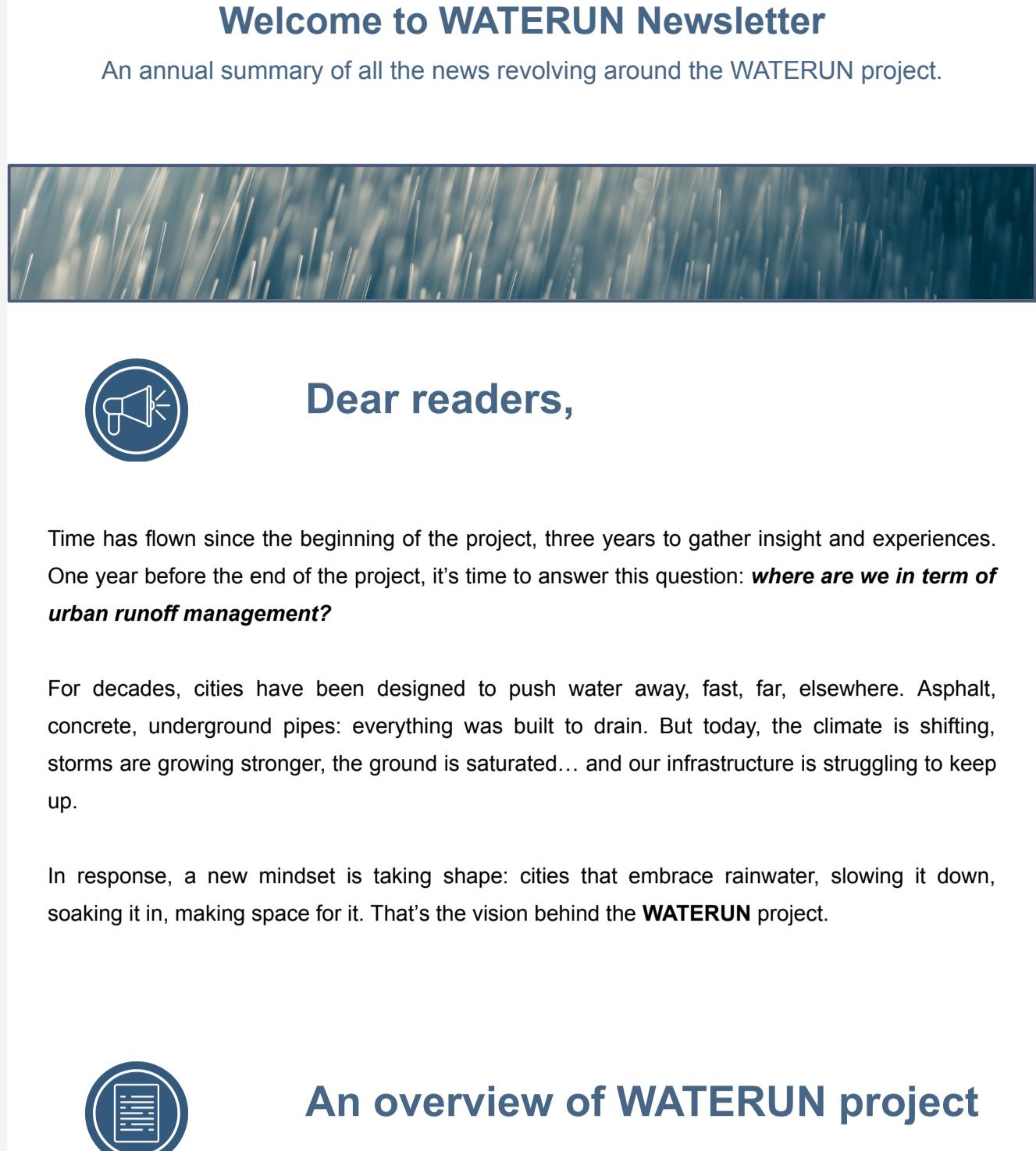


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Welcome to WATERUN Newsletter

An annual summary of all the news revolving around the WATERUN project.



Dear readers,

Time has flown since the beginning of the project, three years to gather insight and experiences. One year before the end of the project, it's time to answer this question: *where are we in term of urban runoff management?*

For decades, cities have been designed to push water away, fast, far, elsewhere. Asphalt, concrete, underground pipes: everything was built to drain. But today, the climate is shifting, storms are growing stronger, the ground is saturated... and our infrastructure is struggling to keep up.

In response, a new mindset is taking shape: cities that embrace rainwater, slowing it down, soaking it in, making space for it. That's the vision behind the WATERUN project.



