

Join us for the 2027 MatchPoints Conference at Aarhus University, where we will explore how to secure future waters that are healthy, resilient, sustainable and secure for people, nature and industry.

We are all connected by water, and so are the challenges and solutions to a brighter water future for all. From source to sea, water connects ecosystems, communities, industries and economies, making it one of the defining resources for the 21st century. These inter-connected, global challenges span the water, marine, and maritime sectors.

The ambition of MatchPoints 2027 is to provide future-proofed solutions to the following water challenges in Europe and beyond while accelerating the collaboration, innovations and skills needed to move from knowledge to implementation and impact:

- **Marine and freshwater ecosystems are damaged, and water quality is compromised**
- **Scarce water resources are depleted and are not being recycled and re-used to the necessary extent**
- **Our water systems are vulnerable to climate-related extreme events and external threats**

At MatchPoints 2027, we will ask how we can overcome the current gaps in mindsets and skillsets that currently block critical collaborations, innovation and growth and prevent promising solutions from reaching scale required to address Europe's water, marine and maritime challenges:

- **Improving Aquatic Ecosystem Health:** How do we reduce, and to what level, current pressure on aquatic ecosystems, in order to halt their decline in terms of biodiversity and provision of ecosystem services?
- **Towards Sustainable Water Circularity:** How do we accelerate innovation of technologies needed to future-proof water efficiency and reach large-scale resource circularity?
- **Planning for Stronger Water Security:** How can we improve water security in time, through improved governance, digital advances and increased collaboration between actors in the water sector?

Themes

The MatchPoints Conference 2027 will combine keynote lectures and parallel sessions in three tracks. Discussions will cover a broad spectrum of topics/themes, including:

TRACK 1

Improving Aquatic Ecosystem Health

How do we reduce, and to what level, current pressure on aquatic ecosystems in order to halt their decline in terms of biodiversity and provision of ecosystem services?

THEME 1A

Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems

THEME 1B

Improving Ecosystem Resilience to Climate Change

THEME 1C

Early Warning through Innovative Monitoring Technology

TRACK 2

Towards Sustainable Water Circularity

How do we accelerate innovation of technologies needed to future-proof water efficiency and reach large-scale resource circularity?

THEME 2A

How to Secure Future Water Circularity with Increasing Demand and Limited Supply?

THEME 2B

Key New Technologies that should be Innovated to Obtain Water Circularity

THEME 2C

The role of Digital Innovation in Managing Water Use and Re-Use

TRACK 3

Planning for Stronger Water Security

How can we improve water security in time, through improved governance, digital advances and increased collaboration between actors in the water sector?

THEME 3A

Forecasting Changes in Access to Water in Time and Space

THEME 3B

Measures Necessary to Secure Equal Access to Water and Reduce the Risk of Water Infrastructure Becoming Targets for Hybrid Warfare

THEME 3C

Ways to Secure Future Maritime Activities in Changing and Increasingly Volatile World

What to expect

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Prominent experts within the innovation ecosystems across the water, marine, and maritime sectors will share their insights and perspectives on how research, business, policy and society can work together to accelerate real-world impact.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS: Interactive panels will facilitate dialogue between diverse stakeholders, fostering collaborative approaches to ensure sustainable future development and impact while strengthening Europe's competitiveness, resilience and preparedness in the water, marine and maritime sectors.

WORKSHOPS AND BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Participants will engage in focused discussions and hands-on workshops to develop actionable strategies for working with resilience and impact.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES: The conference will provide ample opportunities for networking, enabling participants to build connections and collaborate on future initiatives to build a better water future for all.

When and where

DATE: 7-8 April 2027

PANEL DISCUSSIONS: Interactive panels will facilitate dialogue among diverse stakeholders, fostering collaborative approaches to ensure sustainable future development and impact within water innovation.

LOCATION: Lakeside Lecture Theatres (Søauditorierne), Aarhus University – Bartholins Allé 3, 8000 Aarhus

Participants

The event will bring together more than 400 stakeholders across the ecosystem: researchers, business representatives, policymakers, public sector officials, practitioners, investors, journalists, and citizens.

About the MatchPoints Conference series

Since its inception in 2007, the MatchPoints Conference series has served as Aarhus University's premier event, fostering dialogue between the university and the broader society on issues of significant societal interest. Known for its interdisciplinary approach and outward-looking perspective, the conference series attracts a diverse group of participants who come together to address the most pressing challenges of our time.

Join us

We invite you to join us at Aarhus University for the MatchPoints Conference 2027. Together, we explore innovative solutions, share knowledge and inspire each other with the aim to build partnerships that will help move water innovation forward.

For more information and to register, please visit **matchpoints.au.dk**

OPENS IN JANUARY 2027

MATCH POINTS