

The **FAIRWAY** H2020 project, is built on 13 case studies (»living labs«) in 11 different European Union countries. The aim of the project is to review governance, policy and farm water management approaches, to protect drinking water resources in the European Union and to identify and further develop innovative measures and governance approaches. The project is based on the principle that, safe drinking water is a result of a multi-actor, multi-sector and multi-level efforts. Together they form the core of a multi-actor platform, developed through the project’s work packages.

There are 8 work packages (WP) in the project. Project management is addressed in WP1 and communication and dissemination strategies in WP8. Multi-actor platforms and case studies are part of WP2, which assesses the success and failure factors of achieving good water quality. WP3, deals with transparent agri-environmental indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of drinking water protection strategies. WP4 identifies, reviews and evaluates measures and good practices. WP5 evaluates decision-support tools, to establish awareness for diffuse pollution of vulnerable drinking water resources among farmers. The coherence and consistency of European Union directives, national policies, instruments and deals are assessed in WP6.

WP7 synthesises and integrates findings and results of multi-actor platforms and best practices, to improve the structure of the science/policy interface. It will identify and recommend key options for drinking water protection and analyse the implications of these options for policy and practices.

Researchers involved in WP7, would like to evaluate the barriers and issues associated with providing integrated scientific support for European Union policies, related to drinking water quality. Moreover, we would like to identify obstacles to effective dialogue, cooperation and knowledge sharing, between the research and policy-making worlds. There are many contextual, structural (e.g. inherent working methodologies) and cultural (e.g. relationship between researchers and policy makers) differences between research and policy-making. Literature states that existing practises which attempt to bridge the gap between research and policy-making do not provide efficient solutions. Therefore, the European Union emphasises the importance of strengthening the dialogue between policy-makers and researchers. This is the key for maximising the impact of science projects on policy-making.

In FAIRWAY we would like to address the gaps between research and policy regarding drinking water quality, including agriculture, the Drinking Water Directive, Water Framework Directive, Ground Water Directive, Nitrates Directive and the Directive on the Sustainable use of pesticides. Regulations, arising from these directives are currently not achieving a consistent level of implementation.

It is these gaps that are our main area of interest. At the workshop we would like to discuss the following:

1. What are the main issues related to drinking water resource protection against diffuse pollution of nitrates and pesticides from agriculture in EU?

2. What are the main barriers in solving the issues related to drinking water resource protection against diffuse pollution of nitrates and pesticides from agriculture in EU?

3. How is the relationship between science and policy reflected in EU legislation, with special attention to drinking water resource protection against diffuse pollution of nitrates and pesticides from agriculture?

4. How can the system be improved, i.e. what are the possible solutions for integrated scientific support for EU policy related to drinking water resource protection against diffuse pollution of nitrates and pesticides from agriculture?