

Water4All webinar:

“Addressing EU Water Directive
governance gaps: Solutions for
Stakeholders’ involvement and Cross-
sectoral cooperation”

Sub-task C1.2 Policy Support Working
Group

*15th April 2025 –
14h00 to 15h30 CET*



INBO



**VLAAMSE
MILIEUMAATSCHAPPIJ**

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The Water4All Partnership, cofunded by the European Union within the frame of the Horizon Europe programme, aims at enabling water security for all in the long term through boosting systemic transformations and changes across the entire research – water innovation pipeline, fostering the matchmaking between problem owners and solution providers.

Within this project, **Pillar C** is designed for addressing the challenges and developing solutions for better uptake of innovative approaches and tools in policy making processes, and task C.1 for strengthening the science – policy – governance interface.

In this context, the Policy Support Working Group is working to **identify research and innovation needs in support of implementing selected water policies and legislations** (e.g. EU Green Deal, Water Framework Directive and daughter directives, Circular Economy Action Plan, Biodiversity Strategy 2030, Farm to fork strategy, SDGs).

The overarching aims of the policy support working group will be to:

- ▶ **Clarify the short/medium/long term policy expectations**, and by doing so providing the research communities the insight they need to steer their RDI activities towards the policy needs,
- ▶ Identify and introduce recent innovations and applications that can already be of use for particular policy areas and **pinpoint the policy/legislation targets that the identified technologies** can address.

After a series of consultation activities (workshops, surveys, AB consultation) the working group selected **the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive** and the **Drinking Water Directive** as a triple pack to conduct its activities, which includes the delivery of a [policy and technical gap analysis report](#) (July 2024 - “Gaps report”) and **guidelines** on available solutions and implementation strategies by July 2025 (ongoing work).

Thus, this webinar aims at presenting and discussing potential solutions to some gaps to the implementation of these 3 selected EU water related directives, and **focuses especially on solutions to the governance gaps related to Stakeholders’ involvement and cross-sectoral cooperation**.

This webinar will be followed by a **physical W4A workshop during the EURO-INBO conference** in Parma, Italy, from 19th to 22th May 2025, which will deepen the discussions and experience sharing on the topic.

Agenda of the webinar

AGENDA		
Timing	Contents	Speaker
	Introduction	
	Welcoming words, context (5')	Stefania ERBA (CNR)
14:00 - 14:15	Presentation of the work in Task C1.2 and reminder of the objectives (5')	Julie MAGNIER (OiEau/INBO)
	Introduction to the context of the Water Oriented Living Labs - WOLLs (5')	Andrea RUBINI (Water Europe)
	Case study n°1	
14:15 – 14:50	<p><i>Canale Reale river contract - WOLL experience of stakeholders' engagement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the case study (10') • Questions from City of Mechelen WOLL about stakeholders' engagement, based on its own experience (7') • Answers from Canale Reale river contract WOLL (7') • Comments from the other WOLLs/ public and answers (10') 	<p>Canale Reale river contract WOLL</p> <p>City of Mechelen WOLL</p> <p><u>Moderation:</u></p> <p>Patrick LAIGNEAU (OiEau/INBO) & Stefania ERBA (CNR)</p>
	Case study n°2	
14:50 – 15:25	<p><i>Catalan Water Partnership WOLL - experience of cross sectorial collaboration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the case study (10') • Questions from Tagliamento WOLL about cross sectorial collaboration, based on its own experience (7') • Answers from Catalan Water Partnership WOLL (7') • Comments from the other WOLLs/ public and answers (10') 	<p>Catalan Water Partnership WOLL</p> <p>Tagliamento WOLL</p> <p><u>Moderation:</u></p> <p>Patrick LAIGNEAU (OiEau/INBO) & Stefania ERBA (CNR)</p>
	Conclusion	
15:25 – 15:30	Conclusion & next steps	W4A C1.2 team