

MAY 2019 | VOL. 2

# AQUARES NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER ON GETTING TO KNOW THE PROJECT AND ITS RESULTS, WITH UPDATES ON ITS PROGRESS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

## SUPPORTING WATER EFFICIENCY THROUGH WATER REUSE

“AQUARES – Water reuse policies advancement for resource efficient European regions” is a project under the INTERREG Europe programme that aims to improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes in the partnership regions, to increase resource efficiency, green growth, and environmental performance management in the water reuse sector. The project brings together 10 public organisations from 9 different European countries with the aim to achieve better water management of water resources through water reuse.

During the first Semester of the project implementation partners have advanced with the research activities on water reuse technologies and practices and the monitoring practices used in the territories of the partnership. The interregional workshop on water reuse technologies was organised in March, in Milan. All partners advance with the stakeholder meetings organisation and the exchange of experience activities.

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**AQUARES**  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
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## INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP ON WATER REUSE TECHNOLOGIES IN MILAN | 03-2019

The international Interregional workshop on water reuse technologies was hosted by Lombardy Foundation for the Environment, in Milan, on 27-28, 2019, followed by the second project meeting of the AQUARES project.

Several representatives assisted in the meeting from the lead partner General Directorate of Water of the Region of Murcia, the Euro-Mediterranean Water Institute Foundation, the Water Council of Oldenburg and East Frisia (Germany), the Regional Development Agency of the Pardubice Region (Czech Republic), the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Greece, the Water and Energy Agency of Malta, the Foundation for the Environment of Lombardy (Italy), the Baltic Coast Association of Latvia, the Region of Lodzkie (Poland) and the Municipality of Trebnje (Slovenia).

The workshop on 'Water reuse technologies' aimed at identifying viable strategies to control the use of reused water and limit inefficient uses. Among the topics of discussion were “The technical challenges and scientific uncertainties; the specific barriers to water reuse in irrigation; Identification and optimization of appropriate technologies” regarding water reuse.



The workshop also explored how to make the most of European funding instruments and proposing a dialogue to confront interests in the field of water reuse governance.

At the end of the workshop participants also had the opportunity to visit the Milan-Nosedo WWTP, one of the best Italian and European practices.



# INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP IN MALTA, MAY 16TH AND 17TH.

An international workshop, bringing together stakeholders from several European Member States to discuss the application of public and private investment in water reuse was held between the 16th and 17th of May, 2019.

The meeting, as part of the Aquares, Interreg Europe project, was hosted by the Energy and Water Agency, with project partners coming over Spain, Greece, Poland, Czech Republic, Italy, Germany, Latvia and Slovenia.

This two day meeting saw a number of presentations to better explain how private investments for water reuse can be secured and thus ensure that participants get a better understanding of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and their application. Presentations and experiences shared by Projects Malta, the Union for the Mediterranean and the European PPP Expertise Centre, EPEC were the highlights of the first day of the meeting where different themes related to public private partnerships were tackled. These Agencies were able to give a better understanding of what PPPs are, the work they entail as well as looking at them from different perspectives including a regional and national perspective.



During the second day, German, Spanish and Greek partners shared their experiences in this sector whilst the local water utility, the Water Services Corporation explained in detail their experience with the use of PPPs in the building of new water treatment plants, taking the Gozo plant as a case study.

To further explain this process in a practical manner, the participants were then invited for a site visit of one of WSC's treatment plant. Water Services Corporation CEO Richard Bilocca gave a tour of the Ċumnija plant in Mellieħa, explaining the process of this water reuse installation.

Each presentation during the conference was followed by a Q&A session to allow the participants to discuss the themes presented, share their own experiences and offer advice and first hand experience from the projects they have carried out



## PARTNERS ACTIVITIES

### FLA at the 4th National Convention on Energy Efficiency Environment and Air Conditioning in Italy

Reusing water will be increasingly important in the future. In order to produce concrete results, it is mandatory to listen and to understand the



needs of experts and insiders.

It's for this reason FLA participated on February 2019 in the 4th National Convention on Energy Efficiency, Environment and Air Conditioning, organised by Eco Meeting in Desenzano Del Garda (Italy). FLA presented AQUARES and established strong contacts with companies specialised in waste disposal and treatment, water treatment and purification, remediation of contaminated sites, sludge treatment.

We'll continue to work together to protect the environment, the economy, and our health!

