

Rethinking water - and getting started together

Dear partners, colleagues and friends of WaterMan,



Since our last project meeting in Elbląg and Braniewo, one thing is clear: it works. We now have solid, concrete examples and approaches that show how water recycling can be put into practice in the Baltic Sea Region – and how others can get started. The task ahead is simple: share what works, spread the word, and turn these examples into inspiration and practical support for other municipalities and water companies taking their first steps.

In the Loop – A three-edition guide to get started with water recycling does exactly that. It brings together lessons from our pilot measures in the WaterMan project, insights into regional pathways, and tools that make the first steps easier – compiled for you in our [Water Recycling Toolbox & Helpdesk](#). Our promise is simple: clear, actionable, transferable.

There will be two further editions of ***In the Loop***, in which we will highlight practical stories, be transparent about open questions, and provide insights you can apply in your organisation. WaterMan thrives on peer learning – and on sharing knowledge rather than keeping it siloed.

I'm looking forward to the road ahead – and to helping others around the Baltic Sea adopt the proven solutions from the WaterMan project for everyday practice in more places.

Warm regards,

Tobias Facchini

WaterMan Lead Partner & Coordinator of the ERB Water Core Group
Region Kalmar County

Watch now: Our new video on water recycling in the Baltic Sea Region

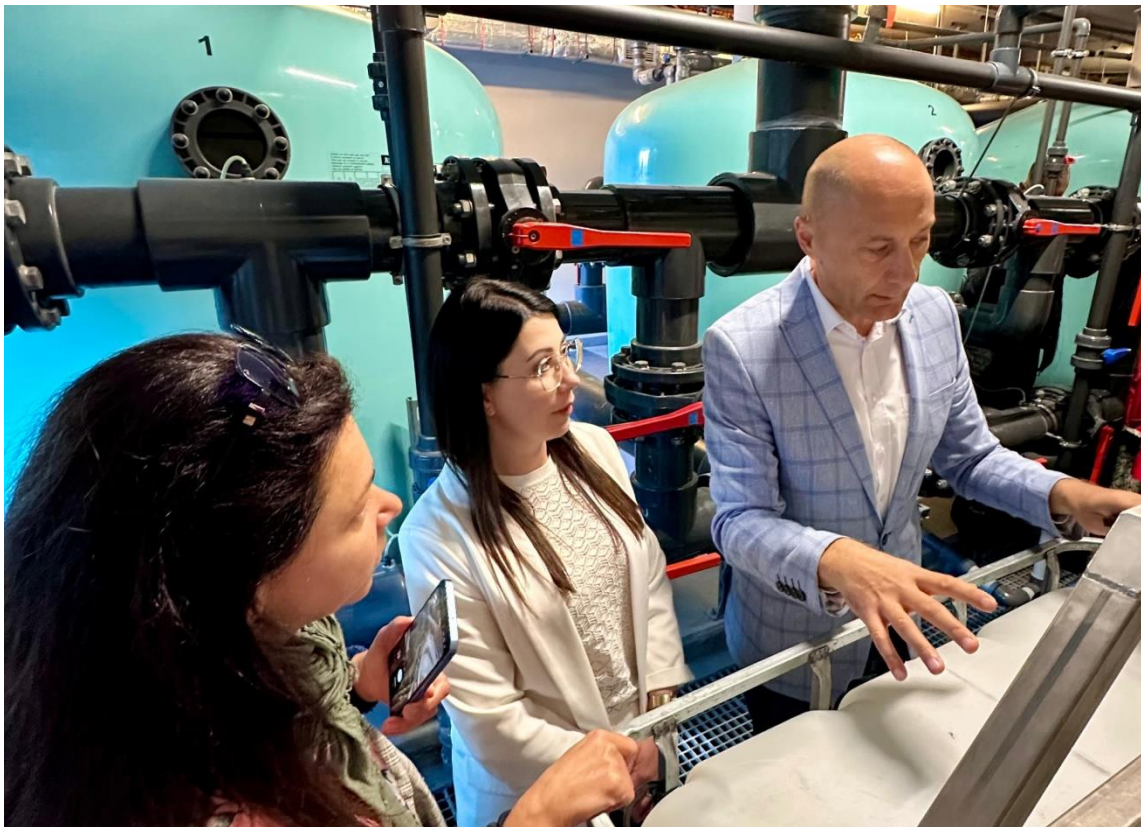
What is water recycling – and why does the Baltic Sea Region need a tailored approach? Our new 3-minute video cuts straight to the point: A **BSR-specific model of water recycling in humid regions**, shaped by the real-world trials of the WaterMan project.

[Watch now!](#)

Harvesting the results: Elbląg & Braniewo mark WaterMan's decisive turn

Back in 2020, the WaterMan project first took shape in the Polish city of Elbląg near Braniewo. Now, five years later, the partners have returned to where it all began. At their second-to-last meeting, they shared the outcomes of their pilot measures and model strategies among the group – and the results speak for themselves. It's now **high time to spread the word and inspire others** to take their first steps toward water recycling.

Dive into the full recap with quotes, site photos and practical takeaways from Elbląg & Braniewo. [Read the full article](#)



Putting it all on the table

At the first of two **WaterMan Roundtables** in Brussels in January 2025, the discussion flowed openly and directly: Do we need specific water-recycling regulations for Europe's humid regions? And how far can the existing **EU Water Reuse Regulation (2020/741)** — focused mainly on agriculture — be stretched to support other use cases, too?

