

The European Water Academy

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Sofia, Bulgaria
20-22 May 2026



The European Commission Joint Research Centre



ANTICIPATE



INTEGRATE



IMPACT

Science for Policy

The Joint Research Centre provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society.



The European Water Challenge in Numbers

Economic data

In 2022, the EU's water supply, sewerage, and waste management sector had **81,500 enterprises**, generating **€316.5 billion in net turnover** and employing **1.6 million people** ¹

Investment needs

€255 billion in water investments over six years to protect Europe's economy from scarcity²

Local jobs

Water services provide **475,000 direct stable local jobs** requiring various levels of qualification⁴.

Water Losses

On average, **23% of treated water is lost** during distribution in the EU due to inadequate infrastructure, leaky pipes or outdated treatment facilities. ⁷



Water scarcity

Affects **38% of the EU population** and jeopardizes key industries. By 2023, these industry will nearly **triplicate** their water demand. ²

Water use by sector

- **34-36%** for electricity production
- **29%** for agriculture
- **19%** for public water supply
- **14-15%** for manufacturing ³

Households

Average water consumption per person per year ranges in the EU **from 27 – 103 m³** ⁵ with an average of **ca. 144 to 160 per day per person** ⁶.

Water pricing

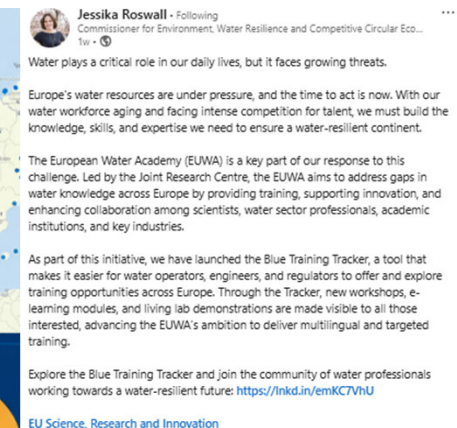
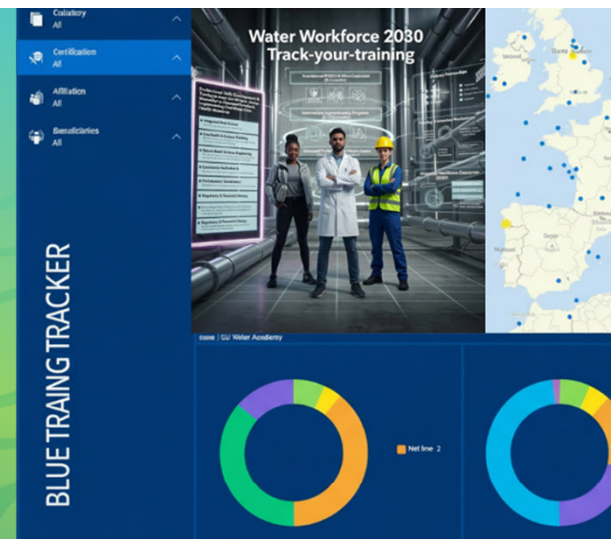
Prices around **€3.00 to €4.00 per cubic metre** for households⁸. **Irrigation water prices** in southern Europe range **from 0.054–0.645 €/m³ (Greece) to 0.23–1.50 €/m³ (France)** ⁹.





The European Water Academy

a flagship initiative to strengthen water resilience in Europe



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC WATER OPERATORS



Technology & Innovation



EUROPEAN WATER ASSOCIATION



International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area



European Commission

Led by

- JRC in co-operation with ENV

Supported by

- EMPL, EAC, RTD, ...

