



WATER VALLEY
DENMARK

Annual Report 2025

The course – to impact

Water Valley Denmark connects the water sector to accelerate the development of essential solutions that no single organisation can achieve alone.

As a trusted orchestrator, we bring partners together and apply strong innovation expertise to transform collaboration into real-world impact.

Water Valley Denmark was founded in August 2021 with the purpose to leverage water tech innovation and support the Danish ambitions on doubling water tech export.

The founding fathers were Grundfos, AVK, Aarsleff, Kamstrup, Systematic, Danfoss, Aarhus City, Rambøll and major Danish utilities like Aarhus Water and HOFOR and universities DTU, Aarhus University, Aalborg University & VIA University College.

The non-profit association has since grown to 65 dedicated members sharing the aim to solve the worlds wicked water challenges with collaborative innovation.

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Annual Report

In numbers



70+

Current Member Organisations

27

Collaborative Innovation Initiatives Accelerated with 750 stakeholders

36

SMEs & Startups Supported through Business Lighthouse

1

Winning Consortia with 140 core partners mobilized

€600M

Investment Potential in the EIT Water Ecosystem

Ensure Greater Impact and Value Creation

2025 has been a year of sharpening our direction and strengthening our impact. For the Board, a key priority has been to focus our efforts where we can create the greatest value across the ecosystem. At the heart of this work is our commitment to challenge-driven innovation.

This year, we have advanced two strategic initiatives: *Predictive Water Solutions* and *Water Quality & Climate-Resilient Water Solutions*. These projects reflect both the urgency and the opportunity in addressing global water challenges through collaboration, technology, and applied innovation.

A major milestone in 2025 has been the support from the Grundfos Foundation to develop the vision for *The House of Water* at Pier 3 in Aarhus. This initiative represents a bold step toward creating an international hub for water tech innovation – bringing together research, education, industry, and society in a living lab for sustainable solutions. With strong partners across sectors, we are positioning Aarhus as a European centre for water knowledge and collaboration.

We have also continued our engagement in *The Business Lighthouse for Water Technology* (Erhvervsfyrtårnet for Vandteknologi), where 68 SMEs have been supported by the partnership in advancing their innovation agendas. By bringing forward concrete challenges within product development, process optimisation, and commercialisation, these companies have gained direct access to collaboration with utilities and research institutions. This has enabled faster validation, stronger market alignment, and clearer pathways to scale – demonstrating how targeted partnerships can translate innovation into tangible business outcomes.

Internationally, we are proud that the Allwaters consortium has secured the bid for EIT Water.

In the lead-up to the bid in 2024 and 2025, Water Valley Denmark further strengthened its role by joining forces with Aarhus University and the Grundfos Foundation to secure strong Danish participation in this major European initiative.

As a result, Water Valley Denmark has been appointed host of the Co-Location Centre (CLC) North, commencing in the start-up year 2026.

In this role, we will serve as a key anchor for the Nordic EIT Water community – ensuring that regional strengths, capabilities, and insights are actively integrated into the broader European innovation agenda. This positions Denmark and the Nordic region at the forefront of shaping impactful, collaborative solutions to global water challenges.

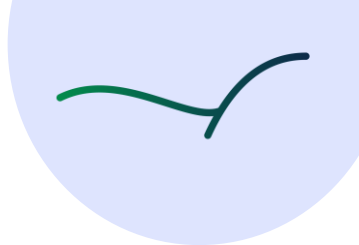
As an organisation, we have continued to grow our ecosystem in 2025 – welcoming new members and strengthening partnerships across academia, industry, and the public sector.

2025 has also marked a leadership transition. We extend our sincere thanks to former CEO Ulla Sparre for her dedication and contributions. From 2026, under the leadership of Janne Skou Pedersen, Water Valley Denmark continues its journey with a clear ambition: *The course – to impact*.

Together, we remain committed to turning collaboration into action and innovation into lasting impact.

