

WATER4ALL  
PARTNERSHIP

# Water4All

## Water security for the Planet

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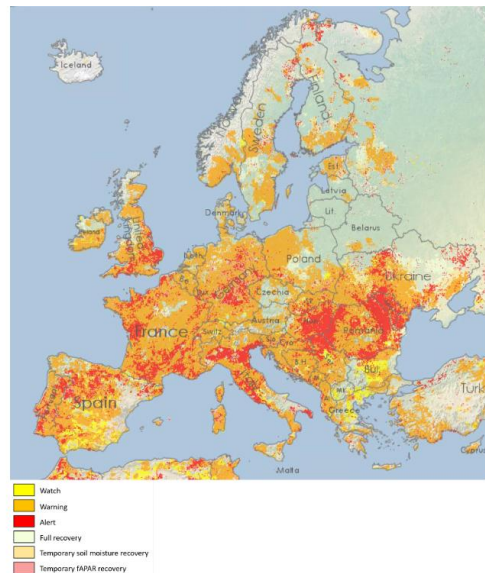
XVIII World Water Congress  
Beijing, September 2023

# Why Water4All ?

- Major issue for life on Earth, ecosystems and human activities...
- Droughts, floods, ...water pollution, water and soil salinization...
- Global Water Demand : +55% from 2015 to 2050
- Annual freshwater resources per inhab. shows a large decrease for most Eastern and Southern EU countries over the 1997-2017 period (e.g. Spain -65%, Malta -54%, ...)



*Pô Valley, Summer 2022, Italy*



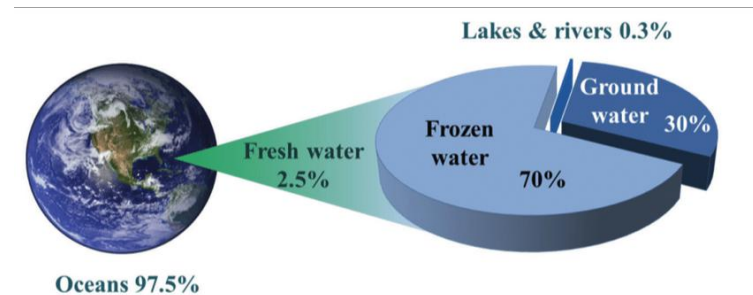
- Climate change effects already increase damage on water resource
- More than 90% disasters worldwide are water-related (UN, 2023)
- Between 2010 and 2020, human mortality from floods, droughts and storms was 15 times higher in highly vulnerable regions (IPCC, 2023)
- Drought in Europe 2022 : 50% of the territory, only 19% of normal annual rainfall in many parts (impact on soil, ecosystems, biodiversity...)



*China, 2023*

## Drought in Europe - August 2022

JRC Global Drought Observatory (GDO) of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS) - 22/08/2022



# Why Water4All ?

- Water Framework Directive 2000/60/CE

- 52% of the EU surface water are in poor chemical status and 40% in poor ecological status
- 30% of the EU groundwater

- 85% of wetlands disappeared (COP15, 2023) : EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (published in 2020), Nature Restoration law 2022

- A lot has already been done (decades of EU and national water research)

→ *With Horizon Europe: to give a fresh boost to the European Research, Development and innovation for water*

→ *CO FUNDED PARTNERSHIP*



# What is Water4All ?

**82 partners** (34 research funding agencies, 15 sectoral ministries, 18 research organisations, 3 EU networks, 3 local authorities, 8 national / regional networks representing economic actors)

