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Marrakech, Morocco | 1-5 December 2025

Kingdom of Morocco



Ministry of
Equipment and Water

Navigating the Water-Oriented Living Labs challenges towards effective water governance

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Background and purpose

- WoLLs have emerged as **collaborative environments** (researchers, authorities, companies, communities, civil society) to jointly **test and co-create** water solutions in real-world settings.
- WoLLs offer platforms for **experimentation, participatory governance, and knowledge integration.**
- BUT:

Their real performance, long-term sustainability, and capacity to support innovation are poorly documented and unevenly understood.



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Aim of the study

The objective of this study is to better understand how WoLLs function as collaborative platforms for **water governance, innovation, and stakeholder engagement**, and to identify the internal and external factors that influence their success and long-term sustainability.

The results will contribute to ongoing research on how Living Labs can support **adaptive, inclusive, and innovation-driven approaches** to water management across Europe.





Methodology

1

Identification of WoLLs in Europe.

→ Water4All's Atlas.



2

Development of a questionnaire

→ Targeting managers/ coordinators of WoLLs.

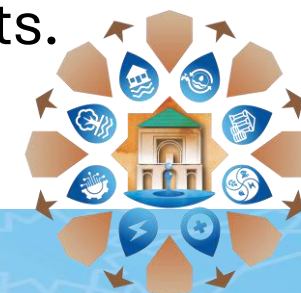
→ Questionnaire items identified in the literature.

3

SWOT Analysis

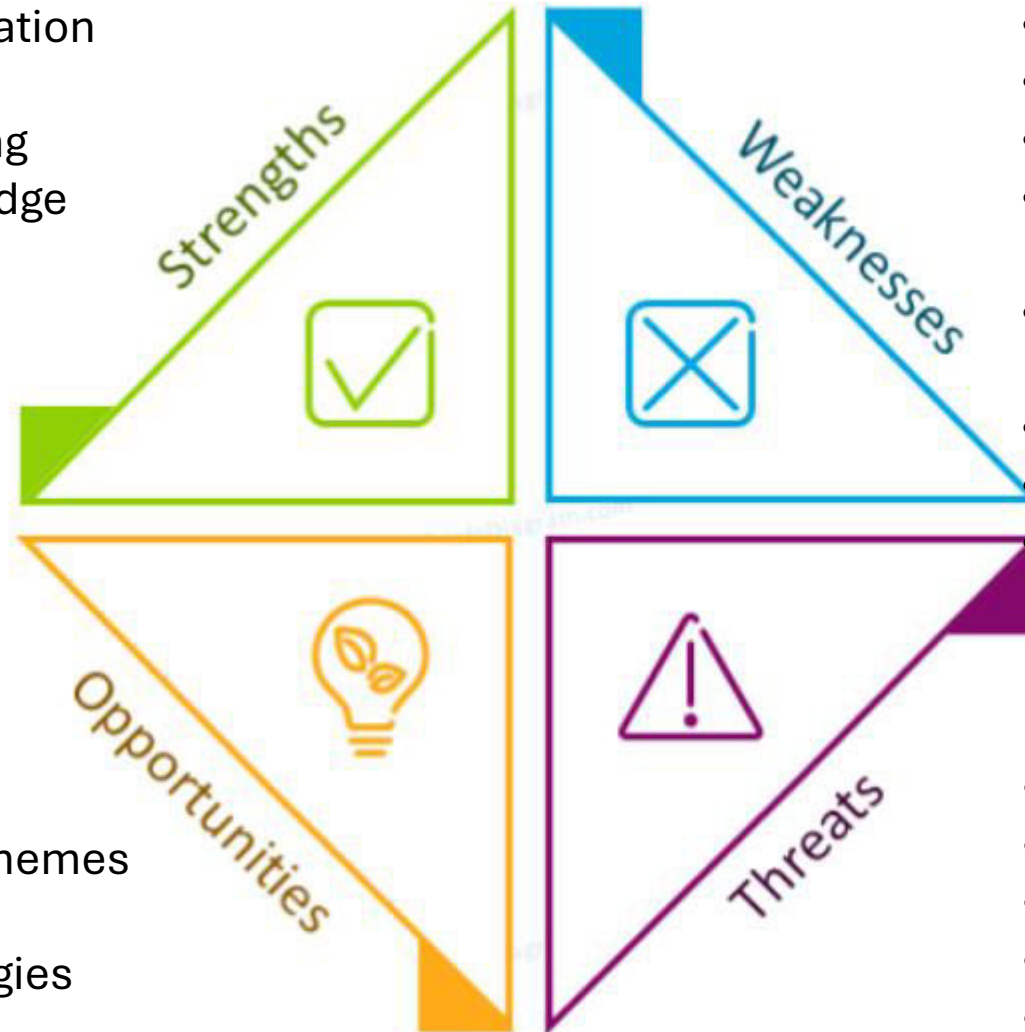
→ Mapping of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

→ Teasing out recommendations for the future.



SWOT analysis

- Stakeholder collaboration
- Financial support
- Institutional anchoring
- Integration of knowledge
- Innovation capacity
- **Learning**
- **Visibility**



- Policy alignment
- Access to funding schemes
- Public awareness
- Cross-sectoral synergies
- Networking
- Implementation of innovative tools
- **Engagement of citizens**

- Funding
- Duplication roles
- Limited policy flexibility
- Insufficient technical capacity
- **Lack of consistent monitoring**
- Low level of engagement
- **Low transferability**
- Low capacity to increase TRL

- **Regulatory & administrative rigidity**
- **Political instability**
- Political discontinuity
- Funding gaps
- **Competing interests**
- Technological obsolescence
- Climate change



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Conclusions

- WoLLs allow the **integration** of scientific, technical and local knowledge, as well as the **collaboration** of a wide range of stakeholders and the institutional **anchoring of R&I actions**.
- WoLLs have an overall good level of **visibility** although differences are evident across them.
- Very strong dependence on **short-term funding** e.g. EU projects, local/ regional support.
- No clear evidence of the contribution of WoLLs to further **engage** civil society, enhance **transferability** and **upscaling**, and improve **TRL** levels of developed/ tested solutions.
 - More results are needed.
- WoLLs offer opportunities to test **digital tools**, enhance **public awareness** to improve **nexus**.
- **Funding** after project termination as main threat for their sustainability.



Way forward



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- **Sustainability and funding models:**
 - Develop long-term funding strategies beyond short-term projects (EU, regional).
 - Explore hybrid funding models (public - private partnerships, and service-based revenues).
 - Assess cost-benefit and impact models to demonstrate WoLL value.
- **Societal engagement and knowledge transfer:**
 - Investigate mechanisms to increase civil society involvement.
 - Develop strategies for knowledge transfer and upscaling.
 - Test approaches to increase TRL of solutions piloted in WoLLs, bridging lab prototypes to market-ready technologies.
- **Visibility, impact and communication:**
 - Assess factors influencing visibility differences among WoLLs.
 - Develop impact assessment frameworks to measure societal, environmental and technological benefits.
 - Promote science-policy interfaces to embed WoLL results into decision-making.
- **Institutional anchoring and governance:**
 - Study governance models that ensure continuity of WoLLs.



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Thank you!

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