Flemming Besenbacher
Chair of the Board

Janne Skou Pedersen
CEO



Vision and Strategic Focus Areas



PURPOSE
The course – to impact

VISION

Accelerate global green growth by establishing one of the world's strongest platforms for water innovation

TARGETS

Contribute to a CO2 and climate neutral water sector

Innovate and demonstrate the worlds most sustainable and efficient water cycle

Enabling the ambition of doubling Danish export of water technology from 20 to 40 DKK billion by 2030

FOCUS



RESEARCH

Support water research through funding and summer school
Attract talent to the water sector



INCUBATION & ACCELERATION

Technology scouting and startup development
Leveraging a strong mentor network
Attract scaleups and investors



OPEN INNOVATION

Facilitate larger open water innovation projects
Demonstration and test by developing Living Labs



INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES

Engage in international partnerships and challenges



PHYSICAL EPICENTER

Support and facilitate the plans for a national physical innovation hub located in Aarhus



Efficient non-profit membership organization
Open innovation collaboration
Active communication of Danish Innovation Strongholds

Projects and Activities

Challenge Driven Innovation

With the Aim to Build the World's Most Sustainable and Efficient Water Cycle

At Water Valley Denmark, we believe that the world's water challenges cannot be solved in silos. That is why we embrace **(open) innovation** – bringing together utilities, companies, researchers, and public institutions to co-create solutions across sectors and disciplines.

The world's water challenges require innovative solutions to ensure clean drinking water, efficient wastewater management, sustainable use of water resources and livable societies.

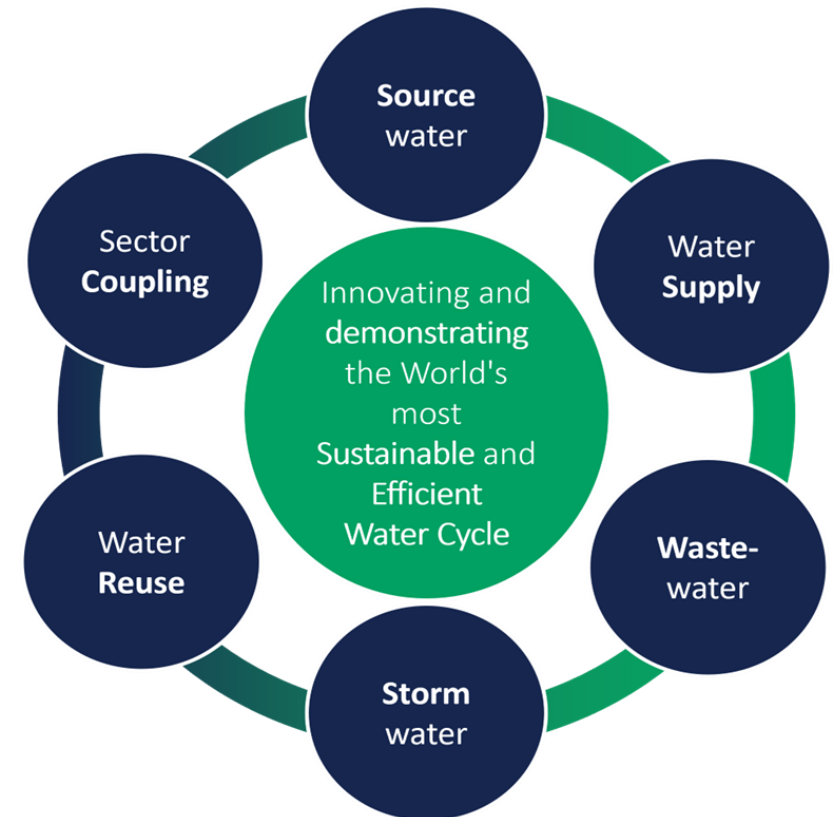
Open innovation accelerates development, while challenge-driven collaboration ensures that what we create truly makes a difference.