**31 countries (23 Member States and 8 non EU countries)**

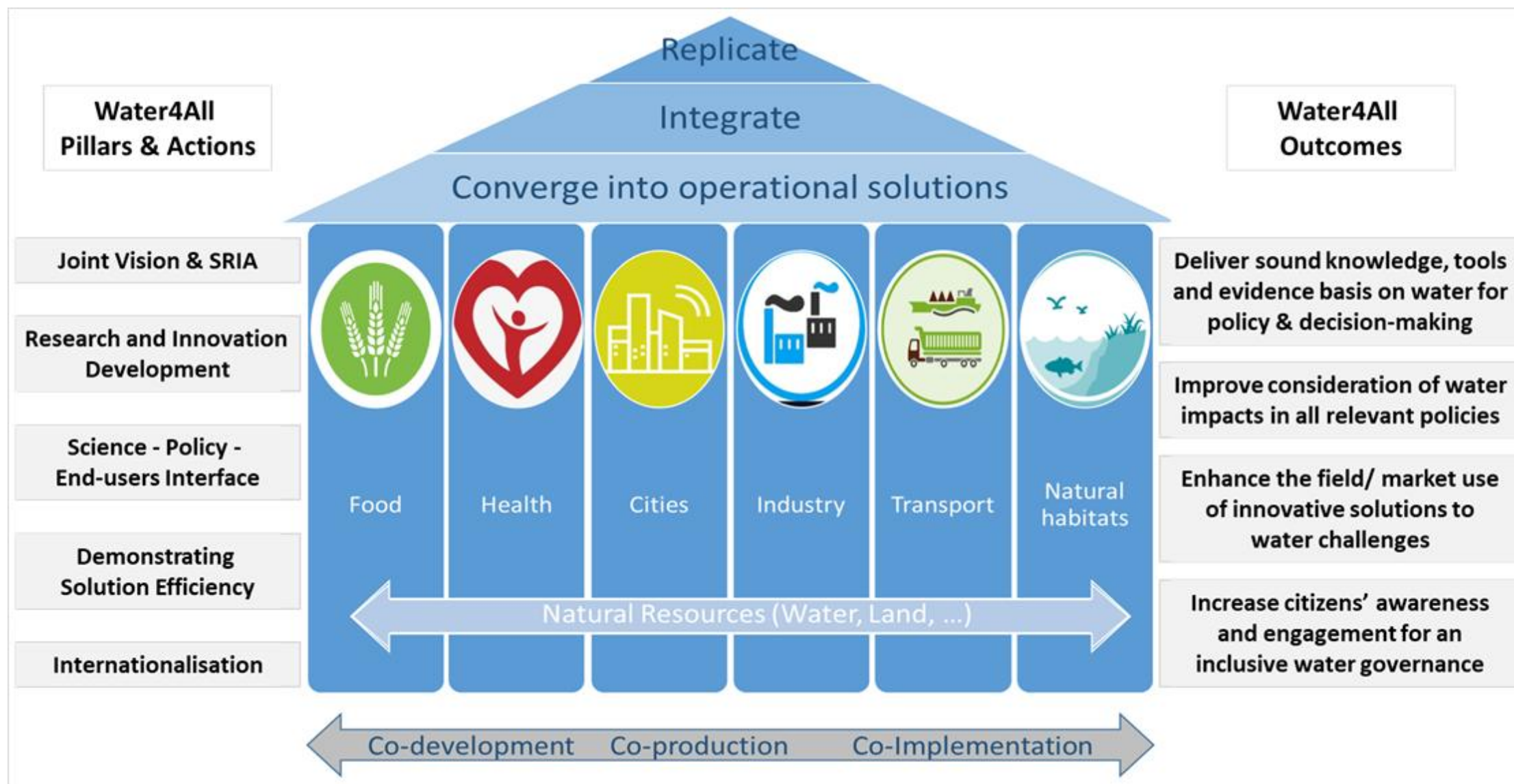
**June 2022 – May 2032, Phase 1 (86M€, 26M€ from the European Commission)**  
**420M€ expected for the decade** (126M€ from the EC)

