

# SWARE News

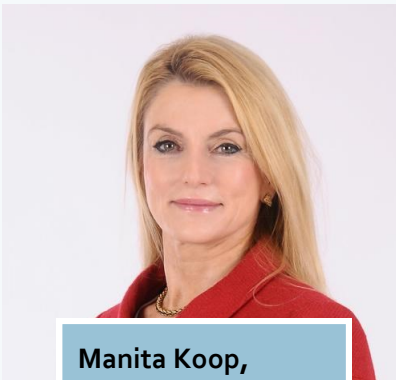
Issue No.2



## First steps towards policy improvement

The first small steps towards the improvement of the policy instruments connected to the project “Sustainable heritage management of Waterway REgions” (SWARE) have been made. Almost a year has passed since the official beginning of the project, and we are delighted that everything is going on well. First year of the SWARE project featured a very important and fruitful beginning.

We have established five Stakeholder and Institutional learning Groups and held many fruitful meetings with our stakeholders. We have analysed situation in five different regions across Europe regarding the management of inland waterways, heritage protection and governance. The analysis also revealed several good practices, that will serve for policy improvements in our partner regions.



**Manita Koop,**  
Managing Director

We are now facing a crucial step in our project — three Interregional Knowledge Exchange Sessions will be conducted in order to look at the good examples in other countries and find the possible solutions for policy improvement and furthermore for improving the balance between heritage protection and sustainable development.

### Inside this issue

- Interview with a field expert;
- Look back at the Launching Conference!
- Finishing work on the State of the Arts documents
- Stakeholder meetings and Synergy sessions
- Next steps of the project

**Find all the actual information in SWARE website and social media accounts!**

[www.interregeurope.eu/sware](http://www.interregeurope.eu/sware)





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## A glimpse back: Launching Conference gathers around 70 participants

On 21st September 2016 the project "Sustainable heritage management of WATERway REgions" (SWARE) hosted its Launching Conference in The Hague (The Netherlands). About 70 participants attended the Conference to learn about the ideas and the main aspects of the project.

Speakers of the Launching Conference made reference to such important aspects of the project as the governance, public participation and balance between heritage protection and sustainable development. The different approaches of partner institutions towards these issues will help to improve the balance between heritage protection and sustainable development and public participation in regions involved in the project.

As for the governance, speakers of the respective Conference Block emphasized the importance of increased involvement of stakeholders in the process. Wide involvement and increased adaptability of institutions help to improve the governance, and makes it more accountable, legitimate and efficient. In the Content Block of the Conference speakers from both private and public sectors shared good examples of sustainable development in inland waterway regions. Examples from the Netherlands (public transport in inland waterways – Aqualiner and Waterbus) and Slovakia-Hungary border area (bike routes and other infrastructure improvement) showed, that it is possible to get nearer to the balance between natural and cultural heritage protection and development of the respective areas.

The Participation Block focused on the public participation issue. Speakers presented examples of different participation mechanisms, which showed

the various possibilities of involvement. The main issues of public involvement are time/energy consumption, possible conflict management and seeking feedback, yet the outcomes are definitely worth the contributed work. After each session of the Conference there was a Q&A session. The participants of the Conference asked various questions, regarding both practical and theoretical issues of the SWARE project and linking together experiences of different stakeholders from public and private sector.

The Conference was visited by The Ambassador of Latvia to the Netherlands Mrs. Ilze Rūse, who said that the project is a good opportunity for all involved institutions to learn from each other and improve the governance of inland waterways. "I am thankful for the invitation to the SWARE Launching Conference! It was gratifying to witness the start of an important interregional project. The Embassy supports this cooperation and experience exchange between different regions and institutions across Europe, which gives opportunities to share experience in solving similar issues," said Mrs. Rūse.

