PRESS RELEASE
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EUROLakes Announces Three New Replication Lakes to Expand Lake Restoration Across Europe

Three lake restoration initiatives in Türkiye and Albania have been selected to join EUROLakes as replication sites, marking a major step in the project's ambition to take proven approaches to lake restoration beyond its three demonstration lakes.

Following a selection process that attracted more than 20 applications, the EUROLakes project is welcoming three municipalities with their lakes, *Lake Manyas* and *Lake Sapanca* in Türkiye, and *Lake Shkodra* in Albania, to its growing community of lake restoration practitioners, researchers and stakeholders.

Over the coming years, the three selected replication initiatives will work closely with the EUROLakes consortium. Together, they will explore how approaches, tools and nature-based solutions (NBS) developed and tested through the project can be adapted to their own environmental, social and governance contexts. The selection marks an important transition for EUROLakes — from demonstrating approaches at three pilot locations to supporting their uptake and adaptation in new lake landscapes.

"*We are delighted to welcome our three new replication partners*," says Milena Baumert, Project Manager Living Lakes and International Nature Conservation, Global Nature Fund. "*Replication is not simply about transferring solutions. It is an opportunity to learn from different local contexts, adapt approaches and strengthen the solutions developed through EUROLakes*."

Selected lakes represent a diverse range of environmental challenges and local priorities

Lake Manyas, Türkiye, faces pressures associated with the legacy of lead mining, agricultural runoff and eutrophication risks. The replication initiative will explore measures including buffer zones, micro-wetlands and reed bed restoration, alongside the wider conditions needed to support long-term lake restoration.

Lake Sapanca, Türkiye, is encountering significant hydrological pressures affecting an important freshwater and drinking-water resource. The replication initiative will investigate nature-based approaches such as floating wetlands and biological barriers, together with measures aimed at reducing nutrient inputs.

Lake Shkodra, Albania, will focus on nutrient pollution and untreated wastewater, while also exploring opportunities to strengthen local engagement and sustainable development around the lake. Planned

activities include establishing a community of practice, developing a restoration roadmap, exploring nature-based solutions, and supporting opportunities such as bird-watching infrastructure and eco-trails.

"*The three sites bring different challenges, experiences and local perspectives to the EUROLakes network*," Milena Baumert said. "*Creating new opportunities for mutual learning and demonstrating how lake restoration approaches can be adapted to different local realities*."

From selection to replication

The Replication Call was designed to identify lake initiatives that could benefit from and contribute to the knowledge generated by EUROLakes. The selected replication sites will receive tailored support from consortium partners as they develop their own pathways towards implementation.

This support will draw on the expertise developed across the project, including participatory planning and community engagement, modelling and digital twins, nature-based restoration, nature finance, the Four Returns Framework, monitoring and indicators, communication and dissemination, and data and knowledge management.

About EUROLakes

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

EUROLakes is currently demonstrating integrated approaches to the restoration and sustainable management of natural lakes at Lake Vico (Italy), Lake Dümmer (Germany) and Lake Bistreț (Romania). The addition of the three replication sites creates an important bridge between these demonstration activities and a wider community of European lake landscapes.

For more information, visit EUROLakes website: https://eurolakes.eu.

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