

Waterdrive project (2019-2022): Inspiring local water management and governance

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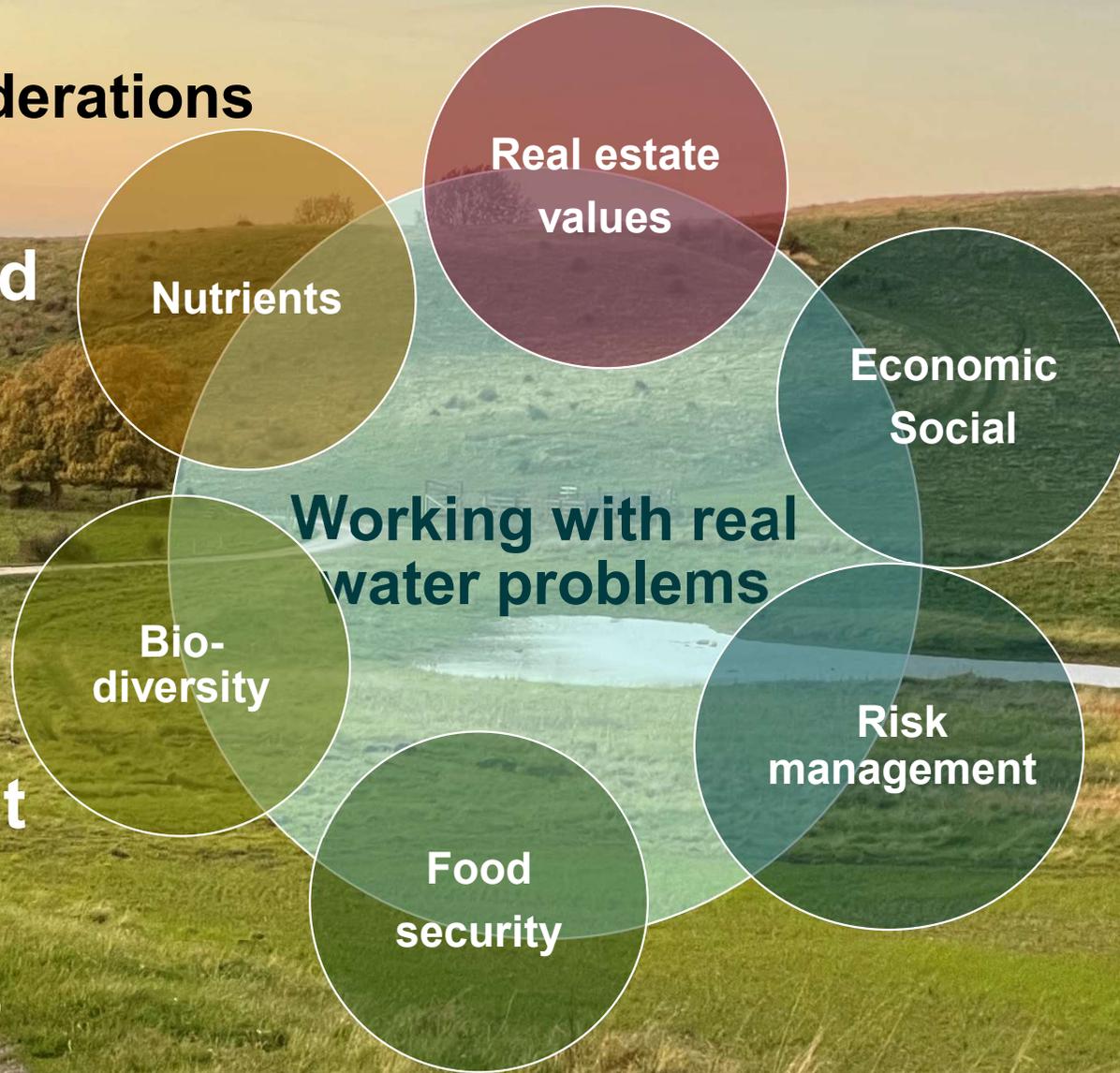
PA Nutri Talks, 9 September 2025



