

Mid-term Conference

The SAWA Mid-term Conference, which gathered eighty people, was held in Gothenburg 26-27 May. The hosting SAWA partner was the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland, with Susanna Hogdin in charge.

Gothenburg welcomed the SAWA delegates in stormy weather. Climate do change though and after the storm the sun was shining from a blue May sky. Many interesting seminars were held at the conference and higher understanding was reached between the work packages. It was a pleased crowd that left Gothenburg after the conference. Susanna Hogdin summed up the conference:

–As a host I'm very pleased with the

outcome of the mid-term conference. All presentations were very interesting and it was clear that everyone had worked hard on their preparations. On the social side the arrangement was also very pleasant. Everybody seemed to have a good time and although we are 22 sub-projects it felt as if the SAWA people has become a small family. I'm already looking forward to the next major international event.

Read more on page 2



The Paddan boat trip on excursion day

Sweden 10-12 May 2010 Student Exchange

Ten students from Leuphana University Lüneburg came to Sweden on a student exchange trip. The group was lead by Mariele Evers and the Swedish hosts were Lars Nyberg and Max Hansson.

In line with the environmental project seminar Sustainable Flood Risk Management at Leuphana University Lüneburg (lead by Mariele Evers) a group of ten students visited Värmland, Sweden in May 2010. During their excursion, organised by Lars Nyberg and Max Hansson from the Centre for Climate and Safety (CCS)/Karlstad University, the students visited the municipalities

Karlstad and Arvika and learned from scientists and practitioners about local flood (risk) problems and about dealing with floods and flood risk in the two municipalities.

Additionally to the input from practitioners, the students presented some German flood management issues to CCS representatives as well as to practitioners and had fruitful discussions



Excursion students on Lurö

in small groups and also together with Swedish practitioners and scientists.

The nights were spent in perfect accommodations in Sandvikengården and on the Island of Lurö.

All in all, the excursion was a success and provided all participants a valuable insight in flood (risk) management in Sweden and Germany respectively.

Based on the excursion students together with SAWA participants had discussion on how to implement student exchanges and worked out a first concept.

Furthermore the students set up a platform on integrated flood risk management which is now used to connect interested Swedish and German students and lecturers and a photo documentation was developed, see www.SAWA-project.eu.



Excursion group in Arvika

Gothenburg, Sweden 25-27 May 2010

SAWA Mid-term Conference

The SAWA Mid-term Conference had an extensive program to get through during the two days of conference. All five partner countries were represented by the speakers and the presentations covered a wide range of approaches. Visit the conference website - www.conference.sawa-project.eu - to read more about the presentations.

Amongst all different presentations presented at the conference one will be highlighted below. It is the Zuiderzeeland Regional Water Authority that formulated a youth policy - the young generation is in focus. After all, the future is in the hand of the children.

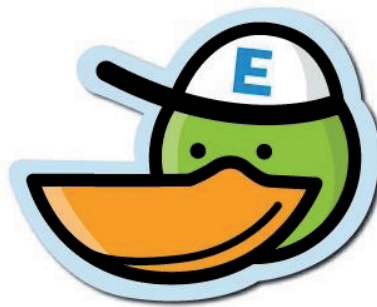
Dylan the Duck

The overall aim of this program is to have a way of working that enables the regional water authority to structurally come into contact with younger people and try to make water a part of their mindset.

For the children of this group, the Zuiderzeeland Regional Water Authority have developed water lessons. These consist of two, closely related items; a lesson at school, and a visit to a waste water treatment plant. Each lesson is taught by a volunteer – Zuiderzeeland can make use of a group of about 35 volunteers to teach the children. The lessons consist of four movies of about three to four minutes long (the main actors in the movies are two children and the dike reeve). In between, the volunteer asks the children all kinds of questions relating to the subjects of these movies. They

are on safety (protection against water and flood risk management), surface level water, waste water treatment and regional water authorities in general. Also in between, the children perform some experiments regarding these subjects.

Some weeks later the children visit a waste water treatment plant, where they can see – as far as is still possible, with the covered tanks and all – what happens with the water they flush down the toilet and so on.



Dylan the Duck (Erik de Eend in Dutch) is the symbol that combines all activities of the Zuiderzeeland Regional Water Authority for these children.

SAWA Thoughts

Christoph Kuepferle shares his SAWA thoughts half-way through the project:

- Being involved in SAWA from the very beginning and looking at the ideas we all had when writing the application it was good to see a wide variety of real results. As the SAWA Project Manager, one of my tasks is to write up the Activity Report for the European Commission and it felt really good to finally see results instead of reading about them in the partner reports. For me, the mid-term conference was a complete success and helped the project to gain the needed drive for the second half. Nevertheless, the project must be focused and consolidated in the next half. That is what the SAWA Management will be pushing for over the next month. Thank you all for a wonderful conference.