"The regions and institutions involved in the SWARE project are very different, therefore it is satisfying that all these partners can find common ground and explore the good practices. The governance and development of inland waterways is different across involved regions, therefore this project is expected to be useful experience for each partner and their stakeholders," concluded Mrs. Rūse.

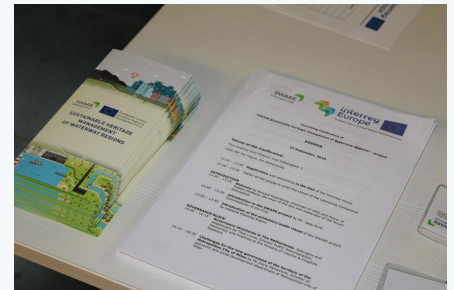




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## A glimpse back: Launching Conference in pictures



For more photos, please, see the Library section in our website! Direct link to the photo gallery of the Launching Conference: <http://www.interregeurope.eu/sware/library/#folder=26>





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## Many chances in Europe for inland waterways tourism

There are certainly good practices in the European regions which work together on tourism along inland waterways. For instance, the Naviglii Lombardi in the Metropolitan City of Milan, the Watertriangle in South-Holland, the way to involve stakeholders in Tipperary, the co-operation along the Danubii in Hungary and Slovakia and the reservation of nature in Latvia. All those regions articulated their learning needs during the SWARE project meeting in Clonmel (County Tipperary, Ireland) on the 1st and 2nd of March. Here the preparation for the Interregional Knowledge Exchange Sessions finally started.

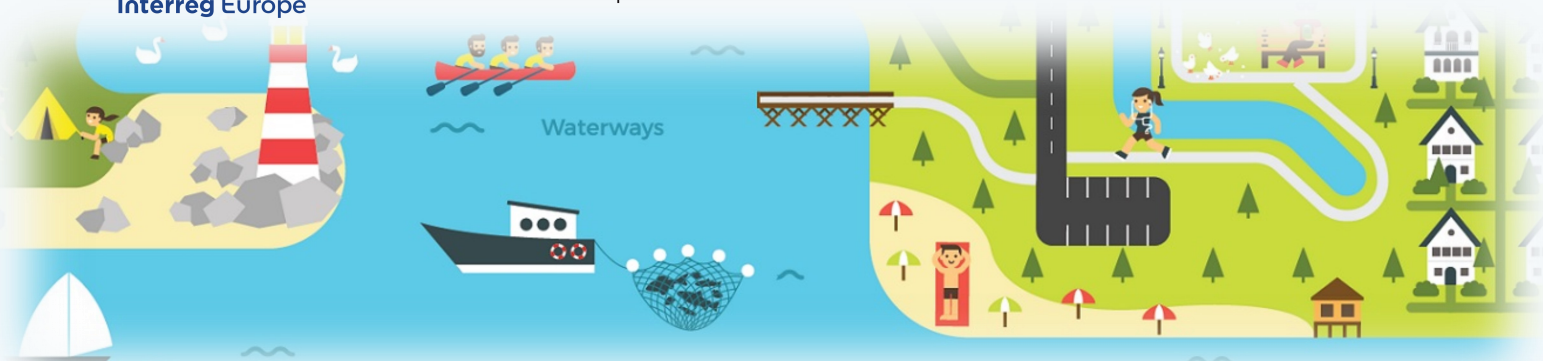
Next semester, starting from April 2017, will feature three Interregional Knowledge Exchange Sessions in three regions of Europe: Metropolitan City of Milan, the province of South-Holland and Tipperary County Council. During these Sessions, project partners, joined by relevant stakeholders and national managing authorities, will examine and discuss good practices and possible solutions regarding governance structures; connecting tourism with infrastructure and heritage; and promotion, marketing and public relations.

