

REGULATING FOR RESILIENCE SECURING EUROPE'S WATER FUTURE IN A CHANGING WORLD

AGENDA

08:45 - 09:00 Registration and Welcome coffee

09:00 - 09:30 **Institutional opening session**

- Vera Eiró - President of WAREG and of the Portuguese Water and Waste Regulation Authority
- Pernille Weiss-Ehler - Member of Cabinet, Water Resilience Expert, Cabinet of Commissioner Jessika Roswall, Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy

09:30 - 10:40 **PANEL 1**

Funding a Resilient Water Future

Public funding will play a major role in financing the substantial investments needed to implement the water resilience strategy. Nevertheless, a significant role has also to be played by regulation. Alongside targets for an efficient water service management, tariff and quality regulation should also include proper incentives, on one side, to prioritise investments for environmental sustainability and resilience against the climate change, possibly privileging nature-based solutions, and, on the other side, to foster circular economy practices, in particular encouraging water reuse.

Introductory Remarks & Moderation: Lorenzo Bardelli, Director, ARERA, Italy

Speakers

- Vania Paccagnan - Senior Water Sector Economist, EIB
- Hans Goossens - President; CEO De Watergroep, Water Europe
- Oliver Loebel - Secretary General, EurEau
- Milo Fiasconaro - Executive Director, Aqua Publica Europea

10:40 - 11:00 **Coffee-Break**

11:00 - 12:10 **PANEL 2**

Performance Benchmarking in Water Regulation

WAREG will give an interim update on its 13 Common KPIs and discuss how these metrics enable risk-based oversight and incentives for regulators while offering utilities, consumers and investors a transparent benchmark of service quality and efficiency.

Introductory Remarks & Moderation: Ivaylo Kastchiev, WAREG Vice-President

Speakers

- Trudy Higgins - Policy Offer, DG ENV
- Susana Rodrigues - Head of Quality Department, ERSAR (Portugal)
- Kevin De Bondt - Technical Advisor for Water, BRUGEL (Brussels)



WAREG

HEADQUARTERS Piazza Cavour, 5 - Milan (Italy) - secretariat@wareg.org - www.wareg.org

INSTITUTIONAL OFFICE Avenue des Arts, 46/14 - Brussels (Belgium)

12:10 – 13:20

PANEL 3

Embedding Producer Responsibility in Wastewater Investment

Embedding Extended Producer Responsibility schemes into the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive recast, so that manufacturers of persistent pollutants (e.g. PFAS, microplastics) contribute to their remediation.

Introductory Remarks: Giulia Gadani – Researcher, REF – Ricerche

Moderator: Pal Sagvari, WAREG Vice-President

Speakers

- Andrea Guerrini - WAREG Vice-President and ARERA Board Member, ARERA (Italy)
- Konstantinos Tsimaras - WAREG Vice-President and RAAEY Board Member (Greece)
- Gari Villa-Landa Sokolova - Policy Advisor, EurEau
- Giulia Gadani – Researcher, REF – Ricerche

13:20 – 13:30

Final Remarks

- Vera Eiró - President of WAREG and of the Portuguese Water and Waste Regulation Authority
- Veronica Manfredi – Director, Directorate C - Zero Pollution, Water Resilience & Green Urban Transition, DG Environment, European Commission



Agenda

Research Findings of the Policy Brief (Policy and Regulatory Framework Analysis of Urban Water Runoff)

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|--------------|-------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Meeting Date | 4 th December 2025 | Start Time | 14h30CET | End Time | 15h00 CET |
| Location | Brussels, Belgium | | | | |
| Organisers | WAREG, WATERUN | | | | |

WATERUN is Horizon Europe funded project and aims to develop an innovative methodology to contribute to the implementation of urban water runoff (UWR) management plans in cities based on the Water-Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) concept. This methodology will provide preventive and mitigation solutions and best management practices adopting a holistic perspective (from source identification to decision making) for diffuse water pollution control in urban catchments. The target is to transform the UWR management by the development of identification, planning and risk-based tools and new working procedures (guidance) with the early involvement of the main urban water management and governance actors (co-creation process), ensuring a wider and faster adoption.

Key Partners of the Project are: Asociación de Investigación Metalúrgica del Noroeste (AIMEN), Dublin City University, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH (UFZ), Aarhus University, TILIA GmbH, Office International de l'Eau, European Water Regulators, University of Jordan, Aarhus Vand. Detailed information about WATERUN is available at: <https://www.waterun.eu/>

| Time | Agenda |
|---------------|--|
| 14.30 – 14.50 | Presentation of the Research Findings of the Policy Brief (Policy and Regulatory Framework Analysis of Urban Water Runoff) by Maria Salvetti |
| 14.50-15.00 | Q&A |

Agenda

WaterGovernance2027 Synergy Group “Innovative Governance for Water Resilience - Focus on Economic aspects”

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|--------------|--|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Meeting Date | 4 th December 2025 | Start Time | 15h00 CET | End Time | 16h30 CET |
| Location | Brussels, Belgium | | | | |
| Organisers | InnWater, GOVAQUA, RETOUCH NEXUS Horizon Europe projects | | | | |

Europe faces escalating water challenges, including droughts, floods, and pollution, exacerbated by climate change, resulting in billions of euros in damage. By launching the **Water Resilience Strategy**, the EU raised water higher on its agenda than ever before. The EU's Water Resilience Strategy points out that water-related inequalities can harm economic, social, and territorial cohesion within the EU, underlining the need for increased investment in sustainable water management and innovation. It also recognizes the interconnectedness of water with energy, food, industries and ecosystems, advocating for a holistic approach to water governance.

Appropriate economic tools and measures can help the achievement of a more sustainable and secure water future. Three **Horizon Europe projects** - [InnWater](#), [GOVAQUA](#) and [RETOUCH NEXUS](#) - provide actionable and complementary solutions to strengthen the economic aspects of water management.

| Time | Agenda | Speakers |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Moderation: James Leten (SIWI)</i> | | |
| 15h00 - 15h15 | Introduction | Vera Eiró, WAREG President Bertrand Vallet, Policy Officer - DG ENV |
| 15h15 - 15h25 | Presentation of the key messages | <i>InnWater/GOVAQUA/RETOUCH NEXUS authors</i> |
| 15h25 - 16h15 | Moderated panel discussion Q&A | Verena Höhn - <i>Coordinator of the EcoDaLLi Project (Danube lighthouse)</i> Codruta Savu - <i>Nature Policy Officer – WWF European Office</i> Delphine Dupeux – <i>Director of Parliament Relations Intergroup – European Land Owners</i> Marco Delpero – <i>Head of WAREG Secretariat</i> |
| 16h15 - 16h30 | Conclusions | Maria Salvetti - <i>Water Economist and Policy Analyst- European University Institute</i> James Leten - <i>SIWI</i> |

