

Kick-off Meeting of the WATER-MINING project: Water solutions for the circular economy



The TU Delft coordinator team of Prof. Patricia Osseweijer, Prof. Mark van Loosdrecht and Dr. Dimitris Xevgenos broadcasting the WATER-MINING kick-off event live from Rotterdam with a spectacular view on the Floating Farm.

European Project WATER-MINING, funded with 17 Mio. €, started on 1 September 2020 to demonstrate innovative solutions for water resources with a strong focus on Circular Economy.

WATER-MINING aims to provide examples for real-world implementation of relevant legislation such as the Water Framework Directive to help the transition to Circular Economy. WATER-MINING will produce science-based and policy-relevant recommendations for the sustainable management of resources. Demonstrations in Cyprus, Spain, Portugal, Italy and The Netherlands will be built to show novel efficient ways to reclaim nutrients, minerals, energy and water from seawater as well as industrial and urban wastewater. These value-added end-products (water, chemicals, energy, nutrients and minerals) are to ensure the regional supply of resources to drive economic development, and the integration of innovative business models will promote the Circular Economy. Together with industry, city councils and regional water organisations the project consortium will agree and develop new policies and business models. Collaboration will be key to reduce costs and increase efficiency and social benefits. The public-private consortium consists of 38 public and private partners and 4 linked third parties in 12 countries and is led by the Delft University of Technology.

On 26 and 27 October 2020, the kick-off meeting of the WATER-MINING project was held as an online session live from Rotterdam. Violeta Kuzmikaite Project Advisor at Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), and project officer for WATER-MINING from the European Commission stated that WATER-MINING was the Winner among the 5 water projects that are funded within Horizon2020 in the EU. In her opinion, market replication and business innovation in particular make a project successful through the development of new business models that are scientifically sound.

A unique feature of the project is that the implementation of the novel technology will be co-designed with a range of stakeholders. The public is also invited to contribute to the inclusion of social impacts and concerns. With augmented technology, the science behind the technology, the measured ecological footprint and the possible social impacts will be presented and discussed. “The input from stakeholders and the public will be used to improve the innovations and their implementation in society. I am really looking forward to this process.” states Patricia Osseweijer, professor for Biotechnology and Society at TU Delft and coordinator of the project.

PRESS RELEASE



WATER MINING aims to be an example for social embedding of innovative solutions in a wide spectrum of technology applications. More information can be found on www.watermining.eu.

Notes to the editors

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SEA-MINING



Lampedusa, Italy Almeria, Spain

Water Mining concept and demonstration sites

URBAN-MINING



Utrecht, The Netherlands Pharo, Portugal



Larnaca, Cyprus Barcelona, Spain

INDUSTRIAL-MINING



Rotterdam, The Netherlands India