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# Policy Dialogue on Aligning Priorities in the Western Balkans

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POLICY  
ANSWERS

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
13 September 2023



Pathways: Digital • Green • Health • Vision 2030



 **Funded by  
the European Union**

POLICY ANSWERS is funded by the European Commission through the Horizon Europe project "R&I policy making, implementation and support in the Western Balkans", Grant Agreement N° 10105887.

For further information regarding POLICY ANSWERS visit  
[westernbalkans-infohub.eu](https://westernbalkans-infohub.eu)

European Partnership

[www.water4all-partnership.eu](http://www.water4all-partnership.eu)



Co-funded by  
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# Water4All

## Water security for the Planet

*Ariane BLUM, Water4All coordinator, ANR (French National Research Agency)*



# Why Water4All? Water challenges in the Balkans and in Europe

- Major issue for life on Earth, ecosystems and human activities... ,
- Annual freshwater resources per inhab. shows a large decrease for most Eastern and Southern EU countries over the 1997-2017 period (e.g. Spain -65%, Malta -54%, ...)
  - Climate change effects already increase damage on water resource
  - Drought in Europe 2022 : 50% of the territory, only 19% of normal annual rainfall in many parts (impact on soil, ecosystems, biodiversity...)
  - Water Framework Directive 2000/60/CE
    - 52% of the EU surface water are in poor chemical status and 40% in poor ecological status
    - 30% of the EU groundwater
  - Water challenges in Balkans are important:
    - Droughts, floods, ...
    - Access to water for human uses
    - Pollution (urban, agriculture, saline intrusion...)
    - Water monitoring and data
    - Governance
    - .....

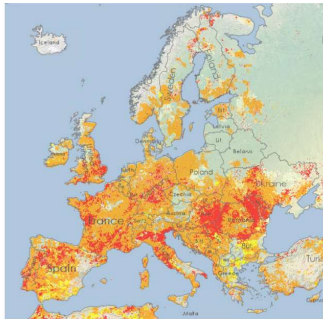
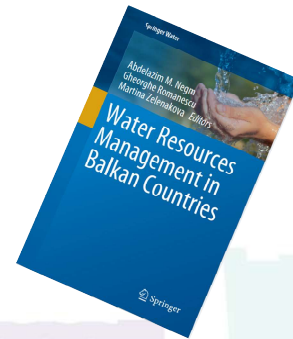


Figure 1: Combined Drought Indicator (CDI v2.1) - beginning of August 2022

Drought in Europe - August 2022  
JRC Global Drought Observatory (GDO) of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS) - 22/08/2022



→ A lot has been done but it's not sufficient → need to speed up research and to strengthen international cooperation

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# What is Water4All?

A European **co-funded partnership** under **Horizon Europe** programme

**90 partners** (34 research funding agencies, 15 sectoral ministries, 18 research organisations, 3 EU networks, 3 local authorities, 8 national / regional networks representing economic actors)

**33 countries** (23 Member States and 10 non EU countries)

**June 2022 – May 2032, total budget expected 420M€** expected for the decade (**126M€ from the European Commission**)

Divided in 3 phases : 2022 (Phase 1 : 86M€, 26M€ from the EC), 2024 (Phase 2: 103M€, 31M€ from the EC)



## A “new” way of supporting Research

- Gathering our funds
- Cross-sectoral approaches (researchers, policy makers, citizens, economic actors)
- Continuum development to the transfer and practice to the actors from knowledge
- Accelerating the impact of Research on water management (EU, SDGs objectives, WFD and others EU regulations and laws ...)

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# What are we doing?

