



THE **MEUSE** CATCHMENT AREA CAN AND MUST GET **CLEANER**

THE SCHONE MAASWATERKETEN PROGRAMME (CLEAN WATER IN THE RIVER MEUSE, ABBREVIATED TO SMWK IN DUTCH) is a cooperative venture of drinking water companies, water authorities, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, and Rijkswaterstaat. Since 2015, we have been working closely together on cleaning up the Meuse River basin. SMWK focuses mainly on reducing organic micropollutants (pharmaceutical and industrial substances) that enter the river Meuse through wastewater streams.

The programme's concrete ambition is to reduce organic micropollutants by at least 30% in 2040 compared to situation in 2022.



MONITORING

Water quality in the Meuse River basin has already improved significantly. But both the protection of ecosystems and the preparation of drinking water require further improvement of the water quality. By measuring together, we can gain a good view of where and in what concentrations organic micropollutants are found. It allows us to identify risks and find sources of pollution together.



MEASURE TOGETHER
TO **MANAGE** TOGETHER

SOURCE APPROACH

Together, we map out high-risk industrial discharges in the river basin. This gives us a better understanding and up-to-date information on how much wastewater streams enter the river Meuse. This information can help the competent authorities to better fulfil their supervision and enforcement tasks. For a targeted approach to sources of pollution, we will also be working with partners outside of SMWK, such as environmental services and the business community, to improve the water quality in the Meuse. After all, what does not enter the water, does not have to be taken out either.



A **CLEAN** MEUSE
STARTS AT THE **SOURCE**

WATER QUALITY DATA AT A **GLANCE**



THE ATLAS

The Atlas for a Clean Meuse is a unique platform where all information from our collaborative project is combined. It forms a central repository for current measurement data on organic micropollutants and relevant permits. The Atlas encourages cooperation and dialogue between partners within and beyond our national borders with a view to improving water quality.

INTERNATIONAL

Like the Meuse itself, our cooperation is not bound by national borders. SMWK seeks to collect and share knowledge regarding the improvement of water quality. To this end, SMWK invites partners in neighbouring countries to strengthen the network in the Meuse River basin and work together on cleaning up the river basin.



THE MEUSE
CONNECTS US

ACT NOW!

SMWK focuses on action, on achieving results. Cooperation helps to determine the right and most effective measures. We also use other forms of collaboration as well as initiatives from individual parties.

The Dutch Chain Approach on Pharmaceuticals in Water contributes enormously to a more careful handling of pharmaceuticals and to preventing unused medicines from ending up in wastewater. It connects the medical sector with the water sector in the Meuse River basin.

Rijkswaterstaat - the Dutch Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management - invests heavily in updating and monitoring permits granted, sharing this information with other water managers. This gives us a better grip of discharges of high-risk substances in the Meuse River basin.

Drinking water companies are developing new techniques to identify and further reduce concentrations of high-risk substances.

In the coming years, water authorities will invest in additional purification steps in sewage treatment plants, reducing pharmaceutical pollution in the Dutch part of the Meuse River basin by approximately 20%.



Partners: Evides Waterbedrijf, Dunea Duin & Water, Waterschap Rivierenland, Waterschap Limburg, Waterschap Brabantse Delta, Brabant Water, Waterschap Aa en Maas, Waterschap De Dommel, WML Limburgs Drinkwater, RIWA-Maas, Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Waterstaat en Rijkswaterstaat.