

Electronic Town Meeting (e-TM)

**Valuing Water from different perspectives:
the role of Integrated Water Resources
Management (IWRM)**

Preparatory factsheet



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THE THEME

The initiative starts from the assumption that the way we value water determines the way water is managed and shared. The value of water is much more than its price: water has an enormous and complex value for our families, culture, health, education, economy and the integrity of our natural environment. If we neglect any of these values, we risk mismanaging this finite and irreplaceable resource.

Without a complete understanding of the true multidimensional value of water, it is therefore difficult to chart a course of action to tackle the key societal challenges related to water, a vital resource underpinning our lives and economies.

THE BASICS

What is the aim of the electronic Town Meeting (e-TM)?

The aim of the initiative is to provide elements for discussion on how water is valued by different people in different contexts, so that we can safeguard this resource for all. The central narrative of the initiative is therefore designed to foster an exchange of reflections and experiences between organisations from Bulgaria, Italy, and Spain that at different levels of expertise are involved in the management of integrated water services, through their stories and experiences on the status of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

What happens in the electronic Town Meeting (e-TM)?

Being based on the direct outcome of consultation of the involved organisations, the e-TM will offer the possibility to produce an instant report in the form of a Position Paper. The Position Paper, will investigate shared strategies to ensure that water is managed smartly and sustainably in the long-term. Thus, the Position Paper will have to outline how the future should look like, based on emerging technologies and societal trends, which are expected to produce a paradigm shift in how we manage the planet's finite resources and the impact of climate change.

The Paper is also expected to outline the innovations that will play a key role in realising this vision centred on the integrated management of water, inspiring the course of action for water service providers and water management authorities, as well as regions, cities and citizens. It should invite these stakeholders to work together in building a secure, sustainable and resilient water management system, while contributing to meeting global societal challenges and the development of the global water market for innovative solutions.

FIND OUT MORE

UNEP - Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Action Hub:

<https://iwrmdataportal.unepdhi.org/interactive-map>

The objective of the IWRM Hub is to provide an easy access to the global data on the status of implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to all interested stakeholders.

The IWRM implementation data presented on the portal are based on the national reports for [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) indicator 6.5.1](#), measuring the degree of integrated water resources management implementation in countries. The portal hosts more than 190 national reports on SDG indicator 6.5.1 (from reporting in 2017, 2020 and 2023) [global](#) and [regional reports](#), and the official [data collection](#).

You can view the data via interactive map or download the full submission documents and their summaries from the [Country Reports](#) page.

The IWRM Data Portal is maintained by [UNEP-DHI Centre on Water and Environment](#), in partnership with [UNEP](#) and [GWP](#).