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NEWSLETTER vol.2

NEWS FROM THE BASIN

Safeguarding and restoring European natural lakes and their ecosystems

EUROLakes is a **Mission Ocean project** which main goal is to propose an **innovative, holistic** and **science-based approach** to safeguarding and restoring **European natural lakes** and their **ecosystems**.

Through establishing **local communities** of practice, **EUROLakes** will apply the principles of **co-creation** and **inclusivity** to **develop** and showcase novel, integrated protection and restoration solutions, focusing particularly on **nature-based solutions.**

EUROLAKES FIRST MANAGEMENT MEETING

EUROLakes consortium gathered in Radolfzell in April this year. The event hosted by the Global Nature Fund (GNF) at the Radolfzeller Innovationszentrum brought together key partners to assess project milestones, strengthen collaboration and report on the achieved initial progress in the advancement of the integrated lake management in Europe.

The meeting was opened by Udo Gattenloehner, Director of GNF and Chris Baker, Director of Wetlands International Europe, EUROLakes coordinator, and served as a dynamic platform for updates across all work packages. A highlight of the meeting was a lively group learning session on stakeholder communication, coordinated by GNF, followed by a field visit to the “Weitenried” wetland, offering a real-life experience for the discussed topics.

A key step in embedding integrated landscape management across project activities is learning more about it. During the first day of the project meeting, partners marked the kickoff of the **4 Returns Framework Short Learning Program** designed to equip consortium members with the needed tools to integrate environmental, social and economic dimensions into the landscape planning.

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WORK ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTS

Stakeholder Involvement and Communication

EUROLakes project partners took the exciting opportunity to engage in a learning event on stakeholder involvement and communication, using the example of a local wetland, the “Weitenried”, as a case study for the exercise.

The group activities started with an interactive workshop, followed by a field trip to the designated wetland - a protected area covering almost220 hectares, located near Lake Constance in Germany. Despite its status as a protected area, many regulations are not respected.

The learning event simulated the stakeholder involvement process for the rewetting initiative at the Weitenried through a roleplay game. The participants were assigned roles of different stakeholder groups, reflecting the real-life situation: local nature conservation organizations, farmers/agricultural sector, local municipality, local community/civil society, and scientific community. During the first stage, each group of 3-4 people received enough information about the case study and the sectors involved to develop a particular identity and position statement for the stakeholders they represented. This helped the participants get into the skin of their assigned roles.

Continue reading and see more photos

Transformations in the Caldera of Lake Vico

A stakeholder engagement workshop in Italy

LANDSCAPE AND AGRICULTURE, AN UNBREAKABLE BOND
A workshop on the transformations in the caldera of Lake Vico: Voices of the land

On May 26, 2025, a workshop “Landscape and Agriculture: AnIndissoluble Bond” was held at the Scuderie of Palazzo Farnese in Caprarola, Italy. This important event took place within the framework of the EUROLakes series of workshops, organized and promoted by the University of Tuscia (UNITUS). The event constituted an opportunity for an interdisciplinary discussion among experts from the academic world, public institutions, operators in the agricultural sector and local actors, to reflect on the relationship between agriculture and landscape, and discuss concrete solutions for the sustainable management of the Lake Vico basin territory – an area of great environmental and landscape value.

The main objective of this meeting was to analyze and enhance the landscape changes that have occurred in the Lake Vico caldera, a volcanic basin of high natural and agricultural value. Through several technical talks and local testimonies, it was highlighted how agriculture has played a central role in shaping the landscape of the area, contributing overtime not only to its physical configuration but also to its cultural and socioeconomic identity.

The workshop stressed on the positive value of agricultural activity, both in terms of land preservation and as a tool for environmental conservation, when managed with sustainability criteria in mind.

Read more

SCIENCE FOR POLICY:

FIRST POLICY WORKSHOP OF EUROLakes

EUROLakes
SCIENCE FOR POLICY
Co-funded by the European Union

During the EUROLakes consortium meeting in Radolfzell, Germany, partners held a workshop to explore how the project's findings can contribute to European policy development. The overarching aim of EUROLakes' task related to policies, plans and strategies is to support policy makers in upscaling the 4 Returns Framework, best practices and innovative measures, in order to improve the ecological health of European lakes. To achieve that, EUROLakes is developing four sets of policy recommendations that will feed into the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, Nature Restoration Law and EU Biodiversity Strategy.

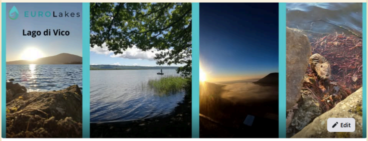
This workshop provided a platform to reflect on these policy frameworks and identify opportunities to better align lake restoration with broader initiatives such as the European Green Deal and the Water Resilience Strategy. Discussions among project partners also highlighted the importance of integrating scientific knowledge with innovative economic and financing tools.

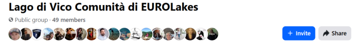
Continue reading

BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Driving restoration for lakes Vico and Bistret.

Join the FB Groups




Lago di Vico Comunità di EUROLakes

Public group · 49 members

As part of our commitment to engaging local communities in shaping the future of their lakes, EUROLakes has launched dedicated **Facebook Groups** to serve as open and interactive spaces for dialogue. These groups were created to bring together citizens, local authorities, farmers, businesses, conservation organizations, and all those whose lives are connected to the lakes. By offering a familiar and user-friendly platform, the groups ensure quick and easy exchange of information in the native languages of each region, breaking down barriers to participation.

