BIGDATA 4RIVERS
Interreg Europe

BIGDATA 4RIVERS aims to improve policies for European river basin and water management, thereby contributing to achieving the objectives of the EU's Water Framework Directive.

www.interregeurope.eu/bigdata4rivers

An interregional cooperation project for improving resource-efficient economy policies.

Project Partners

Intermunicipal Community of Alto Minho (PT)
Regional Development Fund on Behalf of the Region of Attica (EL)
Iberian Association of Riverside Municipalities of Duero River (ES)
Cluster DREAM Water & Environment (FR)
Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) (LT)
The National Union of Romanian Entrepreneurs (RO)
The County Administrative Board of Östergötland (SE)

Environment & resource efficiency

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2nd BIGDATA 4RIVERS NEWSLETTER

https://www.interregeurope.eu/bigdata4rivers

2nd Technical Meeting

On the 19th June 2020, the second Technical Committee meeting occurred, under the project "BIGDATA 4RIVERS: Improving the European Rivers Water Quality Through Smart Water Management Policies". Considering the pandemic that the world is living in, this meeting took place on an online platform – Meet – and the Leader Partner, CIM Alto Minho, started the meeting greeting all partners and contextualizing this solution.

This second meeting had as main objectives to discuss between all partners the modification proposal of the project calendar and also to review some aspects of the Joint Analytical Report, as to share its state of play and to point the way forward.

During the Technical Committee, the Lead Partner representative proposed a change of the Joint analytical report final delivery date in 2 months, to the end of September, because of the COVID19 pandemic and some technical changings in two partners team. This proposal was accepted by all partners and after the meeting placed under consideration of the Steering Committee.

Regarding the Joint Analytical Report, one of the main project derivable, it was emphasized the role of the leaders of each chapter in compiling the contributions of all partners, also clarified the objectives of each chapter and, at the end, all partners agreed on a new schedule for the conclusion of the Joint Analytical Report, taking into account the new final delivery date proposal (September).

2nd Local Stakeholder Meeting in Athens, Greece

The activities of BIGDATA 4RIVERS project (Improving the European Rivers Water Quality through Smart Water Management Policies), which is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG EUROPE 2014 – 2020, are continuing at a steady pace.

Having taken the security measures, due to Covid-19, a virtual meeting of Local Stakeholders was held on 22/06/2020, 13:00-14:15. The LSG was established to have active participation in the European project BIGDATA 4RIVERS.

The objective of this meeting was the presentation of the results of European partner's virtual meeting which took place on 19/06/2020, the exchange of views and experiences between stakeholders and the preparation of the next steps of the program. More specifically:

• Informing about the progress achieved in the implementation of the project
• Informing about the BIGDATA 4RIVERS 3rd Virtual Convention held on 19/06/2020
• Analysis of the Joint analytical report state of play by emphasizing the role of the leaders of each chapter and some communication guidelines between partners, leaders of each chapter and Technical Committee coordinator
• Informing about the selected Good Practices of Region of Attica for the project:

  ▪ Water quality monitoring with the use of robotic boats (EYDAP)
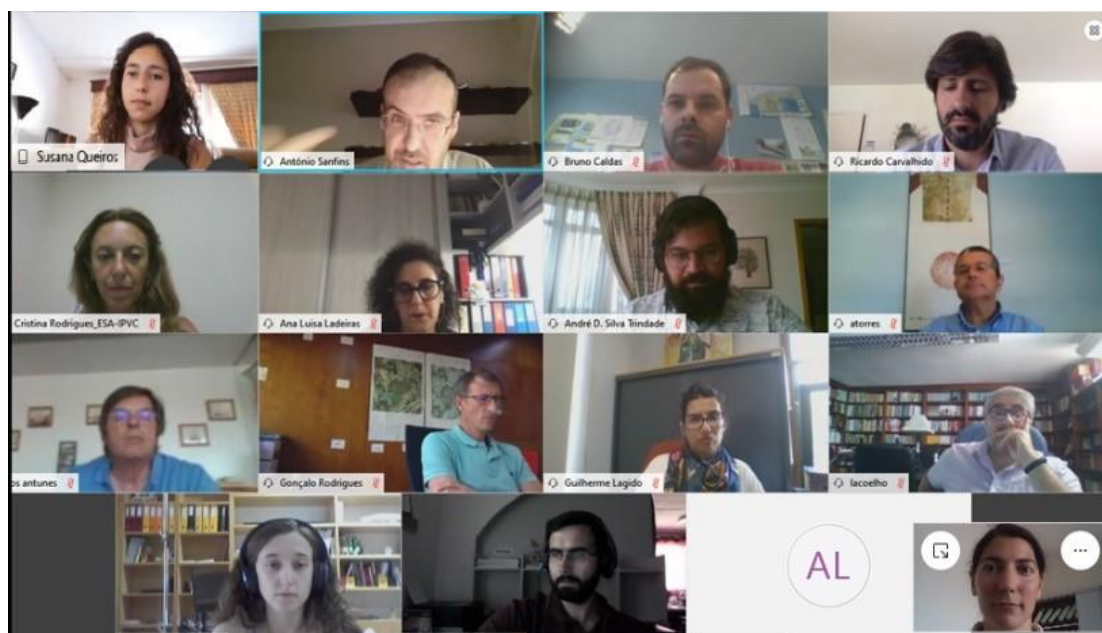
  ▪ Advanced Monitoring of Asopos river basin (NKUA)

