



RETOUCH
NEXUS

REsilienT water gOvernance Under climate CHange
within the WEF E NEXUS

Deliverable D2.3

Roadmap for stakeholder & citizen engagement in
case studies



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DELIVERABLE 2.3

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Nature of the deliverable		
R	Document, report (excluding the periodic and final reports)	R
DEM	Demonstrator, pilot, prototype, plan designs	
DEC	Websites, patents filing, press & media actions, videos, etc.	
OTHER	Software, technical diagram, etc.	

Dissemination Level		
PU	Public, fully open, e.g. web	
CO	Confidential, restricted under conditions set out in Model Grant Agreement	CO
CI	Classified, information as referred to in Commission Decision 2001/844/EC	

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			significant revision and addition of information on the GTI app.
13.03.2024	V2	adelphi and TUM	The 2nd review was an improved version and suggested revisions to the roadmap to make them practically implementable. There were incomplete sections including on the GTI app.
22.052024	Final Version	adelphi and TUM	The deliverable has improved though some gaps remain especially on the roadmap. Being a process where the roadmap will be adapted as the project proceeds, it is recommended to be accepted.

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Executive Summary

The Stakeholder Engagement Roadmap (SER), a key outcome of the collaborative efforts, is a guiding beacon for the RETOUCH NEXUS project that addresses the challenges of the water, energy, food, and ecosystem (WEFE) nexus in different case studies (CSs).

In alignment with the overall goals and mission of the project, the Stakeholder Engagement Roadmap (SER) aims to promote robust, integrated, sustainable, inclusive, and scalable water governance practices. This contribution is supported by the project's overarching objectives and specific outcomes outlined in the project framework, which include:

- **Innovative Engagement Mechanisms:** As part of Outcome 4 (O4), the SER facilitates the development and demonstration of 12 innovative engagement mechanisms aimed at promoting transparent and inclusive water governance practices. These mechanisms, along with supporting guidelines and communities of practice, enable the engagement of diverse stakeholders, including citizens and cross-sectoral actors, aligning with the project's emphasis on inclusive engagement (PR4).
- **Vulnerable Groups:** Throughout the project activities in WP2, the active participation of vulnerable groups has been considered. Mechanisms and processes for inclusive and transparent stakeholder engagement, particularly focusing on the inclusion of women and youth, are proposed in Task 2.3. Capacity-building efforts in Task 2.4 further enhance the awareness and participation of citizens and authorities, reinforcing the project's commitment to gender equality and inclusivity.
- **Open Science Practices:** RETOUCH NEXUS embraces open collaboration with stakeholders and citizens to co-create economic instruments and governance systems. This open approach, integrated into WP3 and WP4, fosters public participation and engagement in all case studies, enhancing the transparency and responsiveness of science to societal needs. Improved communication platforms articulate open research outcomes, fostering trust and alignment among stakeholders.
- **Ethical Dimension:** The SER ensures ethical practices in the collection, storage, and use of personal data and sensitive information throughout the project, as outlined in the Data Management Plan (D6.3). This approach upholds the project's commitment to transparency and accountability in stakeholder engagement activities across WP2, WP4, and WP5.

The SER facilitates the achievement of different milestones and outcomes between the different project work packages, including:

- **Knowledge sharing and co-creation mechanisms:** The SER envisages the use of the GTI App throughout the process and will serve as a platform for knowledge sharing and know-how exchange among stakeholders, supporting the co-creation of economic frameworks and pricing policies in WP3, as well as effective multilevel governance mechanisms in WP4. The



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GTI App will also be used to engage stakeholders online and share best practices, as well as to promote debates through the use of forums, thereby enhancing virtual collaboration and knowledge dissemination.

- **Innovative stakeholder engagement mechanisms:** Through Task 2.5, the SER contributes to the development of innovative mechanisms to engage different stakeholders in the water sector. These mechanisms exploit ICT-based communication and engagement tools as well as participatory methods for co-creation workshops, improving stakeholder involvement and decision-making processes.
- **Improving integrated water governance:** Activity 4.4 builds on the activities of WP2 to propose changes in governance schemes and legislative frameworks, integrating the economic tools developed in WP3 and the organisational models and innovative practices of Task 4.3, with the support of the SER.
- **Exploitation and dissemination of project results:** The SER informs the compilation, adoption and dissemination of project results through Task 5.5. A roadmap for utilisation (D5.4) will guide the further use of the project results, building on the analyses of barriers to better stakeholder and citizen involvement conducted in WP2.

One of the key components of this deliverable is the GTI app that should have been ready to be applied by the case studies. However, given that this involves technology, adapting for the purpose of the project and ensuring the protection of personal data; the overall timeline for the completion of the app has been delayed. In consultation with the case studies and the partners, Consortium it was agreed that the app will first be piloted in one case study, and subsequently, based on the outcome, will be adapted and applied in other cases studies. This will be dependent on the factor that it will serve the purpose of the case studies for stakeholder engagement and the case studies will make the final choice of using the app.

The Roadmap for stakeholder engagement shared in this deliverable is subject to adaptation and changes during the course of the implementation with case studies. This can happen due to unforeseen circumstances as this involves engagement with diverse stakeholders, multiple times and maybe beyond the control of the Consortium partners.



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Abbreviations

EC	European Commission
ES	Ecosystem Services
EU	European Union
CSL	Case Study Leader
SER	Stakeholder Engagement Roadmap
CS	Case study
WEFE	Water Energy Food Ecosystem
COP	Communities of Practice



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Chapter 1: Overview of processes, case studies, milestones and the SER.

1. Introduction

The Stakeholder Engagement Roadmap (SER) provides a guide that stakeholders may follow in order to interact with one another in a structured and regular manner in order to achieve project goals.

The development of the SER for the RETOUCH project's diverse case studies involved a decision-making process guided by insights from D2.1 and D2.2, which focused on mapping the stakeholders and exploring good practices for engagement. This approach aimed to build on existing good practices to provide a comprehensive and adaptable involvement strategy that may be adapted to each scenario.

Overview of process to develop the SER

The process, conducted in collaboration with Adelphi, TUM and the CSLs, for developing the SER considered key aspects to ensure effectiveness and relevance. Those were:

1. **Stakeholder characteristics:** in-depth analysis of key stakeholder attributes resulting from D2.1 and D2.2, including influence, interests, and communication preferences.
2. **Project scope alignment:** engagement mechanisms were complementary to the defined goals and objectives of the project.
3. **Consultation with Case Study Leaders (CSLs):** bilateral meetings with CSLs incorporated discussions on contextual insights and expertise, thereby aligning engagement mechanisms to the specific characteristics of the case studies.
4. **Flexibility and adaptability:** recognising the dynamic nature of stakeholder engagement, mechanisms were defined and placed in the SER with the need for flexibility in mind, allowing for reactive adjustments to be made based on evolving project needs.
5. **Communication channels:** communication channels were selected following dedicated consultations with CSLs prioritising timeliness and relevance. This selection was made based on the findings in D2.1 and D2.2.
6. **Continuous improvement:** feedback loops were foreseen in order to facilitate a continuous improvement cycle.



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Overview of case study approaches

Belgium:

Stakeholder engagement processes were already ongoing in the Tielt Business Park, demonstrating the CSL's proactive involvement. Those processes will provide inspiration and guidance for other CSLs, emphasising the importance of maintaining active stakeholder involvement.

Netherlands:

The Netherlands is enhancing stakeholder engagement within the Water Authority of Hoogheemraadschap Hollands Noorderkwartier (HHNK) for a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in the Zaan region. This area faces challenges such as water distribution during droughts and increased demand due to population growth. HHNK and VUA will integrate the WWTP into the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) nexus through participatory governance, considering effluent use for agriculture, ecosystems, or industry, and renewable energy options.

Germany:

The German CS addresses potential challenges in the participation of water and energy authorities. Initial key meetings laid the groundwork for the launch of the digital platform, awareness campaigns, and targeted workshops. The engagement strategy development phase underwent structural improvements, aligning with the CSL's preferences.

Malta:

In the Maltese CS, adaptations focused on consolidating activities into single-day workshops for efficient stakeholder engagement. Attention was paid to accessibility, simplification of processes and the needs of different vulnerable groups, with a focus on farmers.

Slovakia:

The Slovak CS adopts a nuanced approach, emphasising water retention infrastructure and environmental challenges. Streamlining of workshops ensures meaningful stakeholder engagement, avoiding redundancy.

Spain:

The Spanish CS, similar to the Belgian CS, emphasises water governance schemes and economic tools. The roadmap strategically focuses on water pricing mechanisms during the strategy-setting workshop.



1.1. Overview of the document

In the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Roadmap (SER) for the RETOUCH project case studies, our process started with a complete review of D2.1 and D2.2. These documents laid the groundwork, providing crucial insights that guided our strategic planning process.