### LODZKIE celebrating the United Nations Water Day

During the United Nations Water Day, an event was organised at the Faculty of Process and Environmental Engineering, Lodz University of Technology on 22 March. The AQUARES team from the Lodzkie Region presented the objectives of international cooperation within the project and the benefits of sustainable water management for society, agriculture and cultural heritage to the students from the primary school in Lodz and the Sieradz gymnasium. An important point of the presentation was the success story of the Milano-Nosedo sewage treatment plant in the reclamation of medieval canals built by the Cistercian monks for irrigation of agricultural crops.



### Stakeholders meeting by BALTIC COASTS

On 26th of April, 2019 Baltic Coasts hosted the 2nd regional AQUARES projects stakeholder expert meeting on the topic of sustainable rain water management and reuse in Latvia. The meeting was held at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (MEPRD) office and was devoted to sustainable rainwater management and reuse. Discussion topics included: improvements to the legislation on sustainable rainwater management and reuse; rainwater purification; regulatory framework and green solutions; the issue of re-using water resources in irrigation systems (wetlands);



the reuse of rainwater in irrigation systems, fire safety, landscape design, peak load reduction in urban environments. 26 stakeholders participated representing state institutions, local governments, entrepreneurs (Ltd. "Aqua-Brambis"), planners (Ltd. "Grupa 93"), territorial developers (Ltd. "Bonava", Ltd. "DEPO projekts"), landscape architects, Riga Technical university and others experts.

## OTHER NEWS BY AQUARES PARTNERS

### The Region of Murcia celebrates "The XIV Technical Sections of Sanitation and Water Treatment"

The city of Lorca hosted for two days the "The XIV Technical Sections of Sanitation and Water Treatment" organized by the Ministry of Water, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and ESAMUR, the regional entity of sanitation and wastewater treatment, which turned the city into an international forum for waste water reuse. The Congress served to recognize and value the work carried out in the Region, which leads the practice of reuse with 98% of the treated water, supplying 105 cubic hectometres to more than 20,000 irrigators. Meanwhile, in the rest of Spain 15% is reused, and in Europe the ratio is about 9%. Attendees addressed the process of water reuse, the challenge involved, as well as the risks and controls of agricultural products, through a score of presentations and different talks-colloquium.



### Celebration of the World Water Day by Murcia

On the occasion of the "World Water Day" celebration (March 22), Murcia organised an information day entitled "From the sky to the subsoil: the aquifer of the Vega Baja to Segura River" or "Hidrogeodía" addressing the public.

### 52 students from Alcantarilla (Murcia) visited the Torres de Cotillas Wastewater Treatment Plant to learn about the reclaimed water process

A total of 14 educational centers of the region will carry out this activity to know the importance of the reuse of the water. The Regional Minister of Water, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Miguel Ángel del Amor, accompanied the students and stressed the importance of "raising awareness among young people about our most precious resource, water, as well as involving families".



### fIEA at the National Water Congress 2019 in Spain

The city of Orihuela hosted on 21&22 February 2019 the National Water Congress, inaugurated by the mayor of Orihuela Emilio Bascuñana and the Councilor for the Environment, Miguel Ángel Fernández. The scientific event was organised by the Department of Environment of the City of Orihuela and the University Institute of Water and Environmental Sciences of the University of Alicante UIWES. "Water is vital for everyone, but especially for Orihuela, where water is the engine of agriculture and tourism.

## Position paper on the minimum requirements for water reuse: information resulting from the WavE research projects funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in Germany

The paper refers to the debate on the draft regulation on water reuse and general requirements for safe water reuse from the point of view of the current research projects funded by the Federal Ministry entitled WavE.

Water reuse is not based solely on conventional state-of-the-art wastewater treatment. Research results confirm this and show that it is necessary to apply comprehensive planning and evaluation concepts as well as extended innovative water treatment processes (e.g. membrane filtration, biofiltration, disinfection) that provide water quality adapted to the intended application. These quality requirements, which typically include chemical, physical and microbiological parameters, must be defined, provided and monitored on an ongoing basis for the type of application on a risk basis.

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## The Montenegro's public authorities visited Murcia in April 2019

A group of public authorities from Montenegro has visited Murcia last April 8-10. The study visit was organized and funded by the "Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission" TAIEX.



## Czech Water Association organises the conference WATER 2019

Conference WATER 2019 will be organized again in Poděbrady in the premises of Congress Center Lázeňská Kolonáda in the Czech Republic. The conference will be accompanied by an exhibition and it will be held on 18th – 20th September 2019.

The main theme of the conference is wastewater reuse, actual problems and trends in water management.