Farmer considerations

**Water-related
Issues**

**Farm
management
&
local
stewardship**



**From silos
to holistic
views and
synergies?**

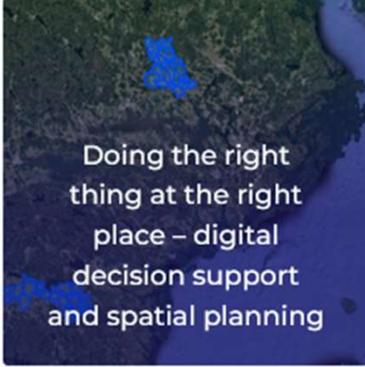


FINAL REPORT

Waterdrive findings and strategic recommendations

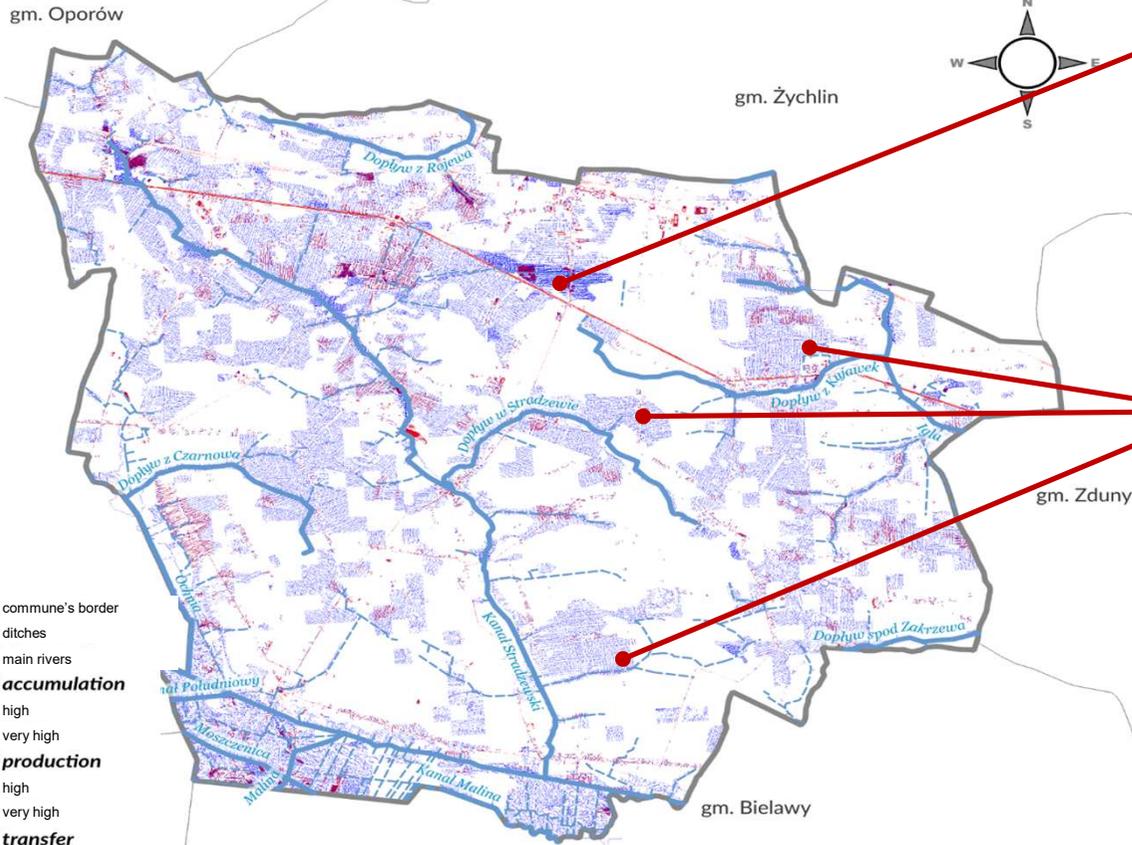
Holistic water management for landscape- and field level action.

https://water-drive.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Waterdrive_findings_and_strategic_recommendations.pdf





Kutno case area – 5000 ha intensive agricultural area



Settlements located in run off accumulation area: conflict of infrastructure with potential for ES delivery (water retention, flood control, sequestration)



Areas requiring implementation of land protection schemes and NBS for protection of soils and improved water management.



Kutno, Łódź vojvodeship, Poland

Local water partnerships...

...can solve complex water problems and drive rural development – but it takes time to develop trust

...bring most value added in areas where problems and conflicts are really affecting people and businesses

...work with and embrace multiple targets.

...include innovation in both methodology and technology

...exhibit multi-level public-private governance

HELCOM Ministerial Decision 2013

HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan update 2021

Sustainable agricultural practices 

Policy brief on integrated rural water management

 Local cross-sectoral joint actions are needed to address complex climate and water challenges




Baltic Marine Environment
Protection Commission



Differences and commonalities between BSR countries

- Denmark: nitrogen, national programs, land consolidation, investments
- Poland: droughts, productivity, production vs nature values
- Germany: nitrogen, National Water Strategy
- Finland, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania: CAP, RDP; national programs for local water projects (SE, FI)

HELCOM Policy brief - solutions



Leadership and strategic vision – inter-ministerial coordination/commission



Climate and water high risk areas – implementing multiple policy areas and security



Farmers motivation and responsibilities – financing, incentives and leadership



Specific local catchment support programs – financing for cross-sector local collaboration



Better site-specific data and decision support for actors on the local scale



Catchment officers and water expertise – new competencies and expertise required



Large-scale investments – climate and water collaborative investments



Role of local authorities and municipalities – public and private partnerships



Research for integrated climate and water risk management



Learning for action in the Baltic Sea region

Shared challenges, common understanding about the solutions, new initiatives in different countries, so where to take this from here?

HELCOM / WG Source to Sea

BSAP Action E19 indicator:
Relevant legislation, advice and/or support scheme is in place to support the application of innovative water management measures. (2030)

Water Framework Directive & Common Agriculture Policy – coordinated implementation?

Regional climate resilience strategies and plans

Connecting sectors and stakeholders at local level for action!

Tools,
data

Govern-
ance



www.water-drive.eu

<https://helcom.fi/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/policy-brief-integrated-rural-water-management.pdf>

Thank you everyone!