

This space is reserved for the European Commission: Project no. _____ Cat. _____ MS _____

RegioStars 2014 – The Awards for Innovative Projects

APPLICATION FORM for category 1 to 3

This application form should be sent **by 19 April 2013** to:

regio-stars@ec.europa.eu

Please read the Guide for applicants

***For technical reasons please send your application in Word format.
Do not convert it in Pdf.***

PROJECT TITLE (MAX 20 CHARACTERS): WATER, CLIMATE ADAPT PROMOTE WATERCAP

**IDENTIFY THE AWARD CATEGORY FOR WHICH THIS PROJECT IS BEING SUBMITTED
(TICK AS APPROPRIATE)**

- 1) SMART GROWTH:** SME innovation
- 2) SUSTAINABLE GROWTH:** Green growth and jobs through Bio-economy
- 3) INCLUSIVE GROWTH:** Creating jobs for the young generation

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

1. REGION: _____

MEMBER STATE: _____

2. WHICH EU FUND SUPPORTED THE PROJECT:
(*TICK AS APPROPRIATE*)

- European Regional Development Fund
 Cohesion Fund
 European Social Fund
 Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

3. PROGRAMME NAME:

INTERREG IVB NSR

4. START DATE OF THE PROJECT (MM/YY) 10/2012 _____
(*STARTING DATE MUST BE AFTER 01-01-2000*)

END DATE OF THE PROJECT: (MM/YY) 03/2013 _____

PROGRAMMING PERIOD: 2000-2006 2007-2013

5. COST OF THE PROJECT IN EURO

EU: 375.000

NATIONAL PUBLIC: 355.000

NATIONAL PRIVATE: 20.000

TOTAL : 750.000

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6. CONTACT DETAILS

Managing Authority (or National or Regional authority responsible to manage the relevant EU funded programme) submitting the application:

Managing Authority: _____

Name of representative: Mr Ms _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

Tel: (00) _____

E-mail: _____

Project management:

Name of the organisation: Central Denmark Region

Contact person: Mr Ms **ROLF JOHNSEN**

Address: Emil Møllers Gade 41

Town: 8700 Horsens

Tel: (00)45 29620830

E-mail: **ROLF.JOHNSEN@RU.RM.DK**

Website: **WWW.RM.DK**

7. Description of the project (maximum 5 pages)

PLEASE NOTE: Your application will be the basis of the jury's assessment of your project; therefore, it is in your interest to provide a **clear and comprehensive description** of the project under the following headings.

In your description of the project please include the following information:

1.1 Provide a **summary description** of the project.

WaterCAP brought together the results from six Interreg projects in the North Sea Region (Aquarius, CLIWAT, CPA, C2C islands, DiPol, SAWA and the Baltic Sea Region project BaltCICA) which were providing on-the-ground experience to European policy makers. Taking up the central issues of these projects, WaterCAP focused on climate change and its effects on the hydrological cycle in the North Sea Region and how we can deal with the challenges to society and natural habitat. As a cluster project WaterCAP added value to the existing projects through sharing and synthesising knowledge- among themselves, with other regions as well as with the European Commission.

Most tangible outputs are the Wow stories: They present the reworked insights of the partner projects reflecting the most important aspects for the European level, that is:

- Tools and approaches bringing innovation for rural development, such as helicopter supported Groundwater monitoring approaches (SkyTem as tested in the CliWat project)
- Cooperative processes which improve integration of agriculture, water management, and regional development, such as (such as the Farmers for Nature approach of the Aquarius project) and
- Transferable approaches with job potential such as the Multi-space approaches in the CPA project

By addressing specific issues of water quantity management (floods, scarcity) and water quality issues (salt intrusion, nutrients management) and by linking with ongoing policy processes such as the CIS process on drought management, WaterCAP succeeded in both: maintaining the specific foci for regional connection as well as increasing acknowledgment of the European relevance of the project outputs.

The shaping of the results has been carried out through an external and internal process. In a first phase project partners carried out engaged closely with representatives of the European Commission (DG Environment, DG Region, DG Climate, DG RTD) and other European stakeholders like CopaCocega) to find out more about what would benefit European policy best and how to present result to European policy makers in way which raises their request to learn more about the projects. The external process led to the conclusion that projects results became in particular attractive, both to other regions and to European level if we show their potential we should not only present the results that was promoting a sustainable adaptation process in the region, but further WaterCAP projects also should work on presenting results that created jobs and positive economy.