By working **challenge-driven**, we start with real needs – whether it's reducing water loss, managing stormwater, or improving digital infrastructure – and invite the best minds to solve them. This approach ensures that innovation is both targeted and impactful, turning Denmark into a living lab for scalable, real-world solutions.

The challenges are defined by our partners and members, with the board securing the strategic focus within our shared mission to innovate and demonstrate the world's most sustainable and efficient water cycle.

The Water Valley Denmark Board set the strategic direction in 2024 by prioritising two key challenges with both societal and commercial relevance: Predictive Water Supply & Water Quality, and Climate-Resilient Water Solutions, to support the consolidation of innovation and demonstration partnership projects.

Please learn more about 2025 strategic challenges on the next pages.



Challenges 2025:

Predictive Water Solutions & Water Quality

Today, drinking water distribution is largely reactive -based on consumption patterns, yet **water utilities face increasing demands to optimize energy use, reduce water loss, ensure high water quality, and maintain a secure and resilient supply system, including cybersecurity.** To meet these demands, utilities need real-time control systems based on sensor data, algorithms, and monitoring.

With the EU Water Framework Directive set to introduce stricter requirements for reducing water loss, utilities with high leakage rates will face significant challenges – creating a strong business opportunity across the EU and the Nordic region. Although utilities in Denmark and internationally generate large volumes of data, the full value of this data remains untapped.

At the same time, **international attention to water quality is growing.** Insights in persistent pollutants, breakdown products and bacterial growth have improved over time, and there is a need for detection and monitoring capabilities within distribution networks. This calls for the development of water quality sensors that can support system monitoring and control, like current pressure and leakage management technologies.

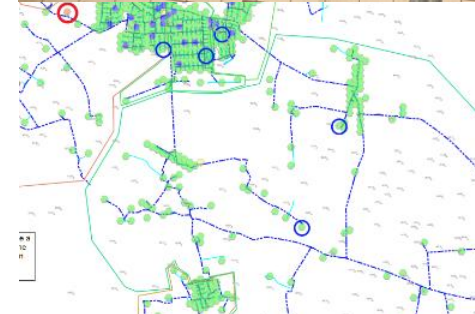
The challenge presents the possibility to establish an international cooperation on demonstration and extended development of Water Living Labs.

The innovation ideation process started in late 2024 with our partners AVK and Kamstrup as challenge leads and in 2025 specific challenges and potential use cases were developed together with utility members.

In March 2025, we invited our members to engage in the challenge at Water Innovators Day on Water Quality, held at Kamstrup.

In September 2025, the partners, Aarhus Vand & Herning Vand started developing the scope for Integrated pressure management test-project as the first step. The test project addresses proactive pressure management and the value of utilizing data from valves, pumps, and sensors across platforms for stabilizing and lowering pressure, leading to documented energy savings, water loss reduction and less stress on pipes and equipment.

The test area will serve as a strong showcase for international collaboration.



Challenges 2025:

Climate Resilient Water Solutions

Flooding and combined sewer overflows pose significant risks, with high costs tied to damage recovery and restoration. Extreme and often unpredictable weather events result in large volumes of water being displaced rapidly across urban systems.

Aging and failing infrastructure is among the top five risks identified by utilities. Today's water systems are under pressure from all sides, intense rainfall, rising groundwater levels, surface runoff, and sea level rise, driving the need for improved water forecasting and early warning systems. Challenges that are addressed together with security and crisis preparedness in the EU Water Resilient Strategy.

Much of today's infrastructure is still designed with outdated assumptions, creating a major opportunity for innovation in how we design, build, and manage water infrastructure.

With the challenge-driven process we are co-creating new solutions and developing flagship test and demonstration facilities.

A very relevant potential lies in establishing urban harbour living labs and collaborate on learnings from more national labs.

The EIT Water programs have the potential to become a valuable innovation driver, with programs set to launch in 2026 & 2027.

