



**Interreg**



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North-West Europe

**Thematic networking session**  
**“Creating lasting change”**  
**Improving water**  
**resilience and security**

Luxembourg, 16 December 2025

**Eva Clymans**  
**Nicole Skirde-Vural**

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# Agenda

1. Session objective
2. Theme overview
3. Water Test Network project experience
4. Networking tables

# Objective

- **Bring together stakeholders** tackling water resilience and security
  - Get inspired by **best practices** to make your water project's impact durable
  - Discuss how to **turn project outputs into lasting results** and explore opportunities on how to make this happen
  - Identify **support needs** to sustain water innovations beyond project lifetimes
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# Creating lasting change



Create **lasting territorial change**, not just short-term project results



Embed project results into **regional / local policies and community practices**



Ensure that **public investments continue delivering value** after projects end

# Creating lasting change



Build on your project's achievements and **ensure the transfer of successful initiatives**



Strengthen **connections with other projects**, create synergies and opportunities for **shared learning and collaboration**



**Scale up** and broaden the reach of **effective practices** across multiple regions and sectors

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# Supporting NWE projects in taking results a step further

## Telling the story

**Provide tools and visibility** for projects to showcase and replicate their outputs

## Building on success

Support the **uptake of successful project outputs** beyond what was initially planned

## Creating connections

**Facilitate knowledge exchange** and networking among partners and projects, within NWE and beyond

# Supporting NWE projects in taking results a step further

## Telling the story

**Provide tools and visibility** for projects to showcase and replicate their results

Promote project activities and **events**

Build project capacity to communicate and showcase their results through **training and workshops**

Showcase NWE projects at **Programme events**

Push NWE projects visibility and / or facilitate participation to **awards and EU external events**

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# Supporting NWE projects in taking results a step further

## Building on success

Support the **uptake of successful project outputs** beyond what was initially planned

Support the uptake of project outputs towards new territories, new type of stakeholders, new fields or domains, notably with **NWE capitalisation calls**:

- **Call 1**: open now until 28 May 2026
- **Call 2**: opening in Dec 2026 until May 2027

Reach out to your Contact Point for support:  
[www.nweurope.eu/contact-points](http://www.nweurope.eu/contact-points)



