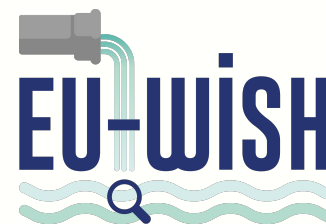


NEWSLETTER

May 2025



To our EU-WISH community,

We are pleased to welcome you to this second edition of our EU-WISH newsletter.

In this issue, we are delighted to share with you the key highlights from each of our work packages, our latest updates, and our next steps on the horizon.

By joining forces, we collectively strengthen wastewater surveillance (WWS) in the EU region and beyond. Working together allows us to share our strengths and also our challenges. Doing so ultimately consolidates the impact of WWS for public health and extends its benefits across borders.

Whether you are closely involved in the EU-WISH joint action project or have discovered it through our publications and international events, your participation and engagement can make a real difference.

Latest news from the inside

Overview of progress from each Work Package

The Joint Action EU-WISH is a large collaborative project, and with so many activities underway, it can be challenging to keep track of everything. This section provides a clear and accessible overview of progress in each work package (WP) helping both project members and external readers stay informed about the latest developments. For EU-WISHers, we also encourage direct engagement with WP leaders and participation in scheduled WP meetings to stay actively involved in the project.

Please note that some links in this section only work for project members.

WP1

Project management and coordination

We are halfway through the project, and we see good collaboration between WPs and between partners.

From the coordination point of view, the Joint Action EU-WISH is progressing well. Project partners across participating countries are increasingly engaging in tasks and project activities, as the purpose of these are becoming ever more tangible and relevant for all participants.

Halfway through the project means Periodic Reporting. All materials related to the Financial Reporting can be found here: [1st Financial Periodic Report](#).

Communication, dissemination and exploitation

Communication and dissemination is an important component of the project. We have been working on the EU-WISH publication policy which enables us to ensure consistent, coordinated, and conflict-free dissemination of results across the entire consortium. Project members can access to the document [here](#).

We are also preparing a workshop in June to support the dissemination of surveillance data through dashboard or other IT platform. For more details, please refer to the "Upcoming Events" section.

WP2

WP3

Evaluation and preparedness

The [interim evaluation report](#) is finalized and handed over to WP1 for the overall interim report. Milestone achieved! Moreover, a systematic literature review was initiated for the effectiveness evidence map. 32,238 records were screened and about 3,500 were deemed relevant for further screening that will take place in the following months. Finally, the State-of-the-Art review on the integration of WWS into Public Health Preparedness Plans (PHPPs) has been completed. The findings have been shared with the participants of Task 3.3.

Our next step is to develop a model chapter outlining the integration of WWS into PHPPs, tailored to each prioritized target.

Sustainability and capacity building

Work under Tasks 4.1 and 4.2 is progressing with the development of the sustainability plan and roadmap for integrating WWS into national policies. These efforts aim to support the establishment of sustainable and viable governance frameworks among EU-WISH participants.

At the same time, Tasks 4.3 and 4.5 have joined forces to conduct structured interviews to map existing training materials, identify capacity gaps and needs, and assess institutional readiness for the development of new training resources. The insights gathered from these interviews will directly contribute to the design of the T4.5 online training platform, help identify common training needs across countries, and strengthen collaboration with external partners such as GLOWACON and WHO.

WP4

Mapping current actions and future priority targets of wastewater surveillance

WP5 conducted in summer 2024 a system mapping to reveal activity levels of WWS in each partner country. The outcomes from the mapping survey have been now analyzed by the consortium members and part of the results have been already shared.

The current activities focus on co-creation of region-specific priority lists and groups of the WWS targets with justifications. The preliminary lists of targets will be discussed in the EU-WISH international workshop that will take place in Dublin, Ireland in September 2025. Identification of the specific surveillance objectives and targets for respiratory viruses, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), poliovirus and non-poliovirus enteroviruses, emerging pathogens, chemical substances and other health-related biomarkers will be defined in collaboration with the relevant WWS actors and stakeholders in Europe.

WP5

Usage of wastewater surveillance data for public health

WP6 collaborative work on epidemiology and WWS is progressing steadily.

We are conducting comprehensive literature reviews to map optimal sampling strategies and have prepared study protocols for further research.

Survey data have been analyzed to inform practical, evidence-based guidelines. A detailed statistical overview document is taking shape through expert meetings, with dedicated chapter and demonstration teams refining analytical workflows to produce illustrative examples.

We also developed and piloted a targeted interview template to examine surveillance data integration and utilization. In-depth discussions with our EU partners are ongoing, and their insights are being synthesized into a draft report.

WP6

Wastewater surveillance technical procedures, sampling schemes and analysis methods for priority targets

The technical laboratory procedures related to and used in wastewater-based surveillance, including for instance sampling/transport/biobanking, purification and analytical methods for priority targets as well as Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) and Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) techniques, are important aspects in EU-WISH.

On April 23, a general WP7 meeting took place, in which participants were given an overview of the various (sub)tasks and could indicate what training they still need within this project. The efforts to map the needs of participants with regard to training or possible bilateral support overlap with WP2 and WP4.

