

# Building water resilience in times of floods and droughts




Astrid Severin & Magda Michalikova  
Thematic Experts for a Greener Europe  
Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

# Agenda

- 9h00 – 9h20
- Welcome & Introduction from Interreg Europe**
- Welcome by *Adrian Zitelli Ferrari, General Director of the European Union of the Murcia Region Government*
  - Introduction to Interreg Europe and the Policy Learning Platform – *Jason Martinez, Interreg Europe Joint Secretariat, Antoine Duquennoy, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform*
  - Water resilience in Interreg Europe – *Astrid Severin, Magda Michalikova, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform*
- 
- 9h20 – 9h40
- Setting the scene**
- ‘Water resilience floods and droughts’: **Rob van der Most**, Delfland, Netherlands
-

# Agenda

- 9h40 – 10h20
- Session 1: Water availability and water efficiency**
- Floods and extreme weather events**  
**Keynote speech by José Sandoval Moreno** - Director, Regional Government of Murcia, Ministry of Water, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Environment, General Directorate of Water
- 
- Good Practice Sessions & Interactive Work**
- **Reducing the effects of drought:** Ewa Krolikowska, Mazovia Energy Agency, Poland – [DECA](#) project
  - **The water reuse programme of Murcia:** Pedro Simon, Technical Director of the Entity of Sanitation and Treatment of Murcia Region (ESAMUR), Spain
- 
- 10h20- 11h00
- Interactive group work session on ‘Water availability and water quality’**
- 
- 11h00- 11h30
- Coffee break**
- 

# Agenda

11h30 – 12h20 **Session 2: Floods and extreme weather events**

## **New governance for rivers to counteract floods**

Keynote speech by **Sales Tomas Pons and David Campos**, LIMNE River Restoration Foundation, Spain, [RIWET](#) project

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## **Good Practice Sessions & Interactive Work**

**Managing climate risks: drainage and flood management:** Adam Coffey, Tipperary County Council, Ireland – [ADAPTO](#) project

**Floodplain 'Lebendige Luppe':** Mathias Scholz, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung - UFZ (Germany) - [GIFT](#) project

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12h20-13h00 **Interactive group work session on 'Floods and extreme weather events'**

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13h00-14h15 **Networking lunch**

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14h15 -  
15h00

**Wrap up of the morning sessions and presentation of the study visit**

- Reporting back from Group Work session – Magda Michalikova and Antoine Duquennoy
- Thematic conclusions – Astrid Severin
- Presentation of the study visit – Manuel Boluda

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15h00 -  
18h00

**Site visit - Exploring innovative water management Solutions**

Rain Garden of "Patrulla Aguila"

Collection Basin Pond

Torre-Pacheco Storm Tank

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18h00 -  
20h00

**Networking cocktail**

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**Interreg  
Europe**



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# Interreg Europe in a nutshell

Jason Martinez  
*Projects Coordinator*  
*Joint Secretariat*  
*Interreg Europe*

Antoine Duquennoy  
*Thematic Manager*  
*Policy Learning Platform*  
*Interreg Europe*

26 February 2025

Water resilience – Policy Learning Platform workshop



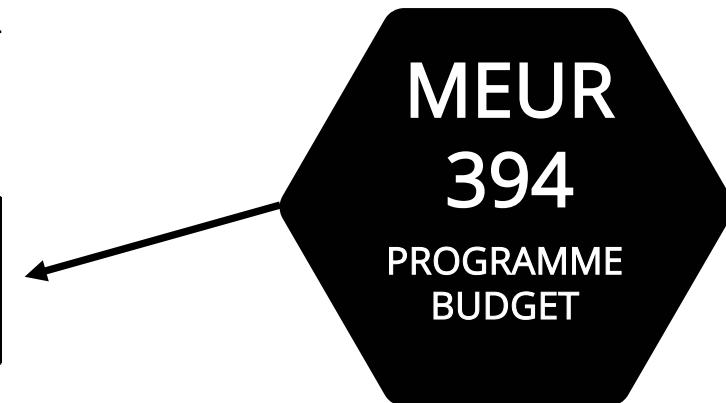
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# Cohesion policy & Interreg programmes