# Supporting NWE projects in taking results a step further

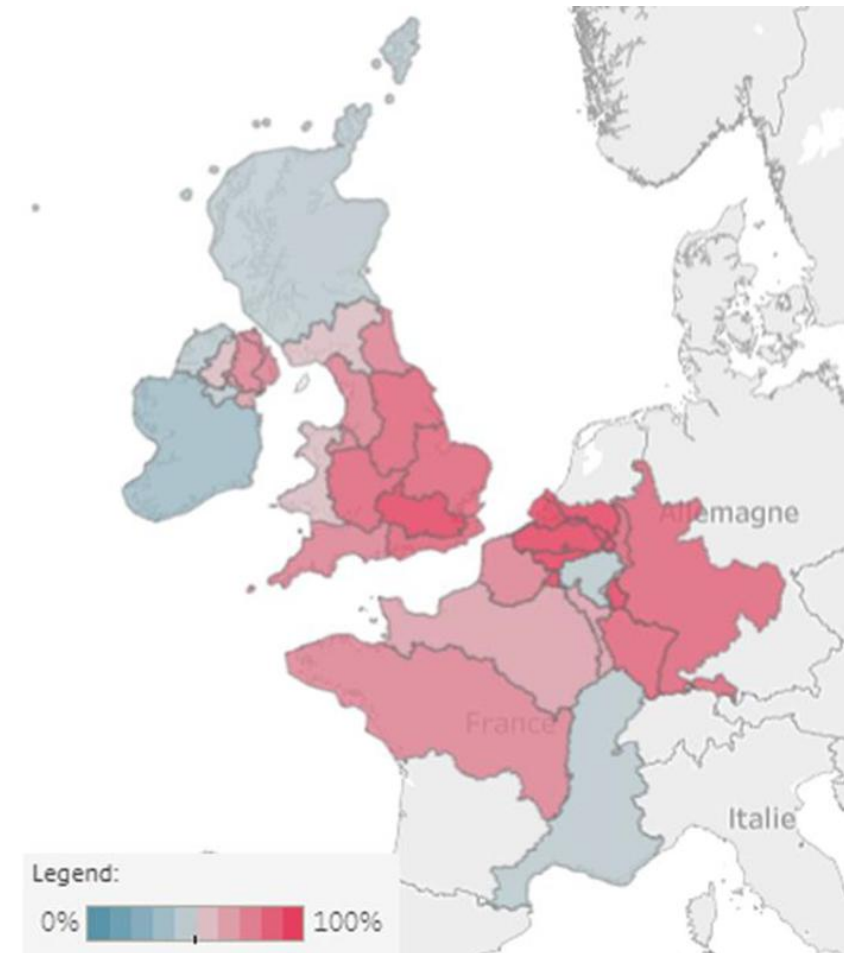
## Creating connections

**Facilitate knowledge exchange** and networking among partners and projects, within NWE and beyond

Support project **networking**, partnerships, clustering and synergies **within NWE and beyond** and **across programming periods**, notably with networking / clustering events

# Why is this topic a challenge for NWE?

- Water **quality**: poor ecological & chemical status of water bodies
- Water **availability / quantity**: sustainable use and reuse of water
- Opposing water **extremes**: droughts and floods
- **Institutional & governance complexity** of water management across national and regional borders



NWE water bodies failing to achieve Good Ecological status (2018)

# What do we expect?

## Projects that:



Implement water-focused climate **resilience measures** to address challenges in natural risk management, disaster response and sustainable water management.



Integrate water resilience into **strategies and planning** to reduce the impact of floods, droughts, heavy rainfall, and other water-related risks.



Use **integrated, place-based approaches** to deliver resilience and disaster-response actions through coordinated spatial planning, nature-based solutions, and cross-sector interventions at the local or regional level.



**BONSAI**

## Interreg NWE 2021-2027 projects on the topic of water resilience and security



**FlashFloodBreaker**



**BUFFER+**



**ClimASed**



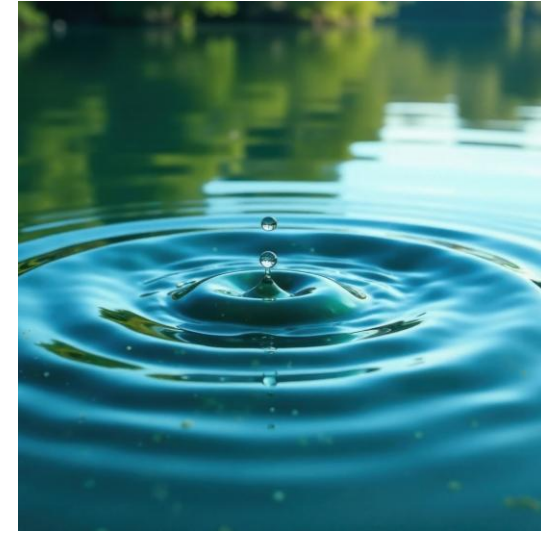
**ResiRiver**





**BEPROACT**

**Interreg NWE  
2021-2027  
projects on the  
topic of water  
resilience and  
security**



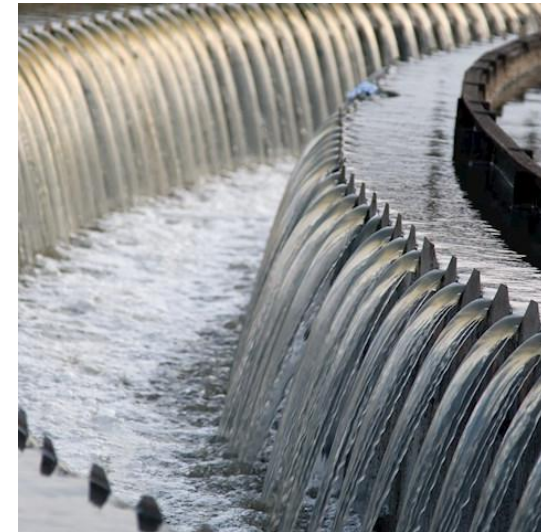
**PREWAPHARM**



**HydroSoilWise**



**Rural\_Roadwater\_Rescue**



**New projects**

# **Charlotte Boeckaert**

VITO

Partner of the Water Test Network project (2018-2021)

