



WATERVILL

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NEWSLETTER

WATERVILL

"Innovative solutions for enhancing village water supply and addressing water scarcity in resilient rural and mountainous areas."

Interreg
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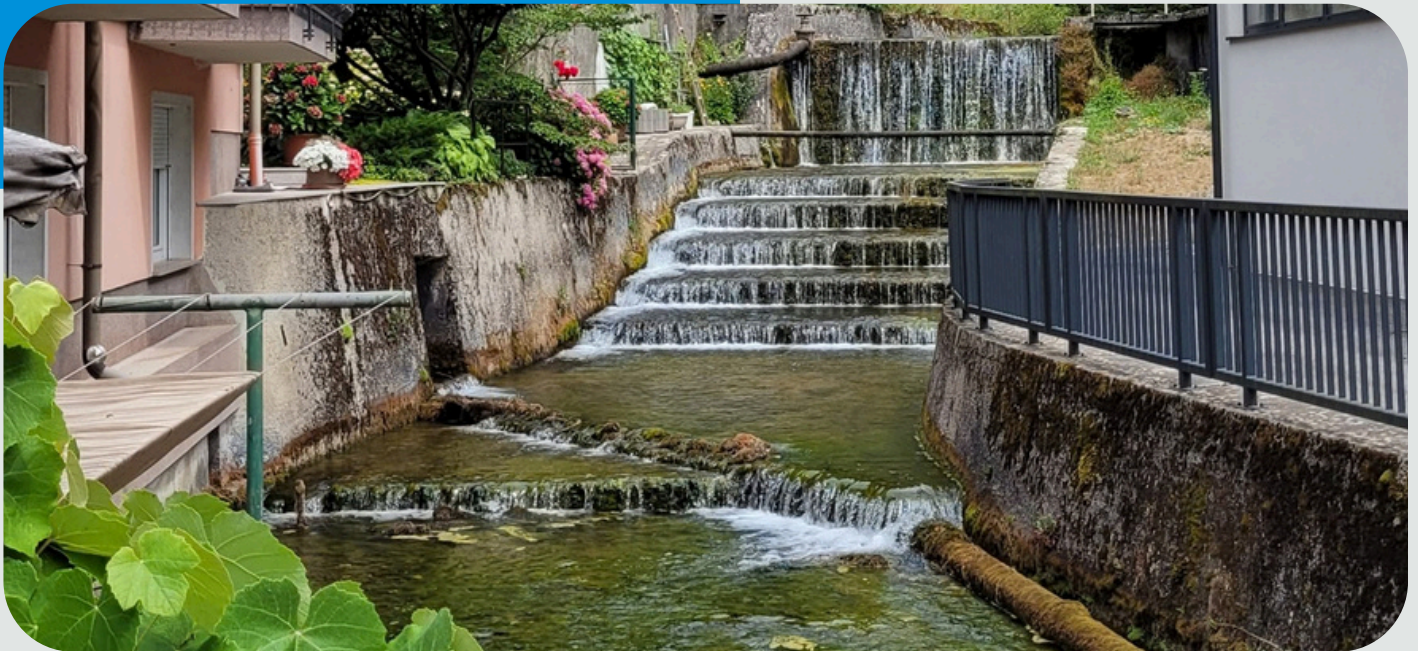
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WATERVILL is a project funded by the Interreg Euro-MED Programme, addressing water scarcity in rural and mountainous areas of the Mediterranean by modernising local water infrastructure and improving water management.

<https://watervill.interreg-euro-med.eu/>



WATERVILL addresses one of the world’s most pressing issues: water scarcity.

Access to water is a human right, making it a fundamental aspect of water-related challenges, particularly as climate change increasingly affects water availability and impacts different regions of the world unevenly.

This is also why water runs as an underlying theme throughout the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to which WATERVILL contributes through the Interreg Euro-MED Programme.

According to the [UN](#), water is a “superconnector”, linking health, clean energy and climate resilience, as well as food security and as mentioned, human rights.

Sustainable water management is therefore essential for supporting economic growth and building resilient communities. It requires approaches that respond to local needs, informed decision-making and adaptive water infrastructure.

These challenges are at the core of WATERVILL. Starting with four rural and mountainous Balkan municipalities facing different water challenges, the project is developing solutions adapted to their local contexts, while also seeking to make them relevant and transferable to municipalities across the Mediterranean.