The virtual meeting was completed with discussion and proposals regarding the improvement of the joint analytical report of the European partners, as well as the good practices that the Attica Region wants to implement in its intervention area.

2nd Local Stakeholder Meeting in Portugal

The Alto Minho Intermunicipal Community (CIM Alto Minho) held on Wednesday, July 22, the second meeting with the group of local stakeholders of the project "BIGDATA 4RIVERS - Improving the water quality of European rivers through intelligent policies of water management "(BIGDATA 4RIVERS), in order to involve them in this project that aims to adopt smart water management measures.

At this meeting, the main case studies that are being considered with potential for replication in the context of the next programming cycle were discussed. At the moment, some good practices previously identified by stakeholders are on the table, for example, tools for simulating and analyzing data from aquatic systems for monitoring and modeling water quality in order to support the preparation of river basin management plans with prospective scenarios; the Information and Decision Support System (SI.ADD) developed and implemented for the management of water resources in the Northern Region of Portugal; cross-border collaboration in the implementation of projects related to water management (risks, quality, emerging pollutants), among others. Of these good practices, at least two will be chosen so that they can be shared and potentially adopted by the project partners and that will form part of the Action Plan that will be developed in the first phase of the project.

2nd Local Stakeholder Meeting in Lithuania

On 2nd of March the Local Stakeholders meeting and internal event for the BIGDATA4RIVERS project was held in Alytus region municipality. The objective of the event was to inform the stakeholder as well as other community members about activities in the Interreg Europe programme BIGDATA4RIVERS project, to discuss the water management policies and problems in region, as well to discuss on agri-environmental measures and water protection. During the meeting attendees have discussed the state of the art of the water management and water quality problems in Lithuania. In the future there are several priorities for taking actions:

- ▪ to upgrade the wastewater treatment plants regarding reduction of the Priority substances, Emerging substances and other SVHC's in big cities;

- ▪ to reduce the pollution by N and P from agricultural areas and the same to the Baltic Sea;

- ▪ to install wastewater treatment in small communities, which are mostly beset with wastewater management issues.

2nd Local Stakeholder Meeting in France

In the context of Covid-19, for the 2nd Stakeholders group, France organized individual interviews with the members of their local stakeholder group via virtual tools.

Each individual meeting aimed at presenting the challenges, the opportunities and the status of the BigData4Rivers project for the Center-Val de Loire region. For the region, all of the members of this local group agreed that the project could be a key element for the implementation of smarter water management in compliance with European requirements. The integration of digital tools could be an appropriate way to achieve this goal.

The following organizations have been involved in the 2nd stakeholder group: Centre- Val de Loire Regional Innovation Agency "Dev'up ", ANTEA group, Centre-Val de Loire Region, Loire-Bretagne Water Agency, Orleans University, Regional Biodiversity Agency, Regional Directorate for the Environment Planning and Housing, French Biodiversity Office.

The meetings were focused on: 1) the analytical report and the added-value they could provide us in each chapter and 2) the identification and confirmation of good practices. Each entity interviewed shared its opinion regarding the following good practices:

- Regional cooperation (public research centers, private bodies, public entities) to promote innovative projects for a better management of water resources

- Water data consolidation

Several observations emerged from this meetings such as: the need to use more tools connected to the information coming "from the field", to more base territorial decision on analysis data collected from different local entities, to develop ever more links between all entities using data on water (quality, quantity) and between entities collecting data (sometimes the same but under different shape.