## A “new” way of supporting Research

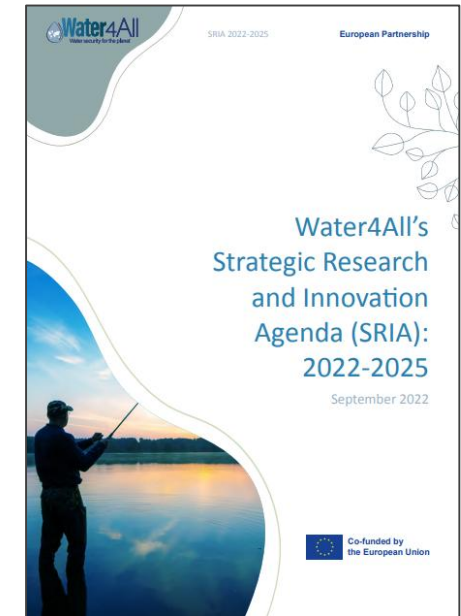
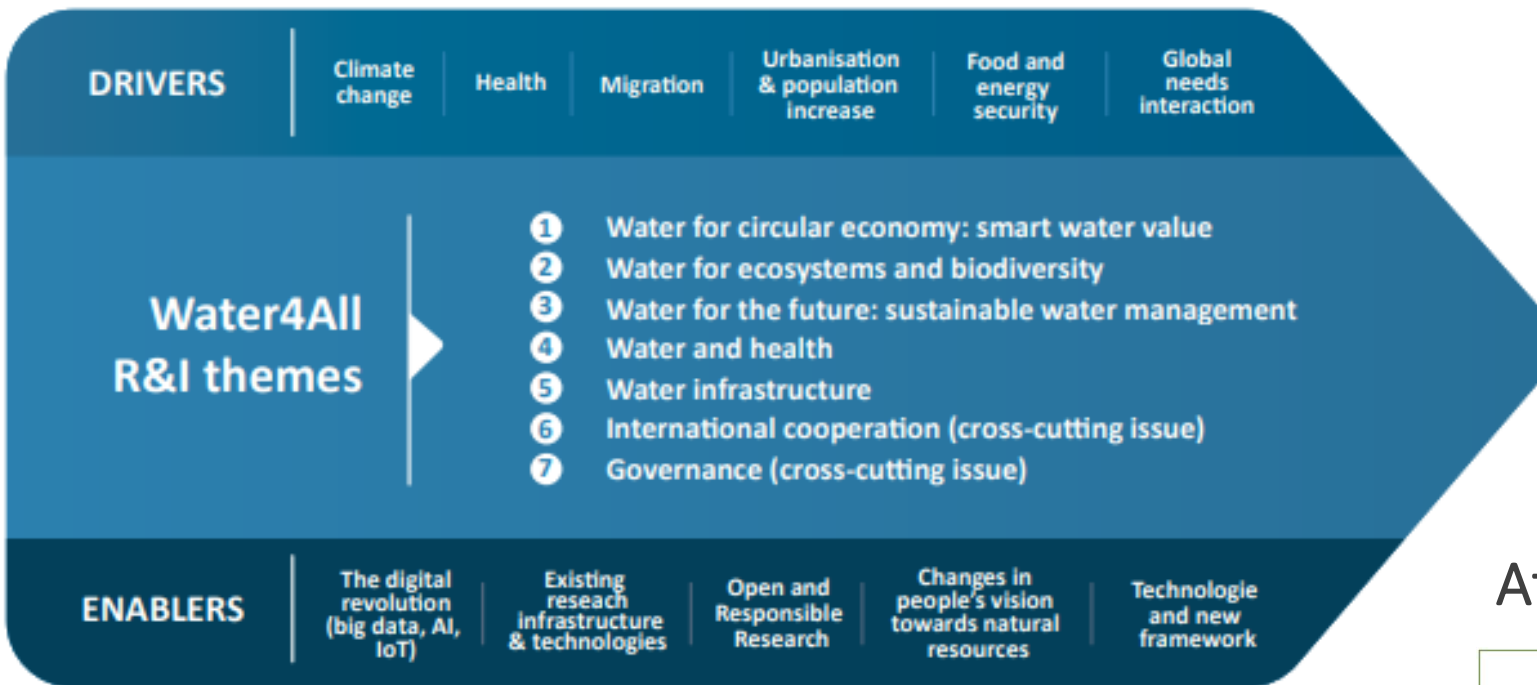
- Gathering our funds
- Cross-sectoral approaches (researchers, policy makers, citizens, economic actors)
- Continuum development to the transfer and practice to the actors from knowledge
- Accelerating the impact of Research on water management (EU, SDGs objectives, WFD and others EU regulations and laws ...)



