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Naturskyddsföreningen

RIVER UNIVERSITY



UNESCO Hydrological
Programme: Mapping
Global Citizen Science
Water Projects

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UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME (IHP)

- Since 1975
- To bridge the gap between science and Society
- Facilitates data collection & monitoring; funding physical & structural solution; and capacity building & education

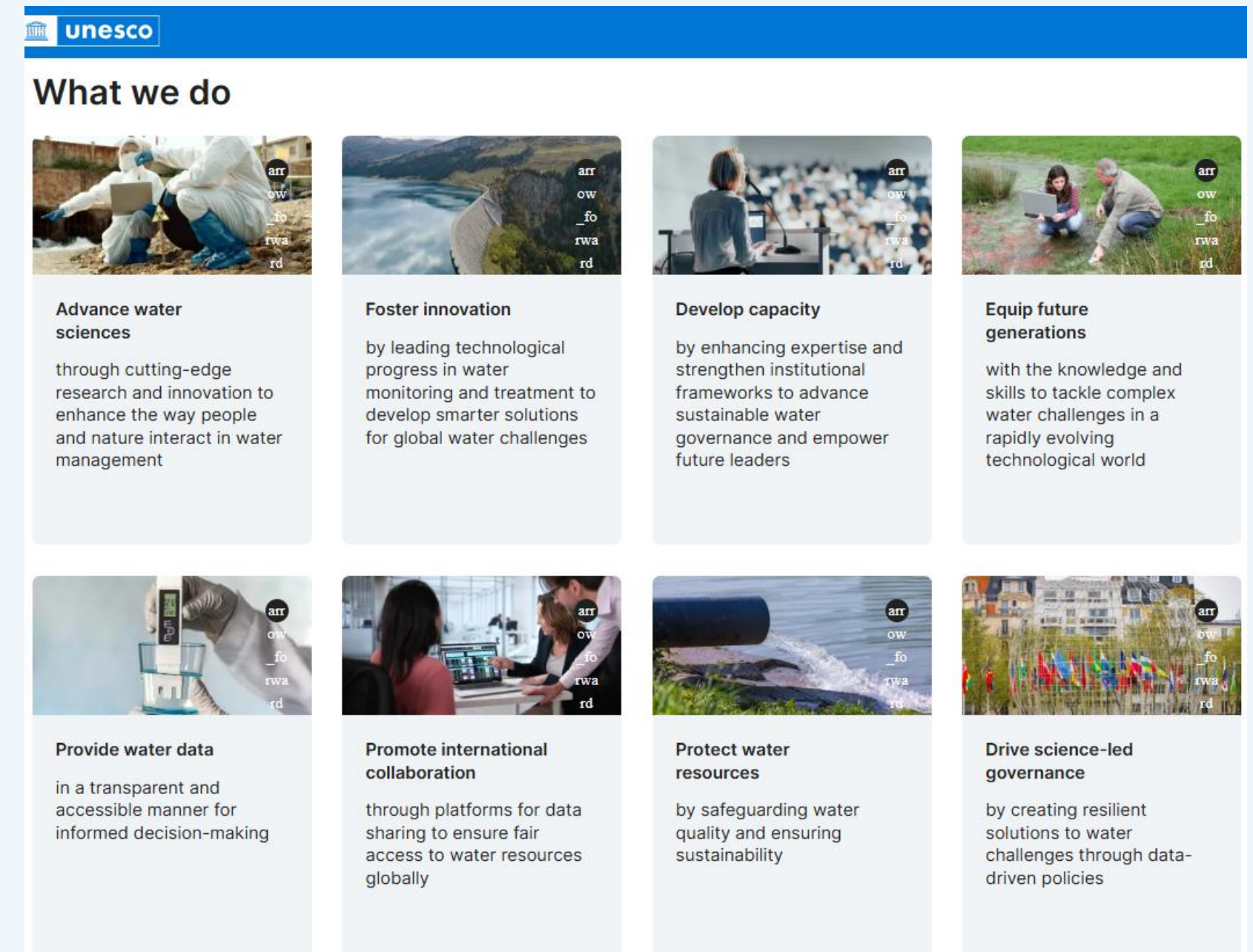


170 National Committees & Focal Points

17 Flagship Initiatives

29 Water related Centres for research, training & outreach.

93 Water related Chairs from Universities & Research Institutes



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What we do

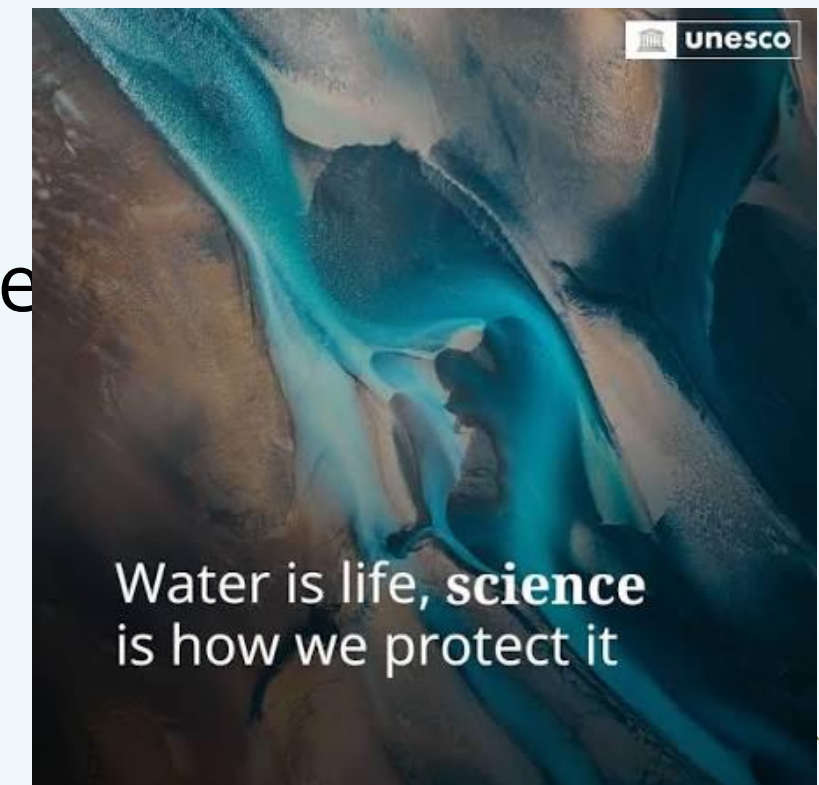
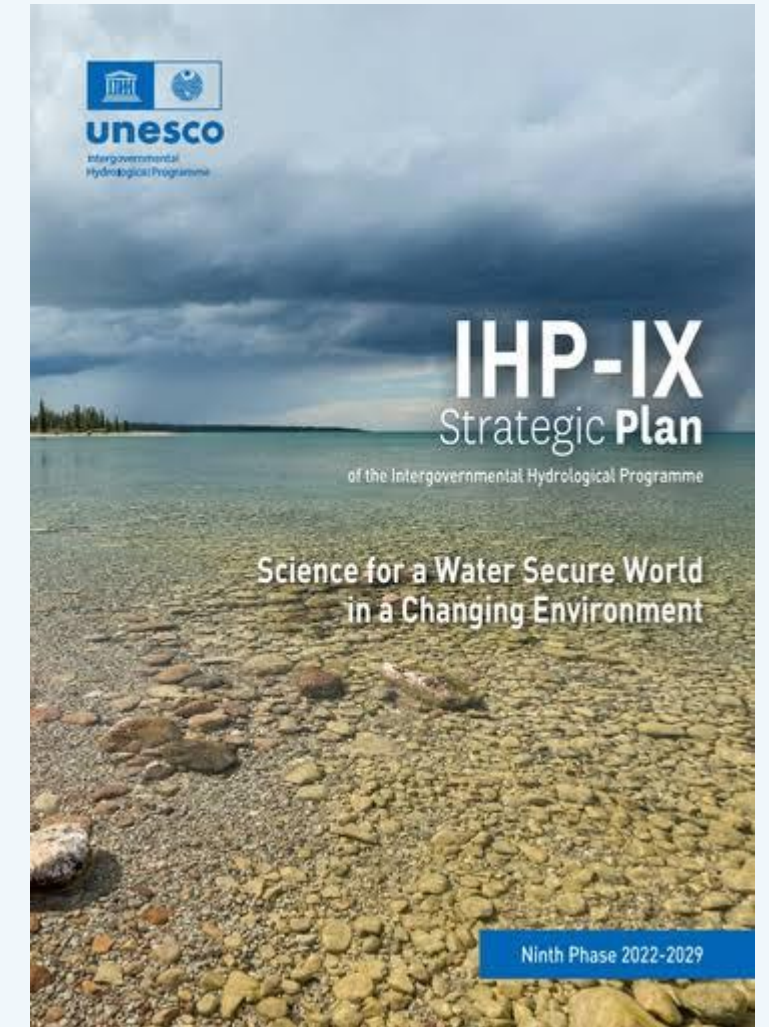
 Advance water sciences through cutting-edge research and innovation to enhance the way people and nature interact in water management	 Foster innovation by leading technological progress in water monitoring and treatment to develop smarter solutions for global water challenges	 Develop capacity by enhancing expertise and strengthen institutional frameworks to advance sustainable water governance and empower future leaders	 Equip future generations with the knowledge and skills to tackle complex water challenges in a rapidly evolving technological world
 Provide water data in a transparent and accessible manner for informed decision-making	 Promote international collaboration through platforms for data sharing to ensure fair access to water resources globally	 Protect water resources by safeguarding water quality and ensuring sustainability	 Drive science-led governance by creating resilient solutions to water challenges through data-driven policies

