



Cutting-edge EU technology project:

INNOQUA – an Innovative Bio-based on-site Sanitation system for Water and Resource Savings

How can we protect and improve the quality of natural water resources? This is one of the major challenges of the 21st century.

INNOQUA, an EU-funded project launching in June 2016, aims to meet this challenge by promoting sustainable water sanitation technologies capable of performing a whole water treatment cycle. These technologies resemble natural purification processes and are based on the purification capacity of earthworms (lumbricids), zooplankton and microalgae, and alternatively sunlight exposure. INNOQUA – the project acronym – is an innovative, patent protected, award winning and scalable fully ecological sanitation solution, available in multiple modular configurations adapted to local contexts and markets. This type of integrated solution for the treatment of wastewater has not been employed before.

INNOQUA addresses the water treatment needs of communities in remote rural areas of Europe, rapidly expanding cities in developing countries, agricultural industries and sustainable home-builders.

The four-year project will install pilot sites across 10 countries (France, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Scotland, United Kingdom, Ecuador, Peru, India and Tanzania) to demonstrate the long-term viability of modular and locally sustainable solutions in real-use conditions. Pilot sites will also link with scientific research projects and enable real-time information sharing with research partners.

“Our stated aim is to develop exploitation-oriented dissemination and to accelerate the path to market of decentralised, small-scale, low-cost and non-conventional purification technologies such as those presented in INNOQUA”, declares Germain Adell, the coordinator of the EU-project. Mr. Adell is an urban planner, responsible for European Projects at Nobatek, a renowned French Research and Technology Organisation, and the lead partner of the INNOQUA project’s consortium that comprises 20 partners from 10 countries ranging from research institutes and universities via water utilities to SMEs and an NGO.

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Photo: Kick-off Meeting at Nobatek, Anglet/France
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