The next steps are to carry out the final analysis of the surveys sent out for the different sub-tasks. We are currently in the process of collecting best practices on technical protocols used in order to eventually disseminate them to the Member States.

WP7

Zoom-in: Insights from the Task 5.4 – Wastewater-based AMR surveillance

Participants in Task 5.4 - Wastewater-based AMR surveillance, in collaboration with EU-JAMRAI2, began prioritizing AMR targets. A working group was formed, bringing together members from both Joint Action (EU-WISH and EU-JAMRAI2) to develop an action plan. The process started with defining the objectives, followed by identifying and prioritizing AMR targets, and concluding with the selection of methods for monitoring them in wastewater. This meeting marked the first step in this process, and no conclusions have been drawn yet. To facilitate this work, a direct survey was conducted using Mentimeter, allowing participants to provide input in real time during the meeting. Additionally, a discussion was held to explore the potential for scaling up this exercise. This initial collaboration highlighted the importance of joining forces and working together to find effective solutions to tackle AMR challenges.

EU-WISH recognized in recent publication

EU-WISH was acknowledged in the article titled "[Bridging the gap between research and decision making: A European survey to enhance cooperation in wastewater-based epidemiology \(WBE\) for illicit drugs](#)", which presents findings on the role of WBE in monitoring illicit drug use across Europe.

Similar to the mission of EU-WISH, authors emphasize the importance of sharing best practices and scientific evidence to overcome challenges and enhance the impact of WBE. Additionally, they presented these recommendations to support the long-term sustainability of WBE:

- Multi-year funding commitments to support experienced personnel and analysis capacities.
- Clear governance structures and national collaboration agreements.
- Increased cross-sector engagement to enhance data actionability.

Meet EU-WISHers

Capacity building in action: Slovenia hosts national workshop on key EU-WISH topics

The spotlight now turns to Slovenia, where the national EU-WISH Team hosted their first capacity building workshop on 27 February 2025 in Nova Gorica.

The workshop brought together experts from various fields, including experts in environmental health, epidemiologists, public health specialists, microbiologists, chemists, as well as professionals in communication and project management. The workshop was aimed to familiarize participants with key topics within the Joint Action project and discuss challenges for the further development of this field in Slovenia. Among the activities presented, the Slovenian project team provided an overview of wastewater surveillance for public health purposes in Slovenia with monitoring of SARS-CoV-2, polioviruses, and emerging pathogens relevant for Slovenia. The problem of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and approaches to tackle it were also addressed, introducing also the new European Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, which requires AMR monitoring for urban areas with over 100,000 population.

In the second part of the workshop, participants had a guided tour of the Central wastewater treatment plant Nova Gorica, where they viewed, among other things, the wastewater sampling site, which is included in the Slovenian national monitoring system.

The workshop was an important step in the further development of wastewater surveillance for public health purposes in Slovenia. It led to the establishment of a working group to support the implementation of Article 17 of the new European Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and to coordinate national monitoring efforts.



Group photo of the EU-WISH workshop participants in Nova Gorica, 2025.

Broader context

Global Consortium Meeting for Wastewater and Environmental Surveillance for Public Health (GLOWACON), Panama, 7 – 8 May 2025

The GLOWACON Regional Conference | Latin America and the Caribbean will aim to present different experiences in wastewater and environmental surveillance (WES) from the region of the Americas, facilitating information sharing, best practices, and global collaboration. The conference will provide an opportunity to share insights and chart a path forward in addressing critical challenges related to WES in the region. The conference will be held in hybrid format and several EU-WISH participants will be attending virtually.

Are you looking for more information about this? Please check the [GLOWACON's website](#).

Upcoming events

EU-WISH Dashboard Workshop,
Brussels, 12 June 2025

A forthcoming workshop will bring together a small group on-site and a wider audience online to share experiences, explore ideas and identify key steps towards harmonized WWS data sharing through national dashboards.

One of the main aims of the workshop will be to collaboratively develop a guidance document with recommendations for setting up effective national dashboards.

Registration is now closed, but we look forward to sharing the key takeaways and resulting recommendations with the wider community soon.

EU-WISH International Workshop & Consortium Meeting,
Dublin, 9–11 September 2025

- Day 1: Prioritization of WWS targets
- Day 2: Integration of WWS in public health
- Day 3: Internal consortium meeting and general assembly



 www.eu-wish.eu/get-involved/events



Calls to action

We invite all EU-WISHers from consortium partner organizations to contribute to the project by getting involved in tasks where their expertise can make a difference.

WP2: Let's shape the Newsletter together!

We're always looking for exciting updates, success stories and insightful content to share with our network. If you're working on something related to the project, don't hesitate to let us know! Your contributions will help make the newsletter more dynamic and representative of all the work happening across the consortium.

Share your idea with the WP2 Communication & Dissemination team and let's make the next issue even better together!

WP4: Have you checked your email?

