

THE BLUE RECHARGE Project's Newsletter

Blue Credits for Water Aquifers Recharge and Sustainability

We are excited to announce the launch of the BLUE RECHARGE project!

The BLUE RECHARGE project **aims to reverse the current trend of groundwater resource exploitation by increasing aquifer recharge rates**, making their use more sustainable. The project strategy focuses on cooperation between public authorities, research centers, and private companies, and on creating an incentive system (blue credits) to ensure the project's long-term economic sustainability.

In our opinion, the project is highly relevant as many ecosystems and economic sectors across Europe rely on the availability of high-quality water. **Groundwater, accounting for 65% of drinking water and 25% of water used for agricultural irrigation, is a crucial resource.** However, this finite resource is under threat from pollution, climate change, and human over-exploitation. The Mediterranean region, in particular, faces significant water scarcity, which is expected to worsen with climate change.



The **primary objectives** of the project will be twofold: to engage officials, public water companies, NGOs, and the public in order to emphasize best practices and promote the blue credits system, and to present stakeholders with examples of local water management in Croatia and Italy.

On April 5, 2024, the kick-off meeting (the first consortium meeting) was held in Vodnjan-Dignano, Croatia. During this meeting, the partners had the opportunity to meet in person and planned the initial phases of the project.

Italy – Croatia



BLUE RECHARGE in details:

- Funding Program: Interreg Italy-Croatia
- Duration: 30 months
 - Start Date: 01.02.2024
 - End Date: 01.08.2026

Project Partners:

- Lead Partner: City of Vodnjan – Dignano (HR)
- Venetian Cluster (IT)
- ART-ER Joint Stock Consortium Company (IT)
- EXO (IT)
- Emiliano Romagnolo Canal Reclamation & Irrigation Board (IT)
- University of Rijeka, Faculty of Economics and Business (HR)
- University of Rijeka (HR)
- IWS-Istrian Water Protection System (HR)

More information at:

- Project website: <https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/bluerecharge>
- Communication management – Miss Morgana Campagnolo at segreteria@venetiancluster.eu

Stay tuned for more updates as we progress with this significant project!

