



SUWANU EUROPE

Deliverable 2.5

Spanish Regional Working Group Report

Contents

Executive summary.....	2
1 Introduction	3
2 Strategy for the engagement of the RWG	5
2.1 Functioning of the RWGs	5
2.2 Role and responsibilities of the project partner facilitator	5
2.3 Stakeholders engagement support tools.....	6
2.4 Engagement of stakeholders during RWGs	7
2.5 Communication with stakeholders after RWGs.....	7
2.6 Main themes raised in RWG activities	7
3 Discussion and participants in the RWG meetings/events.....	9
3.1 Spanish Working Group meetings	9
4 Conclusions for Andalucia (Spain)	13

Executive summary

In recent years, water scarcity has become a serious problem in Southern Europe and in some other EU Countries. In several EU Regions and territories are suffering from water shortage; even in some of them there is still a regime of drinking water use in the respective mayor cities.

In the light of these circumstances, finding alternatives is crucial for agriculture, agrifood industrial sites, daily life and the economy as a whole. In our SUWANU EUROPE view, the creation of a Regional Working Group is crucial to overcome the problems and to generate a Regional Action Plan to promote the use of reclaimed water in agriculture and in other uses.

The results and the experiences gained by the Regions here involved from the 8 Countries - France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Greece, Bulgaria, Flanders. Belgium – have been proven to be useful to spread in other sites of their countries.

But still there are also local peculiarities in the functioning of the administration, economy and interconnections with stakeholders, in particular farmers, authorities, NGOs and citizens, in different regions/countries.

The specifics of the organization of the relationships, the flow of information in the field of water reuse, as well as the main players, were clarified in WP 2 . Tasks 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and AKIS analysis.

In this regard, the establishment of a RWG for the different regions as in our task 2.5. was consistent with the involvement of a wide range of actors who play a key role in the design and coordination of the regional action plan.

Stakeholders from the administration, local authorities, universities and research institutes, farmers, NGOs and others were involved. Each group of these actors has an important contribution to play in drawing up the regional action plan, in task 2.6.

On the other hand, all of the selected representatives in the RWG are settled and located in the territories, which will ensure a very good coordination, too. The engaging of relevant stakeholders started since the beginning of the project.

This aim resulted in 18 meetings in various regional organizations and relevant institutions with the idea of involving competent organizations to participate in SuWaNu Europe project and goals, explaining the approach and objectives of the EU project and the role of each internal partnership and external organization into.

The 2.5. Report elaborated by Confagricoltura tries to identify the main activities and conclusions that RWGs offered to our partnership and our European stakeholders, with the strategy to contribute for the common interest of water reclamation and sustainable water use.

1 Introduction

The Regional Working Groups (RWGs) are the result of an intense contact with actors of the water and agriculture sectors in order to engage them in the SUWANU EUROPE project activities. These contacts started from the very beginning of the project in each region/country.

In the first stage the engagement consisted in sharing the information of the project objectives and foreseen activities. The organization of the participatory workshops in different regions pushed the consortium for a more intense contact. Several activities were organized to engage the stakeholders, such as sending the invitation letters, telephone calls, in some countries drafting a newsletter to disseminate the workshops, to extend the audience and to multiply the dissemination of the information.

The purpose of the work was to ensure a participatory process in the development of action plans and to guarantee an effective transfer of knowledge in the next project steps by the active participation of stakeholders.

Therefore, relevant actors have been involved in the process and engaged as RWG members in each region: farmers using or interested in reused water, regional and national authorities, wastewater treatment operators, rural development groups, researchers, agri-food industries, consumers associations, NGOs and private companies, engineers, advisory groups.

In terms of definition, Regional Working Groups are precisely groups of actors *out of the consortium* that have been engaged to participate and to provide feedbacks to the SUWANU EUROPE project and that have been involved in some relevant project activities such as the development of the Regional Action Plans of the task 2.6. The role of the Regional Working Group (RWG) in different regions is fundamental *to build the participatory actions and the Regional Action Plans*.

In different Regions, the Partners have defined a strategy and an implementation plan to involve the main actors, including the following activities:

- Initial contact with stakeholders
- Regional revision of key documents by key stakeholders
- Invitation of stakeholders through news/letter/phone call
- Regional meetings with RWG members
- Materials dissemination, documents, leaflets, summaries, power points
- Draft versions of the regional action plan to get feedback from RWG members
- Final version of the regional action plan for validation
- Presentation in a regional/national event/fair/conference, workshop etc.

