

WATER4ALL
PARTNERSHIP

Water4All

Water security for the Planet

Antonio Lo Porto
Water Research Institute
CNR (Italian National Research Council)

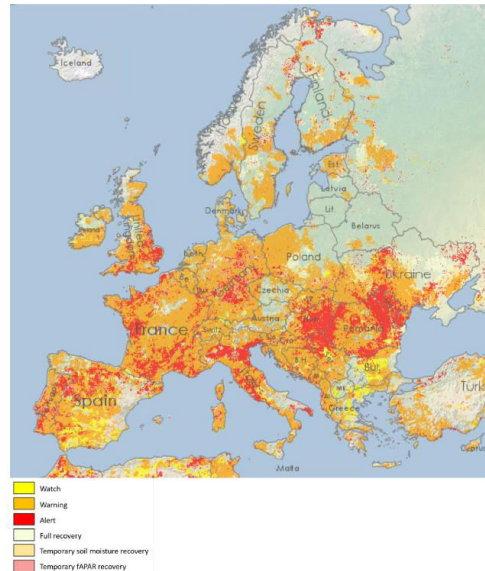
XVIII World Water Congress
Beijing, September 2023

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



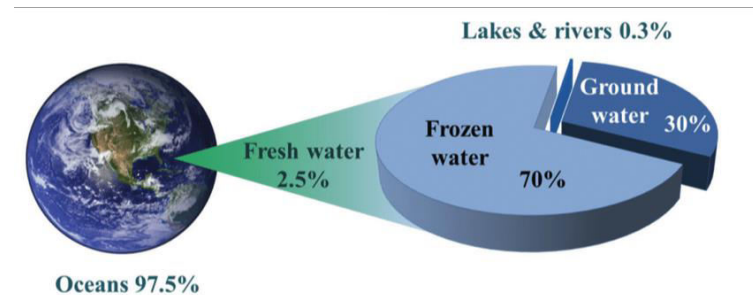
- Climate change effects already increase damage on water resource
- More than 90% disasters worldwide are water-related (UN, 2023)
- Between 2010 and 2020, human mortality from floods, droughts and storms was 15 times higher in highly vulnerable regions (IPCC, 2023)
- Drought in Europe 2022 : 50% of 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

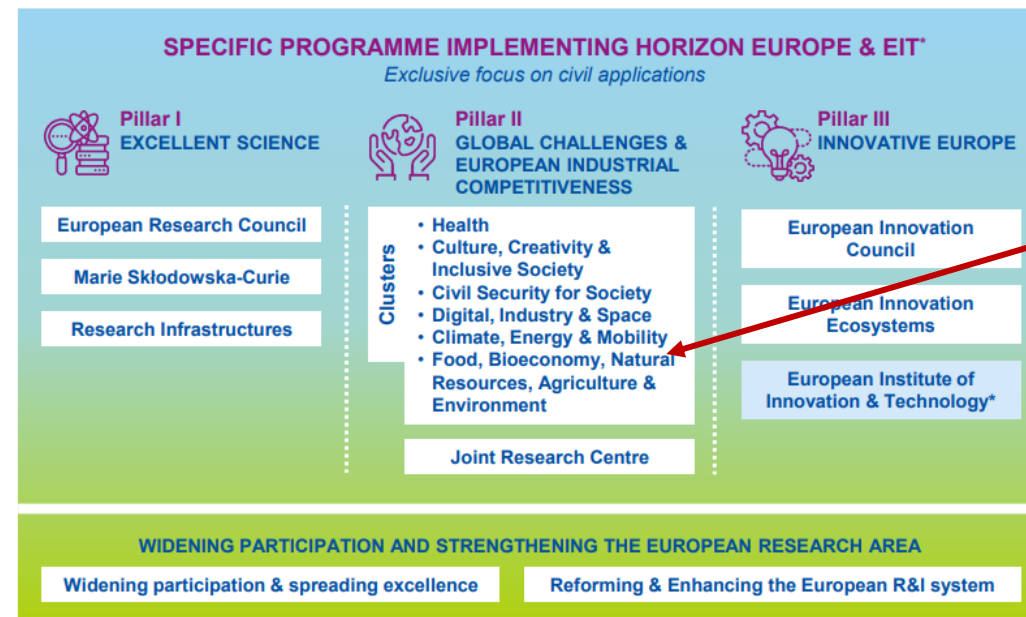
- 52% of the EU surface water are in poor chemical status and 40% in poor ecological status
- 30% of the EU groundwater

- 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)

