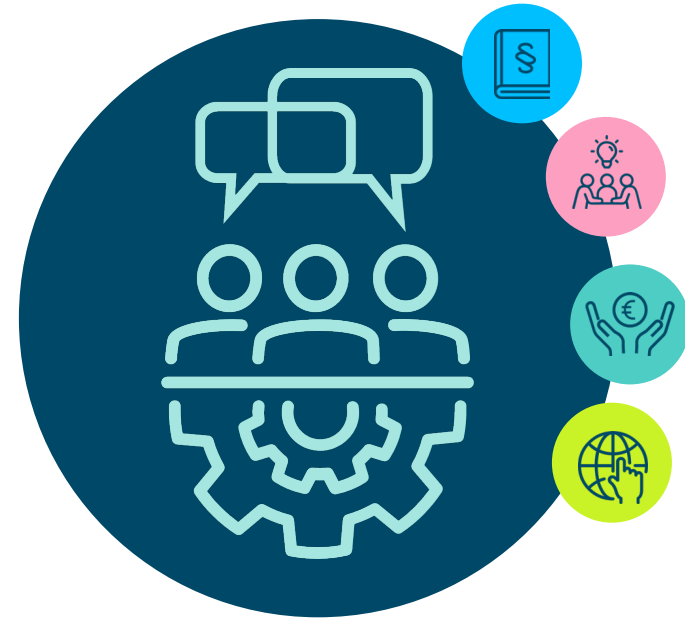


GOVAQUA project - Living Labs of Water Governance Innovations

Damián Sánchez García (Cetaqua Andalucía) & Suvi Sojamo (SYKE)

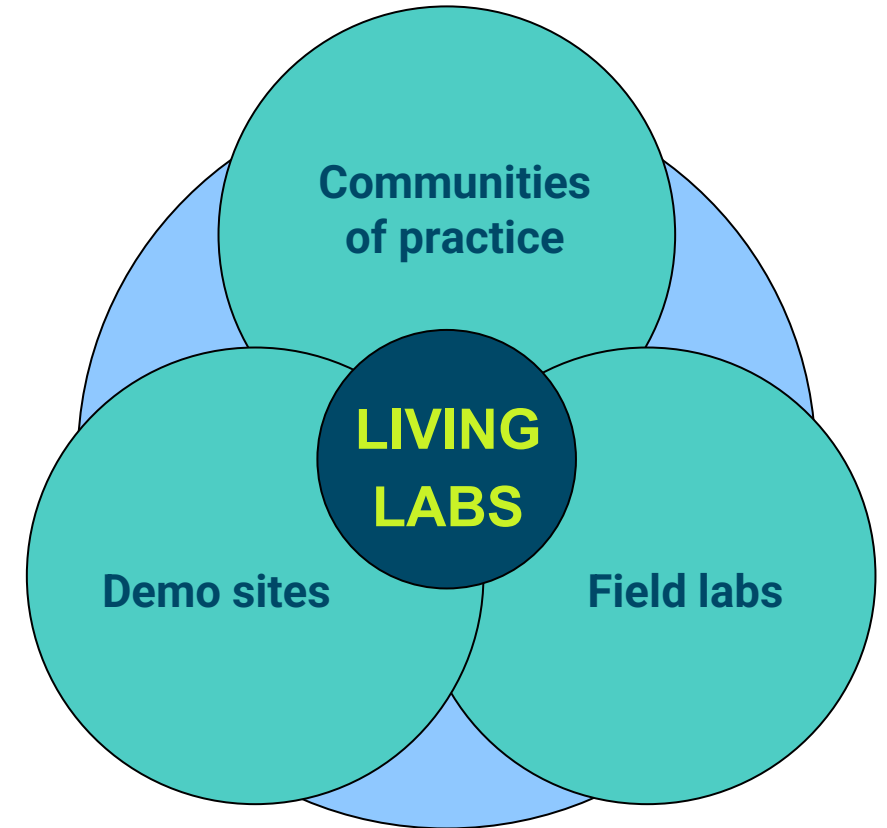
GOVAQUA approach to Living Labs

- **Living Labs:**
 - **Collaborative initiatives**
 - Catalysing **innovation**
 - In **real-life settings**
 - Promoting **sustainability transition** processes
- **Focus on innovative water governance instruments and approaches:**
 - Legal and regulatory
 - Participatory and collaborative
 - Economic and financial
 - Digital solutions



