

Project platform – Symbioter

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Sustainable waters –project platform

Symbioter - Strengthening Circular Water Economy through microsymbiosis

Funding source: Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme, 2nd call for project platforms

Priority 2: Water-smart societies

Objective 2.1.: Sustainable waters

Project time span: 28 months, appr. June 2026 – October 2028

Project budget: 1.000.000 euros

Context and challenge

Context

- The Baltic Sea Region faces critical challenges: climate change, water scarcity, and eutrophication.
- Sustainable water management cannot be achieved by the water sector alone
- It seeks to reduce eutrophication by recovering nutrients and addressing seasonal water shortages.
- The project supports the Water Resilience Strategy.

Challenge

- Improving region's water balance through recovery and reuse of water.
- Key challenge: fragmentation, silos, and lack of cross-sectoral cooperation.
- Symbioter aims to build local micro-symbioses using existing tools, helping municipalities recover and reuse water and nutrients from wastewater and stormwater.
- The goal is to eliminate misunderstandings, lack of knowledge, and missing competencies that prevent local symbiotic solutions.

Symbioter – main aims

The project aims to gather and combine results from different Interreg and Horizon projects to create **local water micro-symbioses**. These symbioses are small-scale collaborations within municipalities or regions that enable the **recovery of treated wastewater and rainwater** and its **local reuse**, for example for irrigation or internal utility purposes.

. Establish a network of stakeholders actively exchanging knowledge through events and interactive tools.

Create resources to support capacity building: information materials, planning tools, guides, mentoring, etc.

Organize educational activities and workshops, including collaborative rain garden development, NBS design, disinfection selection, IT tools application.

Provide advice to LPA on the implementation of microsymbioses and foster policy dialogue.

Supporting TG by providing tools, developing competencies, and strengthening their readiness to implement sustainable water practices.

Symbioter – main aims

The three Training Packages focus on:

REUSE – rainwater and stormwater management,
RECYCLE – wastewater treatment and safe reuse,
RECOVER – nutrient recovery and flow monitoring

Partnership

1. Lead partner: Chamber of Commerce Polish Waterworks, Poland
2. Warsaw University of Technology, Poland
3. Centrum Balticum Foundation, Finland
4. Natural Resources Institute Finland, Finland
5. National Regions' Development Agency, Lithuania
6. Kalmar Region, Sweden
7. The Oldenburg-East Frisian Water Association, Germany
8. The University of Stavanger, Norway

Background projects 1/2

InterregBSR

ReNutriWater - Closing local water circuits by recirculating nutrients and water and using them in nature,

WaterMan - Promoting water reuse in the Baltic Sea Region through capacity building at local level

NurseCoast II - Model Nutrients Reduction Solutions In Near- Coast Touristic Areas

NOAH - Protecting Baltic Sea from untreated wastewater spillages during flood events in urban areas

VillageWaters – Water emissions and their reduction in village communities villages in Baltic Sea Region as pilots

CityBlues - Bluegreen naturebased solutions for climate change adaptation and citizen wellbeing

Background projects 2/2

Interreg North Sea

CATCH - water sensitive Cities: the Answer To CHallenges of extreme weather events

Interreg Europe

Aquares - Water reuse policies advancement for resource efficient European regions,

Horizon Europe

NENUPHAR – nutrients recycling and pollution handling

Planned activities

WP1 Defining the scope and extent of activities

- Defining scope and training sets
- Elaboration and recruitment for the mentoring program
- Building capacity

WP2 Building capacity

- Collaborative learning - Training of trainers
- Collaborative learning - Training of practitioners
- Mentoring

WP3 Consolidating memory and knowledge

- Transferring solutions
- Development of curricula for new generation

Target groups

- Local public authorities
- Infrastructure and public service provider
- Interest groups

PA Nutri

- Dialogue
- PA Nutri Talks in 2027