



NEWSLETTER

Newsletter August 2026

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Selected stories of what happened since the last issue

► **News from EWA Members**

The latest updates, achievements, and initiatives from EWA members

► **EWA Events**

Learn more about our future events and save the dates!

► **News from Brussels**

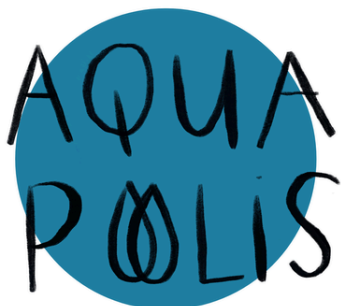
Abstracts with links to download the full length articles

► **List of other events**

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News from EWA

New Research Member



We are pleased to welcome **Aquadpolis** as a new Research Member.

Aquadpolis is an independent, research-oriented think tank that examines water as one of the defining governance and international policy challenges of the twenty-first century. Rather than approaching water solely as an environmental issue, it explores its political, institutional and societal dimensions, recognising water as a matter of governance, public policy, diplomacy, infrastructure, resilience, security and sustainable development. Bringing together emerging researchers, experienced practitioners and public institutions, Aquadpolis serves as a forum for rigorous inquiry and interdisciplinary collaboration on the complex issues shaping the future of water. Founded within the Sciences Po Paris ecosystem, our initiative exists to strengthen the governance of water by connecting research, policy and practice across disciplines, institutions and generations.

More information is available on their [LinkedIn page](#).

**Please join us in welcoming Aquadpolis to the EWA Network.
We look forward to the collaboration!**

Meet the MARGIN partners

Do you follow the MARGIN YouTube page?

The MARGIN project, Managing Groundwater Sustainability in Urban Areas, is an Interreg Alpine Space initiative working to address the unique groundwater challenges faced by Alpine cities.

With climate change and urbanization increasing pressure on groundwater resources, MARGIN is helping cities like **Munich, Ljubljana, Milan, and Linz** assess their vulnerability and develop adaptation strategies.

The **MARGIN partner video series** is now live! Get to know the organizations and experts working together to strengthen groundwater resilience and promote sustainable water management across the Alpine region.

You can already watch videos featuring the **City of Milan, Climate Alliance, Linz AG, and GeoSphere Austria**, and learn more about their expertise, challenges, and contributions to the project.

More partner stories are coming soon. In September, we will introduce the **City of Munich** and the **University of Milano-Bicocca**, offering further insights into the collaborative efforts driving MARGIN forward.

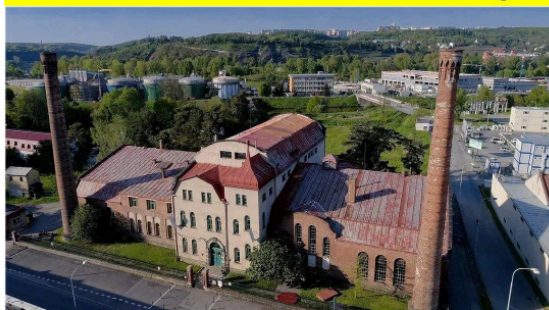
[Subscribe](#) to the MARGIN YouTube channel to stay updated and be the first to meet the faces behind the project!

You can learn more about the MARGIN project [here](#).

News from EWA Members

Prague to Celebrate 120 Years of Wastewater Treatment

"Invisible" Wastewater Treatment Plants in Prague



1906



2018

This year, Prague celebrates 120 years of wastewater treatment, marking the anniversary of the commissioning of the city's first wastewater treatment plant in Bubeneč on 27 June 1906.

Designed by the British engineer William Heerlein Lindley, the facility was a pioneering achievement that laid the foundation for modern wastewater management in the Czech capital.

To commemorate this milestone, the **Czech Water Association (CzWA)** is organizing the conference "**120 Years of Wastewater Treatment in Prague**" on **16 September 2026** at the historic Old Wastewater Treatment Plant in Bubeneč.

