

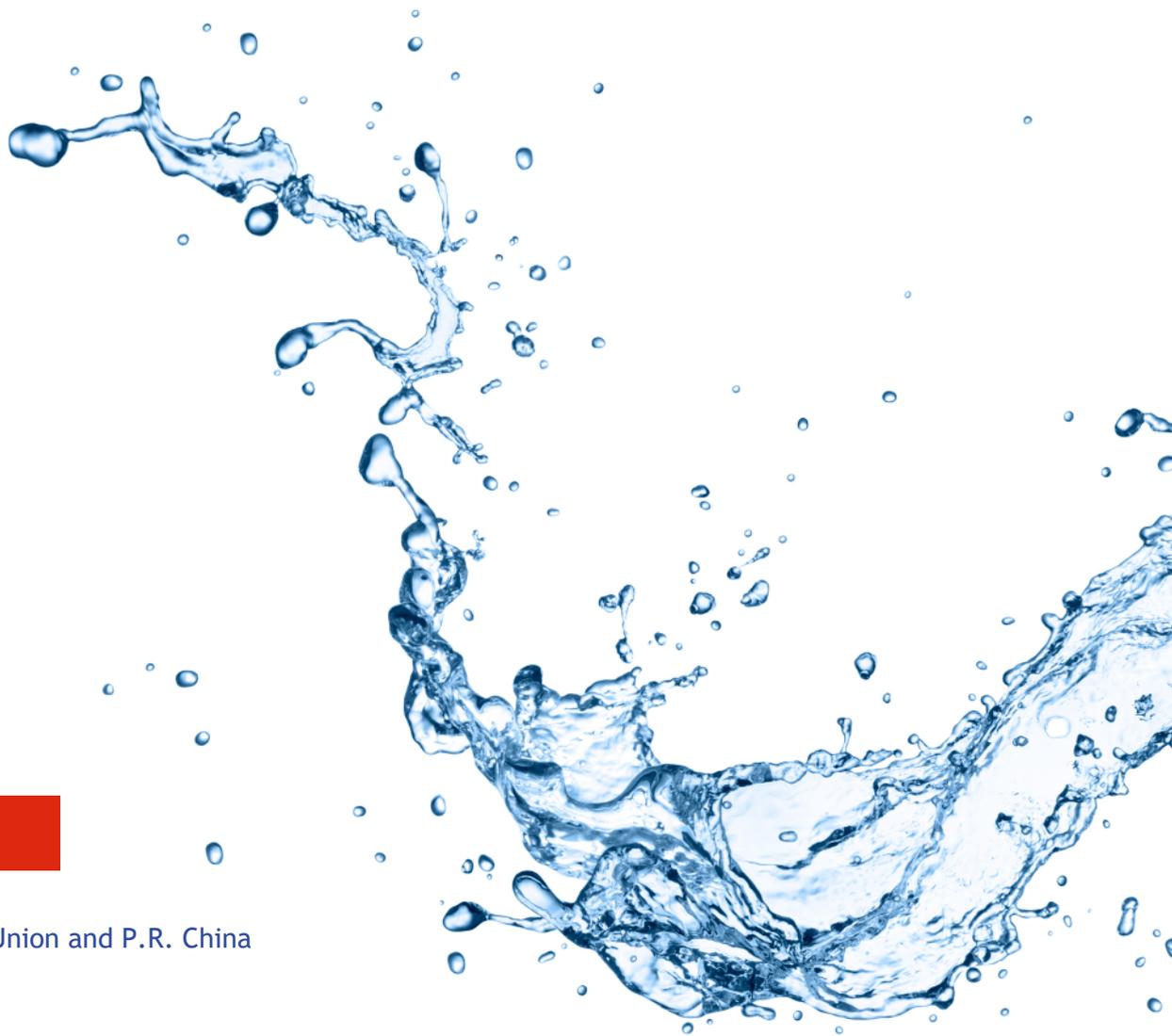
CHINA EUROPE Water Platform

Public-private-partnership
model in Lake and River
basin restoration - example
from Finland

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Co-funded by
the European Union and P.R. China



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Although the water quality in Finland is generally rather good, intensive agriculture together with forestry, developing municipalities, and industry with waste waters have caused undesired side effects since the 1950s. Some water bodies have for decades received very high external nutrient loads which has resulted in the deterioration of water quality.

