

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Source to Tap

THEME:

Environment

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€4,909,921.26

MATCH FUNDING:

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs; and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

LEAD PARTNER:

Northern Ireland Water

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), The Rivers Trust, East Border Region Ltd, Ulster University, Irish

Start Date: 01/10/2016

End Date: 30/09/2022



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The Source to Tap Project is working to protect river water quality in the cross-border catchments of the Erne and Derg, that are a shared source of raw water for drinking water supply.

Working with farmers in the River Derg catchment, it will pilot a cross-border Land Incentive Scheme allowing landowners to access funding for a variety of measures that can be implemented on their farms to reduce the amount of herbicide and soil running off the land into nearby watercourses.

It will work with forestry operators to pilot measures, over and above current best practice, to reduce the risk of sediment run-off into nearby watercourses during harvesting activities.

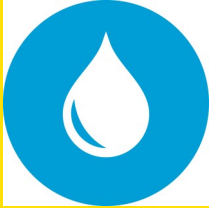
It will also pilot peatland restoration on a formerly afforested area, contributing to the health of the bog, reducing erosion and improving water quality.



Mournebeg River - The project aims to improve water quality in the River Derg catchment from which water is abstracted for treatment for the supply of drinking water.

“Source to Tap is a unique project that puts the community right at the heart of protecting our precious drinking water sources in these cross-border river catchments. Actions taken on each farm to protecting nearby rivers and streams have benefits far beyond the boundaries of the farm. In fact, those benefits flow right down the river and out of the taps of thousands of homes in the area. Local people are beginning to realise that small changes they make can help protect water quality, wildlife and drinking water sources and by all working together we can make a huge difference.”

Mark Horton, All Ireland Director The Rivers Trust (partner on Source to Tap)



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Source to Tap is working to raise awareness of the connection between our rivers and lakes and what comes out of our taps through an education programme in local schools and through information exchange events & roadshows for local communities.

A citizen science initiative will train over 30 volunteers in the Riverfly monitoring technique to enable them to regularly monitor their local rivers to determine if the quality has changed from what would be expected and providing a legacy to the project.

Monitoring will be undertaken throughout the project and the results of these activities will be assessed using the UK Water Industry (UKWIR) Benefits Assessment Framework for Drinking Water Catchments. The knowledge gained through the pilot measures will be shared with others, with the output from the project being a Sustainable Catchment Area Management Plan (SCAMP).

“As lead partner of the Source to Tap project, NI Water is delighted to be working with our partners in the Erne and Derg cross border catchments to explore new and innovative methods for managing the land to improve water quality in our rivers and lakes, the source of our drinking water. We are extremely grateful for the European funding supported by the SEUPB, alongside key funding from the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland and the Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) in Ireland.”

Sara Venning NI Water Chief Executive

Key Output :

Cross-border drinking water Sustainable Catchment Area Management Plan: Research and Pilot project: 1



Source to Tap Project Officer raising awareness to local school children