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INTERREG EUROPE – Groundwater management in nitrate vulnerable zones with agriculture activities

Policy objective 2 - Greener Europe

Specific objective: Access to water and sustainable water management

OBJECTIVE The primary goal of this project is to enhance regional public policies in Europe regarding groundwater management in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones linked to agricultural activities. The project aims to achieve this through interregional learning activities among European regions and the exchange of best practices and experiences.

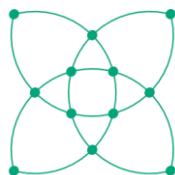
Europe contributes significantly to excess nitrogen and phosphorus in the environment, which have already surpassed safe limits for the planet and pose a severe threat to nature and climate. The European Environment Agency (EEA) estimates that Europe exceeds the nitrogen leakage limit by 3.3 times and the phosphorus leakage limit by 2 times.

Several member States report poor water quality throughout their territory and a systemic problem in managing nutrient pollution from agriculture, meanwhile, others have critical points where pollution is not adequately addressed.

As a result, there is an urgent need to adopt additional measures to achieve the objectives of the Nitrate Directive and to design or improve public policies to support these efforts.

In summary, the project's main objective is to improve water quality by addressing nitrate pollution caused by agricultural activities in vulnerable zones.

MAIN ACTIVITIES	Core phase “Exchange of experience” (3 years)
	To select, exchange and transfer of best practices as a result of the interregional learning path, the partners will: 1. Analyse the regional contexts and identify good practices in the different related to water management and quality 2. Analyse of good practices and exchange of experiences at interregional and regional level (study visits, interregional learning events, etc). 3. Create Local Action Groups and stakeholder working groups in each territory to share the lessons learned during the process and to provide input for future project activities. 4. Drafting potential pilot actions. Follow-up phase (1 year)



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	The main results of the exchange of experience will be monitored by the implementation, monitoring and dissemination of the improvements of the selected policy instruments, the definition of local groups for project result implementation, project meetings and events.
MAIN RESULTS	Identification of best practices. Improvement of public policies. Design of a pilot actions. Capacity building of staff involved in project partners.
Project coordinator	Regional Ministry of Water of the Region of Murcia (Spain) Advisory partner: Geological and Mining Institute of Spain (IGME, depending of the Spanish National Research Council).
Submission date	09 th June 2023
Project budget	Around 1.700.000€
Partners needed	<u>Regional public entities or public law bodies responsible for the development and/or implementation of policies</u> in the field of water resources management with special emphasis on problems related to (groundwater) nitrate pollution. Regions: • North • East • West
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