We are exploring areas with concrete challenges as testing sites within two project scopes:

- Robustness and data-driven resilience
- Water Resilient cities and infrastructures

This creates opportunities for solutions, such as:

- Early warning systems, real-time modelling, and control
- Sensor technology for asset condition monitoring and O&M software
- Innovative infrastructure design
- New low-carbon construction materials
- Nature-based solutions

The innovation process, led by Aarsleff, AVK, and Danfoss in collaboration with Grundfos, Kamstrup, and Systematic, was launched in fall 2025 and opened to our members at Water Innovators Day in November.



House of Water

Developing a World Leading Ecosystem on Water Innovation and Technology in Aarhus

The House of Water is a **bold initiative set to anchor the future development of Pier 3 in Aarhus**. The initiative is supported by a donation from the Grundfos Foundation, awarded to Water Valley Denmark in April 2025, enabling the development of the House of Water.

While closely linked to and hosting the European EIT Water initiative and Co-Location Center North, the primary focus is to establish a strong local foundation for an international hub that brings together partners across research, industry and society to advance water innovation.

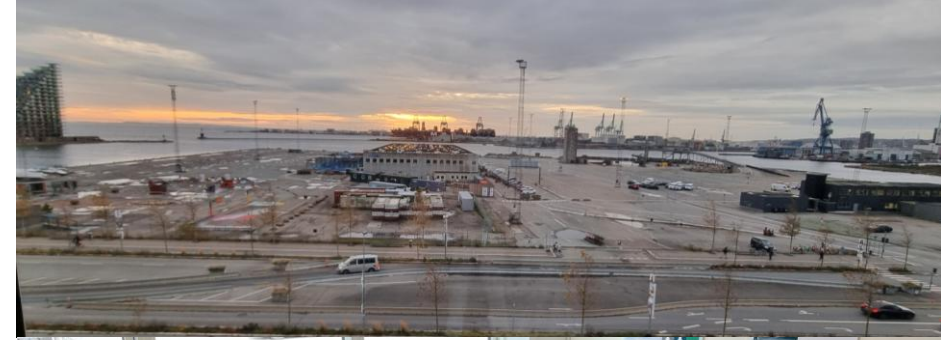
Together with leading partners, the initiative aims to strengthen Aarhus' role as a European centre for water innovation while addressing urgent global challenges such as water scarcity, climate change and biodiversity loss.

The House of Water is the water heart of Pier 3, connecting the district's water attractions as well as solution showcases. The land development corporation, approved in the city council in December 2025, has set a visionary purpose for the area to reduce climate impact and even implement regenerative mechanisms. In 2026 the process of defining a water strategy to set ambitious targets on water efficiency for the area and the House of Water will take place.

Beyond the House of Water, Pier 3 will serve as a **large-scale demonstration area where innovative water solutions are integrated directly into urban development**. This includes technologies for water reuse, digital monitoring, climate adaptation and circular resource use in buildings and public spaces.

With foundation support secured, work is underway to establish a strong operational model, develop partnerships and define the concept design in close alignment with the broader Pier 3 development. We have engaged our members in initial dialogues and continue with closer engagement in the development in 2026.

As the new waterfront district evolves, the House of Water will be vibrant and functional – attracting researchers, companies and international partners, and helping to position Aarhus at the forefront of future water solutions.



Business Lighthouse for Water Tech

Accelerating Water Technology as a Danish Stronghold

The Danish Business Lighthouse for Water Technology is a national initiative that brings together key actors across the water value chain to accelerate innovation, strengthen collaboration, and contribute to sustainable growth in the Danish water sector.

In 2025, Water Valley Denmark contributed to this agenda through both innovation and workforce-related activities. Through Water Valley Innovation, 36 SMEs and startups have participated in a total of 69 innovation tracks. The value created through these tracks has been broad, ranging from product and process innovation to organisational and marketing innovation, demonstrating the programme's ability to support not only technology development, but also the wider conditions needed for companies to grow and succeed.

