



WATERPRO

## **BÚNAÐARSTOVAN VISITS SCOTLAND FOR COLLABORATIVE EUROPEAN WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – WATERPRO**

As the water quality Waterpro project comes to the end of its second year of collaborative working, representatives from Búnaðarstovan joined other partners from Northern Europe at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh to reflect on the impact of the project to date and to plan ahead for year three.

It was reported that The Waterpro Project continues to make good progress with Heriot Watt University coordinating work and agreeing that a new toolkit comprising new good practice information cards which will now be drawn up by each partner. Savonia University in Finland is taking the lead in developing new templates for the cards. The toolkit aims to provide a good practice information card to the farming community to provide good advice on how to manage nitrate and phosphate run off into our water systems.

The importance of the evaluation of climate change effects in each of the partner countries was also discussed during the partner conference in Edinburgh, with the agreement that each partner should research and develop a short summary of the potential effects of climate change on nutrient run off in their own area.

Partners at Savonia University will also design a web-based selection tool, which will help stakeholders select suitable good practices based on their own nitrate run off circumstances. The toolbox will be produced by February 2019.

The partners agreed that coming together at these round table discussions and conferences are invaluable for partners of the Waterpro project in order to build on the impact that the project has had in the past two years and to proactively plan ahead for the next phase with a joined up approach. The face to face international interaction provides an opportunity to discuss unique partner experiences that conference calls and emails just don't permit."

In closing, partners attending the conference updated each other on their pilot projects and it seemed that progress on all sites is proceeding well with all site information being fed into the new good practice toolkit and website. Arrangements for a major water quality conference to be held on the shores of Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland in the Autumn were also agreed.

WaterPro is part of the Northern Peripheries Transnational Interreg Programme involving the following partners:

- Savonia University of Applied Sciences, Lead Partner (Finland)
- Geological Survey of Finland (Finland)
- Luleå University of Technology (Sweden)



Northern Periphery and  
Arctic Programme  
2014-2020



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- Agricultural University of Iceland (Iceland)
- Lough Neagh Partnership (Northern Ireland)
- Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (Northern Ireland)
- Heriot Watt University (Scotland)
- Donegal County Council (Ireland)
- Agricultural Agency, Búnaðarstovan (Faroe Islands)

Also including 17 associated partners from the NPA areas (including local and regional authorities, enterprises, sectoral agencies and interest groups representing the main target groups and stakeholders).

The overall goal of WaterPro is to develop eco-efficient tools and models for good water quality management and protection for the Northern Periphery sparsely populated area. This will be done through development of a toolbox of good management practices and a communication platform for the agricultural and mining extraction industries. In addition, several innovative, low cost practices will be implemented in actual pilot sites and their treatment and cost-efficiency evaluated.

WaterPro will also enhance the preparedness of responsible authorities and local resource users to protect water quality, human health, ecosystems and stimulate economic growth and development.

#### **WaterPro Aims:**

- 1) Provide more eco efficient runoff management systems in the Northern Periphery Area in anticipation of the effects of climate change.
- 2) Provide a faster transfer of knowledge and develop wider cooperation within the Northern Periphery Area and improve runoff management systems and techniques.





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**WaterPro Project Partners photographed at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh**

**Social media channels:**

Website: [www.water-pro.eu](http://www.water-pro.eu)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/waterproproject](https://www.facebook.com/waterproproject)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/waterproeu](https://www.twitter.com/waterproeu)

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