



## The Usserød Å Project

# Climate change adaptation across municipal boundaries



The three Danish municipalities of Fredensborg, Hørsholm and Rudersdal have entered into a working relationship agreement on the execution of the LIFE project, which is also backed by their three respective utility companies: Fredensborg Forsyning A/S, Hørsholm Vand ApS and Forsyningen Allerød Rudersdal A/S.

### Water respects no municipal boundaries

Local authorities all over Denmark are working individually on climate change adaptation projects. The unique aspect of the Usserød Å project is that the input will be provided jointly by three municipalities.

'Water respects no municipal boundaries', so the climate change adaptation initiative centred on the river must be planned and executed from the perspective of the watercourse system as a whole. This implies, for example that the best solution for flood protection in one of the three municipalities may be to plan and implement a specific climate change adaptation measure upstream in a neighbor municipality.

### Inter-municipal collaboration

The Usserød Å EU LIFE project is to pave the way for a permanent inter-municipal working relationship centred on the river, and may also lead to partnerships in other areas in the medium to long term.

For example, the project will involve setting up hydraulic measuring systems and steering tools to help prevent flooding in the future. Wet meadows are to be established as buffer zones to cope with extreme precipitation, and a permanent, inter-municipal working relationship will be built up around Usserød Å. Finally, the LIFE project is to contribute to improving the habitat for fish, plants and small creatures in Usserød Å. The project thus specifically consists of four main focus areas designed to underpin our overarching vision:

### Focus areas

Creating an organisational basis for the working relationship. In future, there is to be a very close and project-integrated working relationship between six public sector organisations - namely the three Municipalities of Rudersdal, Hørsholm and Fredensborg, along with their respective supply companies Rudersdal Forsyning A/S, Hørsholm Vand ApS and Fredensborg Forsyning A/S.

This entails completely new commitment to four focus areas:

- Decision-making processes and competencies
- Forms of organisation and political deployment
- Shared municipal contingency plan for flooding
- All the supporting functions and work processes

Building up a shared technical 'toolbox' for climate change adaptation for Usserød Å Briefly put, this part of the assignment centres on:

- A modernised, shared system of hydraulic measuring stations
- A shared hydraulic model for river and hinterland
- Updated risk mapping
- A warning and information system available to citizens

Demonstration projects - specific construction projects for climate change adaptation.

- Wet meadows to be established to function as 'flood basins' beautifully integrated into the countryside
- In addition, we need to establish how we can make best use of Sjælsø Lake as a buffer

Monitoring with hydraulic measuring systems

SMS



### Facts about the Usserød Å Project

The project is supported by the EU LIFE programme. For general information about this project, see: [ec.europa.eu/environment/life](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life). The official project title under the LIFE programme is: "Intermunicipal Cooperation on Water Management and Climate Change for the Stream of Usserød."

The project execution period runs from September 2011 through March 2016. The budget for the project totals DKK 18.5 million, of which funding via the LIFE programme accounts for approx. DKK 7 million. The partners and participants in the project are:

- The Municipality of Fredensborg, which has the role coordinating beneficiary
- The Municipality of Hørsholm
- The Municipality of Rudersdal
- Fredensborg Forsyning A/S
- Hørsholm Vand ApS
- Forsyningen Allerød Rudersdal A/S