Cross-Sector Engagement



Professional Skills Development



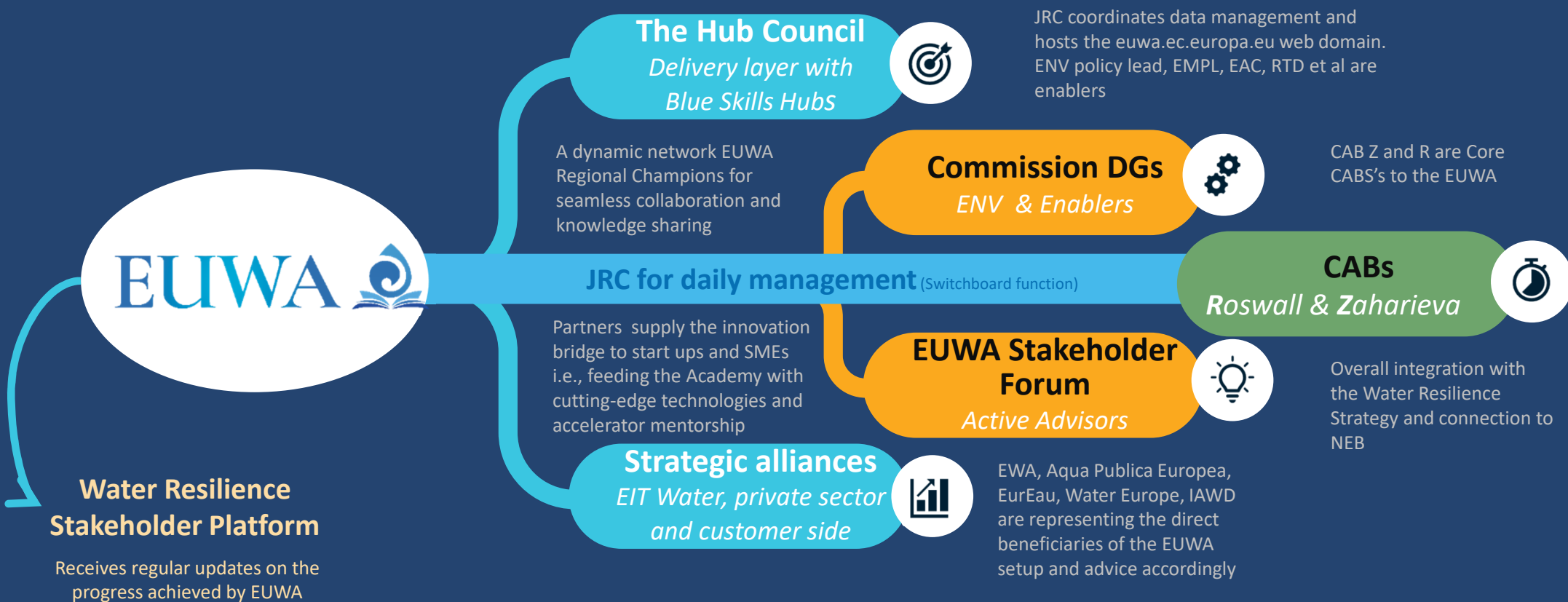
Start-Ups, Scale-Ups and Research

The Blue Training Tracker

Mapping professional skill programs, training courses and webinars



Building EUWA



The Pillars of Capacity Building in EUWA



Cross-Sector and Citizen Engagement



Professional Skills Development



Start-ups, Scale-ups and Research

Ongoing and Future Actions of EUWA

Blue Training Tracker

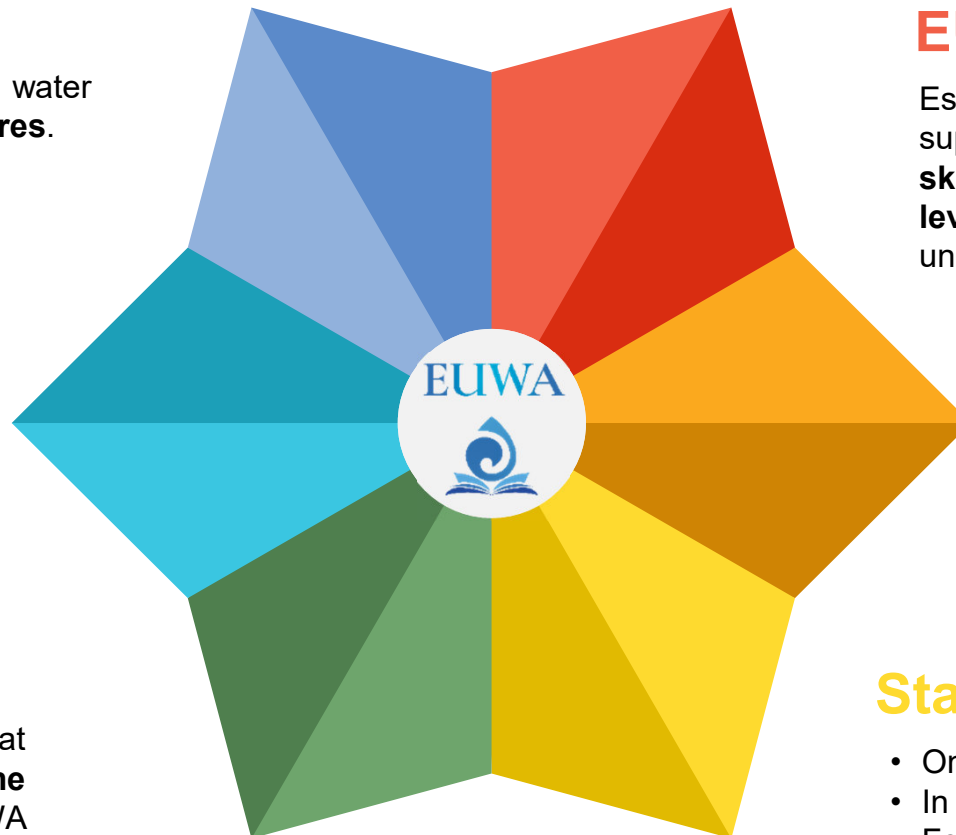
Maps **skill development activities** on water and also **relevant training infrastructures**.

