

Why are NWRM on today's water policy agenda?

› Within the **Green Infrastructure EU** policy, there is an increasing interest in measures targeting natural processes and ecosystems.

› These so-called Natural Water Retention Measures can represent **cost-effective options** for achieving the objectives of the WFD or the Floods Directive. They can be part of Sustainable Urban Development plans to reduce investments in expensive water infrastructures. They can also help to enhance the resilience of (eco-)systems vis-à-vis climate change.

How will the initiative feed into EU policy making?

› The synthesis of discussions and views expressed in the web-forum or discussed during the regional workshops will be systematically accounted for developing the deliverables of the initiative for DG Environment. In addition, the knowledge gathered and synthesised will **feed** into discussions of the **Working Groups** established under the EU WFD Common Implementation Strategy (CIS). In addition, NWRM are Green Infrastructure solutions that will therefore feed Green Infrastructure policy.

› The NWRM knowledge base, developed under this initiative, will be progressively **integrated into the wider Water Information System for Europe** (WISE – <http://water.europa.eu>). It will also strengthen the EU policy impact assessment capability of the EU Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra (Italy). It will also contribute to future European Environment Agency (EEA) EU-wide assessments.

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Natural Water Retention Measures

Web-based knowledge
Community of practice
NWRM practical guide



NWRM initiative benefits

- › **Ensure that** deliverables respond to your needs as NWRM practitioners, as water managers keen to integrate such measures in forthcoming river basin management plans, or as local stakeholders potentially impacted (positively or negatively) by their future implementation.
- › **Provide** the opportunity to share to a wider audience the results of your own tests, applications and (positive or negative) experiences. These can help other actors to consider NWRM or to ensure that the right conditions for their success are in place and to strengthen the overall knowledge base. This one will support wider policy and management implications and lessons to be drawn and disseminated.
- › **Help** you in the design of NWRM and their practical implementation.
- › **Give** you sound arguments and reasons to make the case for NWRM in different policy domains, and whenever relevant, to strengthen applications for funding to support NWRM practical implementation.
- › **Be part of** an emerging community of practice on NWRM, thanks to four regional networks and the overall process of this initiative.

Four regional networks

- › **Learn** about NWRM
- › **Share** your practical experience
- › **Participate** in regional workshops
- › **Contribute** to NWRM knowledge
- › **Participate** to the development of NWRM practical guide

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“ Natural Water Retention Measures aim at restoring and maintaining water-related ecosystem services by natural means. They are Green Infrastructure intended to maintain and restore landscapes, soils and aquifers in order to improve their natural properties, the environmental services they provide, and to favour climate change adaptation and reduce vulnerability to floods and droughts.”

Who may participate ?

- › **Practitioners** involved in the design and practical implementation of NWRM in different sectors (urban, agriculture, forestry, natural area).
- › **Supporting agencies, researchers, funding agencies, NGOs**, are also the target audience of the initiative.

How ?

While **regional workshops** will be subject to limited attendance, participation in the **web-forum** of the initiative is encouraged and open to all, by:

- **raising issues**,
- **suggesting adaptation** in the database structure,
- **reacting to others' views** and statements,
- **sending comments** on draft versions of the initiative's deliverables,
- **learning** from on-going (lively!) exchanges.

What benefits may you expect?

- › **Share** your own NWRM experience with a wider audience.
- › **Find support** in the design and practical implementation of NWRM.
- › **Be part of** an emerging community of practice on NWRM.

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Natural Water Retention Measures group

TODAY!