The Stakeholder Engagement Roadmap (SER) serves as a strategic framework designed to facilitate transparent and inclusive engagement with stakeholders across the RETOUCH NEXUS project. It outlines a systematic approach for identifying, engaging, and collaborating with stakeholders involved in addressing the challenges of the water, energy, food, and ecosystem nexus in six case studies. The SER aims to foster transparent communication, build partnerships, and co-create solutions that promote sustainable water governance practices. The approach focused on tailoring a strategic plan of activities listed in section 2 below (“List of the activities foreseen in the entire SER”) dedicated and customised for each case study.

The initial steps to create the SER involved the identification and prioritisation of stakeholders, during T2.1 followed by a thorough analysis of the objectives set for each case study. Building upon this foundation, two preparatory documents, namely the plan and timeline, were drafted as templates. These documents served as frameworks for gathering valuable input from our Case Study Leaders (CSLs). Upon receiving feedback from the CSLs, the plans and timelines were refined, incorporating the insights and changes into individual dedicated roadmaps.

1.2. SER key milestones:

- **Stakeholder Identification and Objective Analysis:**
 - Successful completion of a comprehensive stakeholder identification process based on information from D2.1 and D2.2.
 - In-depth analysis of the objectives for each case study, providing a clear roadmap for targeted engagement strategies aligned with project goals.
- **Preparatory Document Development:**
 - Creation of two preparatory documents (plan and timeline) for all case studies, serving as dynamic templates that evolved based on collaborative feedback.
- **Dedicated consultation meeting with Case Study Leaders**
 - Completion of dedicated meetings with Case Study Leaders (CSLs) to gather valuable insights, comments, and feedback on the plans and timelines.
- **GTI Web App Integration Planning:**
 - Initiation of planning for the integration and utilization of the GTI App, a key milestone for enabling stakeholder collaboration and information exchange.

Following the indications in section 2.1.1. of this document, while we are at phase 1 (M13-M14) of the stakeholder engagement process, these milestones form the foundation of a dynamic and strategic roadmap.



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With the commencement of the stakeholder engagement phases, it is envisaged that the GTI Web App will support as a platform to facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge, and best practices among stakeholders. Dedicated forums within the app will further enhance collaboration and communication throughout the engagement process.

1.3. The Dynamic Nature of the Stakeholder Engagement Roadmap

In formulating the stakeholder engagement roadmap for the RETOUCH project, several considerations and principles guide the identification and participation of stakeholders. The dynamic nature of the roadmap stems from the need to adapt to the specific needs of each case study during the engagement process. This approach ensures that the engagement strategy is tailored to the unique characteristics, requirements, needs and capabilities of each case study, allowing flexibility and responsiveness to changing circumstances. By prioritising the specific needs of each case study, the roadmap effectively supports targeted and context-relevant stakeholder engagement efforts throughout the project.

1.3.1 Factors Influencing Stakeholder Engagement:

- **Stakeholder Interest:** The actual level of interest can significantly vary among different stakeholder groups. Recognizing this diversity, the strategy targets individuals showing considerable interest and active involvement.
- **Project Objectives:** The objectives of each activity shape the scale of involvement. Some initiatives may require a broader reach, while others may focus on more specialized groups based on the project's specific goals.
- **Available Resources:** The allocation of resources, including staff and budget, directly influences the extent of stakeholder involvement. Adequate resources are dedicated to engagement activities, aligning with the project's overall goals.
- **Feedback from Stakeholders:** Continuous consultation with key stakeholders provides crucial insights into their interest and commitment levels. Feedback mechanisms ensure that the engagement plan aligns with the expectations and interests of the involved stakeholders.
- **Inclusive Engagement Strategies:** Ensuring inclusivity in stakeholder engagement involves implementing strategies that cater to diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and needs. This includes providing multiple channels for participation, such as in-person meetings, virtual platforms, and accessible materials in various languages. Inclusive engagement also involves actively reaching out to underrepresented or marginalized groups to ensure their voices are heard and valued in decision-making processes. This includes promoting inclusion without barriers such as physical accessibility, language or technology. This involves providing translated materials and using user-friendly platforms.



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- **Capacity development opportunities:** Empowerment goes beyond mere participation and involves stakeholders taking an active role in shaping project outcomes. This includes the provision of training, resources and support to build the capacity of stakeholders to engage effectively in decision-making processes. Stakeholder empowerment also involves promoting transparency and cooperation, where stakeholders feel empowered to express their opinions, influence project decisions and promote positive change within their communities.

1.3.2 SER Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

Specific KPIs are designated to measure and monitor the actual results and success of stakeholder engagement activities. This includes the number of participants attending the stakeholder engagement sessions. This distinction clarifies that KPIs are the primary metrics for evaluating the effectiveness of the engagement strategy.

1.3.3 Responsibility Distribution:

The initial responsibility for each engagement activity lies with the Case Study Leader. This leader holds the flexibility to delegate specific tasks or responsibilities to other stakeholder groups or entities as needed. This adaptive approach ensures effective management of the involvement process, with the Case Study Leader possessing the competence to make informed decisions.

1.3.4 Adaptability and Needs Assessment:

The Stakeholder Engagement Roadmap acknowledges the dynamic nature of project implementation. Each phase may reveal new needs or challenges that necessitate adjustments to the engagement plan. A continuous needs assessment during the project's execution allows for flexibility and responsiveness. Modifications to the roadmap can be introduced based on emerging stakeholder requirements, ensuring the strategy remains effective and aligned with the evolving project landscape. This iterative approach emphasizes adaptability and responsiveness to the changing dynamics of stakeholder engagement.



Chapter 2: Timelines and Activities

Overview

In the shift from the preparatory phase to stakeholder engagement activities, a well-defined plan is essential to effectively guide the efforts of the various case studies. The following section outlines the planned stakeholder engagement activities and includes an outlook into the need of the GTI App, which serves as a strategic tool to maximise the usefulness of the digital platform provided by GTI.

2.1. High-level description of the general process applicable to all case studies

A general structure common to all case studies was provided regarding the definition of the stakeholder engagement roadmap. Some CSLs expressed particular needs in terms of timing, which led to variations in the timeline. These have been reported in the individual case study sections.

The structure of the SER has been subdivided into various phases, each one preparatory to the next. In some cases, activities will be carried out in parallel where possible and to promote project efficiency. The basic structure is as follows:

Table 1: General Structure of the SER

General Structure of the SER			
Phase	Title	Timeline	Monthly Reference
1	Stakeholder Engagement Process Initiation and Planning	January - February	M13-M14
2	Engagement Strategy Development	March - April	M15-M16
3	Launch of Online Engagement Tools for The Stakeholder	May - June	M17-M18
4	Motivation Enhancement and Awareness	July - August	M19-M20
5	Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement	September - December	M21-M22
6	Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement	January - September	M23-M44

- Phase 1: Stakeholder Engagement process initiation and planning (January-February) (M13-M14)

In the initial phase, the main objective is to lay the foundations for effective stakeholder engagement. This involves convening a project kick-off meeting with approximately 20 key stakeholders (the number of stakeholders varies from case study to case study). The purpose of the meetings is to present the project, share the objectives and secure initial commitment. At the same time, an internal activity takes place, involving the CSLs and project coordinators to plan the



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allocation of necessary resources, including financial, human and technological aspects, to ensure a well-prepared engagement process.

- Phase 2: Engagement Strategy Development (March - April) (M15-M16)

The second phase focuses on the development of a comprehensive strategy to engage stakeholders. This includes targeted workshops with key stakeholders to collaboratively formulate a strategy, ensuring alignment with the specific objectives of each case study. In addition, innovative engagement tools are selected through collaboration between the project team and a smaller group of key stakeholders. Dedicated communication skills training is conducted for key stakeholders to promote their active participation. Communities of practice (COPs) are established, providing an ongoing platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing among key stakeholders in each of the three COPs.

- Phase 3: Launch of Online Engagement Tools for The Stakeholder (May - June) (M17-M18)

In the third phase, the focus shifts to creating a digital environment for interaction and collaboration with stakeholders. Specific sub-forums are introduced for vulnerable groups, including gender, youth and diversity, with the active participation of key stakeholders from these groups. Links are established with relevant organisations. Workshops are conducted to gather input and feedback from stakeholders, with the active participation in three separate sessions.

- Phase 4: Motivation Enhancement and Awareness (July - August) (M19-M20)

The fourth phase aims to strengthen stakeholder motivation and awareness, so that the stakeholders identified by each project are in effect leaders and drivers of the process. Leadership programmes, involving approximately 10 participants, are initiated to promote environmental leadership among key stakeholders. Simultaneously, awareness-raising campaigns on water and environmental issues are launched, targeting all stakeholders to educate and inspire them about the importance of the project.

