

## Common Borders as an opportunity

**WATER RESCUE** is conceptualized on the basis of recognized cross - border problems related to water supply in the Greece – Bulgaria cross border area. The shared cross - border water resources, necessary for drinking water supply & also effective adaptation to climate change resilience is the core issue.

## A network of expertise

**The partnership** is a well harmonized set of stakeholders from the Greece - Bulgaria area, primarily focused to the main actors in the field: 3 Water Utilities, 2 Municipalities and 1 Research Institution.

The results will affect the entire area, providing practical guidelines, methodologies, tools & policies, addressing a wide spectrum of issues, which should be determined & maintained in the case of cross - border cooperation.

*“water is a precious social good; every drop counts & its value exceeds by far its real cost; let’s treat it wisely”*

*The Project WATER RESCUE is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and by national funds of the countries participating in the Interreg V-A “Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020” Cooperation Programme*

## Why WATER RESCUE

**The WFD 2000/60**, the Drinking Water Directive 98/83 & EU2020 strategy towards climate change & energy sustainability is the trigger of legislations’ harmonization. Complying with that, WATER RESCUE project aims at developing a common methodological approach towards efficient & effective cross-border water resources management in terms of quality and quantity in relation to climate change.

**Our common challenge** is to increase the current low level of innovative technologies use along the water supply chain, to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the water sector and in particular to enhance water management.

**WATER RESCUE** project aims at sustainable drinking water supply management through the increase of water use efficiency and the monitoring & improvement of water quality throughout the whole water supply chain. The project not only safeguards water resources quality and quantity from natural and human pressures but, more importantly, it assures the water consumers safety and health as well as their quality of life.

<http://www.greece-bulgaria.eu/approved-project/50/>

**Lead Beneficiary: Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Company of Komotini, Greece**

<https://www.deyakom.gr/>



## Beneficiaries

Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Company of Komotini	Greece
Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Company of Thermi	Greece
University of Thessaly-Special Account Funds for Research-Department of Civil Engineering	Greece
Municipality of Kardzhali	Bulgaria
Municipality of Gotse Delchev	Bulgaria
Municipal Water Supply and Sewerage Company of Thermoikos	Greece

## The cooperation Programme

The Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A “Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020” brings together two (2) EU member states, Greece, and Bulgaria. The Greece-Bulgaria cross-border cooperation area extends to 40.202 km<sup>2</sup> and has a total population of 2.7 million inhabitants. It covers four territorial units at NUTS II level (Regions), and 11 territorial units at NUTS III level (Districts). The eligible area extends across the entire Greek-Bulgarian border and is neighboring with Turkey (east) and North Macedonia (west), both countries aspiring to access to the EU. It is part of the most south-eastern non-insular area of EU, and it is situated between three seas: the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Ionian-Adriatic Sea. Finally, it sits at the crossroad of strategic fossil fuel pipelines supplying the EU market and TEN transport axes.



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*The contents of this publication are sole responsibility of WATER RESCUE beneficiaries and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union, the participating countries, the Managing Authority and the Joint Secretariat.*

## The geographic & cultural context

**WATER RESCUE** is part of the Cooperation Programme INTERREG V-A “Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020”.



The project beneficiaries will benefit from jointly upgraded/adapted methodologies and tools for efficient and secure water supply systems. The area’s population and the visitors will enjoy improved drinking water quality (and thus safe water) and a better quality of life while their environmental awareness will be increased. NRW reduction has positive environmental impacts (more efficient use of water and energy resources; reduced carbon and water footprints) and better water supply management. The programme and project area are expected to address and solve crucial common water supply management problems. Additionally, the upgraded/adapted methodologies will increase the cross-border ability to adapt to climate change.

## WATER RESCUE results

- Sustainable cross-border drinking water supply management aiming at **water resources efficiency and conservative use**
- Adaptation of a joint methodological framework for **water resources management** (qualitatively and quantitatively) in relation to climate change and the natural and human activities and **reduction of the water resources vulnerability**
- **Increase water use efficiency** through the **reduction of Non-Revenue Water** and water losses in the water supply networks by implementing measures tackling NRW causes
- **Improve water quality and safety** in the whole drinking water supply cycle, from the water resources to the water distribution network and back to the environment through the continuous monitoring of water quality parameters in real time and the in-line disinfection to reduce the risk of low chlorine residuals and excessive concentrations of THMs (toxic substances causing cancer)
- **Increase innovative technologies use** through the integrated management of water resources including GIS-based applications; hydraulic simulation models and decision support systems
- **Development of “green behavior”, increase water saving and reduce water consumption** through public awareness campaigns.