

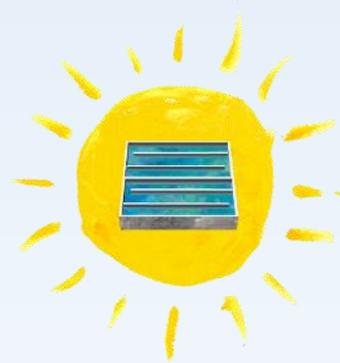


AQUACYCLE

First e-Newsletter
February 2020

Towards Sustainable Treatment and Reuse of Wastewater in the Mediterranean Region

Our current focus: changing the paradigm for wastewater reuse



AQUACYCLE aspires to change the paradigm of viewing wastewater as an unsafe effluent, to that of an abundant all-year-round resource that has multiple uses. **Our eco-innovative APOC technology**, which combines **Anaerobic digestion** (above, left), **Photocatalytic Oxidation** and a **Constructed wetland**, is set to capture the imagination of professionals and the public alike. Our hybrid set up not only augments water supply all year round but also produces biogas and fertilizer, setting a good example for the **circular economy**. It will create new, thriving biodiversity habitats as a visible **climate change mitigation measure**. And, not least, it will operate on solar energy, ensuring a **low cost of operation**.

Partnership

AQUACYCLE brings together 7 partners from Greece, Malta, Spain, Lebanon and Tunisia, and 4 associate partners from France, Greece, Algeria and Morocco.

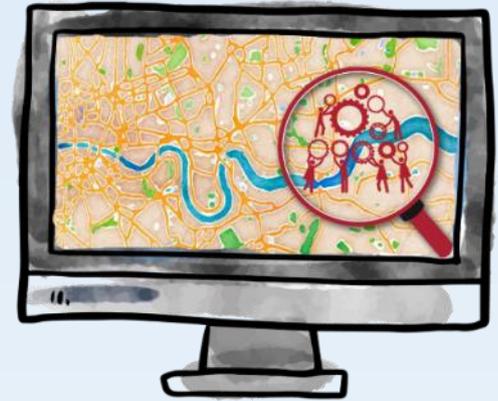
Right: The second project meeting took place in Valletta, Malta during 3 to 5 February 2020, hosted by Integrated Resources Management (IRMCo), Malta.



Partners

Paving the way for future investment

The involvement of the people living around the pilot demonstration sites in Lebanon, Spain and Tunisia will be assured, through the use of participatory GIS, to capture their vision in **Local Action and Investment Plans** for the reuse of **900,000 m³ of treated effluent**. Capacity building in our APOC wastewater treatment technology foresees the training of 180 local engineers and technicians. Moreover, the participation of women in all of our planned activities will be actively encouraged.



Stakeholder engagement

An active process of stakeholder engagement is foreseen throughout the project duration. During January 2020, **15 interviews with representatives of public entities, dealing with the use Non-Conventional Water Resources (NCWR)**, were organized in Lebanon, Spain and Tunisia. The interviews served to document their expectations and also their training needs on our eco-innovative APOC technology. *Right: Amalia García del Real, Operation Manager of the Blanca Wastewater Treatment Plant in Spain being interviewed by Pedro Simón Andreu, Technical Director of ESAMUR.*



Rolestorming on how to change the paradigm for wastewater reuse

On the occasion of the Malta Project Meeting, Anna Spiteri, Managing Director of IRMCo and **AQUACYCLE's** Communication Manager, invited partners to step outside their traditional role. Each partner took on a different role: minister for agriculture, journalist, farmer, treatment plant operator, environmental NGO representative, consumer, supermarket owner, investor, traveller, housewife and teenager.



Partners were given a few minutes to reflect on how they would look at the situation in this assumed role. The brainstorming session proved that once you open up to the idea of role playing, the sky is the limit for what this technique can produce! The novel 'outside the box' ideas that emerged motivated partners to take these to the upcoming workshops in Lebanon, Spain and Tunisia for feedback from the respective stakeholders.

Associate Partners



Promotional materials

All partners actively contributed to the design of an initial set of promotional materials, which include a video clip on the Launch of **AQUACYCLE** which took place on 30 September 2019 in Thessaloniki, Greece and was hosted by the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH). Roll up banners and a poster have been produced in English, French and Arabic as well as a 3-gated project flyer in English, French, Greek, Spanish and Arabic. All of these are available at the project website: <http://www.enicbcmmed.eu/projects/aquacycle>.

Right: **AQUACYCLE** Poster design by Eleanna Pana, CERTH and Roll up banner design by Jean Paul Tabone, IRMCo.



Upcoming Events

Mid-April 2020: A first series of **stakeholder workshops** addressed to public authorities and entities dealing with the use of Non Conventional Water Resources will be organized in Lebanon, Spain and Tunisia, with the theme: **Changing the Paradigm for Wastewater Reuse**.

23-25 June 2020: The research partners from the Lebanese University are joining the *Recycling & Waste Management Exhibition & Conference (RAWMEC)* to be held in Beirut, Lebanon (<https://www.rawmec-lb.com/>).

29-30 September 2020: The Solar Water Treatment Research Unit from PSA (CIEMAT) and the European Training Network **AQUALity** are pleased to invite you to the Young Conference on “*Solar photocatalytic reactors and applications to water treatment and disinfection*”, which will take place in Almería, Spain. For more info please visit <https://www.aquality-etn.eu/2020-aquality-events/>.

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