

PROGRAMME

WaterMan Study Trip ***Water recycling as an instrument for safeguarding climate-resilient water supply in humid regions***

Flanders Region / BE & Zeeland Region / NL
14-16 Jan 2025

Status: 11 Jan 2025

Monday, 13 Jan 2025: Arrival & informal get-together

Time	Topic	Speaker / guide
	<i>Individual travelling to Brussels Airport</i>	
	<i>Individual transfer to NH Hotel Brussels Airport (by public transport or taxi)</i>	
Informal get-together & introduction		
20:00	Welcome & short introduction to the programme Informal get-together with Belgian snacks & beer <i>Location: Conference centre (floor -1) of NH Hotel Brussels Airport, De Kleetlaan 14, BE-1831 Machelen</i> <u>Download slides!</u>	<i>Tobias Facchini WaterMan Lead Partner, Region Kalmar County Igor Kaniecki & Jens Masuch WaterMan project management, GA-MA Consulting</i>

Tuesday, 14 Jan 2025: Study tour through Flanders & Zeeland / Day 1

Time	Topic	Speaker / Guide
07:45	Check out from NH Hotel Brussels Airport Storing of the luggage to the charter bus	
08:00	Departure of the bus, transfer to Koksijde / Torreele	
<p>CASE STUDY 1: THE TORREELE / ST-ANDRÉ WATER REUSE SCHEME</p> <p>Aquaduin, the intermunicipal water company of the coastal Veurne Region, operates a sustainable groundwater management system, which includes artificial groundwater recharge at the dunes of St-André. As no other water sources were available year-round, it was decided to produce the infiltration water from waste water at the Torreele WWTP & reuse plant. The Torreele / St-André indirect potable reuse scheme started operating as early as in July 2002, and was step-by-step further refined over more than 20 years – making it both a pioneer & forerunner of water recycling in humid regions.</p> <p>https://www.water-reuse-europe.org/torreele-reuse-scheme-delivers-resilience https://www.aquaduin.be/</p>		
10:00	Welcome by Aquaduin & introduction of the Torreele / St-André potable reuse scheme, incl. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Challenges for water supply in Veurne Region ▪ History & evolution of the reuse approach ▪ Current technical-organisational concept ▪ Lessons learnt in more than 20 years of operation 	Emmanuel Van Houtte <i>Geologist at Aquaduin (intermunicipal water company of Veurne Region)</i>
	Questions & answers / discussion	Plenary
	<i>Short coffee break</i>	
	Joint visit to the Torreele waste WWTP & reuse plant and the groundwater recharge site at St-André dunes, incl. further explanations and Q&As on the spot	Emmanuel Van Houtte <i>Aquaduin</i>
13:00	Joint lunch at restaurant "The Tables" in Koksijde	
14:00	Bus transfer to Ghent	
<p>CASE STUDY 2: WATER RECYCLING AT "DE NIEUWE DOKKEN" CITY DISTRICT</p> <p>"De Nieuwe Dokken" ("The New Docks") is an urban waterfront redevelopment site in Ghent, and the first "circular city district" in Flanders Region. The cooperative service company DuCoop operates its heat & water network, and contributes to climate ambitions of the City of Ghent with closed circuits for energy (heating, electricity, mobility), raw materials (waste treatment) and water. The local water recycling & source separation scheme evolved since 2012, incorporating today more than 244 households with 1.200 residents as well as 3 office buildings, 2 communal buildings & a nearby factory. Based on well-established business models, it showcases at-scale urban rainwater harvesting & greywater recycling for households & industrial processes, incl. local treatment.</p> <p>https://www.interregnorthsea.eu/anchor/pilots/be-de-nieuwe-dokken https://ducoop.be/en/</p>		
15:30	Welcome by DuCoop & introduction of the circular city district "De Nieuwe Dokken", incl. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phases, current status & planned further steps of the development of the "circular city district" ▪ Technical setup & business model of the decentral residential wastewater treatment & water recycling ▪ Experiences & lessons learnt since 2012 	Peter De Smet <i>CEO of Clean Energy Invest & founder of DuCoop (cooperative service company for the residents of "De Nieuwe Dokken")</i>
	Questions & answers / discussion	Plenary

Time	Topic	Speaker / Guide
	<i>Short coffee break</i>	
	Guided tour through "De Nieuwe Dokken" with further explanations / Q&As on the spot	Peter De Smet <i>DuCoop</i>
18:30	<i>Short joint walk through the Old Town to Novotel Gent Centrum, check in to the hotel</i>	
	<i>Possibility to further explore the Old Town of Ghent</i>	
20:00	<i>Joint dinner at restaurant "La Cave"</i>	<i>(2-min walk from hotel)</i>

