

ACQUEDOTTO PUGLIESE:



For more than a century, **Acquedotto Pugliese** has been an extraordinary example of public service and infrastructure in Italy. Born from a bold vision to bring clean, reliable water to every home in Apulia, AQP has grown into one of Europe's largest integrated water service companies, serving over 4 million people across Puglia and parts of Campania.

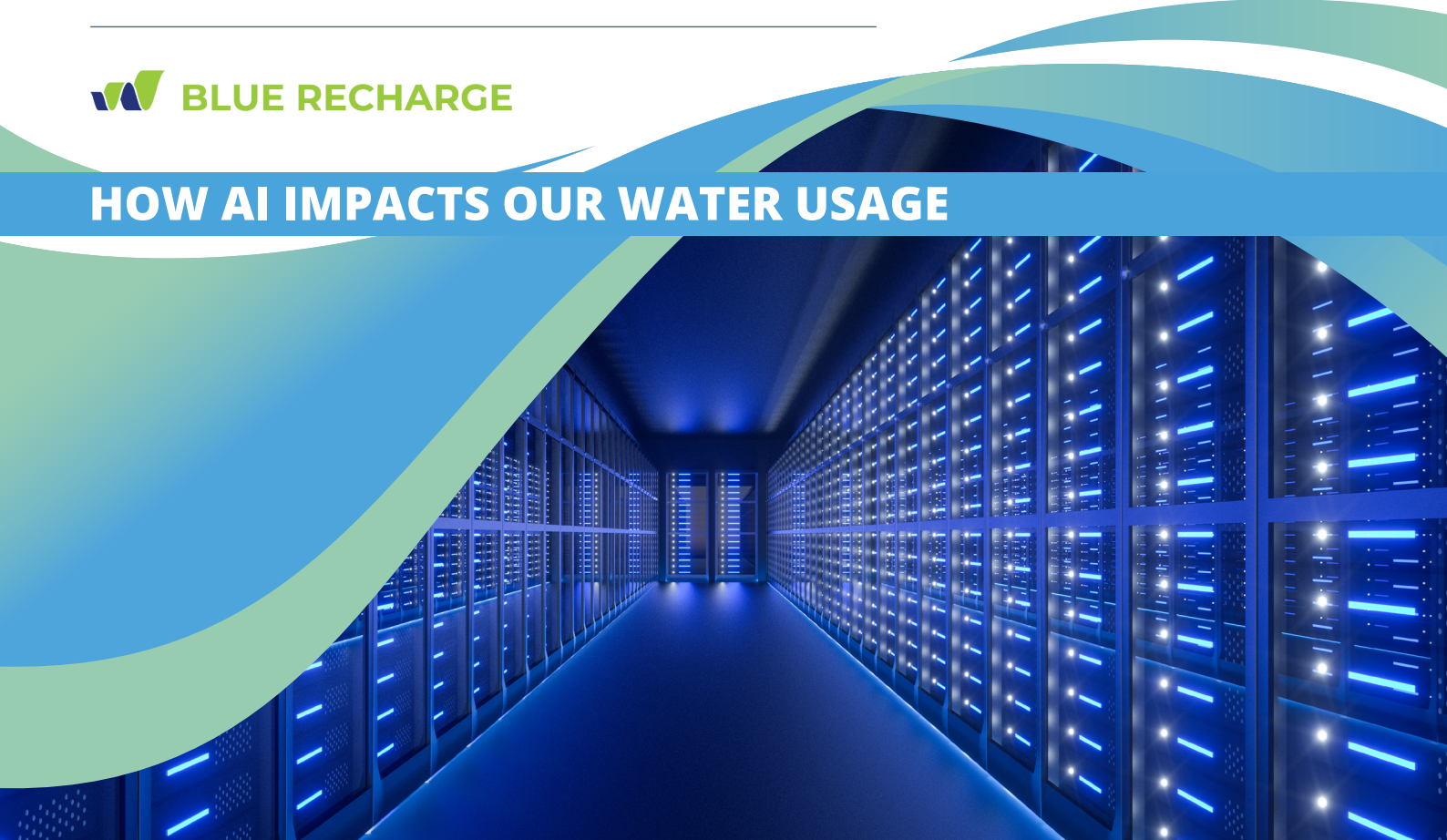
This remarkable utility is responsible not only for delivering water – it also protects and preserves the environment through advanced purification and wastewater treatment systems.

