Interreg Baltic Sea Region

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Region Kalmar län

SUSTAINABLE WATERS WaterMan

Invitation to Roundtable Discussion

Water recycling as a cornerstone of resilient water supply in humid regions? – Practical lessons learnt in the WaterMan project & conclusions for future policies in the EU

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

Water resilience is a strategic priority for the European Commission, as set out by President von der Leyen in the 2024-2029 Political Guidelines. While once seen mainly as a challenge in southern Europe, increasing climate-related pressures and growing water scarcity now also make it harder for municipalities and local water companies in northern, humid parts of the EU to meet local water demand reliably everywhere and at all times.

An effective way to respond to these challenges is water recycling, especially when the reuse of municipal wastewater and micro-loops that recirculate water of different qualities within households and industrial facilities are combined with the retention and recirculation of rainwater. Since 2023, the EU Regulation 2020/741 on "Minimum Requirements for Water Reuse" has been in application and provides the first EU-wide legislative framework to help municipalities and local water companies to take action. With the Water Resilience Strategy adopted in June 2025, the European Commission has added another policy instrument that identifies water efficiency as a key factor for strengthening water resilience across Europe.

The partners of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region project WaterMan have been working to bring practical water recycling solutions into everyday use within the current regulatory and policy framework (https://www.eurobalt.org/waterrecyclingtoolbox/) since January 2023. Based on these experiences, they have prepared inputs to inform the implementation of the EU Water Resilience Strategy and the upcoming evaluation of the EU Water Reuse Regulation in 2028, addressing specific requirements for effectively fostering water recycling and resilient local water supply in humid regions.

With reference to these inputs, the Roundtable Discussion intends to facilitate the dialogue between practitioners and policy makers around the following questions: How can municipalities and local water companies in humid regions be encouraged and supported to put water recycling into broader practice? Could a more unified regulatory & policy framework covering multiple sources (e.g. rainwater, municipal wastewater) and use cases of recycled water (e.g. urban irrigation, municipal services, industrial processes) help scale uptake? How can transparent standards and streamlined administrative procedures for water recycling in humid regions be provided while respecting subsidiarity across the local, national and EU levels?

Date: Thursday, 6 November 2025

Time: 9:30 - 11:15 h CET, followed by a networking coffee

Place: Thon Hotel EU, Rue de la Loi 75, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
Google maps
Metro station: Maelbeek

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.

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WaterMan

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Water recycling as a cornerstone of resilient water supply in humid regions? – Practical lessons learnt in the WaterMan project and conclusions for future policies in the EU

Agenda

Thursday, 6 November 2025

09:00	*Registration & welcome coffee*
09:30	**Welcome & introduction** **Jens Masuch**, *WaterMan project management, GA-MA Consulting* Click to download moderation slides!
09:40	**Taking & shaping the next steps to strengthen water resilience in the EU: The European Water Resilience Strategy, the evaluation of the Water Reuse Regulation 2020/741 in 2028 & further upcoming policy initiatives** **Loïc Charpentier**, *Head of Advocacy, Water Europe* Click to download slides!
10:00	**What can be done to make water recycling a more widespread practice in the humid parts of the EU? – Presentation of inputs to the evaluation of the EU Water Reuse Regulation prepared by the partnership of the WaterMan project** **Tobias Facchini**, *Coordinator of the Water Core Group of Euroregion Baltic & Lead Partner of the WaterMan project, Region Kalmar County / SE* Click to download slides!
10:20	**What further support could help municipalities & local water companies in humid regions of the EU to get started with water recycling? And how could a revised & extended EU Water Reuse Regulation contribute to this?** Panel discussion with involvement of the audience Participants: ▪ **Loïc Charpentier**, *Water Europe* ▪ **Tobias Facchini**, *Region Kalmar County / SE* ▪ **Pia Schumann**, *Berlin Centre of Competence for Water / DE* ▪ **Klara Ramm**, *Economic Chamber „Polish Waterworks" / PL, ReNutriWater project & EurEau* ▪ **Emmanuel van Houtte**, *Aquaduin / BE & Water Reuse Europe* Moderator: Jens Masuch, *WaterMan project management*
11:05	**Summing up & outlook** on further offers and events of the WaterMan project and Euroregion Baltic for promoting water recycling & resilient water supply
11:15	*Networking coffee*

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 Discussion is organized.

WaterMan promotes a Baltic Sea Region-specific approach to water recycling, which makes use of the alternation of too much and too little water that has become typical for humid areas in the EU to strengthen the resilience of local water supply. Building on this approach, the project supports municipalities and water companies in adapting their water supply strategies.

The WaterMan project is co-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund) and implemented within the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme.

More information: https://www.eurobalt.org/waterrecyclingtoolbox
interreg-baltic.eu/project/waterman/