It was the beginning of a dialogue with ambitions reaching well beyond policy detail [Read the full recap.](#)



Let it flow: how Kalmar gets water recycling off the ground

After several droughts, it became clear that the Municipality of Kalmar in Sweden urgently needed a new water strategy. The other important conclusion was that in order to develop it quickly, everyone should just get down to work and test out alternatives. Having faced water scarcity earlier and more acutely than many places in the Baltic Sea Region, Kalmar emerged as a pioneer of water recycling and has served as the Lead Partner of the WaterMan project from the beginning.

This story shows fit-for-purpose in action, the real frictions you can expect – and why **Kalmar's "just start" approach is shifting mindsets.** Here is a report from a place

where there is a lot going on and everything is flowing in the right direction. [Read the full article](#)



Water Recycling Toolbox & Helpdesk update: now with expanded content and features

From October 2025, interested parties from the Baltic Sea Region can explore the updated Water Recycling Toolbox & Helpdesk – now featuring even more in-depth results and practical **insights from the WaterMan project**. The Toolbox is a hands-on knowledge hub for municipalities, water companies, and connected stakeholders and a **practical resource for getting started with water recycling** in your local context.

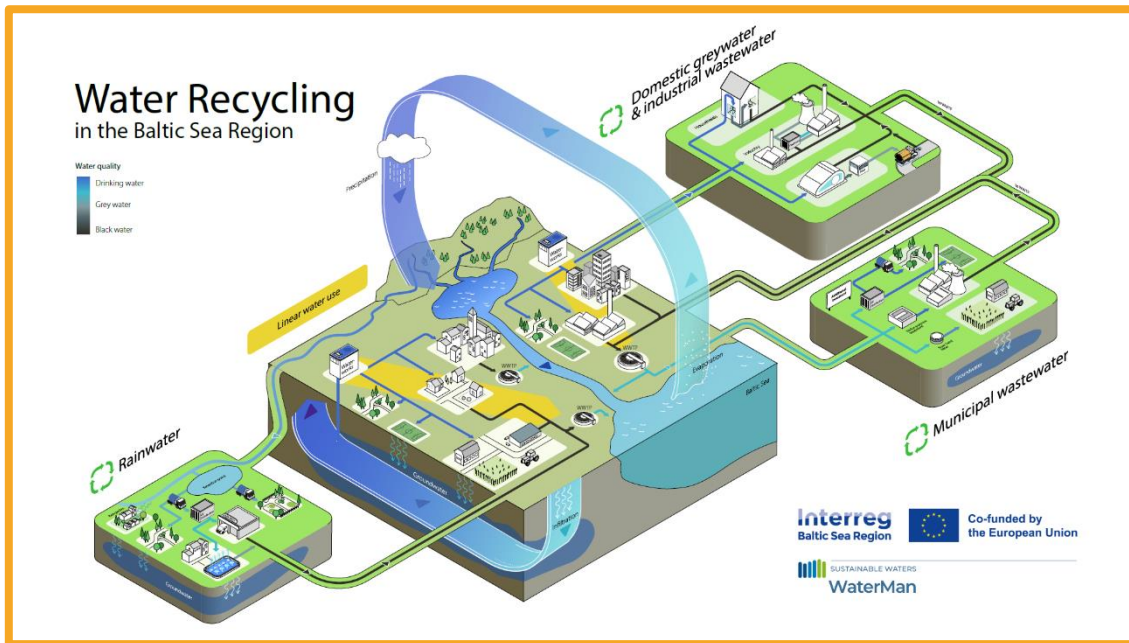
In the Toolbox you can find:

- **Use cases** – deep dives into WaterMan pilot measures and how water recycling solutions can be adapted to BSR conditions.
- **Regional pathways** – strategic guidance on how to get started with water recycling, tailored to local settings, geography, climate and stakeholders.
- **Policy background** – insights from the two WaterMan roundtable discussions in Brussels on policy support and regulatory frameworks for water recycling.

- **Best practice beyond the BSR** – examples from other regions that can be adapted to your own local strategy.

Content will continue to be added– including further pilot insights, model strategies and results of further policy dialogue, so it's worth checking back regularly.

[Explore the updated Toolbox & Helpdesk here](#)



Coming up: WaterMan events in Sopot, Brussels, Kalmar

As we enter the final project phase, three events will bring our work together – feeding results into the EU policy dialogue, sharing outcomes, and showcasing practical implementation on the ground. Whether you're focused on policy, replication, or site experience, these dates are directly linked to our pilots and regional pathways and offer an opportunity to connect, discuss and exchange knowledge across the BSR community.

- **Sopot / PL, 30 Oct 2025:** WaterMan session at the **EUSBSR Annual Forum** – cross-project panel on water scarcity in the BSR (with PA Nutri, APC ERB, City Blues, ReNutriWater, NURSECOAST-II).

[Click here for full programme and registration](#)

- **Brussels / BE, 6 Nov 2025: Roundtable #2** with EU stakeholders on making *"Water recycling a cornerstone of resilient water supply in humid regions"* (online and in-person event).

[Click here for full programme and registration](#)

- **Kalmar & Västervik / SE, 25-27 Nov 2025: Final Conference & ERB Water Forum** *"Water Recycling in the BSR: Practical Examples and Way Forward"* – showcasing the results of the WaterMan project, incl. on-site visits to the local pilot measures and the water recycling plant "Kalmarsundsverket" (under construction).

[Click here for further info & pre-registration](#)
(agenda & registration to be published by the end of Oct 2025)

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