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# Context

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Water Test Network  
European Regional Development Fund

## Water Test Network

Water Test Network | Interreg NWE



# Context

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## An innovation environment

### Goal

Accelerate market uptake of innovative water technologies



### Tool

Transnational network of testing facilities



**Enabling SMEs to fine-tune and test technologies in a real setting**

2018 - 2022





# Context

## 14 demonstration sites with various water types

Contact Jordi Moreno  
for more information:  
j.moreno@cew-leeuwarden.nl  
+31 6 57772569

### SUMMARY

The demo site at the Antonius Hospital can be used for testing, demonstrating and scaling up of new technologies for treatment of hospital wastewater.

### FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- Preliftation
- Digester
- Space for four companies
- Air treatment
- Internet
- Fresh water supply
- Sewer for discharge
- Storage for chemicals
- Electricity supply 230/380 V with max 5 KW power
- Porta cabin/services
- 24/7 access
- Assistance from students water technology
- Permits
- Plug and play



### APPLICATIONS

- Removal of hormones from wastewater
- Removal of medicine (residues) from wastewater
- Removal of antibiotics from wastewater

### AVAILABLE WATER TYPES

- Mixed hospital wastewater
- Black water (toilet water from wards internal medicine and pulmonary diseases)
- Urine (from day care oncology)



Contact Daniel Gerdies  
for more information:  
Daniel.Gerdies@scottishwater.co.uk  
+44 748 4509431

### SUMMARY

The Waste Water Development Centre at Bo'ness is Scotland's first full-scale test facility dedicated to supporting research and innovation in the wastewater sector.

### FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

- Pilot scale sequencing batch reactor
- Drainage discharge points
- Compressed air
- Environmental licences for operating trial units
- Power supply 240v, 110v, 400v
- Inlet screening test area
- UKAS accredited sampling and analysis services available as an additional service
- Modern welfare facilities and a laboratory area
- Assistance from qualified operators



### APPLICATIONS

- Testing and developing of new equipment, processes and technologies
- Testing of wastewater screening technologies
- Testing on non-domestic sewage
- Chemical treatment
- Instrumentation
- Pump and valve testing

### AVAILABLE WATER TYPES

- Municipal wastewater (raw unscreened, raw screened, secondary sewage, activated sludge, final effluent)
- Industrial wastewater (various sources available on request)



Municipal Waste water

Surface Water

Sludge

Demineralised Water

Condensate Water

Hospital Wastewater

Sea Water

Drinking Water

Ground Water

Water flows on dairy farms

Industrial Wastewater

Vegetable Processing Process Water and Wastewater

## There were two avenues of support



Issues experienced by water users to which a solution is sought from innovative SMEs.

Engaging SMEs in a 'meet the buyer' type exercise.



Open application process.

SMEs from across NWE can apply to receive access to our network of testing facilities.

# Context

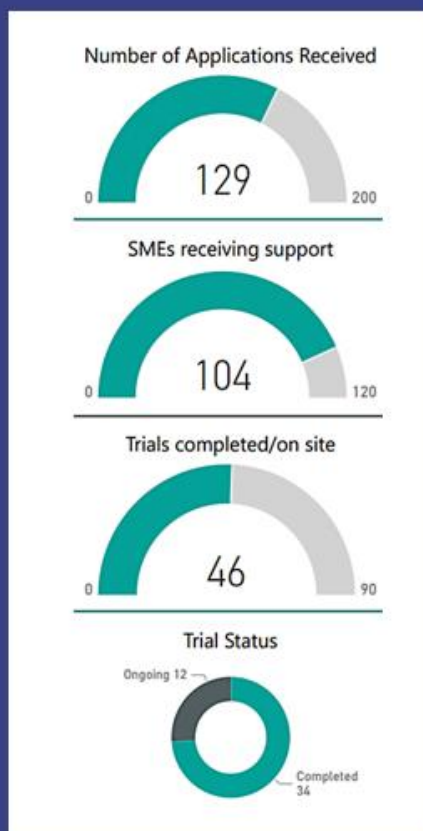
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## Project progress



