

# European Water Resilience Strategy



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# Water Resilience on the political agenda: **backdrop**



## The EU Water Resilience Strategy

#WaterWiseEU



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- ❖ Water is life. However, today we can no longer take water for granted.
- ❖ Access to clean and affordable water is a human right and a public good.
- ❖ Water resilience is a matter of security and crisis preparedness for the EU.
- ❖ Investing in sustainable water management and innovation will strengthen Europe's businesses and boost competitiveness.
- ❖ Water resilience is a significant business opportunity for EU industry.

# Three Key Objectives

**The European Water Resilience Strategy aims to:**

**Restore  
and protect  
the water cycle**

**Build a  
water-smart economy  
to boost competitiveness  
and attract investments**

**Clean and affordable  
water and sanitation  
for all**

# Five Enabling Areas of Action

The EU's main areas of action will be

1. governance and implementation
2. public and private investments and infrastructure
3. accelerating digitalisation and AI
4. boosting research and innovation
5. security and preparedness



And more than 50 specific follow up actions.....

# The existing **EU Water Aqvi**: comprehensive regulatory framework

- ❖ **Water Framework Directive:** Good Ecological + Chemical status + mitigate floods and droughts
- ❖ **Ecology:** Intercalibration decision, Nature Restoration Regulation (free-flowing rivers)
- ❖ **Nutrients:** Nitrates Directive, Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
- ❖ **Chemicals:** Priority Substances (EQS) directive , Industrial Emissions Directive
- ❖ **Protected areas:** Birds and Habitats Directives, Drinking Water Directive
- ❖ **Floods and droughts:** Floods Directive, Water Reuse Regulation
- ❖ **Marine waters:** Marine Strategy Framework Directive

## **POLICIES:**

- **Biodiversity Strategy**
- **Zero Pollution Action Plan**
- **Climate Adaptation Strategy**
- **Water Resilience Strategy**
  - **Ocean Pact**

# Objective 1: Restoring and protecting the water cycle

## WE NEED:

- Step up efforts to improve water retention on land
- A source-to-sea management of fresh and marine waters
- Curb nutrient pollution
- Clean up forever chemicals (PFAS)
- End overexploitation and overabstraction

## ACTIONS

- *Develop a Sponge Facility and a Green and Blue Corridors initiative*
- *Revise the Marine Strategy Framework Directive*
- *Toolbox for nutrients pollution*
- *PPI for PFAS remediation*
- *Develop water scarcity indicators*

# Restoring and protecting the water cycle



How can nature protect us from floods and droughts?



See **Water** Differently



How can we make our cities flood-proof?



See **Water** Differently



How can we bring life back to our waters?



See **Water** Differently



How can we cut pollution at its source?



See **Water** Differently

# Objective 2: A Water Smart economy

## WE NEED:

- Use and reuse water efficiently
- Efficiency by design and reuse
- Fight leakages and unintended losses
- Integrate water resilience into all sectors
- Water efficient energy production

## ACTIONS

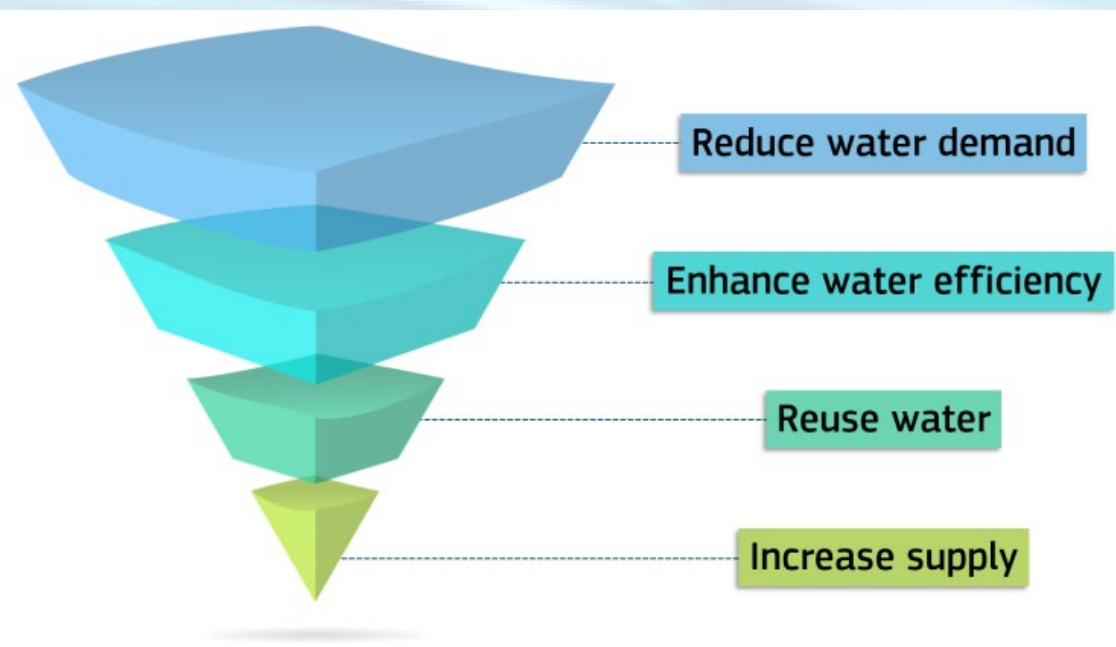
- *Recommendation on Water Efficiency First*
- *Support Water Reuse*
- *Leakage reduction*
- *Minimum performance standards for Data Centers*
- *PPI for dry cooling*

