

Living labs as a tool for innovation: defining the Action Plan

Living Labs have emerged as one of the most effective tools for fostering open innovation by bringing together companies, public authorities, research centres, universities, and citizens to co-create, test, and validate innovative solutions in real-world environments. Unlike traditional research and development approaches, Living Labs place end users at the heart of the innovation process, ensuring that new products, services, and policies are better aligned with societal needs and market demands.

Their main value lies in the ability to experiment with and evaluate innovative solutions under real operating conditions before large-scale deployment. This approach reduces technological uncertainty, accelerates the adoption of innovations, and increases user acceptance. At the same time, it facilitates knowledge sharing among diverse stakeholders, creating more dynamic and collaborative innovation ecosystems.

The success of a Living Lab depends on the existence of a **well-structured action plan that guides implementation and ensures that activities are aligned with clearly defined objectives**. An action plan serves as the roadmap that transforms a shared vision into concrete actions, establishing priorities, responsibilities, timelines, required resources, and performance indicators.

The objective of this workshop is to present the **guide for the development of an action plan focused on water management and the restoration and reuse of water resources, providing a methodological framework that enables public authorities, water utilities, businesses, research organizations, and other stakeholders to identify priorities, define concrete actions, and establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation**. The guide is intended to support the implementation of collaborative and innovative initiatives that enhance water efficiency, strengthen resilience to climate change impacts, and promote a more sustainable and integrated approach to water resource management.

This seminar, organized by FUNSEAM, is held within the framework of the SOLLAGUA project.



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PROGRAM

11:00 h - Welcome and presentation of SOLLAGUA project
Joan Batalla, Funseam

11:15 h - The role of innovation in water management
Lucia Gusmaroli, Catalan Water Partnership

11:30 h - Living Labs as a tool for innovation
Joan Batalla, Funseam

11:45 h - The importance of designing an Action Plan for a Living Lab
Fernando Vilariño, CVC – UAB

12:30 h - Final remarks

