



About us

Turkish Water Institute (**SUEN**) works to support the development of sustainable water policies and strategies at both national and global levels.

SUEN is a national think tank that contributes to the development of water policies at the national and international levels, carrying out activities in scientific research, capacity building, and strategic thinking.

What we do?

SUEN conducts scientific research and analyses to contribute to sustainable water policies; organizes national and international forums, conferences, meetings, and training programmes and actively represents Türkiye at international water events.

SUEN follows closely global developments in the water sphere, carries out activities to strengthen cooperation among national and international institutions, and collaborates with leading institutions and experts on various projects in the field of water. Through its water diplomacy efforts, **SUEN** also represents Türkiye in official (Track 1), semi-official (Track 1.5), and non-official (Track 2) meetings concerning transboundary waters and cooperation issues.



The main institutions related to water management under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry:

- Turkish Water Institute
- General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works
- General Directorate of Water Management

TURKISH WATER INSTITUTE
SUEN
TÜRKİYE SU ENSTİTÜSÜ



Our history

The outstanding success of the 5th World Water Forum (March 2009), which brought together over 30,000 participants from 192 countries, elevated Türkiye's role as a leading and influential voice in shaping water policies on a global scale. The multifaceted knowledge gained by this Forum became the basis of **SUEN**. The international communication network established, along with the expertise developed during both the 5th World Water Forum and the Istanbul International Water Forums, was subsequently transferred to **SUEN**.

Our vision

To be a leading research, education, and think tank organization in the region and in the world on water policies

Our mission

To contribute to the development of sustainable water policies and strategies through activities at both national and international levels





Every three years, the world water community meets at the ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL WATER FORUMS

The Istanbul International Water Forum (IIWF) is one of the leading international platforms focusing on the sustainable management of water, aiming to enhance knowledge sharing while developing solutions to global, regional and national water-related challenges and fostering cooperation.

Held every three years, one year prior to each World Water Forum, IIWF is hosted by Türkiye and contributes strategically to the global water agenda by bringing together the international water community in Istanbul and creating impact at a regional and global scale.

The forum brings together policy-makers, academics, public institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations and private sector representatives, providing a unique space for knowledge exchange, partnership building and policy development.



Since its inception, IIWF has played a pioneering role in advancing global dialogue on sustainable water management by bringing together experts, institutions and communities from different countries.

From past to present ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL WATER FORUMS

2009

1st Istanbul Water Forum

The Forum was organized as a preparatory meeting one month prior to the 5th World Water Forum.

2011

2nd Istanbul International Water Forum

Main Theme: An Istanbul Perspective on Regional Water Problems and Search for Solutions

2014

3rd Istanbul International Water Forum

Main Theme: Water Security and Legal Aspects of Water

2017

4th Istanbul International Water Forum

Main Theme: Water and Peace

2026

5th Istanbul International Water

Main Theme: Strengthening Water Resilience: Innovation to Action



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Through water diplomacy efforts and strategic partnerships with leading global institutions in the water sector, contributions are made to the development and shaping of international water agendas and policies.



World Water Council (WWC)

Cooperation between Türkiye and the World Water Council has steadily evolved since the 5th World Water Forum hosted by Türkiye in 2009. Building on the knowledge and experience of the Forum Secretariat, **SUEN** is now a member of WWC, with its President regularly participating in the Board of Governors meetings.

The Istanbul International Water Forum (IIWF), held every three years, aims to provide substantive inputs to the subsequent World Water Forum. Since the 5th World Water Forum, **SUEN** has actively participated in successive forums, representing Türkiye across thematic, political, and regional processes.

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)

IWRA is a multidisciplinary network of water professionals dedicated to advancing and broadening the understanding of water issues through education, research, and the exchange of knowledge across countries and disciplines. **SUEN** collaborated with IWRA in determining the theme and developing the content of the 3rd Istanbul International Water Forum. The IWRA Türkiye Chapter was established in 2025 as a regional cooperation platform to discuss sustainable solutions in the water sector and operates under the coordination of **SUEN**. Furthermore, Türkiye will host the XX World Water Congress in 2027 in cooperation with IWRA.



Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Water is a key priority on the agenda of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The OIC Ministerial Conference on Water is convened regularly to strengthen cooperation among Member States, with **SUEN** serving as the national focal point.

