



EUROPEAN
ASSOCIATION

Riverside communities
Water citizenship
Action research & Learning

ACTIVITY REPORT

2023-2024

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FOUNDING MEMBERS OF



ACTIVITY REPORT 2023 - 2024

AQUA is the first European association to take an interest in all aspects of water heritage:

- social
- historical
- cultural
- natural

in a single approach for knowledge, protection and enhancement.

By bringing together citizens, experts and local authorities, we are working towards water management that respects all its dimensions.

Our approach aims to place this open and complex vision of water at the heart of European public debates, to build a common and sustainable future.

But above all, AQUA is a human adventure, a series of encounters along rivers, ponds and canals... the sharing of one observation: **water heritage is invisible and the voices of its river communities are inaudible.**

But if we get to know them, see them and even listen to them, they could be the guarantors of a much hoped-for resilient world.

A huge thanks to our founding members for their support, their willingness to listen and their desire to overcome divisions to build the collective intelligence needed to preserve water as a common good.

VINCENT ALCANIZ

Vincent is a lawyer and entrepreneur, practising in the field of renewable energies and for projects with high societal impact.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To feed his passion for innovation in the field of renewable energies and his deep sensitivity to the stakes of water preservation and harmonious cohabitation between man and nature.

🔍 His scale of action ?

As founder and president of Provence Hydro Energy and Director of the Cluster Mediterranean Sea, Vincent wants to contribute to the development and implementation of innovative strategies for resource management and preservation in water.



THIERRY ALLIET

Thierry has been a carpenter cabinetmaker since 2007, and Managing Director of "Moulins Patrimoines" since 2018.

He is very familiar with wooden works in relation to heritage restoration and historical monuments.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To make the greatest number of people aware of the need to preserve the water resource and its quality. But also to use this resource with sobriety.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Thierry participates in the restoration and equipment of hydraulic mills, especially in Normandy.



PASCAL BARTOUT - DEPUTY SECRETARY

Pascal is an associate of geography and professor researcher at the University of Orléans.

His motivations towards AQUA ?

To have a real systemic "environment" approach to water, its natural, cultural, economic heritages, without preconceived at the base.

His scale of action ?

Pascal is a specialist in water bodies and in particular ponds and a scientific expert in hydrology. He is also Director of the review Environmental Dynamics, Journal International Geosciences and the environment.



DOMINIQUE BLAISE - ADMINISTRATOR

Dominique is President of the Hydro BV Trade Union, which is involved in small hydropower in the river basins of Vienna, Clain, Gartempe and Creuse.

His motivations towards AQUA ?

To participate in a scientific structure, and to bring new perspective towards ecological continuity and approaches to preserve the water resource, in partnership with the Water Agencies.

His scale of action ?

On a daily basis in the management of its hydropower plants in Haute-Vienne, Dominique wishes to bring his knowledge and field expertise to the board of administrators and to the work of AQUA.



CHARLES-FRANÇOIS CHAMPETIER - ADMINISTRATOR

Charles-François is the founding President of the Association Hydrauxois, committed for more than 10 years to sustainable rivers.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To join a multidisciplinary approach to the social sciences of water and to bring a societal vision of water within European and French public policies.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Author of several hundreds articles and reports, Charles-François contributes to the dissemination of knowledge on hydraulic heritage, environmental history, the new ecosystems of the Anthropocene and the law of water, especially in Burgundy Franche-Comté and everywhere in France.



NICOLAS COIRAL

Nicolas is an expert in customer relations and a sales agent, while cultivating his passion for fishing.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

Nicolas wishes to work on the protection of the environment aquatic, the quality of the water, the riparian vegetation, and the management of watercourses, in particular through training and awareness-raising activities on the ground.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Local, regional, national, and European. His experience as a fishing guide and regular practice make him go through rivers and seas anyway, without borders!



RIK DE BAERDEMAEKER

Rik is an animator of Mola Molencentrum, museum and educational resource centre on mills in East Flanders (Belgium).

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To set up cross-border and transnational cooperation projects around the exploitation of water resources, and in particular mills.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Belgium, at the heart of European exchanges is, just like the Netherlands, a large area of water, which shares many problems with its counterparts in the European North-West.



MAXIME DELACOURT

Maxime is a mechanical and energy engineer and founder of Moulins Demain.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

The association's approach to providing knowledge and insights using various expertise relative to advocacy, awareness raising, technical skills, networking, and research roles.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Thanks to its expertise on the subject of energy and mills, Maxime wishes to contribute to the work of the association and to enable its influence in its region (Ile-de-France) and in Metropolitan France in a more global way.



ELODIE DENIZART - PRESIDENT

Elodie is a consultant in the ecological transition of territories in Europe, after a 12-year experience in a French Region Brussels office.

💧 Her motivations towards AQUA ?

To confront feedback from local residents on European water-related policies, and vice versa! By building on the results of research in the social sciences of water.

🔍 Her scale of action ?

From Europe to the local, and from the local to Europe: Elodie sails between Lille, Brussels, Picardie, Corrèze, Lot, Burgundy... and all the territories that will open up to the approach brought by Aqua through European cooperation.



SERGE DESPEYROUX

Serge, son of miller, founder of Quercy local energy agency in 1991, former president of CAUE (Council of Architecture, Urban planning and Environment), in Midi-Pyrénées and then of the national federation, is a peasant and fervent defender of the rural world in all its necessary transitions.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To create a crossroads of conciliation, a meeting place of all human sensitivities foreign to the business and a wall against the privatization of the common water.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Serge travels tirelessly on the roads of the Lot department (and beyond) to contribute to the dynamism of the rural associative world, in the fields of social and environmental matters.