Living lab characteristics

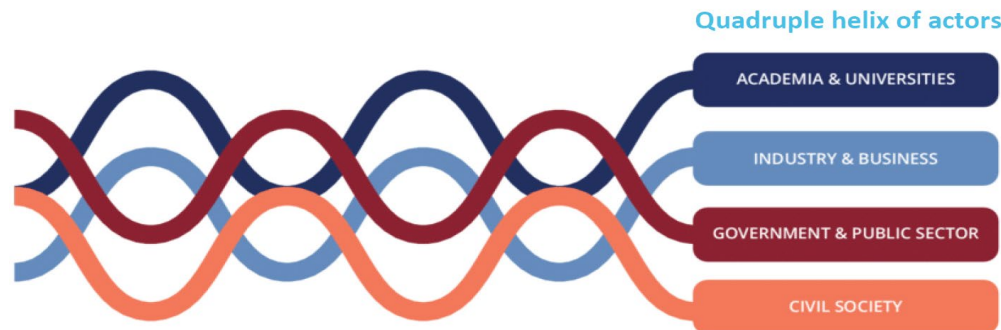
- ☐ User-driven
- ☐ Innovative solution (experimentation of a technology)
- ☐ Product oriented → Policy planning
- ☐ Physical or virtual spaces
- ☐ From few to thousands of members
- ☐ They facilitate co-creation
- ☐ They must include competent partners and experts
- ☐ Users' real-world environment



Living Labs tend to have a **more systematic** and **institutionalised** approach to innovation

What is a living lab?

- No specific definitions of living labs are used consistently in the literature
- **ENoLL (European Network of Living Labs):** “User-centred, open innovation ecosystems based on a systematic user co-creation approach in public-private-people partnerships, integrating research and innovation processes in real-life communities and settings.”
- **Working definition of Living Labs in GOVAQUA project:** “An innovation ecosystem where societal stakeholders and researchers collaboratively explore, experiment with and evaluate one or more water governance innovations.”





Process Design for GOVAQUA Living Labs of Water Governance Innovations

GOVAQUA Living lab approach



Deliverable 6.1 - Process Design for GOVAQUA Living Labs of Water Governance Innovation (Jul'23)

Process Design for GOVAQUA Living Labs of Water Governance Innovations

GOVAQUA Deliverable 6.1

Suvi Sojamo, Damián Sánchez García, Joanne Vinke-de Kruijf, Gül Özerol

Governance innovations for a transition to sustainable and equitable water use in Europe (GOVAQUA)



Co-funded by
the European Union

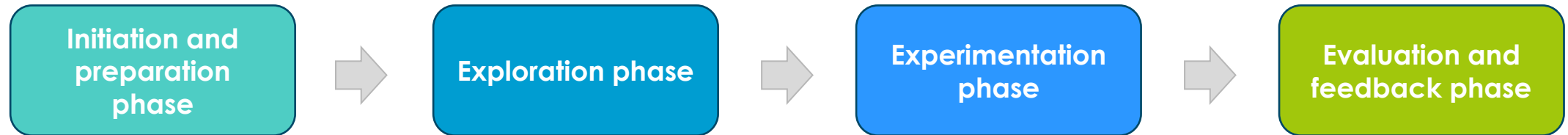


UK Research
and Innovation



GOVAQUA Living lab approach

Four phases approach built on the sequencing of **Malmberg et al. (2017)** and **Rădulescu et al. (2022)**



Initiation and preparation phase

Initiation and preparation phase

□ Strategic planning

Strategic canvas

THE GOAL OF YOUR CO-CREATION PROCESS What is the problem you are trying to solve? What do you want to achieve? Can the problem be solved in a co-creation process?		
KEY STAKEHOLDERS Map the stakeholders you want to invite to participate in your co-creation process. Who are the key stakeholders of your innovation eco-system? Who will use or benefit from the process? Who needs to be kept informed? Who can influence the further development of your goals?	KEY ETHICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES What are the key issues/impacts of your co-creation process? What issues do you want to address with stakeholders in the co-creation process?	CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS What will it take to make this co-creation process a success? What will make the stakeholders happy?
RESULTS Define what you want to get out of the event (a direct effect, or wider benefit and long term impact?)	MILESTONES What will this co-creation process produce? What are the main components to be created? What are the due dates for accomplishments of crucial decisions? Consider physical outputs as well as intangible ones	RISKS AND CONTINGENCIES Who is likely to support the co-creation process? Who is likely to inhibit the co-creation process? Are there any limitations or constraints? How to get around them?