Water Valley Denmark also contributed to Water Wise Workforce - An Attractive Water Sector, with a particular focus on

communicating findings related to international talent in the Danish water sector. As Denmark is facing increasing labour shortages and the effects of an ageing workforce, attracting and retaining new talent is becoming a strategic priority for the sector. This included an article published on State of Green, highlighting both the sector's interest in international talent and the need for clearer pathways between international students and Danish water companies.

Water Valley Innovation, Erhvervsfyrårn for Vandteknologi is supported by the EU and the Danish Board of Business Development. As a joint initiative key-partners include Water Valley Denmark, CLEAN, Erhvervshus Midtjylland, and Klimatorium.



EIT WATER

Meet the winning consortium



EIT Water

Positioning Danish Actors at the Centre of European Water Innovation

In November 2025, the **Allwaters consortium was selected by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) to establish EIT Water** – with its headquarters to be based in Denmark. The selection followed a highly competitive European process and positions Denmark at the centre of one of Europe’s most significant long-term investments in water innovation.

A defining element of the winning bid was its **ecosystem-driven approach**, building on existing strengths across Europe. Water Valley Denmark played a central role in activating this approach in a Danish and Nordic context.

Through engagement across working groups, steering structures, and partner mobilisation, Water Valley Denmark contributed to shaping the Allwaters proposal and ensuring strong Danish positioning.

Water Valley Denmark contributed by:

- Mobilising and recruiting Danish core and affiliated partners, ensuring strong national representation
- Designing and facilitating workshops and strategic dialogues, engaging partners in shaping key elements of the Allwaters proposal, including priorities and overall structure
- Convening Danish and Nordic partners at key moments – including an Allwaters gathering during World Water Week in Stockholm & in Allwaters working groups – to strengthen relationships and align contributions

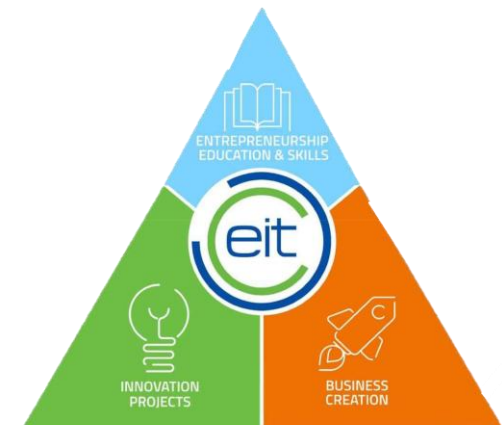


- Participating in Danish and European steering groups, ensuring alignment with the overall European strategy

This work ensures that **Danish actors – including our members and partners – are well positioned to engage in upcoming open calls, partnerships, and innovation activities.**

In recognition of this role, Water Valley Denmark was selected in 2025 as **interim host for Co-Location Centre (CLC) North**, giving Water Valley Denmark a central role in both the continued strategic development and operational build-up of EIT Water in the Nordic region.

In 2026, the focus shifts to the SUGA year, where we will support operationalisation and activation of the first EIT Water activities.



Water4All

Strengthening European Collaboration and Innovation through Water-Oriented Living Labs

Water4All – Partnership for Water Security

is a European co-funded partnership under Horizon Europe that aims to boost systemic and long-term water research and innovation. Its goal is to ensure water security for all uses – people, environment, and economy – through resilient water systems and policies.

Why it matters for Water Valley Denmark

Participation in Water4All strengthens Denmark's role in shaping the European water agenda, fosters collaboration with leading international partners, and opens access to research funding and strategic partnerships. For Water Valley Denmark, it is a unique opportunity to align innovation efforts with EU priorities, showcase Danish solutions globally, and accelerate the development and scaling of water technologies.

