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Europe



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Gov4Water

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## Smart, Efficient and Adaptive Water resource management

**Gov4Water** is an ambitious project designed to improve water governance, making planning more resilient to climate change and able to meet future challenges.

At the heart of the project is the need to close existing gaps in water resource management and find innovative solutions to ensure a sufficient supply of quality water at all times, even in a context of climate change. The aim is to reduce water consumption by promoting sustainable practices to preserve this essential resource.

The project also aims to integrate adaptation and resilience strategies into water management systems, making them more robust and ready to face future challenges.

[More information](#)

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## Improving collaboration between water management actors

One of the key aspects of Gov4Water is **improving collaboration** between all actors involved **in water management**. The project is committed to facilitating better coordination and cooperation between regional actors, ensuring that policies and strategies are effective and well integrated.

This cooperation aims to make regional policies more effective and responsive to local needs, especially in terms of climate change adaptation and sustainable water management. Teamwork between public authorities, organisations and communities is essential to achieve effective and resilient water management.



## The launch of Gov4Water

The Gov4Water project was **officially launched** with a two-day meeting on 10-11 April 2024. During the event, AURI Director Giuseppe Rossi welcomed the participants, followed by presentations by partners from Italy, Belgium, Estonia, France, Hungary, Poland and Spain. Each organisation presented its activities and discussed the main challenges in water resources management, which vary according to different regional realities. These presentations laid the foundation for fruitful collaboration and discussion on how to address common problems related to water governance and sustainability.

[More information](#)

## Goals and next steps for integrated water management

The first meeting of the Gov4Water project included a guided tour of **Rasiglia**, an ancient village known for its heritage in water management. Among the topics discussed were water storage, pollution, governance and adaptation to climate change. Partners highlighted regional priorities, such as managing heavy rainfall in the Murcia region and water quality problems in Estonia and the Łódź region.

On the second day, discussions focused on good water management practices, with an emphasis on integrating approaches to address problems such as drought, flood damage and equitable distribution of water resources.

Next steps include the refinement of regional priorities and the development of concrete strategies.

**Failure in Governance and Management cause damages, loss, and suffering**

It is not the quantity of water alone that determines the impact of floods, but how effectively that water is managed. **Effective management relies on governance structures** that are competent, proactive, adaptive, and resilient. Properly managed regions can absorb, redirect, or withstand large volumes of water with minimal damage. The recent floods (September 2024) in **Hungary, Poland**, Austria, and northern **Italy** have underscored the urgency of improving these structures. The devastating damages, immense suffering, and unnecessary loss of life are not merely the result of natural events, but also a reflection of how towns, regions, and national governments have integrated climate change realities into their infrastructure, urban planning, and governance frameworks.

All necessary knowledge has been available for at least two decades, and cities like Venice and Rotterdam have understood this for centuries. Climate change is "only" a threat multiplier. Institutional inertia, lack of professional capacity, climate change ignorance, and profit-driven priorities have led to catastrophic losses, even in parts of central and southern Europe traditionally considered to have strong governance under "normal" circumstances. Effective flood management depends on governance systems that **prioritize foresight, adaptation, and resilience over reactive emergency responses.**

The Gov4Water project seeks to address this challenge through collaboration between European regions, all of which have been affected to varying degrees by recent events. By focusing on the technical, cultural, and managerial aspects of water management under "catastrophic" conditions, Gov4Water aims to make a targeted contribution to improving governance. Ultimately, it is governance that shapes the impact of floods, not the water itself.

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## First Interregional Seminar in Hungary

The **first Interregional seminar** (and second project meeting) of the Gov4Water project will be held by the Hungarian partner **Vas County Government Office** next October 2024 in Szombathely.

This event will bring together stakeholders and experts from all partners' countries to discuss the results of the first paper "State of water resource and management in partners regions". A rich agenda of study visits will be part of the interregional exchange.

The aim of this exchange is to discuss and define - based on the results gained - the "Procedures of adapting water management to climate change" focus of the next paper in the respective regions.



# Innovative solutions for water management



The **Province of West Flanders** manages 3,650 km of watercourses that, when fed by rain, can cause rapid flooding or dry up quickly. To deal with these problems, the province has created controlled flooding areas and small-scale water storage projects on agricultural land. The storage basins retain water during floods and store it for dry periods. In cooperation with the farmers, the province covers the costs of design, permits and construction, while the land owners manage and maintain the reservoirs for 20 years. This initiative not only reduces the need for pumping and traffic, but also optimises use of local water resources.

## Partner



Questo messaggio include la possibilità di essere rimosso da ulteriori invii.  
Qualora non intendesse ricevere ulteriori comunicazioni la preghiamo di [cancellarsi qui](#)

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