The results of this process were provided to three theme focused workshops at which the WaterCAP projects started to synthesize their outcomes into the Wow-stories. The workshop themes were

- Understanding the challenges within water quantity and quality in the North Sea Region.
- Synthesising the technical tools used and working on the needs for innovation within the field
- Stakeholder involvement processes on how to deal with different levels of stakeholders

The synthesising was done in the well known European frame DPSIR approach. All results and tools can be found at: <http://www.watercap.eu/Tools/tools.htm>

7.2 State the **key objectives** and whether they **have been met**.

Key objectives :

1. **Knowledge extraction from the six Interreg projects to improve the accessibility of**

the gained insights to European and regional level. Bringing together the different project results in thematic workshops allowed a tight connection to the technical aspects, and thus enabled a more specific focus and in depth discussions which was then fed into the communication process.

- 2. Pinpoint strengths and weaknesses in the existing European directives and policies to make the most resilient climate adaptation in the North Sea Region.** By addressing the EU system and through interviews WaterCAP extracted the most important tasks to be solved. This provided the basis for rethinking the lessons learned from the projects.
- 3. Communicate the findings from the projects in relation to the above mentioned pinpoints in present and future directives, and policies to relevant institutions at EU level through active involvement of relevant stakeholders.**

Describe how they have been met:

1. An internal process involving all partners and relevant expert from outside of the consortium secured a knowledge platform from where to extract. The output was delivered in the documents from the workshops and displayed on the Social Medias and the web portal. Further the output has been presented on several occasions and in the synthesis report of the project
2. The weaknesses and strengths have been synthesised in the wow stories and in the synthesise report. Further the outcomes have been feeded back to the European Commission during via questionnaires and open processes.
3. Shaping central project insights into the WoW-stories emphasized innovation, job creation, while providing technical answers, identifying the barriers and how to overcome the obstacles to implement the solutions. Doing all this in one shot is why they are WOW! These stories were presented and discussed at two European events (Stakeholder Workshop, as well as the WaterCAP Final Workshop) to enable a focused discussion on next steps for transferring these results to new regions. We shared our results on NSR conference in Hamburg, Bremerhaven, during workshops in Brussels and ECCA conference on climate adaptation plus on EIP/Copa-Cocega Water workshop . Further we were invited and gave a solution oriented speech at the first Pan European network on Drought held in Cypres during the EU presidency, November 2012. In addition we have been in cooperation with a sister cluster project in the InterReg NWE called Sic Adapt.

7.3 What was the strategic context of the project?

The WaterCAP cluster was funded as part of the Interreg-Priority "Adapting to an reducing risks posed to society and nature by a changing climated". It built on the scientific fact that climate change models indicate the increase of temperature and change in precipitation patterns in Northern Europe. The resulting spatial and temporal change in water quality, drought, flooding and sea level rise calls for an integrated management in the private and public sector. This need for integration requires a strong learning process about how solutions in one sector may affect others and to prevent any adverse effects, but to aim for synergies instead. The learning process needs to take place at all levels: With the regional and local authorities, confronted with increasingly tight budgets, as well as increasingly complex tasks, as well as at European and national levels, providing support and incentives to the local and regional level for improving adaptation to climate change.

In this context, the Interreg programme called for initiatives which would take up the valuable results and insights of inter-regional Interreg project, and explore and promote them to their full potential

The tangible and holistic solutions presented in the project have been delivered back to the EU system in the form they have been asked for. This includes the CIS and Blueprint process to safeguard Europe's waters.

As an additional factor the project fits well into the current national adaptation processes, e.g. the Danish climate adaptation process where all 98 municipalities will have to make a climate adaptation plan. The synthesise and wow stories can be helpful experience in this context.

The upcoming action groups related to the commissions initiative on Innovation Partnerships is a

target for implementation of the WaterCAP results.