OLIVIER FOUCHÉ-GROBLA - ADMINISTRATOR

Olivier is a lecturer at the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (Cnam), entitled to direct research in hydrogeology and soil hydraulics.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To bring a strong credibility both in AQUA's basement in its vocation of scientific extension, but also to contribute to the development of long-term cooperation and partnerships via the Cnam network.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Olivier participates in numerous activities of expertise and research around the protection and preservation of the environment. Its scale of action ranges from local to Europe.



PIERRE-OLIVIER FRAPPART

Pierre-Olivier is an agricultural technology engineer specializing in animal production, aquaculture and poultry farming and Doctor of the Agro Montpellier Institute.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To take action to protect and restore biodiversity, wetlands, and rivers which endure amenities disconnected from foresights related to climate change.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Pierre-Olivier resides in Germany and often returns to the springs to fish in the basins of the Ource and the Seine. His research actions are of European or even international scale.



FRANÇOIS FRICAUDET

François is a retired public works engineer and president of the Val d'Arconce Charolais-Brionnais association.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To promote his feedback from expertise combining the problems of fishing, irrigation, heritage and now hydropower in a territory with a preserved landscape and environmental framework.

🔍 His scale of action ?

The association has a local and regional scale of action and is intended to be a real part of water policy within its watershed area.



GILLES GAREL

Gilles is Professor of Innovation Management at the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (Cnam).

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To understand and fuel the social and multidisciplinary dimension of innovation carried out by Aqua. Accompaniment on training and research activities also interest him, as well as the issues of governance and water policy.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Its pedagogical vision of innovation as a science of action requires an understanding of the history of the research sciences, over the long term. Gilles' activities are brought to the international level.



ANTOINE GUIBERT

Antoine is an engineer in water technology and hydraulics and is President of Envinergy.

His motivations towards AQUA ?

Have a strong lobbying capacity, a voice that carries, to demonstrate that the main challenge for rivers is not the fight against dam owners, but the fight against global warming.

His scale of action ?

As a major player in the preservation of the hydraulic heritage, Antoine's activities are concentrated both at local, regional and national level, to reconcile energy and environmental issues.



JEAN-JACQUES HÉRIN

Jean-Jacques is a former territorial director in the Douai agglomeration and President of the Adopta Association.

His motivations towards AQUA ?

To break down water policies, both at the level of public and private spheres, and to go beyond the vision of water, either as a technical element, as a matter of specialists only, or as a waste to be disposed of outside built areas.

His scale of action ?

The Adopta Association is a national leader in integrated storm water management. This nearly 30 years of expertise allows us to reflect on the articulation between small and large water cycles for sustainable land management.



ALBERT HIGOUNENC

Albert is a retired mining engineer and former President of the Community of Communes of Arbois. Manufacturer, builder and former operator of an awarded pico hydropower central in the performance category.

His motivations towards AQUA ?

To promote ancestral water management practices around rivers and ponds, while reconciling more modern uses such as micro-hydropower.

His scale of action ?

Albert is active in the world of associations in the regions Auvergne Rhône-Alpes and Burgundy-Franche-Comté.



CHRISTIAN JACQUEMIN - DEPUTY TREASURER

Christian is the manager of a circular economy company in industrial automatism, passionate about mechanics, metalwork and ironwork. He chairs the Arpohc, Association of local residents and owners of hydraulic works in Châtillonnais.

His motivations towards AQUA ?

To develop a new vision of water-related anthropogenic environments, taking into account all the problems and interferences, before intervening on the latter.

His scale of action ?

A man of science and techniques, Christian is very active around the valorisation of water heritage in Burgundy-Franche-Comté, always close to local problems, conflicts of vision and use of rivers, ponds or other humid annexes.



MARTIN KELLER - SECRETARY

Martin is an industrial engineer and today a project leader in renewable energy for the Terre de liens Foundation.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To demonstrate by example the value of water heritage, to develop several skills around a training centre, assistance to project management, advocacy and think tank around the many topics related to water heritage.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Thanks to its dual expertise in renewable energy and agriculture, it is quite natural that Martin is interested in reactivation of mills, irrigation and adaptation to climate change.



FRANCIS LEFEBVRE-VARY

Francis is retired from the medical world and very involved in the local and regional associative life of Nièvre and Morvan.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To develop a tool of collective intelligence, knowledge sharing and land-use planning that respects the environment and preserves the water resource, around the concept of water as a common good.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Francis chairs the Association of mills in Morvan and Nièvre, which irrigates with historical, heritage and economic information not only the actors in the preservation of the heritage but also the streams of its watershed.



DAMIEN LENOËL

Damien is a miller's grandson, an energy engineer and renewable energy specialist in hydropower.

His motivations towards AQUA ?

To rebalance debates and decisions on water, not only at national but also European level via a structured and territorial organization, producing and relaying consolidated data, both scientific and societal related.

His scale of action ?

Damien can bring knowledge and reflection on hydropower works and their environments, and represent AQUA at the local and regional level (Hérault/Occitanie/Adour-Garonne).



CHRISTIAN LÉVÊQUE

Coming from Avesnois, Christian is a renowned scientist who studied zoology, animal biology, oceanography, limnology (science of continental waters).

His motivations towards AQUA ?

To take the necessary time for observation and reflection to accompany informed collective choices, and to seek compromises between the economic and safety services expected by the watercourses amenities, and a diversified aquatic life, desired by citizens.

