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2020 Sustainability Report



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Versare means to turn, to change, to go around. The prefix con tells us that we have to do it together. So, to converse implies the existence of a group of people who exchange words and questions, who seek answers and decide together which direction to take.

At a time when monologues prevail, Aqualia is committed to talking and pooling knowledge and opinions that will enable us to build bridges between everyone.

Would you like to join in the conversation?

Words enable us to understand each other,

to enable life to flow like water.

After listening to us, it is time to converse.

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# "Our experience and results guarantee our ability to respond to the demands of citizens and authorities and ensure that water is not a problem anywhere in the world"

During the most difficult period of lockdown, Aqualia's employees set an example of dedication and vocation to service to ensure that we always had water at home. Whether being exposed to the virus on the front line or working remotely from their homes, they completed the essential mission of guaranteeing water and sanitation as essential goods and services. Among the many lessons learned, the pandemic confirmed for us that, in order for us to be healthy, we also need a planet that is healthy, and we are all responsible for making this happen. At Aqualia, listening to the environment is always at the forefront, thereby ensuring fluid conversation with society and allowing us to share what we learn as we travel together along the path heading to the future.







# The pandemic established the agenda for the whole of society in 2020. What were the main challenges for Aqualia in this scenario?

The situation tested our ability to react and adapt. Right from the very beginning, the company's main concern was to ensure that the water supply and sanitation service was available to all citizens in all municipalities, while at the same time ensuring the health and safety of our employees. We have also remained at the disposal of the authorities and public administrations to help contribute to detecting the virus in wastewater. Our employees have always shown that they are highly dedicated to public service; and today we can say that, thanks to this spirit of public service, we have managed to respond to the problems that have arisen within our scope of action due to one of the greatest challenges that humanity has ever faced.

The challenges we took on were very significant. One example of these challenges was being able to launch the service in thirteen municipalities in Colombia, in the midst of a pandemic, where we were already providing service to over 450,000 inhabitants. The start-up was completed remotely for the very first time, with a team of professionals in lockdown in Spain, Panama, the United States and Colombia who provided support to 450 local employees. Their work is proof of the resilience of both the company and its members. It also clearly showed that the digital transformation plays a key role in water management.

How can we combine this new reality, marked by the challenges created by the coronavirus, with the long-term strategy and purpose linked to sustainability that you had already outlined?

Aqualia seeks to provide environmental, social and financial solutions that are feasible and acceptable, and it strives to provide high-quality service in all phases of the end-to-end water cycle, while preserving water resources and the environment and improving management efficiency. We do this according to the four cornerstones on which our strategy is based: international growth, financial profitability, the integration of all areas in the value chain and the sustainability of our business model. 2020 highlighted the importance of protecting the environment as a key factor in the health of the planet and its inhabitants. It has been shown that degradation of the ecosystem is a catalyst for the spread of viruses that cause pandemics like the one we are experiencing today.

Despite the difficulties caused by COVID-19, we are working on more than twenty R&D&i projects related to the transformation of waste into resources, the circularity of water and carbon neutrality. A good example of this is the H2020 Mides project, which has developed a unique desalination system in the world that has no energy cost, given that it is supplied by its own energy coming from wastewater treatment. Or the *Life Metamorphosis* project, which can reduce energy demand by up to 73% and the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with the process by 80%.

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The company's strategy and purpose have, for years, been guided by a master plan called the 2030 Agenda. In 2020, the Strategic Plan followed the foundations of ESG. Why did you decide to adopt them? How is Aqualia preparing to respond to the demands of society while at the same time responding to those of its shareholders?

Although Aqualia's global outlook points to 2030, our long-term plans are compatible with specific shortand medium-term objectives that will enable us to measure the impact of our actions. The 2021-2023 Strategic Sustainability Plan, on which we have been working intensively this year, is based on adapting to and minimising climate change, on culture and the well-being of people, on ethics and on social impact. The plan also advocates promoting technology for integrated management, communication and strategic alliances as areas that promote change and the transition to sustainability. The implementation of this plan represents a milestone for the company, given that it defines projects, actions and performance indicators that allow measuring Aqualia's contribution to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals in each of these lines of work. Today the traceability that this plan provides is more necessary than ever, not only to measure our progress and be accountable to the Board of Directors, but also to respond to society's demands and be able to continuously improve.

