



# Water Management of the Narva River: harmonization and sustention

ER25 NarvaWatMan

Summary for the 3-rd reporting period

(15.03.2020-14.09.2020)

Alvina Reihan, TalTech

Coordinator of the project

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## Short Summary, 3rd period

During the Reporting period, the COVID-19 outbreak has happened, so some activities were rearranged or postponed. The project activities were prolonged until March 2022 (instead of Nov. 2021). Overall and financial management involved the continuous coordination of all project activities and tasks between the partners by TalTech, ensuring proper communication with project partners and EST-RUS Programme representatives, updating the project website with news and upcoming events, ensuring the proper financial management, including submission of a Budget Change Requests, if necessary. Project work meetings were regularly held, mainly online.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions field works started later and only 4 series of water discharge measurements (totally measured discharges - 24) were done simultaneously for the whole river-cross section from June to September 2020 (by TalTech and FSBI „SHI“).

The Information indicator's panel was installed in the second reporting period, however, the initial web page <http://fun.lh1.in> link was moved to <https://narvailm.visitnarva.ee>. This was done to ensure link maintenance after the end of the project since it will be supported by the local site "visitnarva".

Preliminary evaluation of the Joint Estonian-Russian method for estimation of nutrient load, carried by the Narva River to the Baltic Sea, was done. Narva river water sampling was postponed for summer 2021. It was caused by the COVID-19 restrictions. Estonia-Russia border was closed, and any field measurements were forbidden. New water samplers were bought within the NarvaWatMan project, information was published on the FSBI "SHI" website (<http://www.hydrology.ru/ru/news/fgbu-ggi-priobrel-priory-dlya-otbora-prob-vody-iz-r-narva-dlya-gidrohimicheskogo-analiza>).

To create a Joint complex index for water quality assessment it is necessary to elaborate harmonized water quality standards for different chemical substances for the water objects at the Narva river catchment. Partners from FSBI "SHI" and TalTech have identified a list of chemicals and their concentration limits which can be used as the common indicators of the state and pollution of the water body. The "Questionnaire" was sent to experts in hydrochemistry in Russia and Estonia to involve them in the process of setting harmonized water quality standards that can be used in both countries. TalTech and FSBI "SHI" sent (March-April, 2020) the questionnaire (in national languages) to 23 organizations/experts to choose proper chemical substances and standards for their concentrations in water in the Narva river catchment area. 8 responses were received. Questionnaire preface in English: "Dear experts, within the framework of the international project ER25 NarvaWatMan "Managing Water Resources of the Transboundary Narva River: Harmonization and Sustainability", it is planned to develop an index for assessing the status of water bodies in the Narva River Basin, harmonized/agreed between Russian and Estonian experts. The index will be used for a common assessment of the state of water bodies in the transboundary basin of the river Narva and the presentation of these assessments at the Joint Russian-Estonian Commission for the Protection and Rational Use of Transboundary Waters, as well as at other international events involving the assessment of water quality in transboundary water bodies using a common methodology. For this purpose, the project team proposed a list of pollutants and indicators of the state of water, as well as standards for their content in water. We invite you to take part in the survey and express your opinion on the representativeness of this list of indicators, as well as their normative concentrations, to reflect the state of water bodies in the river basin Narva. Your opinion will be taken into account when developing the index for assessing the status of water bodies in the Narva River Basin. At the end of 2020, in Tallinn, Estonia, it is planned to discuss all the proposals in the framework of the meeting of Estonian and Russian experts, to which we plan to invite all experts."

Evaluation of Estonian-Russian contribution in nutrients load from Narva river basin continued. Experts from all partner organizations took part in a discussion of the report that SC "Mineral" prepared and sent to everybody via e-mail and then presented during the 11th HELCOM PLC -7 Meeting (15-17th of June 2020); the final decision about the approach to be used for the pilot area has been taken. A preliminary list of necessary data was collected and circulated between partners for consideration. Agricultural data, coefficients method and maps to be used were discussed. The task is in progress.

Two Master's thesis were defended at TalTech in June 2020: „Comparison and analysing different techniques of the Narva river discharge estimation“, by Yaroslav Kobets and „Analysis of pollution load calculation methods and the probability of exceeding the water quality limits in the Narva and Emajõgi rivers“ by Daria Myrna.

(<https://www.narvawatman.com/materials/.c/research>).

Implementation of the 3rd International EcoMarathon (EM) was realized by active involving of partners SC „Mineral“ in the "Children's Health and Education Center "Rosson" on July 2020 in 3 lines: EcoArt (together with the art group of Mit'ki), EcoSport (together with the Center for the Development of Water sports) and EcoLab (together with the ecological and biological centre "Krestovsky Island" of the St. Petersburg City Palace of Youth Creativity (off-line) and young researchers from TalTech (on-line). Totally 457 participants attended the events. On August 29, 2020, the 3rd International EM has ended by sport duathlon in Ivangorod, Russia (139 participants). Photo gallery of all events is posted on [www.narvariver.pro](http://www.narvariver.pro) and under „news“ of the project web site: [www.narvawatman.com/news-1](http://www.narvawatman.com/news-1).

As a part of the Communication and Visibility work package activity, TalTech and FSBI “SHI” partners took part in an online interview with a senior expert of TESIM, the technical assistance project for the implementation of the ENI CBC programs.

Project interim results were presented at the Meeting of Estonia-Russia Joint Commission on the Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Water bodies (June 2020) and at the HELCOM PLC-7 and PLC -8 Meetings (online, 15-17 June and 9-10 September 2020). Both Commissions confirmed the importance of the project's results and included them into their agenda to monitor them in the future.

News/results of EM on the project homepages (narvawatman.com, narvariver.pro) and local media channels were published before and after the events. Associated partners from Narva and Ivangorod cities helped to disseminate info.