7.4 Highlight the innovative character of the project.

A major step in WaterCAP was the opportunity to look beyond pilots which were based on the results of previous Interreg projects. In this context we discovered what innovations other regions in the North Sea Region could use. And being aware of the strengths and weaknesses of innovations, it was easier to cluster and synthesize the results. So thanks to the cluster project WaterCAP, the results of European funded projects have been set in a wider perspective

Process innovations

We started our search for 'wow!' stories by abstracting the successful stories of six previous Interreg projects on water management and climate adaptation. This was a new way of working in European projects, because;

- The group existed of different cultures, with a combination of social and technical knowledge, scientific and practical languages and experiences, which found each other in transnational workshops.
- The focus of the group lay upon opportunities, in stead of problems and risks. This resulted in new business cases and cooperation between partners.
- The focus was on possibilities for further development of successful pilots into exploitation and up scaling of these innovations in the NSR, in stead of ending the cooperation after the pilot phase of an innovation

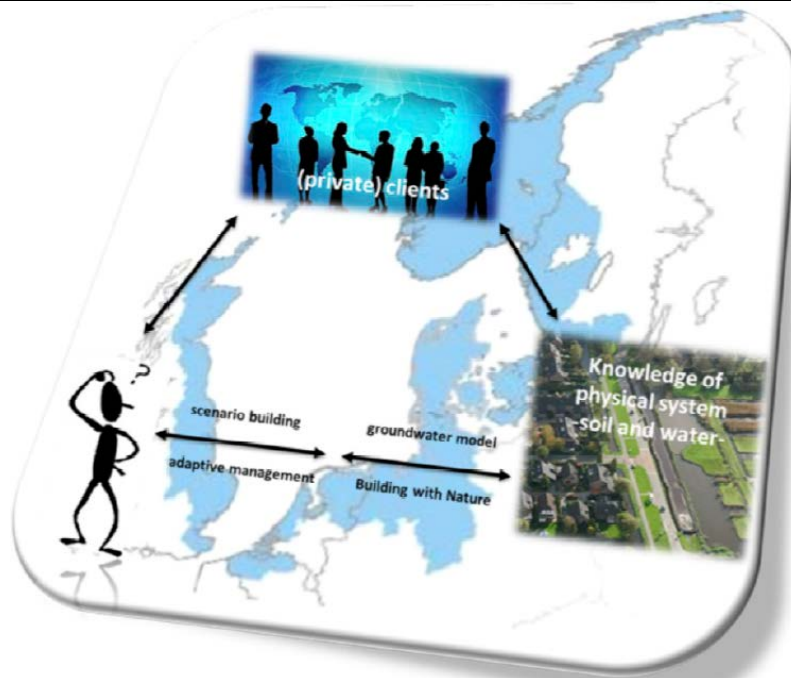
Technology innovations

The challenge of WaterCAP was to offer solutions for the complex process of implementing climate adaptation measures in the North Sea Region. We found these solutions by conducting a list of 14 'wow!' stories, which can be summarized in three different problem groups as a result of climate change: 1) coastal erosion, 2) water quality and 3) water quantity. What noticed some common issues in these innovations:

- The Wow stories all challenge the complexity of multifunctional land use.
- The Wow stories show that only integrated solutions work, based on participatory processes.
- The Wow stories are all ready for further development and/or up scaling.
- The Wow stories all needed the European cofunding as an excellent catalyst to develop and create integrated and innovative solutions.

Organisational innovations

All Wow stories have an integrated approach in common. We can state that climate change often results in complex, local and regional problems, which asks for these integrated solutions. Moreover there is no particular organization solely responsible in being adaptive to climate change. We found integrated solutions by reducing fragmentation, through combining participatory cooperation and technical knowledge. This requires close cooperation between engineers and social scientist, to translate technical solutions into understandable concepts for policy and decision makers.



Moreover the Wow stories are all examples for adaptive soil and water management and working in the value chain, which is a way to create flexibility in future strategies. The value chain can be seen as a close cooperation between knowledge institutes, public and private organizations,

7.5 What has been the **impact** of the project in the region, locality or urban area? What are the activities and results that can be attributed to the initiative, i.e. which would not have happened without it? Are there new (business) activities emerging from the project?

