



# Workshop on circular economy and water re-use

## EUROPE-INBO 2016

What solutions and what role in the River Basin Management Plans ?

October 19, 2016, Lourdes, France

# Objectives

One objective of this workshop is to **compare practices and practical experiences of Member States and basin organisations on recovery and re-use of wastewater in the context of RBMPs and WFD objectives**, and promote the exchange of questions and solutions in those domains.

More generally the workshop also addresses the need for elements of **strategies followed** by Member States or basin Organisations **to include the principles of circular economy** at basin level, especially by focusing on local or sub-basin actions that have been implemented and that could be duplicated elsewhere.

## AGENDA

Timings	Contents	Speaker
13:00 13:15	Registration and Welcome coffee	
<b>PART I: Introduction</b>		
13:15 14:15	Welcoming address	Laurent Bergeot, Adour-Garonne Water Agency
	Circular economy and re-use, setting the scene and current works at European level	Thomas Petitguyot, European Commission, DG ENV
	The approach in France	Ludovic Hauduroy, French Ministry of Environment, Energy and Sea
	The approach in Spain	Teodoro Estrela, Jucar Hydrographic Confederation

<b>PART II: Separate working sessions</b>		
	<i>Working format of each split group</i>	
	Introduction(10')	<b>All participants</b>
<b>14 :15 16:15</b>	Introductory presentations (2*10')  <b>Split group A- Theme 1: Recovery and re-use of wastewater</b>  <b>Split group B- Theme 2: A new, 'circular' perspective on water management and River Basin Management Planning</b>	<b>Rémi Tournon, Rhone Mediterranean Water Agency</b> <b>Alfieri Pollice, IRSA CNR, Water Research Institute</b>  <b>Enrique Cifres, MEMBO</b>
	Group discussions organised around 4 questions (45') Final discussion on what to report back from the work of the group (15')	<b>All participants per group</b>
<b>16:15- 16:30</b>	Coffee break	
<b>PART III: Conclusion</b>		
<b>16:30 17:30</b>	Presentations of conclusions of the split groups by the rapporteurs (10') and discussion (5')	<b>Rapporteurs + all participants</b>
	<b>Overall Conclusion</b>	<b>Mr. Yannick POCHON, OIEau</b>



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# Theme 1: Recovery and re-use of wastewater

- \* Over abstraction of surface and groundwater bodies is an important pressure and in some areas of Europe this may be driven by wider problems of scarce water resources and increased by climate change.
- \* In order to address this pressure and meet WFD objectives, Member States should adopt measures. The 2007 Communication on Water Scarcity and Droughts stresses that appropriate measures should take account of a 'water hierarchy', which emphasises the need to address water saving and efficiency as a priority. However, where this is not sufficient, additional water sources might be needed. Recovery and reuse of treated waste water is one possible source.

# Theme 1: Recovery and re-use of wastewater

- Moreover, in recent years the implementation of re-use projects has also been foreseen for qualitative reasons, following the principle of adjusting the quality of the treated water source (as a replacement source for example) to actual quality requirements for some uses.
- \* Taking stocks of the recent development and implementation of re-use projects and their potential benefits or risks if not undertaken properly, in terms of water balances but also of still pending debates concerning potential health risk or psychological reluctance from citizens, the discussions will focus on the way to better integrate re-use projects in the overall river basin management planning.

# Theme 1: Recovery and re-use of wastewater

The following questions will guide the exchanges:

What are the pre-conditions for integrating re-use measures in the RBMPs (Art. 5 analysis, over-abstraction and significant pressures, qualitative aspects, water scarcity context...)

What policies and tools (financing, technical, governance...) at basin level could be set to include and ensure the development of re-use projects integrated with the RBMPs and Programme of measures ?

How to engage citizens, stakeholders in the process ?

# Theme 2: A new, ‘circular’ perspective on water management and River Basin Management Planning

- ✦ Despite the increasing occurrence of “circular economy” topic in media and general policy objectives, the integration of underlying concepts into the river basin management planning process has not fully taken place yet. More than just looking at the treated wastewater re-use aspects, applying those concepts for water management shall also encompass the “re-use” of energy, of water, of nutrients and other substances (more generally resources recycled or produced from wastewater), promotion of resource positive utilities...
- \* It also requires scrutinizing what could be the benefits or drawbacks of applying the ‘circular’ concept at the basin (or sub-basin) level, as the unit of management and development of specific strategies, policies, incentives and financing tools, technical tools..., and the levers or barriers to adopt the circular economy principles in the water management context.

# Theme 2: A new, 'circular' perspective on water management and River Basin Management Planning

The following questions could guide the exchanges:

What are the examples and lessons learnt in your basin, country ?

What are main the limits and difficulties, constraints identified to actually develop circular economy in water management ?

What are recommendations, solutions, improvements you would propose ?



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