

Fruitful workshop in Delft, Netherlands

From 9 to 11 June, Delfland Water Board was host for the third transnational Aquarius workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to gain, exchange, and create knowledge about how to involve farmers in participatory water management and how to identify and use financial methods as an instrument to let farmers work efficiently as water managers.

To achieve that objective the workshop was organized around two network groups called “Participatory Planning” and “Financial Methods”.



See video with the Aquarius partner Ben van Os summing up the findings of the network group “Participatory Planning” – visit www.aquarius-nsr.eu

The two groups discussed relevant problems, methods, and solutions based on questionnaire input given before they met in Delft. The groups summed up their findings in plenum on the last day of the workshop.



See video with the Aquarius partner Karin Tromp summing up the findings of the network group “Financial Methods” – visit www.aquarius-nsr.eu

Skilled water managers

The workshop was held in Delft, in the western part of the Netherlands. The city is located near the pilot catchment called “Midden-Delfland”. The primary problems in this area are excessive water because of climate change and high nutrient concentration in surface water. These problems were the focus of an excursion to the catchment on the second day of the workshop.

As a part of the excursion, the partners visited the canals in the area and talked to a local farmer about his role as water manager.



See video with impressions from the pilot area Midden-Delfland – visit www.aquarius-nsr.eu

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The excursion also visited a brand new pumping station that was built to cope with a higher level of water in canals due to heavier rainfall in the area. The partners were also introduced to a new safety buffer for water owned by the Water Board in Delft.

Satisfied farmer

Mr. A. Van den Berg, Executive board member of Delfland Water Board and organic farmer in Delfland, participated in both the beginning and the end of the workshop. His impression of the Aquarius meeting was clear: “I am very satisfied with the workshop findings and the different types of input it brought me. The pilot areas have different ways of looking on similar problems and it gave me, both as an organic farmer and as a representative of our local water board, a lot of new and useful knowledge to build on”.

Organic farmer and Executive board member of Delfland Water Board Mr. Van den Berg is giving the Aquarius partners his view of farmers' role as water managers.



“The Aquarius Project supplies a lot of useful knowledge. By sharing experiences and ideas with the water managers from other countries, we broaden our horizon and come up with new and smart solutions,”

says Aquarius partner, senior policy advisor Helen Hangelbroek from Delfland Water Board.

Read the whole article about water management in Delfland on www.aquarius-nsr.eu