<https://www.unesco.org/en/ihp>

UNESCO global strategic framework 9 (IHP-IX) 2022-2029

Theme: "Science for a Water Secure World in a Changing Environment."

- Scientific Research and Innovation
- Water Education in the Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Bridging the Data-Knowledge Gap (**where citizen science projects live**)
- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) under climate change
- Water Governance based on science



National Government

- ❑ Flanders UNESCO Science Trust Fund
- ❑ Collaborate to support UNESCO's strategic framework
- ❑ Flemish government designs funding calls to achieve these goals
- ❑ Ann Van Griensven - VUB Belgium Chair at UNESCO IHP



Knowledge Centre

Since 2019 – Flemish Knowledge Centre for Citizen Science

Promote citizen science in Flanders & in EU:

- Uniting, supporting & informing scientists, citizens, institutions & companies;
- Creating networking opportunities;
- Support & advise projects;
- Map and Innovate Citizen Science landscape

The logo for Scivil, featuring the word "Scivil" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Below it, the words "Citizen Science" and "Vlaanderen" are written in a smaller, black sans-serif font. The logo is set against a light blue background with abstract geometric shapes in yellow, pink, and blue.

Key Activity 1 of IHP-IX Programme Output 1.10:
Setting up, collecting, and documenting case
studies to promote and contribute to water related
citizen science.

Designing Citizen Science Project

Citizen Science is scientific research conducted, in whole or in part, by non-professional scientists (citizens). Citizen science is often, but not exclusively, conducted in collaboration with professional scientists

<https://ihp-wins.unesco.org/citizens4water/>

IHP Objective:

- UNESCO Programme emphasises the potential of citizen science for water management.
- Conducting and sharing research on the integration of citizen science into the hydrological discipline by researchers and other stakeholders improve understanding of the water cycle and enable science-based decision-making to support water management systems which are complex due to constant monitoring and data sets.

Problem:

- Citizen science projects are globally successful in water management projects contributing to new knowledge and policy development but they are fragmented, gaps in efforts are unrecognised, resources are unorganised making learning, networking and collaborations limited.

AIM

- Contribute new knowledge and policy development in water related challenges.
- A central repository/global inventory of examples, best practices tools and guidelines for new project or optimising existing ones.
- Identify and improve gaps in citizen science water management practices

Citizens4Water



Citizens4Water, a citizen science platform that connects global researchers with local citizens and scientists to collaborate on water-related research and conservation.