JRC Blue Factory

Modernises the existing water and wastewater infrastructure at JRC Ispra site, integrates the JRC Water Laboratory and related experimental facilities, and provides an **open, physical research infrastructure for external water sector partners**.

Blue Pitch Nights

EIT Water as innovation bridge that **brings start ups and SMEs into the training ecosystem**, feeding the EUWA with cutting edge technologies and accelerator mentorship.



EUWA Regional Hubs

Establishment of EUWA Regional Hubs to support the **co-creation and delivery of skills development activities at local level**, aligned with EU strategic priorities under the Water Resilience Strategy.

National Training

Integration of existing national training programmes rather than duplicate them and identifying emerging skills gaps and new training needs.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Online (Town Halls, Café Series)
- In presence (IFAT, Danube Water Forum, ECOMONDO etc.)
- Bilateral



Ongoing and Future Actions of EUWA

Blue Training Tracker

Maps **skill development activities** on water and also **relevant training infrastructures**.



Understanding water development in Europe

Maps skill development activities

Shows **where** the activities, courses and initiatives exist

Supports informed decision-making

Enables more **targeted skill development** and planning going forward

Tracks skills development

Identifies **which** skills are being developed

Highlights gaps and trends

Reveals **missing** skills or underrepresented regions

 **Jessika Roswall** • Following
Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and Competitive Circular Eco...
1w • 

Water plays a critical role in our daily lives, but it faces growing threats.

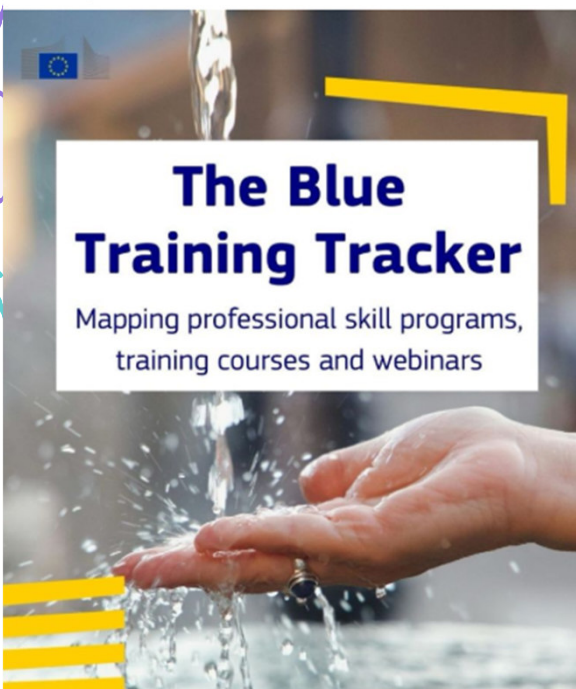
Europe's water resources are under pressure, and the time to act is now. With our water workforce aging and facing intense competition for talent, we must build the knowledge, skills, and expertise we need to ensure a water-resilient continent.

The European Water Academy (EUWA) is a key part of our response to this challenge. Led by the Joint Research Centre, the EUWA aims to address gaps in water knowledge across Europe by providing training, supporting innovation, and enhancing collaboration among scientists, water sector professionals, academic institutions, and key industries.

As part of this initiative, we have launched the Blue Training Tracker, a tool that makes it easier for water operators, engineers, and regulators to offer and explore training opportunities across Europe. Through the Tracker, new workshops, e-learning modules, and living lab demonstrations are made visible to all those interested, advancing the EUWA's ambition to deliver multilingual and targeted training.

Explore the Blue Training Tracker and join the community of water professionals working towards a water-resilient future: <https://lnkd.in/emKC7VhU>

EU Science, Research and Innovation



The Blue Training Tracker (new version)



The Blue Training Tracker

62/62 activities shown

Q Search activities, countries...