### Applications by country

United Kingdom	45
Netherlands	42
France	13
Germany	12
Belgium	11
Sweden	2
Ireland	1
Finland	1
Denmark	1
Austria	1
Total	129

# Successful initiatives

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Issues experienced by water users to which a solution is sought from innovative SMEs.  
Engaging SMEs in a 'meet the buyer' type exercise.

## INNOVATION CHALLENGE 3

**PFAS removal challenge: are you the SME we're looking for?**

2020: launch of challenge

2021: new PFAS adsorbents tested

2021 and beyond: PFAS detected in groundwater, surface water, municipal wastewater, ...



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# Successful initiatives

## Application process



- Simple
- Fast
- You never walk alone



# Successful initiatives

## Technologies tested via the Water Test Network



- Bridge the gap
- Increase TRL level
- Test in real life
- Shorten market introduction

# Successful initiatives

**At project end**

**Memorandum of understanding**



**Water Test Network maintained**

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**Let's stay in touch**

**Water  
Test  
Network**



Post project website: [watertestnetwork.eu](https://watertestnetwork.eu)



[Linkedin.com/in/watertestnetwork](https://www.linkedin.com/in/watertestnetwork)

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Water Test Network



[nweurope.eu/water-test-network](https://nweurope.eu/water-test-network)



[WaterNetwork\\_EU](https://twitter.com/WaterNetwork_EU)



[Linkedin.com/in/watertestnetwork](https://www.linkedin.com/in/watertestnetwork)