- Citizen science empowers local communities to actively monitor, document, and address water issues, making water management more efficient, equitable, and responsive to local needs.
- Empowering citizen science initiatives and enabling researchers, policymakers, and communities to work together for sustainable water governance.
- Climate change, pollution, and inequality are intensifying the global water crisis, with the Global South facing disproportionate risks. Effective water management, driven by local action and global collaboration, is urgently needed to secure a sustainable future.
- An introduction/foundation to water sector organizations, researchers, and investors to establish credibility, open door for future partnerships and collaborations reflecting expertise and perspectives of stakeholders worldwide in advancing citizen science for sustainable water management.



Aim and Targets

- Allow policy makers to consolidate knowledge from existing water management projects from around the world
- Facilitate researchers and project initiators to develop new or optimize current citizen science projects in water management
- Increase platform visibility expanding engagement across diverse regions, establishing Citizens4Water as a trusted hub for open, action-driven water science.
- Development of the repository including a governance structure
- Curated world-wide submission of best practices in the repository
- Dissemination and promotion of the repository for continued use
- Build awareness, drive project submissions, encourage grassroots participation through targeted messaging and digital campaigns.
- Promote exchange of information, data, and solutions across borders
- Identify gaps in current citizen science water management practices.



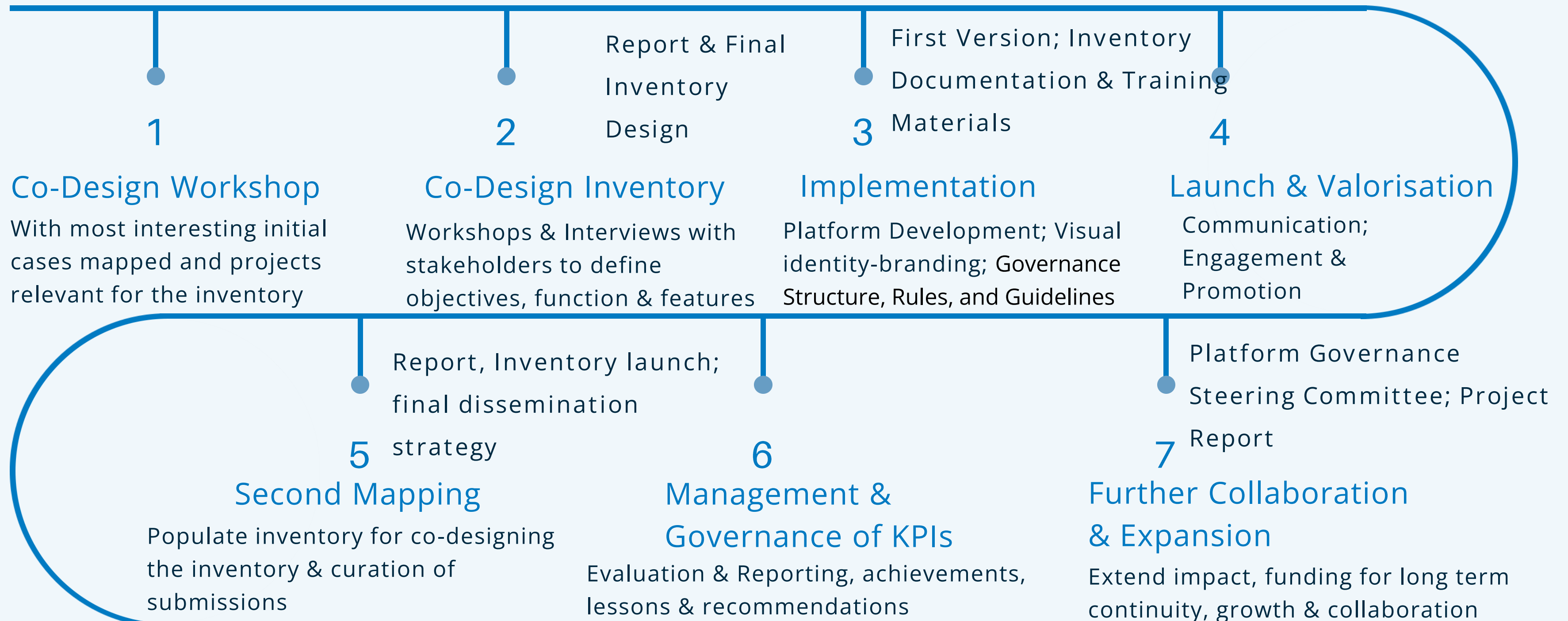
Targeted Audience

Both professional and non-professional scientists, with a focus on fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and practical action in water-related citizen science projects.

