



**Transboundary cooperation and public
participation activities in
Lake PEIPSI/CHUDSKOE
(Estonia- Russia) area**

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Sweden

Finland

Estonia

Lake Peipsi

Russia

Latvia

Lithuania

Byelarus

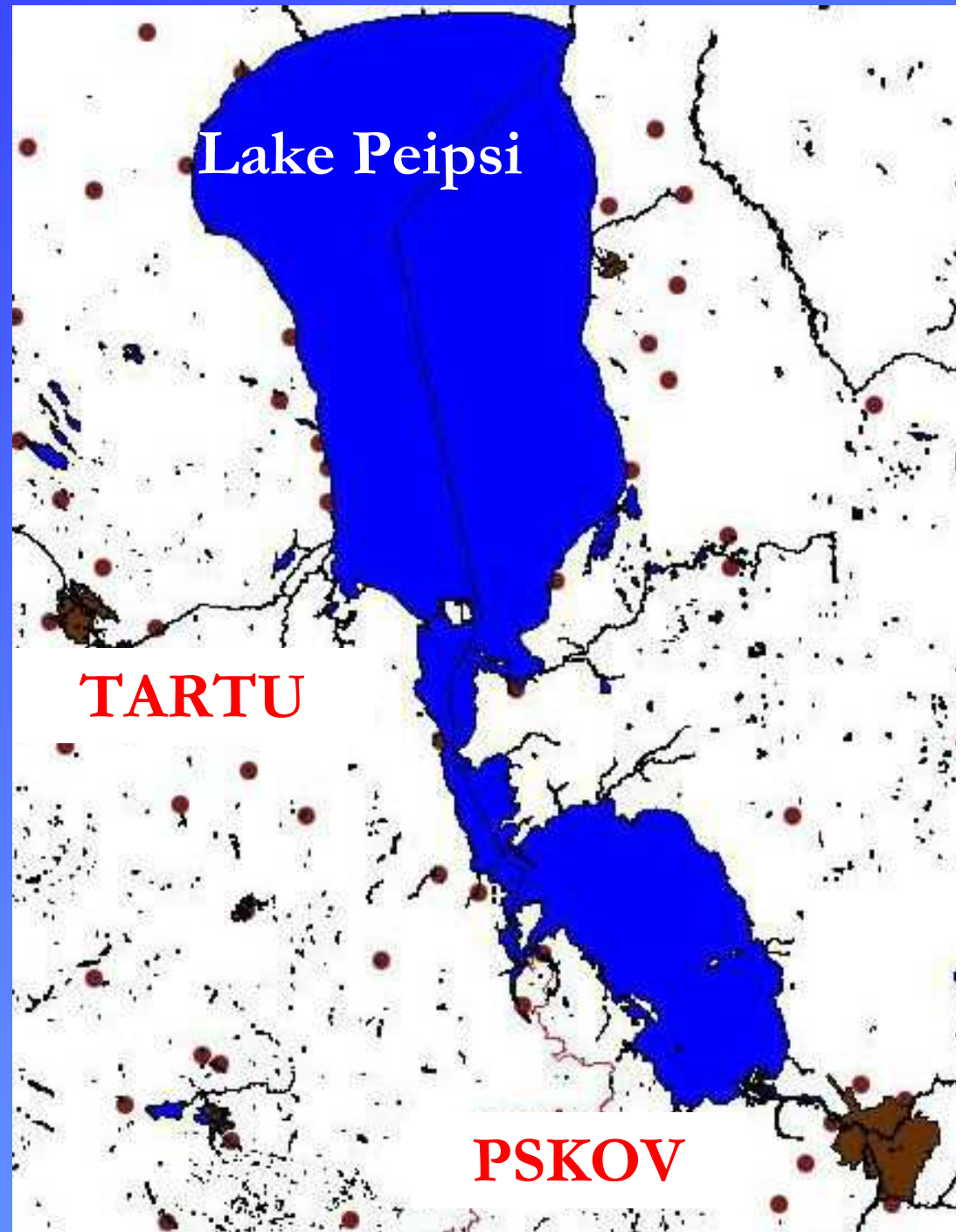
Poland

The 4th largest lake in Europe (3550 km²) - shared by Estonia (44%) and Russia (56%).

- Shallow lake- 7 m average
- Big wetlands in the catchment area.

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

Two bigger cities – Tartu (EE) and Pskov (Rus)



Fisheries management

Main issues of the
Lake Peipsi
management are:



Water
eutrophication

1994 Estonia and Russia signed an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of conservation and use of Lake Peipsi fish resources. Agreement resulted into establishing joint fishery regime for teh lakes

1996 Intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of environmental protection.

1997 Intergovernmental agreement on use and protection of their transboundary watercourses.

2002 AGREEMENT on water transportation on lake peipsi

**1996
Intergovernmental
agreement on use and
protection of their
transboundary waters.**



The Estonian-Russian Transboundary Water Commission was established in 1997

2 Working groups:

- Integrated Water resources management
- Monitoring and assessment

- Different stakeholder groups, incl. Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, is invited to participate in the work of WGs



www.ctc.ee

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

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

Lake Peipsi/Chudskoe Transboundary Water Management Programme

-UNDP/GEF funded project(2004-2006), to work out Lake Peipsi MP incl. practical recommendations for the Lake nutrient load reduction and the sustainable conservation of habitats and eco-systems in the region.

-Public and stakeholder involvement plan was worked out as part of WMP

Peipsi CTC public participation activities

Work is taking place in different levels:

Transboundary - NGOs and local authorities are involved in WGs of the Transboundary Water Commission; Peipsi Forums, roundtables

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

Regional and local – trainings and written information to local authorities/stakeholders through meetings, information through local media, water seminars

- Environmental education curricular for schools
- Lake Peipsi tabel game for children
- Lake Peipsi museum

PEIPSIMAN project 2007-2009 (Interreg)

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

Follow up project will focus on waste water treatment
plants

Obstacles and challenges

Specific issues for the EU external borders is a growing gap in the formal frameworks, norms, practices, information, economic development levels. But also:

Due to the history, Estonia and Russia have fundamentally different foreign policy discourses in relation to each other and their relations remain tense.

Opposing Agendas. The Estonians and Russians are coming to the table sometimes with opposing, agendas. (i.e. EE is more concerned about the entire lake as a resource (quality), the RUS concentrate more on point-source issues.

Communication and language issues

Monitoring systems are different

Obstacles and challenges

Lack of funding for grassroots CBC projects: Russia is not participating in Baltic Sea Programme, Estonian-Russian CBC Programme is postponed for several years; authorities and NGOs are not able to participate in pan-European projects (financially, also lack of experience/capacity)

Practical issues: visa regime, weak public transportation across the border, language difference, personal contacts between authorities, specialists are vanishing