His scale of action ?

Christian has been a member of a wide range of scientific councils and expert committees, from water agencies to the United Nations, to the European Commission, Ifremer, CNRS, BRGM, INRAE... He is still regularly publishing articles and scientific contributions of an international scale.



MICHAŁ KUBECKI

Michał is a Polish engineer, owner of several small hydropower plants and investment advisor.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To ensure a sustainable approach conducive to investment, through the creation of a legal and administrative environment favourable to small hydropower plants.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Michał is editor-in-chief of Energetyka Wodna, a very high-quality and internationally renowned media. Its involvement allows us to capitalize on European projects like Restor-Hydro and Hyposo, via networks such as EREF (European Renewable Energies Federation).



ANICK MARÉCHAL & BERNARD ROUSSEAU

Anick is a retired professor of plastic arts and Bernard is a retired architect. Both environmental activists from the 1980s are owners of a mill which turbine supplies their individual heating.

💧 Their motivations towards AQUA ?

To improve the condition of their rivers in the face of the effects of intensive agriculture, protecting drinking water abstractions and defending the interest of dedicating significant financial resources on these water pollution issues.

🔍 Their scale of action ?

Anick and Bernard are very active in Burgundy-Franche-Comté within environmental defence associations. Their transdisciplinary field experience is therefore particularly rich to feed the subjects treated by Aqua.



DOMINIQUE PERCHET

Dominique is a trained geographer and passionate about industrial and hydraulic history. He has worked in chambers of commerce and industry and also as a consultant for local authorities around territorial foresight.

His motivations towards AQUA ?

To promote the historical industrial and hydraulic heritage, from the small mill to forges and other iron and metal working plants.

His scale of action ?

Dominique is very active in his fief of Tarn-et-Garonne and also regularly publishes scientific articles within the ICOMOS network (International Council of Monuments and Sites).



BRUNO PERRET

Native from the Bresse, Bruno has had a military career (a gendarmerie officer) for a little over ten years. A fisherman since his youngest age, he acquired in 2019 a mill located on the river that rocked his childhood.

His motivations towards AQUA ?

To act quickly as a listening and privileged interlocutor on all water problems, being able to carry pragmatic ideas and of general interest while generating the interest and support of the greatest number.

His scale of action ?

Bruno is particularly active in his departmental association of mills heritage valorisation, in the Ain.



EMANUELE QUARANTA

Emanuele is a hydraulic engineer, a researcher at the European Commission, a hydropower specialist and a water mill wheel expert.

His motivations towards AQUA ?

To address the issue of hydropower in a global way and explore new solutions and sustainable strategies around the Nexus Water, energy, food and ecosystem.

His scale of action ?

Emanuele is active both within the Italian Federation of Mill Development Associations, but also at the European level where he participates in numerous networking initiatives around water and energy.



ANDRÉ QUIBLIER

André has made a large part of his professional career in the international road transport sector, notably through the representation of his federation in Brussels.

His motivations towards AQUA ?

To bring a societal and citizen dimension within the future European legislation on water heritage, and help reconcile water uses and landscapes, with the goodwill of all stakeholders.

His scale of action ?

André is active in the associative world of the Normandy mills. His feedback from field experience will be necessary for the advocacy work that Aqua wishes to carry out at the European level.



SILVIA RICHARD

Silvia is a civil engineer and specializing in hydropower. She has carried out international missions, especially in Brazil, before joining in France, now for the company Conexig.

💧 Her motivations towards AQUA ?

To transform the way we care for and value our water resources through alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

🔍 Her scale of action ?

Silvia is based in France for an international company and wants to develop partnerships especially in the Iberian peninsula.



LAURENT TOUCHART

Laurent is a professor of geography and specialist in ponds and lakes at the University of Orleans.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To enhance a positive environmental approach in order to understand the functioning of our hydrosystems by crossing land use planning issues with the complex role of water bodies and watercourses.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Laurent is an eminent expert of international fame: his work illustrates the beneficial effects of water bodies, according to social, economic, cultural, and heritage aspects.



CLÉMENT VAN STRAATEN - TREASURER

Clément is a company manager and passionate about industrial mechanics. He has acquired a solid technical expertise around projects at the crossroads of rivers and electrical networks.

💧 His motivations towards AQUA ?

To identify and prevent water usage conflicts through the combination of field actions and networking with many members and partners.

🔍 His scale of action ?

Clément is based in Lyon but its activity radiates in France and internationally. He is an expert in the field of the recovery of fatal energies and the development of renewable energies, including the reactivation of water mills for micro-hydropower.



KEY DATES OF THE YEAR

ACTIVITY REPORT 2023 - 2024

The Constituent General Meeting of AQUA took place in Orléans on **15 December 2023**, in the prestigious premises of the University of Orléans, at the Château de la Source. Already in hybrid format, and bringing together partners from several countries: 12 people were on site and 29 in video conferencing.

The first General Meeting was in Pessac (Bordeaux) on the **6 December 2024**, in the framework of the Doctoriales of water social sciences: 12 people were on site and 21 in video conferencing.



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

The association was born out of a finding shared by many land and river actors about the dysfunctions of territorial water policies, and more generally a vision of rivers and their related developments.

AQUA! is then the melting pot of multidisciplinary reflections, from the European to the local level, and vice versa.



The statutes are defined so as not to be an activist association that is in court, but a place for reflection and exchanges, a resource centre, and an actor in European cooperation. AQUA wishes to inform public policy decisions related to water resource management, through a permanent discussion between experts of all horizons and riverside individuals and communities from many watersheds in Europe.