The event will bring together Czech and German experts to reflect on the development of wastewater treatment technologies, from the original mechanical processes of the early twentieth century to today's advanced treatment systems. The programme will also highlight the historical significance of the Bubeneč plant, the future of Prague's wastewater infrastructure, and the importance of international cooperation in protecting the Vltava and Elbe river basins. Alongside expert presentations, participants will have the opportunity to network and visit this unique industrial heritage site.

You can learn more about the 120 years anniversary [here](#). You can also find a summary [here](#).

If you are interested in participating in the event, please send an email to czwa@czwa.cz

Research, Teaching and Practice

This year, the **Institute of Environmental Engineering (ISA) at RWTH Aachen University** celebrates its **60th anniversary**. Under exceptionally hot summer conditions, the Institute welcomed employees, alumni, project partners, sponsors, representatives of water associations, members of **RWTH Aachen University and the Faculty of Civil Engineering**, as well as guests from academia, industry and the water sector to the μ^3 Research Center at the **Aachen-Soers wastewater treatment plant** site to celebrate six decades of successful work in research, teaching and practice.

The history of the Institute began in 1966 with the appointment of Professor Botho Böhnke and the separation from the former Institute of Urban Engineering. Since then, ISA has developed into a nationally and internationally recognized institution for research and teaching in the field of urban water management. The Institute's scientific activities focus in particular on water and environmental protection, wastewater engineering, drinking water treatment and water reuse, as well as sustainable resource management.

An outlook on the present and future of the Institute was provided by the current Head of Institute, Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Thomas Wintgens. He emphasized the growing importance of sustainable water and resource strategies in light of climate change, urbanization and increasing demands on water protection: ISA will continue to make an important contribution to the development of scientifically sound and practice-oriented solutions for the water sector in the future.

A guided tour through the laboratories and pilot facilities of the μ^3 Research Center offered guests insights into current research projects and modern experimental facilities. The tour clearly demonstrated the Institute's importance in developing innovative solutions for the water sector.

The anniversary celebration concluded with a convivial gathering accompanied by music, where personal contacts, shared memories and professional exchange took center stage.

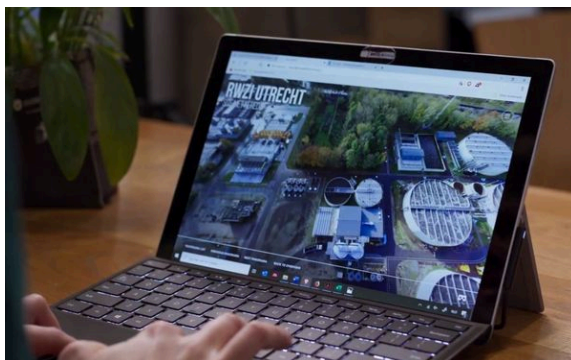
"60 years of ISA stand for scientific excellence, innovative strength and the close connection between research and practice. This success is the result of the commitment of many people who have shaped and supported the Institute over the decades," said Prof. Wintgens.

With this anniversary, the Institute not only looks back on a successful past, but also ahead to the challenges and opportunities of a sustainable water sector in the future.

You can learn more about the ISA [here](#).



Discover Technologies Shaping the Future of Sustainable Water Treatment



Want to stay at the forefront of innovative water treatment technologies?

From anaerobic treatment to PFAS removal, discover the solutions shaping the future of sustainable water management.

TU Delft's online courses, taught by award-winning experts, provide practical knowledge you can apply immediately – helping you stay ahead of industry developments and advance your career.

Learn from experts such as **Professor Jules van Lier, recipient of the 2025 William Dunbar Medal**, whose pioneering work has inspired generations of water professionals.

As he explains: *“Anaerobic treatment fits perfectly into circular systems. It avoids the use of fossil fuels and turns waste into something useful.”*

Explore courses including **Anaerobic Wastewater Treatment, Aerobic Granular Sludge Technology, Nanofiltration, and PFAS**.

