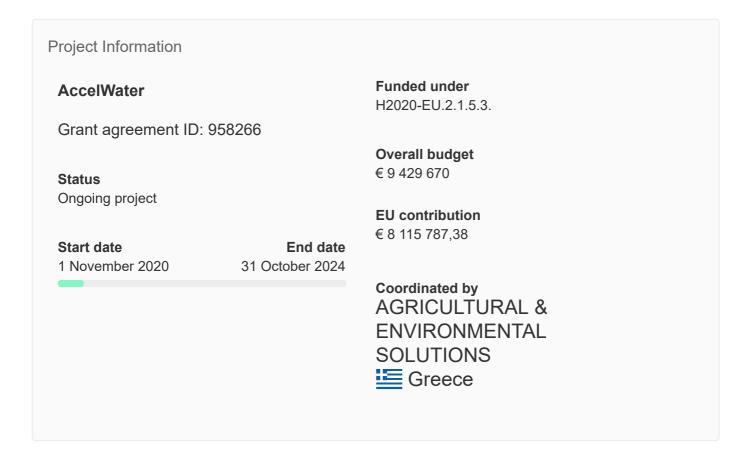




# Accelerating Water Circularity in Food and Beverage Industrial Areas around Europe

## **Fact Sheet**



# **Project description**

## Improving water efficiency in the food and beverage industry

The food and beverage industry is one of the most water- and energy-intensive industries in the world in addition to producing large volumes of waste. Therefore, freshwater supplies are in high demand. Despite significant progress in improving water use efficiency, the food and beverage sector needs to do more to minimise the use of freshwater during the processing of raw materials. However, current solutions for wastewater treatment in industries under a water—waste—energy nexus remain limited. The aim of the

EU-funded AccelWater project is to change this pattern and improve freshwater consumption in the food and beverage industry by focussing on developing novel water reclaiming and reusing as well as artificial intelligence-enabled monitoring and control technologies.

# **Objective**

The food and drink industry is the EU's biggest manufacturing. However, this industry is one of the most water and energy intensive industries worldwide while the companies belong to that sector produce a lot of waste. Specifically, the food and beverage industry consumes 56% of the available water for industrial and urban use. Additionally, food processing embeds 28% of the total energy used for production, while the total direct energy consumed by the European food industry amounted to 28.4 Mt oil equivalent, while 30.6 Mt of food waste are produced in this industry. Although, huge steps have been made in increasing the water use efficiency through the use of modern technologies and methods, there is limited effort from the food and beverages industry to minimize freshwater use during the raw material processing. In addition, high water consumption in industrial areas lead to increased production costs due to the fact that the tariffs for public wastewater treatment can be very high in European cities as well as the industrial electricity prices can also be very high. Currently, solutions for wastewater treatment in industries include the use of clarification, membrane filtration, reverse osmosis, process water polishing, disinfection with water treatment chemicals and UV, and biological treatment technologies. However, the use of these technologies under a water-waste-energy nexus is very limited. AccelWater's project main objective is to optimize freshwater water consumption in the food and beverage industry under a water-waste-energy nexus by introducing beyond state-of-the-art water reclaiming, reusing and Artificial Intelligence enabled monitoring and control technologies will permit the use of reclaimed water in the manufacturing processes of food and beverages and on the same time will allow waste and energy reclamation, optimization and management, and consequently will result to environmental and socioeconomic sustainability.

## Field of science

/engineering and technology/other engineering and technologies/food and beverages
/natural sciences/computer and information sciences/artificial intelligence
/engineering and technology/chemical engineering/separation technologies/desalination/reverse
osmosis

/engineering and technology/environmental engineering/water treatment processes/wastewater treatment processes

# Programme(s)

# Topic(s)

## Call for proposal

H2020-LCCI-2020-EASME-singlestage

# **Funding Scheme**

IA - Innovation action

## Coordinator



#### **AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS**

Address Activity type EU contribution

Markou Mpotsari 47 Private for-profit entities € 1 347 500

**Establishments**)

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# Participants (14)



#### NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS - NTUA

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EU contribution

€ 1 517 500

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EU contribution

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#### DIGNITY IDIOTIKI KEFALAIOUXIKI ETAIREIA

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EU contribution

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#### PRODAL SCARL



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#### **CALISPA SPA**



EU contribution

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#### **FUNDACIO UNIVERSITARIA BALMES**



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### ASSOCIACIO CATALANA D INNOVACIO DELSECTOR CARNI PORCI **INNOVACC**



EU contribution

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#### MATADERO FRIGORIFICO DEL CARDONER SA



EU contribution

€ 287 385

Address Activity type

Paratge Can Canals Nou S/n Sant Joan De Vilatorrada

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#### **AXIA INNOVATION UG**



EU contribution

€ 245 000

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#### **HASKOLI ISLANDS**

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# Iceland

EU contribution

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#### **MATIS OHF**

# Iceland

EU contribution

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