- Phase 5: Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement (September- December) (M21-M22)

This phase is dedicated to maintaining and improving stakeholder engagement throughout the project. Ongoing communication through the GTI App (first to be tested as a pilot in one CS) and sub-forums ensures regular interaction with all stakeholders. Monthly workshops are conducted, with approximately 20 key stakeholders actively participating in each session. The internal project team and the case study manager regularly collect and analyse stakeholder feedback. The implementation of the COP involves approximately 20 key stakeholders, fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing and continuous contribution to the project goals. Bi-monthly COP meetings ensure continuous collaboration and collection of feedback.

- Phase 6: Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement (January - September) (M23-M44)



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The final phase focuses on a culture of continuous improvement of stakeholder engagement and will be further finetuned alongside stakeholders during the implementation process over the following 24 months. Activities include continuous monitoring and reporting on stakeholder engagement by the Case Study Leader, stakeholder-led discussions and co-creation sessions, regular stakeholder engagement activities with varying levels of participation, periodic review of language inclusiveness, and continuous reinforcement of motivation of all stakeholders. In addition, a periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of the online engagement tools is carried out, with adjustments made, if necessary, by the Case Study Leader.

2.2. Planned Stakeholder Engagement Activities

The objective of this section is to list and identify the objectives of each of the activities foreseen in the whole stakeholder engagement process and to list the specific functionalities of the GTI App that will be used to facilitate the activities, make them more interactive and provide the necessary documentation.

2.2.1 List of the GTI App features useful for the RETOUCH NEXUS Project

This section lists and explains how the functionalities of the GTI App will be used in the context of the activities foreseen by the SER, initially as a pilot in one CS and then, based on the outcome, a decision will be taken if the app will be introduced in another CS or not. In the next section (List of the activities foreseen in the entire SER), after the description of each activity, a subsection has been associated which lists the functionalities explained here for each of the SER activities:

Table 2: GTI Web App - Functions

GTI Web App - Functions	
Function	Description
Case Study Forums	Use of Case Study Forums to allow CSLs and stakeholders to comment on the roadmap and the activities
Dedicated CSLs forums	The use of the dedicated CSLs forum within the GTI App ensures opportunities for collaboration and discussion among Case Study Leaders. This forum provides a platform for CSLs to share insights, exchange ideas, and collectively contribute to the resource allocation planning process. It fosters a collaborative environment, enriching the planning phase with diverse perspectives and expertise
Sub-Forums	Sub-forums for specific groups of stakeholders (such as the group of water authorities) and vulnerable groups (such as women, youth, etc.) to provide them with a safe environment in which to express particular needs
Database of Information	The GTI App's database functionality serves as a centralized repository for the entire process. This includes meeting agendas, presentation slides, activity reports, and any other relevant documents, ensuring easy access to a wealth of information. The GTI App's database functionality allows the internal project team to share information, articles and reports related to stakeholder engagement. This central hub optimises resource allocation decisions, ensuring that the team has comprehensive and up-to-date information at their fingertips
Webcast Section	The webcast section of the GTI App enhances the accessibility of meetings by allowing the broadcasting and availability of video materials. This includes training sessions, tutorials, and testimonials, contributing to continuous learning and collaboration



2.2.2 List of the activities foreseen in the entire SER:

1. Initial project kick-off meeting with key stakeholders

The purpose of this activity is to bring together key stakeholders to present the project, share its objectives and establish initial commitment

2. Stakeholder engagement strategy workshops with a focus on the primary objective of the case study

This activity includes targeted workshops with key stakeholders to jointly develop a strategy in line with the objectives of each case study

3. Development of innovative engagement tools tailored to the case study's context

The project team, in collaboration with a small group of key stakeholders, undertakes a crucial phase in which innovative engagement tools are identified and carefully selected. The development of these tools will draw on the information contained in D2.2. This collaborative effort aims to identify tools that resonate with the unique context of each case study, ensuring effective and contextually-relevant stakeholder engagement.

4. Training sessions for key stakeholders on effective engagement strategies

Comprehensive training sessions are designed to empower key stakeholders with the necessary skills, knowledge, and strategies to actively participate and contribute effectively to the RETOUCH NEXUS project. The goal is to cultivate a shared understanding of project objectives, enhance collaboration, and promote meaningful engagement throughout the project lifecycle.

5. Establishment of Communities of Practice (COPs) for ongoing collaboration:

COPs provide a platform for continuous collaboration and knowledge sharing among key stakeholders. The establishment of COPs marks a pivotal step in fostering ongoing collaboration among key stakeholders involved in the RETOUCH NEXUS project. These COPs serve as dynamic platforms where individuals with shared interests, expertise, and responsibilities can engage in sustained dialogue, exchange insights, and collectively advance the project's goals.

6. Launch of the GTI App

The launch of the digital platform provides a central hub for stakeholder engagement, offering a convenient and safe space for interaction and information exchange. This activity will serve to introduce the app to all stakeholders.



7. Workshops to gather input and feedback from stakeholders:

These workshops serve as interactive forums designed to actively engage stakeholders in decision-making processes and gather valuable input on the project's development. The primary objectives of these workshops are:

- **Interactive Decision-Making:** Facilitate active participation, ensuring stakeholders play a crucial role in shaping project decisions.
- **Input and Feedback:** Provide a platform for stakeholders to share insights, suggestions, and concerns related to various aspects of the project, including those from diverse gender identities, play a crucial role in shaping project decisions.
- **Project Development:** Contribute to the iterative development of the project by incorporating diverse perspectives and expertise from stakeholders.

Initiation of Leadership Programs for Stakeholder Engagement:

Leadership programs are being developed to cultivate motivation and active engagement among key stakeholders in driving initiatives within the context of the WEF Nexus as part of the RETOUCH Nexus project. These programs will serve as a cornerstone for fostering leadership skills, building a community of advocates committed to sustainable practices.

The leadership programs will create dynamic learning environments, encouraging participants to become catalysts for positive change within their spheres of influence. These initiatives will not only build individual capacities but also contribute to a collective commitment to sustainability and integrated water governance practices.

Through the future implementation of these leadership programs by case study leaders, stakeholders will have the opportunity to explore the interconnected challenges of water, energy, food, and ecosystems, and their collective impact on sustainability within the WEF Nexus framework. Participants will be empowered to drive innovative solutions that promote resilience and sustainability across the nexus.

By nurturing leadership capacities among stakeholders, these initiatives will contribute to a holistic approach to addressing the challenges of the WEF Nexus, fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation essential for achieving long-term resilience and prosperity.

8. Launch of awareness campaigns about water and environmental issues in each Case Study context (All stakeholders)

Broad awareness campaigns aim to educate and inspire stakeholders about the importance of the project. The awareness campaigns are designed to create a widespread understanding of the WEF NEXUS issues addressed by the RETOUCH NEXUS project. These campaigns will be tailored to the



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unique context of each case study, considering local challenges, opportunities, and cultural nuances. Stakeholders involved in this activity include not only the project team and Case Study Leaders but also community members, local authorities, NGOs, and other relevant entities. The goal is to foster a shared sense of responsibility and engagement in sustainable water and environmental practices.

9. Regular stakeholder workshops (preferably monthly)

Monthly workshops with all stakeholders serve as vital platforms to promote active engagement on project decisions and initiatives, fostering cooperation between the water, energy, food, and ecosystem (WEFE) sectors within the RETOUCH NEXUS project. The objectives, also to foster cooperation between all WEFE sectors, include:

- **Collaborative Decision-Making:** Providing opportunities for stakeholders to engage in collaborative decision-making processes, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered in project initiatives.
- **Continuous Input:** Facilitating ongoing input from stakeholders, enabling them to contribute valuable insights, feedback, and recommendations throughout the project lifecycle.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Fostering a culture of knowledge exchange and learning, where stakeholders can share experiences, best practices, and lessons learned.
- **Project Alignment:** Ensuring alignment between project objectives and stakeholder expectations, allowing for adjustments and refinements as needed.
- **Networking:** Strengthening relationships among stakeholders, laying the foundation for Communities of Practice (COPs) and promoting a sense of community and shared responsibility for project success through collaborative efforts.
- **Action Planning:** Collaboratively developing action plans based on workshop discussions, outlining the next steps and initiatives to be undertaken.
- **Adaptability:** Providing a flexible and adaptive environment that accommodates evolving project needs and changing stakeholder dynamics.

10. Regular stakeholder feedback collection and analysis (Internal project team and Case Study Leader):

Continuously gathering feedback from stakeholders, analysing their input, and adapting engagement strategies accordingly is fundamental to maintaining a dynamic and responsive stakeholder engagement strategy throughout the RETOUCH NEXUS project. The method for collecting stakeholder feedback may vary and can be chosen by individual Case Study Leaders (CSLs) based on their preferences and the specific context of their case study. This flexibility allows CSLs to select the most suitable approach, such as surveys, interviews, participatory groups, focus group discussions,



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or online platforms, depending on factors such as stakeholder characteristics, engagement goals, and logistical considerations. This ongoing activity involves a systematic approach to gathering feedback from stakeholders, with a specific focus on collaboration between the internal project team and CSLs.

