Funding opportunities for water management from EU Cohesion Policy

Sander Happaerts
Policy analyst
DG REGIO, Competence Centre Smart and Sustainable Growth
### 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy investments

- **Significant support...**
  - EUR 15 billion to wastewater treatment
  - EUR 7 billion to drinking water supply

- **... with significant impact**
  - 5.5M people connected to wastewater treatment facilities (on top of 20M in 2000-2006)
  - 4.2M with an improved supply of drinking water
  - Decisive role in meeting requirements of EU water legislation

European Commission

Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

- EUR 352 billion, with different co-funding rates
- Targeting resources at key growth sectors
- Greater focus on results
- Pre-conditions for funding – ex ante conditionalities
- Reinforced partnership
- Increased synergies between Funds and with other EU instruments
- Stronger link to the EU economic governance 'European semester'
Thematic Objectives for 2014-2020

1. Research and innovation
2. Information and communication technologies
3. Competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises
4. Shift to a low-carbon economy
5. Climate change adaptation and risk management & prevention
6. **Environmental protection and resource efficiency**
7. Sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
8. Employment and support for labour mobility
9. Social inclusion and poverty reduction
10. Education, skills and lifelong learning
11. Increased institutional capacity and effectiveness of public administration
Investing in water management

- All investments based on River Basin Management Plans

- MS emphasise wastewater treatment
  - Large agglomerations as the priority, alternative innovative solutions where appropriate
  - Include measures for disposal of sewage sludge
  - Attention to the impacts of climate change

- Financial sustainability of projects

- Respect for water hierarchy and attention to reuse

- Cross-border, macro-regional and interregional dimension
Investing in flood prevention

- Measures in line with risk assessments and adaptation strategies
  - Development of knowledge base
  - Planning and monitoring
  - Preparedness and response tools
  - Flood and coastal defense
  - 'Disaster proofing' infrastructure
  - ...

- Ecosystem-based solutions

- Cross-border flood prevention and management
Investing in water innovation

- Funding in line with Smart Specialisation Strategies
- Including eco-innovation, social innovation, public service innovation...
- Support for networking and clustering
- Synergies with Horizon 2020 and other funding programmes

S3Platform: [http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu](http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu)
Horizontal integration

- Sustainable development principle

  - "The Member States and the Commission shall ensure that environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, disaster resilience, and risk prevention and management are promoted in the preparation and implementation of Partnership Agreements and programmes" (Art. 8 Common Provisions Regulation)
Far beyond funding: enabling conditions

- Integrated territorial development

- Ex-ante conditionality water
  - Existence of a water pricing policy (with adequate incentives and contributions of different users)
  - Adoption of River Basin Management Plans

- Capacity-building and technical assistance
  - Smart Specialisation (S³) Platform
  - European Network of Environmental Authorities and Managing Authorities (ENEA-MA)
  - JASPERS
  - PEER2PEER
  - ...
Project example: TerraSaline

- Environmentally-friendly technology to split wastewater and high-saline waters into distilled water and high-quality salt
- Increasing efficiency, producing sea salt, creating jobs, while using no chemicals
- 2007-2013, Schleswig-Holstein (DE), EUR 176,000 ERDF support
  
http://www.terrawater.de
More information

- Guide on sustainable growth and smart specialisation
- Guide on green infrastructure
- Guidance on synergies
- ...

http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/s3pguide
Questions or comments?

Dr Sander Happaerts, policy analyst on sustainable growth
DG REGIO, Competence Centre Smart and Sustainable Growth

Sander.Happaerts@ec.europa.eu
+32 2 295 82 14

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/