

# Title: Water4All boosting EU Water Resilience

Session: Water4All Green Week Partner Event 2024

Date: May 30

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

13h00 Welcome and coffee

13h30 European Partnership Water4All

## Opening Keynote by:

**John Bell**, Director “Healthy Planet” in DG RTD

**Ariane Blum**, CEO European Partnership Water4All, Update of Water4All current state of play and outcomes of 1<sup>st</sup> transnational call.

## 14h00 Water Resilient Smart Cities

*This session will showcase how city districts can transform into smart factories for resources, energy and clean water. Maximising water and energy efficiency, reducing GHG emissions, by: recovering waste heat; producing biogas; reusing nutrients in agriculture, producing clean water for industrial and urban uses.*

*These examples show how districts act as living labs engaging their citizens, increasing social acceptance and achieve behavioural change. The increased awareness leads to lower water consumption and less pollution of wastewater.*

*Source separated sanitation applying vacuum toilets and kitchen grinders for organic waste become corner stones for sustainable urban districts. The high-quality effluent reduces pressures on precious drinking water sources.*

*Session chaired by Martijn Bijmans, Wetsus*

**Hamse Kjerstadius**, NSVA, Helsingborg, Sweden. Presenting Recolab and ANCHOR project. Recolab is IWA Wastewater Project of the Year 2022. ANCHOR is an Interreg Europe project about source separated sanitation in Hamburg, Ghent, Kerkrade, Amsterdam and Helsingborg.

Roundtable of municipalities and civil organisations:

- **Luzette Kroon** dijkgraaf Wetterskip, Regional Water Authority of Friesland. Developing a new city district with citizen engagement, limiting energy and water dependencies, by applying decentralised water treatment, energy production and storage. Spoordok is an integral part of Water Living Lab WaterCampus Leeuwarden.
- **Maria Jose Chesa Marro**, Municipality of Barcelona, sharing how the emergency drought situation offers an opportunity for water savings. Greywater, rainwater and reclaimed water have become compulsory measures boosting water resilience.
- **Thorjörn Larssen**, Deputy Managing Director at NIVA. The ecological status of the Oslo fjord has been severely affected by nitrogen excess from agriculture runoff and pollution from wastewater and drainage. Oslo region initiating improvements within all municipalities along the Fjord.

## 15h00 Coffee Break

## 15h15 Water Resilience using Nature Based Solutions at Catchment Scale.

*Many efforts are focused on more efficient use of water. This intervention is focused on generating creating more water through Nature Based Solutions. Creating green corridors connecting inland regions with the sea*

*Building forward on valuable work on Nature Based Solutions builds 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 regional prosperity.*

*Session chaired by Nikolai Friberg, Aarhus University*

**Cees Buisman**, Executive Board Member, Wetsus, European Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Water Technology. Presenting how Healthy Soils and Natural Water Production can boost European water resilience and combat Desertification in Mediterranean climate zones.

**Claire Baffert**, WWF, Senior Water Policy Officer, increasing water retention through nature-based solutions.

## 16h00 Green-Blue Hydrogen

Producing hydrogen by electrolysis is a water-intensive technology. Implementing Gigawatt electrolyzers will quickly outpace local and regional freshwater supply. Reuse of effluent will not be sufficient and likely be required for other purposes, especially in the face of climate adaptation. This calls for hydrogen which is created with renewable energy and renewable water: Green-Blue Hydrogen!

*Session chaired by Bertrand Vallet, DG Research & Innovation*

Introductory remarks:

**Bernard Van Nuffel**, President of Aqua Publica Europea and Deputy Mayor of Jette (one of Brussels' municipalities).

Preventing water conflicts in a context of water scarcity: The role of local authorities and water operators in reconciling competing needs.

Innovative solutions for water-resilient industries:

- **Michel Saakes**, Applied Research Professor at NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences. Applying direct seawater electrolysis to improve sustainability of Green Hydrogen production, minimising the use of chemicals, preventing brine formation and preventing enhanced water stress.
- **Guillermo Zaragoza**, Plataforma Solar de Almeria, Sustainable Desalination Living Lab in H2020 WaterMining

## 17h00 European Policy supporting Water Resilience

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

- **Bernard De Potter**, head of agency and water director for the Flemish Region
- **Joachim D'Eugenio**, Adviser for Zero Pollution, DG Environment

Conclusion by Ariane Blum

## 17h30 Networking drinks

18h30 End of Event