# Water4All holistic approach...

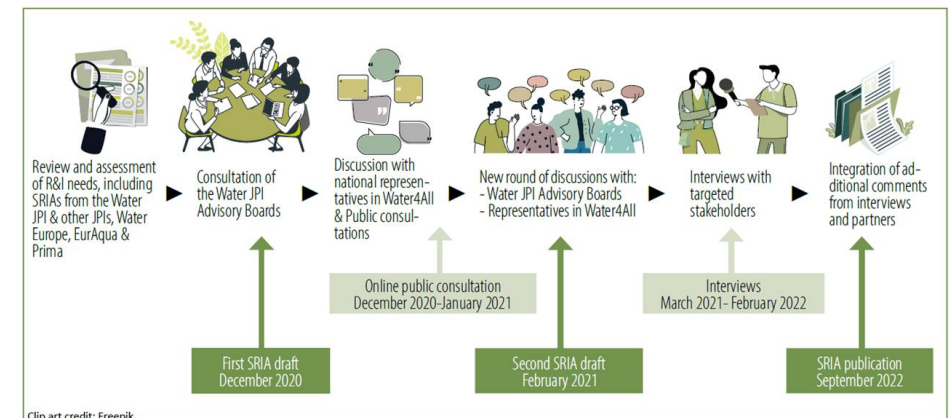


# Water4All RDI themes and Strategic Research Innovation Agenda



7 core themes and 25 sub-themes  
Research gaps and Policy needs

## After a large consultation process



# The SRIA as a living document



- New SRIA version to be published in **2025**
  - review of additional strategic documents
  - new consultation process – including two stakeholders' consultative workshops and exchanges with Water4All Advisory Boards
  - public consultation
  - interviews with target stakeholders
  - exchanges with other EU partnerships and Missions

# What are we doing ?

## 6 Annual Joint Transnational Calls (2022-2028)

**1<sup>st</sup> Water4All Joint Transnational Call**  
(open in September 2022, step 2 now)

**Budget: 34M€ (6M€ from the European Commission)**

*“Management of water resources: resilience, adaptation and mitigation to hydroclimatic extreme events and management tools”*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Water4All Joint Transnational Call**  
(open September 2023)

**Ecosystem Services**

*(link with Biodiversa+ Partnership next call on Nature Based Solutions)*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Water4All Joint Transnational Calls**  
**Budget ~32M€ (open September 2024)**  
**Water for Circular Economy**



## “In kind” scientific activities

**Identification of Research gaps, needs**

**International Cooperation**

**Training and capacity buildings, PhD Schemes**

**Water Oriented Living Labs**

**Platform of solutions for water management**  
(including ecosystem restoration)

**Open data, open science (knowledge hub, open database) with a transdisciplinary approach**

.....



# Addressed through a variety of actions

## E. Internationalisation (CNR, GSRI)

Developing international cooperation agreements  
Engaging with UN Water and other international stakeholders  
Developing innovative tools for cooperation

## B. Research and innovation Development (AEI / FECYT)

Joint transnational calls  
Thematic annual programming  
Young researchers calls  
Demo/transfer calls

## A. Joint vision & SRIA (ANR)

SRIA Development  
Mapping of programmes and impacts  
Development of synergies  
Dissemination

**FIREWALL**

(Water Europe)

## D. Demonstrating Solution efficiency

Water Living Labs (LLs) & demos atlas  
Network of LLs/demos and roadmap for demonstration implementation  
Support to development of new LLs  
Market uptake support  
Liaising with investors

(FORMAS, ISPRA)

## C. Science – Policy - End-users interface

Knowledge hubs, policy WGs  
Support to start-ups creation  
PhD scheme; mobility scheme  
Vocational training  
Capacity building on systemic thinking  
Link to research infrastructures  
Toolbox for managing water data

# About the Joint Transnational Calls

- 3 years RD&I projects
- Call and evaluation process
  - Step 1 (2 months, 7 pages pre-proposal), 3 evaluations / pre-proposal  
→ ranking list → decision of the Call Steering Committee
  - Step 2 (2 months, full proposals)