- ❑ Researchers interested in water management, hydrology, and citizen science collaboration.
 - ❑ Citizen scientists, engaged members of the public who contribute to scientific research.
 - ❑ Water management stakeholders, such as NGOs, policymakers, and institutions.
 - ❑ Global participants from diverse regions, reflecting the project's aim for worldwide engagement and representation
-
- By facilitating knowledge sharing and collective action, making it attractive to organisations seeking impact and scalability.
 - Highlighting successful projects builds trust with potential partners and investors by providing evidence of effectiveness and scalability.
 - Real-life case studies inspire other organizations to adopt similar models and encourage knowledge transfer across regions and sectors.



Workflow



Citizens4Water



					2023			2024												2025												2026		
WP	Werkpakket	Start	Einde	# maanden	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
					M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12	M13	M14	M15	M16	M17	M18	M19	M20	M21	M22	M23	M24	M25	M26	M27	M28	M29	M30
WP1	Analysis & Co-design	01-Oct-23	30-Jun-24	9																														
T1.1	Preparation of co-design workshop	01-Oct-23	30-Nov-23	2	D1.1																													
T1.2	Co-design of the inventory	01-Dec-23	30-Jun-24	7			D1.2	D1.3						D1.4																				
WP2	Development and Implementation	01-Mar-24	30-Jun-25	16																														
T2.1	Iterative Technical Implementation	01-May-24	30-Jun-25	14										D2.1						D2.4 D2.5														
T2.2	Visual Identity	01-Mar-24	30-Sep-24	7										D2.2																				
T2.3	Development of Governance Structure	01-Mar-24	30-Nov-24	9										D2.3																				
WP3	Filling the platform	01-Jan-25	31-Mar-26	15																														
T3.1	Communication and Engagement	01-Mar-25	31-Mar-26	13																						D3.4								
T3.2	Mapping Exercise	01-Jan-25	31-May-25	5																D3.1														
T3.3	Curation of Submitted Projects	01-Jun-25	31-Mar-26	10																														
WP 4	WP 4: Project Management and Govern	01-Oct-23	31-Mar-26	30																														
T4.1	Project Planning, Risk & Budget Managemen	01-Oct-23	31-Mar-26	30																														
T4.2	Project Evaluation and Steering Committee	01-Oct-23	31-Mar-26	30	D4.1																													
T4.3	Exploration of Further Collaborations	01-Jan-25	31-Mar-26	15																						D4.2								

<https://www.scivil.be/en/success-story/citizens4water-global-community-citizen-science-and-water-management>



Project Duration: 30 months (October 2023 – March 2026)

1. Personnel costs

	PM	PM rate	Totaal
Scivil junior	4	€ 6,000	€ 24,000
Scivil senior	10	€ 9,300	€ 93,000
			€ 117,000