2 FEBRUARY 2024 - FIRST BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS

On February the 2nd, World Wetlands Day, the first AQUA! Board of administrators met to elect its officers.

Elodie Denizart was elected President of the association, accompanied by Clément Van Straaten as Treasurer, Martin Keller as Secretary, Christian Jacquemin as Deputy Treasurer and Pascal Bartout as Deputy Secretary.

A crack team to launch this new player in the world of water!

Our thanks to the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers and to Gilles Garel and Olivier Fouché for their warm welcome in their Paris premises, a prestigious venue for teaching, research and innovation at both national and international level.

Present in the photo (from left to right): Christian Jacquemin, Elodie Denizart, Gilles Garel, Charles-François Champetier and Olivier Fouché (unfortunately the rest of the team was on video!)



MARCH 2024 - PARTICIPATION TO 2 ASSOCIATIONS GENERAL MEETINGS

At the beginning of March 2024, AQUA attended to the general meetings of HydroBV, the association of small-scale hydroelectricity professionals in the Vienne Gartempe Creuse catchment area, in Limoges, and of the Association des Moulins du Morvan et de la Nièvre in Guérigny.

This was an opportunity to present the association and its founding members, and to meet many of the players on the ground who are confronted on a daily basis with all the challenges of the ecological transition: production of renewable energy, respect for biodiversity, management of water resources, etc.

Unfortunately, these organisations still have too little say in the consultation and decision-making bodies of those involved in the water sector, yet they are the first to sound the alarm about the state of our rivers.

It is more important than ever to invite them to take part in debates at all levels of the catchment area.

Solutions are never simple (contrary to some of the simplistic messages conveyed), and the issue of water is always complex (that's the only constant!). Local issues need to be shared and discussed (with local residents), so that solutions can be found on a case-by-case basis.



MARCH 2024 - EUROPEAN COOPERATIONS IN ANTWERPEN & BRUSSELS

First step : Interreg Europe Forum Let's Corporate, Antwerpen

On the programme: networking, visits to port sites, cultural heritage, water heritage, policy learning platform, etc.

How can we find the best practices of Europe's regions in relation to water heritage issues?

Natural heritage, protection and prevention of floods and droughts, preservation of biodiversity, communities of renewable energies and citizens with micro-hydroelectricity on old mills... There is no shortage of subjects!

And there are plenty of partners too: AQUA has met many public and semi-public stakeholders from local and regional authorities in Europe, including Spain, Portugal, Poland, Italy and Hungary, as well as candidate countries such as Ukraine and Albania.

Here is an example of an Interreg project related to water heritage

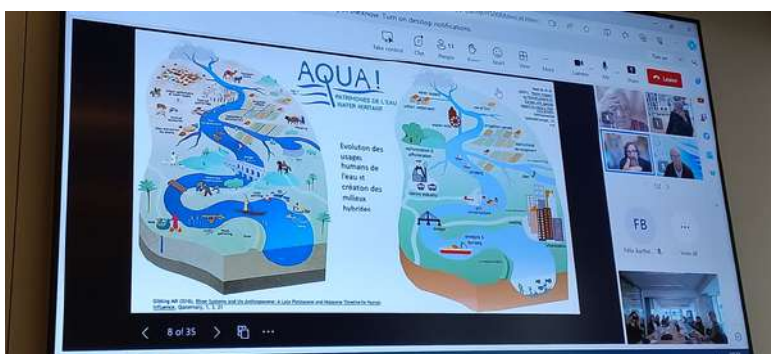
Energy Policy in Normandy: how a participatory approach enables energy communities:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=s3Hb2aHYQ5o&feature=emb_imp_woyt

Second step : World Water Day "Water & Peace", Brussels

On this occasion, the association went to meet the European institutions.

After a fascinating and interactive seminar organised at the Hauts-de-France Brussels office, AQUA went to the European Parliament and then to the Committee of the Regions to listen to the debates on the importance of building a European Blue Deal, via the report by the Dutchman Karl Vanlouwe.



MAY 2024 - CREATION AND DISSEMINATION OF ONE FLYER

Production of a flyer presenting the association to help communicate about the association and its objectives. The flyer was produced in French and English for distribution throughout Europe.

JUNE 2024 - CREATION AND DISSEMINATION OF ONE BROCHURE

In June, a brochure presenting the association was designed to give AQUA the opportunity to communicate more clearly. The brochure sets out the association's primary objectives, the interconnected issues it aims to address and the seven ways in which it intends to take action. This communication tool (in French and English) was distributed widely in France and Europe.

JUNE 2024 - RENEWAT PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING

From 11 to 13 June, the Syndicate Energies Haute-Vienne organised the kick-off meeting for the Interreg Europe RENEWAT project in Limoges, France (Renewable Energies in European water mills). Partners from France, Lithuania, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Poland came together to launch the project. For two days, all the participants met, explored the structure and objectives of the project, attended workshops and visited converted water mills.

JUNE 2024 - EXCHANGES IN TERRITORIES (FRANCE)

Élodie Denizart, president of the association, went out to meet the various players involved in water heritage in the region (owners, local residents, committed citizens).

The programme included an 80km cycle ride between Corrèze, Lot and Dordogne, divided into several stages:

- A stop in Treignac in Corrèze and a meeting with the local council. This was an opportunity to discuss the challenges facing this major water heritage site, including the hydropower dam built on the Vézère, the bathing and tourist resort, the top-level canoeing and kayaking playground and the bottling of Treignac water;
- Stops in a number of other towns in the catchment areas and meetings with mill owners and river stakeholders, who keep this heritage alive in their own way, but all too often still come up against inappropriate regulations;
- A final stop in Agen and active participation in the France Hydro Électricité congress which provided an opportunity for rich exchanges and convivial moments around the renewable energy industry.



