

REsilienT water gOvernance Under climate **CHange within the WEFE NEXUS:** Belgian case study



VITO – De Watergroep



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THE RETOUCH NEXUS PROJECT



















CASE STUDY OVERVIEW

General topic: Making a stronger economic case for collective, decentralized water systems as a solution for water governance challenges in Belgium.

Setting the scene:

- Belgium is characterized by high water stress and a high degree of urbanization and urban sprawl > Collective, decentralized water systems can be part of the solution
- Leading water policies:
 - The Decree of Integrated Water Policy (Flemish transposition of the European Water Framework Directive) must ensure that water resources and water quality are safeguarded, and that the impact of floods and droughts is minimized.
 - The Blue Deal program of the Flemish Government funds projects that work on structural solutions for water scarcity and drought in Flanders.
 - The Rainwater Ordinance imposes measures on constructors to prevent rainwater from being drained immediately.

Challenges:

- Valuing societal benefits from collective, decentralized systems and integrating them in robust business cases is difficult.
- There are no structural financing strategies in place for these projects (currently highly dependent on subsidies).



Business Park in Tielt

Goal: make Business Parks more water and climateresilient

Main water uses

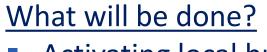


Water governance challenges









- Activating local buffers
- Encourage water reuse
- Improve infiltration
- Sustainable roads





Business Park in Keiberg

Goal: make business parks more water and climate-resilient

Main water uses







What will be done?

- Collective rainwater harvesting and purification
- Aquifer storage and recovery
- Encourage water reuse
- Green infrastructure as public area
- Local energy provision



Residential area in Peer

Goal: Sustainable living

Main water uses



Water governance challenges





What will be done?

- Collective rainwater harvesting and purification
- Encourage water reuse (toilet flushing and laundry)
- Green environment
- Sustainable energy sources (e.g. geothermal energy)

METHODOLOGY AND EXPECTED RESULTS



Stakeholder engagement & public participation:

- Stakeholder events to understand different perspectives
- Co-creation workshops
- Partnerships for co-ownership and co-financing
- Systemic approach to understand bigger picture

Literature review / input RETOUCH partners

Input stakeholders case studies

Mapping and quantifying social benefits

Cost-benefit analysis

case supported by viable financing strategies

Generic business

Providing input for upscaling





















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