

Groundwater Team Pilots New Monitoring System in Murcia, Spain

As part of the [European NINFA project](#), which aims to improve water resilience through smart monitoring and management of groundwater, technicians and scientists from Wetsus and Aqualia have installed and commissioned a new multilevel monitoring system in Murcia, Spain. Among others, the system measures the fresh-brackish water interface, enabling salinization to be managed.

The 29m long, multi-level device records pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and other key parameters over depth from a single monitoring well – visualising how the depth profiles changes over time as a result of precipitation and abstraction. Current techniques rely on the installation of multiple monitoring wells.

While Murcia provides ideal testing conditions, the system is also relevant for the Netherlands and other countries that are dealing with seawater intrusion threatening freshwater reserves. The NINFA pilot demonstrates how advanced monitoring, and live tracking, enables effective groundwater protection.



New Wetsus Participants

We welcome [Renewi](#) to our Integrated PFAS theme. Renewi is a leading waste-to-product company that focuses on turning waste into valuable raw materials. By recycling and recovering materials, Renewi helps reduce environmental impact and supports a circular economy. The company operates across several European countries and works with businesses and municipalities to promote sustainable waste management solutions.

[Leiden University](#) also joined Wetsus. This new university Participant is particularly of interest for its know-how in the field of Soil Science and is therefore very relevant for the Wetsus research theme on soil health.

New PhD Researchers at Wetsus in 2025

In 2025 ten new PhD researchers have started in the Wetsus program. Their projects demonstrate a strong commitment to scientific excellence and long-term innovation in collaboration with our academic and industrial partners. Nine of these new PhD projects are co-funded through UPPWater Dutch Water Tech, and one project is supported by UrbanM2O (Horizon Europe), reflecting our contribution to European research initiatives. The new PhD candidates will address a wide range of challenges in the water sector, from improving monitoring

systems and nutrient recovery to advanced treatment processes and material-based solutions. Together, they represent a comprehensive and coherent research agenda.

The new researchers will be introduced in further detail in next week's Science and Technology Newsletter.

Wetsus offers near all-inclusive 360° Water Experience for 50 talented European students

From 3 to 5 March 2026, Wetsus will once again welcome 50 promising European bachelor students to Leeuwarden for the **360° Water Technology Experience**. This near all-inclusive three-day programme showcases the very best the water technology sector has to offer — with travel, lodging, and activities fully covered.

Participants will work on a **real-world water challenge**, take part in two inspiring **excursions**, and gain first-hand insights into the innovative research and applications taking place at Wetsus.

Last year's participants were deeply impressed by the cutting-edge water technology ecosystem in the region. In addition to Wetsus as the centre of excellence, students explored career opportunities and discovered the remarkable applied technology behind NieuWater's BODAC systems. They also got a feel for Leeuwarden as a potential future home, enjoying shared dinners, a guided city tour, and a taste of its vibrant student life.

The **application deadline for the 2026 edition is 20 December 2025**. After this date, we will select 50 students who will be invited to join this unique experience.

Feel free to spread the word!

Sign up here: [360 Watertech Experience Application - Wetsus](#)

Soil evening 2025 – recap

Around 200 participants attended this year's public soil theme evening, focused on AI in the soil domain. Speakers highlighted how technology can support soil health, smarter fertilisation, and circular agriculture.

You can find the presentations here: [Thema-avond Bodem 2025](#)

- Cees Buisman (Wetsus): Working together for living soils
- Chris Schott (Wetsus): The language of the soil – making resilience visible
- Ivor Bosloper (Dacom/RVO): The digital soil platform of the future
- Pieter van der Valk (Agricycling): A shared dream: healthy soils, strong farmers

For your calendar:

The next Soil theme evening will take place on 17 November 2026. Theme to be announced.

Wetsus Discover Day 2025

On November 27, 2025 the annual Wetsus Discover Day was held. This closed event for Wetsus Participants started with a plenary session with an update on Wetsus developments and a keynote by Willem Ferwerda of Commonland. In addition, 2 scientific parallel sessions, labtours and discovery showcases were on the program of this well-attended event.

In the Wetsus 2025 update by program director Jan Post, the continuous growth in our research output, talent development and industry cooperation were highlighted.

In 2025, Wetsus published 39 scientific papers in 32 journals—with an average impact factor of 10.1—and reached the milestone of more than 1,000 scientific publications to date. Four new EU and national co-funded projects were secured, including major initiatives in PFAS treatment, soil health, and urban water quality monitoring. Our patent portfolio continues to expand steadily, with over 100 filed and nearly 50 transferred since the start of the institute. Most importantly, the Wetsus network continues to strengthen: nine PhD researchers defended their dissertations this year, ten new PhD projects started, and nineteen new partners joined the program, ranging from universities and start-ups to established international companies.



WaterCampus Leeuwarden Open Day

On Saturday, 1 November, WaterCampus Leeuwarden opened its doors to the public. The event was a great success, welcoming around 500 visitors and offering a lively and inspiring atmosphere throughout the day.

Guests had the opportunity to explore how water technology research, entrepreneurship, and education come together in the capital of water technology. Visitors toured the Wetsus laboratories and pilot hall, attended presentations about [WaterCampus](#), and learned more about innovative companies through the Water Alliance. Educational pathways were also highlighted by [CEW](#), [CIV Water](#), and the [MWT \(Wetsus Academy\)](#).

For the youngest researchers, a variety of experiments and challenges were available, adding an extra playful and engaging element to the program.

Overall, the event showcased the strength and collaboration within the WaterCampus ecosystem and left visitors with a deeper understanding of the impact and potential of water technology.

[Aftermovie](#)

Save the Date for European Water Technology Week 2026

October 26–28, 2026 — De Harmonie, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands

Save the Date for European Water Technology Week 2024: Connecting Global Water Tech Networks

The European Water Technology Week 2026, a gathering at the intersection of science, innovation, talent and business in water technology, will be held on October 26 - 28, 2026. The EWTW brings together leading experts, researchers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers to explore the latest advancements and opportunities in the field. Whether you're interested in the latest scientific breakthroughs, seeking business opportunities, or looking to network with industry leaders, EWTW offers something for everyone.

Integrated in the EWTW are the annual Wetsus Congress and activities of the Water Alliance.