## 6 Annual Joint Transnational Calls (2022-2028)

**1<sup>st</sup> Water4All Joint Transnational Call**  
(open in September 2022, step 2 now)  
Budget: 34M€ (6M€ from the European Commission)  
“Management of water resources: resilience, adaptation  
and mitigation to hydroclimatic extreme events and  
management tools”

**2<sup>nd</sup> Water4All Joint Transnational Call**  
(open 12 September 2023)  
Budget: 34M€ (6M€ from the European Commission)  
**Aquatic Ecosystem Services**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Water4All Joint Transnational Calls**  
Budget ~32M€ (open September 2024)  
**Water for Circular Economy**

**4<sup>th</sup> Joint Transnational Call**  
Open September 2025  
**Water and Health**



## “In kind” scientific activities

Identification of Research gaps, needs

International Cooperation

Training and capacity buildings, PhD Schemes

Water Oriented Living Labs

Platform of solutions for water management  
(including ecosystem restoration)

Open data, open science (knowledge hub, open  
database) with a transdisciplinary approach

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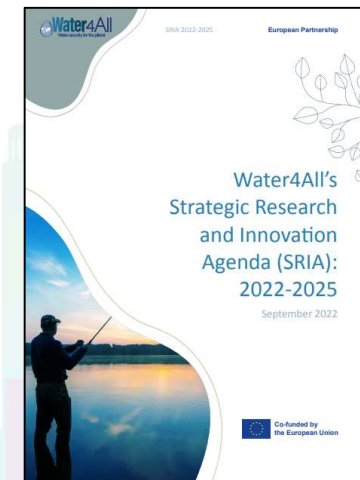
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# What are we doing?

## About the Joint Transnational Calls

- 3 years RD&I projects
- Call and evaluation process
  - Step 1 (2 months, 7 pages pre-proposal), 3 evaluations / pre-proposal  
→ ranking list → decision of the Call Steering Committee
  - Step 2 (2 months, full proposals)  
*Ex. JTC1 : 168 pre-proposals submitted in step 1, 65 invited in step 2*
- Eligibility criteria
  - Minimum of 3 eligible partner from participating countries
  - Minimum of 2 independent legal entities for 2 different EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries
  - Maximum of 7 partners
  - Coordinator from an eligible country
  - No partner with more than 50% of the person-months
- The topic of each JTC is chosen by the participating Funding Agencies (Pillar B partners) on the basis of the SRIA



[Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda | European Partnership Water4All \(water4all-partnership.eu\)](https://water4all-partnership.eu)

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# Why joining Water4All and how?

- An opportunity to **support transnational research projects** (between the Balkan economies and beyond) :
  - > 3 countries
  - Eligible to the European Commission contribution
  - Public / private cooperation is encouraged

→ To **funding agencies and research ministries**: join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Transnational Call (September 2024) on “Water and circular economy” ...

- Possibility to contribute to other “**in kind scientific activities**” (international cooperation, support to SMEs, strategic agenda, open databases, support to PhDs, etc...)

→ For **research organisations, networks, clusters, sectoral ministries**

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April 2023

#### Progress on Water4All

- First Consultative Water4All SMA Workshop for Experts**  
The first consultative SMA Workshop for Experts was held in Belgrade on the 16th and 17th of February in Belgrade, Serbia. The workshop gathered 30...
- Review - First Water4All Joint Call**  
The Water4All partnership, co-funded by the European Union and the Government of Serbia, is reviewing its progress and innovation programme, launch plan...
- Interview of Andrija Ruzicki - E-Risk 0 Coordinator**  
E-Risk 0 is the coordinator for the Water4All mission. Andrija Ruzicki - Director of Operations at Water Europe - presents Water Europe as an important...
- Review of Water4All at the G-20 Conference, Rio de Janeiro (February 2023)**  
G-20 participants from 116 countries agreed the G20 G20-G20 Sustainable Technology & Innovation Community Conference in Rio de Janeiro...
- Give your opinion on the water policies stakeholders & networks to be targeted as part of the Water4All Task C.2**  
Give us your opinion until April 25 on the water policies stakeholders & networks to be targeted as part of the Water4All Task C.2...

[Water4All@agencerecherche.fr](mailto:Water4All@agencerecherche.fr)  
[Ariane.BLUM@agencerecherche.fr](mailto:Ariane.BLUM@agencerecherche.fr)



[www.water4all-partnership.eu](http://www.water4all-partnership.eu)



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