EWA members and newsletter subscribers receive **10% off** with code **TUDEWA10** at <https://learningforlife.tudelft.nl/water-treatment-courses>.

Introduction Course to EU Water Policy and Legislation

NEW DATE! REGISTER NOW!

Want to deepen your understanding of EU water policy and the legislation shaping the future of water management in Europe?

We are pleased to announce a new date for our online Introduction Course to EU Water Policy and Legislation, taking place on **29–30 September 2026**.

Over two online sessions, participants will gain practical insights into:

- 💧 The development and principles of EU water policy
- 💧 Key EU water legislation, including the Water Framework Directive, Drinking Water Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, and Nitrates Directive
- 💧 EU governance, decision-making processes, and implementation of water policies

The course will be led by **Arthur Guischet**, Secretary General of the European Water Association and includes comprehensive documentation and a certificate of attendance.

👥 Ideal for professionals from public authorities, water utilities, industry, consultancies, research institutions, and NGOs working in the water sector.

> REGISTER NOW



INTRODUCTION COURSE TO EU WATER POLICY AND LEGISLATION



29 & 30.09.2026

10:30 AM - 01:00 PM



Join us !



with **Arthur Guischet**

EWA Secretary General

SAVE THE DATE



Mark your calendars for **November 24th** as we celebrate the **20th edition of our Annual Brussels Conference!**

The 20th edition will focus on **Water Security in a Europe Under Pressure** and is expected to build on the success of its predecessors, bringing together a diverse group of participants from across Europe to continue fostering collaboration, innovation, and dialogue around the pressing issues of the water sector.

Save the date and join us in Brussels!

More information will be updated on our [website](#).

Interested in becoming a sponsor?

We'd be happy to discuss partnership opportunities with you.

Feel free to [reach out](#) for more details.

Topics covered in the News from Brussels

The articles in the News from Brussels section here below cover the following topics:

1. Europe's bathing waters remain safe to swim
2. EU Steps Up Action on PFAS Pollution and “Forever Chemicals”
3. WAREG Study Highlights EPR Lessons for Wastewater Services
4. New Studies Highlight PFAS Substitution and the Limits of Remediation
5. EurEau Annual Report 2025: Water at the Heart of Europe's Future
6. EU Nitrates Directive Evaluation Confirms Effectiveness, Calls for Smarter Implementation
7. JRC Survey and New Training Tool: Supporting Water Reuse Governance Across Europe
8. Upholding the law
9. Parliamentary questions

1. Europe's bathing waters remain safe to swim

According to the latest annual Bathing Water report published in June 2026, Europe's bathing waters remained overwhelmingly safe in 2025, with 85% of EU bathing sites rated “excellent” and 96% meeting the Bathing Water Directive's minimum quality standards. However, the report also highlights persistent challenges, particularly for inland and river bathing waters, underlining the continued need for strong wastewater management, monitoring and pollution prevention.

Full article:

► See [EWA website](#) or sign up to the newsletter

2. EU Steps Up Action on PFAS Pollution and “Forever Chemicals”

Commissioner Jessika Roswall held a high-level dialogue with stakeholders to address PFAS pollution, covering sources, health and environmental impacts, monitoring, remediation, and the need to phase out “forever chemicals”. The Commission is working towards a universal PFAS restriction, possible bans in consumer goods, and stronger support for innovation, substitution and EU-wide monitoring of PFAS contamination.

Full article:

► See [EWA website](#) or sign up to the newsletter

3. WAREG Study Highlights EPR Lessons for Wastewater Services

WAREG has published a new study on how Extended Producer Responsibility schemes in Europe can support the implementation of the revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, particularly for financing quaternary treatment to remove micropollutants from urban wastewater. The study underlines that while EPR is a useful tool to apply the polluter-pays principle, wastewater services require tailored governance, stable financial flows, regulatory oversight and affordability safeguards.