The SAWA lead partner team



Mid-term conference participants



The WP-Leaders Share Their Experience

WP's Latest News

WP1 - Erik Pasche

The Flood Directive EC 2007/60 gives only little information about the strategy to develop and implement the flood risk management plan (FRMP) on a local level.

The Mid-term Conference has underlined that the high variability of environmental and socio-economic conditions within Europe require the tolerance and flexibility to allow each country to find its own way in the local application of the European framework of water regulations. Within the four case study areas of SAWA wide spectrums of flood conditions occur. The experience of ex-

treme floods and their consequences varies considerably as well. As a consequence of this variability of socio-economic and hydrological conditions the partners seek for different governance strategies in the implementation of the FRMP.

This colourful picture of SAWA in the implementation of flood risk management plan will surely provide a valuable contribution to the discussion of good governance in flood risk management and will find its dissemination within Europe through a guidance document reflecting the experience of SAWA.

WP2 - Scott Arthur

The aim of Work Package 2 is to construct a catalogue of adaptive measures and develop a decision support tool which allows users to choose between competing options. A WP2 sub-group constructed a basic framework around the "wiki" concept (users take control of the database content – like Wikipedia). This innovative approach has been supported by SAWA's partner projects – SKINT, FRC and MARE. In parallel to this, a Decision Support Tool is being constructed, based on Game Theory which will allow a range of stakeholders to choo-

se between competing options. This work is progressing well and has had lots of interest from key groups in the UK (Scottish Government, the environmental regulator and local authorities) and, as a result, we were able to report on one of these applications at the mid-term conference. Furthermore, we received very positive feedback on the approach at the COST conference held in Paris. In conclusion, it is clear that in all areas progress is good, but there is a need to work together more to ensure WP2 becomes truly transnational.

WP3 - Mariele Evers and Lars Nyberg

WP3 is about capacity building and education regarding flood risk management. A two-day workshop about Governance and Capacity Building in Lüneburg in October 2009 gathered 25 persons from WP1 and WP3.

An inventory on good practice and lessons showed how capacity building is conducted in European flood projects. A didactic concept for capacity building and education has been developed and presented at a UNESCO conference in Paris in

November 2009.

Four Sustainability Education Centres (SECs) are being established. Student and staff exchange have begun. A group of German students visited Sweden in May 2010, studying flood problems and measures in Karlstad and Arvika.

Planning of transnational master's degree has started with a course of 15 credits in spring 2011, involving the seven universities in SAWA. The course will be hosted by Karlstad University.



Erik Pasche, Mariele Evers, Scott Arthur and Lars Nyberg

Lidköping, Sweden 4 April-23 May 2010

SAWA Sweden Exhibited SAWA

SAWA Sweden exhibited the SAWA project at Vänernmuseum - the Lake Vänern Museum of Natural and Cultural History in Lidköping. During a period of seven weeks interested people were given the opportunity to see the effects of climate change on Lake Vänern and its floods.

Vänernmuseum is the museum of the big Lake Vänern. Exhibitions, lectures and activities for both children and grown-ups reflect life in, on and by the lake. Additionally, the museum has a permanent cooperation agreement with an upper secondary school in the neighbourhood and the pupils have access to all the resources of the museum.

The SAWA exhibition, named *Stan é full av vatten!* which translates into *Plentiful of water in the town!*, was held between 4 April and 23 May 2010. Its theme was the effect of climate change on Lake Vänern and its floods. How will the urban areas bordering the lake be affected when the water level rises and how do you prepare for higher water levels? Illustrated by facts, figures and a series of suggestive scenes, the exhibition also showed historical events,



Phill Graham - SAWA seminar in Lidköping

among them the winter flooding of 2000/2001. School children were engaged in discussing how best to solve the flooding problem, where to build houses etc.

On 14 April, representatives of the Swedish SAWA partners, the Municipality of Lidköping and the Museum held a seminar for upper secondary school pupils and their teachers about SAWA, Climate change and the challenges ahead for Lake Vänern. Around 70 persons from three schools participated.

Lake Vänern

- Largest lake in Sweden
- Third largest lake in Europe
- Covers an area of 5,655 km²
- An archipelago of 22,000 islets
- Provides daily 650,000 people with drinking water
- Located at 44 m above sea level
- Located in the provinces of: Västergötland, Dalsland, and Värmland

The exhibition has been restyled to a mobile exhibition and was on display at the Karlstad Public Library between 3 June and 11 July.

SAWA Newsletter

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The restyled exhibition in Karlstad



Investing in the future by working together for a sustainable and competitive region