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INTERREG EUROPE – Improving regional public policies on water management to reduce energy consumption and make water resources more accessible, efficient and sustainable.

Policy objective 2 – A greener Europe

Specific objective: Access to water and sustainable water management

OBJECTIVE The objective of the project is to improve regional public policies in Europe on sustainable water management through interregional peer-to-peer learning to ensure resilience, efficiency and sustainability in the existing water resources.

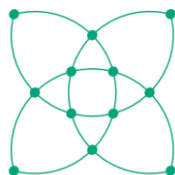
Sustainable water management is crucial for ensuring that we meet current water needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Innovative practices demonstrate the diversity of approaches available for harnessing alternative water sources, contributing to sustainable water management and resilience in the face of increasing water scarcity and climate change.

Water reuse with a holistic approach is essential in addressing water scarcity and climate change, as it involves maximizing the efficiency of water use, minimizing waste, and promoting sustainability across various sectors.

The Project will focus on the following aspects of sustainable water management:

- Integrated Water Management: Adopting an integrated approach involves considering water resources as part of a broader ecosystem and addressing water management in a coordinated manner across sectors such as agriculture, industry, urban development, and environmental conservation. This approach emphasizes the interconnectedness of water sources, uses, and stakeholders, leading to more effective water reuse strategies.
 - Multi-Level Governance: Effective water reuse requires collaboration and coordination among government agencies, local authorities, communities, and other stakeholders. Establishing multi-level governance structures can facilitate the development of policies,
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regulations, and incentives to promote water reuse while ensuring social equity, environmental protection, and economic viability.

- Water Reuse Infrastructure: Investing in infrastructure for water reuse is crucial for maximizing the potential of alternative water sources. This includes the development of decentralized treatment facilities, distribution networks for recycled water, and storage systems for harvested rainwater and treated wastewater. Integrating such infrastructure with existing water supply systems can enhance resilience to climate variability and reduce reliance on finite freshwater resources.
- Technological Innovation: Continuous innovation in water treatment technologies is essential for improving the quality and reliability of recycled water. Advances in membrane filtration, UV disinfection, ozone treatment, and advanced oxidation processes can enable the safe and cost-effective reuse of wastewater for various purposes, including irrigation, industrial processes, and even potable use in some cases.
- Climate Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction: Sustainable water management practices enhance climate resilience and reduce vulnerability to water-related disasters such as floods, droughts, and water scarcity. By promoting ecosystem-based approaches, water conservation measures, and climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable water management strengthens community resilience to climate change impacts, protects livelihoods, and reduces the likelihood of displacement and impoverishment resulting from extreme weather events.
- Public Awareness and Acceptance: Building public awareness and acceptance of water reuse is critical for overcoming social stigma and resistance to recycled water. Education campaigns, stakeholder engagement initiatives, and transparent communication about the safety and benefits of water reuse can help foster trust and confidence in recycled water systems, leading to greater acceptance and participation.

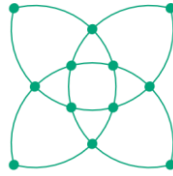
MAIN

ACTIVITIES

Core phase “Exchange of experience” (3 years)

To select, exchange and transfer of good practices as a result of the interregional learning path, the partners will:

1. Analyse the regional contexts and identify good practices in the different aspects above-mentioned
2. Analyse of good practices and exchange of experiences at interregional and regional level



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3. Create Local Action Groups and stakeholder working groups in each territory to share the lessons learned during the process and to provide input for future project activities.
4. Drafting potential pilot actions..

Follow-up phase (1 year)

The main results of the exchange of experience will be monitored by the implementation, monitoring and dissemination of Action Plans, the definition of local groups for project result implementation, project meetings and events.

MAIN RESULTS

Identification of good practices.
Improvement of public policies.
Design of a pilot actions.
Capacity building of staff involved in project partners.

Project coordinator

Regional Ministry of Education at the Region of Murcia (Spain)

Submission date

07th June 2024

Project budget

Around 1.500.000€

Partners needed

Regional public entities or public law bodies responsible for the development and/or implementation of policies in the field of education.

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