PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

IRIDRA to share practical experience in nature-based sanitation and water reuse at European webinar

Brussels (Belgium), 29 October 2026 – Decentralised sanitation and water reuse can offer communities new ways to manage water resources while supporting environmental resilience. **Chiara Sarti** of IRIDRA will present practical perspectives on these approaches at the upcoming European Local Innovation Forum (ELIF) webinar, **"Nature-Based Solutions in Action: Local Community Engagement for Resilience"**, o**n 17 November 2026.**

The online event will explore **how Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) can help communities address environmental and climate challenges,** bringing together examples from water management, sanitation and green reconstruction.

In her session, ***"Decentralised Nature-Based Sanitation: Local Engagement, Challenges and Solutions",*** Chiara Sarti will examine **how nature-based sanitation systems, including constructed wetlands, can support wastewater treatment, water reuse and resource recovery.** The presentation will consider these approaches within the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus and their potential to deliver practical benefits for local communities.

Drawing on a selected IRIDRA case study, **the session will highlight the importance of involving local users**, communities and other relevant stakeholders in the design, adoption, operation and maintenance of decentralised solutions. Such engagement can help ensure that systems respond to local needs and remain appropriate and sustainable over time.

The presentation will also address practical implementation challenges, including social acceptance, operational responsibilities, technical capacity and resource constraints. It will explore how cooperation with local actors can help address these barriers and support the long-term use of nature-based sanitation and water reuse solutions.

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The webinar **will also feature Dragana Mileusnic, Conservation Director for Europe at The Nature Conservancy,** presenting collaborative water management through the Norfolk Water Fund in England, and **Dr Annamaria Vujanovic of the University of Maribor,** presenting perspectives on nature-based solutions for green reconstruction in conflict-affected Ukrainian territories through the EQUATERRA Horizon project.

The event will conclude with an interactive discussion on how local and regional actors can strengthen community engagement, overcome barriers to implementation and translate inspiring examples into action in their own territories.

The webinar is **organised by the European Local Innovation Forum (ELIF), coordinated by AEIDL**.



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NOTES TO THE EDITOR

Event details

- **Date:** 17 November 2026
- **Time:** 10:30–12:00 CET
- **Format:** Online via Zoom
- **Registration:** https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/jaa3tKl3TFqh-qypifJiBQ

About ELIF

ELIF, an **AEIDL** initiative, is a collaborative space where local practitioners, researchers and policymakers come together to **exchange experiences**, **discuss challenges** and **co-create solutions for local development** across Europe. ELIF organises webinars, events and thematic exchanges, showcases innovative local practices, and creates opportunities for peer learning, capacity building and collaboration. With a presence in **over 60 countries and more than 2,300 members**, ELIF is an open space where local communities working across diverse development fields can make their voices heard.

About the Thematic Community on Environment and Climate

Part of ELIF, the Thematic Community on Environment and Climate brings together organisations and local development actors to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration and explore innovative, socially inclusive solutions to environmental and climate challenges. It promotes peer learning on Environment and Climate Action (ECA), and explores opportunities to support wider systems change.

For more information, visit: https://www.aeidl.eu/forum/thematic-community-on-environment-and-climate/

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