











Partners



-  Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), DE
-  Pensoft Publishers, BG
-  Wetlands International Europe, NL
-  University of Tartu, EE
-  Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, CZ
-  Iberian Center for River Restoration, ES
-  Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds, PT
-  RWTH Aachen University, DE
-  Stroming BV, NL
-  Environmental Action Germany (DUH), DE

Consortium

10 Partner organizations from 7 countries in Europe

Project coordinator

Mathias Scholz

HELMHOLTZ Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)

Duration

January 2024 – December 2027

Follow SpongeBoost

 @spongeboost_eu

 SpongeBoost Project

 SpongeBoost Project

 spongeboost_horizoneurope

 spongeboost.eu

Contact

Mathias Scholz

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)

 mathias.scholz@ufz.de



Funded by
the European Union

SpongeBoost receives funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No.101112906. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Neither the EU nor CINEA can be held responsible for them.



Sponge Boost

Upscaling the natural
sponge functions of
freshwater ecosystems
to deliver multi-benefit
green deal solutions

spongeboost.eu

Background

Europe's landscapes have faced extreme weather, from heatwaves and droughts to heavy rains, severely damaging ecosystems and society. To combat these challenges, the SpongeBoost project was launched. SpongeBoost focuses on enhancing landscapes' natural sponge-like characteristics to manage water flow and storage. This involves refining existing methods, implementing them on a larger scale, and exploring innovative solutions. The project aims to strengthen landscapes' resilience against climate-related extremes through natural water retention.

Case Study Areas



Spain

Serra do Xistral Peatlands,
Sotos del Alfaro



Germany

Schneifel,
Weiße Elster



Estonia

Pärnu Catchment,
Alam-Pedja



São Miguel Island - Azores, Portugal

Graminhais Plateau

Objectives

The mission of SpongeBoost is to enhance the natural sponge function of wetlands and soils in Europe, aligning with EU policies for climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and biodiversity. To achieve this, the project plans to employ both bottom-up and top-down approaches, which will foster networking and synergy at a regional and EU level. SpongeBoost will focus on five main objectives:



Conduct a comprehensive literature review to create a standard reference catalogue for securing and enhancing sponge functions in adaptation to climate change. This catalogue will integrate social, economic, technical, and ecological effects and serve as a widely used resource across Europe and beyond.



Develop a roadmap with practical tools to empower stakeholders, drive transformative change, and integrate sponge solutions into regional, national and European climate adaptation processes to achieve EU Green Deal targets.



Build a knowledge base on existing approaches for enhancing sponge functions, and highlight the reasons for success or failure. The goal is to enable regions and communities to replicate effective transformative solutions. Meanwhile, the consortium is to facilitate networking initiatives with other projects and identify suitable pilot sites for monitoring long-term success using the results of previous projects.



Connect communities and compile online resources for climate change adaptation. The goal is to facilitate access and combine a library of tools for restoration and share research findings on soil, water, and groundwater interconnection for replication across Europe.



Work on the implementation, tests, refinement, and adjustment of best practices and innovative solutions through EU-wide case studies. The goal is to enhance climate resilience to extreme events and enable upscaling from local to EU levels.

