

# ACCOUNTABILITY

## IN THE MAINSTREAMING OF ALTERNATIVE WATER RESOURCES

### AWARD POLICY BRIEF #3

### RESOURCE DOCUMENT

## POLICY LANDSCAPE

At EU level, accountability in the water sector is embedded across a broad policy landscape rather than defined in one single law. Core Directives such as the **Water Framework Directive (WFD)** and the **Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD)** establish binding targets, monitoring obligations, and reporting requirements for Member States (which are all transposed into national laws). These are supported by horizontal instruments like the Environmental Liability Directive and the Access to Environmental Information Directive, which reinforce transparency and enforcement.

However, these Directives **do not explicitly assign accountability** for innovation uptake, including AWR. This lack of targeted accountability limits the systemic integration of AWR. Although instruments like the Water Reuse Regulation or the European Water Resilience Strategy (EWRS) promote reuse, they stop short of mandating **institutional responsibility** or enforcing uptake. Strengthening accountability would require **clearer objectives, obligations, performance indicators**, and enforcement mechanisms specifically tied to AWR.



## FURTHER INFORMATION ON DEMO CASES

### DEMO CASE #1

### Bucharest, Romania

**Circus Lake Case:** Diagnosing Lake Level Decline and Implementing Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)

#### MONITORING

##### DIVERSIFYING WATER RESOURCE

- Rainwater harvesting
- Stormwater capture
- Reduce dependence on conventional water supply

##### EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Awareness campaigns
- Citizen Training
- Schools & NGO Partnerships

##### KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- National & Local Authorities
- Water Utility Operator
- NGOs & Community Groups
- Educational Institutions

#### EXPECTED OUTCOMES



Improved Lake  
Water Balance



Sustainable Water  
Management



Replicable Methodology  
for Urban Lakes

## DEMO CASE #2

### Milan, Italy

**Managing Urban Flooding, Enhancing Groundwater Recharge and Using AWR for Green Spaces**

#### MONITORING

##### ENCOURAGING THE USE OF AWR FOR NON-POTABLE URBAN PURPOSES

- Replace potable water with AWR for municipal uses
- Promote irrigation of public green spaces

##### ENHANCING GROUNDWATER RECHARGE IN URBAN AREAS

- SuDS and infiltration systems
- Stormwater capture
- Recharge measures

##### PROTECTING THE QUALITY OF SHALLOW GROUNDWATER

- Continuous monitoring
- Protection against contamination

**Primary stakeholders:** Municipal Authorities • Gruppo CAP • Research Institutions

#### EXPECTED OUTCOMES



Reduced Urban Flooding



Sustainable Use of AWR for Green Spaces



Improved Groundwater Recharge



Resilient and Liveable Urban Environment

## DEMO CASE #3

### Paralimni, Cyprus

**Water Reuse Case:** Enhancing Water Resilience through Reclaimed Water Production and Reuse

#### MONITORING

##### WATER REUSE MANAGEMENT

- Reclaimed water production
- Distribution system optimisation
- Reuse for irrigation purposes

##### AWARENESS & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Knowledge sharing activities
- Communication and awareness actions
- Promotion of AWR solutions

##### KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Local Water Forum
- Engagement of public authorities
- Consultation with end users

#### EXPECTED OUTCOMES



Increased Water Reuse



Better Water Quality



Reduced Freshwater Demand



Enhanced Resilience

## DEMO CASE #4

### Santiago de Compostela, Spain

**Stormwater Reuse Case:** Demonstrating Alternative Water Resources for Industrial Applications

#### MONITORING

##### STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- Stormwater collection
- Treatment and storage
- Industrial reuse applications

##### SOCIAL INNOVATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Stakeholder workshops
- Public-private collaboration
- Knowledge sharing activities

##### KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Municipal Authorities
- Water Utility (VEOLIA)
- Environmental Association
- Research Institutions

#### EXPECTED OUTCOMES



Increased Water Reuse



Reduced Freshwater Demand



Industrial Water Resilience



Regulatory Innovation

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