- 4 strands, each strand with its own scope and objectives
- 86 programmes, 10 billion euros ERDF

<b>A</b>	Cross-border	<b>64</b> programmes EUR 6.7 billion	
<b>B</b>	Transnational	<b>13</b> programmes EUR 2.3 billion	
<b>C</b>	Interregional	<b>4</b> programmes EUR 560 million	Interreg Europe Urbact, Interact, Espon
<b>D</b>	Outermost regions	<b>5</b> areas EUR 330 million	



# Interreg Europe **objective**

To improve **regional development policies** through the identification and transfer of good practices among EU regions

Helps policymakers to find new solutions to their challenges

- Primarily dedicated to **policymakers**
- Focus on **exchange of experience**



Different from cross-border or transnational cooperation



# Programme area

## 36 Partner States

All EU + Norway & Switzerland

7 new countries joined in 2024

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia
- Serbia
- Ukraine



The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the European Union concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Kosovo: This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

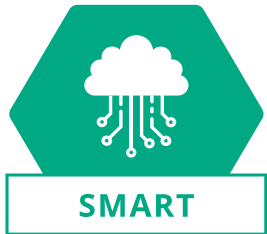
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# Programme scope

1 priority on capacity building



All topics of Cohesion policy eligible



# Two actions



## Projects

Limited number of regions exchanging and transferring experience on a shared regional development issue