The first conference was held at the level of Heads of State and Government during the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in 2009. The second conference, also hosted in Istanbul in 2012, adopted the OIC Water Vision, establishing a cooperation framework for Member States.

At the third conference in 2016, also in Istanbul, key decisions were taken to operationalize the Vision, including the establishment of the OIC Water Council. Türkiye played an active role in this process under the coordination of **SUEN**. The fourth conference, held in Egypt in 2018, focused on the development of implementation plans.

Most recently, the fifth conference held in Jeddah in 2025 marked the launch of a new phase aimed at strengthening cooperation, with Türkiye continuing to play an active role in the restructured OIC Water Council for the 2025-2027 period.

SUEN also maintains close cooperation with key OIC-affiliated institutions, including the SESRIC, IsDB, INWRDAM, and COMSTECH, particularly in the organization of joint capacity-building programs and the development of collaborative projects.



Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Since September 2013, **SUEN** has been a partner of the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI), actively contributing to its activities. Bringing together over 100 partners, this multi-stakeholder technical platform facilitates the exchange of knowledge, experience, and good practices across all levels of governance. Through this network, Türkiye's water governance experience is shared internationally, while projects are developed to assess and strengthen national water management in line with water governance principles and approaches.

GLOWACON



SUEN is a founding member of the Global Consortium for Wastewater and Environmental Surveillance for Public Health (GLOWACON), established to develop an international monitoring system for the early detection, prevention, and real-time tracking of epidemic threats and outbreaks. Within this framework, **SUEN** serves as co-lead of the Capacity Development Working Group.

Blue Peace Middle East



Blue Peace Middle East is a regional cooperation initiative that promotes the use of water as a tool for collaboration, fostering trust and dialogue among countries in the region. Within this framework, **SUEN** plays an active role in shaping the initiative's strategy and activities as a member of both the Policy Advisory Committee and the Managing Committee.



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

The UfM was established at the Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Paris on 13 July 2008, with its Secretariat based in Barcelona and operational since 2010. Türkiye has been a member since its inception. Water and environment are among the key areas of work of the UfM.

Representing Türkiye, **SUEN** has been co-chairing the Water-Employment-Migration Task Force together with Italy since 2018, actively contributing to regional cooperation efforts at the intersection of water, socio-economic development, and migration.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)



Cooperation between **SUEN** and the OSCE Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) was initiated in 2024-2025 through a series of workshops focused on the water-food-energy nexus for young professionals from Central Asia, and has since expanded through training and knowledge-sharing activities.

In 2025, a joint program hosted by **SUEN** aimed at strengthening the negotiation capacities of women water and energy experts from Central Asian countries contributed to transferring **SUEN's** and Türkiye's expertise to the OSCE region. This cooperation continues to be reinforced through delegation visits to **SUEN** under OSCE project frameworks.

WAITRO



SUEN is a member of the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations (WAITRO), an independent, non-profit organization established in 1970 under the auspices of the United Nations. WAITRO brings together stakeholders in science, technology, and innovation, including research and technology organizations and research universities, on a global scale. It provides a platform for its members and partners to build networks, conduct joint scientific activities, and exchange knowledge and experience, with the aim of addressing global challenges and contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.





United Nations

SUEN maintains close cooperation with relevant United Nations entities and programmes in the fields of water management, water diplomacy, capacity development, and sustainable development. In this context, **SUEN** actively engages in joint technical work, training programmes, and international events with a range of UN bodies, notably the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UN-Water, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP).



European Commission Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC)

The European Commission Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC) provides science-based support for the development, implementation, and evaluation of EU policies. The Centre conducts applied research and delivers technical expertise in areas such as EU legislation, environmental standards, food safety, and climate change policies. **SUEN** collaborates with EC-JRC, particularly in the fields of wastewater and environmental surveillance, as well as water policies and technologies.



IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

The IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, located in Delft, the Netherlands, is the world's largest international postgraduate education centre specialising in water. The Institute conducts education, research, and capacity development activities in areas such as water engineering, water management, environment, sanitation, and governance. Within the framework of institutional cooperation, **SUEN** regularly contributes to programs, particularly those aimed at training young diplomats.



