

**THEME:**

Environment

**FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):**

€13,792,435.55

**MATCH FUNDING:**

Department of Agriculture,  
Environment and Rural  
Affairs;  
The Department of Housing,  
Planning and Local  
Government

**LEAD PARTNER:**

Donegal County Council

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

Agri-Food & Biosciences  
Institute, Armagh, Banbridge  
and Craigavon Borough  
Council, British Geological  
Survey, Geological Survey of  
Ireland, Inland Fisheries  
Ireland, Ulster University  
Loughs Agency

**Start Date:** 01/10/2017

**End Date:** 31/10/2022

**PROJECT CONTACT:**

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 [www.catchmentcare.eu](http://www.catchmentcare.eu)

 [@catchmentcare](https://twitter.com/catchmentcare)

## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

### Project Case Study: CatchmentCARE (Community Actions for Resilient Eco-systems)

The CatchmentCARE project aims to establish three cross-border, fresh water quality improvement projects in the Finn (Donegal—Tyrone); the Arney (Fermanagh-Leitrim-Cavan); and the Blackwater (Armagh-Tyrone-Monaghan) Catchments; as well as installing 50 boreholes across the region.

This will be achieved through a combination of: policy actions, catchment actions and community actions.

Throughout the projects lifetime it will ensure:

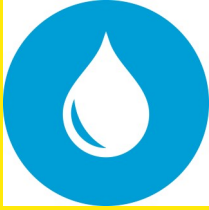
- Measurable impact on water quality;
- Transferable beyond the three catchments;
- Contribute to a project legacy.

*“Donegal County Council is delighted to be leading out on this initiative which has identified actions that go above and beyond those that agencies already have a statutory obligation to undertake and will address the core challenge of restoring water-bodies in border area catchments. Everyone lives and works in a river catchment and everything we do has the potential to affect waterways, the ocean and marine life. This initiative is about working collaboratively to increase the resilience of these important cross-border river catchments”*

Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council Cllr. Gerry McMonagle at the project launch in June 2018



The Blackwater River, one of the rivers that CatchmentCARE aims to improve



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The actions selected will address water quality issues relating to hydromorphology, point and diffuse sources of pollution, farm nutrient management practices, characterisation and monitoring of groundwater quality, lag times in response to the implementation of measures and an economic analysis of the cost of achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive in the three catchments.

Furthermore CatchmentCARE will contribute to achieving good status through the implementation of catchment restoration actions, capacity building of the local community, and crucially will provide a platform for cross-border knowledge exchange between community, governance, policy and scientific stakeholders.

*“This project represents a unique cross-border partnership that will provide a platform for knowledge exchange between universities, local councils and scientific organisations. It will also deliver upon a number of core outputs within the EU’s INTERREG VA Programme that have been designed to both protect and enhance our precious biodiversity on both sides of the border and contribute towards compliance with the EU’s Water Framework Directive.”*

Gina McIntyre, CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body

#### Key Outputs :

- 1) Establish 3 river quality improvement projects
- 2) Develop and implement 50 cross-border groundwater monitoring wells



CatchmentCARE will engage with schools and young people to ensure that a new generation of citizen scientists are connected to their local river and have the skills to be able to care for them in the future.