Initiation and preparation phase

Initiation and preparation phase

- ☐ Strategic planning
- ☐ Practical planning

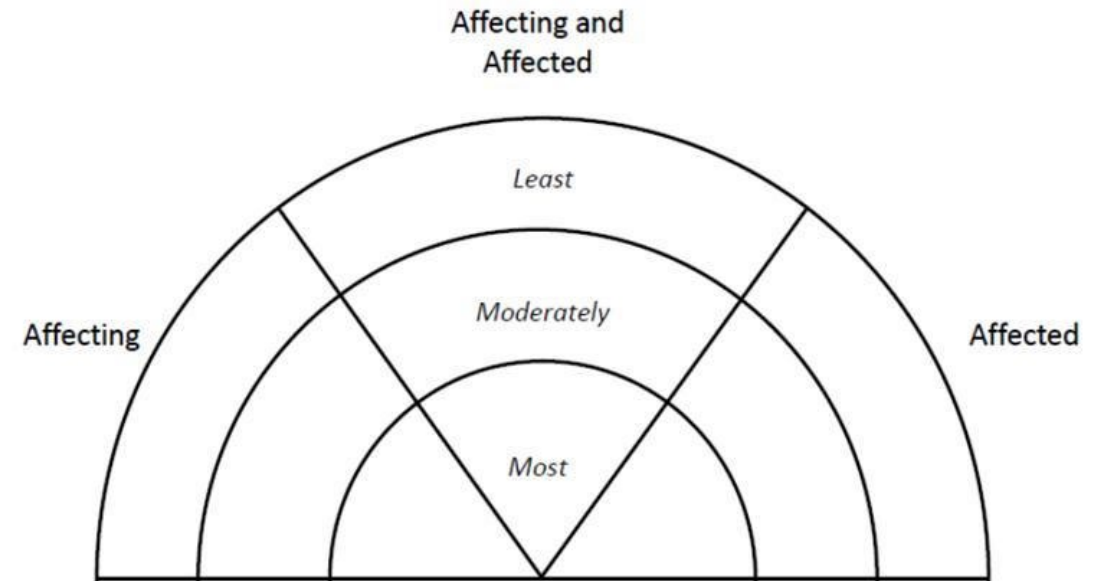
Practical canvas

THE GOAL OF YOUR CO-CREATION PROCESS		
TEAM Which competences/people are needed for the event(s)? Think about facilitators with experiences in discussion techniques, organiser for the workshop, communication expert for internal and external communication and dissemination Who is a member of the - core team - extended team Who is managing the event(s)? How much time is needed? (for each person in the team)	BUDGET How much money do you need? Think of costs for the - team (internal and external staff) - resources (tools, materials, venue)	VENUE What is the best place for the event(s)? (think about a real-life context)
	RESOURCES • Financial: Direct funding or sponsorship • Non-financial resources: in kind, political (make sure you have the support of institutes you want to work with), and social (build relationships with the communities you work with) contributions.	TOOLS FOR CO-CREATION Select the right tools (activities and materials) for various steps in the co-creation process. e.g. individual work, group work, plenary sessions, online activities, etc.
TIME SCHEDULE What are the starting dates and times? When is the event due to be ... accepted ... prepared ... kicked off? What are the end dates? When is the event due to be ... completed ... delivered ... reported?		

Initiation and preparation phase

Initiation and preparation phase

- ☐ Strategic planning
- ☐ Practical planning
- ☐ Stakeholder analysis and engagement



Initiation and preparation phase

Initiation and preparation phase

- ☐ **Strategic planning**
- ☐ **Practical planning**
- ☐ **Stakeholder analysis and engagement**
- ☐ **Incorporation of gender aspects**

GenderWave

A digitool to support incorporation of gender perspectives into marine research and innovation

GenderWave tool (Valve, 2020)

Creation and use of **gender-disaggregated data**

Exploration phase

Exploration phase

- ☐ Understanding the current governance setting → GOVAQUA self assessment tool BEFORE the project's intervention
- ☐ Definition of the desired future states
- ☐ Co-designing the innovation to be tested → Input from other WP's

