



### SHARP — saving and protecting water resources for future generations!

Groundwater provides the steady base flow of rivers and wetlands. Maintaining this flow and keeping it free of pollution is vital for water ecosystems.



Groundwater is also a crucial source of drinking water, supplying the water systems for three out of four EU citizens. Furthermore, European economies tap groundwater for industrial cooling and for agricultural irrigation.

In this context, **SHARP** focuses on the exchange of knowledge on innovative techniques to protect groundwater resources in the eight partner regions.

The partners will exchange practical know-how and also determine demands concerning the defined **key contents**:

- general groundwater management tools,
- artificial groundwater recharge technologies,
- groundwater monitoring systems,
- strategic use of groundwater resources for drinking water, irrigation and industry,
- techniques to save water quality and quantity,
- drinking water safety plans,
- risk management tools and
- water balance models.

**The overall objective of SHARP is to save and protect existing water resources for future generations.**

Project partners will exchange and improve successful and innovative technologies in the frame of sustainable groundwater management and risk prevention of water supplies; this will accelerate future decisions and actions especially at the local/regional levels.

**SHARP** focuses on existing innovative methods, techniques and practices. Therefore **SHARP** will help to solve the existing conflict on groundwater reserves between drinking water supply and the water supply for irrigation or industrial use.

**SHARP** aims at mutual learning, by sharing the existing expertise and by processing existing know-how to be applied/ implemented in different geological and geographical regions.

The close cooperation between project partners coming from European regions with different climate, geological and geographical conditions will assure the development of new approaches and innovative solutions of common problems by respecting global factors of influence.

The exchange of experiences and transfer of knowledge is primarily achieved via seminars, study visits and interregional conferences. In addition, a virtual information centre (an IT-based communication system) supports the know-how transfer and facilitates the cooperation between project partners, decision makers and relevant stakeholders.

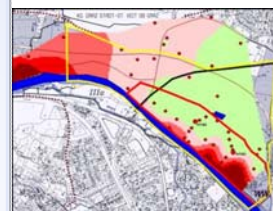
### Successful start of the transnational cooperation!

SHARP Kick-Off Meeting with 19 participants took place in Styria, Austria between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

The meeting addressed administrative as well as technical issues with a special reference to the fulfilment of start up requirements and included the constitution of the SHARP Steering Group.

Within the 1<sup>st</sup> reporting period the subsidy contract and the SHARP partnership agreement have been signed by all project partners, furthermore the Steering Group rules of procedure have been approved.

In the course of the Kick-Off Meeting first expert discussions focusing on the special demands in the different partner regions as well as expectations of the SHARP project partners took place.



## From Know-How to Show-How — the 1<sup>st</sup> Study Visit in Graz / AT

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day started with a presentation given by Mr. Schmölzer the representative of Graz AG water supply (PP9) providing a general overview on PP9 and their longterm experience in groundwater management as well as artificial groundwater recharge for the city of Graz. The external expert Mr. Kupfersberger (JOANNEUM RESEARCH, AT) continued with a detailed presentation focusing on investigations on artificial groundwater recharge presenting concrete experiments within the City of Graz.

After a transfer to the waterworks Andritz the participants had the possibility to visit the Competence Center Water Supply Graz AG including a tour through the

„Facilities for Artificial Groundwater Recharge“ with detailed explanations.

In the following participants have visited the waterworks Friesach which is maintained by PP9 as well. In this area the catchment of horizontal flow gravel filter and a weir at natural streams (Andritz and Stübing creek) have been demonstrated. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day finished with the visit and presentation of JOANNEUM RESEARCH Forschungsgesellschaft mbH — Institute for Waterresourcesmanagement and WATERPOOL including the laboratory for „Isotope Hydrology“.

During the event the 1<sup>st</sup> SHARP-press conference with representatives of the Regional Government of Styria, department Water Management, WATERPOOL (LP), Graz AG Water supply and project partners took place.



## SHARP — project details

SHARP is implemented by:

- Competence Network Water Resources GmbH (AT), Lead Partner
- Region of Western Macedonia (EL)
- Region of North Aegean (EL)
- Regional Agency for Rural Development of Friuli-Venezia Giulia (IT)
- Local Councils' Association (MT)
- Institute of Meteorology and Water Management - Wroclaw Branch (PL)
- International Resources & Recycling Institute (UK)
- Saxon State Office for the Environment, Agriculture and Geology (DE)
- Graz AG water supply (AT)



**SHARP project duration:** January 2010 — December 2012

**Total SHARP budget:** EUR 1,871,978.50

**ERDF contribution:** EUR 1,466,579.97

**SHARP is implemented through the INTERREG IV C Programme, co-financed by the ERDF**

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