In particular every Regional Working Group, following the Agreement and the WP 2 task 2.5, *in the first beginning*, had to:

- Involve actively all the partners of the Consortium
- Ensure a stakeholders engagement through a deep analysis of the key actors and the accession to other relevant organizations to be involved
- Disseminate intensively at local and regional level using appropriate channels to reach the identified stakeholders
- Ensure a multi actor and a participatory approach that make regional actors feel part of the Suwanu Europe project, and the Suwanu Europe project activities.

The RWG *second step* had to:

- Contact the regional, national and european relevant associations such as Copa Cogeca, the farmers and agrocooperatives Umbrella confederation in Bruxelles and in each region/country, EURAU and ANECOOP with their wide regional/national networks:
 - ✓ to better align the Suwanu Europe project with their national and european objectives and cooperation actions and
 - ✓ to better identify national / regional memberships and reference organizations;
- Identify at least five members out of the Consortium
- Organize frequent meetings during the running of the Suwanu Europe project, at least five

The RWG *third last step* will:

- Elaborate together with the Consortium Partners the preparation and implementation of the Regional Action Plans, under task 2.6
- Facilitate the Implementation of water reuse solutions
- Seek new opportunities to perform collaborative/cooperative projects
- Seek also new opportunities to build operational groups in the framework of EIP Agri
- Consolidate the Regional Working Groups after the project ends
- Create therefore a permanent cluster in each region to adopt and disseminate water reuse solutions.

2 Strategy for the engagement of the RWG

The aim of this strategy at this stage of the project is to present a strategy for the engagement of the Regional Working Groups (RWGs) which will be applied throughout the second period of the project. Experiences and lessons learned emerging from first period RWGs has been taking into consideration keeping this a dynamic process that can be updated during the project.

This collection of information will be used to engage identified stakeholders in the RWGs and will be used to stimulate discussions within the RWGs. It will serve to promote the joint development of strategic thinking, the two-way exchange of ideas between the different stakeholders and will also feed with practical recommendations for the formulation of the Regional Action Plans (task 2.6).

2.1 Functioning of the RWGs

The facilitator from each RWG will enroll the stakeholders in the active participation in the meetings, preparing a set of topics to be discussed and the activities to be implemented following a multi-actor approach and a participatory approach. This can be done with the prior discussion with the members, so that there is a consensus on the topics to discuss during the meeting so to actively engage the stakeholders from the beginning.

It is vital that the objectives and the expected outcomes of the RWGs are perfectly clear to all members that take part in the meetings and that the roles of engagement are also clear. The members of the Regional Working Groups, following the Agreement and the WP 2 task 2.5, must among others to:

- Propose practical recommendations for the formulation of the Regional Action Plans (task 2.6)
- Disseminate intensively at local and regional level the SuWaNu Europe project results and outcomes, through their own communication channels;
- Be engaged in the implementation of reclaimed water use solutions;
- Seek new opportunities to perform cooperative projects and to build operational groups in the framework of EIP Agri.
- Create permanent clusters in each target region of the project, to adopt and disseminate reclaimed water use solutions.

2.2 Role and responsibilities of the project partner facilitator

The facilitator will be a project partner of each region and their main responsibilities are collected in the following table:

Table 1: Role of the project partner facilitator

Responsibility	Expected Contributions	Outputs
Setting-up of the RWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite and enroll active members (multi-actor approach) Prepare topics for discussion Plan activities (participatory approach) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation letter/email to potential members Prepare program of the meeting
Running the RWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the objectives and expected outcomes of the RWGs and members expected responsibilities Oversee the meeting runs as planned Ensure that all members actively participate in the discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report with practical recommendations for the formulation of the Regional Action Plans (task 2.6)
Communication and outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize and contribute to communication and dissemination activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send inputs for the SuWaNu Europe website (brief description of the RWGs, members, calendar of events, scientific articles, news, etc.) Publish at least 1 social media post per RWG meeting (before, during or immediately after) Register RWGs members as followers of the SuWaNu Europe social media accounts and relay social media posts published by the central communication team to increase outreach

2.3 Stakeholders engagement support tools

In order to actively engage stakeholders during the meetings, there are several tools that follow a participatory methodology, and that facilitate effective engagement of target stakeholders. The activities aim at promoting the engagement of stakeholders, collaboration and in a participatory approach.