Good practice study visits will be undertaken as

walkshops at relevant sites, small-circle discussion workshops, in-depth discussions with project experts and stakeholder interaction in small-group and plenary meetings. This method allows including several sub-topics and retains the overall perspective on policy improvement, based on existing good practice examples. The lessons learned during these visits will help to develop Regional Action Plans – the most important outputs of the SWARE project and addressing the improvement of policy instruments related to natural and cultural heritage management along inland waterways. The first Interregional Exchange Knowledge Session is expected to take place at the end of May.

During the project meeting in Ireland all participating regions presented their regional State of the Arts documents, which reflected regional good practices on water related natural and cultural heritage policies from a governance and awareness-raising perspective. The documents also outline the main issues for improvement in the regions. All of the final regional State of the Arts documents will be available on the project website.





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## Dr. Waterman: “It’s a matter of perseverance”

Aquapuncture is the optimal utilization, adjustment and management of inland waterways and their respective waterfronts. This in service of protection against flood, navigability, economy, employment and liveability. Including quality of environment, nature and landscape. According to Prof. Dr. Eng. Ronald Waterman, aquapuncture is the basis of the development of waterways and their neighbouring areas.

In this holistic approach, the shared value (of culture and natural history along inland waterways) for the economy, the employment and the overall climate plays an important role. The waterways play a crucial binding role between regions and municipalities. More specifically within the triple helix: governmental organisations, education, research, entrepreneurs and environment (society, nature and landscape). In the end, people have to establish collaborations. An important instrument, to reach the goals, is a cost-benefit analysis based on the model of aquapuncture. “My experience is, that if you communicate clear and thoughtful, you remove a lot of obstacles. Because most obstacles are the result of misunderstandings, ambiguities or uncertainties,” says Waterman. “It is a matter of perseverance and showing good practices to the people. With this, you should always start with the users and the content.”

He lists: “In the development of waterways, there are six (potential) user groups: commercial (transportation of goods and passengers), touristic motorboating and watersport (canoeing, rowing, swimming, sailing, rafting on the water and hiking, fishing, running and cycling along the water). In addition to that, water invites a fourth user group, the special events (historical ships, sailing parades, sailing heritage, concert at sea). Users and visitors of waterfronts and businesses on waterfronts (wharfs, watersport shops and hotels, cafés and restaurants) form another user group. And lastly there is the flora and fauna on the sediment and on the shores.”

He points out that water flows in between cities, where visitors can encounter the characteristics of town and country (cultural historical value). Museums, weirs, sluices, bridges, farms, mills, cows, tulips, modern cities

and historical centers . “In the end, the water will flow into the ocean, where it meets the coastal protection, de Maeslandkering, Building with Nature (dunes and beaches) and the connection between the ocean and inland waterways via sluices, shipways, wharfs and more.”

For the optimal recreational and sustainable use of waterways there’s a need for physical measures to be undertaken: height of bridges above the water, the depth of dredging, aqueducts, changing or enlarging sluices, tuning the opening- and closing times of bridges, drainage and irrigation (water supply), wastewater treatment (European rules), water level regulation (pumping stations and dams) and shore protection within the Water framework Directive.

Several kinds of piers and quays stimulate the use of water and visits along the waterline. For the execution, Waterman, highly values the ‘triple helix’ approach (education, research, entrepreneurs, environment and governmental organizations). In this, the water authorities, municipalities and provinces play an important role. It helps to connect city and country to get the people to experience the historical and ever necessary waterways. It contributes to the awareness and the commitment to the water system.