An overview of WATERUN project

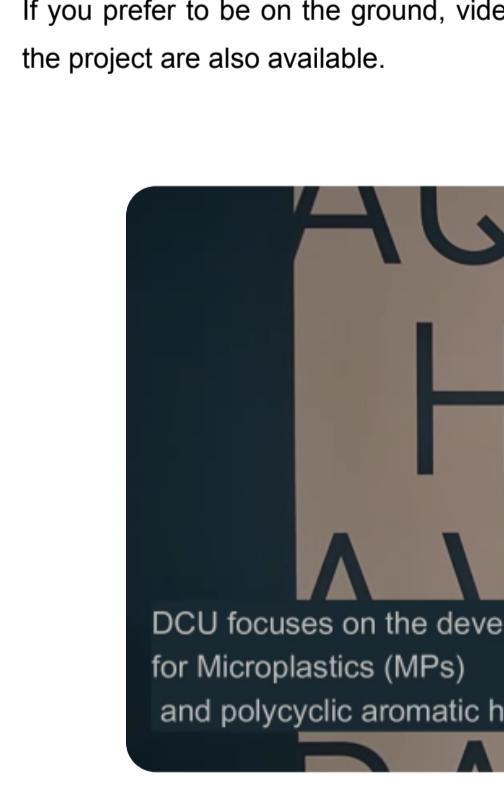
Before presenting progress and news, a small reminder: what is the goal of the WATERUN project?

Project funded by the European Union's under Horizon Europe programme, WATERUN aims to develop an innovative methodology to contribute to the implementation of urban water runoff (UWR) management plans in cities based on the Water-Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) concept. This methodology will provide preventive and mitigation solutions and best management practices adopting a holistic perspective (from source identification to decision making) for diffuse water pollution control in urban catchments.



Latest news and progresses

Update on Product 2 –Diffuse Pollution Identification Tool (WP3)



Since November 2024, the team at Technische Universität Berlin (TUB) has been working on CleanCityCover, a tool for identifying diffuse pollution sources. It's now adapted to the context of Santiago de Compostela. Initially prototyped in Aarhus, the tool has been reconfigured for five urban sub-zones in Santiago, ranging from the historic city center to the industrial areas of Sionlla and Tambre, where water quality monitoring is underway.

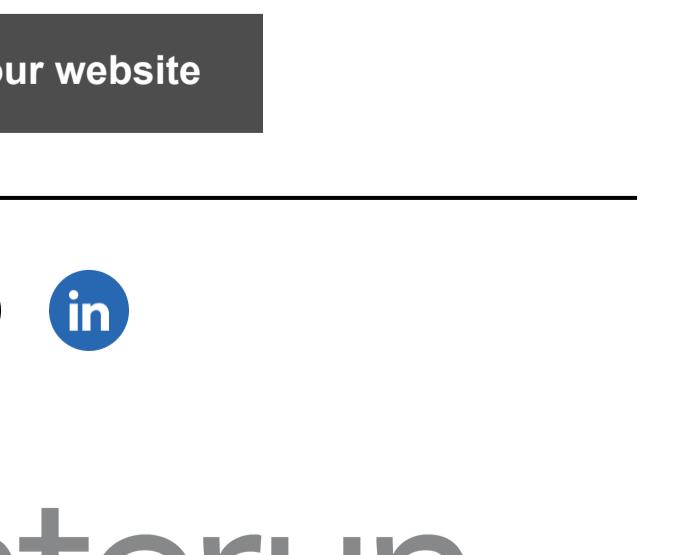
Unlike Aarhus, Santiago presents steep, narrow streets and high pedestrian density, especially during pilgrimage seasons while, car traffic is comparatively moderate. These site-specific characteristics, along with distinct rainfall patterns, may significantly affect runoff and pollution dynamics. CleanCityCover is currently being tested and calibrated to account for these local conditions.

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Events

From November 12 to 14 of 2024, WATERUN project partners gathered in Santiago de Compostela for a valuable week of mutual learning. AWARD, another Horizon Europe project focused on integrating alternative water resources, like reclaimed water and stormwater into strategic supply plans, hosted visits to four demonstration sites, including stormwater reuse in an industrial park in Galicia.



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Publications and digital resources

From May 4 to 8, the project headed to Jordan for Arab Water Week 2025, held by the Dead Sea in Jordan.

On March 26th, to celebrate World Water Day, five European projects came together to share experiences in a webinar on *Nature-based Solutions*. From Poland, Colombia, Tunisia, and Denmark showcased how sustainable alternatives are already reshaping water management, in different countries and continents.

This key regional gathering brought together ministers, researchers, and students to address the complex political, environmental, and social dimensions of water in the Arab region.

The WATERUN project was proud to take part in this virtual event, filled with valuable insights and forward-looking perspectives for the future of urban runoff.

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