**Annex Roadmap & explanation of SWAMPS 8.3.2016**

**For managing authorities (ETC INTERREG V-A), potential project partners and stakeholders**

Dear madam, dear sir, dear friends and colleagues,

**Introduction.**

The Task Force Watergovernance (TFWG) is supported by different key institutes such as UNECE ([www.unece.org/env/water](http://www.unece.org/env/water)), Eurisy ([www.eurisy.org](http://www.eurisy.org)), Benelux ([www.benelux.int](http://www.benelux.int)) and AEBR ([www.aebr.eu](http://www.aebr.eu)), EMR ([www.euregio-mr.eu](http://www.euregio-mr.eu)) and the host/lead partner is the Province of Limburg ([www.limburg.nl](http://www.limburg.nl)).

Since 2004 the TFWG initiated and participated in INTERREG C projects, called nowadays **INTERREG Europe** projects (FLAPP, FLOODWISE). The projects involved always 2 crucial aspects: water governance and cross border cooperation

The Province of Limburg (NL) is the lead partner of this proposal called SWAMPS.

SWAMPS is the acronym of: Sustainable Water Adaptive resources Management & Policy Strategies in several catchments.

For a better understanding of the relationship between INTERREG Europe, ETC (European Territorial Cooperation) and INTERREG V-A I include a short powerpoint presentation of Erwin Siweris of the INTERREG Europe secretariat in Lille. See also <http://www.interregeurope.eu/> , please go to “my country” scroll down to look at policy learning platforms etc. Investigate the theme Environment and resource efficiency, which is the selected theme for our project.

**Rationale**

According to AEBR 30% of EU surface is border region (NUTS 3). According to UNECE the border regions of international river basins suffer seriously from water stress, droughts and floods, causing physical damage during floods (inundations, destructions, destruction harvest) and economic damage during droughts (no irrigation, pollution, drinking water problems, restricted navigation etc). Improving the water governance aspect in border regions a.o. by innovative technical solutions has a direct spin off for the economic recovery of the concerned border regions as well in urban, industrial as rural fields.

40% of the surface of the EU is belonging to international river basins, where the majority of the EU populations lives and the major economic activities take place. This being the reason to underline the importance of a proper water governance in border regions and to incorporate the aspect of water governance in cross border policy. The one and only cross border policy of the EU is under the ETC (European Territorial Cooperation) umbrella, INTERREG V-A.

Water governance in border regions should be incorporated in the regional cross border policies as an important corner stone of the cross border policy and further integration in the EU and cooperation with its neighbors.

**Project approach and proposed river basins**

INTERREG Europe applications should support and strengthen the existing EU-policy. As said before the only and one cross border policy of the EU is called INTERREG 5-A. This being the reason to underline the water governance aspect (covering the IWRM, Integrated Water Resource Management) as a vital factor in improving the economic and social cohesion in border regions.

The idea of SWAMPS concerns in fact “climate change adapted water resource management” in a number of cross border river basins. The challenges of this project is to strengthen the existing EU policies e.g. the present Operational Programs of INTERREG V-A in each of the border regions of the river basins (Meuse and Roer are covered by the same Operational Programme of INTERREG V-A).

The proposed river basins are:

Elbe/Labe (Germany, Czech Republic)

Klara (Norway, Sweden)

Meuse (Netherlands, Germany, Belgium)

Roer (Netherlands, Germany)

Sava (Slovenia, Croatia)

Taag/Tajo (Spain/Portugal)

Tisza (Rumania, Hungary)

Western Bug (Belarus, Poland)

**Project partners and members of stakeholder group**

According to the INTERREG Europe Secretariat (Joint Technical Secretariat in Lille), the concerned Managing Authorities (MA) of the INTERREG V-A programme are the preferred project partners. If MA’s are not willing to act as a project partner, there is an alternative. They can then play a more passive role in a stakeholder group and sign a letter of support (see annex) to another potential project partner. The meetings of the project partners with the members of a stakeholder group are important regarding the aspect of fine tuning the IWRM aspects in the international river basin.

Travel and accommodation expenses of the members of the stakeholder group are reimbursed by the project.

**Financial Obligations of project partners**

Financial obligations: some indications, in case of 5 river basis, a minimum of 2 project partners per river basin and one lead partner, total number of partners 11.

Some calculations show that cost of the project including a Shared Service Centre with a professional Project Manager, Assistant PM, Financial Manager and Communication manager (all part time) can be accomplished with a total financial volume of about € 2,579,500.-- divided by 11 partners. This means a budget for each partner of € 23.500.-- of which 85 % ERDF € 199,325.-- and 15 % own contribution: € 35,175.--.

This means that during the 5 year project, the partner costs amounts to € 7.035,-- per project year.

Project partners have to accomplish the hours of work indicated in financial terms in the application form. The hours worked are the foundation of the project. From the start of the project some cash flow is needed in order to pay the running costs of the staff (the SSC Shared Service Centre) and the pré financing activities, approximately 9 months ahead before the INTERREG Europe Secretariat reimburses the expenses. Therefore it is recommended that at the start of the project the total own contribution is paid as much as possible by the partners.

**Technical Obligations of project partners**

Technical obligations: 2 partners within one river basin (at each side of the border) are responsible that one action plan on the cross border part of the river is formulated in cooperation with the members of the stakeholder group.

If one of the partners is the Managing Authority (this is the usual case; the MA partner should coordinate and approve the process of the action plan).

If the MA is not a project partner, they should deliver a letter of support nominating the project partner and consequently they will be a member of the stakeholder group of this river basin.

**Road map and opening of call**

As the time is running and as we are not allowed to have too much partners (if relevant they may become a member of a stakeholder group in the river basin) we kindly ask you to react asap.

* The call will be opened from 5 April to 13 May, then all forms should be duly signed by partners and MA’s.
* Take contact with the addressees, the institutes/persons in your river basin in your country, please see the excel file of the addressees. Use as a guide your national contact point, see also INTERREG Europe.eu and look for “my country”
* **Before 18th March** filling in the AP (application form) by Project partners and MA. It is a “word’ document so you can work in it (please use tracks and traces).
* Letter of support by MA (this should not be common) if MA will not be a project partner. Only to be filled in the standard working may not be changed!! That would be a reason to refuse the application. For us it is only to know how many letters of support we will receive and what they propose
* After receiving your reaction you will receive a personnel inlog code to work on the digital application form

Your prompt reaction will be appreciated as not all the river basins can participate. The Interreg Europe does prefer a limited number of partners.

Looking forward to your reaction

Please receive my best wishes

**Alfred Evers| Coordinator Project Development Team**

**Task Force Water Governance in border regions**