SOLLAGUA – Nature-based solutions (NBS) and 'living labs' for rural water reuse

Summary

SOLLAGUA aims to promote nature-based solutions (NBS) for water reuse in the SUDOE region, which faces significant challenges related to water scarcity due to a semi-arid environment, climate change, and a growing population. The project seeks to address these shared challenges by implementing sustainable water management strategies in three rural communities in Portugal, Spain, and France.

The goal is to provide a more resilient water supply, while also offering co-benefits such as climate change mitigation and adaptation. The project will shift current practices by encouraging the adoption of green/innovative technologies in public procurement. These changes promote a circular economy based on the reuse of local wastewater, while also providing a new water source and an alternative to "end-of-pipe" infrastructure. This transition is particularly suitable for rural areas, which are generally less populated and have more modest economies compared to urban zones.

The project's outcomes include strengthening the capacity of NBS for the reuse of domestic wastewater and the creation of three demonstration sites. These sites (location, solution, capabilities, design) will be implemented through a new Water-oriented Living Lab strategy focused on NBS (NB-WoLL) at each site, along with an associated action plan. This NB-WoLL will foster cooperation between government, universities, companies, and users in an open innovation environment. The NB-WoLL strategy will (i) foster co-creation, (ii) be geared toward NBS implementation, and (iii) adapt to local water needs. The action plan will mobilize tools to assess the costs and benefits of NBS, helping to raise awareness and demonstrate the feasibility of these innovations to public and private users.

The project will benefit all stakeholders involved in water management. Transnational cooperation will enable the sharing of experiences and lessons learned and promote the replication of the project. This strategy will also ensure that the results are aligned with the EU legal framework on water reuse.

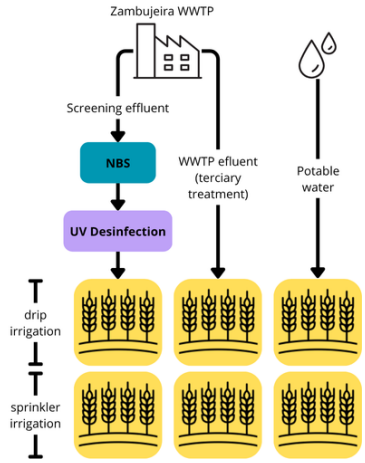

Figure 1. Schematic representation of the Portuguese Demo Site.

Figure 2. First workshop with the Portuguese stakeholders held in Lourinhã on May 22, 2024.

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SOLLAGUA

Project Reference

S1/2.5/F0011

Leading Institution

Université Toulouse III - Paul Sabatier (France)

Partners

AMAYA – Agencia de Medio Ambiente y Agua de Andalucía (Spain), IST – Instituto Superior Técnico (Portugal), ECOFILAE (France), Fundació Solidaritat UB (Spain), CTA – Corporación Tecnológica de Andalucía (Spain), Funseam – Fundación para la Sostenibilidad Energética y Ambiental (Spain), PROMEDIO (Spain), Águas do Tejo Atlântico (Portugal), Communauté de Communes Couserans-Pyrénées (France)

CERIS Principal Investigator

Ana Galvão
(ana.galvao@tecnico.ulisboa.pt)

CERIS Research Team

Catarina Cruz, Cristina Matos Silva

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CERIS

107 523.00€

Project website

https://interreg-sudoe.eu/en/proyecto-interreg/sollagua/