



PRESS RELEASE

The WATER-MINING Project sets its Market & Policy Workshop in the second week of February

The **Market & Policy Workshop for the Next Generation of Water Management and Treatment Systems** will be held on the 7th and 8th of February 2023 in the *Espai Catalunya Europa*, Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the European Union, *Brussels*.

The event, **Devising Viable Business Models and Enabling Policies to Support Innovative Circular Water Technologies in the EU**, will gather EU-level stakeholders from water, business and policy fields to discuss business models and policy measures supporting cutting-edge technologies for harvesting critical resources from urban and industrial wastewater and from seawater.

WATER-MINING is a 4-year [EU-funded research and innovation project](#), bringing together 38 partners of 12 countries to promote a circular economy approach for water management and treatment, and aims at demonstrating new and energy-efficient ways to reclaim nutrient minerals, biopolymers, energy and freshwater from seawater desalination, and urban and industrial wastewater treatment.

Antecedents

During the last two years, the WATER-MINING project has performed the following tasks:

- A) **Market System Analysis** conducted with several stakeholder groups across the EU including:
 - **Market system mapping** to identify market and institutional actors and how they compete or collaborate.
 - **Analysis of barriers** to the market implementation and deployment of WATER-MINING technologies, also covering proposals for market improvement, policy instruments and funding strategies to overcome the market barriers.
- B) **Development of circular business model archetypes** for the WATER-MINING solutions: *Co-resource recovery*, *Reuse and recovery*, and *Waste to resource*. These archetypes show the value proposition, the forms of value creation, distribution and capture in the proposed business models.
- C) **Three Policy Packages**: One for each of the subsectors. The packages are developed by multidisciplinary teams and have two purposes:
 - Directly promote the diffusion of the technological innovations within the Water-Mining case study pilots.
 - Support the innovative business models that in turn support the technological innovations.
 - In accomplishing these purposes, the policy packages address the gaps in current EU (and member state) policy.

The workshop: its objectives and structure

The workshop will be aimed at:

- Informing EU-level stakeholders about current market barriers to uptake of circular (waste) water treatment solutions in the sub-sectors seawater desalination, urban and industrial wastewater treatment.
- Discussing existing business ecosystems and technical, economic, and financial feasibility of WATER-MINING technologies.
- Identifying the desired circular business models and policy enabling environments for scaling up these technologies.
- Informing EU-level stakeholders about policy packages devised to support the diffusion of the innovations developed for the three WATER-MINING sub-sectors and to discuss their potential effectiveness and validity.
- Fostering networking among participants from different sectors and profiles and allowing exposure to cutting edge technologies of seawater desalination and urban and industrial wastewater treatment and resource recovery.

The goals would be achieved during the two-day event, which will be structured in four main blocks: i) diagnosis of current market environments for circular water treatment; ii) assessment of the desired market conditions for realising circular water treatment business models; iii) new financial strategies to boost circular water business models and iv) policy solutions and policy packaging for desired circular market conditions.

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ABOUT WATERMINING

WATER-MINING is an EU-funded multidisciplinary research project that creates water management solutions using a circular economy approach. The project's consortium consists of 38 public and private partners and four linked third parties from 12 countries and is led by the Delft University of Technology. WATER-MINING works with pilot sites in Cyprus, Spain, Portugal, Italy and the Netherlands to demonstrate new and efficient ways to reclaim nutrients, minerals, biopolymers, energy and freshwater from desalination, and industrial and urban wastewater. To successfully integrate these value-added products into resource supply chains, the project produces science-based, market-oriented policy recommendations, designs circular business models, and engages stakeholders, leading to sustainable management of water resources.

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