In this letter, find out more about the project’s progress over the past months.

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From data to action: assessing rural water systems

The challenges WATERVILL pilot municipalities face highlight the need for water management solutions that are sustainable and adapted to the specific conditions of each territory. This is why the project begins by building a clear picture of existing water supply systems and identifying the major issues that need to be addressed.

Between March and August, WATERVILL assessed the drinking water supply systems of its four pilot municipalities: **Žabljak, Bitola, Ilirska Bistrica and Teslić.**

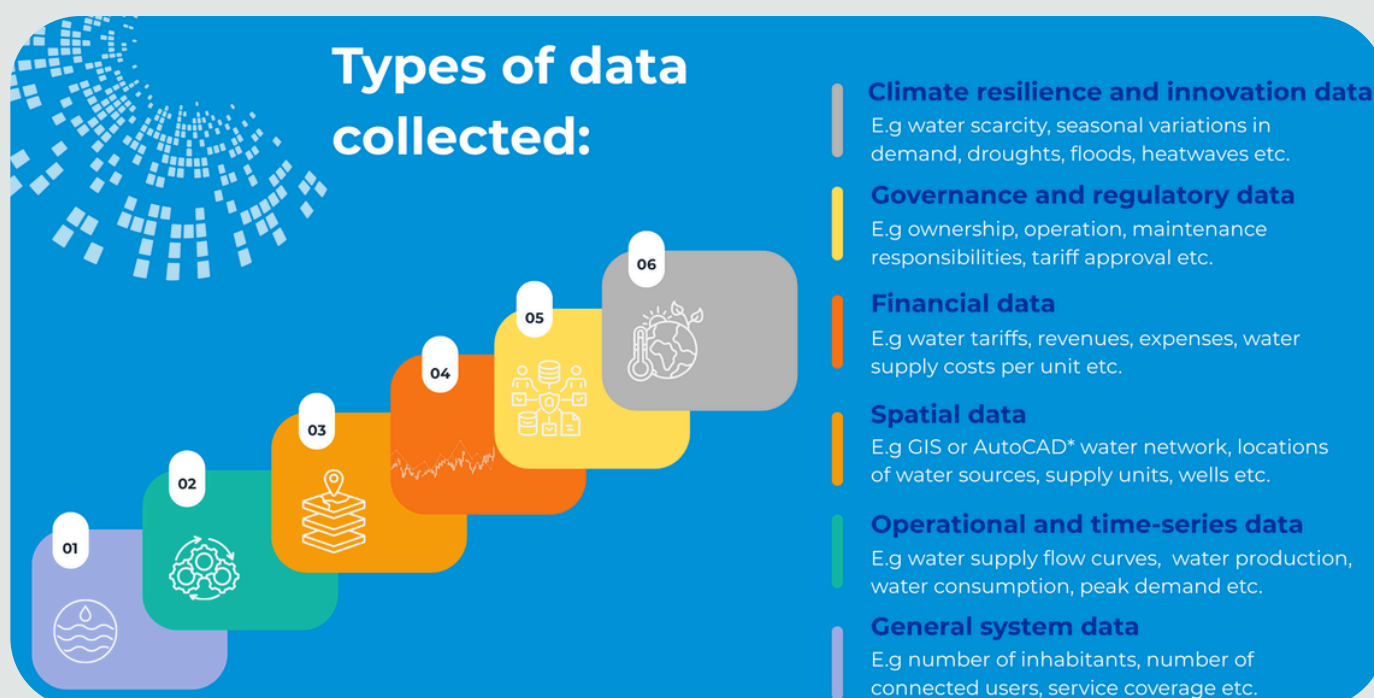
The assessment was carried out through thorough municipal questionnaires and the collection of data on aspects such as the location of water sources, water tariffs and supply costs, as well as governance arrangements, including ownership and maintenance responsibilities.

This allowed the consortium to identify **key aspects of rural water supply systems, including water resources, infrastructure, service provision, water losses, financial sustainability, climate resilience, digitalisation and local governance.**

The assessment resulted in a **State of the Art report of drinking water supply systems in the rural and mountainous areas** covered by WATERVILL, identifying several key findings that will be particularly useful for the continuation of the project.

