**Public Seminar**

**Circular ways**

***Promoting circular approaches in wastewater treatment***

**Biblioteca Capitolare**

**Verona**

**29 June 2023**

**9:30 – 12:00**

***Background***

Wastewater treatment processes are essential to avoid that the water we discharge into the environment after domestic or industrial use deteriorate the ecological status of Europe’s rivers, seas, and eco-systems.

Adopting circular approaches to wastewater treatment provides real opportunities to achieve societal objectives on waste minimisation, sustainable agriculture, and energy generation, with clear environmental (and geo-political) benefits.

However, the shift to circularity requires a complex combination of appropriate regulatory framework, new technologies, and effective coordination between different sectors and stakeholders.

The seminar will explore the conditions to attain the right mix through insightful contributions from water operators, policy-makers, and stakeholders.

***Draft Agenda***

**09:00** Welcome Coffee

**09:30 Welcome Address**

**Roberto Mantovanelli –** *President, Acque Veronesi*

**Session I: Circular Perspectives**

**09:40 Evolution of the EU Legislative Framework on Wastewater and Sludge**

*European Commission (unit B.3 or C.2)*

**10:00****Examples of Circular Strategies from Water Operators**

* + **Vienna Water**
  + **Scottish Water**
  + **Como Acqua**

**Session II: Circular Drive**

**10:50 EU Research and Innovation Priorities for Circularity in the Water Sector**

**Bertrand Vallet –** *Policy Officer, Circular Economy & Biobased Systems Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission* **(invited)**

**11:10 Panel Discussion: Conditions to Accelerate Circular Approaches in the Water Sector**

* + **European Sustainable Phosphorous Platform (invited)**
  + **European Federation for Agriculture Recycling (invited)**
  + **WAREG (invited)**
  + **University of Verona (invited)**

**12:00 Conclusive Remarks**

***Interpretation service available: English/Italian/French***