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UK Research
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INN WATER

Promoting social innovation to renew
multi-level and cross sector water governance

February 2026

Result Factsheet - KER

WATER GOVERNANCE ASSESSMENT TOOL

RESULT Type:
ICT software digital solution

[Link to the tool](#)



Owners:



ETIFOR
valuing nature

Contributors:



SIWI



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Description

The Water governance assessment tool is an online application to assess governance gaps for a river basin, city or region, inspired on the 12 principles of Water Governance from the OECD. The tool provides a visual assessment of governance systems, to facilitate discussions between different actors (e.g., water managers, regulators, associations, and cross-sector stakeholders) about governance challenges and potential solutions. It is available in the languages of the project pilot sites: English, French, Italian, Catalan, Spanish, and Hungarian. The tool connects the identified governance gaps with inspiring governance practices mapped from case studies across Europe and provides an AI-powered narrative report with the assessment.

TARGET AUDIENCES

Water Managers

Professionals responsible for the planning, allocation, and management of water resources, requiring insights into governance practices to optimize resource use and compliance with regulations.

Water Regulators

Authorities and agencies that enforce water-related policies and standards, who need a tool that provides actionable data to inform policy adjustments and regulatory decisions.

Water Associations

Organizations that represent the interests of water users, advocating for effective governance and needing access to assessments that support their advocacy.

Citizens

Individuals and community groups with an interest in water governance, seeking transparency, involvement in governance processes.

Cross-Sector Stakeholders

Representatives from sectors such as energy, food, and the environment, who interact with water systems and require a broader understanding of governance.

We specially need

To promote the uptake, replication, and long-term sustainability of the Water Governance Assessment Tool beyond the InnWater project, we are looking for:

- 1 End-user uptake** by water authorities and utilities to test and integrate the tool into planning and decision-making.
- 2 Synergies with EU projects** to embed the tool in related water and climate governance frameworks.
- 3 Follow-up funding** to support operation, scaling, and maintenance of the online application.
- 4 Policy and research collaboration** to ensure scientific robustness and alignment with EU and international frameworks.



SDG's

Unique value proposition

The tool delivers value by offering a structured, digital, and internationally aligned methodology for evaluating and improving governance systems, connected with inspiring case studies to improve water governance gaps. The tool's value is reinforced by its accessibility (it is free to use), its alignment with OECD water governance principles, and its adaptability to various contexts. It is a globally usable digital platform designed not only for evaluation, but also for learning, decision support, and institutional improvement.

Use beyond the project life

Maintained beyond the project by the owners: Eurecat, Etifor, Oieau, EUI, SIWI as part of the Governance platform. Offered as a service to river basin authorities and utilities, with support to keep the tool current and possibly to be expanded to new territories.

Impacts

Improved decisions in water governance: faster diagnostics and prioritised actions. Economic efficiency via low cost per assessment, environmental gains through climate-resilient planning and scientific value from structured data.



Key benefits



Low effort for users, high decision value for authorities and utilities.



Condenses water governance principles in a clear radar + narrative IA-based report.



Fast, comparable and friendly way to diagnose water governance gaps.



Links governance insights with examples of solutions made to improve each water governance principle.

Replicability

Cloud-based and configuration-driven (questionnaire, scoring, narrative, languages). Deployable to new basins and authorities with minimal setup via templates and APIs.

European University Institute: maria.salvetti@eui.eu
Etifor | Valuing Nature: juan.restrepo@etifor.com

Eurecat

Stockholm International Water Institute
Graphic Design: Ananda ROHN (OiEau)

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