11. Communities of Practice (COPs) meetings (Annual)

Communities of Practice (COPs) serve as valuable platforms for ongoing collaboration, knowledge sharing, and feedback gathering among key stakeholders involved in the RETOUCH NEXUS project. These COPs play a crucial role in achieving the project's objectives by facilitating dialogue, fostering learning, and promoting cross-sectoral collaboration within and across the case studies.

In line with the Expected Outcomes (EO) of establishing 18 COPs within 3 to 5 years after the project ends, the COPs will continue beyond the project duration to ensure sustained engagement and knowledge exchange among stakeholders. Additionally, one specific Wider Impact (WI) is expected to arise in the longer term, within 7 to 10 years after the completion of the project, demonstrating the lasting benefits of the COPs in fostering collaboration and driving positive change in the water, energy, food, and ecosystem nexus.

The COPs differ from the workshops proposed earlier in this document in terms of their focus and structure. While workshops are designed to address specific topics or objectives within a defined timeframe, COPs provide a more long-term and flexible space for ongoing engagement and collaboration among stakeholders. COPs encourage continuous learning, relationship-building, and knowledge exchange, allowing stakeholders to delve deeper into issues, share best practices, and co-create solutions over an extended period.

12. Regular stakeholder meetings to assess progress and satisfaction (Case Study Leader and key stakeholders)

The primary objective of these regular meetings is to evaluate the effectiveness of the stakeholder engagement initiatives undertaken within each case study. This includes assessing the alignment of activities with project goals, identifying challenges faced by stakeholders, and understanding their level of satisfaction with the engagement process.

13. Refinement of engagement strategies based on feedback (Case Study Leader and project team):

Adapt engagement strategies and activities according to the feedback received to optimise stakeholder participation. Following the implementation of initial stakeholder engagement activities, it is important to continually assess and refine case studies' strategies to ensure their effectiveness and resonance with stakeholders. This activity centres around a collaborative effort involving Case



Study Leaders and the project team to systematically gather feedback and enhance our engagement approach.

14. Training on methodology & indicators (Onsite)

This training aims to educate participants, which could include stakeholders, project team members, or other relevant individuals, on the methodology and specific indicators used in the project. It is a knowledge-sharing session designed to ensure that participants understand the methods and tools required for effective project implementation.

15. Local COP

A Local COP is specific to a particular geographical area or context within the project. The primary purpose of local COPs is to address region-specific concerns, facilitate local dialogue, and tailor engagement strategies to the unique needs and conditions of that area.

16. Stakeholder-driven discussions and co-creation sessions

Organize interactive sessions using innovative engaging methods to involve stakeholders in decision-making processes, ensuring their active participation. They will be designed to be inclusive, promoting collaboration, a shared vision, and active involvement among diverse groups.

To ensure these sessions are engaging and inclusive, the suggested activities to be considered are the following:

- **Facilitated Workshops:** Trained facilitators can guide discussions to ensure everyone's input is valued. These workshops encourage open conversation and creative problem-solving.
- **Interactive Tools:** Use technology like polling apps or virtual whiteboards to involve participants and gather instant feedback.
- **Small Group Discussions:** Break into smaller groups to encourage deeper conversations and ensure everyone has a chance to share their perspective.
- **Visual Aids:** Use visuals like charts or multimedia presentations to make complex information easier to understand and discuss.
- **Co-creation Activities:** Incorporate activities where stakeholders actively collaborate in shaping project outcomes. This could include brainstorming sessions or hands-on exercises where everyone contributes to the plan.

The goal of these sessions is collaborative decision-making and co-creation. Stakeholders from different backgrounds, including Case Study Leaders (CSLs), water authorities, and specific



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vulnerable groups, come together to share insights, expertise, and actively shape the project's direction.

17. Regular stakeholder engagement activities (All stakeholders, with different participation levels):

Stakeholder engagement activities may include citizen science projects, creative collaborative events and e-participation initiatives.

18. Periodic assessment of the effectiveness of online engagement tools

This recurring activity involves the systematic evaluation of the online engagement tools utilized throughout the project. The purpose is to gauge their effectiveness, identify areas for improvement, and ensure alignment with project objectives.

2.3. Adaptations and Refinements: Incorporating CSL Feedback

The Stakeholder Engagement Roadmap (SER) is continually refined and adapted based on feedback received from Case Study Leaders (CSLs) during bilateral calls and via email. This iterative process aims to tailor the roadmap to the specific needs of each case study, ensuring its relevance and effectiveness.

Adaptations primarily focus on customising workshops outlined in phase 2 of the project, particularly the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy workshop, to address the specific objectives of each case study. For example, in the Maltese Case Study, the roadmap was streamlined to reduce the number of activities and group them more efficiently.

It is important to note that the SER is designed as a living document, capable of accommodating changes and updates throughout the project lifecycle. As such, ongoing adjustments will be made as needed to reflect the evolving needs and objectives of each case study.

2.3.1 Belgium

Case Study “WaterProof”

During the bilateral phone call with the CSLs of the Belgian CS, it was noted that the stakeholder engagement process had already been initiated concerning the Tielt Business Park and was already at an advanced stage. Many of the activities outlined in this document had already been finalised at the date of the bilateral stakeholder engagement phone call. The Belgian CSLs provided its stakeholder engagement plan in which it detailed the activities.

On a practical and procedural level, the Belgian CSL will use this roadmap to carry out the last step of the process, which involves maintaining active stakeholder engagement, and will also be used as a template for upscaling.



The participation of two other case studies, the Keiberg Industrial Park and the Agentenpark Residential Park, in the project was also considered. The CSLs of these related projects will be able to use this roadmap and the one provided by the CSL of the Tielt case study as reference points for defining the activities and respective roadmaps to be implemented.

Further discussions with the CSL revealed that the stakeholder engagement strategy for the "WaterProof" case study in Belgium is not exclusively related to specific groups, but emphasises the importance of individual participation. Recognising the diversity of motivations and activity levels, the approach targets specific individuals who show considerable interest and active involvement, such as farmers, companies and government representatives. The strategy focuses on active involvement to ensure continuous contribution and benefit, including through precise allocation of resources and building direct relationships with stakeholders.

In the Tielt Business Park, farmers play a crucial role as private actors in the water management landscape. Their involvement is crucial because of their direct interaction with the land and water resources in the area. Farmers are key actors whose participation is essential in addressing water scarcity and quality issues. Therefore, the involvement of farmers in collaborative decision-making processes and the implementation of water management strategies tailored to their needs are essential to the success of the Tielt Business Park case study.

Month 13: Project Initiation and Planning

- **Objective:** To establish the basis for effective stakeholder engagement in the Belgian case study.
- **Activities:**
 - **Initial project kickoff meeting with key stakeholders:** The purpose of this activity is to bring together key stakeholders to present the project, share its objectives and establish initial commitment
 - **Resource allocation planning for the engagement process (Internal project team):** This is an internal activity to allocate the necessary resources (financial, human, and technological) for effective stakeholder engagement.

Month 14-15: Engagement Strategy Development

- **Objective:** To develop a comprehensive strategy for engaging stakeholders in the Belgian case study.
- **Activities:**
 - **Stakeholder engagement strategy workshops with a focus on water pricing mechanisms (key stakeholders actively participating):** This activity includes targeted workshops with key stakeholders to jointly develop a strategy in line with the objectives of the Belgian case study.



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- **Selection of innovative engagement tools tailored to the Belgian context (Internal project team and key stakeholders):**
The project team and a smaller group of key stakeholders collaborate to identify and select the most effective tools for engagement.
- **Training sessions for key stakeholders on effective engagement strategies (2 training sessions with key stakeholders):**
These training sessions aim to equip key stakeholders with the necessary skills and knowledge to actively engage in the project.
- **Establishment of Communities of Practice (COPs) for ongoing collaboration:**
COPs provide a platform for continuous collaboration and knowledge sharing among key stakeholders.

Month 16-17: Launch of Online Engagement Tools

- **Objective:** To create a digital environment for stakeholder interaction and collaboration.
- **Activities:**
 - **Introduction of sub-forums for vulnerable groups, including gender, youth, and diversity:**
The creation of sub-forums aims to provide dedicated spaces for specific stakeholder groups, promoting inclusivity.
 - **Establishment of connections with relevant organizations for greater inclusivity:**
Building connections with relevant organizations helps broaden the reach and engagement of stakeholders.
 - **Workshop to gather input and feedback from stakeholders:**
These workshops provide a platform for stakeholders to actively participate in decision-making processes and provide input on the project's development.