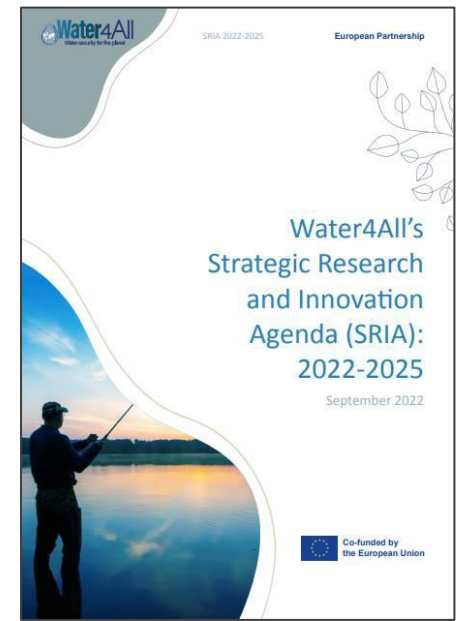
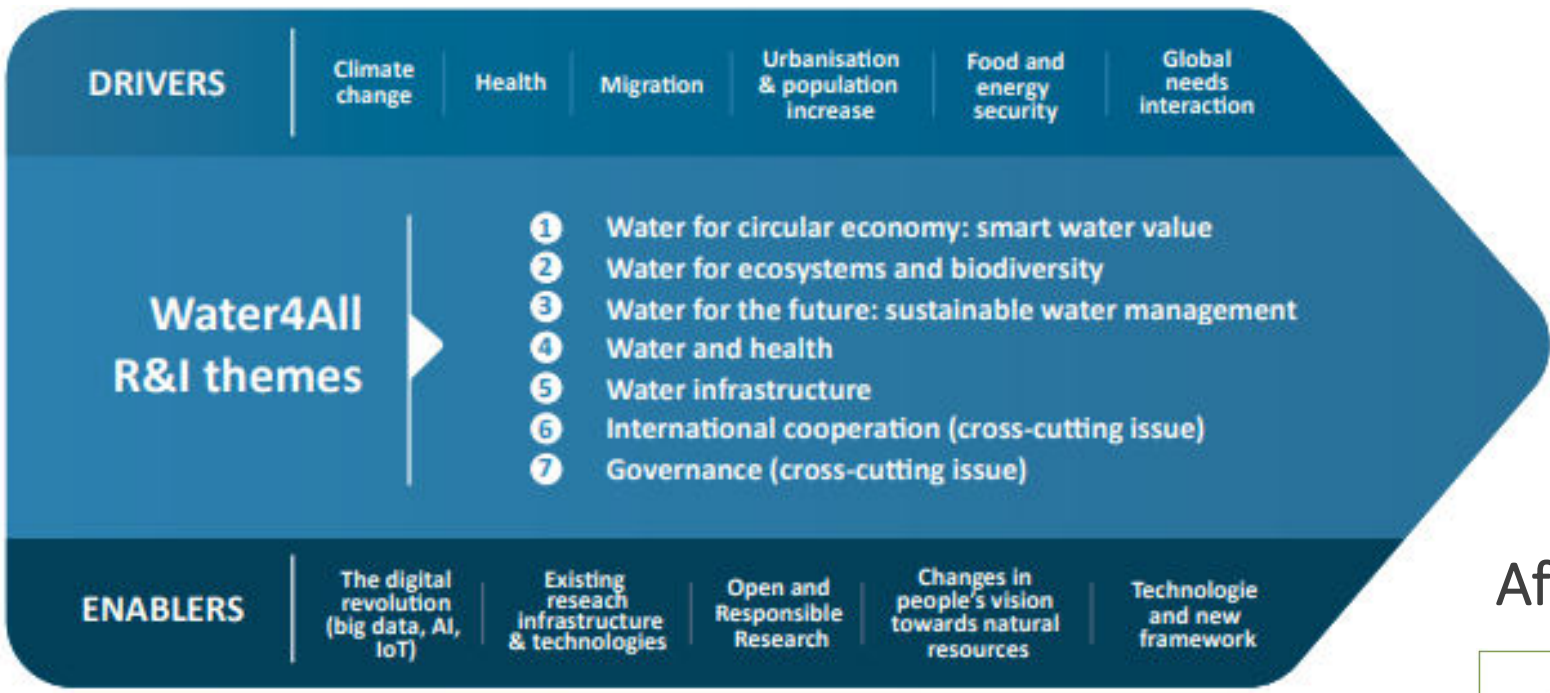
June 2022 – May 2032, Phase 1 (86M€, 26M€ from the European Commission)
420M€ expected for the decade (126M€ from the EC)

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 ...)