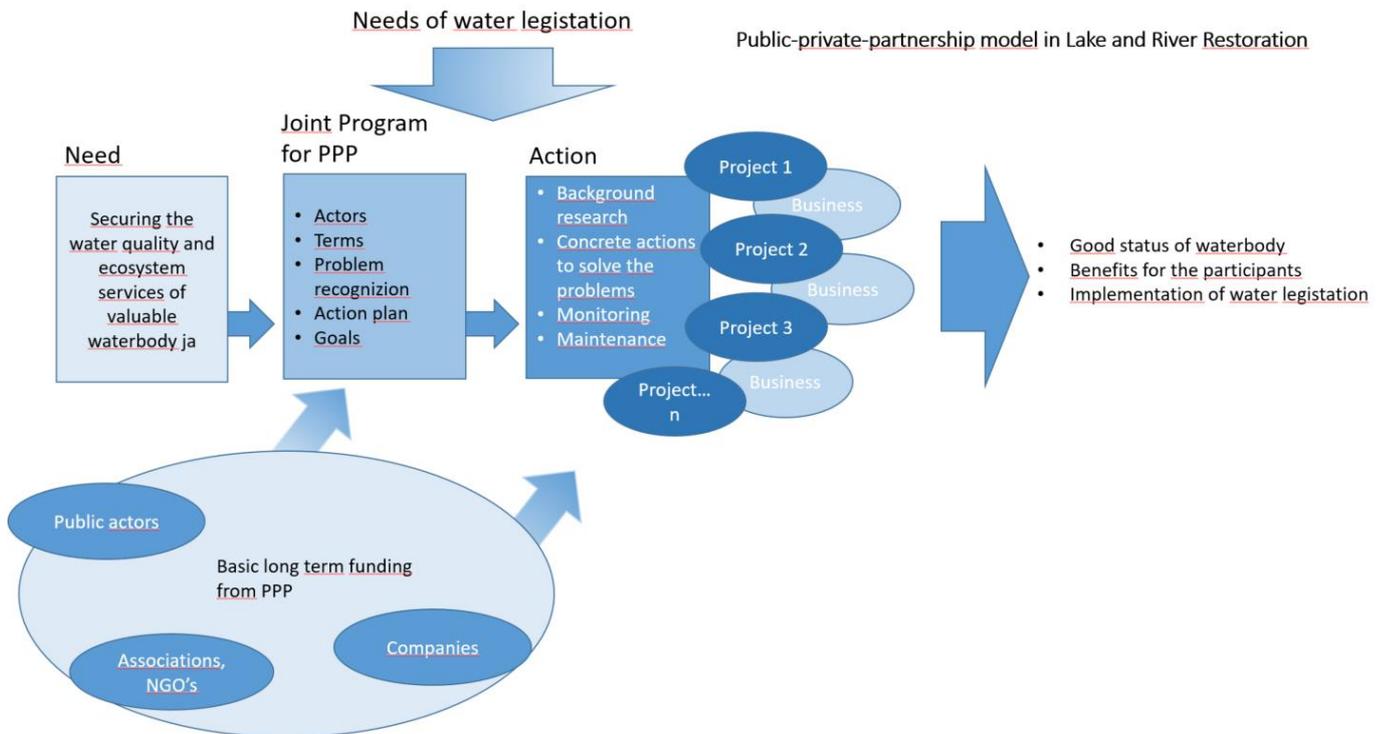
Environmental legislation in Finland was introduced in 1960s and -70s and integrated water resources management plans were made and implemented in the 1970s and in 1980s. There has been four national Water Protection Programmes since 1974, the latest was adopted in 2006. In 2000s there has also been several programmes to protect Baltic Sea, like Finland's Programme for the Protection of the Baltic Sea in 2002, HELCOM BSAP and EU Baltic Sea Strategy. Since 2000 there has been a common EU policy for water protection. River basin management plans cover all surface and ground waters and the plans are updated every six years. The state government and municipalities promote the activities in the plans within the framework of their budgetary funds, but there is a need for additional financing and organized implementation.

One model to solve this question of funding and implementation is a joint long-term restoration programme, funded by public-private-partnership. This has been implemented Pyhäjärvi Institute (PI), a private non-profitable foundation. PI is implementing research and development projects, further education and expertise services. It has two ppp-funded programmes, Pyhäjärvi Restoration Programme (since 1995) and JOKI Programme (since 2017). In both case, there has been a need to secure the water quality and ecosystem services of valuable water bodies (Lake Pyhäjärvi and River Eurajoki Basin) and a long term programmes were built to reach that goal. They have long term ppp-fundings (5-6 years commitments), which include public funding from cities/municipalities and private funding from local companies, associations and NGOs. The programme is recognizing the main problems and joining all actors to implement the action plan towards commonly set goals. Based on the background research concrete actions



are made to solve the problems. Monitoring is needed to secure that the actions are working and the direction of development is correct. Additional funding can be found from different projects, funded by government, EU or other foundations.

The benefits of this model are clear. For public authorities it provides practical implementation of water legislation, in Finnish case EU's Water Frame Directive. The programme work supports general aims to guarantee good water quality and aquatic ecosystem services. It is linking different actors from local citizen to public authorities and scientists. The benefits for private companies are also significant. For the companies using water the improved water quality means savings in water purification processes. Participation to water protection programmes can improve the public image and company brand among the environmentally aware customers. The projects increase the co-operation between private sector and research units and can create new business opportunities with innovative new ideas.



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This action is co-funded by the European Union and P.R. China.
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