In addition to the GTI Web App, it is noteworthy that the Belgian CS includes a website where stakeholders and interested parties can access project information. The Belgian CSL has also organized stakeholder events with co-creation workshops, providing a platform for stakeholders to voice concerns and facilitate interaction. Ongoing efforts are in place to enhance communication for the Tielt case study, with the aim of sharing information about the case study and inspiring similar actions in other business parks. The GTI Web App could be connected or integrated with these existing digital platforms, facilitating seamless information exchange and collaboration as noted in previous project documentation.

Month 18-19: Motivation Enhancement and Awareness

- **Objective:** To motivate and raise awareness among stakeholders in the Belgian case study.
- **Activities:**



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- **Initiation of leadership programs for environmental leadership among stakeholders:**
Leadership programs help build motivation among key stakeholders to actively engage in environmental initiatives.
- **Launch of awareness campaigns about water and environmental issues in the Belgian context (All stakeholders):**
Broad awareness campaigns aim to educate and inspire stakeholders about the importance of the project.

Month 20-23: Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

- **Objective:** To maintain and enhance stakeholder engagement throughout the project, including early engagement efforts, with a focus on monitoring and feedback.
- **Activities:**
 - **Regular stakeholder workshops:** These monthly workshops provide opportunities for key stakeholders to continue actively contributing to project decisions and initiatives.
 - **Regular stakeholder feedback collection and analysis (Internal project team and Case Study Leader):**
Continuously gather feedback from stakeholders, analyse their input and adapt engagement strategies accordingly.
 - **Case Study Community of Practice (COP) implementation (to be confirmed with the Case Study Leader):**
Implementation of the Belgian case study COP during this phase to provide a dedicated space for key stakeholders to collaborate, share experiences, and continue contributing to the project's objectives. Case Study COPs aim to foster collaboration and learning across different geographical contexts and share overarching project insights.
 - **Communities of Practice (COPs) meetings (Bi-Monthly, involving approximately 15 key stakeholders in each):**
COP meetings occur every two months, allowing for ongoing collaboration, knowledge sharing, and feedback gathering among key stakeholders.
 - **Regular stakeholder meetings to assess progress and satisfaction (Case Study Leader and key stakeholders):**
Conduct meetings to evaluate the effectiveness of the engagement process, address any issues, and gather feedback for improvement.
 - **Refinement of engagement strategies based on feedback (Case Study Leader and project team):**



Adapt engagement strategies and activities according to the feedback received to optimise stakeholder participation.

- **Training on methodology & indicators (Onsite) - Belgium**

This training aims to educate participants, which could include stakeholders, project team members, or other relevant individuals, on the methodology and specific indicators used in the project. It is a knowledge-sharing session designed to ensure that participants understand the methods and tools required for effective project implementation.

- **Local COP 1 (To be confirmed):** A Local COP is specific to a particular geographical area or context within the project. The primary purpose of Local COPs is to address region-specific concerns, facilitate local dialogue, and tailor engagement strategies to the unique needs and conditions of that area.

- **Local COP 2 (To be confirmed):**

- **Local COP 3 (To be confirmed):**

Month 24-44: Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

- **Objective:** To maintain and enhance stakeholder engagement throughout the project's duration.
- **Activities:**
 - **Continuous monitoring and reporting on stakeholder engagement (Case Study Leader):**
Keeping supervision of stakeholder participation and providing regular reports on the progress of engagement initiatives.
 - **Stakeholder-driven discussions and co-creation sessions (Case Study Leader and key stakeholders):**
Organise collaborative sessions to involve stakeholders in decision-making processes, ensuring their active participation.
 - **Regular stakeholder engagement activities (All stakeholders, with different participation levels):**
Including citizen science projects, creative collaborative events, e-participation initiatives, and living labs.
 - **Periodic review of language inclusivity and continued motivation enhancement (All stakeholders).**
 - **Periodic assessment of the effectiveness of online engagement tools (Case Study Leader):**
Regularly evaluate the performance and usability of digital engagement tools and make necessary improvements.



2.3.2 Netherlands

The Netherlands is advancing stakeholder engagement activities within the governance domain of the Water Authority of Hoogheemraadschap Hollands Noorderkwartier (HHNK), focusing on the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in the Zaan region, one of Europe's oldest industrial areas.

This region faces significant challenges, including water distribution during droughts and increased water demand due to population growth. HHNK, in collaboration with VUA, will explore the integration of the WWTP across the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) nexus, incorporating stakeholder perspectives into decision-making through participatory governance. Key considerations include the plant's location, the utilization of its effluent, and the potential secondary use of the WWTP grounds by residents. The effluent could be utilised for agriculture, ecosystems, or industry, enhancing circularity, and reducing stress on these systems during dry periods. Additionally, options for renewable energy sources for the WWTP will be examined.

HHNK is dedicated to sustainable water management and collaborative decision-making, addressing both qualitative and quantitative challenges across various stakeholder and governance levels. Through stakeholder engagement and participatory governance, HHNK aims to ensure that the new WWTP not only meets legislative standards but also contributes positively to broader environmental, social, and economic goals. This innovative approach underscores HHNK's commitment to sustainable water management and collaborative decision-making. This case study has the potential to be applied to other regions within different water authority management areas, across the EU, and internationally, promoting comprehensive and effective water resource.

Month 13: Project Initiation and Planning

- **Objective:** To establish the basis for effective stakeholder engagement in the Dutch case study.
- **Activities:**
 - **Initial project kickoff meeting with key stakeholders:**
The purpose of this activity is to bring together key stakeholders of the public sector to present the project, share its objectives and establish initial commitment
 - **Resource allocation planning for the engagement process (Internal project team):**
This is an internal activity to allocate the necessary resources (financial, human, and technological) for effective stakeholder engagement.

Month 15-16: Tailored Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Development

- **Objective:** Develop a customized stakeholder engagement strategy that caters to the unique requirements of wastewater management and fresh water reuse in the Netherlands.



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- **Activities:**
 - **Stakeholder engagement strategy workshops:**
 - Organize a workshop to analyze and adapt successful engagement strategies from similar projects to fit the Dutch context.
 - Collaboratively design strategies for inclusive engagement, considering specific stakeholder needs related to wastewater management and freshwater reuse.
 - **Selection of innovative engagement tools tailored to the Dutch context (Internal project team and key stakeholders):**
The project team and a smaller group of key stakeholders collaborate to identify and select the most effective tools for engagement. A specific focus could be the exploration of innovative water reuse opportunities, considering the nexus of water, food, and the environment, and including energy-efficient methods like aquathermic approaches.
 - **Establishment of Communities of Practice (COPs) for ongoing collaboration:**
COPs provide a platform for continuous collaboration and knowledge sharing among key stakeholders.

Month 17-18: Launch of Online Engagement Tools

- **Objective:** To create a digital environment for stakeholder interaction and collaboration.
- **Activities:**
 - **Introduction of sub-forums for vulnerable groups, including gender, youth, and diversity:**
The creation of sub-forums aims to provide dedicated spaces for specific stakeholder groups, promoting inclusivity.
 - **Establishment of connections with relevant organizations for greater inclusivity (key stakeholders from organizations):**
Building connections with relevant organizations helps broaden the reach and engagement of stakeholders.

Month 19-20: Collaborative planning and brainstorming for sustainable water management (July - August)

- **Objective:** Ensure a comprehensive and innovative approach to the management and utilization of effluent from a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) within the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) nexus.



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- **Activities:**
 - **Map Policies and Perspectives:** In collaboration with government officials and academic experts, map out the relevant policies and perspectives for each dimension of the context scan tool. This step is crucial for understanding the regulatory and institutional frameworks that will guide the WWTP project and ensuring that all potential impacts and opportunities are comprehensively addressed.
 - **Brainstorm Possible Use Scenarios for Effluent from a WEFE Nexus Perspective:** Engage representatives from water authorities (Hoogheemraadschap Hollands Noorderkwartier & Amstel, Gooi en Vecht), municipalities (Zaandam & Amsterdam), and academia to brainstorm various use scenarios for the effluent within the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) nexus. This collaborative effort aims to identify innovative and sustainable ways to utilise the effluent to benefit agriculture, ecosystems, and industry, thereby enhancing circularity and reducing environmental stress during dry periods.