Full article:

► See [EWA website](#) or sign up to the newsletter

4. New Studies Highlight PFAS Substitution and the Limits of Remediation

A new University of Freiburg study commissioned by the German Environment Agency shows that many PFAS-containing active substances in human and veterinary medicines could potentially be replaced by PFAS-free alternatives, suggesting that fluorination is often not essential from a pharmacological perspective.

A separate study published by the Royal Society of Chemistry estimates that large-scale PFAS remediation across Europe would be extremely costly while addressing only a small share of current emissions, reinforcing the need for source control, use restrictions and prevention measures.

Full article:

► See [EWA website](#) or sign up to the newsletter

5. EurEau Annual Report 2025: Water at the Heart of Europe's Future

EurEau's Annual Report 2025 highlights a milestone year for Europe's water sector, including the association's work on the EU Water Resilience Strategy, the Polluter Pays Principle, PFAS protection and its 50th anniversary. The report presents EurEau's key policy achievements, advocacy milestones, technical publications, partnerships and priorities for the future of resilient water services in Europe.

Full article:

► See [EWA website](#) or sign up to the newsletter

6. EU Nitrates Directive Evaluation Confirms Effectiveness, Calls for Smarter Implementation

The European Commission has published the first comprehensive evaluation of the Nitrates Directive since its adoption in 1991, concluding that EU rules remain effective in protecting waters from agricultural nitrate pollution. The evaluation also highlights opportunities to simplify implementation, reduce administrative burden, and improve nutrient management outcomes for farmers, water quality, and ecosystems.

Full article:

► See [EWA website](#) or sign up to the newsletter

7. JRC Survey and New Training Tool: Supporting Water Reuse Governance Across Europe

The JRC has launched a European survey to assess the current state of water reuse, implementation challenges, and future policy needs linked to Regulation (EU) 2020/741. In addition, its new publication on the Risk Management Plan Challenge provides a practical training tool to strengthen water reuse governance and capacity building across Europe.

Full article:

► See [EWA website](#) or sign up to the newsletter

8. Upholding the law

Infringement procedures update as of July 15th

The European Union is constitutionally designed as a Union of Law. According to the Treaties (Treaty on European Union, Treaty on Functioning of the European Union), Member States are obliged to comply with EU legislation adopted by the legislator (European Parliament and Council), and the Commission has the right and the obligation to scrutinise such compliance and where appropriate take legal action.

In recent weeks, the European Commission initiated a series of infringement procedures concerning various water-related issues. These range from the correct transposition of the Drinking Water Directive to matters related to Habitats Directive and the implementation of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. The following countries are involved:

Bulgaria,
Croatia,
Cyprus,
Czech Republic,
Finland
France,
Germany,
Greece,
Hungary,
Latvia,
Lithuania,
Malta,
Poland,
Portugal,
Romania
Slovakia,
And Spain,

The Commission is also closing 48 cases where the issues with the Member States concerned have been solved. In these cases, the Commission does not have to pursue the infringement procedure further.

EWA NEWS provides you the key elements of the cases, an overview of the system of infringement procedures and links to environmental cases where the Court imposed financial sanctions.

Full article:

► See [EWA website](#) or sign up to the newsletter

9. Parliamentary questions

Members of the European Parliament show a regular interest in water issues in their Parliamentary questions. In the period between June 5th 2026 and July 15th 2026, 27 water-related questions were tabled, from the potable groundwater protection to water scarcity and many more.

EWA News provides you with the link to the questions, their authors, registration numbers and dates in each edition. Details of the questions as well as the answers are easily available at

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html?tabType=all>

(just insert the number and the year of the question and click at 'search'). Note: Text in italics in the following are explanatory comments e.g. on the geographical location or the content of the question posed, but not part of the question by the MEP.

Full article:

► See [EWA website](#) or sign up to the newsletter

Other events

IFAT India 2026

9-11 September 2026 - Mumbai, India

For the past 12 years, IFAT India has been bringing together professionals and experts from various sectors of the water, sewage, waste and recycling industry, providing the entire industry with a platform for knowledge exchange, networking and the opportunity to forge partnerships between industry players, policy makers and environmental experts.

