



VALZEO FINAL WORKSHOP · ECOMONDO 2026

Emerging contaminants: from research to the treatment plant

Water utilities, technology companies and researchers share what really works to remove and monitor PFAS, pharmaceuticals and other emerging contaminants.

Innovative technologies for the removal and monitoring of emerging contaminants: the VALZEO project and industrial perspectives

DATE

Tuesday 3 November 2026

Ecomondo, Rimini Expo Centre, Italy

TIME

14:00 – 17:30

10-minute talks · Q&A per session

VENUE

Sala Orchidea · Hall D6

First floor · talks in Italian and English

Opening

14:00 – 14:20

14:00 Introduction 14:10

Quaternary treatments for the removal of emerging contaminants: effectiveness, operational challenges and application prospects
Manuela Antonelli · Politecnico di Milano

1 · The challenges facing water utilities 14:20 – 15:10

- 14:20** Activated carbon adsorption: pilot trials at the Milano Nosedo and San Rocco wastewater treatment plants
Mirko Perico · Metropolitana Milanese (MM S.p.A.)
- 14:30** Advanced technologies for emerging contaminants in wastewater: experience at treatment plants in Rome and the Lazio region
ACEA ATO 2
- 14:40** Quaternary treatment by ozonation: the experience of the Sant'Antonino Ticino plant
Daniele Ceconet · ALFA S.r.l., Varese
- 14:50** Innovative technologies for removing PFAS and TFA from drinking water at Gruppo CAP
Tomaso Amati · Gruppo CAP
- 15:00** Discussion

2 · Technology solutions from industry 15:10 – 16:10

- 15:10** Ozonation for emerging contaminants in wastewater: innovations and practical experience
Pier Luigi Radavelli · SIAD S.p.A.
- 15:20** Activated carbons: material properties, performance and regeneration
Antonio Favata · Carboplant S.r.l.
- 15:30** Innovative technologies for removing PFAS from water: results and industrial applications
Edoardo Slavik · Erica S.r.l. / Fondazione Erica
- 15:40** Integrated technologies for PFAS and emerging contaminants: research and industrial applications
Cristian Carboni · De Nora Water Technologies
- 15:50** Recovery and use of biochar from sewage sludge
Matteo Longo · BIOFORCETECH
- 16:00** Discussion

3 · Advanced monitoring and scientific innovation 16:10 – 16:50

- 16:10** Fluorescence-based monitoring of emerging contaminants and PFAS: a system ready for industry
Massimiliano Sgroi · Università Politecnica delle Marche (UNIVPM)
- 16:20** Innovative materials for removing emerging contaminants from water: insights from the European VALZEO project
Roberto Boada Romero · Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)
- 16:30** Making water treatment innovation work: an industrial perspective
Raquel Montes · AERIS, Barcelona, Spain
- 16:40** Discussion

4 · Co-creation: networking and matchmaking 16:50 – 17:30

- 16:50** From VALZEO results to 2027 funding opportunities
Leonardo Piccinetti · SITES, Ireland
- 17:00** **Open discussion and closing remarks**
Knowledge transfer, collaboration opportunities and ideas for new research and innovation projects in water treatment.

Why attend? In one afternoon, hear how utilities meet the new Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (EU) 2024/3019, see solutions already on the market, and find partners and funding for your next water project.

About VALZEO An EU-funded project that turns rice husk ash into zeolite composites that clean pharmaceuticals, pesticides and dyes from water.

Session chairs: Roberto Boada Romero (UAB) · Massimiliano Sgroi (UNIVPM) · Daniele Caterino (UNIVPM)



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