Month 21-24: Motivation Enhancement and Awareness & Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

- **Objective:** To maintain and enhance stakeholder engagement throughout the project, including early engagement efforts, with a focus on monitoring and feedback.
- **Activities:**
 - **Regular stakeholder workshops:** These workshops provide opportunities for key stakeholders to continue actively contributing to project decisions and initiatives.
 - **Regular stakeholder feedback collection and analysis (Internal project team and Case Study Leader):** Continuously gather feedback from stakeholders, analyse their input and adapt engagement strategies accordingly.
 - **Case Study Community of Practice (COP) implementation:** Implementation of the Dutch case study COP during this phase to provide a dedicated space for key stakeholders to collaborate, share experiences, and continue contributing to the project's objectives. Case Study COPs aim to foster collaboration and learning across different geographical contexts and share overarching project insights.
 - **Communities of Practice (COPs) meetings:** COP meetings occur every two months, allowing for ongoing collaboration, knowledge sharing, and feedback gathering among key stakeholders.
 - **Regular stakeholder meetings to assess progress and satisfaction (Case Study Leader and key stakeholders):**



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- Conduct meetings to evaluate the effectiveness of the engagement process, address any issues, and gather feedback for improvement.
- **Refinement of engagement strategies based on feedback (Case Study Leader and project team):**
Adapt engagement strategies and activities according to the feedback received to optimise stakeholder participation.
 - **Training on methodology & indicators (Onsite) - Netherlands**
This training aims to educate participants, which could include stakeholders, project team members, or other relevant individuals, on the methodology and specific indicators used in the project. It is a knowledge-sharing session designed to ensure that participants understand the methods and tools required for effective project implementation.
 - **Training on Stakeholder Engagement:** Provide training on stakeholder engagement to government officials and other relevant participants. This training will equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively involve diverse stakeholders in the decision-making process, fostering a collaborative and inclusive approach to project planning and implementation.
 - **Local COP 1 (To be confirmed):** A Local COP is specific to a particular geographical area or context within the project. The primary purpose of Local COPs is to address region-specific concerns, facilitate local dialogue, and tailor engagement strategies to the unique needs and conditions of that area.
 - **Local COP 2 (To be confirmed):**
 - **Local COP 3 (To be confirmed):**
 - **Launch of awareness campaigns about water and environmental issues in the Dutch context (All stakeholders):**
Broad awareness campaigns aim to educate and inspire stakeholders about the importance of the project.
 - Facilitate interactive sessions to enhance collaboration between government bodies, environmental agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.
 - Develop a comprehensive awareness campaign plan targeting specific stakeholder groups to communicate wastewater management and freshwater reuse significance.

Month 25-44: Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement (January - September)

- **Objective:** To maintain and enhance stakeholder engagement throughout the project's duration.
- **Activities:**



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- **Continuous monitoring and reporting on stakeholder engagement (Case Study Leader):**
Keeping supervision of stakeholder participation and providing regular reports on the progress of engagement initiatives.
- **Stakeholder-driven discussions and co-creation sessions (Case Study Leader and key stakeholders):**
Organise collaborative sessions to involve stakeholders in decision-making processes, ensuring their active participation.
- **Regular stakeholder engagement activities (All stakeholders, with different participation levels):**
Including citizen science projects, creative collaborative events, e-participation initiatives, and living labs.
- **Periodic review of language inclusivity and continued motivation enhancement (All stakeholders).**
- **Periodic assessment of the effectiveness of online engagement tools (Case Study Leader):**
Regularly evaluate the performance and usability of digital engagement tools and make necessary improvements.

2.3.3 Germany

Case Study Upper Main

Dedicated meetings were scheduled with German water and energy suppliers at the beginning of the process, so that their necessary involvement would be limited to one meeting for each of the two authority groups.

This would help focus attention on the specific needs and expectations of these actors and could also give the facilitators the opportunity to convince them to participate in other initiatives planned by the leaders of the German case study.

The general need to reduce the number of workshops to be implemented was also pointed out. Specifically, phase 1 of the general roadmap called "Project initiation and planning" was changed in its content but not in its duration and was called "Project Initiation, Planning and Launch of Online Engagement Tools and Dedicated Workshops with Water and Energy Authorities". The duration did not change but rather the number of activities that will be carried out during this period increased. The structure of this phase was as follows:

Month 13-14: Project Initiation and Planning

- **Objective:** To establish the basis for effective stakeholder engagement



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- **Initial project kick-off meeting with key stakeholders (Approximately 20 key stakeholders):**
The purpose of this activity is to bring together key stakeholders to present the project, share its objectives and establish initial commitment
- **Resource allocation planning for the engagement process (Internal project team):**
This is an internal meeting to allocate the necessary resources (financial, human, and technological) for effective stakeholder engagement.
- **Launch of awareness campaigns about water and environmental issues in the German context (All stakeholders):**
Broad awareness campaigns aim to educate and inspire stakeholders about the importance of the project. Activities will be conducted mainly through interviews
- **Introduction of sub-forums for vulnerable groups, including gender, youth, and diversity (20 key stakeholders from these groups):**
The creation of sub-forums aims to provide dedicated spaces for specific stakeholder groups, promoting inclusivity.
- **Establishment of connections with relevant organizations for greater inclusivity (10 key stakeholders from organizations):**
Building connections with relevant organizations helps broaden the reach and engagement of stakeholders.
- **Workshops to gather input and feedback from stakeholders (3 workshops with 25 key stakeholders):**
These workshops provide a platform for stakeholders to actively participate in decision-making processes and provide input on the project's development.
- **Dedicated Workshop with Water Authority Representatives:**
Tailor discussions to address the specific needs and expectations gathered from water authority representatives.
- **Dedicated Workshop with Energy Providers/Authority Representatives:** Tailor discussions to address the specific needs and expectations gathered from energy authority representatives.

The second phase of the project, Engagement Strategy Development (March - April) (M15-M16), was modified (Integrated Water Governance Enhancement) (March - May) (M15-M17) in its structure, duration and name from the overall roadmap. The number of activities and the effort required for this specific step, as well as the preferences provided by the CSLs on the timing of the following activities made it necessary to change the duration of this phase as follows:

Month 15-17: Enhancing Water Governance Through Stakeholder Collaboration and Digital Solutions Integration



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- **Stakeholder Collaboration Workshops on Integrated Water Governance (15 key stakeholders actively participating):** Conduct targeted workshops with key stakeholders to collaboratively develop and implement an integrated strategy. Emphasize the use of digital tools to enhance communication and coordination in the water governance framework.
- **Digital Solutions Integration Seminar (April):** Organize a seminar to explore and integrate digital solutions that can streamline communication and cooperation among governing bodies and water users. Identify tools and technologies to enhance the overall effectiveness of water governance.
- **Coordinated Action Planning Sessions:** Facilitate interactive sessions for stakeholders to co-create action plans based on the developed strategy. Emphasize the importance of coordinated efforts and effective use of digital platforms for sustained water governance improvements.
- **Selection of innovative engagement tools tailored to the German context (Internal project team and 10 key stakeholders):**
The project team and a smaller group of key stakeholders collaborate to identify and select the most effective tools for engagement.
- **Training sessions for key stakeholders on effective engagement strategies (2 training sessions with 20 key stakeholders):**
These training sessions aim to equip key stakeholders with the necessary skills and knowledge to actively engage in the project.
- **Establishment of Communities of Practice (COPs) for ongoing collaboration (3 COPs formed with 15 key stakeholders):**
COPs provide a platform for continuous collaboration and knowledge sharing among key stakeholders.
- **Local COP 1 (To be confirmed):** A Local COP is specific to a particular geographical area or context within the project. The primary purpose of Local COPs is to address region-specific concerns, facilitate local dialogue, and tailor engagement strategies to the unique needs and conditions of that area. Local COPs will take place through meetings in the Upper Main Area involving all key stakeholders of the case study

In the third phase, school visits of the case study leaders to schools in the case study area are planned to inform young people about the importance of the WEF NEXUS and the existence of the RETOUCH NEXUS project.

2.3.4 Malta

Case Study Maltese River Basin District

During the bilateral call, the Maltese CSLs expressed the need to adapt the overall roadmap to the peculiar characteristics of the population compared to other CSs. The number of stakeholders to be



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involved in this project is smaller and sometimes the same individuals are part of different stakeholder groups, so having a high number of activities spread over several meetings and in a relatively short time could be counterproductive in terms of high-level active participation. Adaptation of the roadmap therefore involved grouping many activities into single-day workshops that allow CSLs to engage stakeholders for a limited period but concentrate activities in single days or two-days instead of over several days.

The issue of the involvement of vulnerable groups was also addressed, as the CSLs believe that the groups referred to as vulnerable in the Maltese case study do not face specific difficulties of involvement but that rather there are other vulnerable groups such as farmers.

Phase 1 of the roadmap remained largely unchanged from the main roadmap. The roadmap has therefore changed in subsequent phases. Specifically:

Month 15-16: Integrated Stakeholder Engagement Workshop- Objective: Develop strategies to enhance stakeholder engagement in the Maltese case study, focusing on increased accessibility, simplified processes, improved awareness, and enhanced collaboration.

Activities:

Integrated Stakeholder Engagement Workshop (2 days with 15 key stakeholders actively participating):

Day 1: Accessible Engagement Strategies and Streamlined Processes:

Identify and Understand Vulnerable Stakeholder Groups:

- **Objective:** To identify and deeply understand vulnerable stakeholder groups to ensure the development of inclusive engagement strategies.
- **Participation involvement:** Conduct discussions and interactive sessions to collaboratively identify and understand vulnerable and problematic stakeholder groups in addressing water management issues. Use participants' different perspectives to gather information on potential challenges and opportunities for involvement.