Wednesday, 15 Jan 2025: Study tour through Flanders & Zeeland / Day 2

Time	Topic	Speaker / Guide
07:30	Optional: "Early bird" bus tour to Terneuzen / NL & the Dow petrochemical complex	<i>(interested participants)</i>
09:15	<i>Arrival of the bus back at the hotel</i>	<i>(optional)</i>
	<i>Check out from Novotel Gent Centrum Storing of the luggage to the charter bus</i>	
09:30	<i>Departure of the bus, transfer to Kortrijk</i>	
<p>CASE STUDY 3: REUSE OF MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES AT THE DOW PETROCHEMICAL SITE IN TERNEUVEN</p> <p>In Terneuzen, the petrochemical company Dow, the Water Board Scheldestromen, the City of Terneuzen and the water treatment company Evides collaborate to utilise municipal wastewater for industrial purposes. This public-private-partnership started in the early 1990s when it became obvious that the demands of Dow cannot be satisfied by freshwater alone, and was the first major-scale application of its kind. The residential waste water is treated in the local WWTP, and then piped 12 km to the Dow site. After further purification, it is used two times in the manufacturing & cooling tower processes. Being further refined step-by-step with the aim to become fully circular and thus to reduce the use of fresh water to zero, the latest addition to the Dow water recycling scheme is a nature-based solution: The utilisation of constructed wetlands for pre-treatment.</p> <p>https://corporate.dow.com/content/dam/corp/documents/science-sustainability/066-00202-01-industrial-water-reuse-case-study.pdf</p> <p>https://projectenportfolio.nl/images/0/00/WetlandsHybridDesalinationDowTerneuzen.pdf</p>		
10:15	<i>Welcome coffee at Ghent University, Campus Kortrijk</i>	
10:30	Water recycling for industrial purposes in the southern Netherlands & the case of the Dow petrochemical complex in Terneuzen / NL <i>(online presentation)</i> Download slides!	Kees Roest <i>Senior Scientific Resercher, KWR Water Research Institute / NL</i>
	Questions & answers / discussion	Plenary
11:15	Using constructed wetlands as nature-based solution for pre-treatment within the water recycling scheme of the Dow petrochemical complex in Terneuzen / NL Download slides!	Diederik Rousseau <i>Associate Professor, Ghent University</i>
	Questions & answers / discussion	Plenary
12:00	Visit to constructed wetlands at the Campus Kortrijk with further explanations / Q&As on the spot	Diederik Rousseau <i>Ghent University</i>

Time	Topic	Speaker / Guide
12:30	Light lunch	
13:00	Bus transfer to Wiekevorst	
<p>CASE STUDY 4: COLLECTIVE RAINWATER RECYCLING IN WIEKEVORST</p> <p>The suburban residential area in Wiekevorst is a greenfield housing development project with 33 private homes and an adjacent supermarket that is currently under construction. It includes an on-scale application of the innovative “smart street” concept, which combines collective rain water harvesting & recycling with “urban raingarden” elements for greening public spaces and a new approach for arranging utility pipes. The ambition is to create a climate-resilient neighbourhood, which can cope with the increasing alternation of too much and too little water that has become typical for humid areas, and makes the most of it by utilising excess water for stabilising the local water supply.</p> <p>https://b-rainconnect.be/en/projects/case-wiekevorst-apart-architects https://vlakwa.be/en/home https://www.pidpa.be/ https://debontegroup.com/en/</p>		
15:00	Arrival of the bus in Wiekevorst	
	Visit to the ‘Smart street Wiekevorst’ with first explanations / Q&As on the spot Watch the video!	Veerle Depuydt & Phillip Seger Vlakwa / B-rain Connect
15:30	Bus transfer to the event locaton “Link 21”	
15:45	Coffee break	
16:00	Welcome by Vlakwa & B-rain Connect, introduction of the “smart street” concept for stormwater management & recycling in Wiekevorst, incl. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ History, current status & planned further development of the residential area ▪ Detailed presentation of the “smart street” concept & the modular “B-rain Connect” building system ▪ Practical experiences & lessons learnt so far Download slides!	Veerle Depuydt Water Innovator, Flanders Knowledge Centre Water, VITO / Vlakwa Phillipe Seger B-rain Connect Filip De Bonte CEO, De Bonte Group Maarten Debusschere Sales manager, Pidpa (intermunicipal drinking water company in the Province of Antwerp)
	Questions & answers / discussion	Plenary
	Tapas & networking	
18:00	Bus transfer to Brussels	
19:00	Arrival & check in at Renaissance Brussels Hotel	
20:00	Short reflection round & exchange between the participants on lessons learnt from the study trip Conclusions for the promotion of water recycling in the Baltic Sea Region and possibilities to transfer the explored solutions to the WaterMan model regions	All participants

Time	Topic	Speaker / Guide
21:00	Joint dinner at restaurant "The Beer Factory"	<i>(2-min walk from hotel)</i>

Thursday, 16 Jan 2025: ROUNDTABLE TALK in Brussels

Venue: Renaissance Brussels Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels / Belgium

Time	Topic / Speaker
09:00	Registration & welcome coffee
ROUNDTABLE TALK: How can water recycling contribute to water resilience in humid regions of the EU? - State of play & further prospects	
09:30	Welcome & introduction Tobias Facchini, <i>Coordinator of the Water Core Group of Euroregion Baltic & Lead Partner of the WaterMan project, Region Kalmar County</i> Jens Masuch, <i>WaterMan project management, GA-MA Consulting</i>
09:45	State of the implementation of the EU Water Reuse Regulation 2020/741 & upcoming further initiatives for promoting water resilience Valentina Bastino, <i>Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Environment, Unit Sustainable Freshwater Management (tbc)</i>
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, <i>Coordinator of the "ReNutriWater" project, Economic Chamber „Polish Waterworks" & EurEau</i> https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/renutriwater/
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, <i>Programme Coordinator River Basin Management, Flanders Environment Agency / BE</i> https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/solutions/mission-stories/the-blue-deal-mission-story12
10:45	Short break with possibility to explore the WaterMan project exhibition
11:00	Does it need specific regulatory frameworks & support schemes for fostering water resilience & water recycling in humid regions of the EU? Panel discussion with involvement of the audience 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>
	Summing up & outlook on upcoming activities of the WaterMan project & Euroregion Baltic for promoting resilient water supply & water recycling
12:00	Networking coffee
13:00	Individual travelling back home

About the WaterMan project

Due to climate change, periods of drought are becoming more frequent in the Baltic Sea Region and drinking water, which is mainly obtained from groundwater here, can get scarce in certain periods. For that reason it will be necessary to use water of different qualities and to tap into other sources of "usable water" in the future.

WaterMan promotes a region-specific approach to water recycling, which uses 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/