Such an example is the World Café method, that can be found in the <http://actioncatalogue.eu/method/7402>, which is a method for engaging groups, both within organizations and in the public sphere. This method is founded on the assumption that people have the capacity to work together, no matter who they are.

A World Café follows seven core design principles: (1) Set the Context; (2) Create Hospitable Space; (3) Explore Questions That Matter; (4) Encourage Everyone’s Contribution; (5) Cross-Pollinate and Connect Diverse Perspectives; (6) Listen Together for Patterns, Insights, and Deeper Questions; and (7) Harvest and Share Collective Discoveries.

World Cafés can create results to generate new ideas, to enable joint decision-making on key strategic issues, to discover new ways for collaboration, to reflect on the implications of a complex issue and in identifying specific step(s) for further exploration and implementation.

The recent events related with COVID-19, called for the need to use of online tools in the organization of initially predicted physical events. There are several online platforms that can be use, and that still allow the planning of dynamics as described before.

Tools such Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Cisco Webex meetings are just some examples.

2.4 Engagement of stakeholders during RWGs

Besides the different tools that can be used during the RWGs to promote participatory process and engagement of stakeholders, there are several methodologies that creates more interactive and collaborative formats.

- Initiate the meeting with an icebreaker to get things started in a good way. This is particularly important if the participants don't know each other or come from a different background. This can be achieved by asking participants to bring an object or to pick a word that can in some ways define them and, in this way, they can make a brief presentation of themselves.
- Promote participatory discussions, where tools like pinup.com can be a powerful tool promoting debate and discussion.
- Questionnaires using tools like *Mentimeter* or *Sli.do*, which are live interactive applications to get feedback from the participants, that allow to create polls and Q&As, among others experiences with the participants.
- Networking is a powerful tool for having during breaks for participants to get to know each other and to exchange ideas and experiences.

2.5 Communication with stakeholders after RWGs

After each RWGs it is important to make a follow up communication with the participants to keep them involved with the project and to get them to participate in the next RWGs.

This can be accomplished simply by:

- Send an email right after the meeting thanking the participants for attending the event;
- Send an email to participants who did not show or attended and share some of the outcomes of the meeting. This might compel them to participate next time;
- Once the major outcomes of the meeting are prepared, send an email with the major conclusions and results and if possible, an indication for the next RWG agenda.

2.6 Main themes raised in RWG activities

During RWGs meetings, the critical discussion points and the axes towards which the RWG activities that the RWG Groups should be focused on were the following:

- a) In terms of regional informations/data policies:
 - Incomplete or updated soil map
 - Irrigation water quality data monitoring systems and swap crops for irrigation water
 - Reference to indicators of consumption & quality. Quantities lost/quantities consumed
 - Measurable water saving elements.
 - Regional problems in water supply, water transport issues - open ducts
 - Basin Management Plans, how they were developed and how reliable they are
 - Reference to different water supply and irrigation networks
- b) In terms of harmonized methodologies/EU critical issues:
 - Reflections on difficulties in water volume management and services
 - Integration with main issues and subjects of the Regional Policy
 - Reference to the AKIS method, (and networking) what it is and how it works
 - EU guidelines/directive approved on reuse of treated water, costs and fines for non-compliance.

- The new Agricultural Policy has strict restrictions and measurable terms, with constant and strict scrutiny of residues.
- c) In terms of the farming systems/stakeholders/users:
- Information, behavior and irrigation systems
 - Farming systems/ habits of farmers.
 - Policing and controlling in agriculture.
 - Use of treated water in non-edible crops-concerns- difficulties
 - Industrial food processors water use/reuse
 - Environment-friendly policy.
 - Some proposals to facilitate farming/industrial reuse waters
- d) In terms of local/regional rules:
- Licenses and re-use licenses
 - Secondary treatment, effluent quality, and reuse of treated waste.
- e) In terms of the economy:
- Design and problems in water transportation and unit costs
 - Reliability of the processes of reuse.
 - Water recycling from drainage canals-advantages and disadvantages.
 - Water treatments costs/efficiency/piloting plants
- f) In terms of management/new skills/gaps:
- Competencies, development planning
 - key management issues, best practices to share
 - Reference to remote management and its importance
 - Cross-compliance of operators and consumers with irrigation processes.
 - Consumer/citizenship analysis/acceptance/willingness to buy

3 Discussion and participants in the RWG meetings/events

3.1 Spanish Working Group meetings

The Regional Working Group (RWG) in Andalusia (Spain) was the result of an intense contact with actors of the water and agriculture sectors in order to engage them in the project activities. These contacts started from the very beginning of the project and in a first stage consisted in the information of the project objectives and foreseen activities. The organization of the participatory workshop in Cordoba pushed the consortium for a more intense contact. Several activities were organized such as sending of invitation letters, telephone calls and eventually the creation of a newsletter to disseminate the workshops, extend the audience and share information.

