



# Natural Water Retention Measures Western Regional workshop

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## Regional workshop Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM): How can catchment management be adapted to widen the potential for NWRMs?

*Strasbourg, July 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> 2014*

### Programme concept

#### Background

NWRMs provide **multiple benefits**, which go well beyond water retention itself and include, for example, water quality improvement, biodiversity improvement, enhancement of soil features, and better ecosystem adaptation capacity to climate change and so on. In addition, NWRMs are multi-dimensional, as they include both interventions on rivers but also on floodplains and riparian areas throughout a catchment.

As highlighted during the first round of Regional Workshops, these features of NWRMs call for a **catchment-based, multidimensional approach**, which goes beyond water and flood management and embraces biodiversity/habitat management and climate change adaptation strategies. At the policy level, this implies that the **links between NWRM implementation and all relevant EU Directives** need to be strengthened.

At present, **NWRMs are directly linked to the implementation of the Flood Directive**, and in a very few cases was the Water Framework Directive the main driver for implementation. This Directive, in fact, does not give much direct attention to riparian issues, but rather focuses on the water body as a central concept, and this might be hindering a good approach to NWRMs. Overall, **an explicit link with the WFD needs to be made**. Furthermore, the multi-dimensional character of NWRMs also calls for a **full integration** not only of FD and WFD, but also of the **Bird and the Habitat Directives and other relevant Directives**, and this suggests that a more complex approach would be needed. An integration of all relevant EU Directives could also help **addressing current institutional challenges**.

#### Main focus of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Western Workshop

To address this challenge, the second Western Regional Workshop in the frame of the NWRM initiative will be dedicated to discussions on **how to adapt catchment management for widening the potential of NWRMs**. The main discussion topics will include:

- Current policy and planning frameworks for NWRM implementation;
- Existing links between NWRM implementation and the WFD;



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- Experiences with NWRMs implementation in biodiversity management and climate change adaptation;
- Financing: current financing frameworks; opportunities and challenges for diversifying financing sources in an integrated catchment-wide perspective;
- Integrated (interconnected) planning at the catchment level: opportunities and challenges for strengthening integration;
- Opportunities and challenges for strengthening the links between NWRM implementation and implementation of the relevant EU Directives (WFD, FD, Habitats/Bird Directives, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy).

### Format

The workshop will be highly interactive, structured around presentations (followed by plenary discussions), round table discussions and group sessions to work on specific case studies. A site visit, which at the moment is still under definition and thus not included in the agenda, might be added to the programme later on; in this case, it will be scheduled in the morning of the first day.

### Participants

The workshop will host around 40 participants. Based on the proposed main theme, the workshop will target in preference **water catchment managers** from the different countries.

However, to ensure that different perspectives and fields of expertise are well represented in discussions and group working sessions, other policy makers and stakeholders will also be invited, namely:

- Other national and local policy makers/ planners involved in flood protection or biodiversity management
- NGOs involved in catchment management
- Organisations involved in the management of large scale Habitats/Natura 2000
- People dealing with climate change adaptation at regional/river basin district scale
- NWRM practitioners.



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## Proposed Agenda

### Day 1

Ca. 13:00	<b>Registration and light lunch</b>
14:00	<b>Opening:</b> introduction to the objectives of the workshop and agenda <b>Introduction to the DG ENV project on NWRM</b> <b>Reminder of the key lessons from the first workshop</b>
	<b>Session 1: NWRM and catchment management – framing main concepts and issues</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote 1 – NWRM features: Multiple dimensions of NWRM and delivery of multiple benefits</li> <li>• Keynote 2 – key steps in the design and implementation of NWRMs proposed in the Practical Guidance (drafted in the context of the NWRM initiative)</li> <li>• Keynote 3 – the policy context: linkages between NWRM and relevant EU Directives</li> </ul>
Ca. 15:00	<b>Session 2: the linkages between NWRMs and the EU policy framework</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NWRM implementation in the existing EU policy framework: presentation of “real life” experiences from water managers and other planners</li> <li>• Round table discussion: implementing NWRM in the EU policy context</li> </ul>
Ca. 17:00	<b>Session 3: Financing NWRMs in a catchment-based perspective</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Series of presentations on: (i) overview of existing financing frameworks; (ii) financing NWRM in the context of FD implementation; and (iii) existing innovative financing frameworks.</li> <li>• Discussion: towards the identification of viable innovative financing frameworks in the EU policy context</li> </ul>
18:00	<b>Wrap-up session</b>
Ca. 18:30	<b>Closing day 1</b>

### Day 2

Ca. 8:30	Introduction to Day 2
Ca. 8:45	<b>Session 4: Interconnected catchment planning for NWRMs</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the three case studies: main issues encountered when planning and implementing NWRMs at the catchment level</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Break-out group session: group sessions will identify key implementation issues and solutions/steps to boost NWRM effectiveness in delivering multiple objectives, using the three case studies as working examples. Group work will be structured along the key steps of design and implementation of NWRMs, as proposed in the Practical Guidance.</li><li>• Report from break-out group sessions &amp; wrap-up of main lessons learnt during the group discussions</li></ul>
12:30	<b>Session 5: Synthesis of key messages emerging during the workshop</b>
12:50	<b>Session 6: Linking workshop discussions and activities to the NWRM initiative – what are the implications for the Practical Guidance?</b> Moderated discussion
Ca. 13:30	<b>Wrap-up and closing of the workshop</b>