

Proposal for Europe-INBO event On “Innovative Water Governance”

A joint process from the WaterGovernance2027
Synergy Group

Final Concept Note

Version 10 October 2023



1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in force now for over 20 years has had limited success in reaching its objectives of water protection and restoration, sustainable water use, and good status of waters. The main problem has been concluded to not be in the EU legislation itself, but in obstacles to its implementation linked to water governance problems, lack of finance, delays in planning and insufficient integration of environmental objectives in sectoral policies. The European Green Deal strategies (such as Farm to Fork, Biodiversity Strategy, Climate Adaptation Strategy) aim to enhance innovative governance models at national and subnational level, which can enable systemic transitions to more sustainable and resilient water management. Such a systemic transition requires large-scale and cross-sectoral changes in water, food, and energy management as well as governance instruments that reconcile water uses and environmental needs.

The WaterGovernance2027 synergy group gathers three Horizon Europe projects (GOVAQUA, RETOUCH NEXUS & InnWater; HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01-06 - Water governance, economic and financial sustainability of water systems) to set synergies and complementarities in terms of development, research and communication and to join efforts and share experiences on innovative water governance schemes across a variety of European settings.

The synergy group will organise dedicated modules in the EURO-INBO annual conferences in 2023-2026, providing an opportunity for the participants to learn about innovative water governance practices and to provide their feedback. In addition, the projects will disseminate factsheets and policy briefs on topical issues.

The aim of the modules is to support basin managers and other stakeholders in finding new ways to tackle water governance challenges.

- **GOVAQUA**

GOVAQUA will – for the first time – define what sustainability transition means in water governance. The project identifies good practices required for the transition in relation to legislation and regulation, multi-stakeholder participation and collaboration, economic and

financial instruments, and digital solutions for information sharing. These practices are systematically reviewed, analysed, and compared – and further co-developed, assessed and validated with key stakeholders in six real-world Living Labs in France, Finland, Spain, the UK, and Romania, and transnationally between Finland and Sweden.

- ***INNWATER***

InnWater will support multi-level and cross sector water governance, in association with economic tools, to support EU Green Deal transition while ensuring water systems sustainability.

A set of tools and services will be developed for the benefit of water stakeholders, including a governance assessment matrix, guidance for stakeholders engagement, as well as simulations linking water resources management and economics activities.

All of these tools will be co-developed and tested in 5 Pilot Sites, tools considering different sectors and management levels.

- ***RETOUCH NEXUS***

RETOUCH NEXUS focuses on the 2030 Agenda for UN Sustainable Development and explores effective water governance practices in a cross-sectoral setting. RETOUCH Nexus introduces and promotes the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus as a multi-level and cross-sectoral approach that supports the EU water economy and relies on ecological and social considerations. The project aims at integrated, innovative and inclusive smart water governance schemes and institutional settings for a secure water future in the EU that is resilient to climate change.. An evidence-based approach is used to optimize Nexus-smart water governance methods.

Expected outcomes include 35 water governance metrics and 6 governance schemes.

12 engagement mechanisms will empower citizen participation.

The workshop will offer and facilitate exchanges of experiences, practices and inputs and benefit from feedbacks in different water governance contexts, for instance at the basin level. It will also allow exchanges on the challenges faced by the governance due to climate change impact and societal issues

2. Agenda of the workshop

Moderation of the workshop: Mr. Yannick Pochon & Mr. François-Xavier Imbert, GOVAQUA team, OiEau

| 18th October 2023 – 9.00 – 12.30 | |
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| 9.00 | WELCOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS |
| 9.15 | WELCOMING WORDS & INTRODUCTION <i>Mrs. Stéphanie Laronde, Director of International Cooperation, OiEau</i> |
| 9.20 | SETTING THE SCENE |
| | European view on water governance and the synergy group WaterGovernance 2027 composed of GOVAQUA, InnWater, RETOUCH NEXUS European projects <i>Mrs. Astrid Guiffart, Project Officer, European Commission</i> |
| | How do GOVAQUA, InnWater, RETOUCH NEXUS European projects do respond to Europe's water governance? <i>Mrs. Suvi Sojamo, GOVAQUA coordinator, SYKE</i> <i>Mrs. Natacha Amorsi, InnWater coordinator, OiEau</i> <i>Mrs. Maria Vrachioli, Retouch Nexus coordinator, Technical University of Munich</i> |
| 10.10 | CASE STUDIES OVERVIEW |
| 11.00 | Share of experience: presentation of the set of case studies from each project <i>Mr. Damian Sanchez Garcia (CETAQUA) and Mr. Julio Berbel (Universidad de Córdoba) for GOVAQUA</i> <i>Mrs. Julie Magnier (OiEau) for InnWater</i> |
| | <i>Mr. Manuel Pulido, Adrià Rubio and Eulalia Gomez (UPV) for RETOUCH NEXUS</i> |
| 11.10 | BREAK |
| 11.10 | INTERACTIVE WORKING SESSION – ROUND TABLES |
| | 1. Which water governance challenges are you facing? 2. What have you put into place as solutions and approaches to face these challenges? 3. Identification of the remaining gaps and needs based on your own experiences <i>Facilitated by Mr. Yannick Pochon and Mr. François-Xavier Imbert, OiEau and observed by Mrs. Suvi Sojamo, SYKE and Mrs. Julie Magnier OiEau</i> |
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| 12.10 | CLOSURE |
| 12.30 | Key messages from the Workshop <i>Mrs. Suvi Sojamo, GOVAQUA coordinator, SYKE & Mrs. Julie Magnier, OiEau, InnWater team, Rapporteurs from the working session</i> Next steps of the WG2027 cluster activities <i>Mrs. Suvi Sojamo, GOVAQUA coordinator, SYKE (tbc)</i> |

Information:

<https://www.inbo-news.org/en/events/euro-riob-2023>

Registration:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfK2DqYnWHzWNhCrEufdJLTwiN98Cj3ds7SSqSFs3sqtJnJAg/viewform>