



BALTIC FLOWS

www.balticflows.eu

European Conference

MARCH 17-18, 2016 | BARCELONA, SPAIN

Towards Smart Specialization in Urban Stormwater Management: Integrating Principles into Practice

The event is open to the public and free of charge

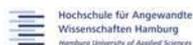


REGISTRATION Please register by March 1, 2016 at www.balticflows.eu

VENUE Aula Europa, European Institutions in Barcelona, Passeig de Gracia 90, 08008 Barcelona

Baltic Flows Project

With the support of



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BACKGROUND

Current demographic trends in urbanization and migration indicate that cities are preferred areas for living. Half of the world's population already lives in urban areas and it is projected that by 2030 the urban world's population would reach 60% (OECD).

Urban areas are expected to face vulnerability issues and impact on their infrastructure and public well-being due to increases in global temperatures as a result of climate change (IPCC). Warmer temperatures are expected to alter precipitation patterns and to bring in more frequent and heavier rain events. Due to these changes, flood control management has become one of the main priorities for cities in desperate need to provide the public with good levels of water quality and quantity.

Urban stormwater management is offering solutions to help cities manage excessive rainwater and subsequent flooding. In most European cities, the approach to manage urban stormwater is through a centralized system of collection and discharge where combined, wastewater and rainwater are directed and treated jointly. During periods of excessive rain, this approach tends to increase the level risk of flooding and contamination when central pipe systems get over exhausted-this leading to overflows and threats to the quality levels of adjacent rivers and streams.

At the city level, urban planning measures combined with decentralized stormwater management strategies are contributing to build regional capacities in the areas of research, technology and innovation. Competitive practices and implementation of site level projects are serving as platforms to strengthening collaboration among key stakeholder groups; and to foster innovation, economic, social, and environmental responsibility in European cities. Due to these advantages, it is necessary to take a closer look at the potential that there is to consolidate urban

stormwater management with European targets of smart specialization. The EU National/Regional Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation aims at exploring the potential of up-and-coming technologies, products and best practices in a particular field in order to enhance competitiveness and economic development. The EU Smart Specialization Strategy is regarded as a tool for identifying the unique characteristics and assets of a specific country or region, by highlighting competitive advantages, and bringing upon regional stakeholders and localized resources, an excellence-driven vision of their future (EU Cohesion Policy, March 2014). Furthermore, the European Technology Platform for Water, WssTP, has highlighted the regional potential of integrating water as an ideal topic for smart specialization across Europe. Considering the various ramifications, demands, and needs, this topic could serve as a venue for innovation and regional development actions of smart specialization in European cities.

The European Conference, **Towards Smart Specialization in Urban Stormwater Management: Integrating Principles into Practice**, is organized in the framework of the project Baltic Flows as a platform to explore the potential for developing an urban stormwater management smart specialization strategy in the European urban context. The Conference will have a focus on regional strengths, know-how, and capacities in the field of urban stormwater management, highlighting synergies and cooperation, clusters, and current development taking place in research, and public sectors, as well as current technological development, carried out by private sector stakeholders.

The project Baltic Flows is a European Union's 7th Framework Programme "Regions of Knowledge" that concerns the management and monitoring of rainwater at Baltic Sea catchment areas. The project addresses the concept of smart specialization and synergies between regional development, research, and innovation in order to enhance competitiveness.

AIMS

As a way to add visibility and cooperation among European regions in support of national/regional innovation strategies for smart specialization (RIS3), the aims of the Baltic Flows European Conference, Towards Smart Specialization in Urban Stormwater Management: Integrating Principles into practice, are the following:

- To highlight synergies between regional development, research and industry that can enhance competitiveness towards a smart specialization strategy for urban stormwater management in European cities and regions
- To facilitate knowledge exchange and cooperation among key stakeholders dealing with issues concerning urban stormwater management and sustainable urban planning in European cities
- To explore existing regional competitiveness and potential for linking the topic of urban stormwater management to a smart specialization strategy for European urban areas

ORGANIZERS

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PROFILE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

The Baltic Flows Conference, Towards Smart Specialization in Urban Stormwater Management: Integrating Principles into Practice, brings together participants from public, private, and civil sectors, including: representatives from local Barcelona provincial councils; practitioners and experts in the water field; researchers at universities and research institutes; small and medium-sized enterprises-SMEs; technology and product developers; NGOs; and environmental organizations with a water focus.

POSTERS AND DISPLAYS

Baltic Flows Project Partners and Barcelona contributors to this conference will be able to pin up individual posters describing the current stormwater management situation in each one of their individual regions. The poster displays are intended to bring focus to the current state of affairs in urban stormwater management and as a result, further understanding of the existing capacities. They are meant to highlight competences and water potential for development in European cities and regions.

SMEs

Companies offering technologies, products, and services in the areas of urban stormwater management will be offered the opportunity to have a small display of promotion material during the event.

LANGUAGE

The event will be conducted in English with partial translation into the Spanish language.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the event is now open!

To register online, please go to:

<http://www.balticflows.eu/events#.VpdvP1LGpZH>

Registration for the event and site visits are free of charge. Please register by March 1, 2016.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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