The approval of the 2021-2023 Strategic Sustainability Plan is a milestone that will allow us to chart and measure our contribution to achieving the SDGs"

2020 was a very complicated year, in which we had to address the health emergency without neglecting the climate emergency, about which citizens and institutions are so concerned. Clearly this trend of concern for the environment is globally unavoidable, with numerous examples to choose from, including the sustainability criteria for aid for European reconstruction and the Climate Change Law. It is imperative that we adapt to the effects of climate change, as well as prepare the economy for the challenges we will face in upcoming years. With the promotion of green financing and other instruments that will facilitate the transition to the new system, Aqualia is committed to accelerating this unstoppable and necessary transformation.

Responding to water scarcity while meeting the growing demand for supply and sanitation, fighting the climate emergency, reducing our water and carbon footprint... What are the company's biggest challenges when it comes to meeting environmental goals?

Speeches on sustainability often focus on reducing emissions. Clearly, decarbonisation is essential, but there will be no Green Deal without a Blue Deal: without responsible management of the water cycle. Becoming more sustainable is a major long-term challenge, and at Aqualia every day we are taking steps towards that ultimate goal, working on the management of more than five thousand installations (water treatment plants, desalination plants, tanks, pumping stations, treatment plants). The experience gained from many years of work shows that public-private collaboration is the best option for responding to the growing demand, not only for the supply of water and improved quality, but also for the sanitation service. It is a question of reaching major goals, such as 100% circularity of water, efficiency and investment in high-performance infrastructures, or the implementation of technology for smart cities applied to the water cycle.

When Aqualia works in coordination with public administrations, the results are excellent. The Balearic Islands are a clear example of this. We installed a new surveillance and remote control system for the high-pressure drinking water distribution network on the island of Ibiza. The system monitors the interconnection of the three desalination plants, and it has allowed us to optimise operations and considerably increase the performance of the networks, while reducing the breakdown rate by half, improving efficiency and helping to combat water scarcity.



We have the duty to
take advantage of all the
possibilities that technology
offers in order to improve the
service we provide to citizens"

The coronavirus has shown the interdependence of human beings and the importance of caring for and reinforcing the common good, which we also do through our work. What have you learned from employees and suppliers during these months?

A large part of the Aqualia workforce worked on the front line during the toughest months of the pandemic. At the beginning of lockdown, water supply and wastewater sanitation services were deemed to be essential services in order to guarantee suitable levels of health and hygiene. We are very proud of the recognition we received from the population, which valued our work very highly, and from various entities such as iAgua, which in 2020 awarded us with the Best Company prize.

Despite the circumstances, our hard work to ensure the well-being of our employees was successful. The *Be Aqualia* plan, which encompasses our entire HR policy, was reinforced during these months through various significant actions. We should point out, for example, the renewal of our certificate as a Family Responsible Company. The pandemic and telecommuting tested not only the measures implemented to achieve worklife balance – 86% of our employees think that positive steps have been taken over the last three years in this regard – but also the fluidity of our communication channels with users and employees. We are people who take care of people, and our employees have proved this.

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# How do you continue to build a company that you are proud of, while also making it increasingly inclusive and diverse?

It is essential to listen to your employees, while at the same time facilitating fluid conversation between everyone, where empathy is the common denominator, not only with employees but also with customers and suppliers. To achieve this, Aqualia gives top priority to assessing the degree of satisfaction of employees and customers through participatory listening. The surveys conducted revealed that a high percentage of end customers and institutional customers are satisfied with the service provided: 81.4% and 83.3% in Spain, respectively, and over 88% in other countries (such as France and Portugal).

In view of the exceptional circumstances experienced in recent months, it is also necessary to highlight the role that the business sector can play in building fairer societies where no one is left behind. With this in mind and within its field of action, Aqualia is working with municipalities so that anyone who needs access to water, has it: In 2020 we maintained almost 200,000 beneficiary contracts, through tariffs, vouchers and subsidies, in Spain and internationally.

### Communicating the desire to improve is one of the gestures that citizens value the most when it comes to believing in the honesty of a company. What aspects would Aqualia like to improve?