2. Direct Costs

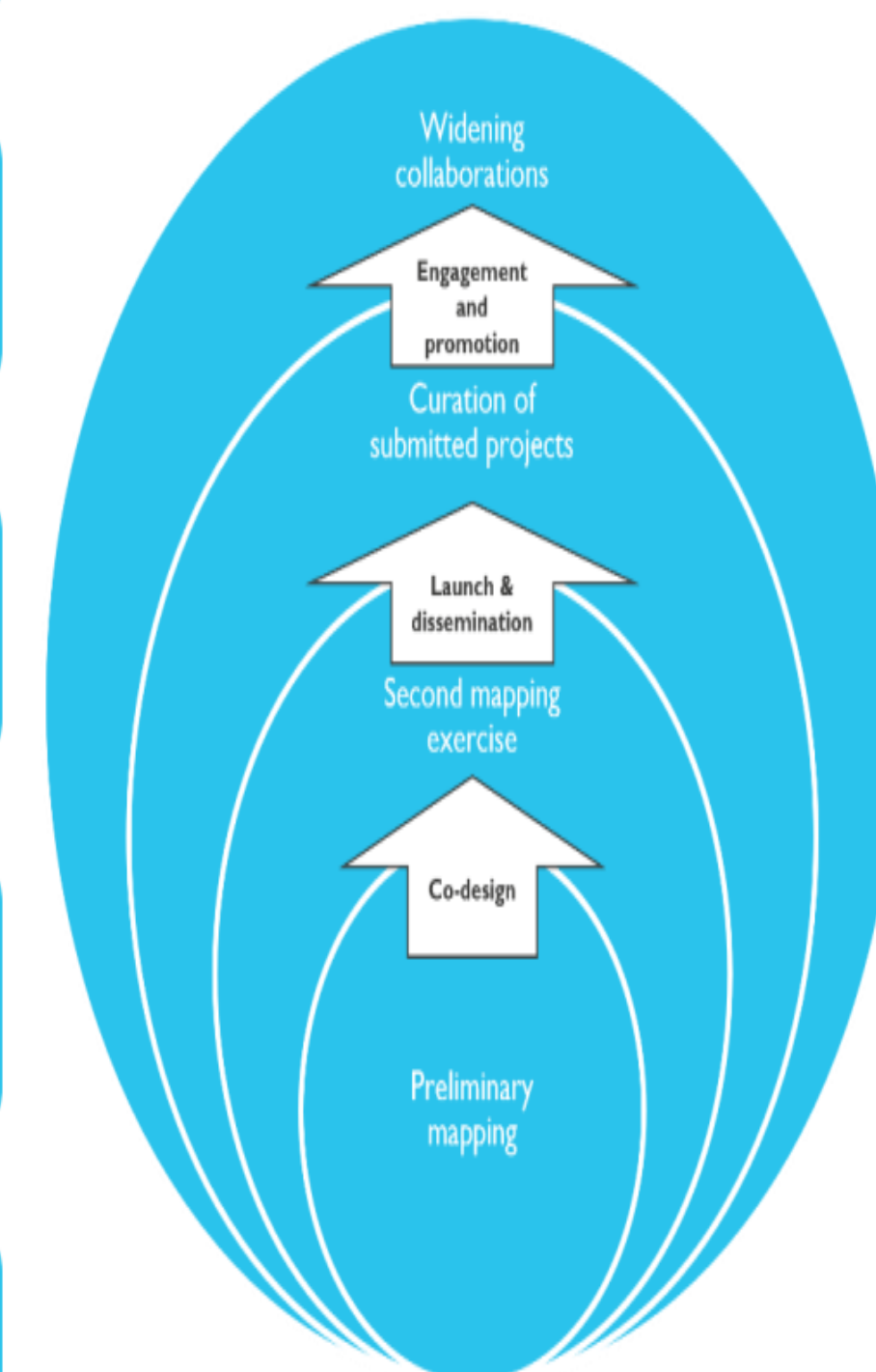
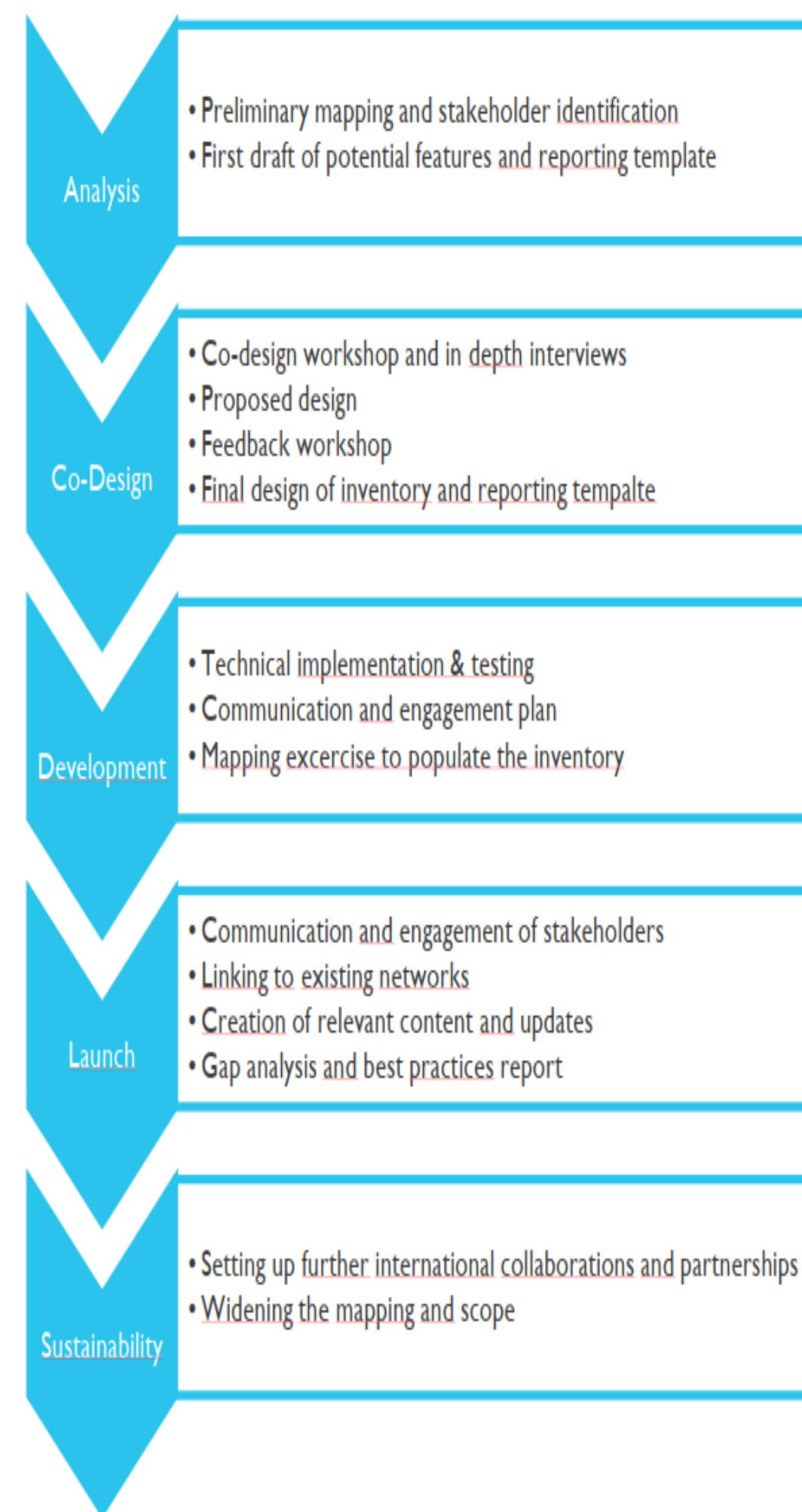
WP2	Technical development	€ 15,000
WP2	Visual Identity	€ 5,000
WP2	other software & platform licenses	€ 500
WP3	promotion and marketing costs	€ 2,500
WP4	Travel costs	€ 5,000