Transfer of the National Delegate role

In 2025, Water Valley Denmark took on the National Delegate role in Water4All. This marks an important strengthening of our position in the partnership and gives us a more central role in coordinating Danish engagement, sharing knowledge across

into the continued European collaboration.

Partner trip to Banyuls-sur-Mer, France

A key highlight of 2025 was the partner trip to Banyuls-sur-Mer, France, where Water Valley Denmark joined European partners in the Water4All framework. The trip provided valuable insight into Water-Oriented Living Labs in practice and created a strong setting for knowledge exchange, inspiration, and relationship-building across countries and organisations.

Phase 3 commitment

In 2025, Water4All also received commitment for Phase 3. This is an important milestone that ensures continuity in the partnership and creates a strong foundation for continuing work on living labs, capacity building, and international collaboration in the years ahead.

Besides *Water Valley Denmark*, the Danish partners include *GEUS, DTU Sustain, Innovationsfonden, Danmarks Miljøportal, and CLEAN.*





International Water Summer School

Leveraging Competencies and Showcasing Danish Solutions

The Advanced Water Cycle Management Course (AWCMC) is organized by Aarhus University Centre for Water Technology in partnership with leading Danish water professionals. It offers the participants essential training in groundwater mapping, SMART water management, and sustainable wastewater treatment. The course provides insights into turning wastewater into an energy resource, minimizing water loss, and understanding digital water solutions.

The course also fosters direct collaboration with Danish technology providers and engineering firms, promotes global networking, and supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation. The participants gain a strong foundation for careers in water management while contributing to global water challenges. We see the students as *global water ambassadors* and several has been hired by Danish companies to work in

export markets after attending the course.

In the 2025 course **12 countries** were represented at a full course of **45 participants**.

Around half of the students are recruited by Danida Fellowship Centre, who offers learning opportunities to partners in Danida financed development cooperation in developing and growth countries. The evaluations shows high satisfaction on both the technical program, company visits and social networking.

Water Valley Denmark is a strong contributor and promoter of the Water Summer School in close collaboration with the partnership that consist of *AVK, Kamstrup, Aarhus Vand, Grundfos, IGIS, DHI, NIRAS, CLEAN, Aarhus University, and WATEC Centre for Water Technology.*

From Startup Support to Investment-Ready WaterTech

In 2025, Water Valley Denmark continued to strengthen its role in supporting water technology startups – with a clear focus on progressing companies from early-stage development towards market and investor readiness.

Through the **WVDK Mentor Network**, which counts 36 mentors from industry, utilities, and academia, WVDK provided targeted guidance on commercialization, product-market fit and go-to-market strategy.

As part of this effort, WVDK led the WaterTech mentoring track under Clean’s **Beyond Beta** program, supporting **5 startups** through a structured mentoring and pitch process. The program provided targeted feedback from industry and corporate stakeholders and contributed to strengthening the startups’ commercial focus and readiness for market and investor dialogue.

In parallel, WVDK continued its technology scouting efforts, engaging with innovation environments and accelerators to identify promising solutions and connect them with relevant partners.

Building on this foundation, WVDK played a central role in connecting startups with

investors through *Tech Tour Water Tech*, mobilizing both the Danish and international ecosystem. Nine water experts from utilities, industry and universities were engaged through WVDK’s network, contributing to selection, mentoring, and evaluation processes.

WVDK also contributed to shaping future investment capacity through its involvement in **EIT Water (Allwaters)**, supporting the foundation for European-scale innovation and investment in the water sector.