JULY - DEC 2024 - SETTING-UP OF A MICRO CERTIFICATION

Filming of the teaser at the Musée du Cnam to prepare communication on the Micro-certification 'Discover hidden micro-hydropower'

First session dates: 17 and 24 January 2025

'Hidden' micro-hydropower can be developed on existing hydraulic structures (old water mill weirs, locks, pond weirs...) or in hydraulic circuits of drinking water or wastewater networks.

💡 Who is it for?

Anyone interested in this subject, ideally local authorities.



SEPTEMBER 2024 - WATER CARREFOUR, DIJON

AQUA took an active part in the latest Carrefour de l'eau idéalCO in Dijon. It was an opportunity for 4 of its members to browse the exhibitors' stands and attend the discussion workshops, to learn more about the issues involved in sustainable water management by local authorities. And there are plenty of them! To bring these issues and topics together, AQUA will be thinking about tools for debate and networking, to provide 'assistance in managing use', an expression borrowed from Elodie Brelot, Director of GRAIE, who presented a very interesting multidisciplinary approach to the Val de Saône catchment area. It was also an opportunity to listen to Jean-Jacques Hérin's very interesting presentation on the changing regulatory context in favour of rainwater harvesting, a subject with which his association Adopta has long been familiar.



SEPTEMBER 2024 - EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS - WORKSHOP

The co-hosting of a workshop in the heart of the CAUE du Nord resource centre to examine maps from all eras from every angle and to sound out the fifty or so participants on 4 areas of interest: the fortified town of Gravelines, the marshlands of Saint-Omer, the cross-border Lys and the twin towns of Comines and Warneton, and the river corridor in the south of Lille. This was an opportunity to try out a highly interactive workshop format, following an account of water in the Hauts-de-France region brilliantly narrated by Benoît Poncelet and Anne Braquet.



SEPTEMBER 2024 - CROSS-BORDER EVENT (FR/BE)

AQUA took part in a day of exchanges between northern, Flemish and Walloon stakeholders on the issue of drought, again in the same river basin district of the Escaut.

OCTOBER 2024 - SAVEAU SYMPOSIUM (AMIENS)

On 4 October, AQUA travelled to Amiens to take part in an exciting conference organised by the Université de Picardie Jules Verne (UPJV). On the agenda were the myths and beliefs surrounding the precious resource of freshwater, through cultural and cultic practices: the Anaconda, totem guardian of the Amazon river, African genies watching over the blue lake of Ndende in Gabon, etc.

Then, many more pragmatic questions were raised, and many answers were not found, a sign that research and studies are still very necessary to cross societal approaches, hard sciences and technological approaches.

Bonus: an exhibition at the Amiens Métropole Tourism Office put together by the students on the visible and invisible heritage of water in Amiens, including the Passe-Avant and Passe-Arrière water mills and the urban project around the Cosserat industrial derelict area.



OCTOBER 2024 - CITIZEN LED RENOVATION II KICK-OFF (LISBON)

On 8 and 9 October, AQUA attended the launch event of the Citizen-Led Renovation programme (Phase 2) in Lisbon to support 3 energy community project leaders based around the reactivation of water mills:

- The Moulin Bleu, Saint-Jean-Froidmentel, Centre-Val de Loire Region ;
- The Grand Moulin, Sainte-Sévère-sur-Indre, Centre-Val de Loire Region ;
- La Pointerie, Chamesson-sur-Seine, Bourgogne Franche-Comté Region.

This kick-off meeting provided an opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion and debate, with 'real people' in the field, committed citizens who want to take ownership and control of their energy transition in their daily lives: energy renovation, heating networks, fight against fuel poverty, development of renewable energies, etc.



OCTOBER 2024 - TRAINING

On 17 October, AQUA took part in a training course on the emergence of energy communities in the Hauts-de-France region. It was a day rich in contacts and interactions on this growing theme in all kinds of areas.

The aim of AQUA's participation in this training course was to strengthen its skills in energy community projects linked to the reactivation of water mills.

OCTOBER 2024 - INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE (PARIS)

AQUA was present at the Salon International du Patrimoine Culturel, where its members were able to introduce it to many of the key players involved in preserving and promoting heritage.

Whether they are public, private, voluntary, civil servants, patrons, activists... the attachment to heritage unites a multitude of partners present at the show, and structures a major economic sector.

NOVEMBER 2024 - ADEME HYDROPOWER EVENT

On 7 and 8 November, AQUA took part in the ADEME annual event in Burgundy Franche-Comté, alongside the industry involved in renovating and reactivating water mills to produce micro-hydropower. This annual event is the envy of many other European countries.



NOVEMBER 2024 - GENERAL MEETING OF THE HYDRAUXOIS ASSOCIATION

On 9 November, a number of AQUA members took part in the General Meeting of Hydrauxois, who have been fervent defenders of water heritage for over ten years. This meeting was held in Montbard and included time for debate and fascinating site visits.

NOVEMBER 2024 - 6TH WATER ACADEMY IN NORTHERN FRANCE

On 14 November, AQUA attended the 6th Water Academy for the Artois-Picardy basin at the Louvre-Lens, organised by the Artois-Picardy Water Agency. The event provided an opportunity to exchange ideas and develop the association's network.