# A Water Smart economy

Green, Blue, Grey water in a context of adaptation



## Water Efficiency First - Hierarchy



# Objective 3: Clean and affordable water for all

## WE NEED:

- Public information and transparency
- Use cost recovery and polluter pays
- Save energy and water in housing and city planning
- Shift towards water-smart products

## ACTIONS

- *Enhance public awareness*
- *Exchange of best practices for pricing*
- *Water resilience in the built environment*
- *Enhance the involvement of consumers*
- *Adress the water footprint of products*



# Enabling Area 2: Finance, Investments, Infrastructure

LAUNCH OF THE EIB WATER PROGRAMME AND ADVISORY FACILITY



MIDTERM REVIEW OF COHESION POLICY - WATER RESILIENCE A NEW PRIORITY



ESTABLISH A WATER RESILIENCE ACCELERATOR



EIB to support with over 15 billion Euro in 2025-2027

# Enabling Area 3: Digitalisation

**ACTION PLAN ON DIGITALISATION OF THE WATER SECTOR**



**EU WIDE INITIATIVE ON SMART WATER METERING**



**ONE STOP SHOP FOR COPERNICUS PRODUCTS ON WATER**



# Enabling Area 4: Research, Innovation, Skills and Industry

WATER RESILIENCE R&D STRATEGY



EUROPEAN WATER ACADEMY



KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITY  
EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND  
TECHNOLOGY



# Enabling Area 5: Security and preparedness

PROTECTING CRITICAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE



ENHANCE THE USE OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS



EUROPEAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN AND THE PREPAREDNESS UNION STRATEGY



# Global Action

PROMOTE WATER RESILIENCE THROUGH THE GLOBAL GATEWAY



STRENGTHEN GLOBAL WATER GOVERNANCE



MAINSTREAM WATER IN INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES INCLUDING RIO CONVENTIONS



# Next steps

Water  
Resilience  
Forum  
8. Dec 2025

Mid term  
review of the  
Strategy  
2027

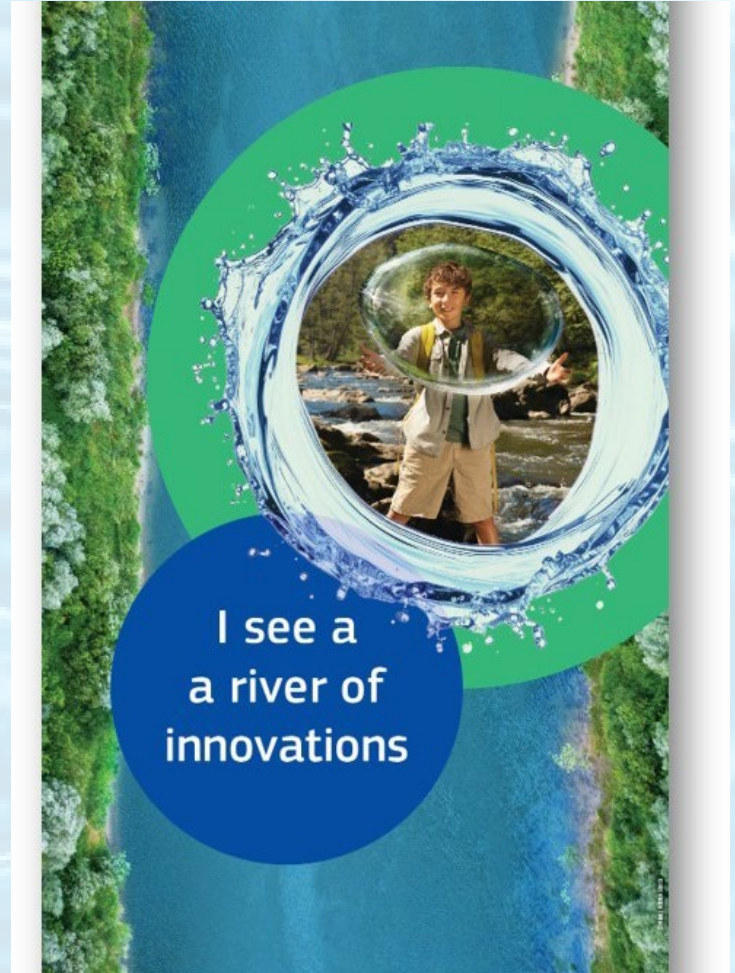
Evaluation of  
progress  
2029

# WRS: the **Source to Sea** approach

- ❖ Integrated management of fresh and marine waters is essential.
- ❖ Riverine pollution, disrupted sediment flows, and water shortages, all have a strong impact on the health of marine ecosystems and activities that depend on them.
- ❖ Coastal areas play a critical role in the water cycle and are crucial in preventing land-based pollution from entering the sea.
- ❖ Effective spatial planning can reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities, cities, seaports, and low-laying river deltas to climate change.
- ❖ *Launch a **Green and Blue Corridors initiative** for restoration of rivers, wetlands, and coastal areas to restore the water cycle with a source-to-sea approach.*

# European Water Resilience Forum

Brussels, 8 December 2025



Information and registration: [Water Resilience Forum](#)

# Thank you!

## The EU Water Resilience Strategy

#WaterWiseEU



### LINKS:

Main web page: [Water resilience strategy](#)

Press release: [European Water Resilience Strategy](#)

Factsheet: [European WRS Factsheet](#)

Action tracker: [WRS Actions Tracker](#)

WRS Q&As: [Water Resilience Strategy](#)

### DOCUMENTS:

Water Resilience Strategy: [European Water Resilience Strategy](#)

Water Efficiency First principle: [Recommendation on Water Efficiency First: Guiding Principles](#)