The cluster project WaterCAP has worked the last 1,5 years bringing together to improve the impact of Interreg North Sea projects on climate change adaptation in water management. At the final workshop it became clear that the cluster went a good part on the way to get the results more widely known and applied in the NSR. Three main achievements can be spelled out here:

- WaterCAP successfully connected with the European level by first making an effort to understand the European level, and 2nd to re-hearse the project results taking up the European perspective: In our 14 wow stories we highlighted the potential in our work for creating jobs, providing innovation and contributing to the European policy process.
- WaterCAP contributed to the European policy process by presenting one solution to the Drought dialogue forum - Pan European group on Drought and Water Scarcity on their request to find suggestions on how to deal with droughts in the Mediterranean. The cluster provided the possibility of combining a new technique of subsurface characterisation by cost efficient geophysical equipment borne by helicopter, water sensing system and an involvement plan of the local community. All in all three different project results were combined to enable a new participatory monitoring approach for managing water quantity.
- In the different participating regions, WaterCAP partners used the opportunity to learn from each other and develop their project results further: Valuable insights on integrating modeling, monitoring and participatory planning processes were exchanged and opened up new space for further cooperation. This knowledge is communicated as a substantive block of evidence to inform policy makers in order to 'climate proof' relevant present and future directives and guidelines and their implementation.
- The work has led to recommendations on how to deal with climate change adaptation and an overview of the challenges and examples and suggestions for solutions with respect to the challenges in the North Sea Area or other areas dealing with the same issues.
- An example is opportunities that not only creates a better environment but also improves the economy. This is done in the perspective of less water use and improvement of use of fertilisers to prevent the outwash to the nearby receiving ecosystem. By taking both perspectives we have been able to reach a larger impact, because we are reaching the

interest of the stakeholders and getting their awareness. By this approach we are looked upon as a co-operator more than a regulator or opponent. In a more popular language we could say that we are searching for win-win solutions.

- The cluster has not only been able to synthesise the results but have also been able to raise the awareness of the new way of thinking not only on your primary goals but also look at the stakeholders interest and try to gain a solution that is giving benefits to all parties.
- These practices have started being adopted in the local communities due to the good examples in WaterCAP cluster. Further it have proven the worthiness of working together across boundaries and disciplines and this is an important asset in convincing others to do the same in their local area.
- It is all about looking at the strengths and challenges within the local area and find the best possible solutions for them locally.
In some of the cases the case studies has shown that there are legislative barriers. In these cases the results have not only been reported during conferences and meetings but also as feedback to the DG's in charge via there blueprint processes and CIS.

7.6 What is the **expected sustainability** of the project? How sustainable is this effort if public financing would be removed?

The project initiated a learning process among the partners and resulted in different kind of cooperation's between partners and dissemination of the results and recommendations into EU directorates and networks. Multi discipline transnational task forces (consisting of social and technical skilled professionals between the countries UK, Denmark, The Netherlands and Germany have been established. The Taskforce supports and advices on local and regional scale climate adaptation issues, based on the knowledge and lessons learned in WaterCAP. For example to enable the necessary community led solutions, climate adaptation asks for also in harbour areas, different parties in The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Sweden will work together on this subject and move one step forward towards community led solutions in these areas, based on business modelling.

To strengthen the impact beyond the directly involved partner regions, a new application within the 9th call of the current Interreg programme has been submitted.

7.7 Describe the **partnership** and how it worked. Is there an inter-regional dimension?

The WaterCAP consortium created a multilevel learning environment during workshops, Social Medias, video conferences and other bilateral communication tools has been used intensively. The cooperation took the partners' interest – i.e. further bringing the messages from their earlier project to regional and European public- as a starting point. In this it- insured ownership of the lessons learned from the partners involved and has been the fundament for the output and implementation of the project. The use of the different communication tools available made it certain that the knowledge gained and synthesised was easy accessible to all beneficiaries and interested parties inside and outside the project.

Working together on all the products of the projects like interviews with DGs in Brussels, synthesising results and sharing knowledge during workshops and presenting results within conferences or side events has always been in cooperation. Therefore the cluster has improved the links and the unity in the project.

The learning environment has been very open from the beginning and ideas and knowledge shared in a friendly and cooperative atmosphere. The invitation from DG Research to join the Pan European forum on Drought in Cypres further improved the cooperation and was another example of how well the cooperation was working in relation to taking a new task that was not described from the beginning of the project. The project and the learning will live long after the project and will be used further in the daily work in and outside of the consortium.

7.8 Is an **evaluation report** available? Yes No

No need to provide it at this stage. If one is available please summarise the main messages resulting from it.