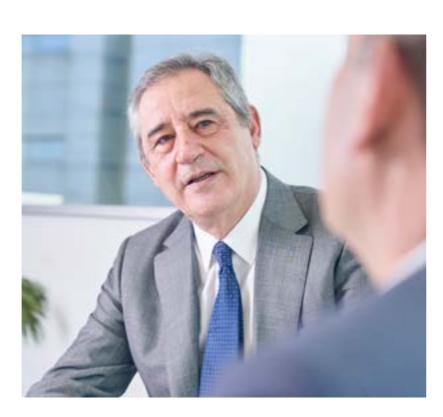
Surveys show that our customers highly value our work, but also that there is room for improvement, and we need to work on this. We try to be honest without ceasing to be demanding, and the results obtained show us the areas in which we need to work the most. We are especially proud of the fact that our staff services office has the highest percentage of satisfaction (85.2%), and we are also proud of the high rating given to the Aqualia contact channel (97%). In a year in which remote service played a leading role, our app was used by 27% more users.

As we work to raise these percentages, we are also listening to other stakeholders and suppliers. According to the latest *Global Water Intelligence (GWI)* ranking, we are the fourth-largest water management company in Europe and the ninth in the world by population served, providing service to almost 30 million people in

17 countries. These data endorse our ability to respond to the demands of governments anywhere in the world. Our presence at the conference table is necessary to be able to provide solutions where public administrations, due to their own idiosyncrasies, are unable to reach decisions with the agility demanded by citizens.

The pandemic has accelerated the digital transformation in all sectors, including yours. Smart cities, data analysis and processing, etc.: Aqualia had already integrated this technology into its strategy. What are the main objectives as far as the digital transformation is concerned?

Technology offers new opportunities to improve services for citizens and strengthen all our action guidelines. During the 2020 business year we modified our digital transformation programme and redirected our priorities. As an example, we ventured heavily on developing and deploying the *Water Analytics (WA)* tool to manage water more intelligently in cities and thus reduce the water footprint, and we implemented systems that optimise meter reading times. Regarding this point alone, during the last business year we invested close to two million euros in the development of technological tools.



# Thanks to our employees' dedication to public service, we managed to rise to the occasion in a very difficult year"

Your company is working with other large entities to develop projects that, within the end-to-end water cycle, are driving the company towards the goal of being carbon neutral by 2050, as well as achieving 100% water circularity, among other measures. Where do you see the greatest technological transfer? What projects represent the greatest response to the challenges facing the 2030 Agenda and citizens?

Aqualia is a promoter of global health, given that guaranteeing access to water and sanitation reduces disease, increases life expectancy and improves health indicators, especially in those countries and areas that are most vulnerable. The great challenge is also to ensure that Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) become true biofactories and actively contribute in the fight against the climate emergency. This is why we value wastewater as a raw material, and we are consequently developing lines of research to recover materials, transform waste and convert organic matter into by-products that can have a new life.

There has been significant technological transfer in all these processes. Years of research have brought truly enriching results, and Aqualia is working to include them in the proposals we make to public administrations. As a whole, all this work is an important asset that we can place at the service of citizens and that enables society as a whole to advance towards the common goal established in the 2030 Agenda.

We are well into the Decade of Action. Beyond the laws and requirements demanded by public administrations, Aqualia is undertaking great work that has a social impact and involves social commitment. What are your main ambitions?

The decade is beginning now, but Aqualia has already been taking action for a number of years. The road we are taking requires the commitment of workers, who have shown in recent months that they are committed, and of citizens, who have placed their trust in us, but our business activity also depends on the willingness of institutions. As an example, since July 2018 Spain has paid a European Commission sanction of 10 million euros every six months for non-compliance with Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban wastewater treatment. Aqualia, which is responsible for managing over 800 treatment plants, could help solve this problem and avoid those fines, as well as contribute more to the health of the environment. We are all in service to the same society and need to care for the health of the same planet, and we should all be a part of the same conversation. This is just one example: contributing to building a more solid and efficient social infrastructure that is adapted to the needs of citizens is a global task. It is a titanic challenge, but Agualia has the determination and the ability to respond.

