

Ljubljana, 9th June 2014

Press release

DOCK OPENING AND START OF THE OPERATION OF THE VESSEL IN THE FRAME OF LIFE Stop Cyanobloom PROJECT

The opening on June 12, 2014 at Koseze pond in Ljubljana will be organised by Arhel Ltd. with an introductory speech given by prof. Janez Koželj, Deputy Mayor of the City of Ljubljana

We have achieved our first important milestone in the frame of the project LIFE Stop Cyanobloom - **Innovative technology for cyanobacterial bloom control**. We will start with a demonstration of operation of a floating working platform – a vessel, which enables continuous data collection on the water status and detection and limitation of harmful blooms of cyanobacteria. The vessel is the result of own development of the company Arhel Ltd. from Ljubljana.

After the start of the project in July 2013 we have carried out important activities on the optimisation of sensory equipment and finished up the vessel »**Stop Cyanobloom 1**« which operation will be demonstrated until the end of December 2016 on Koseze pond in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The launch of the second vessel »**Stop Cyanobloom 2**« is planned in 2015 on Lake Bled.

The organisation of works at Koseze pond ran in close cooperation with City of Ljubljana and their environmental department. The planning of the dock has been entrusted to the architects, who performed the existing landscape and spatial planning at Koseze pond, and thus took care of the spatial coherence of the dock with the environment and of the possibility of its multi-purpose use after the project completion. The dock is located on a northeastern part of the pond shore, and does not interfere with the existing rich reed habitats. Implementation of the dock is in the form of boathouse on the water with built-in wooden piles into the bottom of the pond and sidewalls knitted from hazel rods.

After the opening, we will continue with the Open day, and thus present to the public the purpose and objectives of the project, as well as new technological solutions in the field of robotic sensing of cyanobacteria and water quality monitoring. Dissemination of new knowledge and technological solutions is namely one of the significant highlights of projects co-financed by the European financial mechanism LIFE. With the demonstration project, we wish to achieve greater awareness on causes and consequences of water pollution and raise knowledge on solutions for prevention or mitigation of such situations.

The project LIFE Stop Cyanobloom is coordinated by **Arhel Ltd.** in the partnership with **National Institute of biology** and **Municipality Bled**. The project aims at development and demonstration of technological solution to prevent cyanobacterial blooms, which represent a world scale topical issue of eutrophic water bodies.

More information and photographic material is available on the websites:

<http://lifestopcyanobloom.arhel.si/> and <http://www.arhel.si/>

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