Register your training



FILTERS 0

Country: All ▾ Category: All ▾ Provider Type: All ▾ Format: All ▾ Language: All ▾ Target Audience: All ▾

Cost: All ▾ Certification: All ▾ Status: All ▾ **Reset**

Dashboard Overview

Monitoring professional skill activities, training courses & webinars worldwide

Last updated: 20 Apr 2026



▲ +56 vs prev. 30d

62

Total Training Activities
40 ongoing · 16 upcoming



▲ +38 vs prev. 30d

41

Total Training Providers
Unique organizations



▲ 50% of total

31

Training Activities Online
50% of total



▲ 39% of total

24

Training Activities In-person
39% of total



▲ 65% of total

40

Ongoing Training Activities
Currently active



▲ 26% of total

16

Upcoming Training Activities
Scheduled to start soon



▲ 10% of total

6

Completed Training Activities
Successfully finished

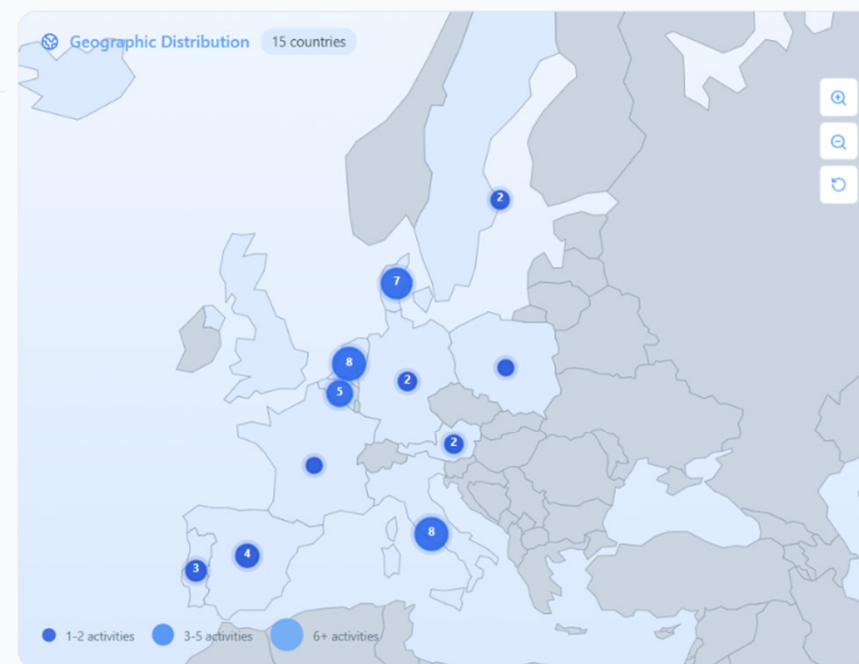


▲ 79% of total

49

Certified Activities
13 non-certified

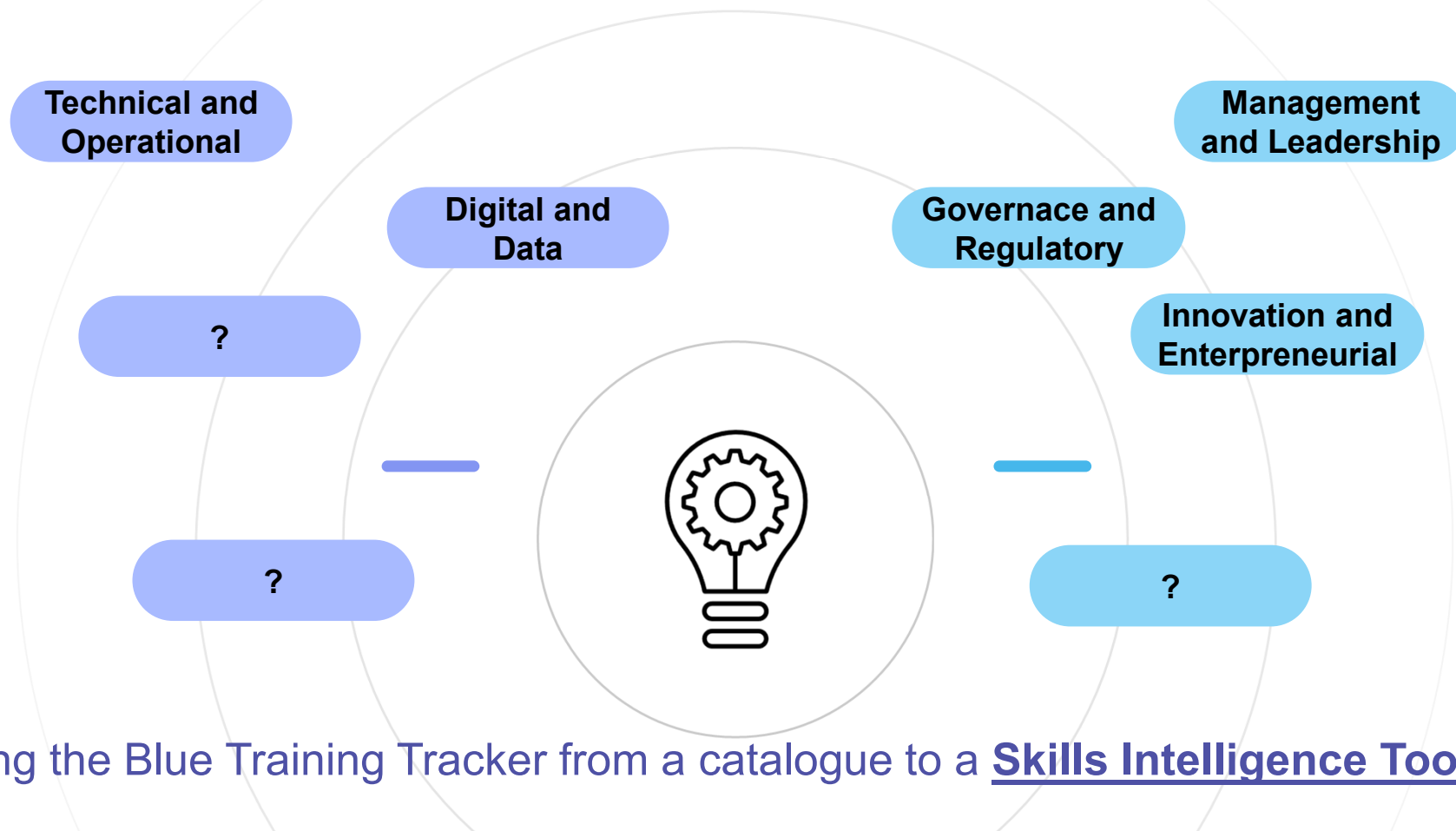
Global Geographic Distribution



https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/european-water-academy_en



Skills section in the “Register your training” form



¹¹Turning the Blue Training Tracker from a catalogue to a Skills Intelligence Tool



Ongoing and Future Actions of EUWA

JRC Blue Factory

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JRC Blue Factory: Our Vision



**Infrastructure for
Water Supply and
Sanitation**

**An Open Research
Infrastructure for the
Water Sector**

**A home for the JRC
Water Laboratory
and related labs**

**A Training Site and
Engagement Centre
for Water Resilience**



Ongoing and Future Actions of EUWA



Blue Pitch Nights

EIT Water as innovation bridge that **brings start ups and SMEs into the training ecosystem**, feeding the EUWA with cutting edge technologies and accelerator mentorship.