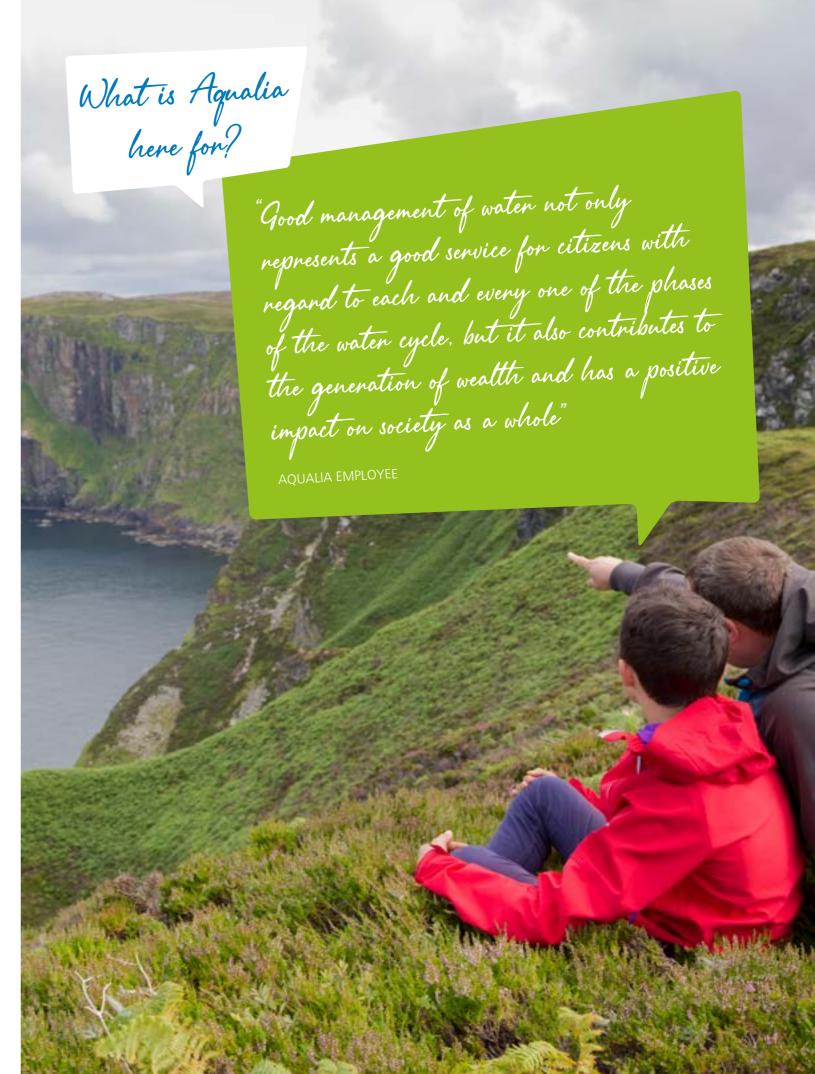
# Aqualia's horizon

Business Model and Strategic Outlook

Value creation, the best starting point

Water circularity and management of the endto-end cycle 2020 growth in numbers What the pandemic could not stop: Key milestones in 2020 and the response to COVID-19 Aqualia's presence in Spain and in the world

It is in the middle of a storm when sailors show that they know how to sail. As a benchmark entity that guarantees access to water, the pandemic reinforced Aqualia's commitment to guaranteeing efficient, sustainable and fair management everywhere on the planet.



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# **Our identity: Business Model and Strategic Outlook**

Aqualia collaborates with Public Administrations, city councils and municipalities to guarantee access to water in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Aqualia is one of the main international specialist operators seeking efficient answers and solutions to the different countries' needs with regard to water supply, sanitation and purification.

Wherever it is present, the company improves access to water and sanitation and optimises this scarce resource, contributing technical solutions and providing high-quality services in all phases of the end-to-end water cycle.



**Improving** the welfare of people and the communities in which it operates

Preservation of water resources and the environment

More efficient management

Aqualia's business model focuses on the management of its activity in specific geographical areas, where its actions are always guided by the objective of sustained and sustainable growth. To achieve this, the company's criteria are the achievement of reasonable profitability and the integration of all its capabilities in all areas of the water cycle value chain.

This is what makes Aqualia a benchmark company that collaborates with Public Administrations, city councils and municipalities to guarantee access to water, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals established by the UN and with the existing legal frameworks in each geographical area.

To meet its commitment to society, the organisation is fully integrated into the different regions where it operates, endorsing the unique characteristics and needs of the communities that inhabit them. Aqualia encourages people around it to be better informed and aware of environmental and social problems relating to water management.

Whether through educational tools, by promoting sports or supporting organisations that defend causes within its sphere of influence, Aqualia acts as a transforming agent, always with an eye towards improving the quality of life for each community where it has a presence.