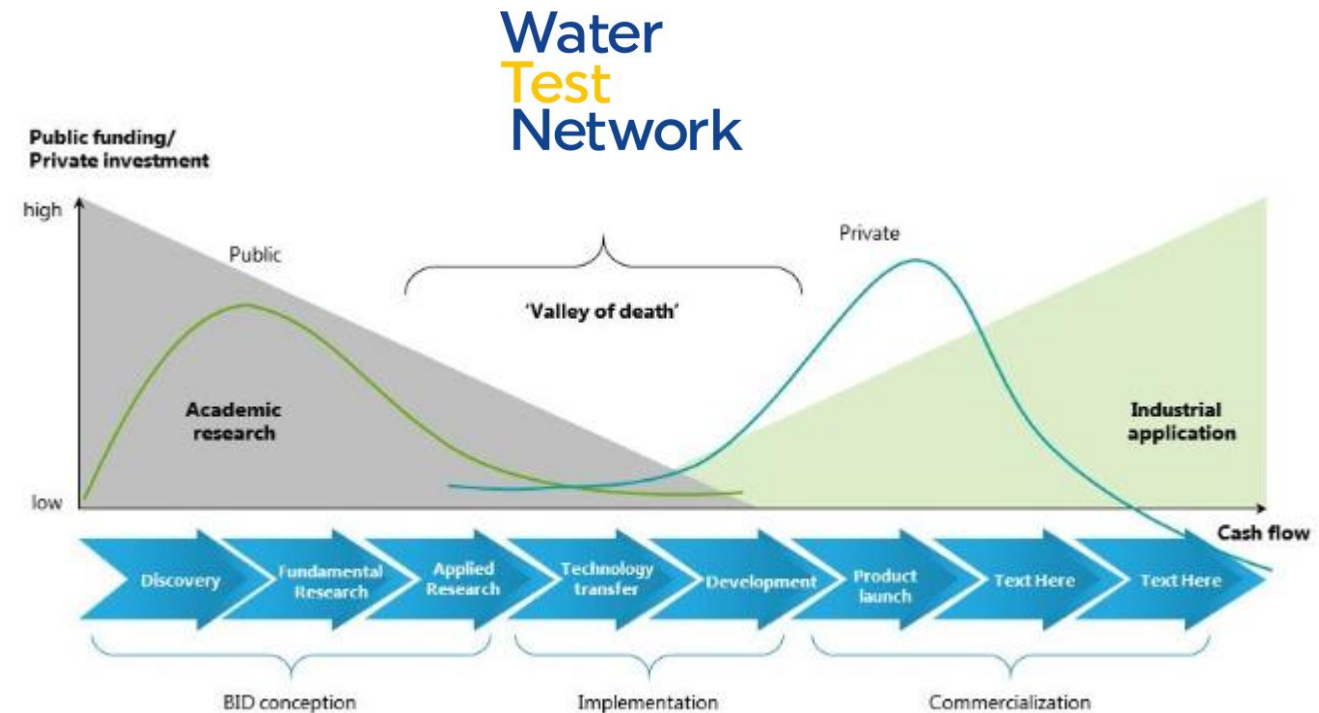
# Challenges and perspectives

**After 2 years**

**MoU ended without ongoing funding**



**Water Test Network frozen**



- National funding agencies did not copy



# Challenges and perspectives



## Water-Oriented Living Labs - Water Europe

**Water Oriented Living Labs (WOLLs)** are collaborative environments designed to address water-related challenges through multi-stakeholder involvement. They serve as **real-life spaces** where innovative water solutions are co-created, tested, and validated, integrating technologies, business models, and policies based on the value of water. These labs aim to foster sustainable and inclusive water management by engaging local actors and adapting solutions to regional needs. Additionally, initiatives like the Water4All partnership work to establish a network of WOLLs to enhance collaboration in the water sector. [⇨ Open Living Lab Days +4](#)

- Application for a Water Oriented Living Lab (WOLL)

# Thank you

- Freedom to operate
- Out-of-the-box





# Q&A

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# Networking tables



## 1. Tour de table

Share your plans to ensure durability and uptake of outputs



## 2. Discuss the key question

What further initiative(s) – at programme or project level – could support the durability of results?



## 3. Restitution

One participant from each table shares the takeaway messages from their group

# Tour de table

**What are your current plans to ensure durability and further uptake of outputs?**



# Key question

**What further initiative(s) – at programme or project level – could be taken to support the durability of results?**



# What's next?

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**13:00 – 14:15**

**Foyer 1 - Level 0**

## **NETWORKING LUNCH**

**14:15 – 16:15**

## **NWE PROJECTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Track 1. Green transport and connectivity

Track 2. Circular and resource-efficient economy

Track 3. Climate-friendly and resilient regions

Track 4. Community-led energy transitions

Track 5. Resource-efficient local and regional planning

Track 6. Sustainable agriculture and water systems



**Social media  
challenge**




**Vote for the most  
inspiring story**

**Check your  
personalised agenda  
on the event app!**





# NWE projects making a difference

	<b>Workshop +1</b> Level +1	<b>Delegates 3</b> Level -3	<b>Banquet</b> Level +1	<b>Delegates 2</b> Level -3	<b>Delegates 1</b> Level -3	<b>Workshop 0</b> Level 0
	<b>Green transport and connectivity</b>	<b>Circular and resource-efficient economy</b>	<b>Climate-friendly and resilient regions</b>	<b>Community-led energy transitions</b>	<b>Resource-efficient local and regional planning</b>	<b>Sustainable agriculture and water systems</b>
14:15 – 14:35	Green SKHy	CASCADE	Cool Neighbourhoods	ACCU	ASSET	Better-Calf
10' break						
14:45 – 15:05	MONA	Hemp4Circularity	IB-Green	CIRCUS	Circular Building Convert	SIMONE
10' break						
15:15 – 15:35	STEER-NWE	E6	ECOBoost	RODEO	Circular Shift	Rural Roadwater Rescue
10' break						
15:45 – 16:05	WISTAR	PREUSE	PolliConnect	SmartCORE	T4R	ResiRiver



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**Thank you**

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