The purpose of this work is twofold:

- i) to ensure a participatory process in the development of action plans and
- ii) to guarantee an effective transfer of knowledge in the next project steps by the active participation of stakeholders during the development of the training material.

Therefore, relevant actors have been involved in the process and engaged as RWG members.

The consortium has involved a wide range of actors including farmers (already using reclaimed water or just interested in reuse), authorities (regional and national), wastewater treatment operators, rural development groups, researchers, agri-food industries (producers, distributors, etc.), consumers associations, NGOs and private companies (e.g. engineers, advisory groups).

This section details the different activities carried out between SUWANU Europe consortium in Spain and RWG members: University of Cordoba and BIOAZUL participated in a meeting at the Ministry of Environment. This meeting was crucial for the development of future SUWANU EUROPE for several reasons. SUWANU EUROPE appears at a critical moment for water management in Spain due to the confluence of a series of European strategies such as the Strategy on Circular Economy (EC, 2015) and Strategy on the efficient use of resources (EC, 2011), among others.

All of them agree on the relevance of taking advantage of urban reclaimed water. Likewise, the approval of the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the European Council on the minimum requirements for water reuse (COM (2018) 337) constituted an opportunity to extend the use of reclaimed water, as it provides a legal basis that grants greater guarantees for reuse, but also a challenge in introducing new and more demanding requirements.

This new requirements imply changes at different levels (e.g. national and regional regulations, administrative procedures, technologies implemented, monitoring activities, etc.) that must be taken into account in the strategies and training materials that will be developed under SUWANU EUROPE project.

Another relevant issue is that the Ministry of Environment is coordinating the so-called Plan DSEAR which is a strategic plan intended to harmonize river basin management plans in Spain.

Water reuse can be only extended if it is truly included in this management plans, therefore there are necessary synergies between SUWANU EUROPE regional action plan in Andalusia (called Plan REGENERA) and Plan DSEAR.

In fact, there is a great synergy of collaboration between the SUWANU EUROPE REGENERA plan (task 2.4) and the DSEAR plan. Currently the DSEAR plan is still in process although there is also

some uncertainty with the change of government. One of the objectives of the DSEAR plan is to put order in compliance with the European water directive.

We also want to identify barriers that prevent further implementation of reuse, which is also one of the objectives of SUWANU EUROPE. MITECO needs support in this task of identifying barriers and there arises a potential opportunity to collaborate with the SUWANU EUROPE project.

The characterization work of the region of Andalusia could be integrated in some way in the DSEAR plan. Within few months, there will be a new DSEAR working document and we can better explore the possibilities of collaboration. The two working teams (MITECO and SUWANU EUROPE) commit to the exchange of documents to strengthen each of the respective plans.

Currently, MITECO has a pilot trial in Valencia to assess the future implementation of the new European regulation on water reuse. Among other things, a risk management plan (called a security plan) will be developed.

The European Commission will make a guide for the Risk Management plan. Pedro Simón and Miquel Salgot are among the group of experts involved. This knowledge will be essential to adapt to the context of the new regulations and therefore must be taken into account in the future of SUWANU EUROPE activities e.g. contents for online courses and presentations for participatory workshop. These key actors can be invited for the training workshops of WP3 to make a presentation at the next workshop on risk management plans. This paper can be recorded and be part of the course material.

Another lack of knowledge identified in SUWANU EUROPE is what producers should know about the limitations (or not) that products may have been irrigated with reclaimed water for export both within the EU and abroad. For example, it would be relevant to know if quality seals such as Global Gap can be obtained when irrigated with reclaimed water.

Another opportunity for collaboration is to organize a dialogue table that can be framed in the activities planned in SUWANU EUROPE (Regional Working Group meetings) and serve both for the REGENERA plan and for the DSEAR plan. A proposal of a table of users could be:

MITECO, BIOAZUL, irrigators of the Axarquía, irrigators of the Ejido and Four Vegas including relevant regional actors belonging to CHG and the regional government (see below).

List of participants, including name, organization and position (see table 13).