### Main collaborators in the end-to-end management of the water cycle

Municipalities **Municipal associations**  Regions

Communities

Governments

These should guarantee

universal access to water

Aqualia collaborates to provide this public service with full satisfaction







### Municipal concessions for the management of the end-to-end water cycle public service

Agualia's main activity is to ensure access to water through the management of public services such as abstraction, treatment, purification, distribution, sanitation and purification, as well as analysing the quality of the water.



### Infrastructure concessions in BOT model contracts1

Aqualia designs, builds, finances and operates long-term infrastructures, treatment plants (purification, filtration and desalination) or re-use installations.



### **O&M** services

The company operates, maintains and exploits infrastructures.



### **EPC Models**

Agualia creates design and construction projects (Engineering, Procurement and Construction).



### **Geographical areas**

Agualia focusses on certain geographical territories to avoid dispersion and to take advantage of synergies in:

### **Europe**

Especially in municipal concessions, by maintaining high rates of renewal of their contracts and by taking advantage of opportunities that may appear both in organic growth and in acquisitions that contribute value.

### Latin America (LATAM)

By consolidating long-term contracts for both municipal concessions and infrastructure concessions as well as iconic design and construction projects.

### Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

By developing a consolidated position in infrastructure concession and O&M contracts with high added value.



### Main strategic axes

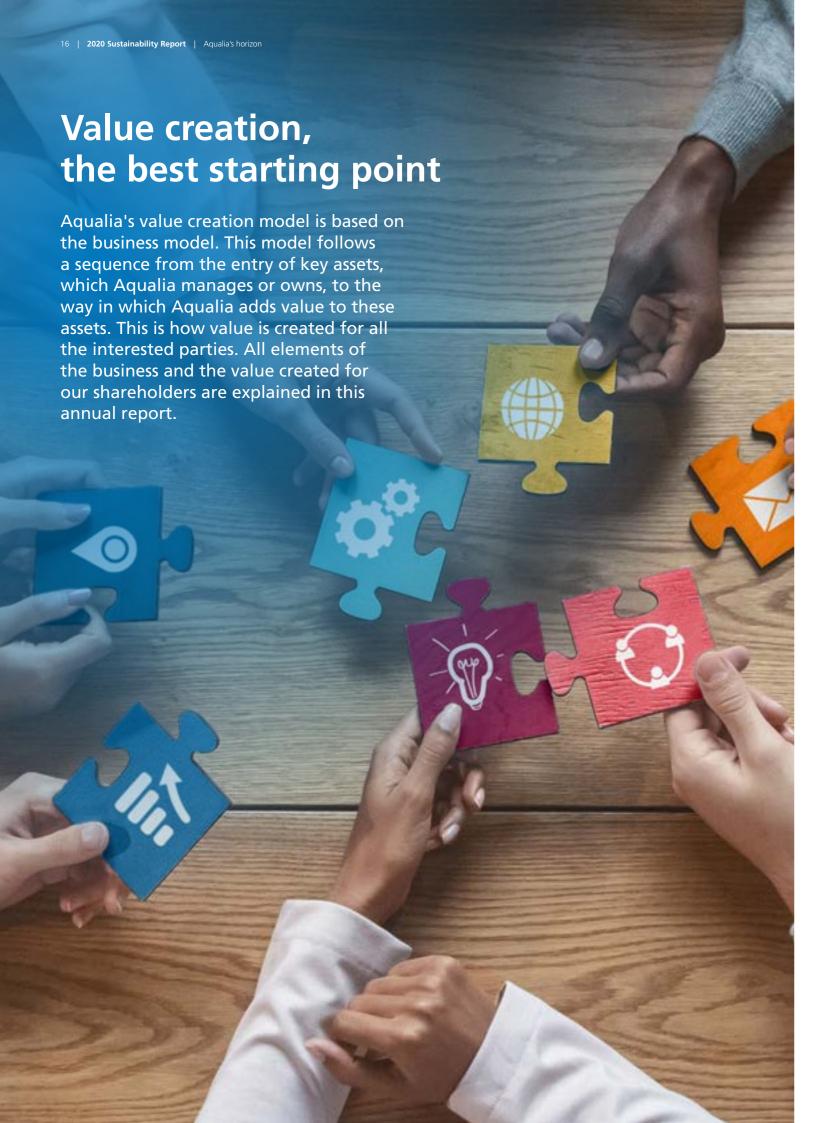
### International growth and expansion that

responds to global needs for clean water and sanitation for everyone, with the appropriate human resources and technology.