DECEMBER 2024 - DOCTORAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SCIENCES OF WATER & AQUA GENERAL MEETING (BORDEAUX - PESSAC)

Thanks to our administrator Pascal Bartout, co-organizer of the Doctoral conference, AQUA has been invited to participate to this major international event, gathering many university and research centre actors working on social sciences of water: history, geography, anthropology, sociology... Taking the time to deal with in-depth subjects, but always rooted in the field, listening to feedback from peers and continuous training... all in a friendly and convivial atmosphere. And let's not forget the short trail along the Peugue, a river hemmed in by the urban fabric and marking the border between Pessac and Mérignac (with water mills, of course)...



DECEMBER 2024 - REGIONAL MEETING OF CITIZEN ENERGY COMMUNITIES IN AMIENS (HAUTS-DE-FRANCE)

AQUA was present at this regional event organised by the regional relay of Energie Partagée in Hauts-de-France, major French network of energy communities: the opportunity for AQUA to promote water mills reactivation through micro hydropower. Although a reputation of flat country, hilly landscapes and water mills also composed the various territories of this region, as confirmed by several participants. Small scale hydropower has indeed a role to take in the local energy mixes!



7 PROPOSALS FOR ACTIONS

ACTIVITY REPORT 2023 - 2024

1. SPEAK OUT

Advocacy / Speeches by experts / Presentation of territorial feedback from expertise at events (local, regional, national, European) / Relay of information from partners

2. ANALYSE, WRITE, CONVINCE

Drafting arguments supported by scientific sources / Summary work based on conferences, documents, videos, books... / Drafting responses to public enquiries / Data collection and position papers for public consultations

3. SET UP COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Setting-up and supporting the creation and management of European projects: European Commission programmes (Life, Interreg, Horizon, Cerv, Erasmus, Creative Europe, etc.), European Investment Bank facilities

4. CONSULT, ANIMATE

Development of tailor-made tools for local consultation and animation / Organisation of site visits, itineraries, exhibits / Increasing knowledge on water heritage in river basins (territorial inventories)

5. UP-SKILL

Creation of tailor-made training courses/modules (online, on site, in class, hybrid) / Skills leverage using varied and multidisciplinary expertise / Specific interventions in courses (secondary and higher education)

6. BRING KNOWLEDGE

Setting-up webinars and events relative to water heritage / Supporting and supervising students and trainees / Capitalising on European projects and good practices / Science popularisation

7. NETWORK

Bringing together resource players / Partnership initiatives and working groups / Running social media communities / Taking part in trade fairs, forums and congress

1. SPEAK OUT

22 March 2024, World Water Day

Presentation of Aqua to European institutions and networks, in the premises of the Hauts-de-France Region Brussels office

4 June 2024 & 14 November 2024, Water academies

Participation in two events organized by the Artois Picardie Water Agency in Arras and Lens / questions / networking / distribution of the brochure to public water institutions

21-22-23 June 2024, National days of rural heritage and mills (focus on Water)

Information relay campaign on the LinkedIn account with a selection of events and site visits for each French region

6 July 2024, European Festival Fluctuations

Intervention at a workshop-debate on the rights of nature, within a cross-border itinerant river festival

24 October 2024, International Congress for cultural heritage in Paris, focus Water

Discussions with potential partners of AQUA such as the Fondation du patrimoine, Sites and Cités Remarquables de France, INRAP...

November 2024, response to the call for contributions from the European Energy Transition Congress for a workshop on micro-hydropower, Strasbourg (24-26 June 2025)

2. ANALYSE, WRITE, CONVINCE

Before AQUA...

Work of the Arpohc (Christian Jacquemin) on the public survey of a European scale methanizer, under construction in Burgundy: 80 hours of work to read and analyze hundreds of pages of documents, and to bring up a problem of treatment of residual water discharged in the upstream Seine.

Content analysis and synthesis work (oral and written) following the holding of events, debates, publications, videos... articles published on LinkedIn, relay of reports within the members of AQUA and their partners

AQUA Position paper: drafting a first key publication, presenting many scientific references, on the interest of preserving and enhancing knowledge of water heritage in all its diversities.

3. SET UP COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

2022-2023 before AQUA...

Setting-up of the Interreg Europe Renewat project (Renewable Energies in European Water Mills) on behalf of the leading partner Syndicat d'énergies Haute-Vienne (SEHV) and other partners: Fédération des Moulins de France (FDMF) & partners in IT, LT, SI, PL, HR, AL, UA

2021-2023 before AQUA...

Set up an application form for the ADEME (FR) under the European Investment Bank's ELENA facility: Renov-Hydro project (one-stop shop for the energy renovation of water mills in France)

April and october 2024: drafting of a concept note and preparation of a project on riparian zone management and riverside communities (Interreg Europe / Interreg North-West Europe)

April-may 2024: partner search and proposal to integrate the Syndicat des Etangs de Haute-Vienne into a European consortium for an Interreg South-West Europe project on fire defence based on pond management.

During 2024: exchanges with the association for the preservation of the living river of Garon (Lyon metropolis) on a **global approach to soil management and soft hydrology solutions**; exploration of paths to improve local consultation and develop an exchange of best practices at European level with regard to a project to build 3 flood-control dams.

8 & 9 october 2024: kick-off event for the Citizen-Led Renovation Phase 2 Programme in Lisbon, with 3 project promoters, learners, to set up an energy community around the reactivation of watermills.