At IFAT India, topics such as wastewater systems, adequate wastewater treatment, sustainable ways of water supply, holistic waste management and recycling will be discussed to address the current environmental challenges through country- and region-specific solutions and innovations.

More info [here](#).



IE expo Chengdu 2026

**16-18 September 2026 - Western China (Chengdu)
International Expo City**

Discover IE expo Chengdu—your leading trade fair for environmental technology solutions in Western China! Since its launch in 2019, IE expo Chengdu has steadily grown in influence and scale in Western China. It plays a pivotal role in driving the growth of the environmental protection market in the region through the comprehensive implementation of the new phase of China's Western Development Program.

Learn more about the expo [here](#).



Climate Alliance International Conference 2026

29-30 September 2026 - Brussels

This year's Climate Alliance International Conference (CAIC26) will bring local and European level stakeholders together with a clear aim: to highlight what makes local climate action successful.

On 29 and 30 September, CAIC26 will demonstrate that collective action can take us further than any individual measure. Through dialogue with EU representatives, we will make it clear that local government is ready. We must now ensure that political frameworks support local action! Practical workshops, lively discussions and fresh ideas for future collaboration will make the conference a platform for



collective climate action. Come to Brussels, share your perspective and take home new energy and inspiration for your municipality.

More information [CAIC26](#).

7th International Montenegro Water Conference and Exhibition (MWC 2026)

21-23 October 2026 - Budva, Montenegro

We are pleased to share information about the 7th International Montenegro Water Conference and Exhibition (MWC 2026), organised by the Association of Waterworks of Montenegro and the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro.

The conference will take place from 21–23 October 2026 in Budva, Montenegro.

Please note that the conference presentations and discussions will be held primarily in the local language; however, simultaneous interpretation will be provided, allowing international participants to fully engage in the programme.

More information [here](#).



14th Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition

03-05 November 2026- Prishtina, Kosova

The Water Supply and Sewerage Association of Albania (SHUKALB) and the Water and Wastewater Works Association of Kosovo (SHUKOS) invite you to join the 14th Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition.

The theme of the Conference, **“Water and Equal Opportunities,”** highlights the importance of building a water sector that is not only technically strong but also fair, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of communities.

Please note that Early Bird registration is open until **30 September 2026**.

The call for abstracts is open until 11 September. Find more information [here](#).

Learn more about the conference [here](#).



CleanAIR and Climate 2026

10-11 December 2026 - Napoli, Campania, Italy

This event is organised by the Sanitary Environmental Engineering Division (SEED) of the University of Salerno (Italy) together with the Campania Region, with support from the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security. It offers an important opportunity to advance dialogue across air quality, climate change, environmental monitoring, emission control, sustainability and public health.

Learn more [here](#).



Digital World Water Camp 2027

February to May- Online

Digital World Water Camp is an international online learning course and networking initiative designed to address some of today's most pressing water challenges. This year, the course focuses on the themes of Drinking Water, Health & Water Infrastructure, and Wastewater. The 2027 camp runs from February to May and combines self-paced e-learning modules with weekly live online sessions with the students and teachers. The course is hosted by VIA University College (Denmark) and created in collaboration with international experts and partner institutions, including the University of Nicosia, the Ludovika University of Public Service, and the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education. Digital World Water Camp is sponsored by the Poul Due Jensen Foundation (Grundfos), DWF – Danish Water Forum, and IWA-DK – International Water Association, Danish Chapter.



Website and registration: [Digital WORLD WATER CAMP](#)

Until we meet again...

The next EWA Newsletter will be sent out in October 2026.



Until then, please visit us at:

- ★ [LinkedIn](#) (European Water Association)
- ★ [Youtube](#): EWA Online

Any suggestions, comments or content from the members to the next issue may be sent to this [email](#).

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