

Invitation to Roundtable Discussion

How can water recycling contribute to water resilience in humid regions of the EU? – State of play & further prospects

Organised by Region Kalmar County (Sweden), the Water Core Group of Euroregion Baltic and the Interreg Baltic Sea Region project “WaterMan”

Water resilience has recently gained increased attention all over Europe. From mainly being an issue of local communities in southern regions, it has over the last decades become an issue in northern and humid regions of Europe, too. Accelerated by climate change, extreme alternations in precipitation patterns lead here to periods of too much or too little water, and can at times cause severe challenges for local water supply. An effective means to counteract these problems can be water recycling, in particular if the reuse of treated wastewater is combined with the retention & recirculation of excess stormwater.

Since 2023, the EU Regulation 2020/741 on minimum requirements for water reuse defines a first, EU-wide legislative framework in this field. However, it focusses on agricultural irrigation, i.e. an utilisation that is primarily relevant for southern, semi-arid parts of Europe. In view of its evaluation in 2028 and the upcoming elaboration of a European Water Resilience Strategy, the Roundtable Discussion intends to explore how perspectives of humid regions could be more specifically addressed in upcoming policies and regulatory frameworks to effectively promote water recycling and thus water resilience in central & northern Europe.

Date: Thursday, 16 January 2025
Time: 9:30 - 12:00, followed by a networking coffee
Place: Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
[Google maps](#)
Metro station: Troon

Online participation:

Please use the following link to join online: [Zoom link](#)

It will be possible to ask questions using the chat function.

We kindly ask you to keep your microphone muted during the whole event.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: How can water recycling contribute to water resilience in humid regions of the EU? – State of play & further prospects

Agenda

Thursday, 16 January 2025

09:00	<i>Registration & welcome coffee</i>
09:30	Welcome & introduction Tobias Facchini , Coordinator of the Water Core Group of Euroregion Baltic & Lead Partner of the WaterMan project, Region Kalmar County Jens Masuch , WaterMan project management, GA-MA Consulting
09:45	State of the implementation of the EU Water Reuse Regulation 2020/741 & further upcoming initiatives on promoting water resilience Valentina Bastino , Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Environment, Unit Sustainable Freshwater Management
10:05	Barriers & potentials of water reuse and possible synergies with the recast UWWTD in the Baltic Sea Region: Results of a stakeholder survey Klara Ramm , Coordinator of the "ReNutriWater" project, Economic Chamber „Polish Waterworks" & EurEau
10:25	The "Blue Deal" of the Government of Flanders Region: A model for promoting water resilience in other humid regions of the EU? Kor Van Hoof , Programme Coordinator River Basin Management, Flanders Environment Agency / BE
10:45	<i>Short break with possibility to explore the WaterMan project exhibition</i>
11:00	Do we need specific regulatory frameworks & support schemes for fostering water resilience & water recycling in humid regions of the EU? <i>Panel discussion with involvement of the audience</i> On-stage interview with Klas Eriksson from the Municipality of Kalmar / SE on the experiences from the practical implementation of using recycled water for the irrigation of green areas in Kalmar within the current legal & regulatory framework <i>Moderators: Tobias Facchini & Jens Masuch</i>
11:45	Summing up & outlook on upcoming activities of the WaterMan project & Euroregion Baltic for promoting resilient water supply & water recycling
12:00	<i>Networking coffee</i>

About the Water Core Group of Euroregion Baltic and the WaterMan project

The Water Core Group of Euroregion Baltic is an international exchange & cooperation platform on water management for local & regional authorities in the Baltic Sea Region that was established in 2005. It is the initiator of the WaterMan project, in the framework of which the Roundtable Talk is organized.

WaterMan promotes a region-specific approach to water recycling, which intends to use the alternation of too much and too little water that has become typical in the Baltic Sea Region to make the local water supply more resilient, and supports municipalities & water companies in adapting their strategies.

The project is co-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund) and implemented within the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme. More information: interreg-baltic.eu/project/waterman/