EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

⚠️ *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	[1] - [ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE POUR LA DÉMOCRATIE LOCALE] ([ALDA])
PIC number:	[101192844]
Project name and acronym:	[Aquatik-EU: Valorisation of aquatic heritages in Europe] — [AQUATIK-EU]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[WP1 - T1.2]
Event name:	[Water Heritage and Communities: Enhancing the Cultural and Social Value of Water – International Conference]
Type:	[Training of Trainers (ToT) + Public Conference]
In situ/online:	*[in-situ]*
Location:	[Italy], [Venice]
Date(s):	[17-18 June 2025]
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.alda-europe.eu/aquatik-international-conference/
Participants	
Female:	40
Male:	37
Non-binary:	/
From country 1 [ITALY]:	64

From country 2 [SPAIN]:	4	
From country 3 [THE NETHERLANDS]:	1	
From country 4 [FRANCE]:	1	
From country 5 [BELGIUM]:	1	
From country 6 [PORTUGAL]:	2	
From country 7 [BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA]:	4	
Total number of participants:	77	From total number of countries: 7

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Introduction

AQUATIK-EU is a two-year project funded by the CERV programme (*Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values)* of the European Union (EACEA), which goal is to promote inland water heritage (rivers, springs, canals, wells, other freshwater ecosystems in remote or inland areas) and to strengthen people's awareness and capacity regarding the conservation status of hinterland aquatic ecosystems and their cultural, touristic, environmental and socio-economic relevance. The project, which is coordinated by ALDA,brings together eleven partners across Europe.

These places are rich in history, culture, and biodiversity and often overlooked and at risk due to depopulation and climate change.

Project's Objectives:

- Raise awareness on the importance of water as a common good
- Empower citizens, CSOs and local authorities to act together
- Promote inclusive and participative democratic tools for water preservation

In this context, a two day conference and Training of Trainers was organised on the 17th and 18th of June 2025 in Venice, hosted on the premises of the Architecture and Urbanism University (IUAV). The event brought together local stakeholders, project partners and international experts to officially launch the project and begin building shared knowledge around inland water heritage. The Training of trainers was held both days and included both theoretical sessions and interactive workshops. As part of the programme an open conference was organised on the first day and a field visit concluded the second day.

Target Groups

The target groups involved were local stakeholders and local CSOs organisations as well as universities researchers experts.Universities students and citizens interested joined the event and this led to successful discussion with the partners of the projects and the relevant municipalities invited.

Water Heritage and Communities: Enhancing the Cultural and Social Value of Water – International Conference in Venice.

Agenda

ALDA in cooperation with WAMUNET drafted the agenda.

June 17th

Time	Speaker	Title
9.30-9.45		Partners arrival and registration
9.45-10.00	ALDA	Icebreaker
10.00-10.15	ALDA	AQUATIK-EU - Project State of the Art
10.15-11.00	All	AQUATIK-EU - Internal Training on the Project
11.00-11.20	Training of Trainers	Registration + Coffee Break
11.20-11.35	ALDA	Welcome to external guests and Project Presentation
11.40-12.10	WAMU NET	Towards an inclusive definition of 'museum'. The Global Network of Water Museums and the UNESCO-IHP Resolution on the World Inventory of water museums
12.10-13.00	TU Delft, The Netherlands	Capturing water, heritage and culture through mapping
13.00-14.30	Networking Lunch	
14.30-15.10	WAMU NET	Izi travel: how to create digital tours to promote water heritage
15.10-15.40	WAMU NET	Digital museums as a tool to facilitate access to water heritage: the example of the Water Museum of Venice
15.40-16.30	Facilitators: WAMU NET	Brainstorming session on the topics presented / Working groups
16.30-16.45	ALDA	Conclusions on the first day of training

17.00-18.00	Public Conference	"Water Heritage and Communities: Enhancing the Cultural and Social Value of Water – International Conference"
18.00-19.00	Networking Aperitif	

June 18th

Time	Speaker	Title
09:30-09:40	ALDA	Opening of the day
09:40- 10:05	Univ. of Glasgow, UK	Felt experiences of place: co-production through public programmes
10.05-10:50	Univ. Strasbourg, France	Human-water relationships. A questionnaire to learn more about visitors and understand emotional relations with waterscapes
10:50-11.05	*Coffee break*	
11.05-11.30	CNR, Italy	*Douiret-Sbâa*: A Hidden Ecomuseum in Plain Sight – Case Example
11:30 -11:55	WAMU NET	Community participation at the heart of eco-museums
12.00-12.45	WAMU NET - CNR	Brainstorming session on the topics presented / Working Groups
12.45-13.00	WAMU NET/ALDA	Conclusion of the training activity (how to follow the project) + Evaluation
13.00-14:00	*Lunch*	
14.00-14.15	ALDA	AQUATIK-EU: WP2 overview
14:15- 14:35	Paese d.Acqua	Presentation of the activities of WP2
14:35-15.25	All	Focus groups/workshop on WP2
15.20-15.30	ALDA/All	Conclusion
15.30 -17.30	Field visit	'Explore Forgotten Venice': the digital route in the *sestiere* of Dorsoduro to promote traditional boatyards
17.30		End of activities at Piazzale Roma, Venice Station

Language: Training - English / Public Conference: Italian + English interpreter

Description of the activities

Over the course of two days more than 70 participants from 7 different countries engaged in the activities organised by the project.