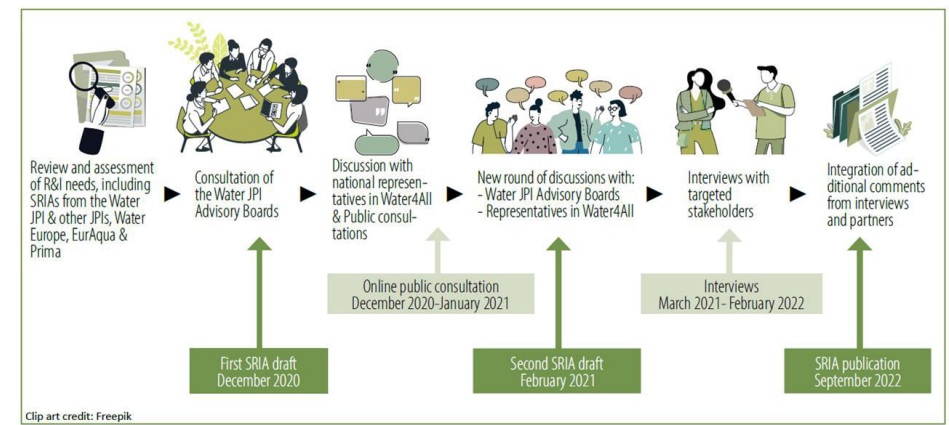
Water4All RDI themes and Strategic Research Innovation Agenda



↓

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

After a large consultation process



Topics for the 2nd Joint Transnational Call on “Aquatic Ecosystem Services”



- Topic 1: Mapping, monitoring, and assessment for a better understanding of ecosystem services in a context of changes, from local to global change.
- Topic 2: Understanding and predicting multiple pressures (including anthropogenic pressures) - impact – response relationships in ecosystem services through advanced methods and techniques.
- Topic 3: New tools and solutions for better integration of ecosystem services into the management of water resources.

Timeline

- Call opening: 12 September 2023
- Submission deadline of pre-proposals: 13 November 2023, 15:00 CET
- Selection of pre-proposals: End of February 2024
- Submission deadline of full proposals: 29 April 2024, 15:00 CEST
- Selection of funded proposals: September 2024
- Projects start: End 2024 / beginning 2025
- Kick-off meeting of the funded projects: Spring 2025

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

Theme 2 of the Water4All SRIA

Research theme and sub-themes

THEME II - WATER FOR ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

II.I Functioning and biodiversity

II.II Resilience, mitigation and adaptation of aquatic ecosystems and ecosystem services to global changes

II.III Developing and applying ecological engineering and ecohydrology for ecosystems restoration

II.IV Integrating ecosystem services into the management of water resources

II.II.
Resilience, mitigation and adaptation of aquatic ecosystems and ecosystem services to global changes.

II.III.
Developing and applying ecological engineering and ecohydrology for ecosystems restoration.

Using the understanding gained in multiple pressure-impact-response relationships to counteract pressure factors/ stressors in ecosystems (including biodiversity).

Exploring the connection between biodiversity (in particular invasive species), ecosystems services and waterborne diseases as a result of climate change.

Developing improved tools for adaptation and mitigation to hydro-climatic extreme events, especially floods (including “flash-floods”), heat waves and droughts in a catchment to sea context.

Exploring synergies between green and blue NBS to both mitigate and adapt to water related natural hazards, providing water quality, water quantity, biodiversity and GHG mitigation both in natural and urban environments.

Understanding, managing and restoring the ecological functioning of aquatic systems (morphological conditions, river continuity and connectivity, sediment flows, hydraulic connectivity, habitat dynamics and ecological flow), ecosystem services and biodiversity. Opportunities provided by technology (sensors, digitally derived biodiversity indicators, artificial intelligence, digital platforms) will be seized.

Developing and evaluating in the short- and long-term NBS and engineered solutions (including hybrid grey-green) for the remediation and mitigation of degraded water bodies and aquatic ecosystems.

Understanding the social and environmental impacts of proposed solutions for ecosystems restoration.

Analysing the effect of current conservation practices and new approaches based on ecological engineering and ecohydrology to mitigate current pressures and impacts on aquatic biodiversity, especially at longer time scales and larger spatial scales.

What are we doing ?

6 Annual Joint Transnational Calls (2022-2028)

1st 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”

2nd Water4All Joint Transnational Call
(open September 2023)

Ecosystem Services

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

3rd 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

.....

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

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, Balkans); 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
Water4All held its 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 6th 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...

Read more

Water4All@agencerecherche.fr
www.water4all-partnership.eu



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