



PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP INSPIRES THE TAVASTIA REGION

It is the co-operation between public and private sectors that saves the environment and inspires the people. In Tavastia Region the Vanajavesi Centre and its partners are a living and growing example. With its old and new partners, like the Delfort group Tervakoski Ltd., a paper mill with 200 years of heritage in fine paper production, the Vanajavesi Centre and its mascot Onni the Catfish (above in the picture) celebrated the co-operation for a better future in a recent get together happening.

VANAJAVESI CENTRE



Vanajavesi Centre is a regional initiative which works on improving the status of lakes and rivers in Lake Vanajavesi watershed area in Southern Finland.

The Centre carries out a variety of actions, including lake and river restoration and prevention of eutrophication, thus improving the general appeal of the region.

The Centre joins the forces of different actors such as municipalities, companies, scientists, schools, media, farmers' organization, regional government, NGOs and private people, who work together towards common goals.

“ It has been really rewarding to see the network grow and work well together.

Sanni Manninen Johansen
Secretary General of Vanajavesi Centre

TAVASTIA BLUEWAYS



In Tavastia region there are great places to go fishing and canoeing, exciting destinations to explore round the year. For international visitors it has been difficult to find these hidden gems, due to the scattering of the little information available.

Vanajavesi Centre and HAMK University of Applied Sciences have started an EU-funded project to solve the problem. Tavastia Blueways project will spread the word of the beautiful and natural sites and routes with the power of social media and Internet, so the information is open to everyone.





RESTORING BIRD WETLANDS



A remarkable proportion of European water birds are born and bred in Finland. To ensure good breeding areas for birds in the future, the FRESHABIT LIFE IP project restores Natura 2000 bird lakes.

In the Vanajavesi region there are 8 lakes receiving tailor-made treatment measures, including dredging and removal of vegetation.



CHARMING BUT STRUGGLING LAKES

The Vanajavesi region can boast with more than 300 lakes and rivers. Some of them struggle with issues concerning water quality, hydrology and biodiversity. A lot of concrete actions are taken, some even directly hands on.

Above in the picture, Vanajavesi Centre employee Heidi Kontio is covering invasive lake shore plants *Glyceria maxima*, to stop them from taking over the shoreline.



NEW NGOS



When taking care of the lakes and rivers the local knowledge is essential. Therefore, active NGOs play an important role in restoration activities. Vanajavesi Centre has encouraged local people to create their own organizations. Six NGOs are currently working together with the Centre in PAKKA projects, carrying out both investigations and restoration initiatives.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Do you need to distract children away from the screen? Vanajavesi Centre has created different water and nature related activities for kindergartens and schools.

With the professionals from the Centre the kids can e.g. go fishing or ice-fishing or collect watersamples and then study them with a microscope to witness the aliens living in the water. The mascot Onni the Catfish follows along, giving and receiving huge hugs.