

RESEARCH INFORMED CONSENT

PURPOSE:

You have been invited to participate in a participatory event (focus group or participatory workshop), organised by the New Water Culture Foundation (Fundación Nueva Cultura del Agua- FNCA) as partner of the UPWATER project, funded by Horizon Europe's "Clean Environment and Zero Pollution" program. The purpose of this event is to gather insights and expertise regarding pollution prevention measures and innovative policy solutions for maintaining clean groundwater. The emerging information will be used to shape the project, influence policy recommendations, and contribute to the safeguarding of groundwater resources.

Please ensure that you carefully review the procedure, benefits and risks, confidentiality terms, and contact information prior to completing your registration. This will enable you to provide your informed consent for participation in this event.



PROCEDURE:

As part of this study, you will be placed in a group with other experts on the topic. A professional facilitator and a groundwater-specialized environmental scientist will guide the discussion and ask questions related to groundwater preservation. This event will be audio-recorded, and a note-taker might be present. However, please rest assured that your responses will remain confidential and anonymized, and no names will be included in any reports. You have the freedom to decide whether or not to participate in the event, and you may choose to withdraw at any point.

We encourage diverse viewpoints and value everyone's contributions. Out of respect, please refrain from interrupting others, but feel free to be honest and express your thoughts, even if they differ from those of other group members.

BENEFITS AND RISKS:

Your participation may benefit the project and contribute to improvements in groundwater management and environmental sustainability. There are no anticipated risks beyond those typically associated with engaging in a conversation. Your privacy and anonymity are of utmost importance to us.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Should you choose to participate, you will be asked to respect the privacy and confidentiality of other focus group members by not disclosing any content discussed during the study. Researchers within the UPWATER Project will analyze the data, but, as mentioned earlier, your individual responses will remain confidential, and no personal names will be used in any reports.

DATA, SHARING, PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING:

Data in research refers to the information collected to answer questions or explore topics. Your valuable input in this focus group generates data.

Sharing. Data will be shared within the researchers in the UPWATER, and sharing to a wider public audience is not foreseen.

Publication. Findings will be disseminated through reports, articles or papers. Publication might reach a broader audience or the public.

Archiving. Data will be preserved within the UPWATER archives.

CONTACT:

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this study, please feel free to contact Andrea Calsamiglia Madurga from the New Water Culture Foundation (FNCA) at andrea@fnca.eu.

Declaration of Consent Form for participation in the Scientific Research of the UPWATER Research Program

You are invited to participate in a research study for the UPWATER project. Your participation is absolutely voluntary. Please read the information provided about the project, and address questions about anything you need further clarification about.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify (please check the appropriate box):

- I have read and comprehended the project information provided in the related UPWATER form.
- I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the project and my involvement.
- I willingly agree to participate in the project.
- I understand that I can withdraw from the project at any time without providing reasons and without incurring any penalty or accountability. Procedures for confidentiality, such as data anonymization, have been clearly outlined. If applicable, I have had the chance to specify conditions for consent in cases of interviews, audio recordings, videos, or other data collection methods.
- I have been briefed on the use of data in research, publication, sharing, and archiving. I am aware that, upon completion of the research, the data will either be destroyed or repurposed. I understand that other researchers can access this data only if they agree to maintain its confidentiality and adhere to the terms specified in this form.

Choose one of the following:

- I consent to the use of my name, and I understand that my contributions to this project may be acknowledged in reports, publications, and other research outputs.
- I do not grant permission for the use of my name in this project.

I, along with the Researcher, agree to sign this informed consent form.

PARTICIPANT

Full name

Signature

Date

UPWATER RESEARCHER

Full name

Signature

Date