Ongoing and Future Actions of EUWA



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First Regional Champions

EMASESA

EMASESA Seville Training Center. Collaboration Agreement with JRC in JUNE 2026 expected.

Government of Madeira

A new Training Facility for Water & Digital Health for EU Outmost Regions and Islands

Irland

A University supporting the UN Environment Programm's action on SDG Monitoring and Capacity Building

JRC BlueFactory

A new Open Research and Innovation Hub integrating the JRC Ispra Water Cycle for Training, Innovation Accelerators and Engagement.

Netherlands

A Dutch Regional Training Hub. Announcement soon.

Catalunya / Spain

A Catalan Training and Research Centre.

Danube Representative

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Ongoing and Future Actions of EUWA



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Ongoing and Future Actions of EUWA



Stakeholder Engagement

- Online (Town Halls, Café Series)
- In presence (IFAT, Danube Water Forum, ECOMONDO etc.)
- Bilateral



Stakeholder Engagement

We continue the dialogue across the water sector



EUWA 

The European Water Academy

a flagship initiative to strengthen water resilience in Europe

FIRST TOWNHALL MEETING – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

March 18, 2026 (14:00-17:30 CET)

WEBEX

EUWA 

The European Water Academy

a flagship initiative to strengthen water resilience in Europe

SECOND TOWNHALL MEETING – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

21 April 2026 | 14:00-17:15 CET

 **EU Water Academy Café Series**

Selected Wednesdays |  11:30–12:00 CET

30-minute check-ins with stakeholders

29 April 2026–15 July 2026



https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/european-water-academy_en



Thank you!

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