

## PAST EVENTS

**BLUE-RECHARGE WORKSHOP IN BARI: ADVANCING THE FUTURE OF BLUE CREDITS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

On 14 November, the BLUE RECHARGE stakeholder workshop took place at the Puglia Regional Government headquarters in Bari (Via Giovanni Gentile 52), marking a key moment to shape the future of Blue Credits in the Mediterranean.

The event introduced the project to external partners and gathered practical insights to refine the model for regional needs.



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The morning began with welcome remarks by the Puglia Regional Government, followed by an overview of the project and a presentation of its initial results, including:

- 1) The BLUERECHARGE digital platform: a blockchain technology meant to foster an efficient market for the blue certificates and based on an efficient economic model, a platform able to record transactions and automatically impose penalties or rewarding for water savings thanks to the smart contracts;
- 2) The BLUERECHARGE case studies in Croatia and Italy, and MAR applications in Emilia-Romagna
- 3) The early Blue Credits design and testing.

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### BLUE RECHARGE

Followed a moderated round table that brought together experts from regional institutions, universities, research centres, and utility companies to share experiences on sustainable water management—from aquifer recharge and water reuse to innovative modelling, blue-economy initiatives, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

The roundtable brought together initiatives relevant from selected other Interreg initiatives (ADRION, Italy-Croatia, IPA South Adriatic, EUROMED, ENI CBC-MED, Italy-Greece).

A special thanks to all panellists and speakers for their valuable contribution:

Chiara Toziano (Regione Puglia); Saša Moharić, GRAD VODNJAN – DIGNANO (Croatia); Fausto Villani (EXO, Italy); Bojana Hajduk Černeha (IVS, Croatia); Diana Mance (UNIRI FIZRI, Croatia); Alessandro Bosso (ART-ER, Italy); Francesco Cavazza (CER, Italy); Domenica Lepore (Water Resources Department of the Puglia Region); Anna Maria Nico (Water Resources Department of the Puglia Region); Lucia D'Accolti (UNIBA); Davide De Nicolò (TECNOPOLIS); Stefano Marino (ACQUEDOTTO PUGLIESE S.p.A.); Lorenzo Di Taranto (Politecnico di Bari); Daniela Pinto (UNIBA), Federico Cangialosi (T&A) and Antonio Stasi (President of DARE Puglia).

The workshop concluded with an open discussion to identify synergies relevant to Blue Credits and MAR pilots, followed by closing remarks and institutional commitments.

It was a valuable opportunity to contribute directly to the evolution of water- resource solutions across the Mediterranean.



**NEWS****BUILDING WATER RESILIENCE IN RURAL EUROPE:  
FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW THEMATIC GROUP**

As climate pressures intensify across Europe—with droughts, floods and declining water availability—strengthening water resilience has become a strategic priority for rural areas. The European Water Resilience Strategy, adopted on 4 June 2025, sets out a long-term vision focused on restoring the water cycle, promoting a smart and sustainable water economy, and ensuring secure access to this essential resource.

The CAP and its National Strategic Plans are already supporting this transition through measures that improve water efficiency, enhance soil water retention and encourage low-water-demand crops. These efforts are increasingly paired with innovative solutions such as rainwater harvesting, precision agriculture, IoT sensors and AI-driven systems.



## Italy – Croatia

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### BLUE RECHARGE

On 18 September, the first meeting of the Thematic Group “Improving Water Resilience in Rural Areas through the CAP” was held online under the EU CAP Network. The event gathered institutional representatives, experts, farming organisations, Local Action Groups, advisors and researchers to discuss the most effective approaches to boost water resilience and how CAP support schemes can be better designed to increase uptake.

Participants exchanged good practices from across Member States and explored key challenges in implementing water-related interventions, highlighting the crucial role of advisory services, knowledge exchange and innovation. The discussion also underlined the need for stronger cooperation between regional authorities, farmers and research centres, and for wider adoption of integrated models that combine environmental sustainability, agricultural competitiveness and technological advancement.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### THE BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE: “WATER AS A RESOURCE OF THE FUTURE”

**On 22 December 2025 in the city of Vodnjan–Dignano a focused corporate roundtable dedicated to the future of water management in Istria will be held. As water scarcity increasingly affects local economies, this meeting will introduce the Blue Credits model—an emerging financial and sustainability mechanism—and outline how businesses can benefit from early involvement.**

**The event will provide a concise overview of the BLUE RECHARGE project, the current state of groundwater in southern Istria, and the economic implications for tourism, agriculture, industry and utilities. A short panel discussion will explore how companies can participate in pilot activities, gain value from future Blue Certificates, and contribute to shaping upcoming water-related policies and investments. A valuable opportunity for businesses that view water as a strategic resource and want early access to new EU-driven tools and expertise.**