Explore strategies to enhance inclusivity and accessibility, considering the unique needs of women, youth, vulnerable groups, and other stakeholders facing accessibility challenges.

- **Objective:** Identify and develop specific engagement strategies that ensure a broad outreach to all strata of society, with a focus to the unique needs of women, youth, and other identified vulnerable groups.
- **Participant Involvement:** Actively involve participants in brainstorming sessions to gather diverse perspectives.

Discuss approaches to simplify engagement processes for small institutions:



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- **Objective:** Develop streamlined processes that accommodate the limitations and preferences of small institutions.
- **Case Studies:** Share case studies illustrating successful engagement with small institutions for practical insights.

Day 2: Collaboration Enhancement, Public Awareness, and COP Formation:

- **Enhance collaboration strategies between government ministries, Farmers' Associations and other stakeholders from agriculture and economic sectors:**
- **Objective:** Foster improved collaboration between key stakeholders, specifically government ministries, Farmers' Associations and other stakeholders from agriculture and economic sectors.
- **Interactive Sessions:** Facilitate interactive sessions encouraging participants to share experiences and challenges.
- **Discuss strategies to improve awareness among the general public:**
- **Objective:** Develop comprehensive strategies to raise awareness about the project among the general public.
- **Media and Communication Planning:** Discuss media channels, communication materials, and public engagement tactics.
- **Conduct training sessions for key stakeholders on effective engagement strategies:**
- **Objective:** Equip key stakeholders with the necessary skills and knowledge for active and meaningful engagement.
- **Skill-Building Exercises:** Include practical exercises to enhance participant skills in effective engagement.
- **Form Communities of Practice (COPs) to facilitate ongoing collaboration:**
- **Objective:** Establish COPs to provide a platform for continuous collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- **COP Structure:** Discuss the structure, purpose, and anticipated outcomes of the COPs.

Month 17-18: Launch of Online Engagement Tools

- **Objective:** Create a digital environment for stakeholder interaction and collaboration, supporting the objectives of increased accessibility, simplified processes, improved awareness, and enhanced collaboration.
- **Include a workshop to gather input and feedback from stakeholders:**



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- **Objective:** Actively engage stakeholders in providing input and feedback on the digital platform and its features.
- **Interactive Sessions:** Conduct group discussions and interactive sessions to collect diverse perspectives and suggestions.
- **Improve collaboration between government ministries and Farmers' Associations:**
- **Objective:** Strengthen collaboration by addressing specific challenges and fostering a better understanding between government ministries and Farmers' Associations.
- **Collaboration Exercises:** Include collaborative exercises to encourage open dialogue and problem-solving.

Month 19-20: Motivation Enhancement and Awareness

Objective: Motivate and raise awareness among stakeholders in the Maltese case study, emphasizing increased accessibility and simplified engagement processes.

Activities: Leadership Programs and Awareness Campaign Workshop

- **Leadership Programs for Environmental Leadership:**
- **Objective:** Develop and implement leadership programs to inspire environmental leadership among stakeholders.
- **Program Content:** Offer sessions that focus on building motivation, leadership skills, and a sense of responsibility towards environmental initiatives.
- **Workshop Launching Awareness Campaigns:**
- **Objective:** Initiate a workshop dedicated to launching awareness campaigns that provide clear explanations for the general public and stakeholders.
- **Scope of Awareness Campaigns:**
- **Target Audience:** Tailor campaigns for specific stakeholder groups, ensuring inclusivity.
- **Communication Channels:** Utilize various communication channels to reach a wider audience.
- **Content:** Deliver informative and engaging content about the project, its goals, and the importance of stakeholder involvement.
- **Feedback Mechanism:** Establish a mechanism for stakeholders to actively participate and provide feedback during the campaigns.

Month 21-24: Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement



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- **Objective:** Maintain and enhance stakeholder engagement throughout the project, focusing on ongoing strategies for increased accessibility, simplified processes, improved awareness, and enhanced collaboration.
- **Activities:**
 - **Day 1: Integrated Stakeholder Interaction:**
 - Conduct a comprehensive session integrating regular stakeholder workshops and COP meetings to foster ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing.
 - **Day 2: Feedback Handling, Strategy Refinement, and Local COP Implementation:**
 - Dedicate the first half to collecting, analyzing, and addressing stakeholder feedback to ensure their concerns are addressed.
 - Utilize the second half for refining engagement strategies to optimize stakeholder participation and initiate Local COP implementation for regional collaboration.

2.3.5 Slovakia

Water Retention in South Western Slovakia

Since the objective of the Slovak case study is to adopt a comprehensive approach to managing challenges such as floods, droughts, water insecurity, desertification and biodiversity loss, as well as land fragmentation, the objective is to adopt a comprehensive approach that focuses on both mitigating risks such as floods and addressing land fragmentation.

In addition, the CLSs in the Slovak case study noted that a reduction in the number of workshops scheduled may facilitate the involvement of the stakeholders identified for each type of them. In fact, the number of stakeholders is between 20 and 24 in total and they may be engaged in too many workshops, making the meetings repetitive and excessively time-consuming.

Based on this consideration, stakeholder engagement was suggested to be done with a specific focus on water retention infrastructure and addressing environmental challenges.

As a result, the changes from the baseline roadmap appear as follows:

Month 13-14: Stakeholder Alignment and Needs Refinement

- **Objective:** Align the already identified stakeholders with the specific focus on water retention infrastructure and environmental challenges. Refine their needs based on the Slovak context.
- **Activities:**
 - Review and analyze the outcomes of the stakeholder identification and needs assessment.
 - Conduct targeted consultations with stakeholders to align their interests with the goals of water retention infrastructure and environmental conservation.



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Month 15-16: Tailored Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Development

- Objective: Develop a customized stakeholder engagement strategy that caters to the unique requirements of water retention infrastructure and environmental challenges in Slovakia.
- Activities:
 - Organize a workshop to analyze and adapt successful engagement strategies from the Maltese case study to fit the Slovak context.
 - Collaboratively design strategies for inclusive engagement, considering the specific needs of stakeholders related to water management and environmental issues.

Month 17-18: Collaboration Enhancement and Awareness Campaign Planning

- Objective: Foster collaboration among stakeholders and raise awareness about the importance of water retention infrastructure and environmental conservation in the Slovak context.
- Activities:
 - Facilitate interactive sessions to enhance collaboration between government bodies, environmental agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.
 - Develop a comprehensive awareness campaign plan targeting specific stakeholder groups to communicate the significance of water retention infrastructure and environmental protection.

Month 21-22: Capacity Building and Training Sessions

- Objective: Equip key stakeholders with the necessary skills and knowledge for active and meaningful engagement in water retention and environmental initiatives.
- Activities:
 - Organize training sessions focusing on the technical aspects of water retention infrastructure and environmental conservation.
 - Include skill-building exercises to enhance participant capabilities in addressing specific challenges identified in the Slovak case study.

Month 23-24: Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement and Strategy Refinement

- Objective: Maintain and enhance stakeholder engagement with a continuous focus on water retention infrastructure and environmental challenges in Slovakia.
- Activities:
 - Leverage digital platforms for regular communication and interaction among stakeholders.
 - Dedicate time for feedback handling, strategy refinement, and the initiation of local communities of practice (COPs) for regional collaboration.



2.3.6 Spain

For the Spanish case study, the primary objective is to improve water governance schemes and implement effective economic instruments. Therefore, as in the Belgian CS, the suggested focus for the strategy definition workshop was on the water pricing mechanism.

The main stakeholders to be engaged in the project include representatives from government agencies, water management authorities, economists, environmental NGOs, industry stakeholders, and academic experts. In the Jucar RB, a science–policy interface has been active since the early 2000's. The science policy-interface is a social process which encompasses relations between scientists and other actors in the policy process, and which allow for exchanges, co-evolution, and joint construction of knowledge with the aim of enriching decision-making. The implementation of the European Water Framework Directive encourages the use of these kind of tools and models to improve the management.

The RETOUCH NEXUS project stands to gain significantly from the GONEXUS project's substantial contributions to water-energy-food-ecosystem (WEFE) management. With a robust framework for stakeholder engagement already established by GONEXUS, the project has facilitated the creation of a comprehensive network of stakeholders within the Jucar River Basin. This network, pioneered by the partners at UPV, represents a valuable asset for RETOUCH NEXUS, offering a wealth of insights and a collaborative platform that can be harnessed to drive forward our objectives in integrated resource management with a focus in governance and the use of economic instruments.

Activities in RETOUCH NEXUS aim at further refining and enhancing water governance strategies by focusing on the use of efficient economic instruments and models while building upon previous methodologies and findings. The synergy between these projects has allowed researchers to leverage existing knowledge, avoiding duplication of efforts and implementing the most effective mechanisms for stakeholder engagement in the first year of the project.