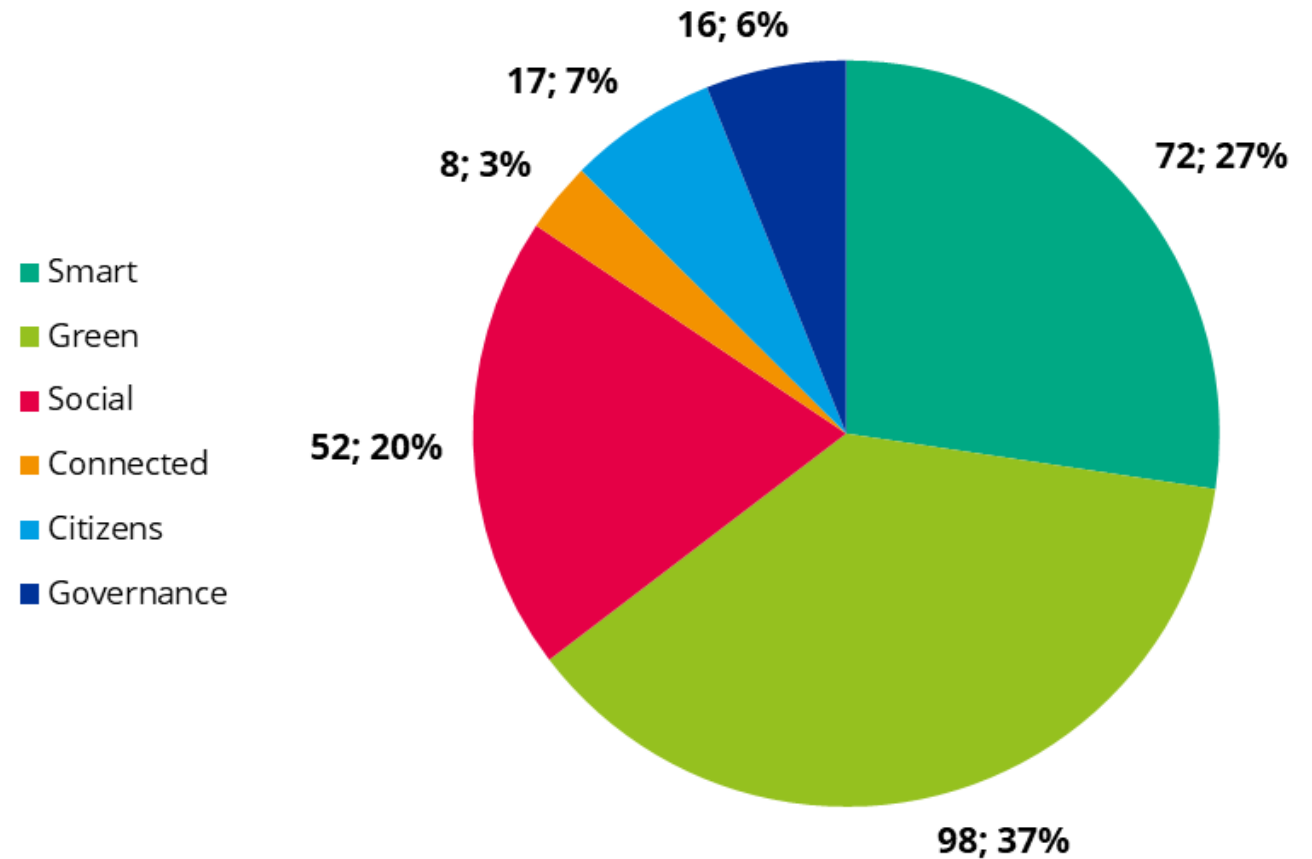
## Policy Learning Platform

Further exploiting projects' achievements and opening up the programme benefits to all

# Overview of projects approved so far

263 running projects

- 2,253 partners
- 36 countries represented



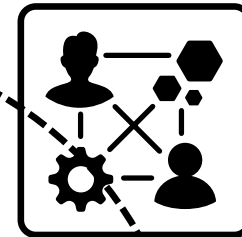
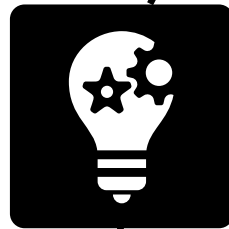
# A Policy Learning Platform: open to everyone

Continuous policy-learning opportunities through access to:

## Knowledge

Find policy solutions

*(good practice database,  
thematic publications)*



## People

Meet our community

*(thematic events, webinars)*



## Expertise

Get expert support

*(peer reviews, matchmakings,  
policy helpdesk)*

# The platform team



**Marc Pattinson**



**Arnault Morisson**



**Luc Schmerber**



**Erik Gløersen**



**Katharina Krell**



**Simon Hunkin**



**Rene Tönnisson**



**Laura Varisco**



**Mart Veliste**



**Astrid Severin**



**Magda Michalíková**



**Thorsten Kohlisch**



**Elena Ferrario**



**Karine Gevorgyan**



**Mario Vade pied**



**Valentine Dufaye**



**Lotte van Meijel**



**Vladimir Sestovic**



**Antoine Duquennoy**



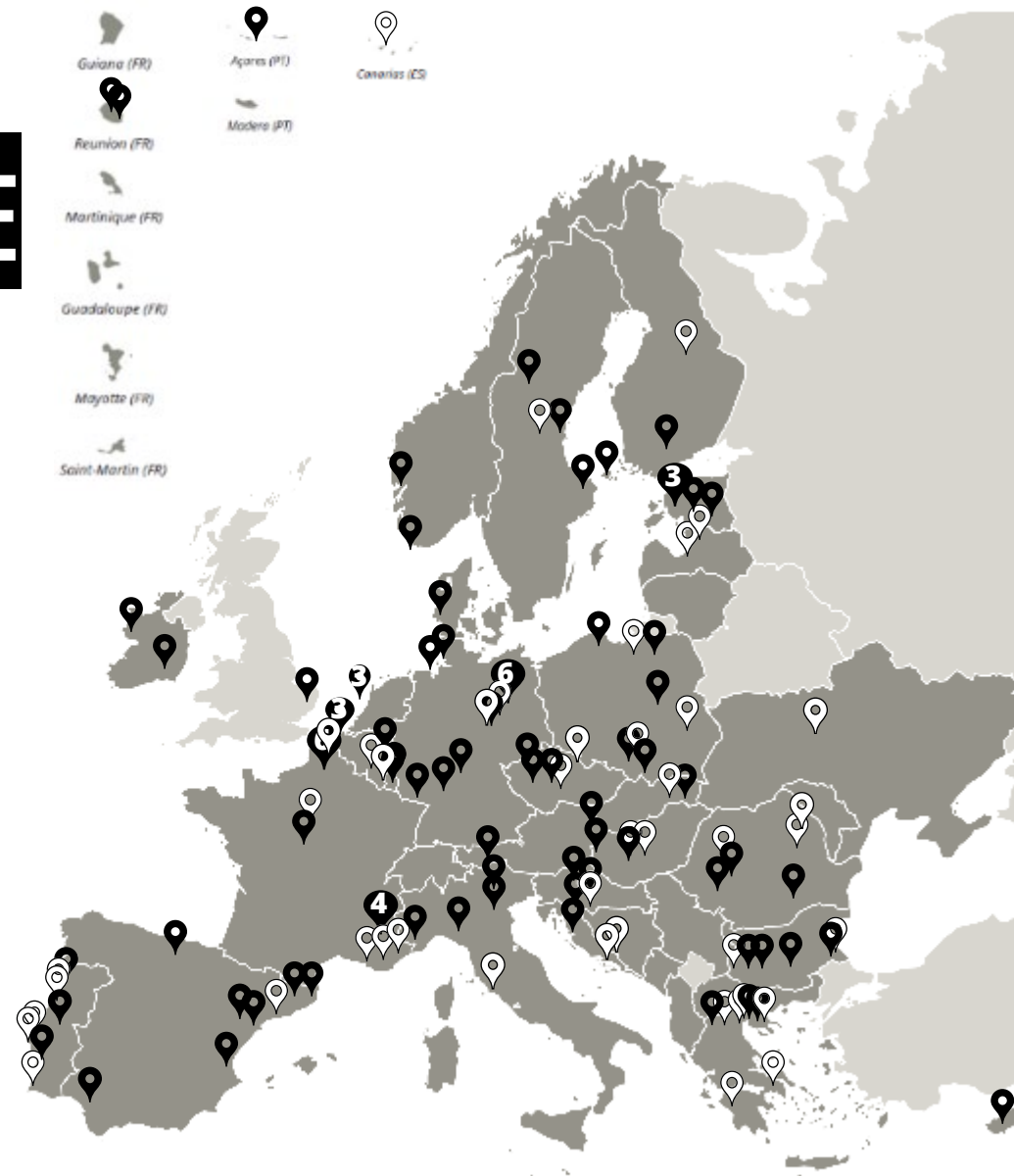
# Peer learning **IN PRACTICE**

📍 **100 peer reviews** implemented since 2019  
10 peer reviews in the pipeline

📍 **52 matchmaking** sessions

**Apply** to benefit from expert support any time

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/get-policy-advice>



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# Thank you!

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# Building water resilience in times of floods and droughts

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# Interreg Europe Projects



ADAPTO

Regions adapting to climate change



CIBioGo

Citizen participation in biodiversity governance



CLIMATE

Improving EU regions' environmental and socioeconomic resilience to climate change



DECA

Delivering effective climate action



GEMS

Groundwater management in nitrate vulnerable zones with agriculture activities



Gov4Water

Smart, Efficient and Adaptive Water resource management



GREENHEALTH

Sustainable protected areas as a key value for human well-being



NEBA

Supporting the integration of New European Bauhaus values and principles into the regional planning processes



NBS4LOCAL

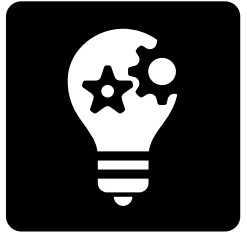
Adapting nature-based solutions to improve climate resilience



RIWET

Public-private governance of rivers and wetland conservation

# Good Practice Database



Knowledge  
Find policy  
solutions

Financing



## West-Transdanubian Regional Water Management Council

The Council helps the uniform implementation of the tasks of water management at regional level, and the coordinated operation of water-related activities.

19 Feb 2025 | By project Gov4Water



## Public - private collaboration to buffer water against flooding and drought.

To prevent flooding and water shortage, farmers and the province are jointly investing in 'small-scale controlled flooding areas' connected to the waterway.

