

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 priority of the European Commission as President von der Leyen announced in the 2024-2029 Political Guidelines. Being an issue of local communities in south Europe for a long time increasing climate-related pressures and growing water scarcity make it more and more challenging also for municipalities and local water companies in the northern and humid parts of the EU to satisfy the local water demand everywhere and at all times.

An effective means to counteract these problems can be water recycling, in particular if the reuse of treated wastewater is combined with the retention and harvesting of rainwater as well as micro-loops to recirculate water of different qualities within households and industrial facilities. Since 2023, the EU Regulation 2020/741 on "Minimum Requirements for Water Reuse" provides a first, EU-wide legislative framework that helps municipalities and local water companies to take action in this field. With the Water Resilience Strategy adopted in June 2025, the European Commission has launched another policy instrument that identifies water efficiency as a key factor for strengthening water resilience of communities across Europe.

From Jan 2023, the partners of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region project WaterMan have been working on bringing different, exemplary water recycling solutions into everyday use within the present regulatory and policy framework (<https://www.eurobalt.org/waterrecyclingtoolbox/>). These practical experiences were processed into an "Input Paper to 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 the Input Paper, the Roundtable Discussion intends to bring practitioners and policy makers into dialogue 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? Can a unified regulatory & policy framework that covers a wider range of sources (e.g. rainwater, municipal wastewater) and utilisations of recycled water (e.g. urban irrigation, municipal services, industrial processes) contribute to this? How can the need for transparent standards & streamlined administrative procedures for water recycling in humid regions be met in the best way following the principle of subsidiarity across the different levels of government, from local to EU?

Date: Thursday, 6 November 2025
Time: 9:30 - 11:15, followed by a networking coffee
Place: Thon Hotel EU, Rue de la Loi 75, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
[Google maps](#)
Metro station: Maelbeek

Registration:

Please register by [filling in this form](#) before 30 October 2025.

If you intend to participate in person and would like to book one of the rooms that we have pre-reserved at Thon Hotel EU (<https://www.hotelsone.com/brussels-hotels-be/thon-hotel-eu.html>), room rate: 150EUR / night incl. breakfast, please register via the form above no later than by 16 October 2025.

Digital participation will be made available via a link sent to all registrations.

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
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 Nele Rosenstock, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Environment, Unit Sustainable Freshwater Management (tbc)
10:00	What can be done to make water recycling a more widespread practice in the humid parts of the EU? – Presentation of the Input Paper to the evaluation of the EU Water Reuse Regulation prepared within the WaterMan project Tobias Facchini, Coordinator of the Water Core Group of Euroregion Baltic & Lead Partner of the "WaterMan" project, Region Kalmar County
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: ▪ Nele Rosenstock, European Commission (tbc) ▪ Tobias Facchini, Region Kalmar County / SE ▪ Pia Schumann, Berlin Centre of Competence for Water / DE ▪ Klara Ramm, Economic Chamber „Polish Waterworks“ / PL & EurEau ▪ Emmanuel van Houtte, Aquaduin / BE & Water Reuse Europe Moderator: Jens Masuch
11:05	Summing up & outlook on further offers & events of the WaterMan project and Euroregion Baltic for promoting water recycling & resilient water supply
11:15	Networking coffee with possibility to explore the WaterMan project exhibition

Note: The programme may be subject to slight alterations.

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 region-specific approach to water recycling, which intends to use 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: <https://www.eurobalt.org/waterrecyclingtoolbox>
interreg-baltic.eu/project/waterman/