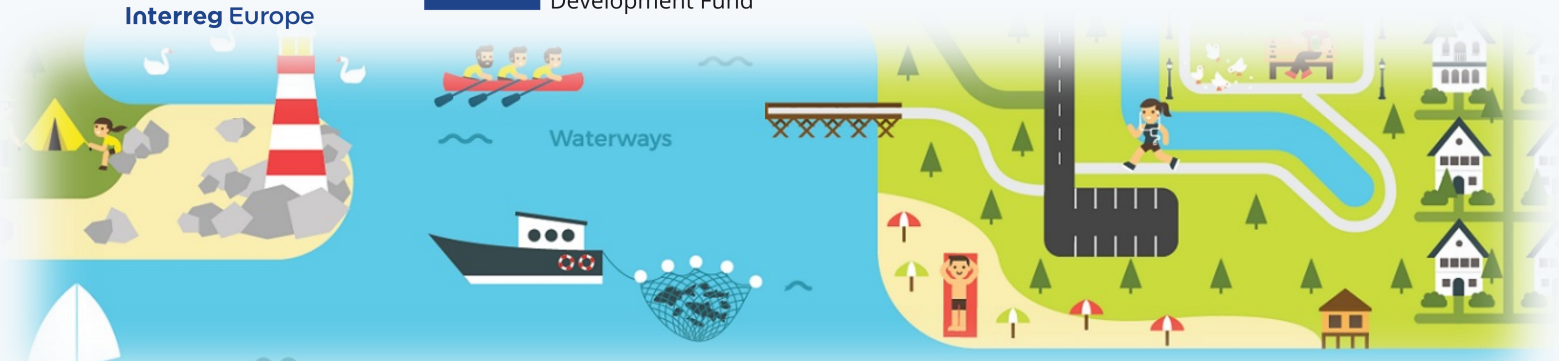
### Dr. Ronald Waterman

Advisor at Ministry of Economic Affairs and Ministry of Housing, Planning and Environment

Honorary Ambassador of Association Regio Water

The Netherlands





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## Summary of the Year 1: Progress of the SIG's

One of the most essential tasks in the first year of the SWARE project was to establish Stakeholder and Institutional learning Groups (SIG) in partner regions. It was successfully done and important stakeholders began to closely participate in project activities.

### Who are our stakeholders?







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## Summary of the Year 1: Progress of the SIG's

### What has been done so far?

- ⇒ Numerous SIG meetings held and planned forward
- ⇒ Stakeholders introduced to the project and involved in SWARE activities—preparation of the State of the Arts documents
- ⇒ Various project related topics discussed, e.g. (but not limited to), stakeholder involvement in waterway management and heritage protection and development; platform creation for further development; practical solutions to improve the management of heritage objects

### Main conclusions

- ⇒ The SWARE project offers a good opportunity for cooperation of different stakeholders, also looking beyond the project timeline
- ⇒ The project tackles important topics of heritage management
- ⇒ Inland waterways often lack strong cooperation and unified management to coordinate protection and development of heritage objects
- ⇒ Proper infrastructure can be useful to both development and protection of significant heritage sites





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**Synergy Sessions: every opportunity to learn is valued**

