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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



**AQUARES**  
Interreg Europe



# 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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**One third of the EU territory is experiencing water stress due to the growing needs of populations, climate change, and over-abstraction**



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 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.

The meeting was organised in sessions, during which discussion took place, enabling participants to clarify issues, introduce considerations, set directions, and reach decisions by consensus. Partners agreed that the meeting was properly structured and organized, stressing that it was the right start to a very promising project, which is of high priority to the participating organizations. The meeting concluded with a mutual understanding of the work expected by each partner work during the 1st semester of the project.

## ***Regional stakeholder meetings***

Biannual meetings with stakeholders are a crucial activity of the AQUARES project, with each project partner organising them in its own territory. Their aim is to serve as a venue for exchange of ideas on water reuse issues and policies addressed by the project between project partners and regional stakeholders. To harmonise project partners' efforts and assist them in organising the meetings, the Energy and Water Agency (EWA) has prepared guidelines and relevant forms.

# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

## **Activity A1.4: Identification of best practices for monitoring, assessing and ensuring compliance with water reuse standards**

The policy goal of this activity is to facilitate an exchange of experience regarding successful water reuse monitoring practices; 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 results of the activity (a best practice guide) will be discussed in stakeholder group meetings, and will be used to provide input for the development of the partners' action plans.

## **Activity A1.3: "Evaluation of water reuse technologies and practices across different sectors and regions"**

The goal of this activity is to assess current technologies used (or to be used in the future) in water reuse applications across various sectors. The partners responsible for the coordination of the activity are Euro-mediterranean Water Institute Foundation (FIEA) and The Regional Development Agency of the Pardubice Region (RRAPK). The result of the activity (with input from all project partners) will be the development of a water reuse technology application guide, which will map the most appropriate water reuse technologies in AQUARES regions.

# 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



Región de Murcia  
Consejería de Agua, Agricultura,  
Ganadería y Pesca



OOWV



Občina  
Trebnje

## UPCOMING INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP IN ITALY

Fondazione Lombardia per l'Ambiente (FLA) will host the interregional thematic workshop on "application of the appropriate technologies to water reuse across the agricultural, industrial, urban and recreational sector of each region", in Seveso, Italy. The workshop will last two days and all AQUARES partners will participate, with members of their stakeholder groups and external experts.

## WORKSHOP INFORMATION

**Thematic focus:** Water reuse technologies

**Host organisation:** FLA

**Location:** Seveso, Italy

**Date:** Semester 2 (exact date to be confirmed)

**Venue:** FLA Headquarters

**Language:** English

**Number of participants:** 20-25

**Type of participants:** Regional authorities officials, stakeholders, external experts

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