

# Title: Water4All boosting EU Water Resilience

Session: Green Week Partner Events 2024

Date: May 30

Location: House of the Dutch Provinces, Rue de Treves 59-61 1040 Brussels (BE)

13h00 Welcome and coffee

13h30 Opening of Session by Ariane Blum, CEO Horizon Partnership Water4All

Update of Water4All current state of play and outcomes of 1<sup>st</sup> transnational call

## (13h45) Session 1: Water Resilience in an Urban Context

*Decentralised Urban Waste Water Treatment Systems involve vacuum toilets and kitchen grinders for organic waste, as well as separate grey water and black water waste streams, allowing for high quality nutrients recovery, heat recovery and biogas production, as well as production of high quality water (“drinking water quality”) for local reuse in industry, parks or other usage. Citizen engagement is a vital element within these groundbreaking projects.*

Presentation by Alderman Helsingborg (Sweden) presenting Recolab and Spoordok.

Recolab was the 2022 IWA Wastewater Project of the Year.

<https://globalwaterawards.com/2022-wastewater-project-of-the-year/#3>

Roundtable of municipalities and civil organisations:

- Alderman Leeuwarden (NL), Evert Stellingwerf, Alderman municipality of Leeuwarden, novel city district development involving decentralised water treatment, Spoordok, part of water living lab WaterCampus Leeuwarden.
- City representative from Gent (BE), sharing experience about De Nieuwe Dokken, a decentralised waste water treatment project developed through EU project H2020 [Run4Life](#) project.
- Claire Baffert, WWF, Senior Water Policy Officer t.b.c.

14h45 Coffee Break

## 15h00 Session 2: Water Resilience using Nature Based Solutions at Catchment Scale

*Nature Based Solutions build forward on prior work of former Emeritus Professor Millan Millan (Spain) (<https://www.resilience.org/stories/2023-07-17/millan-millan-and-the-mystery-of-the-missing-mediterranean-storms/>) and Dr. John D. Lui (China) (<https://www.allcreation.org/home/regrowing-loess-plateau>) both have investigated the key role of natural ecosystems and the presence of vegetation in boosting regional water resilience, water availability, nature restoration and economic growth.*

Presentation by, Cees Buisman, Executive Board Member, Wetsus, European Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Water Technology.

Showcasing how Healthy Soils and Natural Water Production can boost European water resilience. Recent work focused on preventing desertification in the Mediterranean climate zones. Wetsus company members The Weather Makers (NL) and DEME (BE) are engaged with the Egyptian government to develop a large scale implementation in to green the Sinai Peninsula and improve regional water availability, water quality and employability through the regeneration of coastal fish stocks.

Roundtable of EU regions developing Water Resilience plans on catchment level:

- Catalunya region and city of Barcelona, how to deal with a water scarcity and what can be done through a drought emergency and what measures will be taken to improve regional water resilience?
- Region of Tessaly (Greece) Water Resilience is not limited to droughts, but also involves floods. Storm Daniel, a once-in-a-1000-year weather event, battered Thessaly with 700 mm in 48 hours, equal to the average annual rainfall in the region. What lessons can be learned from this experience?  
[<https://www.government.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/HVA-Fact-Finding-Mission-Report-on-Thessaly-Post-Disaster-Remediation.pdf>]
- Pär Svensson, City of Malmö – How do Malmö and Skåne work with climate adaptation and strengthening water resilience? What can be learnt this far?

15h50 Short Break

## 16h00 Session 3: Delivering a Sustainable Water Supply for Emerging Industries

*The European Union is committed to reaching 'net zero' CO2 emissions by 2050. Which will require a transition towards renewable energy sources and large scale application of Green Hydrogen for energy intensive industries. Green Hydrogen is called green when the energy is produced sustainably. Green Hydrogen is also a water-intensive industry and with Gigawatt Electrolysers being planned all across*

*Europe the question of sustainable water supply becomes more urgent. In this way the transition towards 'net zero' will not jeopardize Europe's Water Resilience.*

*Large Scale Green Hydrogen production is foreseen in areas with abundant sunshine, such as Spain, Portugal, Marocco, Algeria, Namibia, Australia and the Middle-East. All of these have in common that availability of sunshine is high, but water availability is low. In many cases the water availability is even extra low when renewable energy is expected to be most abundant, such as during the Summer months.*

Jeroen Rijnhart, director CEW, applying direct seawater electrolysis to improve sustainability of Green Hydrogen production, minimizing the use of chemicals, preventing brine formation and preventing enhanced water stress. A concrete step towards Green-Blue Hydrogen?

Roundtable of Hydrogen and water stakeholders:

- Hydrogen Europe, CEO Jorgo Chatzimarkakis t.b.c.
- Aqua Publica Europea, President Bernard Van Nuffel, CEO VIVAQUA t.b.c.
- Breakthrough Energy, Julia Reinaud, Senior Director, Europe t.b.c.
- Plataforma Solar de Almeria, Sustainable Desalination Living Lab in H2020  
[WaterMining](#)

16h50 Short break

## 17h00 Session 4 Next Steps by Policy Makers

Reflections by European Commission and Belgian Presidency to improve water resilience through EU initiatives such as European Partnership Water4All.

- DG Environment, Luca Perez t.b.c.
- DG RTD, Bertrand Vallet
- Bernard De Potter, head of agency and water director for the Flemish Region

Conclusion by Ariane Blum

## 17h30 Networking drinks:

19h00 End of Event