### Financial profitability

that enables reasonable and sustainable growth. Integration of all areas of the value chain into the water cycle.

1 BOT: Build, Operate and Transfer



Specialised global experience in the management of the end-to-end water cycle

People committed to client orientation and to the objective

Ethics and integrity in business management

High-quality and efficient service





Drinking water collected for management (m<sup>3</sup>)

924,153,976

**1** 8.3%

Consumed energy (GJ) **4,564,397 ↑** 7.6%



Investment in social actions in communities

**€2.9 Million** ↑ 7.4%



46,370 1 0.8%

Drinking water **2,855 1** 4.6%

Drinking water pumping stations

1,191 \( \sigma \) -0.2%

Km of sewage network

**34,786 ↑** 2.7%

Drinking water treatment plants (DWTP) **238 1** 9.2%

Wastewater treatment plants **827 \( \sqrt{-3}\)** 

**SWDP 26 1** 4%

**EBITDA** €282.93 Million 1 0,43%







**Employees 10,525 1** 10.7%

Women in the workforce **1,963 ↑** 7.6%

> **Employees** with indefinite contract **8,029 1** 9,5%



Total investment in technology

**€1,603,839** ↑ 424% Measuring equipment

€160,180





R&D **€5,124,362** 19.4%

Active projects 21 **1** 5%

Patents in force<sup>2</sup> 17 **1** 30%

Environmental involvement, awareness and dissemination

Solvency and financial consistency

Social involvement

Innovation

by the current context, which is very positive for the the adaptation of the different countries to current accommodate it. environmental regulations.

Agualia's leadership position has been strengthened To this should be added the new opportunities arising from the need to improve the efficiency of the urban sector, due to expected regulatory development and water cycle and to renew the infrastructures that



Purified water returned to its natural environment

631,518,905 m<sup>3</sup>

**1** 8.8%

Carbon Footprint Calculation

480,043 Tn CO, eq

13.03%



# Value created and shared.

Access to water for users **29.6 Million** 16% Drinking water produced 664,214,708 m<sup>3</sup> 1 5.8% No. of drinking water quality controls 1,019,780 1-11% Rating of Customer Service 81.4% 1 3 pp compared to 2018 **Quality of Customer** Service: Complaints index



Economic value generated €1,266.02 Million ↑ 0.28%

Economic value distributed 

Capital suppliers and

shareholders

Payments to suppliers

€648.33 Million ↑ 0.51%

Government taxes

Implementation of good governance as a result of the compliance model

100%

in companies owned by Aqualia



vulnerable:

139 Cáritas charity centres benefitted with €55.390

Collaborative outlook:

Dialogue with +50 Spanish and international sectoral associations

Access to drinking water and sanitation:

**191.953** benefited through tariffs, bonuses or subsidies



**0.32%** Spain

1.40% international

The particular situation experienced in 2020 led to the interested parties being listened to more actively: Public Administrations, users, employees, consumer organisations, NGOs, suppliers, the media and shareholders, and there was an increase in information provided online. In those difficult times, Aqualia opted for a constant, useful and responsible communication strategy with the citizen by means of its digital channels. Some examples of the most dynamic channels in the year are the following:

Stakeholdens



Employees surveyed in 2020 on the Voice of the Employee:

545 employees

**100%** of those interviewed consider that Aqualia responded suitably or very suitably to COVID-19

86% felt that in the last 3 years progress has been made with regard to work-life balance



Boards of directors. committees and regular meetings, management reports and other internal documents

Information flashes, corporate networks, etc.



Agualia: Listens and dialogues with all interested parties



### Interviews with institutional clients

**24** persons in charge of local administrations were interviewed by telephone

4.12 out of 5 satisfied with the service provided by the company

Through initiatives such as StepbyWater, the Global Compact, the Diversity Charter and more than fifty associations, Aqualia contributes through alliances to meet the Sustainable Development



On social networks there was a significant increase in the numbers following Agualia accounts during 2020:

Twitter (@aqualia) **6,100** followers 1 26%

LinkedIn 

Corporate website (www.aqualia.com) 2.6 Million visits, mainly in matters relating to the management of Customer Service

