



Lake Peipus, River Narva and their Watershed: local issues and regional cooperation

Two Facets of EU Governance of Natural Resources in the Baltic Region: Perspectives of Russia and the Eastern Neighbourhood Area

Workshop organized by the Jean-Monnet Project *GRASS - EU governance of natural resources: geopolitics, regions and sectors*, led by Pskov State University.

Pskov State University, March 14-16, 2018

Context

Traditionally, the environmental and natural resource policies of the EU were recognised as good examples in Russia. Many environmental governance institutions were modelled after the EU. There is however a knowledge gap in understanding of what the role of EU institutions is, and how exactly EU internal and external action in the field of natural resource management and environmental protection is perceived by and impacts on various stakeholder groups in Russia, in particular, where local and regional perspectives are concerned.

GRASS is a cross-fertilisation project addressing this by studying EU sectoral, regional, & global natural resource governance and the implications for Russia, in particular the north-western region as well as Russian perspectives on the issue. GRASS emphasis three issue areas within the EU governance of natural resources and their external dimension:

- The Arctic: Manifesting EU geopolitics;
- The Baltic Sea: An example of EU regional policies; and
- Biodiversity: A case of EU sectoral policies.

The workshop

The aim of the workshops is to discuss the state of the art in the development of EU regional natural resource policies, in particular for the Baltic region, and their relevance for Russia. To highlight the wide span of issues in environmental and natural resource policies, and to underscore the importance of an understanding of their interconnectivity, this first GRASS event will centre around EU-Russia co-governance over the lake of Peipus and its watershed, which are divided by Estonia and Russia (with a relatively small fragment of the watershed belonging to Latvia, and a very tiny one to Belarus).

Transboundary governance of Peipus Lake, while as such a matter of local water resource management, it is an effort crossing the borders between the EU (here Estonia) and Russia and thus one in which EU policies directly relate, be it detrimental or synergetic, with Russian policies. Hence, it is a showcase of transboundary cooperation at the external borders of the EU, enabling an analysis of how successful such efforts are and why.

Sustainable watershed governance is far more challenging to address by transboundary cooperation efforts, as it involves a broad range of economic and socio-political activities within and beyond watershed, which are not directly controllable even within a given jurisdiction. Focusing on the watershed of Peipus Lake and Nerva River, the workshop will explore needs and opportunities for the development of a joint vision on sustainable watershed governance, and discuss options for



an appropriate institutional framework that could support EU-Russia's cooperation over sustainable watersheds.

Participants of the workshops

The workshop will bring together researchers and representatives of various stakeholder groups involved into the management and governance over the Lake Peipus. River Narva and their watershed, including:

- Representatives of stakeholder involved with Peipus Lake like NGOs and other interest groups from the Pskov region and Estonia, researchers from Tartu and Pskov, representatives of relevant local, regional and national authorities on both sides of the border and representatives of ethnic minorities living by the lake.
- Representatives of stakeholder groups and academic communities involved into broader problems of transboundary governance of natural resources, in particular transboundary EU-Russia watersheds.
- Representatives of EU institutions and of various EU interest groups.
- Keynote speakers from academia and praxis communities.
- Postdocs or advanced PhD students working on or interested to develop new research on the case studies.

Preliminary Schedule

March 14, 2018: registration, opening; keynote speeches on failures and success of transboundary natural resource governance, on the Lake Peipus, river Narva and their watershed, on Estonia-Russia's cooperation on environmental matters; stakeholder sessions – fisheries, water supply & wastewater management, ethnic minorities & traditional lifestyles, tourism, biodiversity conservation, organic vs. regular agriculture etc.

March 15, 2018: joint vision for the watershed of Peipus – why and how, targets and indicators; towards the institutional framework for EU-Russia's watershed governance – actors, policies and actions; research planning and paper development session

March 16, 2018: excursion to vulnerability hotspots and places of cultural heritage in the Region of Pskov.

Please send your CVs with expressions of interest before January 31, 2018 to grass.jeanmonnet@gmail.com

- Pskov State University, Pskov, Russia – the project coordinator
- Erda RTE, Rijswijk, the Netherlands
- Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
- Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu, Estonia
- NGO Ekapraekt, Minsk, Belarus
- RZ. Research. Management. Communication, Lund, Sweden