outside of the local decision making process. Therefore solutions for the negative impact on the environment should also be sought at these higher levels.

Education, awareness and information were seen to be very important factors for reducing the negative impact on the environment in this scenario. The stakeholders distinguished between the younger and older generation of farmers. As the older generation maybe not use the modern information channels as frequently as the younger generation, there should be different ways to approach them. For the monitoring, the stakeholders on this table rather favoured independent bodies or non-governmental institutions for carrying out the monitoring schemes.



Final plenary

The views expressed at the tables were presented and briefly commented in plenum. Subsequently, Dr. Przemysław Wachniew thanked the participants for having spent time providing valuable inputs to the research project.

Outlook

The workshop was the first workshop in the second round of workshops at the BONUS Soils2Sea Case Study sites. Workshops in Denmark and Sweden followed in November with a similar approach but different scenarios as basis for discussion. The results from these workshops as well as the results from the first round of workshops will feed into a BONUS Soils2Sea report on new governance concepts to be published in 2017.

The workshop was also used to be the first part of an exchange and uptake of results that is foreseen in the project. Karin Olsson from the County Administrative Board in Skåne (Sweden) participated in the workshop and invited the Polish stakeholder to visit the County Administrative Board in Malmö. The Polish stakeholders who joined the workshop in Sweden (see summary of this workshop here: http://soils2sea.eu/case_studies_uk/tullstorp/index.html), also visited and learned more about the tasks of the Board.



Appendix: Scenarios

Scenario A

“**Rural revival**” is based on the revitalisation of the rural economy. The region around the Kocinka is well known for its cultural and environmental heritage, but this is currently not protected nor exploited to its full economic potential. Regional development funds would be mobilised to increase local awareness of the need to protect the natural environment and to provide training on the range of goods and services that already exist but are under-exploited (e.g. agro-tourism, trout fisheries and aquaculture, fruit and vegetable preserving). The creation of a regional label which recognised environmentally sound agricultural practices with low N and P inputs would support a healthy environment while also enabling actors to obtain a higher price for their products. This diversification would not eliminate conventional agriculture from the region but would reduce the reliance on a primary sector for economic security and reduce N and P inputs on those areas that are still farmed.

Measures under this scenario include:

- Funding to start a regional label for a rural economy based on low N and P inputs.
- Information-raising on the importance of a healthy environment as a basis for a strong regional rural economy.
- Training on opportunities for economic diversification
- Subsidies or other incentives for “start-up” businesses

Scenario B

“Restoring the river” is an approach that places the health of the Kocinka river and its ecosystems at its centre. Land-owners are informed, supported and financially rewarded for converting agricultural land (or halting the conversion of non-agricultural land) to protect or restore local ecosystems. These ecosystems provide a range of environmental and societal benefits such as supporting (e.g. nutrient recycling), regulating (e.g. water purification) or cultural (e.g. recreational) services including the increased retention of N and P. As a consequence of reducing agricultural land-use, the application of N and P from mineral fertilisers and untreated sewage are also lowered. The potential for leaching of N and P into groundwater and the Kocinka river is thus reduced, thus ensuring the healthy functioning of ecosystems their services.

Measures under this scenario include:

- A system of payments for ecosystem services (PES)
- Information campaign and technical assistance to help land-owners identify appropriate ecosystem-based measures e.g. leaving wet meadows lie fallow.

Scenario C

“Farm management” involves a situation with strong State level support for the agricultural sector, with a focus on managing, rather than eliminating N and P inputs. High levels of investment from the national government would underpin economic instruments to stimulate the reduction of N and P from agriculture. Information campaigns increase awareness of the negative effects of N and P leaching for the long-term health of the environment, and consequently, farm businesses. Through improved information and the stimulus of appropriate economic incentives, less N and P will be emitted from agriculture.

Measures under this scenario include:

- Market based incentives or subsidies to increase levels of alternative farming methods e.g. organic agriculture, nutrient recycling, permaculture.
- Market based incentives or subsidies for technologies that reduce N and P inputs e.g. precision agriculture.
- Raising awareness of how existing (agricultural/water treatment/other) practices may be increasing N and P loads to the river.