€ 28,000

3. Overhead costs (17%) € 24,650.00

Total budget € 169,650.00

The figure below provides an overview of the intended participatory approach:



Key Highlights

- ❖ External partner: IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
- ❖ Database Sources: Zooniverse, EU Citizen Science, Scistarter.org, Otters
- ❖ Datasets: 369 Global projects
- ❖ Parameters for classification: Name, Websites, Project Email, Lead Contact, Project Aim, Project Status (Not yet started, Periodically Active, Active, On hold, Completed, Abandoned), Partners, Funding, Countries, Languages, Tasks involved, Methods, Inventory Source.
- ❖ Timelines: June 2025 (Soft launch); November 2025 (Live Platform); February 2026 (Official launch by IHP Secretary)

<https://ihp-wins.unesco.org/citizens4water/>

- ❑ Alignment with EU EU Mission: Restore our Oceans and Water.
- ❑ Starting point for European and international collaboration.
- ❑ Inclusive online repository- template to add any new found cases.
- ❑ Measurable goals and key performance indicators (KPIs), such as engagement rates, project submissions, and partnership growth.
- ❑ Continuous updates: Interviews, Events, Resources, Webinars, Guest blogs, Project spotlights (ongoing & completed), addition of new projects and joining the community.
- ❑ Project pitching opportunities, partnership building.

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Coalition
Clean Baltic



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THANK YOU

John Paul Jose

Ready for a project?
Contact for more...

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