Table 2: Participants of the RWG meeting/event/activity

Name	Organization that he or she represents	Position to the organization	Description of the Organisation
Mr. Rafael Casielles	BIOAZUL	Project Manager	SUWANU EU Coordinator
Ms. Antonia Lorenzo	BIOAZUL	CEO	SUWANU EU Coordinator
Mr. Enrique Mesa	University of Cordoba	Researcher	SUWANU EU participant (WP1 Leader)
Mrs. Concepcion Marcuello	Subdirectorato General of Planning and Sustainable Use of Water. Ministry for Ecological Transition/Environment (MITECO)		Water Directorate within the Ministry of Environment (National Authority) is responsible of water management at national level and will have to adapt existing national regulation on water reuse (Royal

			Decree 1620/2007) with the requirements brought by new EU regulation.
Mrs. Isabel León Martin	CEDEX	Project Manager	CEDEX provides multidisciplinary support in civil engineering, building and environmental technologies, and assists both public administrations and institutions and private companies. It consists of a series of specialized technical units called Centers and Laboratories, which provide high-level technical assistance, applied research and technological development within the framework of civil engineering:
Mrs. María Leal Meca	CEDEX	Director of Centre of Hydrologic Studies	Same as above

In addition to the participatory workshop planned for task 2.4 which was held in Cordoba, another event with stakeholders was organized in Malaga following a similar format. This event had a huge participation and has been reported as a second workshop in Deliverable 2.4.

In summary, the event counted with several presentations of keynote speakers presenting good practices in water reuse in agriculture as well as an open dialogue table with invited speakers that started a dialogue with the audience (approximately 100 participants).

A core group was established: Ministry of environment, MITECO, CENTA, ESAMUR, Junta de Andalucía, Regantes del Guaro (table 14):

Table 3: Core group of SUWANU EUROPE Regional Working Group for Spain

Name of main contact person	Organization that represents	Position to the organization	Role of RWG member during SUWANU EUROPE
Mrs. Concepción Marcuello	MITECO	Water directorate deputy director	Bring expertise in governance and regulatory measures. Exploit synergies of SUWANU EU action plans with plan DSEAR. Provide feedback to Regional Action Plan (RAP) (T2.6) and policy briefs (T3.6)
Mrs. Isabel Martin	CENTA	Researcher	Bring expertise in appropriate water reuse technologies and monitoring, for instance with the revision of info-packages (T3.1) and online courses (T3.5)
Mr. Pedro Simon	ESAMUR	Director	Bring expertise in governance, technologies and practical knowledge on water reuse. Feedback to RAP (T2.6) and policy briefs (T3.6), info-

			packages (T3.1) and online courses (T3.5)
Mr. Fernando Delgado	Junta de Andalucia	Director	Bring expertise in governance and administrative procedures. Feedback to RAP (T2.6) and policy briefs (T3.6)
Mr. José Campos	Regantes del Guaro	President	Bring expertise in irrigation and farmers concerns. Feedback to RAP (T2.6) and policy briefs (T3.6), info-packages (T3.1) and online courses (T3.5)

4 Conclusions for Andalusia (Spain)

In Spain, an intense engagement of key actors has been pursued during the first stages of SUWANU EUROPE project:

- The first contacts have been made through the organization of workshops, meetings, surveys, etc. creating a core group that will be actively involved in the project activities. More than 100 members have been contacted and provided feedback. The creation of this community will be very relevant for the future of water reuse in Andalusia and it provides a framework for a necessary dialogue considering the coming changes of the current situation.
- This is an opportunity for SUWANU EUROPE to have a real impact. The consortium can act as intermediary between different experts contacted and the stakeholders and become an effective instrument of knowledge exchange which takes into account the most recent events and solutions.
- With that purpose, Spanish RWG needs to extend the community and ensure that relevant actors are engaged. So far, the RWG has identified knowledge needs that will be included in the knowledge transfer activities of WP3 (workshops, on-line courses, etc.) such as the Risk Management Plan stated by the text of the EU regulation draft.
- Active engagement of actors is therefore crucial. Hence, at least one member of the core group will participate in one project meeting to get to know the results from other regions and promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences among the European regions.
- According to the consultancy agencies, attendees, there is an increase in the number of business investors that are applying for the development of “closed water cycle” projects with the purpose for irrigation and “waste to product” management.
- Practical lessons book is developed by the union of the municipalities summarizing the Water management important themes.