

**Natural Water Retention Measures**

Web-based knowledge  
Community of practice  
NWRM practical guide

European Commission

Office International de l'Eau


ACTeon

**Pilot Project - Atmospheric Precipitation - Protection and efficient use of Fresh Water: Integration of Natural Water Retention Measures in River basin management**

Service contract n°ENV.D.1/SER/2013/0010

## Quick summary to NWRM initiative

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## NWRM initiative

“NWRMs are **multi-functional measures** that aim to protect water resources and address water-related challenges by **restoring** or maintaining ecosystems as well as natural features and characteristics of water bodies **using natural means and processes**. The main focus of applying NWRM is to enhance the retention capacity of aquifers, soil, and aquatic and water dependent ecosystems with a view to **improve their status**. Appropriate application of NWRM supports green infrastructure, improves the **quantitative** status of water bodies as such, and reduces the vulnerability to floods and droughts. It positively affects the **chemical and ecological** status of water bodies by restoring natural functioning of ecosystems and the services they provide. The restored ecosystems contribute both to climate change adaptation and **mitigation**.”

*Latest definition of NWRM (WG PoM, April 2014)*

- **NWRM initiative in a nutshell**
- **Objectives and challenges**
- **Work flow**
- **NWRM community of practice**

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## NWRM initiative in a nutshell

- **Water Blueprint:** *Maximization of the use of Natural Water Retention Measures (Green Infrastructure)*
- **Service contract funded by DG ENV**
- **11 partners, 8 countries (FR, UK, SC, HU, CY, SW, SP, LV), covering all members states languages**
- **From September 2013 to October 2014**
- **Main support of CIS WG PoM**
- **A steering committee involving JRC, EEA, DGENV**



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## NWRM initiative in a nutshell (2/2)

### Objectives

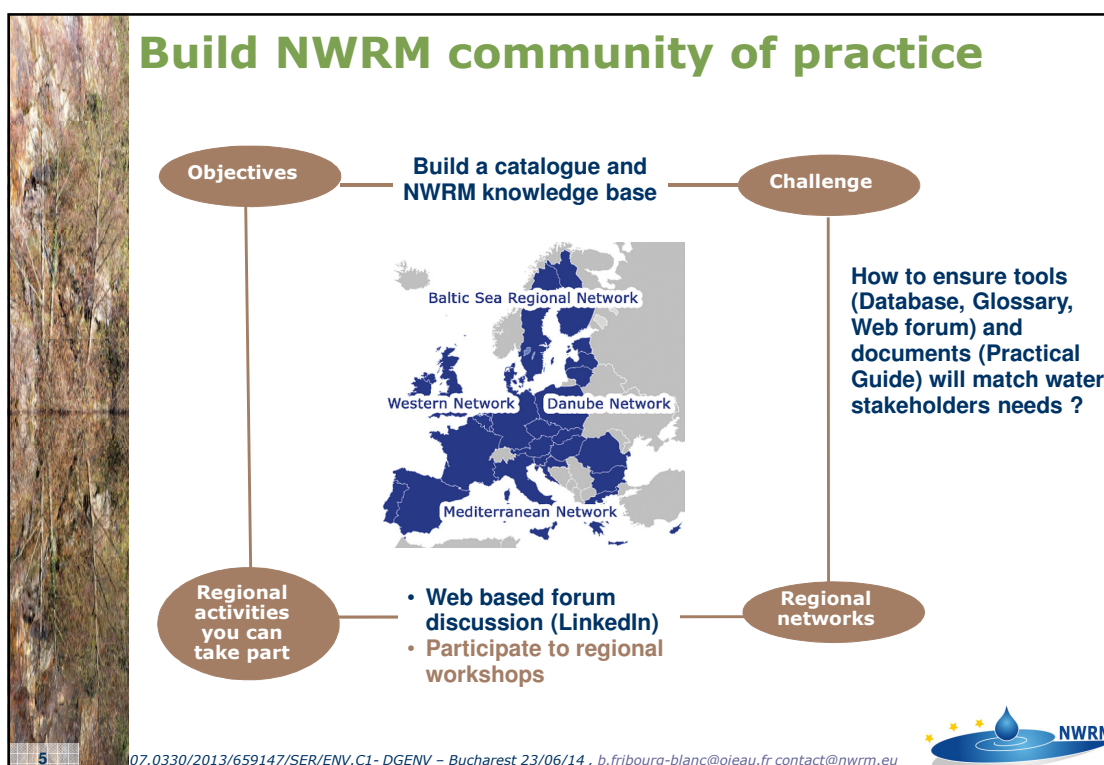
- developing sound, shared and comprehensive **NWRM European (web-based) knowledge** including
  - ♦ a glossary,
  - ♦ a catalogue of individual NWRMs,
  - ♦ and a set of case studies
- **NWRM practical guide** that can support the design and implementation of NWRM in Europe
- contributing to the development of an European **NWRM community of practice** in the design and implementation of NWRM.

### Challenge

- Provide useful tools and methods



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## 1<sup>st</sup> Danube Regional Workshop on NWRM

(Szentendre, 28-29 January 2014)-

### Main discussion points:

- What is the project about?
- What are NWRMs? Do we miss some in the catalogue and do thematic aspect introduce some requirements?
- Key messages:
  - ♦ Suggestions of additional measures (peat bogs, wetland restoration and creation,...)
  - ♦ Cross cutting issues are cornerstone (navigation, link to urban planners, ...)
  - ♦ Key benefits identified: reduced pressure, nutrient recycling and pollution control, sustainability of drainage systems...
  - ♦ Many NWRM are not new but ecosystem services they provide should be better valued and streamlined in EU policies
  - ♦ A wide set of instruments to promote NWRM were discussed from financial to legal to clear technical studies.

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NWRM





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Danube Regional Workshop on NWRM

(Bucharest, 23-24 June 2014)

- A step in the NWRM project and NWRM Danube network life to gather experts views, share experience and more
- 6 sessions:
  - ◆ Why NWRM?
  - ◆ How the NWRM project helps
  - ◆ Stakeholders views
  - ◆ NWRM: multi benefit measures
  - ◆ Thematic aspects of NWRM
  - ◆ Building common understanding
- We will
  - ◆ present you our ideas and progress since last Workshop
  - ◆ we have invited guest speakers for focus on some aspects
  - ◆ and in working sessions we would like to benefit from your experience, your opinion and incorporate your ideas into the project
- Your role: contribute to our process by raising questions, suggesting approaches...

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