Lacul Bistreț - o comunitate Eurolakes

Public group · 12 members

Edit
+ Invite
Share

The EUROLakes Facebook Groups for [Lake Vico (Italy)]and [Lake Bistret (Romania)] are already active, providing members with opportunities to share concerns, exchange ideas, learn about upcoming workshops and training events, and voice their opinions on the landscape they value and care for. They are designed as living communities of practice - places where knowledge and experiences meet tradition and action - helping to strengthen stewardship, collaboration and a sense of belonging to the landscape.

We warmly invite you to **discover and join the groups**, and invite friends from your community to become part of the conversation.

DISSEMINATION

EUROLakes project presented at the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly 2025

Welcome to the
EGU General Assembly 2025

Europe's largest geoscience conference took place from 27April to 2 May in Vienna and online, bringing together over 19,000 researchers, scientists, academics and journalists from around the globe to share the latest developments in Earth observation, planetary science, natural hazards, climate change, environmental policy and beyond.

EUROLakes was proudly featured by our partner Albert Nkwasa from IIASA . Represented a poster dedicated to IIASA's latest work on **nutrient mitigation pathways for sustainable lake ecosystems in Europe.** The poster drew strong interest from fellow researchers, policymakers, and practitioners, especially those involved in lake modelling, EU water directives, and nature-based solutions. The feedback and discussions highlighted the urgent need for integrated, evidence-based strategies to support long-term lake health.

[Read more](#)

EUROLakes presented at the International SWAT Conference 2025, South Korea

The International SWAT Conference & Workshops took place from 23 to 27 June on the picturesque island of Jeju, South Korea, hosted by Cheju Halla University. The event brought together more than 250 global researchers, modelers, hydrologists and water-quality nerds working with the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) to share developments in watershed modeling and water quality management.

As part of the conference, our project partner, Albert NKWASA, IIASA, presented the ongoing work within EUROLakes in a talk titled: ***"Linking watershed phosphorus management to eutrophication responses in European lakes."*** Under work package 2, the SWAT model is used to simulate sediment and nutrient dynamics within lake catchments across Europe.

[Continue reading](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

✨ Coming Soon! ✨
EUROLakes Call for Replication Projects
Opens 30 Sept 2025

We have some BIG News!

EUROLakes is launching a call for Associated Regions to replicate its cutting-edge, nature-based solutions (NBS) for the restoration of European natural lakes. Local and regional authorities across Europe are invited to apply for funding to implement ecological restoration projects inspired by successful models in Italy, Germany and Romania.

Learn more about our demo sites

- Does your region face similar environmental challenges to EUROLakes' demonstration sites?

- Are you eager to protect and revitalize natural lake ecosystems in Europe?

If yes, then this is your chance to get involved in a transformative initiative supported by the Horizon Europe Programme of the European Union.

100% Funding will be Available, with financial support per region from €50,000 to €75,000.

100% Funding

€50,000 –
€75,000

For local & regional
authorities across Europe

Selected regions will co-develop and implement tailored lake restoration plans based on the 4 Returns Framework methodology, using innovative, science-based tools, while receiving hands-on support and mentorship from EUROLakes experts and demonstration sites.

Who can apply?

The call will be open to local and regional authorities (municipalities, conservation agencies, regional governments) from:

- **EU Member States** with the exception of the following countries which are already represented in the EUROLakes Consortium and are therefore not eligible:
    - Austria
    - Bulgaria
    - Germany
    - Italy
    - Romania
    - The Netherlands
    - United Kingdom
- **Horizon Europe Associated Countries**

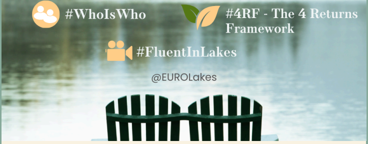
More information about the call will soon be available on EUROLakes website and our feed on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.

COMMUNICATION CORNER

Kicking Off EUROLakes’ First Communication Campaigns

Meet the People. Understand the Framework. Speak the Language of Lakes.

EUROLakes
Communication Campaigns
Meet the People. Understand the Framework. Speak the Language of Lakes

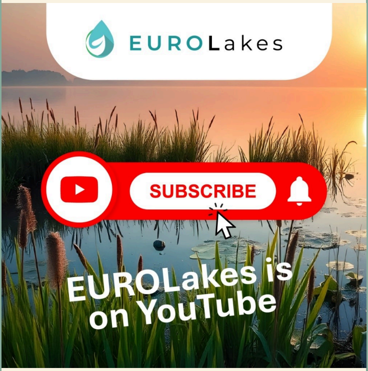


At EUROLakes, we believe that impactful science starts with meaningful communication. That's why the first three campaigns we launched were designed to highlight the people, principles and practices shaping our mission to restore Europe's lake ecosystems through collaboration, innovation and shared knowledge.

#WhoIsWho
Introducing our diverse consortium of 13 partners from 7 countries, showcasing the interdisciplinary expertise driving the project with specialists coming from the fields of ecology, law, data science, agroforestry and more.

#4RF – The 4 Returns Framework
Discovering the science-based holistic methodology guiding stakeholder-driven restoration efforts. Built on **Inspiration**, **Social**, **Natural**, and **Financial Returns**, this framework ensures long-term impact for the entire landscape.

#FluentInLakes
Our glossary-style video series breaks down key concepts used in the lingo of lake conservation, making them accessible to everyone, from researchers to local communities. The videos are uploaded to **EUROLakes YouTube channel** so make sure you subscribe and keep up with the novelties!



Follow @EUROLakes on social media and track the hashtags to get inspired, informed and involved

In case you landed on EUROLakes newsletter by chance, make sure you subscribe to it, to stay on top of all news coming from the basin.

Share the passion for natural lakes restoration by forwarding this newsletter to friends and colleagues to learn together how improving our lake ecosystems benefits the environment, local economies and communities, for a sustainable future.

EUROLakes is social. Let's connect!

EUROLakes

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