

SUWANU EUROPE is a H2020 project focused on the use of reclaimed water in agriculture

Sustainable Water treatment and Agricultural reuse options in Europe

#### **Regional Contact**

ORGANISATION NAME

#### EMAIL

#### Coordinator

Rafael Casielles (BIOAZUL SL) Avenida Manuel Agustin Heredia nº18 1º4 Málaga (SPAIN)

Mail | info@suwanu-europe.eu Website | www.suwanu-europe.eu

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SUWANU

EUROPE

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## Context

Water scarcity is a global problem affecting a wide range of European regions, far beyond those traditionally considered as water scarce and arid areas. Competition for traditional water resources is posing new challenges to citizens, economies and ecosystems that rely on current water supplies. In particular, agriculture irrigation accounts for the highest water use in Europe, reaching an average of 44 % of the total water abstractions in Europe and up to 70 % in Southern European regions.

In this context, urban **reclaimed water** is increasingly been recognized as an additional resource with a large potential for alleviating water scarcity, particularly in coastal areas. Urban reclaimed water is considered a highly reliable water supply, largely independent from the irregular rain patterns of Southern Europe and able to satisfy peak water demands for irrigation, particularly during the summer season.

SUWANU EUROPE is based on a previous EU project: SuWaNu - Sustainable Water treatment and Nutrient reuse options, whose main objective was to develop new water reuse strategies capable of solving the problems associated with water scarcity and higher fertilizer prices. SUWANU EUROPE has been conceived as a new instrument for advancing the practical application of the results from research on agricultural irrigation with reclaimed water.

## **Regional Scope**

SUWANU EUROPE is a Thematic Network whose main aim is to address the common challenges affecting the agricultural sector throughout Europe. To achieve this goal, 8 target regions have been selected: Andalusia (Spain), Braunschweig (Germany), Thessaloniki (Greece), Plovdiv (Bulgaria), Alentejo (Portugal), Po River Basin (Italy), Occitan (France), Antwerp and Limburg (Belgium).

The overall objective of the SUWANU EUROPE project is to promote the adoption of new strategies for agricultural irrigation with reclaimed water through the **establishment of a permanent network of relevant local actors**, coupled with a **dynamic information exchange system about lessons learnt** in which researchers, private innovators, civil organizations and public administrations can effectively interact. Innovators, civil organizations and public administrations can effectively interact.

Authorities and

policy makers

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Inventory

of existing

knowledge, good

practices and

regional analysis

# What is SUWANU EUROPE?

The aim of the SUWANU EUROPE project is to promote an effective exchange of knowledge, experiences and skills between practitioners and relevant actors involved in water reuse for agricultural irrigation. The project will boost the transfer of applicable technological and organizational solutions all around Europe and thus result in a more resilient agricultural sector, able to effectively cope with current and foreseen water scarcity and climate change effects.



Practitioners:

Farmers, agricultural advisory groups,

water engineers and operators

**SUWANU** 

**EUROPE** 

Development

of general

and regional

action

plans

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Knowledge

Exchange

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Consumers

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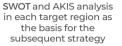
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### **Expected Results**



Characterization of the 8 target regions to assess the potential of the use of reclaimed water in agriculture





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Database of water reuse projects in Europe

Participatory workshops with key actors to identify the different views and interests of a broad representation of society for the co-creation of strategies



Fact-sheets and practice abstracts with successful projects and case studies in pioneer countries in water reuse such as Cyprus and Israel Action Plans with specific objectives, recommendations and activities adapted to the regional context that facilitate the implementation of innovative solutions



Online courses and training sessions for different groups of actors that respond to their knowledge needs and increase the capacities of practitioners in the field of reclaimed water.