One important conclusion is that, **while the four pilot territories have different local conditions and starting points, they share several challenges, including high water losses, ageing infrastructure and limited monitoring.** At the same time, differences emerged in terms of digital readiness, governance models and data availability.

[Read the full report here](#)



From analysis to the field

The assessment was further complemented by field visits to the project's pilot municipalities, allowing partners to directly observe local water infrastructure and gain a better understanding of local realities.

From 20 to 23 July, partners carried out the project's first field visits, starting with a **technical meeting in Zagreb before visiting two of the four pilot municipalities: Ilirska Bistrica** in Slovenia and **Teslić** in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Srpska.

The visits aimed to better understand local realities, observe water supply systems directly on the ground, and exchange with local representatives and water utility professionals.

In **Teslić**, the visits focused on water shortages during peak summer periods, ageing water networks and drinking water quality, particularly in remote areas.



In **Ilirska Bistrica**, partners looked at challenges including water losses caused by leaks and an ageing distribution network, as well as the need to improve access to drinking water in the remote village of Fabci.

By combining existing data and questionnaires with direct observations and exchanges with local stakeholders, these visits provided a clearer picture of the conditions in which local water systems operate.

From analysis to the field

These insights will feed into the next phase of WATERVILL, including the development of a **database of solutions adapted to different local contexts**, helping ensure that the solutions developed respond to actual needs on the ground rather than applying a “one-size-fits-all” approach.



Watch the video below to learn more about the field visits and **hear from local water utilities and project representatives** about the main challenges they face and their expectations for WATERVILL's outcomes.



[You can also read more about the field visits here](#)

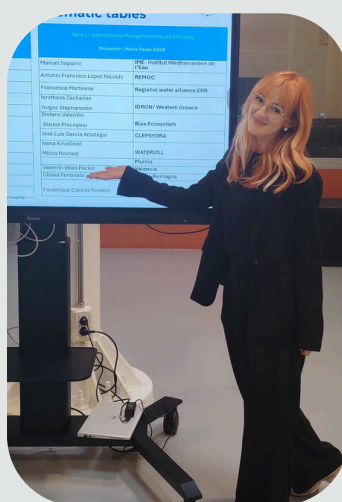


WATERVILL in action

As part of its efforts to increase the visibility of its work and connect with the wider Mediterranean community, WATERVILL has participated in several events focusing on sustainable water management, innovation and climate resilience.

In May, WATERVILL joined the **gathering of the Interreg Euro-MED Innovative Sustainable Economy (ISE) Mission**, bringing together projects from across the Mediterranean. The consortium presented WATERVILL to participants and contributed to a policy dialogue on creating and maintaining water communities.

WATERVILL was also present at a **workshop dedicated to sustainable water management, organised in Bologna by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)**. The consortium contributed to discussions, sharing experiences on current water challenges across the Mediterranean and exploring possible solutions.



For more on project activities and outreach, consult our website and social media channels

Gathering in Valencia

*Steering Committee meeting,
September 2026*



On 17–18 September, the WATERVILL consortium gathered in Valencia, Spain, for its second Steering Committee meeting, hosted by project partner the Institute of Water and Environmental engineering (IIAMA) of the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV).

As the project enters a crucial phase, partners discussed recent progress and the upcoming **development of key outputs, including the digital database of solutions, climate-proof water supply solutions, the Decision Support System, policy recommendations on management of water systems, and capacity-building activities.**

Pilot municipalities also shared their needs and perspectives on improving local water supply systems and management.

The meeting was followed by a visit to the **Realón Drinking Water Treatment Plant**, near Valencia, providing partners with an opportunity to discover a major water infrastructure serving Valencia and its metropolitan area and draw inspiration for the work ahead.



[Read more here](#)

What's next?

WATERVILL is continuing its implementation, turning the findings from the assessment and field visits into practical solutions for the pilot municipalities.

Over the coming months, partners will develop the digital database of solutions, the Decision Support System and climate-proof water management approaches, tailored to the needs of the four pilot municipalities and designed to be replicable in other regions.

The field visits to Žabljak and Bitola will also mark an important step in completing the assessment phase and preparing the ground for testing solutions in the pilot territories.



If you are interested in sustainable water management and would like to stay updated on WATERVILL's activities, follow us on our social media channels.

And if you have any questions or comments, we would be happy to hear from you!



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