UN-Habitat GWOPA

Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance (GWOPA) under the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) is a network formed by water operators, who support capacity building to provide access to water and sanitation for all people across the globe. **SUEN** cooperates with GWOPA to develop Water Operator Partnerships (WOPs) aiming to build the capacities of water operators in its region.



TURKISH WATER INSTITUTE (SUEN)

Bridging science and policy for a **water future**

Research-driven,
evidence-based policy advisory

Partnerships through
international collaboration,
water diplomacy

Capacity-building to strengthen
water-sector expertise

National and international
water events

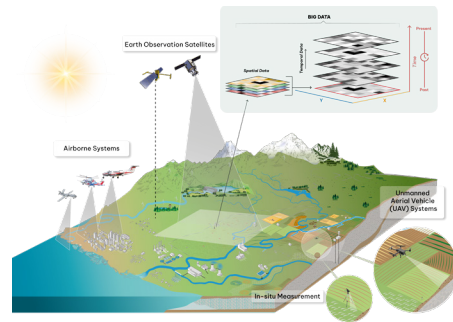


FEATURED PROJECTS

To support the development of evidence-based water policies, scientific research is undertaken, and in this context, projects are implemented on a range of issues of national and international importance.

Use of Remote Sensing Tools in Water Resources Management

Research activities are being conducted to observe water resources, particularly water quantity, using remote sensing methods. In lakes and reservoirs, these studies analyze changes in water surface area, water levels and surface evaporation losses originating from reservoirs. In rivers, they involve evaluating satellite-derived discharge against in-situ measurements.



Another important area of research focuses on agricultural activities, which account for a significant part of water consumption. In this context, studies are carried out to estimate agricultural areas within the relevant basins, the crops cultivated in these areas, and the corresponding agricultural water needs by use of satellite imagery and/or analysis-ready tools.

Evaluation of Türkiye's Water Governance Status in Light of OECD Water Governance Principles



The aim of the study is to evaluate the water governance status of Türkiye through gap analyses in the light of the OECD Water Governance Principles Indicators Framework, and to report the results of the assessments together with recommendations, best practices, etc. in accordance with the reporting criteria recommended by OECD.

Wastewater and Environmental Surveillance for Food Safety Monitoring

The use of treated wastewater for agricultural irrigation and its discharge into receiving environments (such as lakes, rivers, and seas) may pose potential risks to food safety. Within the scope of this project, the possible impacts of these practices on animal and plant health are being comprehensively monitored and assessed.

Although wastewater undergoes treatment processes, certain viruses, pathogens, and antibiotic-resistant bacteria may persist in the environment and continue to pose threats through the food chain. This study aims to go beyond conventional analytical methods by employing advanced molecular techniques to enable broader, more detailed, and higher-sensitivity monitoring.

Through environmental surveillance activities conducted in agricultural lands and in aquaculture facilities located near these areas, factors that may threaten food safety can be detected at an early stage. This will provide decision-makers with scientifically grounded evidence to develop preventive and protective measures.



Identification of Nature-based Solutions Opportunities Across Türkiye



As part of this study, a spatial analysis-based opportunity map is developed by considering Türkiye's diverse climatic regions, land characteristics, and urban features, assessing and ranking the potential of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to reduce climate risks alongside their feasibility of implementation.

The opportunity map to be produced will provide strategic guidance for decision-makers in climate change

adaptation processes by presenting, in a data-driven and visualized manner, which types of NbS are most suitable and should be prioritized in specific regions. Consequently, the study output will establish a sustainable and evidence-based planning framework, supporting the identification of priority intervention areas and policy options aimed at enhancing climate change adaptation.

Assessment of the Perception of Treated Wastewater in Agriculture



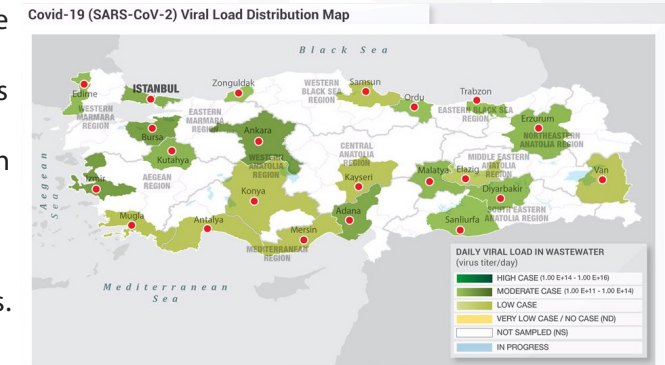
The study "Social Acceptability of the Use of Treated Domestic Wastewater in Agricultural Irrigation" was conducted in 2024-2025 to assess public perception, awareness levels, and institutional approaches to wastewater reuse in agriculture.

