

The background of the slide is a photograph of a large body of water, likely Lake Peipsi, under a clear blue sky. A small sailboat with a red and white sail is visible on the water in the lower-left quadrant. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

**LAKE PEIPSI/CHUDSKOE –
AN INTERNATIONAL LAKE ON
THE EU EXTERNAL BORDER
WITH RUSSIA**

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Peipsi
Center for
Transboundary
Cooperation

www.ctc.ee

www.peipsi.org

Peipsi CTC is aiming to promote sustainable development and cross border cooperation in the Lake Peipsi basin and sharing its experience with the other transboundary water regions

We work since 1993 and have offices in Estonia and Russia

**Joint projects with other transboundary basins:
Lake Ohrid, Talas Chu rivers**



Sweden

Finland

Estonia

Lake Peipsi

Russia

Latvia

Lithuania

Byelarus

Poland

Lake Peipsi in Europe

The 4th largest lake,
is shared by Estonia (44%) and Russia (56%).
is large - 3550 km², and shallow - 7 m average.

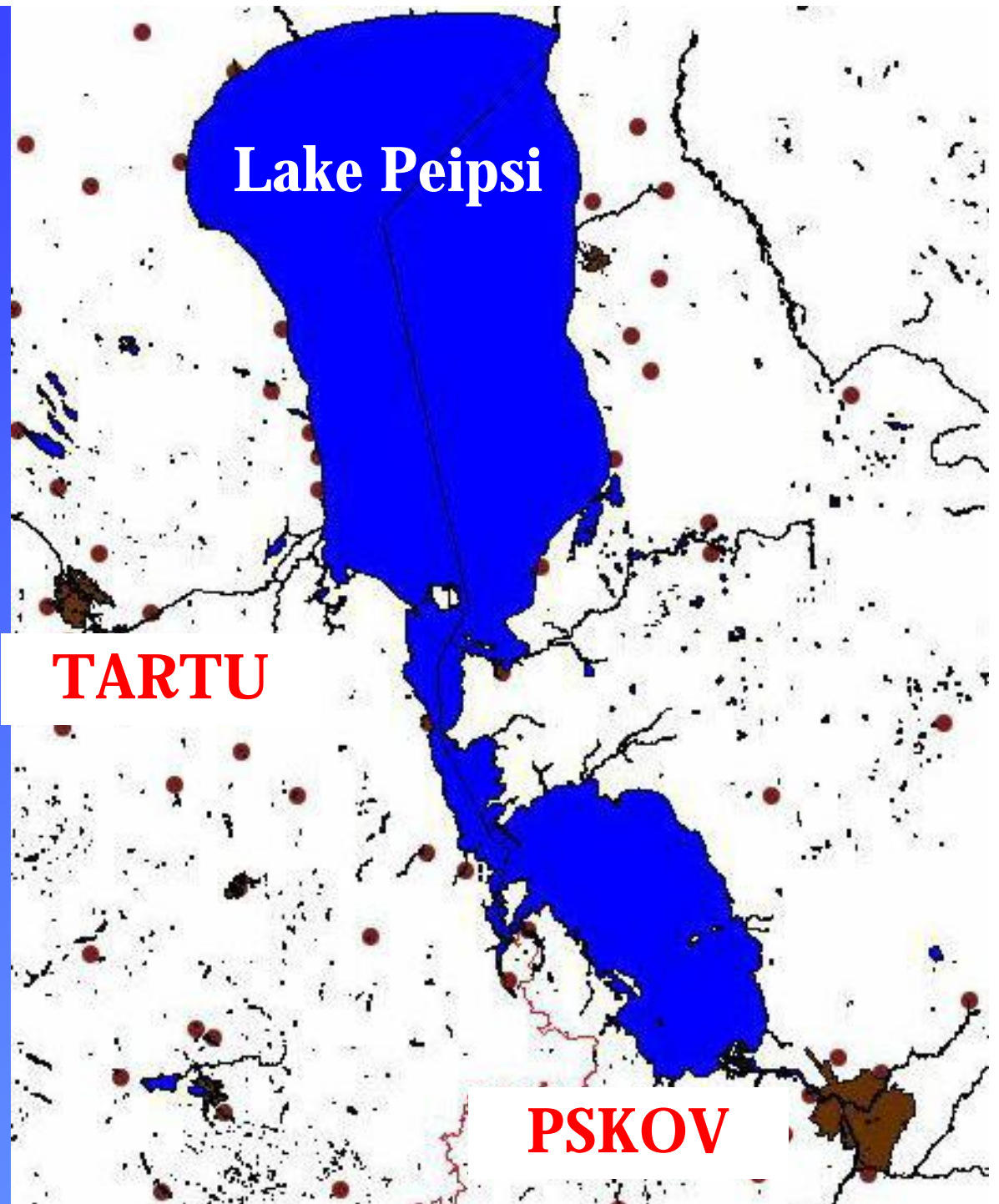


There are big
wetland areas in the
catchment area.

