

PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF NATURAL LAKES IN THE SPIRIT OF EUROPEAN LIFE HERITAGE SUPPORT (ProCleanLakes)

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Abstract: ProCleanLakes project will design and demonstrate the feasibility of integrated nature-based emerging approaches for joint protection and restoration of European Natural Lakes (ENL) and their biodiversity, considering scenarios which imply the presence of various pressures that affect the aquatic ecosystems' status. Thus, 6 European lakes, situated in different geographical locations, different climate conditions and under impact of different chemical and biological stressors were chosen. A replication roadmap powered by the necessity of assuring upscaling and universality of the optimal integrated solutions (IS) will be developed to prove the replicability. ProCleanLakes introduces a dynamic and adaptable approach that emphasizes learning through observation and practical application. A key aspect of this Project will be the ongoing dialogue between the scientific and social communities. Citizen input, including ideas and opinions on “how” and “who” should be involved, as well as both qualitative and quantitative improvements in the ENL ecosystem and biodiversity, will be crucial elements in developing the ENL Action Plan.

Keywords: Environment, Pollution, Fresh water biodiversity, Chemical stressors, Nature based solutions, Climate change