

Digital Innovation for Water Sector Resilience

IDEATION cross-country Multi-Stakeholder Forum

April 16th, 2026 | 9.30-13.30 | Brussels

Europe is accelerating the digital transition of the water sector through ambitious initiatives, including the development of digital twins for the ocean and inland waters. The IDEATION project supports the European Commission in advancing interoperable digital twins of inland waters, aligned with the European Digital Twin Ocean.

On 16 April 2026, in collaboration with Water Europe and back-to-back with Water Market Europe, IDEATION will host a cross-country Multi-Stakeholder Forum dedicated to digital innovation in water management.

The Forum will bring together water industry, policymakers, researchers, digital solution providers, and the European Commission to:

- Present the IDEATION roadmap for Digital Twins of inland waters;
- Discuss technical and governance challenges of digital solutions (Digital Twins, data governance, AI);
- Share lessons learned from real-world implementation;
- Foster collaboration across European digital water initiatives.

A reference use case co-created with stakeholders in the Barcelona metropolitan area will be presented, addressing urban water management challenges. This demonstration illustrates how digital twin technologies can move from conceptual design to operational deployment in complex urban environments.

The Forum offers a space for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and strategic alignment between research, policy, and industry, contributing to resilient, sustainable, and data-driven water management systems across Europe.

In the afternoon, Water Market Europe (WME) 2026, organised by Water Europe, will translate the morning's discussions into action. WME 2026 will focus on accelerating digital innovation uptake by:

- Addressing technological needs identified in EU-funded digitalisation projects;
- Facilitating matchmaking between innovators, utilities, investors and solution providers;
- Supporting market deployment of sustainable and scalable water solutions.

Multi-Stakeholder Forum Programme

- 9.30 – 9.35 **Welcome and opening remarks**
Andrea Rubini, Director of Operations, Water Europe
- 9.35-9.45 **Co-creating digital solutions with stakeholders**
Stefania Munaretto, Senior Researcher, KWR
- 9.45-10.05 **Digital Twins for inland waters: IDEATION key results**
Eloisa Vargiu, coordinator IDEATION, CETAQUA
- 10.05-10.20 **ICT4WATER cluster: vision and action plan for water digitalization**
Albert Chen, co-lead Action Group Policy ICT4WATER, University of Exeter
- 10.20-11.15 **PANEL I: Technical challenges in digital solutions for water sector resilience: DT, data governance, and AI**
Moderator: Ciprian Nanu, Business Development Group Romania
Panelists:
Gerasimos Antzoulatos, WATERVERSE
Arne Berre, AquaInfra
Demetrios Eliades, IDEATION
Charalambos Ipektsidis, ILIAD and SeaDOTs
Eva Stattin, SVADA
LydiaVamvakeridou-Lyroudia, IMPETUS and ARSINOE
- 11.15-11.35 *Coffee break*
- 11.35-12.30 **PANEL II: Implementing digital twins in regulatory, infrastructure, and governance contexts: lessons from urban water management**
Moderator: Mona Arnold, Principal Scientist VVT Technical Research Centre of Finland
Panelists:
Nicolas Caradot, Lead of R&D institute on urban water management, KWB
Henrik Dissing, Danish Environmental Portal - Executive Board representative
Evripides Kyriakides, Water development, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment, Cyprus
Bert de Winter, WaterGroep Utility, Belgium
- 12.30-13.25 **PANEL III: European Commission vision on the role of the European Digital Twin ocean and inland waters in the implementation of the Water Resilience Strategy**
Moderator: Andrea Rubini, Director of Operations, Water Europe
Panelists:
Nicolas Segebarth, Policy Officer, Healthy Ocean & Seas Unit, DG Research & Innovation (DG RTD)
Vasileios Tyriakidis, Project Officer, European Research Executive Agency (REA)
Bertrand Vallet, Policy Officer, R&I for the Water Sector, DG Research & Innovation (RTD)
- 13.25-13.30 Closing