As one of the first comprehensive studies in Türkiye on this issue, the study surveyed 4,500 participants, including citizens, farmers, and institutional stakeholders.

Findings reveal public attitudes, acceptance levels, key concerns, and expectations regarding the use of treated wastewater in irrigation. Based on these insights, the study puts forward recommendations to support the development of sustainable, participatory, and trust-based policy and communication strategies.

Wastewater Surveillance Studies for Monitoring Viruses, Pathogens and Antimicrobial Resistance

Wastewater-based surveillance conducted in pilot provinces across all geographical regions of Türkiye provides critical data on the spatial distribution and trends of the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting evidence-based reporting and timely public health responses.



At the national level, wastewater samples collected from selected treatment plants and slaughterhouses are analyzed for multidrug-resistant ESKAPEE group bacteria and associated antimicrobial resistance genes, strengthening early warning and risk assessment capacities.

Under the "One Health" approach, the scope of surveillance is being expanded to include priority pathogens of global concern such as mpox, avian influenza, poliovirus, and influenza as well as other potential epidemic agents, alongside antimicrobial resistance monitoring.

Routine estimation of SARS-CoV-2 viral loads enables the production of regional distribution maps across Türkiye. These efforts are complemented by active engagement in international platforms, including the Global Consortium for Wastewater and Environmental Surveillance for Public Health (GLOWACON) and the World Water Council, where leadership roles are undertaken in relevant working groups and task forces.

Water4All "Water Security for the Planet"

Funded by the Horizon Europe, **SUEN** is one of the project partners of Water4All project which aims to facilitate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Green Deal objectives by supporting the development of evidence-based policies through international R&D collaborations. Spanning from 2022 to 2029, the project is implemented as part of the WATER JPI process. It aims to address global water challenges by creating joint transnational calls to develop innovative tools, ensuring the continuity of coordination and collaborations in R&D efforts, and involving new partners in WATER JPI solutions.



Blue Peace Middle East: Improving Water Use Efficiency in Agriculture

The Coordination Office of the Blue Peace initiative in the Middle East, launched to strengthen regional cooperation through water since 2009, was undertaken by **SUEN** between 2019 and 2022.

In addition to this role, **SUEN** implements the project "Disseminating Knowledge to Improve Agricultural Water Use Efficiency in the Middle East". The project focuses on promoting efficient water use in agriculture, accounting for around 80% of total water consumption in the region, by sharing solutions and best practices, supporting capacity-building efforts, and developing strategies for decision-makers across Middle East countries.

Blue Peace
MIDDLE EAST
For the Future of Our Water

Benchmarking of Water and Sewerage Administrations in Türkiye

Since 2015, periodic studies have been conducted to identify key performance indicators for water and sewerage utilities and to carry out benchmarking analyses. These studies facilitate the identification of improvement areas and the development of forward-looking strategic recommendations.



Producing Drinking Water by Purifying Dirty Water Cost-Effectively by Solar Energy



A cost-effective and simple drinking water disinfection system has been developed for least developed countries (especially Africa) that are experiencing high water stress due to climate change and growing population, where the system is tested for implementation in relevant countries.