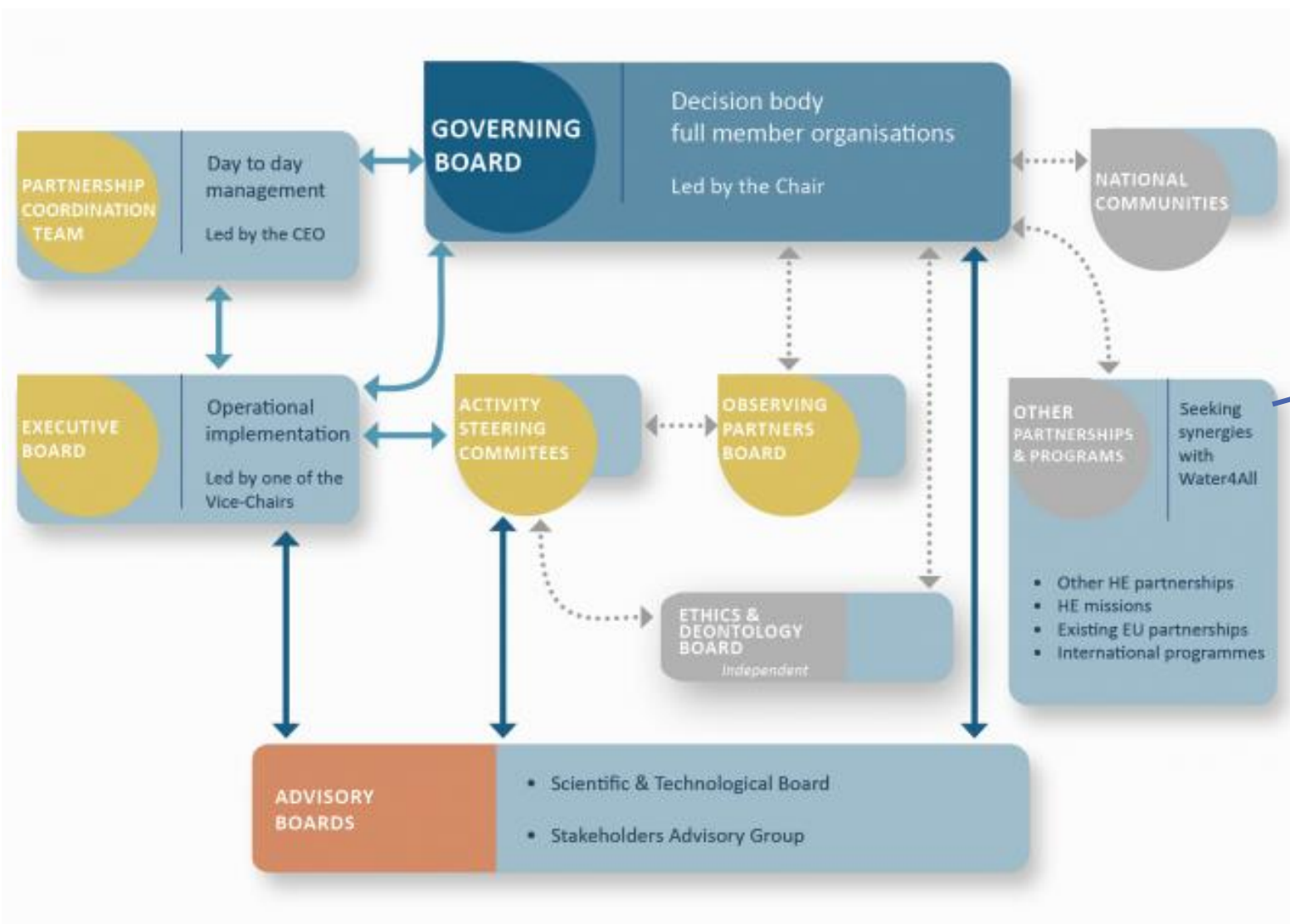
*Ex. JTC1 : 168 pre-proposals submitted in step 1, 65 invited in step 2*



- Eligibility criteria
  - Minimum of 3 eligible partner from participating countries
  - Minimum of 2 independent legal entities for 2 different EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries
  - Maximum of 7 partners
  - Coordinator from an eligible country
  - No partner with more than 50% of the person-months
  
- The topic of each JTC is chosen by the participating Funding Agencies (Pillar B partners) on the basis of the SRIA