By linking technology scouting, mentoring, and investor engagement, WVDK contributes to **strengthening the pathway from innovation to investment and real-world implementation.**



Members & Organisation

A nonprofit innovation alliance of funding partners and members

PARTNERS



MEMBERS

Utilities



Knowledge & Research



Consultancies



Companies



Associated



The Board 2025



F. Besenbacher
Chair
aarhusvand



S. Kvorning
CEO
kamstrup



U. Gernow
COO




J. Jacobsen
CEO




N. A. Kjær
Owner




H. Søltoft
Deputy Director




M. Østergaard
City Director




T. Danielsen
Global Lead Water




Anders Goul Nielsen
Group Senior VP




K. Stjernholm
CEO




E. Holm Nielsen
Dean




H. K. Andersen
Head of Secretariat




M. Ramlau Hansen
Chair of DI Vand


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Water Living Labs
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Acceleration and mentor
network
Innovation facilitation
EIT Water

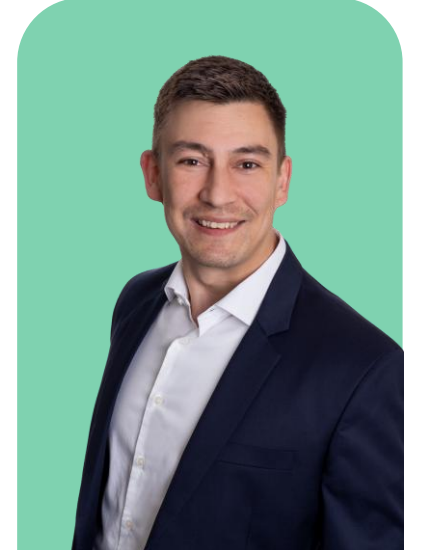


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Member Service
Communication
Administration
EIT Water



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Global Innovation
International collaboration
Partnerships
Water4All

Financial Figures

Financial and operational key figures - Result



Income statement for the period January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025

Result	2025 DKK	2024 DKK
Revenue		
Membership fees	3,697,000	3,831,000
Project revenues	2,934,154	2,883,027
Other revenues	500	4,504
Total Revenue	6,829,974	6,718,531
Expenses		
Meetings and travel etc.	(196,371)	(589,243)
Marketing and communication	(265,537)	(40,194)
Project cost	(1,279,984)	(10,117)
Personnel costs	(4,120,249)	(4,745,087)
Premises expenses	(260,941)	(101,101)
Administrative expenses	(420,347)	(1,119,019)
Membership fees and other contributions	(12,528)	(9,186)
Total expenses	(6,555,957)	(6,613,947)
Result of association operations	274,017	104,584
Total Financial Items	0	(711)
Result before taxes	274,017	103,873
	0	0
Annual Result	274,017	103,873
Proposal for allocation of results:		
Transferred to Water Valley Innovation	251,924	0
Allocated to equity	22,093	103,873
Total profit allocation	274,017	103,873



The positive result for the period of 274 thousand DKK is allocated, and the amount is transferred to the association's equity to support the association's purpose and activities according to the bylaws

Financial and operational key figures - Balance

Assets			
Note		2025 DKK	2024 DKK
	Financial Assets		
	Deposit	54,694	
	Total Financial Assets	54,964	
	Accounts Receivable		
	Debtors control account	0	320,211
	DI	1,155,461	812,284
	VAT	406,344	
	Receivables, projects	1,679,380	1.790.850
	Accruals	37,217	47.060
	Other receivables	0	0
	Total Receivables	3,278,402	2,970,405
	Total Current Assets	3,278,402	2,970,405
	Total Assets	3,278,402	2,970,405

Liabilities			
Note		2025 DKK	2024 DKK
	Equity		
	Balance January 1	2,673,011	2,569,138
	Annual Result	22,093	103,873
	Submission to Water Valley Innovation	251,924	0
	Total Equity	2,947,028	2,673,011
	Short-term liabilities		
	Creditors Control Account	273,972	92,563
	Other Liabilities	112,096	204,831
	Total Short-term Liabilities	386,068	297,394
	Total Liabilities	3,333,096	2,970,405

The entire financial statement can be found [here](#)

The course – to impact



WATER VALLEY
DENMARK

Water Valley Denmark unites the Danish water industry to catalyze innovation that benefits society and business.

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