

Greening the economy in line with the sustainable development goals

# Tools for wastewater management

Presenters: Ignacio Casals (Aguas de Alicante) / Joao Pita Costa (IRCAI - UNESCO AI Research Institute & Jozef Stefan Institute)

#### **DigitalWater 2020** Community of Practice



SC5-11-2018 || Digital solutions for water: linking the physical and digital world for water solutions

A holistic water ecosystem for digitisation of urban water sector

Monday, January 24, 2022



# CONTENTS

- Background and motivation of the Pilot
- Use Cases for Waste Water Management
- NAIADES Water Observatory: Objectives
- Wastewater Through the Water Observatory
  - NWO Filtering News Feed
  - Exploring News & Twitter
  - Exploring Research
  - Local Statistics for Insight
- Challenges of implementation



# Alicante: Background and motivation

- Alicante is a Mediterranean coastal City in the Southeast of Spain
- Pop. 335,000 inh. (> 500,000 in the summer)
- Aguas de Alicante manages all the urban water cycle:
  - Drinking water production and supply
  - Waste water collection and treatment
  - Recycled water treatment and supply
- Alicante is subject to **extreme weather events**:
  - Long drought periods
  - Torrential rains and fast flood episodes
- Sensitive coastal waters:
  - Economic relevance of beaches for tourism
  - Valuable sea and cost ecosystems





## NAIADES: Use Cases for Waste Water Management

#### Sewerage Saline infiltration detection

- Detect, locate and monitor saline infiltrations of phreatic water into the sewer mains which cause:
  - Sewer deterioration
  - Increased waste water treatment costs
  - Barrier for waste water regeneration for reuse



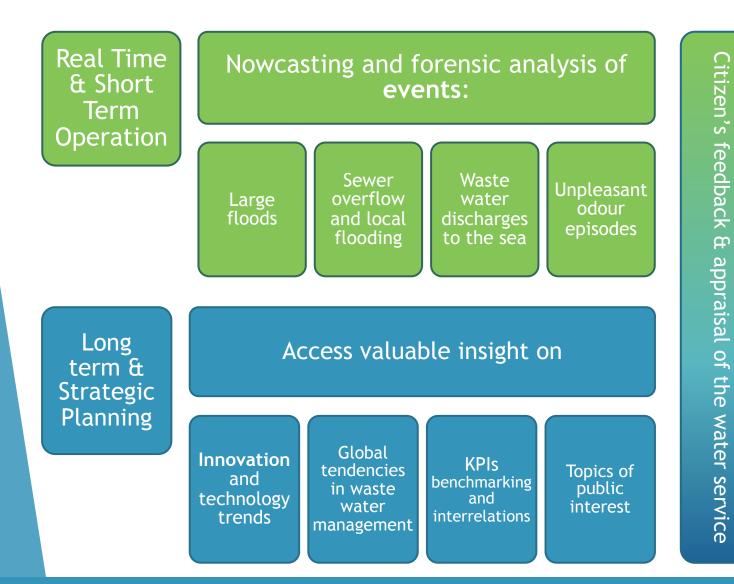
#### NAIADES Water Observatory

- Extract knowledge from all available online sources
- Real time and long term management of the sewerage and drainage networks
- Event detection and analysis





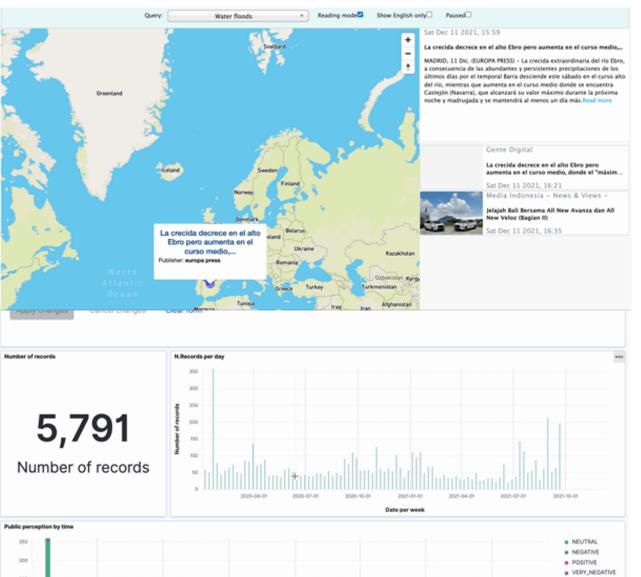
#### NAIADES Water Observatory for Waste water: Objectives