4. CONSULT, ANIMATE

April 2024: taking part in a cycling ride along a river of the Lille metropolis, punctuated by interventions from urbanists, historians, ecologists, farmers, heritage... on a cross-border area with Belgium + participation in a workshop of feedback for an enlarged public, a month later.

July 2024: drawing up a proposal to accompany the consultation and the prevention of conflicts around the reactivation of old mills located in the vicinity of a place of religious heritage, in cultural and economic conversion.

During 2024: participation in several events of acculturation of specific problems in the international district of the basin of the Scheldt, including the transboundary management of a watershed: agricultural or industrial pollution, sharing of the resource, river interconnection of the Seine Nord Canal, polderization, flood risk...

July and november 2024: proposal to the Banque des territoires and the collective Aquagir to test the kit to raise awareness of water issues among elected officials in certain territories (linked to our members).

November 2024: proposal to ADEME to consider a follow-up to the Renov-Hydro project dynamics, in particular to accompany the 400 project promoters who responded to the questionnaire of the 2nd quarter 2023.

November 2024: proposal to the Banque des territoires to develop a partnership around the Programme "Reinventing Heritage" around aspects of local development, tourism and water-related cultural heritage.

5. UP-SKILL

Before AQUA... November 2023: 2 days of on-site training to diagnose the potential of micro-hydropower at several sites in the municipality of Merville (Hauts-de-France) in a context of valorisation of river and touristic heritage, but also of flood risk

Before AQUA... Oct 2022 - Jan 2024: 5 online training sessions of 10 learners each, on the production of micro hydropower via the reactivation of old mills (in partnership with ASDER, training centre)

During 2024: increased administrative competence of the Hydrauxois Association: basic contact management, communication strategy, organisation of events, secretariat

August 2024: accompaniment to a group of water mill owners in Corrèze to structure the creation of a local association for the preservation and enhancement of a river, at the heart of heritage, landscape, environmental and economic issues (tourism and hydropower)

May - October 2024: creation of a micro-certification, a new tool developed by the National conservatory of arts and crafts (Cnam), *discover the hidden micro-hydropower*, launched in January 2025 (17 and 24 January: 2 online sessions of 3h30)

17 october 2024: followed a training course by ADEME Hauts-de-France **on citizen renewable energy projects.**

Current 2024: Interventions during secondary and higher education courses on a specific aspect of water heritage or on the work carried out by AQUA on hot topics. e.g. Master LEA University Picardie Jules Verne (13 November 2024)

6. BRING KNOWLEDGE

5th April 2024 : speech by Pascal Bartout at the general meeting of the association Etangs de France - Bourgogne, on ecosystem services rendered by ponds.

20th September 2024: local workshop in cooperation with the CAUE du Nord in Lille, in the framework of the European heritage days: Escaut watershed, heritage symbol and source of territorial interconnections (about 50 participants)

4th October 2024: participation to the symposium organized by the Picardie Jules Verne University in Amiens SAVEAU : knowledge on water as invisible heritage + pannels exhibited on water heritage in Amiens made by students

Current 2024: accompaniment, knowledge sharing, support, telephone interviews, and networking with students or young researchers on topics related to water heritage. e.g. Marie-Françoise Lebecq, "patrimonial valuation of water mills in the Ouyse, Alzou and Célé rivers in the Lot department", University Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne

Current 2024: database of European projects related to water heritage, interviews with partners or stakeholders of European projects, sharing and dissemination of results
Ex: project Interreg Europe Wave (Water-linked heritage Valorization by developing an Ecosystem approach) Ex: project Re-Fresh (water cycle within European museum sites)

December 2024: response to a call for contributions for the Integrated Sciences Rivers conference in Lyon (from 20/06 to 04/07/2025)

4-6 December 2024 : participation in the French-speaking Colloquium of the Doctoriales of social sciences of water in Bordeaux: presentation of AQUA, networking, site visits...

7. NETWORK

During 2024: animation of a **LinkedIn community on water heritage valorisation**

Current 2024: networking activities, meetings, telephone exchanges, videos, webinars, physical participation in events of European scale (WWD, Green Week...), national (Ademe, Carrefour IdealCO, Hydrauxois...), regional or local (HydroBV, AMMN...) depending on the geographical proximity of the members of AQUA

11 & 12 september 2024: participation at the Water Congress in Dijon (IdealCO event): networking with the actors of the small water cycle, participation in the workshops, beginning of cooperation with the idealCO network

3 octobre 2024: AQUA pitch at the 10th anniversary of the National Support Centre for MAIF Associations: discussions on prevention topics, mitigation of water-related risks, insurance, and the Maif Life Fund

7 & 8 november: participation in the ADEME national conference on small hydropower in Beaune (Burgundy-Franche-Comté): networking, kakemono, distribution of flyers and documentation of AQUA's members and partners

12 december: Regional meeting of Renewable Energy Citizens in Hauts-de-France in Amiens

OUR WORKING GROUPS

ACTIVITY REPORT 2023 - 2024

Communication

- Drawing up a communication plan
- Focus on activities to popularise science: ideas for podcasts, videos, aperitif debates, etc.
- Creation of the first tools needed to communicate on AQUA in French and English: graphic charter, logo, flyer, leaflet, kakemono, website model, LinkedIn account, etc.