Experimentation phase

Experimentation
phase

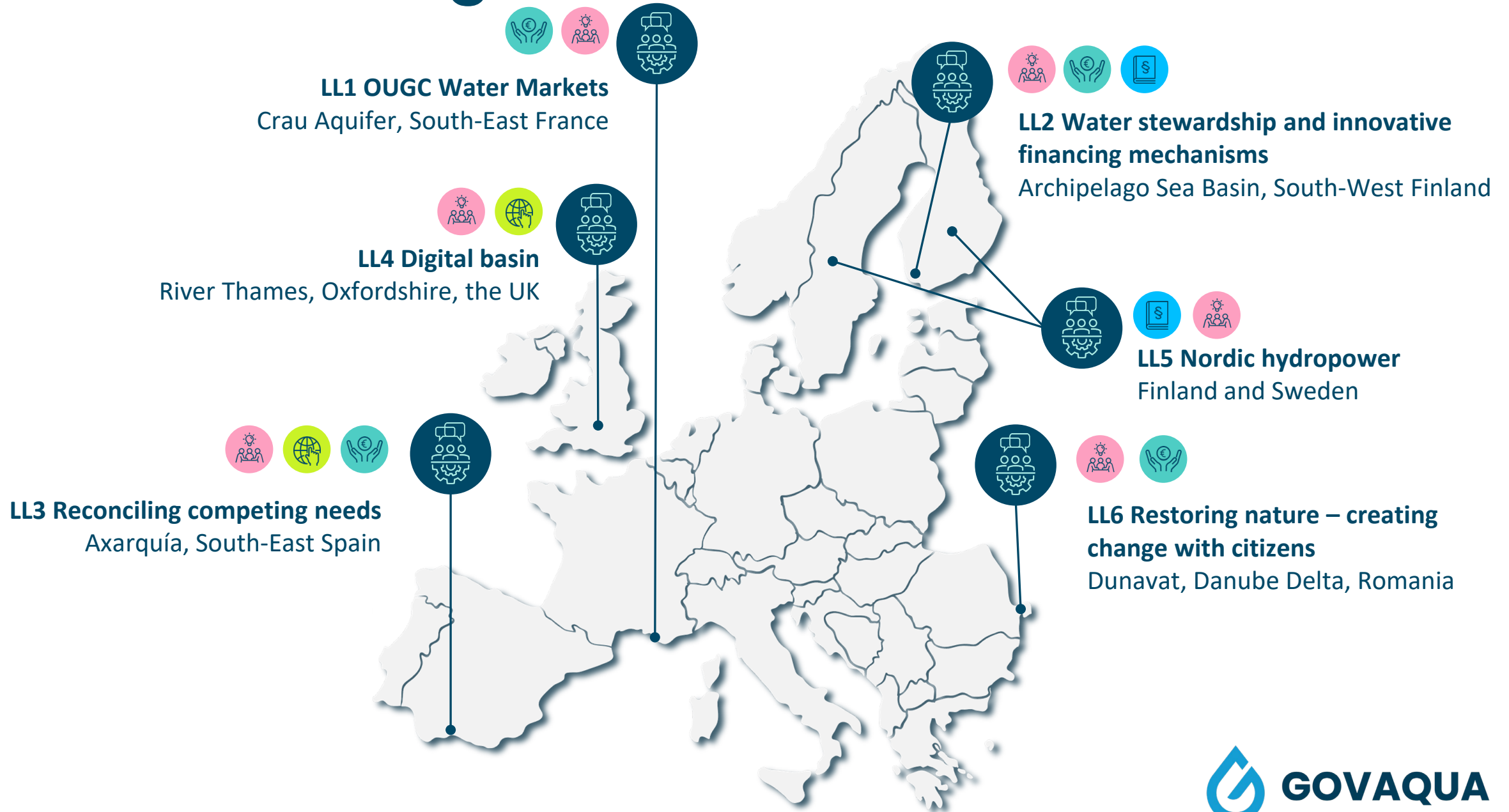
- ❑ Further development of the selected governance innovation in focus
- ❑ Multi-method experimentation, data gathering and analysis

Evaluation and feedback phase

Evaluation and feedback phase

- ☐ **Assessment of the experimentation findings and results**
- ☐ **Application of the self-assessment tool AFTER the project's intervention**

GOVAQUA Living Labs



LL1 – Aquifer recharge and water sharing (Crau, France)



Main challenges

- ❑ Maintaining the groundwater recharge, allowed by irrigation canals and gravity irrigation
- ❑ Reducing groundwater vulnerability to drought, pollution and saline intrusion

