

EDITORIAL



Improving Water Quality of the European Rivers through Smart Water Management Policies

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One of the Europe's most relevant resources is the rivers that cross it. They are not only responsible for the rich and diverse European natural ecosystems but also the main source of the water used by the population. Water is a scarce resource that must be protected and reused, and in this context, the preservation of the water quality of the European rivers is a major concern of local, regional, national and even European authorities. However, the implementation of the European Water Framework directive is not at the same level all over Europe, and the accomplishment of its indicators is a major concern for almost all European regions with reflection on several regional programmes and other regional policies.

The BIGDATA4RIVERS project aims to go forward in the implementation of water directives promoting smart water management. ICT should support the implementation of smart water management in the participant territories as a transversal enabling technology that generates real time information and allows different stakeholders to access and share it for a supported decision-making process.

The overall objective of the BIGDATA4RIVERS project is to exchange experiences and good practices between partners in the field of the efficiency of water systems, to adapt those good practices and apply the lessons learnt to each partner's reality through the development of individual action plans and to promote their application through the partners' policy instruments.

BIGDATA4RIVERS is in essence a driver for the generation and exchange of information and knowledge enabling better planning processes and decision-making regarding the local/regional water management. The interregional learning process will allow regions to learn and support each other based on their own experiences in the implementation of the EU Water Framework directives.

The main outputs of the Project are:

- A joint analytical report aiming at identifying the main management policies regarding the water in the rivers in the project regions and comparison of the application level of the European directives in the water sector allowing partners to identify opportunities and improvement needs of their policy instruments (PI);
- Exchange of experience (site visits, knowledge transfer sessions and interregional workshops).

The Project is financed by the Interreg Europe programme. The lead partner is Iberian Association of Riverside Municipalities of Duero River (Spain). The Project partners are Regional Development Fund on Behalf of the Region of Attica (Greece), The National Union of Romanian Entrepreneurs (Romania), The County Administrative Board of Östergötland (Sweden), Intermunicipal Community of Alto Minho (Portugal), Cluster DREAM FR (France) and Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania).