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AQUARES NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER ON GETTING TO KNOW THE PROJECT, WITH UPDATES ON ITS
PROGRESS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

SUPPORTING WATER EFFICIENCY THROUGH WATER REUSE

“AQUARES – Water reuse policies advancement for resource efficient European regions” is a project under the INTERREG Europe programme that aims to improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes in the partnership regions, to increase resource efficiency, green growth, and environmental performance management in the water reuse sector.

The project brings together 10 public organisations from 9 different European countries with the aim to achieve better water management of water resources through water reuse. Project efforts will focus on:

- Identifying viable water reuse strategies to confront inefficient uses of water.
- Securing the protection of water bodies.
- Taking advantage of untapped EU financing tools.
- Promoting public dialogue to address conflicting interests in the water reuse sector.

THE AQUARES PROJECT

- 10 partners from 9 different European countries
- Duration: 5 years
- ERDF funding: 1.54m



WATER REUSE CHALLENGES

One third of the EU territory is experiencing water stress due to the growing needs of populations, climate change, and over-abstraction. Deteriorating water quality and increasing water scarcity present a critical condition to growth in water-dependent economic sectors and EU society in general. For example, the immediate effects of droughts (such as damage to agriculture and infrastructure), as well as more indirect effects (such as a reluctance to invest in an area at risk), can also have a serious economic impact. The increase of the frequency of droughts highlights the intensity of the situation: between 1976 and 2006 the number of areas and people affected by droughts went up by almost 20% and the total costs of droughts amounted to EUR 100 billion. These trends are expected to persist in the future.

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Water reuse is both a necessity and an opportunity in the EU for two reasons: a) water scarcity has increased dramatically and affects 11% of the EU population and 17% of the EU territory, and b) the world water market will be worth 1 trillion by 2020, and a 1% increase in the growth of the EU water industry can create up to 20,000 new jobs.

Water reuse, as a strategic aspect of efficient water management in the EU, can help overcome a number of barriers to resource efficiency such as the absence of flexible and differentiated policies for efficient water management in the agricultural, industrial, urban and recreational sectors of EU regions (e.g. the absence of sustainable procurement incentives) and the slow rate of technological and managerial innovation adoption in water reuse (e.g. the lack of approaches focusing on treating the diffuse sources of residual medications).



PROJECT UPDATES

Kick-off meeting in Murcia

The kick-off Steering Group meeting of the AQUARES project was hosted by the General Direction of Water of the Regional Government of Murcia (MURCIA-GDW), in Murcia, Spain, on the 7th and 8th of June 2018.

The meeting commenced with the cordial welcome address from Minister of Water, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Miguel Ángel del Amor, who honoured the representatives of all partners and participants to the meeting with this presence.

Upcoming project activities

Studying activity A1.4: Identification of best practices for monitoring, assessing and ensuring compliance with water reuse standards

The policy goal of the activity is to facilitate among project partners an exchange of experience regarding successful water reuse monitoring practices; the results of the activity will be the focus of discussion with stakeholders in stakeholder group meetings (AQUARES activity 2.1), and will be used as to provide input for the development of the partners' action plans (which aim to improve the policy instruments addressed by the project). The partner responsible for the coordination of the activity is the Water Board of Oldenburg and East Frisia (OOWV) and all project partners will be involved in data collection.

THE PARTNERSHIP



-  Regional Government of Murcia, Ministry of Water, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, General Direction of Water
-  Ministry of Environment and Energy, Special Secretariat for Water
-  Lodzkie Region
-  The Regional Development Agency of the Pardubice Region
-  Energy and Water Agency
-  Lombardy Foundation for the Environment
-  Water Board of Oldenburg and East Frisia
-  Euro-mediterranean Water Institute Foundation (FIEA)
-  Association "Baltic Coasts"
-  The Municipality of Trebnje

LEAD PARTNER CONTACT

Regional Government of Murcia, Ministry of Water, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, General Direction of Water

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