# Water4All governance

DG RTD  
REA



**EU MISSIONS**  
RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS

**biodiversa+**  
European Biodiversity Partnership

**Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership**

**Future Partnerships**  
Agro-Ecology  
Food Systems  
OneHealth AMR  
.....

# Collaboration opportunities and financial conditions

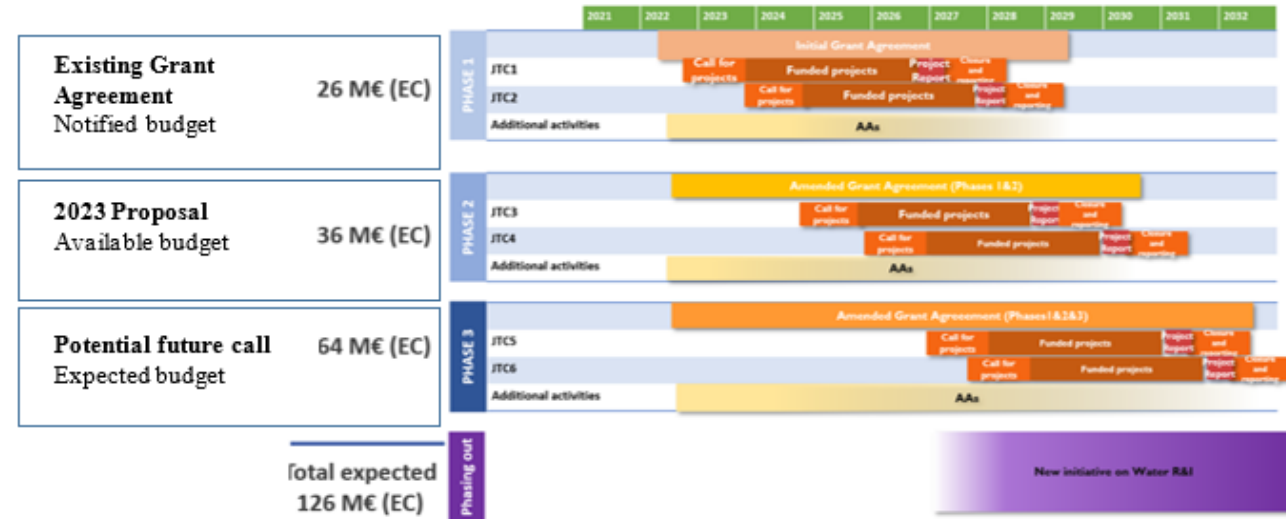
- If you are a **funding agency** (national, regional, local) willing to support transnational research projects
  - **Join the partnership and contribute to the future Joint Transnational Calls**
    - JTC2 (September 2023) : “Water for ecosystems and biodiversity”
    - JTC3 (September 2024) : “Water for circular economy”
    - JTC4 (September 2025) : “Water and Health”
    - JTC5 (September 2026) : *topic unknown*
    - JTC6 (September 2027): *topic unknown*
  - **How?**
    - Signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the call you are interested to support
    - AND
    - Joining the Observing Partners Board from now
    - Joining the Consortium in June 2026 (Proposal to be submitted to the European Commission around Spring 2025) by signing the Grant Agreement and the Consortium Agreement as Full partner or Associated partner
      - Financial contribution from the European Commission if you are eligible to Horizon Europe
      - Member of the **Call Steering Committee** (contribution to the selection of projects and to all decisions including the choice of topics for JTC5 and JTC6)
      - Contribution to the Water4All governance and strategy
  - **Financial conditions**
    - Min. contribution to each call: 100 k€
    - If your country is in the list of “[Participating Countries in Horizon Europe](#)” and you are Full partner of Water4All, you are eligible to the EC contribution for funding research projects through the JTC and for personnel costs to launch the JTC and monitor the funded projects
    - For each call: engagement of not blocking the “ranking list” i.e., being able to increase the budget if they are too much pre-selected proposals from your country

# Collaboration opportunities and financial conditions

- If you are a **public institution, a research organisation, a public / private network**
  - **Apply to annual Joint Transnational Calls**
  - AND / OR
  - **Join the partnership and contribute to the scientific “in kind” activities** under Pillars A, C, D, E
    - *Both are possible with specific conditions to avoid any Conflict of Interest (different teams, sign a commitment about the risk of Col, ...)*
  - **How?**
    - Joining the **Observing Partners** Board from now
    - **Joining the Consortium in June 2026** (Proposal to be submitted to the European Commission around Spring 2025) by signing the Grant Agreement and the Consortium Agreement as Full partner or Associated partner
      - Financial contribution from the European Commission if you are eligible to Horizon Europe
      - Contribution to several pillar activities and to the Water4All governance, strategy and dissemination
  - **Financial conditions**
    - If your country is in the list of “[Participating Countries in Horizon Europe](#)” and you are Full partner, you are eligible to the EC contribution for your participation in the different activities