28 May 2024 | By project Gov4Water  
Expert approved

Governance



2014 - 2020

## Reducing urban flood risk through innovation procurement (PPI)

Municipality of Frederiksberg used an innovation partnership model for the acquisition of a suitable solution regarding heavy rainfall management.

29 Sep 2020 | By project iBuy

Expert approved



2014 - 2020

## Łódź Rain Gardens

Creation of model rain gardens in public facilities. The project was aimed at promoting solutions to increase water retention in the city



## Spring monitoring by citizens to improve groundwater resources management

Volunteers map springs to provide missing data for scientists and water managers to improve cross-border monitoring networks.

25 Sep 2024 | By project RIWET

Expert approved



## Building partnerships for efficient water management: 'Local Water Partnerships'

The idea behind the Local Water Partnerships is to support cooperation and networking between different actors in the field of rural water management

04 Feb 2025 | By project Gov4Water



Nature based  
solutions



2014 - 2020

## Sincere - Forests for water in Catalonia

The aim is to reach a consensus of the role of forestry in water and landscape conservation. A Payment for Ecosystem Services mechanism has also been designed.

PROGRESS

## «Lebendige Luppe» (Living Luppe)

Revitalization of rivers and riparian landscapes in the Elster-Luppe-Floodplain: Revitalization actions with environmental education and scientific analysis

04 Mar 2024 | By project GIFT

Expert approved



## Low cost actions to mobilize citizens in climate adaptation

Citizens can help shape the city's climate objectives. To this end, the city is running various actions in which citizens/neighbourhoods can participate.

30 Oct 2024 | By project InterRevita

Expert approved

Awareness raising  
& citizen involvement



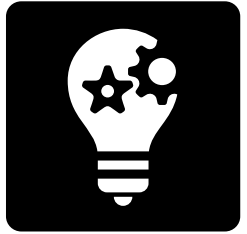
## Adapting to climate change: flood control by deceleration and water retention

Natural barriers were constructed at the side branch of the stream to slow the water and prevent flooding, while a lateral reservoir can absorb excess water.

31 May 2024 | By project NBS4LOCAL

Expert approved

# Policy Learning Resources



Knowledge  
Find policy  
solutions

**POLICY BRIEF**



**Nature-based solutions for climate adaptation**

Explore EU initiatives and ways to mitigate climate change in this policy brief. You'll also discover a selection of good practices with a high degree of replicability in other municipal contexts.

[Read the policy brief](#) 08 December 2023 | By Platform

**WEBINAR**

## Climate adaptation: Wetland restoration

On 28 June, the Policy Learning Platform hosted the second episode of the climate adaptation ...

[Read more](#)

22 June 2023

**STORY**

## Planting trees the right way

Tree planting is widely regarded as one of the solutions to climate change and carbon offset...

[Read more](#)

10 May 2023

**STORY**

## Lobzy Park: nature based solutions for river restoration

The rise of heavy precipitation and extreme coastal water levels have increased the risk of r...

[Read more](#)

24 February 2022

**STORY**

## Restoring ecological diversity of forests

Forests are the safeguards of biodiversity, as they host 80% of biodiversity on the planet. T...



## Fighting water scarcity through water reuse

In this story, you'll explore how the Interreg Europe AQUARES project uses water reuse as a



## Climate adaptation: Coastal restoration

Watch the first episode of the climate adaptation webinar series, focusing on coastal



<https://www.interregeurope.eu/collections/nature-based-solutions>



# Peer review: Greater climate water management for the Delta of the Aa River and its polders



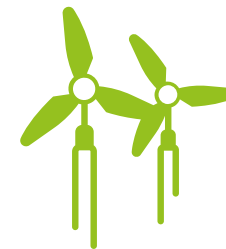
Expertise  
Get policy advice

## ► Institution Intercommunale des Wateringues, FR

Peers from: Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, UK

### Recommendations:

- New water strategy should be based around **water safety** (protection from floods) and **water availability** (safe from drought).
- **Survey local citizens** to see what the current level of understanding of the issues is.
- **Develop nature-based solutions** in addition to the existing infrastructure. Hybrid solutions are thought to be most resilient.