Day one - 17 June 2025

The first day started with a project meeting in which all partners had the occasion to get to know each other in person. ALDA as Lead Partner took the occasion of presenting the logo of the project with the relevant manual that contained the visual identity of the AQUATIK-EU project (font and colour codes). The Consortium started to work on the relevant Work Packages and a general overview of all activities that will need to be fulfilled by the end of the project in December 2026 was delivered by ALDA. A timeline was proposed showing the Action Plan prepared during the first months of the project. In particular, for the three Work packages 1;2 and 3, ALDA, in agreement with the whole consortium, organized the timeline for the next activities until September, the end of Work Package 3. In addition, ALDA delivered a Narrative and Financial Training to the partners for the reporting phases.

At 11.30 the Training of Trainers officially started and the stakeholders, such as local CSOs and international experts joined the activity. The first session was held by WAMU-NET executive director, Eriberto Eulisse focusing on an inclusive definition of 'water museum' and presenting as best practice the Global Network of Water Museums and the UNESCO-IHP Resolution on the World Inventory of water museums". Researcher Matteo D'agostino from the Delft University held a workshop on : "Capturing water, heritage and culture through mapping" in which the participants divided into groups needed to draw on papers their relationship with water and the places that were particularly important for them always related to water such as a river, lake etc… as a way of mapping water heritages.

After a networking lunch, it was the time of a session by Lucio Bonato on: "Izi travel: how to create digital tours to promote water heritage" he presented an open-source web platform to build digital audio-guides, to be used via apps and this session was useful to gave to the externals and to the partners the occasion to explore the digital tours around venice using this digital app.

Directly connected with this after lunch session we had the occasion to explore more how the digital museums work and Eriberto Eulisse explained the case study of WAMU NET in a session entitled: "Digital museums as a tool to facilitate access to water heritage: the example of the Water Museum of Venice".

After that, it was the time to put into practice the knowledge shared previously by the speakers. Irene Leonardelli and Vladimiro Boselli opened the floor for a public discussion with a brainstorming session followed by a collection of key words on the topics presented.

ALDA concluded the first day and invited the audience to follow the public conference that took place afterwards at 17.00 in which other interested people joined, some of them were also IUAV students. This was a perfect occasion to connect the training with a formal session in which we had the interventions of Matteo D'agostino (Delft University) and Eriberto Eulisse (WAMU NET) that explained briefly the training that was led before and Alice Fantin and Alice Lazzarin (ALDA) described the main objectives of the AQUATIK-EU project. Moreover, we finished the day with an open public conference in which we had the institutional greeting from ALDA's Head of Secretariat, Adrien Licha, we involved representatives from the IUAV university and other external stakeholders joined.

The first day ended with a networking aperitif where there were plenty of opportunities to exchange ideas among the different stakeholders present: artists, students, civil society organisations, art collective, students organisations, researchers and citizens.

The Training of Trainers was held in English while the public conference was held in Italian, with simultaneous interpretation.

<u>Day two -</u> <u>18 June 2025</u>:

The second day continued with the Training of Trainers during the morning with rich interventions by international speakers, while the afternoon was dedicated to the Partner meeting to start the dialogue on WP2.

The first speaker, Lucrezia Gigante from the University of Glasgow, shared valuable resources on the topic of "Felt experiences of place: co-production through public programmes". She explored how emotional and sensory connections to places can be central to co-creating community heritage, with a special focus on public engagement initiatives.

Researcher Yixin Cao from Strasbourg University explored the importance of public engagement and education in water planning through a recent survey conducted among visitors to Chinese water museums and studied diverse perspectives on human-river relationships.

After a short coffee break, Vladimiro Boselli presented a case study on Douiret-Sbâa: A Hidden Ecomuseum in Plain Sight, underlining how under-recognised heritage can represent the centrepiece of community-led preservation and interpretation.

This was followed by Edo Bricchetti, who joined online and discussed community participation in eco-museums, highlighting the importance of local actors in shaping narratives and sustaining heritage initiatives.

The morning concluded with a facilitated brainstorming session where participants reflected on the topics presented, drawing connections with their local contexts, and with an evaluation form for both days of training.

After lunch the partners continued the discussion focusing on the implementation of the upcoming WP2. Divided in groups by geographical areas, they started thinking about the organisation of the local training events for LAs and CSOs on water management, valorisation and preservation, and on ways to apply similar approaches in their local contexts.

The second day concluded with a field visit in Dorsoduro neighbourhood in Venice to explore the 'forgotten' traditional water heritage of this sestiere through a digital route, including also a visit to Saverio Pastor's workshop, one of the last oar makers of traditional gondolas and Venetian boats.

We can therefore say that the event generated interest in the local community, and the fact that it was held within the university context enabled students to participate, who showed interest in the topic and the sessions offered.

Conclusions and Results

Across the two day activity, both project partners and participants focused on the importance of moving beyond an utilitarian view of water. Instead, they gained a deeper understanding of water as something humans are emotionally, culturally, and ecologically intertwined with: an entity to engage with, not just manage. During the event, the training methodologies outlined in the toolkit were tested in a real-world context, confirming their potential for straightforward replication.

This event was also an opportunity to lay the foundations for the next steps. Based on the toolkit created, local events will be organised by the consortium partners in the coming month to spread the knowledge aquired during the two days. Furthermore, participants expressed their willingness to receive updates on forthcoming developments since they had the objective of including their municipality or their local contacts to start the initiatives presented.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	30.06.2025	Initial version (new MFF).