More information:

<http://www.czwa.cz/voda2019/>

## Exhibition on water in Prague, in May 2019

Since 2000 Veolia Group has provided more than 1.5 billion CZK to hundreds of projects in science, research, innovation, education, and environmental protection and cooperates with Czech ecologists on the project Wetlands - Let's return water to nature. Veolia is a partner to the exhibition of large-format photos at Prague's Kampa from 2.5. - 28.5.2019, aiming to reach out to the general public and to show the key importance of water for human science.



## AQUARES RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

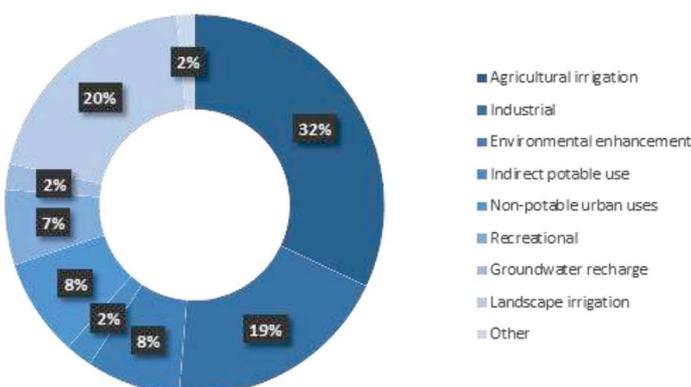
### Activity A1.2: Analysing the needs of AQUARES regions in Water Reuse

The methodology to exchange experiences on the needs in water reuse of AQUARES regions is now available. All partners will advance with the research using the methodology to identify and proceed with the sectoral analysis (in terms of agricultural, industrial, urban and recreational) and cross-sectoral priority areas for investing in water reuse due to (a) their negative environmental impact and (b) their short pay-back periods. Partners will provide input on territorial attributes and investment opportunities, and subsequently MURCIA-GDW will prepare the needs analysis report, enabling policy makers to identify priority areas to which to proceed so as to unlock investments in water reuse, based on the guidelines presented in the methodology.

Desk research will be the primary research method to collect territorial information on water reuse needs. A survey, addressed to stakeholders, will be carried out complementary to desk research to help to reveal sectoral & cross-sectoral priority areas and opportunities

### Status of Water Reuse in Europe

52% of total volume of recycled water is used for irrigation



### Activity A1.4: Identification of best practices for monitoring, assessing and ensuring compliance with water reuse standards

This document providing the thematic background, guidelines, and tools for the implementation of activity A1.4, to streamline project partners' data collection efforts, has been prepared by Water Board of Oldenburg and East Frisia (OOWV). The objective is to identify practices that monitor, assess, and/or ensure effectively the compliance of water reuse actors (water treatment plants) with relevant quality standards/requirements. The study seeks to address the following:

- What are the monitoring elements that regions use to ensure compliance with water reuse requirements?
- Which is the most effective way to implement monitoring practices in the water reuse sector?

### Activity A1.3: Evaluation of water reuse technologies and practices across sectors & regions

The Euro-mediterranean Water Institute Foundation (FIEA) provided the methodology and tools to identify and evaluate water reuse practices. All partner will collect and evaluate existing technologies as the first step to the development of a water reuse technology application guide to be used by public authorities. Main research questions:

- Which water reclamation technologies are being applied across the regions?
- Which water reclamation technologies are being proposed or planned?
- Which of these water reuse technology applications match the specificities of each region and sector?

# THE PARTNERSHIP



Regional Government of Murcia, Ministry of Water, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, General Direction of Water



Ministry of Environment and Energy, Special Secretariat for Water



Lodzkie Region



The Regional Development Agency of the Pardubice Region



Energy and Water Agency



Lombardy Foundation for the Environment



Water Board of Oldenburg and East Frisia



Euro-mediterranean Water Institute Foundation (FIEA)



Association "Baltic Coasts"



The Municipality of Trebnje



## STEERING GROUP MEETING AND SITE VISIT IN LODZKIE REGION, AUTUMN 2019

Lodzkie region will host the **third steering group meeting** and **site visit** in Łódź in autumn 2019.

The communication activities, project management and further cooperation will be discussed. All partners will contribute to discussion and will prepare the presentation.

### Site visit information

**Thematic focus:** Study visit to transfer experiences on water reuse implementation and monitoring issues

**Host organisation:** Lodzkie Region

**Location:** Łódź, Konstaktynow Łodzki, Sieradz

**Date:** 16 & 17 October 2019

**Language:** English

**Number of participants:** 20-25

**Type of participants:** Regional authorities' officials, stakeholders, external experts

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