Going forward, the plan is to organise subsequent workshops with a selection of stakeholders to focus on developing a comprehensive water governance framework that integrates market-based economic instruments. These workshops will aim to:

- **Identify and prioritize** the economic instruments that are most applicable to the Spanish context, such as water trading schemes, pricing mechanisms, insurances and non-monetary agreements.
- **Co-design and simulate** market scenarios to assess the potential impact of these instruments on water governance, ensuring they align with the overarching goals of sustainability and equitable resource distribution.
- **Facilitate knowledge exchange** between stakeholders to foster a shared understanding of the economic principles underpinning water governance and to encourage collaborative decision-making.



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- **Draft policy recommendations** that reflect the collective insights of the stakeholders, informed by the successes of the project and tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities for the WEFE within the Jucar River Basin.
- **Establish a roadmap** for the implementation of the chosen economic instruments, including milestones, performance indicators, and a monitoring plan to evaluate effectiveness over time.
- The workshops will serve as a platform for **stakeholder empowerment**, ensuring that all voices are heard and that the governance strategies developed are not only theoretically sound but also practically viable and socially acceptable.

By leveraging the groundwork laid by GONEXUS, RETOUCH NEXUS is poised to advance water governance in Spain, transforming the way water resources are managed through innovative economic strategies and collaborative stakeholder engagement.

The baseline roadmap for the Jucar basin appears as follows:

Month 13: Project Initiation and Planning

- **Objective:** To establish the basis for effective stakeholder engagement in the Spanish case study.
- **Activities:**
 - **Initial project kickoff meeting with key stakeholders (Approximately 20 key stakeholders):**
The purpose of this activity is to bring together key stakeholders to present the project, share its objectives and establish initial commitment
 - **Resource allocation planning for the engagement process (Internal project team):**
This is an internal activity to allocate the necessary resources (financial, human, and technological) for effective stakeholder engagement.

Month 14-15: Engagement Strategy Development

- **Objective:** To develop a comprehensive strategy for engaging stakeholders in the Spanish case study.
- **Activities:**
 - **Stakeholder engagement strategy workshops with a focus on water pricing mechanisms (15 key stakeholders actively participating):**
This activity includes targeted workshops with key stakeholders to jointly develop a strategy in line with the objectives of the Spanish case study.
 - **Selection of innovative engagement tools tailored to the Spanish context (Internal project team and 10 key stakeholders):**
The project team and a smaller group of key stakeholders collaborate to identify and select the most effective tools for engagement.



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- **Training sessions for key stakeholders on effective engagement strategies (2 training sessions with 20 key stakeholders):**
These training sessions aim to equip key stakeholders with the necessary skills and knowledge to actively engage in the project.
- **Establishment of Communities of Practice (COPs) for ongoing collaboration (3 COPs formed with 15 key stakeholders):**
COPs provide a platform for continuous collaboration and knowledge sharing among key stakeholders.

Month 16-17: Launch of Online Engagement Tools

- **Objective:** To create a digital environment for stakeholder interaction and collaboration.
- **Activities:**
 - **Introduction of sub-forums for vulnerable groups, including gender, youth, and diversity (20 key stakeholders from these groups):**
The creation of sub-forums aims to provide dedicated spaces for specific stakeholder groups, promoting inclusivity.
 - **Establishment of connections with relevant organizations for greater inclusivity (10 key stakeholders from organizations):**
Building connections with relevant organizations helps broaden the reach and engagement of stakeholders.
 - **Workshops to gather input and feedback from stakeholders (3 workshops with 25 key stakeholders):**
These workshops provide a platform for stakeholders to actively participate in decision-making processes and provide input on the project's development.

Month 18-19: Motivation Enhancement and Awareness

- **Objective:** To motivate and raise awareness among stakeholders in the Spanish case study.
- **Activities:**
 - **Initiation of leadership programs for environmental leadership among stakeholders (Approximately 10 participants):**
Leadership programs help build motivation among key stakeholders to actively engage in environmental initiatives.
 - **Launch of awareness campaigns about water and environmental issues in the Spanish context (All stakeholders):**
Broad awareness campaigns aim to educate and inspire stakeholders about the importance of the project.



Month 20-23: Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

- **Objective:** To maintain and enhance stakeholder engagement throughout the project, including early engagement efforts, with a focus on monitoring and feedback.
- **Activities:**
 - **Regular stakeholder workshops (Monthly, with approximately 20 key stakeholders actively participating in each):** These monthly workshops provide opportunities for key stakeholders to continue actively contributing to project decisions and initiatives.
 - **Regular stakeholder feedback collection and analysis (Internal project team and Case Study Leader):**
Continuously gather feedback from stakeholders, analyse their input and adapt engagement strategies accordingly.
- **Case Study Community of Practice (COP) implementation (Approximately 20 key stakeholders, to be confirmed with the Case Study Leader):**
Implementation of the Spanish case study COP during this phase to provide a dedicated space for key stakeholders to collaborate, share experiences, and continue contributing to the project's objectives. Case Study COPs aim to foster collaboration and learning across different geographical contexts and share overarching project insights.
- **Communities of Practice (COPs) meetings (Bi-Monthly, involving approximately 15 key stakeholders in each):**
COP meetings occur every two months, allowing for ongoing collaboration, knowledge sharing, and feedback gathering among key stakeholders.
- **Regular stakeholder meetings to assess progress and satisfaction (Case Study Leader and key stakeholders):**
Conduct meetings to evaluate the effectiveness of the engagement process, address any issues, and gather feedback for improvement.
- **Refinement of engagement strategies based on feedback (Case Study Leader and project team):**
Adapt engagement strategies and activities according to the feedback received to optimise stakeholder participation.
- **Training on methodology & indicators (Onsite) - Spain**
This training aims to educate participants, which could include stakeholders, project team members, or other relevant individuals, on the methodology and specific indicators used in the project. It is a knowledge-sharing session designed to ensure that participants understand the methods and tools required for effective project implementation.
- **Local COP 1 (To be confirmed):** A Local COP is specific to a particular geographical area or context within the project. The primary purpose of Local COPs is to address region-specific



concerns, facilitate local dialogue, and tailor engagement strategies to the unique needs and conditions of that area.

- **Local COP 2 (To be confirmed):**
- **Local COP 3 (To be confirmed):**

Month 24-44: Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

- **Objective:** To maintain and enhance stakeholder engagement throughout the project's duration.
- **Activities:**
 - **Continuous monitoring and reporting on stakeholder engagement (Case Study Leader):**
Keeping supervision of stakeholder participation and providing regular reports on the progress of engagement initiatives.
 - **Stakeholder-driven discussions and co-creation sessions (Case Study Leader and key stakeholders):**
Organise collaborative sessions to involve stakeholders in decision-making processes, ensuring their active participation.
 - **Regular stakeholder engagement activities (All stakeholders, with different participation levels):**
Including citizen science projects, creative collaborative events, e-participation initiatives, and living labs.
 - **Periodic review of language inclusivity and continued motivation enhancement (All stakeholders).**
 - **Periodic assessment of the effectiveness of online engagement tools (Case Study Leader):**
Regularly evaluate the performance and usability of digital engagement tools and make necessary improvements.



Chapter 3: Conclusions

3.1 Stakeholder Engagement Roadmap Definition:

Creating a strategic roadmap for stakeholder engagement represents a key achievement. By synthesizing the insights of D2.1 and D2.2, this meticulous planning phase laid out a clear path forward. The roadmap ensures alignment of stakeholder engagement with our project objectives, providing dynamic guidance for the journey ahead.

3.2 Preparatory Document Development:

In preparation for the stakeholder engagement journey, two dynamic documents were developed: a plan and a timeline. These documents, evolving through collaborative feedback, represent flexible models. Their adaptability allows us to respond to the evolving needs of each case study, ensuring our approach remains finely tuned. It is possible to consider using these preparatory documents for subsequent stages of updating the roadmap.

3.3 Case Study Leader Collaboration:

Our collaboration with Case Study Leaders (CSL) has been instrumental in refining our approach to stakeholder engagement. Through a collective effort, we have gathered valuable insights, comments and feedback from CSLs. Although the response from CSLs has not always been uniform and some feedback has not yet been incorporated, this collaborative exchange ensures that our roadmap is enriched by the different perspectives and contextual nuances of each case study.

3.4 GTI App Integration Planning (To be Confirmed):

The integration and use of the GTI App represent a key milestone in our commitment to effective communication and collaboration with stakeholders. As we begin the planning phase for its incorporation, we envision a seamless platform that will foster interaction and information exchange between stakeholders. The GTI App is expected to serve as a catalyst for inclusive and effective engagement.



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- Communications with Case Study Leaders (CSLs): Information and insights gathered through email correspondence and bilateral calls with CSLs have significantly informed the content of this deliverable.



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