

2025 REPORT

A Year of Global Achievements and International Leadership

UNESCO Award: A Historic Milestone

2025 marked a year of international consolidation for WAMU+NET. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the IHP (*Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme*), UNESCO presented our network with the prestigious **"Long Standing Contribution" Award**. As Director Eriberto Eulisse stated: *"I am truly honored to receive this prestigious recognition on behalf of all our members who, in various capacities, have contributed to fostering the need to re-establish a new water culture worldwide."* This award serves as a powerful endorsement of our network's authority among governments and international institutions.

Eight Years of Transformation and Influence

Reflecting on the past eight years, WAMU+NET's journey has radically transformed the global perception on water education and museums. Today, our members enjoy unprecedented international visibility. Membership has allowed our partners to significantly increase their influence over **stakeholders and decision-makers** at local, national and international level, facilitating protection of hydraulic heritage and pursuit of strategic sponsors.



Institutional Strengthening: The New Office in Ala, Trento

A major structural goal was achieved this year with the inauguration of our new **operational headquarters in Ala (Trento, Italy)**. Thanks to the support of the Autonomous Province of Trento, the office is now supported by dedicated staff units. This institutional reinforcement ensures greater continuity and technical support for all network members.

Global Leadership: From Brasilia to COP30

- **6th International Conference (Brasilia):** In collaboration with ADEP, we explored the vital role of local communities in climate change adaptation through participatory processes.
- **Digital Innovation:** The *Water Cloud* project reached a significant milestone in developing a worldwide online repository of educational resources.
- **Presence at COP30 (Belem):** The winners of the *Back to Our Future*, the short film contest made in cooperation with our partner *Let's Talk About Water*, were presented during the UN Climate Change Conference in Brazil, amplifying our network's voice in the world's critical decision-making arenas.



WAMU+NET's contribution to UNESCO's Virtual Science Museum

Our case studies on **ancestral hydro-technologies**, produced for the 10th World Water Forum in Indonesia, have been officially included in the **UNESCO Virtual Science Museum**. This permanent inclusion on the UNESCO portal represents a mark of excellence for the research and content produced by our members:

<https://www.unesco.org/en/virtual-science-museum>

EU-Funded Projects: Innovation and Stability

2025 saw the launch of 3 major projects funded by the EU Commission, providing greater financial stability and new collaborative opportunities:

- **Soil Art Tales & AQUAMOTION:** These projects focus on the dialogue between art and science. Seven international artists were selected to have their works hosted by network museums and showcased at the **61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia**.
- **AQUATIK-EU:** This project led to the creation of a methodological *toolkit* for mapping water heritage and fostering community participation in the development of "extended" museums.

<https://www.watermuseums.net/assets/Uploads/News/Attachments/Toolkit-Aquatik-EU-29-08-2025/+Toolkit-Aquatik-EU.pdf>

Water Ambassadors

The world-renowned composer Andrea Vettoretti was appointed as WAMU+NET's Water Ambassador, for his album "Breath of Water" dedicated to our network.

Youth contest "The Water We Want"

The 6th edition of the youth contest **"The Water We Want"** received exceptional artistic contributions from students (ages 6-25) worldwide. The resulting digital exhibition is available to all members, who can request to adapt it into local physical exhibitions to engage their own communities and schools:

<https://thewaterwewant.watermuseums.net/contest/exhibition-year-2025/all-other-media/>

Interactive educational tools available to all members for exhibition purposes

<https://www.watermuseums.net/education/aquaplay/>

Looking Ahead: Governance and Transition with the new management Board

2025 marked the end of the term for several founding members who served on our Management Board for the past six years. Their "heroic" efforts ensured the growth of a project today recognized as a **UNESCO Flagship Initiative**. With the appointment of the new Board and Presidency for the 2026-2027 biennium, WAMU+NET is poised for a new phase of growth.

The achievements above were made possible only through the continued support of our members. Annual membership fees are what enables WAMU+NET to remain operational and continue generating an extraordinary water journey around the world.