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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REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER









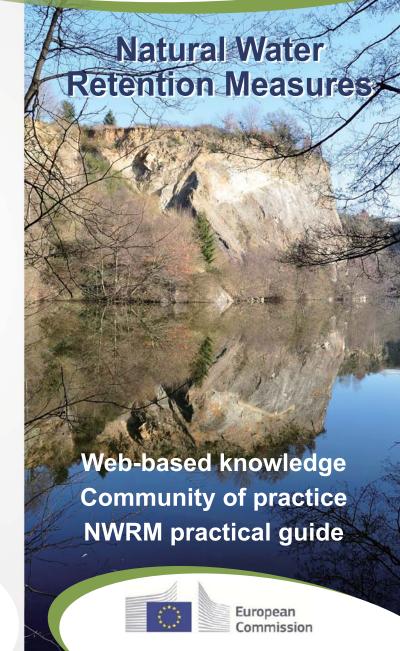






This document is provided in the framework of "ENV.D.I/SER/2013/0010 "Pilot Project - Atmospheric Precipitation - Protection and efficient use of Fresh Water: Integration of Natural Water Retention Measures in River Basin Management" (09/2013-10/2014) with the support of the European Commission. However, it only reflects the views of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.





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

The Danube river basin region

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Altural 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