



CS number: 16 – Scheldt catchment
Case study cluster: small streams and basins

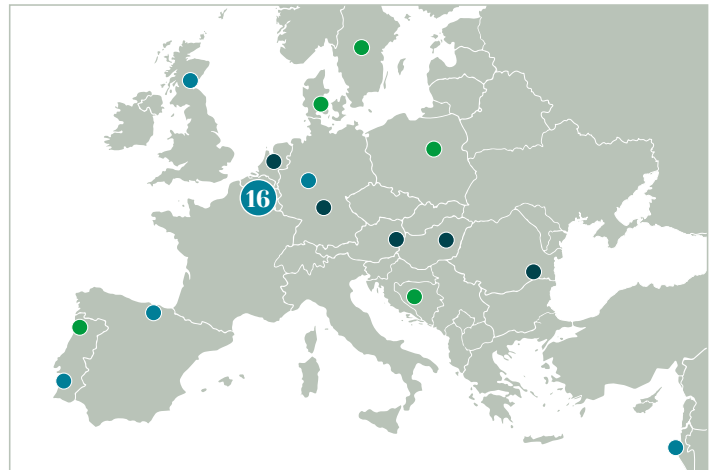
Country: Belgium

Scientific partner: Ghent University

Implementation partner:
Province of East-Flanders

Twinning case study: Schwarzer Schöps case study
in Germany of the Optain project (optain.eu)

Website: www.ugent.be/bw/asae/en/research/aeco/research/Merlin/Zwalm



Demonstration

- **Type of restoration:** restoration of the Zwalm river basin: installation Waste water treatment plant (WWTP) and sewer systems, removal of fish migration barriers, species reintroduction programs, habitat restoration – restoration of spawning beds, water buffer basins, buffer strips
- **Size:** river basin 144 km²; length of the main river 21.8 km
- **Location(s):** Zwalm, Brakel and Zottegem
- **Value of the case:** riparian and habitat restoration, flow connectivity, fish passes, biodiversity enhancement, reduction of erosion, improvement of ecological and water quality, reaching the goals set by the EU WFD
- **Stakeholders involved:** municipalities, farmers, water and land managers
- **Sectors involved:** agriculture, tourism, water
- **Innovations being applied:** online monitoring

Implementation plans

- **Type of restoration:** dam removal, riparian restoration, channel restoration (buffer strips)
- **Size:** 4 ha
- **Scope:** regional
- **Vicinity:** rural
- **Stakeholders to involve:** farmers, water managers
- **Innovations to be applied:** specific types of tailor-made agreements with the farmers