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Assessment of Pollutant Emissions to support River Basin Management in Albania according to the EU Water Framework Directive | AMORE-AL A partnership between Austria and Albania

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COORDINATING INSTITUTION:

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PARTNER INSTITUTIONS:

TU Wien

Agricultural University of Tirana

PARTNER COUNTRY:

Albania

PROJECT DURATION:

1 February 2024 – 31 January 2027

(36 months)

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Albania is a country rich in water resources. Protecting these water resources is of the utmost importance for the economic and social development of the country. Since Albania has the status of an acceding member of the European Union (EU), river basin management plans (RBMP) are used to achieve a holistic management of surface waters according to the EU Water Framework Directive. Albania has a significant need for data as a basis for these RBMPs, especially data on pollutant emissions and significance of emission pathways in the river basins.

The AMORE-AL project aims to close these gaps by establishing a tool that combines a proper monitoring strategy with the modelling of pollutant pathways. The instrument used here named Modelling Regionalized Emissions (MoRE) was developed based on the MONERIS approach in Germany and Austria. Conditions like climate, soil, wastewater treatment and data availability differ in Albania and therefore the MoRE model will be adapted and further developed for application in Albania.

The Ishmi (or Ishëm) River Basin was selected as project area, with its main rivers Lana, Tiranë, Tërkuza and Zezë. In this context, the point and diffuse emission pathways for the Ishmi River Basin, known as the most polluted in Europe, will be investigated. The focus will be set on demonstrating the applicability of the tool for this river basin with the aim of transferring the model to other river basins in Albania and in the neighbouring countries.

To ensure the further development and application of the model, capacity building and knowledge transfer will be a central focus of this project. During the three years of project duration, several workshops, conferences, and training activities are foreseen for the Albanian scientists and water resources specialists.

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