The water basin is
sparsely populated,
total population
800 000 people.

Two bigger cities –
Tartu (Estonia) and
Pskov (Russia)

50 km



-Most of local authorities in the region are small and are located in rural areas

-Rich of cultural and historical heritage



Fisheries management

Main issues of the
Lake Peipsi
management are:



Water
eutrophication

1992:
**The border between
Estonia and the
Russian Federation
was re-established.**
**The coordinated
investigations and
monitoring were
interrupted again.**



1994

Estonia and Russia signed an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of conservation and use of Lake Peipsi fish resources.

1996

Intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of environmental protection.

1996

Intergovernmental agreement on use and protection of their transboundary waters.



The Estonian-Russian Transboundary Water Commission was established in 1997

It was established after signing agreement on the protection and sustainable use of transboundary water bodies between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation.



Photo: Commission meeting in Tartu, Estonia in September 2000

Challenges

The principal problem of the Estonian - Russian joint commission is that all of the members work on the commission as a second, unpaid job. There are also frequent changes in water management agencies staff on the Russian side.

There should be permanent, paid staff whose jobs are to make sure the agreement is implemented properly, there are working relationships with related national agencies, NGOs.

Stakeholder involvement plan

Was a part of the transboundary Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Basin Management Program within the UNDP/GEF project (2004-2006);

Was elaborated in compliance with the relevant Estonian and Russian national legislations and relevant international documents of the EU (WFD), UN ECE, UNDP and GEF;

Transboundary, national, local (in Estonia and Russia) components of the basin public participation plan

Stakeholder involvement plan

Transboundary - NGO and local authorities representatives are involved in working groups of the Transboundary Water Commission; regular Peipsi Forums, roundtables

National - integration with the national networks and movements on the PP

Regional and local - trainings and information to local authorities through meetings, written information on water management; environmental education

Stakeholder involvement plan

STEP 1. Mapping the stakeholders: consultations with water and development experts in Estonia and Russia, a telephone survey of organisations, Round table with water management experts and 19 group interviews in local municipalities.

Output: a list of organisations was elaborated that is available at www.ctc.ee under Peipsi Directory.

STEP 2. Assessing information needs of stakeholders. Studies aimed to determine the type of information needed for making decisions, channels of communication used, format and levels of information required.

Output: Recommendations for specific actions under the plan

Stakeholder involvement plan structure

INFORMATION:

The projects' websites, press-releases, radio&TV interviews;
TV 1 hour program on water management (EU LIFE, EU TACIS)
Newspaper articles in national and county level newspapers (EU LIFE);
Newspaper articles in local district newspapers ;
Publications (eutrophication book),

CONSULTATION:

Presentations at 4 NGO round tables in Estonia and 2 NGO round tables in Russia (in cooperation with regional NGO Advisory Services);

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT:

Citizens juries in Estonia and Russia;
Monthly trainings and workshops for local stakeholders and authorities in project management, strategic planning, water legislation;

Public participation with respect to the requirement of the WFD

- The EU member states have to involve stakeholders in the discussion of the WMPs. However the information in the plans is very technical and the river basin authorities do not have enough experiences and therefore skills to implement the public participation as required by the WFD. Experts produce a highly technical information that becomes incomprehensible to non-experts; There is a danger the stakeholder involvement could be implemented in a formalistic way.
- Large territories of lake basins - it is difficult to involve local stakeholders if no sufficient resources

Challenges

Specific issues for the EU external borders is a growing gap in the formal frameworks, norms, standards, practices, and information, economic development levels between different sides of the border.



Challenges

After end of the GEF project joint activities are carried out under several international projects, often having different priorities and funding schemes on different sides of the border (Tacis, Interreg). That brings "fragmented" implementation of priority initiatives and the need to negotiate and combine different sources of financing for tackling some of the issues.

Discussions on establishment of Lake Peipsi Euroregion have been going on for several years

PEIPSIMAN project 2007-2009

1. Competence building and training program
2. Reconstruction of sewage treatment works in settlement of Pskovkirpich (Pskov City Area)
3. Information dissemination and networking between different stakeholders

Assessment report on the implementation of the Estonian – Russian transboundary water programme since 2005

The report will include a list of measures for possible follow-up projects.