## Real-time awareness of wastewater-related events



- A real-time stream of news on wastewater-related water events, e.g., floods can help us monitor specific topics
- Explore best practices from news and research worldwide using multilingual capabilities to learn from similar cases
- Twitter dashboard with data vizualisation modules for research (to explore what is useful to show)
- Nowcasting from Twitter triggered by weather can be used to define alerts based on thresholds
- We can learn relations between Twitter-News-weather to from historical events and investigate causality



## An Appropriate Configuration of the News Feed

| eventregistry                 |                             | 3         |  |            |        | 3              |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--|------------|--------|----------------|
| Home > NAIADES Wa             | asteWater - Alicante        |           |  |            |        | Options 🗸      |
| Configure topic page ^        |                             |           |  |            |        |                |
| Add conditions                |                             |           | Topic definition   |            |        |                |
| Interests 📀                   | What are you interested in? |           | Interests  | Required 🕜 | 🕀 Sugg | gest interests |
|                               |                             |           | Wastewater   | LOW        | HIGH   | ~ ×            |
| Category 🕑                    | Pick V Category name        |           | Wastewater treatment   | LOW        | HIGH   | ~ ×            |
| Source 🕐                      | Name of the news source     | By name 🗸 | I Flood  | LOW        | HIGH   | ~ × ]          |
| Location 😮                    | Article/event location name |           | Water pollution  | LOW        | HIGH   | ~ × ]          |
|                               |                             |           | International Providence Providen | LOW        | HIGH   | ~ ×            |
|                               |                             |           | Wastewater surveillance  | LOW        | HIGH   | ~ × ]          |
| Filters                       |                             |           | Ffluent  | LOW        | HIGH   | ~ ×            |
| Content at most 👔             | 30 days old                 | v         | Reclaimed water  | LOW        | нідн   | ~ ×            |
| Limit to languages 🕜          | Any language                |           | Discharge (hydrology)  | LOW        | НІБН   | ~ ×            |
|                               |                             |           | B wastewater discharge   | LOW        | HIGH   | ~ ×            |
| Article filters Event filters |                             |           | B vertido  | LOW        | HIGH   |                |
| Article duplicates 🔞          | Hide article duplicates     | ~         | B "aguas residuales"   | LOW        | HIGH   | 2              |
| Source ranking (2)            |                             |           | Categories   |            |        | est categories |

