



# Press Release

Green Village Delft

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# WATER-MINING project unveils 3 water innovations at public conference

Green Village Delft, The Netherlands, 1 October 2024

The WATER-MINING project highlighted three innovative outcomes for more sustainable water management at its conference “WATER-MINING: Lessons learned in creating value for society,” at the Green Village in Delft, The Netherlands, on Monday, 30 September 2024.

These findings, which can contribute to lower greenhouse gas emissions and increased resource recovery, are:

- A substantial decrease of energy consumption achieved in desalination processes.
- Novel marketable products that can improve business models for resource recovery and improved wastewater treatment.
- Substantial amounts of water and resources saved by smart circular water streams in industrial ecosystems.

These contributions to the sector come as a result of the four-year EU-funded WATER-MINING project’s research in six case studies across Europe – located in Lampedusa (Italy), Almería (Spain), Faro (Portugal), Larnaca (Cyprus), La Llagosta (Spain), and Rotterdam (The Netherlands).

The project, which is coordinated by the Delft University of Technology, brings together 39 public and private institutions from 12 different countries.



Photo: TU Delft's Professor Patricia Osseweijer interacts with attendees at the "WATER-MINING: Lessons learned in creating value for society" conference on 30 September 2024. Image: REVOLVE

**Prof. Patricia Osseweijer of project coordinator TU Delft, said:**

"This WATER-MINING conference presents the integration of circularity, sustainability, business models, policy reform, and innovation for improved water management. Now we have all our collective lessons we can discuss the best value for each situation. This way we foster innovation and technology towards more sustainable wastewater and water management across Europe.

Our achievements when it comes to market opportunities, brand new products, innovative use of energy and sustainable water provision can have a great social impact at a time when our shared water resources are becoming ever more precious."

**Assistant Professor Dimitris Xevgenos, also of TU Delft, added:**

"With the completion of WATER-MINING approaching and reflecting on the conclusion of the Horizon 2020 framework program, it is inspiring to see the significant progress made in the circular water economy field.

Consolidating this knowledge can provide the crucial insights needed to drive market implementation, explore new research areas, enhance our courses to deliver better

education to our students, and equip them with the skills required to tackle the complex challenges of the future.”



*Photo: A panel discussion underway at the WATER-MINING conference on 30 September 2024. Image: REVOLVE*

The full details of these key project outcomes were presented at the open WATER-MINING Conference Day, where industry leaders gathered for presentations and panel discussions exploring cutting-edge technologies, market opportunities, and best practices in stakeholder engagement.

At the conference, participants joined focused sessions on policy recommendations, innovation management, and industrial applications, concluding with a practical showcase of WATER-MINING solutions.

Conclusions from these workshops and discussions included the need at governance levels for interdepartmental committees on water management, focus groups on water circularity, and for more emphasis on linking water, food and energy.

Other key lessons highlighted during the public conference was the need to level the playing field when it comes to risk-taking and benefits, as the current market structures and business models fail to provide real incentives for resource recovery.



*Photo: A participant takes a photo at the WATER-MINING Conference on 30 September 2024. Image: REVOLVE*

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Venue: **Green Village, Delft, The Netherlands**

Agenda: **See the full programme [here](#)**

For more information, please contact:

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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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