

POLICIES AG

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Overview of the topic of POL AG

- Upgrade policies by considering the inclusion of real-time measurements
- Data sharing and privacy management policies
- Promote the links with the existing and future water legislation by deploying ICT4WATER use-case(s)

Related EU projects



Digital Action Plan for POL AG

#	Action	Activities	Timeline	Instruments
Critical Infrastructure Protection (Physical and Cyber Threats)				
POL_1	Upgrade policies to enhance real time, accurate, water monitoring and measurements through digital solutions and smart sensors	<p>Activity 1 Promote with the EC the inclusion of mandatory real time water quality monitoring (through smart sensors and digital solutions) to directives and legislation, so as to improve the quality of water bodies and contribute to zero pollution targets, especially for storm water systems and combined sewer overflow. Today smart water quality monitoring is not mandatory in legislation and directives.</p>	2022-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DGs • Review water directives including ICT experts. • Dedicated Research and Innovation actions • Utilisation of Digital Twins for Water-Oriented Living Labs
		<p>Activity 2 Promote with the EC the introduction of mandatory real time measurements through smart sensors to all other types of water related data (e.g. water quantity, water levels, water consumption etc).</p>	2022-2025	
		<p>Activity 3 Establish guidelines and policies for the implementation of wastewater surveillance to enhance the monitoring of public health to support timely decision-makings for epidemic or pandemic crisis management.</p>	<u>2025-2032</u>	
		<p>Activity 4 Establish guidelines and policies for the deployment of forecasting systems based on real time monitoring and sensors, to make it easier for the stakeholders to implement the technologies and smart solutions.</p>	2025-2032	

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Critical Infrastructure Protection (Physical and Cyber Threats)				
POL_2	Technical standards and legislation related to digital water	<p>Activity 1 Investigate and work on the applicability and legally binding nature of specific technical standards, mainly due to the revision of old and obsolete standards. Clarifications are needed in this domain.</p>	2022-2032	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DGs • International Standardisation organisations • European, National, Regional Funding schemas
POL_3	Water security regulations	<p>Activity 1 Work and investigate ways to include water security as whole to EU regulations, linking also with relevant EU directives. Sectoral regulation or guidance specific for water distribution networks and water bodies should be introduced to integrate the aspects of water security which are currently treated by generic regulations, taking into account the role of different actors, the coordination of different plans and how the different actors involved will reconcile different and even contradictory needs.</p>	2025-2032	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DGs • Review water directives including ICT experts. • Dedicated Research and Innovation actions • WE Water-Smart Society values and principles • Synergy and exchange of experience with the Water4All Partnership
		<p>Activity 2 To promote further security regarding food, energy, water and health in the light of growing geopolitical instability.</p>	2025-2032	
		<p>Activity 3 To promote the application of data analytics and environmental surveillance technologies in water resources planning and management to enhance the efficiency, productivity, and reliability of water services for better water security.</p>	2025-2032	

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Critical Infrastructure Protection (Physical and Cyber Threats)				
POL_4	Data sharing, public data and privacy management policies	<p><u>Activity 1</u> Continue upgrading legislation providing common sets of terms and conditions to be used, in coordination with the actions related to the European Data Spaces. Provide a policy framework to include open data clauses in contracts between local authorities and operators. Furthermore, identify potential privacy risks and propose privacy--preserving solutions (at the technical and policy levels) to facilitate data sharing. There is still reluctance in the water sector to data sharing.</p>	2022-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross European Data-Water Associations working group • DGs • Stimulate water private sector investments • European, National, Regional Funding schemas • • Water-Oriented Living Labs to test the impact of changes in the policy framework
		<p><u>Activity 2</u> Promote legislation to enhance data exchange and data sharing across relevant sectors (e.g. energy, agriculture etc) through policies and legislation.</p>	2022-2025	
		<p><u>Activity 3</u> Reduction of legislative fragmentation and establishment of clear water governance bodies. Water is a fragmented domain where decision-making legislative responsibilities in some cases are overlapped or unclear. This needs to change <i>(the feasibility of this activity needs to be discussed)</i>.</p>	2025-2032	
		<p><u>Activity 4:</u> Promote a legislative framework for the application of INSPIRE Directive for Geospatial data generated in public services, which are common property, in line with the European Data Spaces.</p>	2025-2032	

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POL_5	Policies for co-creation, citizen science and crowd sourcing	<p><u>Activity 1</u> Promote long-term continuity and more relevant research activity for co-creation, in all domains of the water sector for the development of digital solutions. Promote also through policies continuity for citizen science and crowd sourcing for data generation and validation.</p>	2025-2032	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DGs • Dedicated Innovation Actions and CSAs, especially about the validation of data collected through citizen science • Joint activity with AEC2 • Synergies with the Water4All partnership on science-policy interface.
POL_6	Integrate digital water components into water eGovernance (new or existing urban plans; emergency plans; infrastructures plans; etc.)	<p><u>Activity 1</u> Develop and deploy data-intensive services for evidence-informed policy-making Initiatives by promoting the usage of effective data management infrastructures including hybrid approaches supporting (i.e. for Water Security Plans-see also POL3).</p> <p><u>Activity 2</u> Develop and deploy smart water solutions to improve management of governance complexity, uncertainty, divergent economic and political interests and cultural discourses.</p>	<p>2022-2025</p> <p>2025-2032</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated Innovation Actions and CSAs • Stimulate water private sector investments • European, National, Regional Funding schemas • WE VLTs and digital WGs Cluster

Special challenges/topics for discussion

- What are the gaps in EU and national policies and legislation for the implementation of advanced digital technologies from water utilities?
- What policies and legislation are needed to boost digital data sharing?
- What policies and legislation are needed to strengthen quadruplex engagement to support digital transition?

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