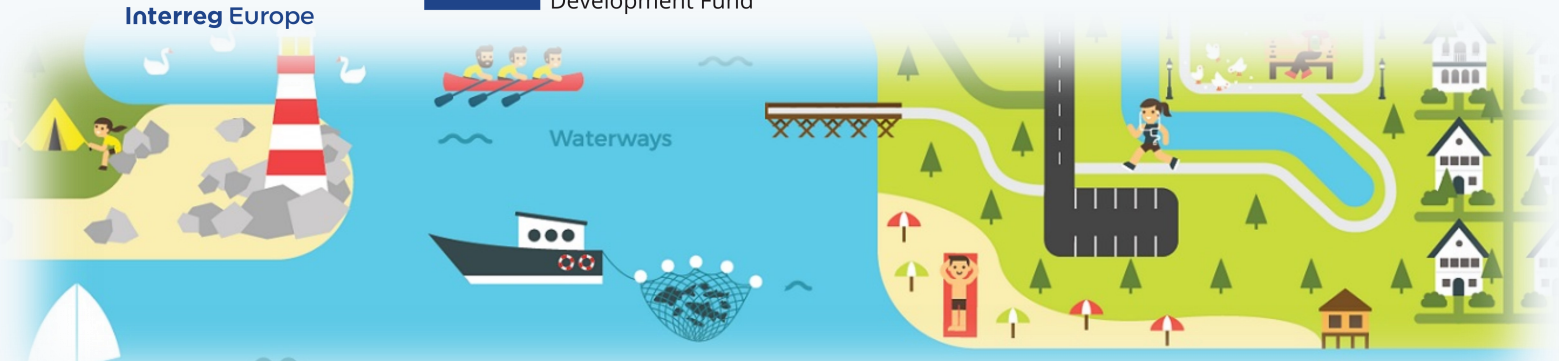


SWARE contributes also to the capacity building of the public actors involved in the project. Involvement of various departments in our organisations is crucial to foster understanding about integrated governance structures in the field of waterway heritage management. Therefore project partners organise Synergy Sessions and spread the results of SWARE work internally.



This approach enhances cross-sectoral aspect of the SWARE project. First Synergy Sessions focused on the analysis of current situation and the preparation of the State of the Arts documents. Future sessions—in the Semester 4—will turn to conclusions of good practice transfer.

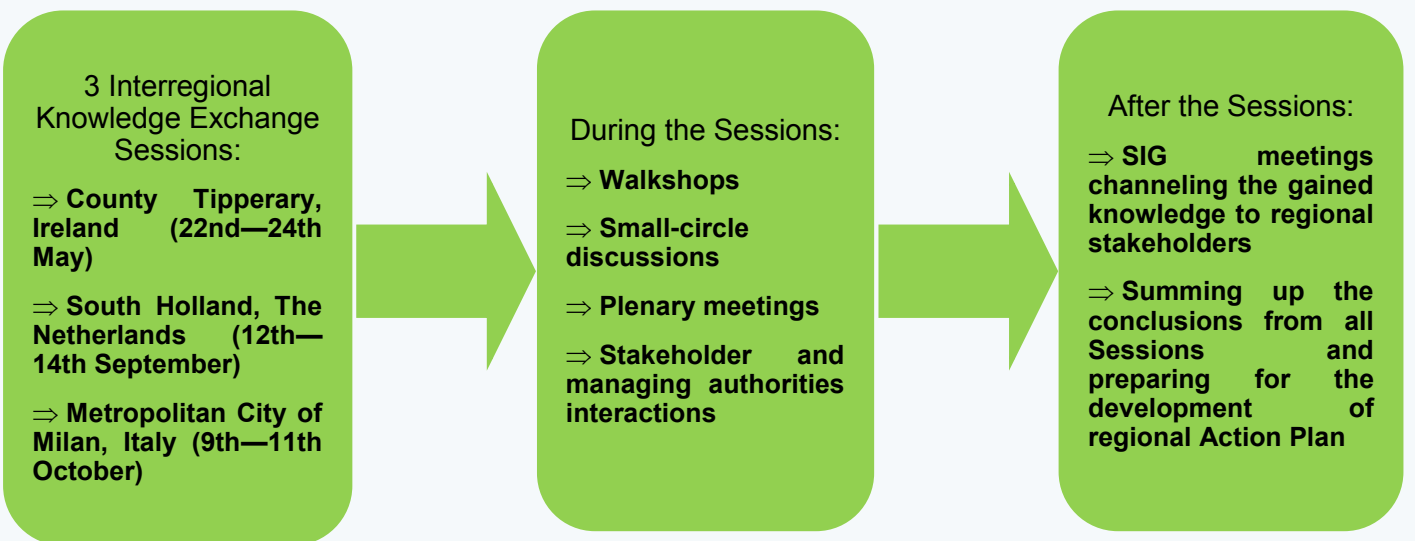




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## SWARE project: next steps towards improving policies



### How to become an active part of SWARE?

#### PERSONAL CONTACT



#### SWARE WEBSITE

[www.interregeurope.eu/sware](http://www.interregeurope.eu/sware)

#### SWARE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

