

Building Bridges across Europe's Landscapes

How multistakeholder landscape partnerships could safeguard water resilience in Europe

Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, increasing urbanisation, and monoculture and livestock farming are driving water scarcity and pollution in Europe, placing immense strain on the continent's water resources. From drought-stricken regions in the South to flood-prone areas in the North, we urgently need comprehensive, collaborative solutions to safeguard Europe's water security.

In the wake of escalating water-related crises across Europe – for example, recent extreme droughts in Italy and Spain - we are bringing together a raft of experienced speakers to discuss the potential of holistic, multistakeholder landscape partnerships to drive water resilience on the continent.

At the forefront of this urgent call to action is the recognition that no single entity can address the multifaceted challenges of water resilience alone. Multistakeholder partnerships offer a holistic approach, leveraging the collective expertise, resources, and innovation of governments, NGOs, businesses, and communities to safeguard Europe's precious water resources for future generations.

“Holistic” is the key word here. There is no point in restoring one tributary of a polluted river without tackling the whole basin — the problem will only resurface, and the investment will be rendered futile. From a risk perspective, it's essential to consider the entire living system rather than pulling it apart. This is why multi-stakeholder, multi-level partnerships are so important to driving long-term water resilience.

During this session, speakers from multi-stakeholder landscape partnerships already in action in Ireland, Spain, the Netherlands, and Germany will address:

1. The importance of holistic approaches that consider the interconnectedness of water systems, land use, conservation, agriculture, and climate change adaptation strategies.
2. A need for coherent policies and regulations at the European Union level to promote sustainable water management practices across different sectors.
3. The crucial role of local communities in water stewardship, including education, public awareness campaigns, and participatory decision-making processes.

As Europe stands at a critical juncture in its quest for water resilience, this event will serve as an example for collective action. By building multistakeholder partnerships, we can ensure a water-secure future for all.