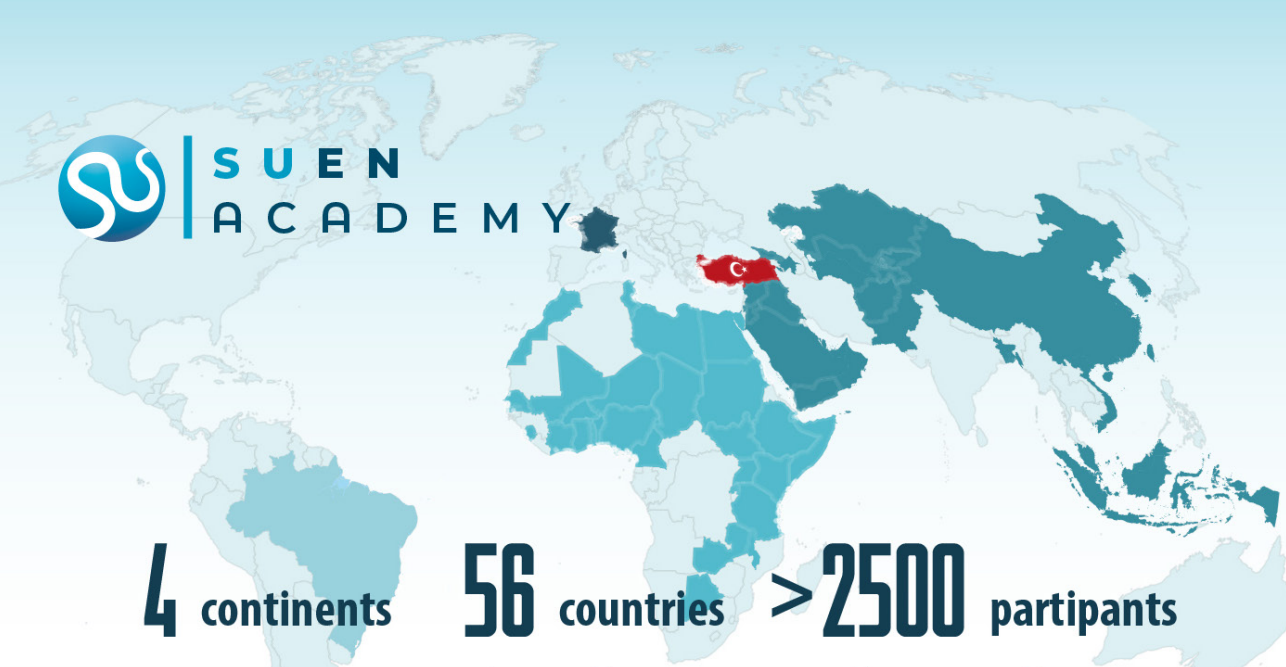
TRAINING PROGRAMS

In addition to conducting scientific research and developing strategic thinking, **SUEN**; as a national and international training center, shares Türkiye's technical knowledge and experience in water and sanitation. Since its inception, more than 2,500 participants from over 55 countries attended the capacity development programmes organized by **SUEN**.

Training programs cover the following topics:

- Water and Wastewater Engineering
- New Paradigms and Innovative Technologies in Water Management
- Water Governance and Legislation
- Transboundary Waters and Water Diplomacy
- Integrated Water Resources Management
- Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Technologies
- Hydrology and Water Quality Modelling
- Groundwater Management
- Utilization of Non-Conventional Water Resources

Trainings are delivered by experts and academics with extensive experience in these fields. The training programs are tailored to the specific needs of each group and include technical site visits. Participants who successfully complete the program are awarded with a certificate.



4 continents **56** countries **>2500** participants



**TAILOR-MADE
CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT**

**FIELD-BASED
EXPOSURE TO
PRACTICAL CASES**

**e-LEARNING
(soon)**

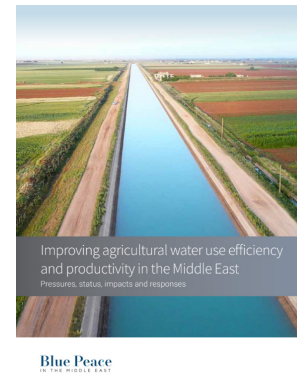
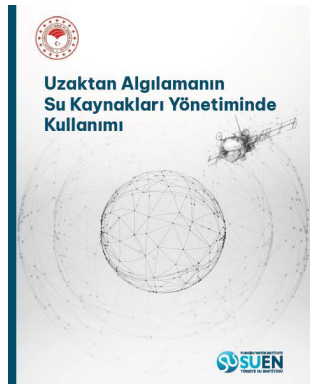
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PUBLICATIONS

SUEN prepares diverse publications in both Turkish and English by following global water agenda and developments.

All publications can be accessed at www.suen.gov.tr



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