Key stakeholders

- ❑ Irrigation water allocation management body
- ❑ Crau aquifer management body



Innovations

- ❑ Temporary market-based management
- ❑ Payments for environmental services



LL 2 Water stewardship and innovative financing mechanisms: Archipelago Sea Basin

- Aim: support to removing the Archipelago Sea Basin from the HELCOM hot spot list by 2027
- Main problem: diffuse pollution from land, mainly agriculture
- Key stakeholders: Archipelago Sea Basin Programme actors
 - Ministries
 - Regional ELY-centre (RBO), municipalities and regional unions
 - Food industry and agricultural producers
 - Citizens and consumers
- Innovations in focus:
 - Novel financing and economic instruments to implement practical measures of the Archipelago Sea Basin Programme water protection road map
 - Water stewardship approach in food value chains
 - Result based funding instruments and how to mobilize private funding to implement them.



LL3 - Reconciling competing needs (Axarquía, Spain)



Avocado trees (5,200 ha)
7,500 m³/ha (FAO)



Mango trees (4,000 ha)
6,500 m³/ha (FAO)



Viñuela water reservoir (170 hm³).
Currently: 8%

Main challenges

- ❑ Allocation of scarce water resources
- ❑ Competition between users
- ❑ Integrated water management:
surface water, groundwater, reused
water, MAR...

Key stakeholders

- ❑ Water Agency (regional Government)
- ❑ Agro-producer organization (TROPs)
- ❑ Municipal water supply and treatment
company (Axaragua)

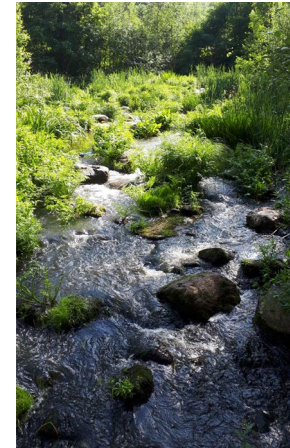
Innovations

- ❑ IWAM - Digital tool based on
integrated water management and
users' participation
- ❑ Water Accounting Hydroeconomic
Tool

LL5 - Nordic hydropower (Finland and Sweden)

Aim: supporting **transnational governance collaboration** to enhance best practices, peer support and experience sharing between Finland and Sweden

- Legal and regulatory differences and similarities
- Implementation of **Ecological flow** concept
- Both countries have binding **EU legislation** but differ in implementation

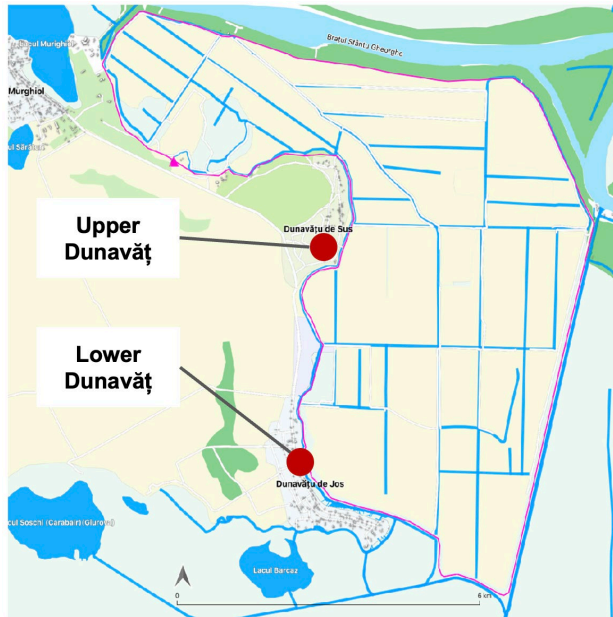


Focus on small group of national level governance collaboration. Decision makers will have a possibility for open discussion.

In later phase an open **stakeholder seminar** to give stakeholders the **key messages**.

Main stakeholder groups: Hydropower business, Regional authorities, Nature conservancy sector and Researchers.

LL6 - Restoring nature - creating change with citizens (Dunavăț, Danube Delta, Romania)



Main water governance challenges

- ☐ Allocation of water resources
- ☐ Increased risk of floods



Key stakeholders

- ☐ Local and regional authorities
- ☐ Water users
- ☐ Research institutes
- ☐ Civil society organizations



Innovation in focus

- ☐ Fostering collaborative approaches and participatory decision-making processes

Thank you

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