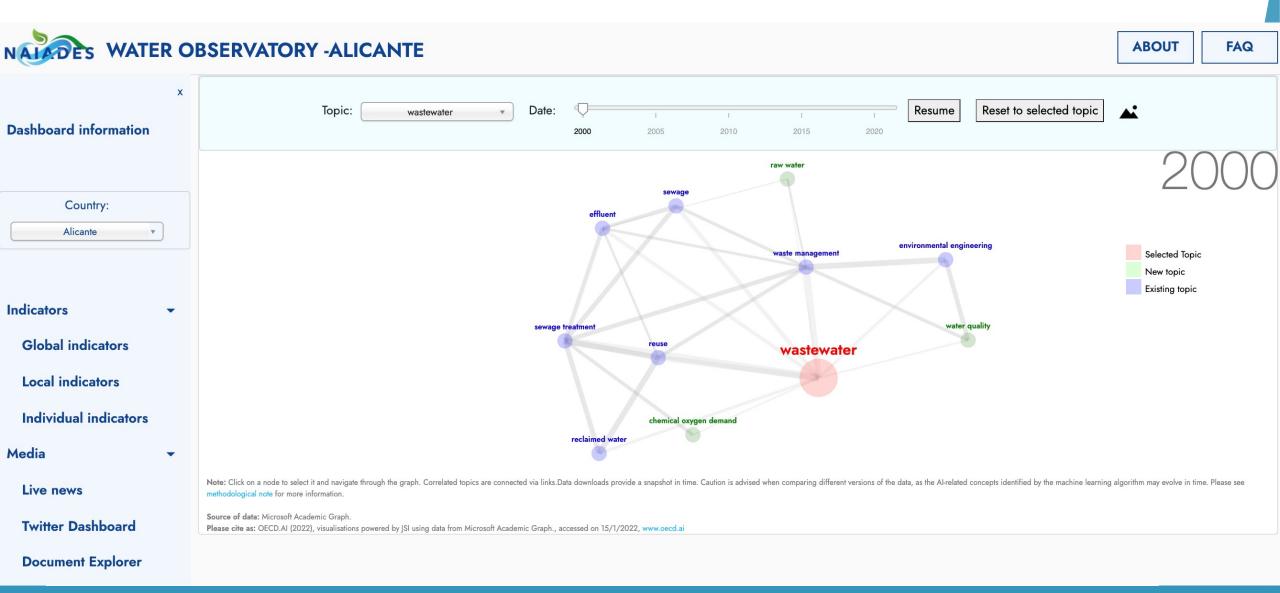


## Further Exploring Wastewater News

| C          | aguas residuales OR A | lcantarillado OR Inundación OR Dre   | enaje AND alicante Provincia de Alicante, Spain   | SEARCH                                      |
|------------|-----------------------|--|---|---|
| AR         | TICLES EVENTS         | Filters: 🛇   | Locations 🗸 💿 Sources 🗸 📋 Categories 🗸 📋 From 2019-08-19 to 2019-08-31 🗸 🖄 Ar   | ny language 🧹 😤 Misc. 🗸                     |
|            |                       | List of articles (61,  | 982 results found)  | b.  |
| ٨          | List of Articles      |  | Note: Since the simple search mode was used, the results might mention just a subset of the   |   |
| $\diamond$ | Top Concepts          |  | entered keywords. To change the search mode, click the $\ensuremath{{}^{	heta}}$ icon next to the Search button.  |   |
| ×A         | Languages             |  | VIEW:   | List 🧹 SORT BY: Relevance                   |
| $\bigcirc$ | Tag Cloud             | -  | El temporal deja un récord de lluvia en Alicante y los municipios trabajan para   | <b>20 MINUTO</b><br>Wed, 21 Aug 2019, 19:34 |
|            | Timeline              |  | recuperar la normalidad<br>El temporal que afecta estos días a la Comunitat Valenciana ha dejado este miércoles registros   | Duplicate of this article                   |
| 0          | News Sources          |  | históricos en la ciudad de Alicante, que ha vivido la jornada de verano más lluviosa en 160 años, ha<br>provocado el desalojo de sus casas de seis personas en Els Poblets y El Verger y ha causado     |   |
| •          | Article authors       |  |   |   |
| •          | Sentiment             |  | El temporal deja un récord de lluvia en Alicante y los municipios trabajan para<br>recuperar la normalidad - Valencia Noticias  | VALENCIA NOTICIA<br>Thu, 22 Aug 2019, 09:23 |
|            | Concept Graph         | and the second s | ALICANTE, El temporal que afecta estos días a la Comunitat Valenciana ha dejado este miércoles<br>registros históricos en la ciudad de Alicante, que ha vivido la jornada de verano más lluviosa en 160 | Duplicate of thi                            |
|            | Concept Trends        |  | años, ha provocado el desalojo de sus casas de seis personas en Els Doblets y El Verger y ha  |   |

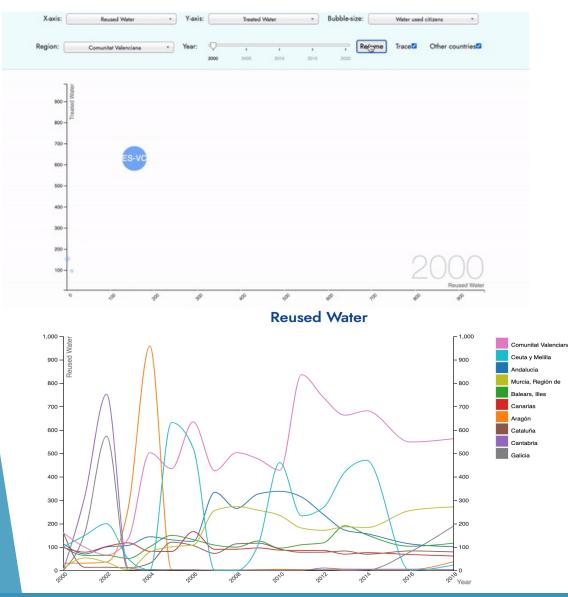


## Exploring Best Practices & Innovation on Wastewater





#### **Observing Progress Through Indicators**



- Identifying relevant datasets to clean & ingest into the system allows us to understand the wastewater progress in local statistics and compare regions
- Understanding what indicators matter can be helped by the analysis of a single time series for one indicator
- We can use this data also to try and predict causality between indicators



#### **Challenges of Implementation**

- Difficulties to appropriately acquire the appropriate local statistical data to feed the Water Observatory
- Low adherence to the social media Twitter in Spain and consequent lack of data ingested
- Need to add additional local news sources that complement the information collected on water-related events
- Relevance of the configuration of the data ingested and the appropriate key phrases used to better capture the event and know what to monitor