Your input is key to helping us map existing wastewater surveillance training materials and identify needs for new development. Structured interviews are taking place under T4.3 and we require good engagement from all EU-WISHers for impact. Watch out for emails that come from WP4 group members.

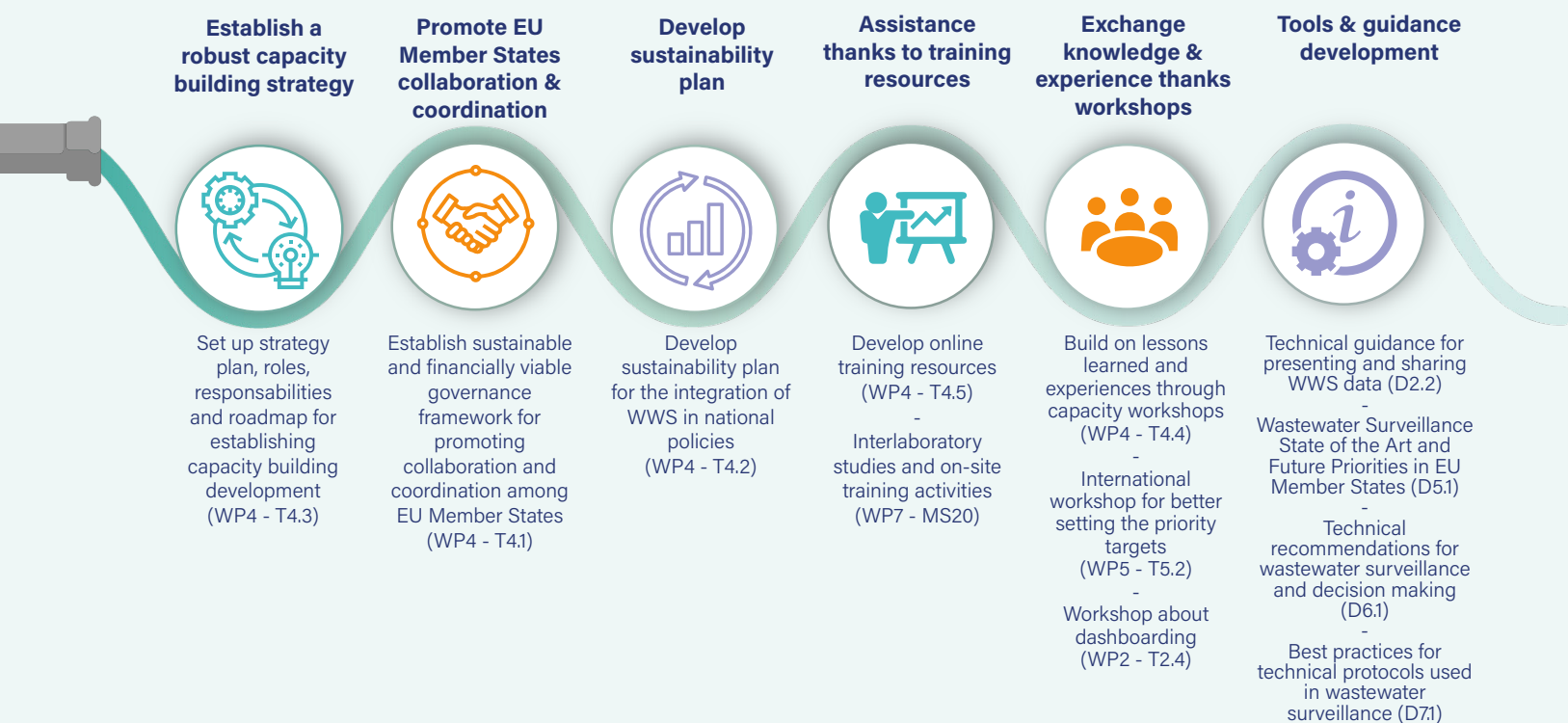
Fun & Educational

You've heard of the term capacity building... but what is it really?

More than just a buzzword, capacity building is a process that captures how we move from theory to action, and through that action, develop and strengthen the skills, abilities, processes, and resources that individuals and their organizations need to actualize their goals, despite challenges, over time.

In the EU-WISH context, capacity building is the intentional and systematic effort for developing and strengthening the knowledge, management, governance, skills, resources and processes needed to carry out effective and sustainable WWS.

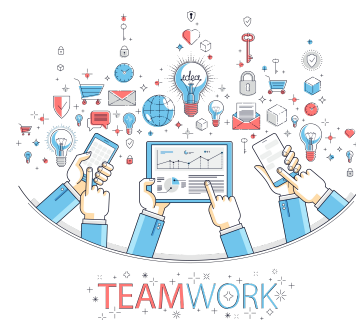
The capacity building approach supports (1) individual countries in establishing or strengthening their national WWS systems; (2) EU Member States in improving coordination and collaboration across borders; and (3) low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in developing WWS capabilities. The figure below highlights some of the concrete EU-WISH capacity building activities to make this a reality.



Stay connected

Keep up to date with the latest actions, events, workshops, and activities of EU-WISH!

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