More information available [here](#)

5  
Peers

25-26  
September  
2024

# Peer review: Availability of freshwater and drinking water in Netherlands

## ► Provinces of Noord and Zuid Holland

Peers from: Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Netherlands, Spain

### Recommendations:

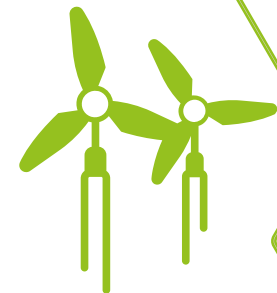
- Re-evaluate all existing resources and water qualities for potential alternative use
- Implement a mix of solutions with nature-based solutions building the basis for long-term safety and cost-effectiveness
- Integrate water with other related policy areas (blue-green infrastructure, tourism, biodiversity...)
- Water is Life! Put a value on this precious resource!
- More information available [here](#)



**Expertise**  
Get policy  
advice



6  
Peers



6-7 November  
2024

# Water resilience is a key priority for the European Commission

- Ursula von der Leyen's 2024-2029 political guidance:
  - Water is a top-priority area, calling for a **European Strategy for Water Resilience** for proper management of water sources.
  - Need for data, the protection of wetlands and the mapping of water-related challenges in both cities and rural areas
- Jessika Roswall, new Commissioner for "Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy"
  - Set to direct the **EU's response to increasingly frequent periods of drought and flooding**
  - Oversees the environment, water resilience and a competitive economy portfolio

*"Water resilience is a big priority"*  
Ursula von der Leyen

*"The European Water Resilience Strategy... will address water efficiency, scarcity, pollution and water related risk."*  
Jessika Roswall

# EEA Report: Europe's state of water 2024: the need for improved water resilience

## Key messages:

- Pollution, habitat degradation, impacts of climate change, and the over-use of freshwater resources are putting pressure on Europe's lakes, rivers, coastal waters and groundwaters like never before.
- Europe is not on track to meet its targets to improve the health of waters under EU rules.
- Better water management is key to improve water resilience, to alleviate pressures on water and to ensure European citizens, nature and industry have enough good-quality water.



Largest assessment on the health of Europe's water bodies, published by the European Environment Agency (EEA)



# The good news: Europe's water resilience can be improved

- **Reducing water use and improving efficiency:** key to tackling water stress in agriculture, industry and at home. Target setting, focused on saving water or reducing demand, to drive action and facilitate monitoring of progress. Up-to-date and more timely information on water quantity and quality needed to improve water management.
- **Pressures should be reduced:** Pollution must be prevented in line with the objectives of the EU's zero pollution action plan. Short term need to reduce the use and prevent releases of harmful substances and nutrients to water.
- **Nature restoration or reconnecting rivers and their floodplains and restoring wetlands and peatlands:** healthier, biodiverse freshwater ecosystems, which can supply good quality water while also storing carbon and mitigating the impact of extreme weather events.

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**Coffee Break**

**11h00 – 11h30**

# Interactive Group Work – Water availability and water efficiency

At your tables, appoint a rapporteur, discuss the following questions and write down the answers on:

- Question 1: What governance changes are needed to increase water availability and water efficiency?
- Question 2: How to onboard all stakeholders and increase their awareness, preparedness and capacity on droughts and water efficiency?

*Rapporteur briefly summarises the results of your discussion to the plenary*

# Interactive Group Work – Floods and extreme weather events

At your tables, appoint a rapporteur, discuss the following questions and write down the answers on:

- Question 1: What governance changes are needed for better flood management?
- Question 2: How to onboard all stakeholders and increase their awareness, preparedness and capacity on floods and extreme weather events?

*Rapporteur briefly summarises the results of your discussion to the plenary*

**Lunch Break**

**13h00 – 14h15**

**Coffee Break**

**15h45 – 16h05**

# Please give us your feedback!



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Murcia>