# Water4All financial rules and planning

- A budget allocated in 3 phases by the EC
- EC contribution = 30% of the estimated eligible costs of ALL partners
- All partners have to provide in-kind contribution
- Water4All principles for the distribution of the EC contribution
  - For “Beneficiaries” and “Associated entities” only. “Associated partners” (not eligible to Horizon Europe) and “Observing Partners” don’t receive an EC contribution and contribute on their own budget
  - Internal funding rate by cost (tentative estimation to be confirmed)
- Possible synergy with other EU fundings (e.g., [ERDF](#))



<b>Existing Grant Agreement</b> Notified budget	26 M€ (EC)
<b>2023 Proposal</b> Available budget	36 M€ (EC)
<b>Potential future call</b> Expected budget	64 M€ (EC)
<b>total expected</b> 126 M€ (EC)	

Pillar	EU contribution to eligible costs				
	(U <sub>A</sub> ) Funding rate on Personnel costs/%	(U <sub>B</sub> ) Funding rate on Subcontracting costs/%	(U <sub>C</sub> ) Funding rate on Purchase costs/%	(U <sub>D</sub> ) Funding rate on Other costs/%	(U <sub>E</sub> ) Funding rate on Indirect costs/%
Pillar O	100%	100%*	100%*	21%**	30%
Pillar A	50%	100%*	100%*	21%**	30%
Pillar B	50%	100%*	100%*	21%**	30%
Pillar C	50%	100%*	100%*	21%**	30%
Pillar D	50%	100%*	100%*	21%**	30%
Pillar E	50%	100%*	100%*	21%**	30%

(\*) the subcontracting costs should not represent more than 50% of the planned EC contribution of the Beneficiary and/or Affiliated Entity, otherwise the reimbursement rate for subcontracting costs drops to 30%.  
 (\*\*) Equivalent to 27.14% top-up.

# Ongoing International Activities



- Develop and adopt the **Water4All International Strategy**
- Contacts with the **key international partners**, as those already involved in bilateral agreements with the EC (e.g. Brazil, China, India,...) or multilateral programmes in international cooperation (e.g. Africa, South East Asia, Central Asia, Balcans); contacts with EU-China Water Platform, EU-India Water Partnership, Gov. of India, Gov. of China, Gov. of Cuba, UNDP program in Uzbekistan (Aral Sea);
- Identify relevant **International Organizations** responsible for active water-projects (UNEP, UNDP, WB, FAO, WHO, WMO, UNIDO...) and interact with them to coordinate water-related initiatives.
- **Roadshows** in interested countries, UN Organisations, large events worldwide (UN Water Conference NY; 10th World Water Forum (Bali), UNDP, UNIDO, “The Danube Lighthouse”, G-STIC Conference in Rio
- **Cooperation projects within water utilities** in Member States and in Third Countries, support to co-creation of living labs and demonstration sites
- Supporting **international trade shows** with EU pavilion (i.e. organization of scoping workshops)
- Explore the feasibility of developing MoU for launching **calls for projects on the basis of multi-lateral agreements** between interested Water4All funders and specific RFOs in non-member countries
- Explore the interest and feasibility of specific **Researchers Mobility** schemes and **Knowledge Hub** calls within Member States and Third Countries to maximize the possible contribution to the achievement and monitoring of SDG6 and other water-related SDGs



# Thank you for your attention



Contact us!  
Follow us!



April 2023

**Progress on Water4All**



**First Consultative Water4All SRIA Workshop for Experts**  
Workshop held in First Stakeholder Consultative Workshop on the 16th and 17th of February in Helsinki (Finland). This workshop gathered 30...

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**Review - First Water4All Joint Call**  
The Water4All partnership, co-funded by the European Union within the frame of Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, launched in...

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**Interview of Andrea Rubini - Pillar D Coordinator**  
In this interview for the Water4All newsletter, Andrea Rubini - Director of Operations at Water Europe - presents Water Europe as an important...

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**Review of Water4All at the G-STIC conference, Rio de Janeiro (February 2023)**  
4200 participants from 140 countries joined the 5th G-STIC Global Sustainable Technology & Innovation Community conference in Rio de Janeiro...

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**Give your opinion on the water policies, stakeholders & networks to be targeted as part of the Water4All Task C1.2**  
Give us your opinion until April 25 on the water policies, stakeholders & networks to be targeted as part of the Water4All Task C1.2 on...

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[www.water4all-partnership.eu](http://www.water4all-partnership.eu)



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