At the core of its success are the people: more than 2,000 dedicated professionals whose expertise and commitment ensure that water remains a sustainable, well-managed resource for communities, families and businesses alike.

AQP's mission goes beyond infrastructure. Its **Water Academy** promotes cutting-edge training and knowledge transfer, strengthening technical, managerial and organizational skills across the sector.

In every drop delivered, there is a story of innovation, resilience and community value. As we think about sustainable solutions for the future, the work of Acquedotto Pugliese offers inspiration on how water – our most precious resource – can be responsibly managed for generations to come

HOW AI IMPACTS OUR WATER USAGE



As technology advances, it's easy to overlook the **hidden water footprint** of digital infrastructure. In Italy, where daily tap water consumption is already high **over 215 liters per person** the rise of artificial intelligence and data centers adds a new layer of demand.

For example, a **single Google data center consumes around 2 million liters of water per day** to keep servers cool and operational. Across the country, inefficiencies in the water network **36% of water is lost due to leaks** compound the issue, highlighting the urgent need for smarter resource management.

Domestic consumption also remains a challenge: **80% of Italians underestimate their daily usage**, while the average European citizen uses about 144 liters per day. Meanwhile, household water bills continue to rise, with **an average expense of €478 in 2023**, up nearly 18% in five years.

The intersection of AI and water usage shows that even the most advanced technologies rely heavily on our most **precious resource**. By raising awareness and adopting sustainable practices, we can balance innovation with **responsible water stewardship**.

BLUE RECHARGE INTER-REGIONAL CONFERENCE & PILOT SITE VISIT

RIJEKA & SOUTHERN ISTRIA, CROATIA 26–27 JANUARY 2026

On **26–27 January 2026**, the **BLUE RECHARGE** project brought together researchers, experts, and stakeholders in Croatia for two days dedicated to **Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)** and sustainable groundwater management.



PILOT SITE VISIT SOUTHERN ISTRIA (26 JANUARY)

The field visit to the BLUE RECHARGE pilot sites in southern Istria offered participants a hands-on view of MAR solutions in practice.

Key stops included:

- **WWTP Loporika**, where **Bojana Hajduk Černeha** (Istrian Waterworks – IVS) presented the implemented MAR activities, including new groundwater monitoring wells, tracer tests, and wastewater treatment processes.
- Furthermore, at the WWTP Loporika site, **Diana Mance** (University of Rijeka) also illustrated the use of **stable water isotope monitoring** to better understand aquifer systems.
- **Karolina Spring (Pula)**, a historic site and strategic drinking water reserve, highlighting its role within BLUE RECHARGE research and Pula's long-term water security.



INTER-REGIONAL CONFERENCE RIJEKA (27 JANUARY)

Hosted by the Faculty of Economics and Business and the Faculty of Physics of the University of Rijeka, the hybrid conference welcomed around 40 participants at local and international level, including EU and Extra EU countries.

Results from the BLUE RECHARGE Croatian and Italian pilot cases were presented by the project's partners, showcasing and valuable insights on the replicable aspects of the BLUE RECHARGE model were shared, particularly from the economic and technical point of view.

were presented, showcasing practical MAR applications.

Keynote contributions from Andrew Ross, Enrique Álvaro Escalante Fernández, Linda Söller and Zoran Nakić enriched discussions on technical, economic, and governance aspects of MAR.

The event highlighted the value of collaboration in addressing groundwater challenges and advancing sustainable water management. The BLUE RECHARGE project continues to work toward securing water resources for future generations.

Thank you to all speakers, participants, and partners who made this event a success.