Europe

- Drafting of a position paper addressed to the European institutions as part of the work to recast the Water Framework Directive
- Monitoring of the Interreg Europe Renewat and Citizen-Led Renovation projects
- Database for capitalising on European projects
- Networking within the Interreg Europe community
- Monitoring European financial tools and schedules for call for proposals



Moulins et Petite Hydroélectricité

- Work on streamlining the specifications for feasibility studies for reactivating sites, in conjunction with ADEME
- Active presence at the annual ADEME Forum in Burgundy Franche-Comté, on small-scale hydropower
- Reflection on the follow-up to the Renov-Hydro project
- Exchanging information on citizen/renewable energy communities




RELAY FOR INFORMATION FROM THE ASSOCIATION


ACTIVITY REPORT 2023 - 2024

As part of its activities, AQUA wishes to voice its members and relay any information, documentation, or other media that is in the direction of listening to the riparianness and the citizenship of the water.

Through dedicated working groups, our community on social networks, through email exchanges, telephone conversations, or on our upcoming website, AQUA shares resources that are too little highlighted elsewhere.

SOME EXAMPLES

**AQUA! Patrimoines de l'eau - Water Heritage**

535 abonnés
7 mois • 


[REVUE DE PRESSE] Les [#moulins](#), vigies des rivières? Cet article de presse locale propose le point de vue d'un propriétaire de moulin sur les inondations, dans le Pas-de-Calais.

Le sujet est complexe, et les solutions à trouver sont multiples et issus d'acteurs variés de l'ensemble du bassin versant.

Néanmoins, en écoutant la parole des riverains, on peut s'orienter plus rapidement vers des solutions de bon sens.

[#Citoyenneté](#) [#Eau](#) [#Riveraineté](#) [#Rivières](#) [#Inondations](#)


<https://lnkd.in/enQzAjjm>





Lugy : Le moulin, vigie de la Traxène – « Au moindre millimètre, la rivière réagit »

labeilledelatenoise.fr

Sharing press articles on the subject of water heritage in the face of current challenges.


AQUA! Patrimoines de l'eau - Water Heritage

542 abonnés
6 mois •


Opportunité de financement pour la rénovation des moulins à eau !


AQUA ! vous invite à saisir cette opportunité rare pour donner vie à vos projets de rénovation de moulins à eau. La DG ENER de la Commission Européenne lance son programme "Citizen-led renovation", offrant un soutien financier et technique aux communautés énergétiques.


☀ Pourquoi participer ?
Ce programme soutient les initiatives de rénovation énergétique, y compris de petite hydro, pilotées par les citoyens, offrant une assistance dans le développement, la mise en œuvre et la réplcation de projets. Vous bénéficierez d'un accompagnement personnalisé pour surmonter les obstacles financiers, juridiques, techniques et d'information.

✂ Comment ça marche ?
Trois parcours sont proposés :
Pilotes : Communautés énergétiques établies bénéficient d'un soutien complet.
Apprenants : Communautés énergétiques émergentes ou en phase de planification sont guidées dans le développement de leurs capacités.
Suiveurs : Groupes citoyens, autorités locales, ONG, et autres peuvent accéder à des matériaux pédagogiques et des opportunités de réseautage.

📅 Date limite de dépôt : 31 MAI

🔗 Intéressé ? Découvrez le guide rapide et les FAQ, prenez rendez-vous pour en savoir plus, et remplissez le formulaire de candidature ici : <https://lnkd.in/eYwr3yUD>

Le formulaire en ligne comprend 5 à 12 questions selon la maturité de votre projet (1 à 2 heures maximum pour y répondre).

Aqua ! peut aider à mieux comprendre ce mécanisme, voir à organiser un temps d'échange avec les personnes en charge du programme, en amont du dépôt pour le 31 MAI. 

Sharing calls for projects and funding opportunities for water heritage stakeholders.

21
22
23
JUN
2024
26^e édition



JOURNÉES du PATRIMOINE DE PAYS et des MOULINS
PARRAINÉES PAR CAROLE GAESSLER

L'eau utile à tous


AQUA! Patrimoines de l'eau - Water H...

542 abonnés
5 mois •

[EVENEMENT FRANCE / Journées du Patrimoine de Pays & des Moulins]
Thème de l'année : L'eau, utile à tous 21, 22, 23 JUIN / RÉGION#6 CENTRE-VAL DE LOIRE

🔗 AQUA ! vous fait une sélection de sorties par région, extraites du Programme en ligne
<https://lnkd.in/eKUsxiH>

🙌 Merci Marie-Françoise LEBECQ pour ce travail de mise en avant des patrimoines de l'eau !

🌊 Balade commentée à la découverte des sources, lavoirs, moulins et fontaines
Quoi ? : Balade avec le Syndicat Mixte d'Aménagement de la Brenne, de la Creuse, de l'Anglin et de la Claise. Sur un parcours d'environ 7 km au départ de Saint-Civran, nous découvrirons sources, fontaines, lavoirs et moulins, au détour des chemins et clairières. Prévoir des chaussures et une tenue adaptées. Inscription obligatoire
Où ? : Place Saint-Cyprien, 36170 Saint-Civran, Indre, Centre-Val de Loire
Quand ? : Dimanche 23 juin de 8h30 à 12h30
Contacts : 06 62 46 24 46 / <https://urlz.fr/qVIH>

🌊 Balade découverte au Bec d'Allier
Quoi ? : Découverte du village en compagnie d'une guide-conférencière. Le temps d'une balade à la confluence de l'Allier et de la Loire, laissez-vous conter l'histoire de ce lieu d'exception, de l'ère des marniers à nos jours ! Réservation obligatoire.

Animations tous publics - programme national sur www.patrimoinedepays-moulins.org



Sharing events promoting water heritage.
Here: a selection of outings in each region during the French Days of rural heritage and mills.

THANKS

ACTIVITY REPORT 2023 - 2024

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