**+2 minutes** average duration of connections

YouTube (https://www. youtube.com/user/ agualiaGestion) **500,000** views 149%

2020 Satisfaction Survey for clients in Spain and France:

140,033 contacts by phone

**1,500** surveys

**47,727** online surveys sent

**1,825** replies received

Rating of the service provided ↑ 81.4% Spain ↑ 88.1% France

Surveys on Aqualia contact

**6,287** surveys (Spain) 1 97% of users satisfactorily rated these channels

Complaints index on Aqualia contact: **0.32%** Spain

**1.40%** international

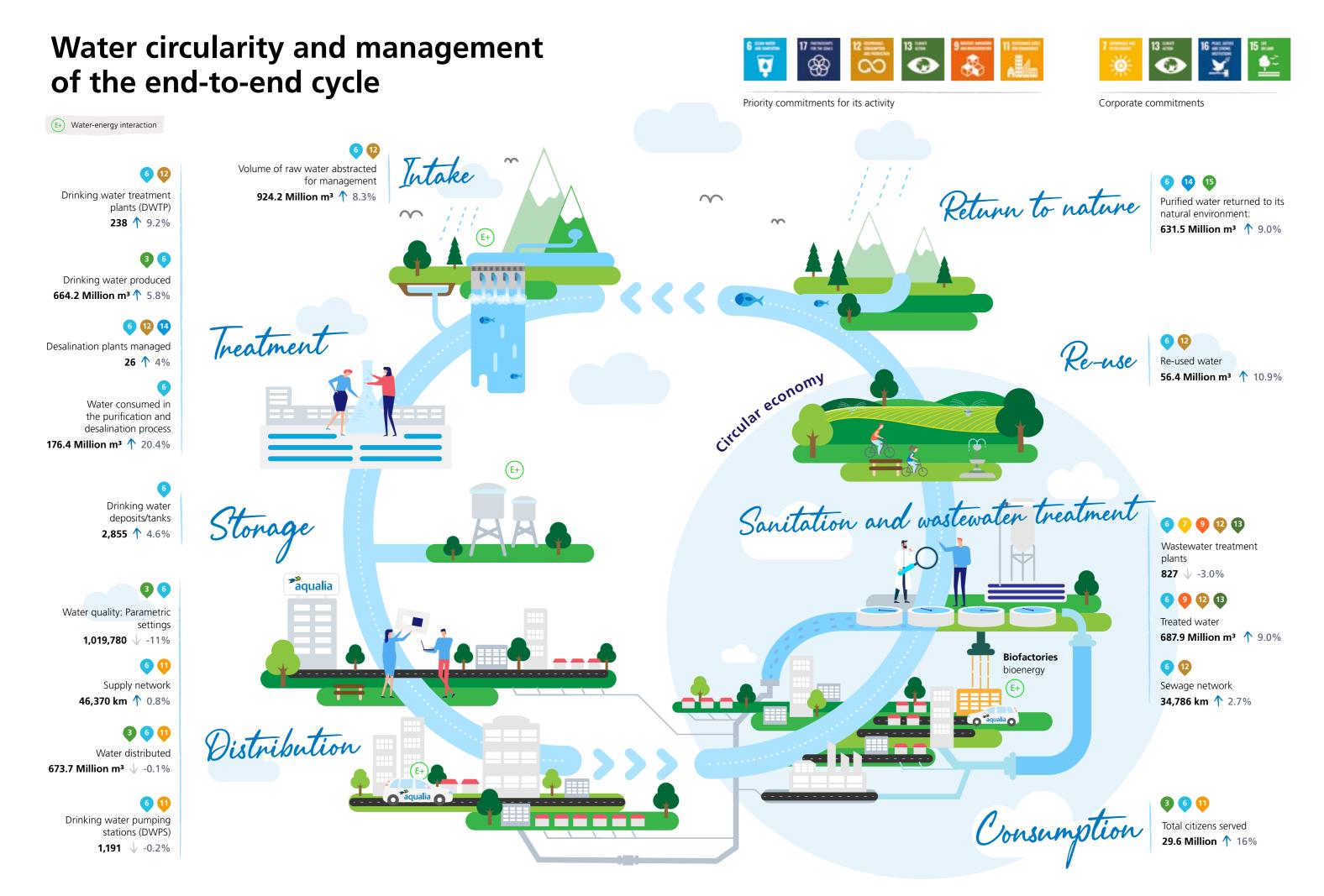
No. of complaints:

**16,180** received

Response time:

**10** days in Spain

11 days internationally



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# 2020 growth in numbers

In 2020, despite the impact produced by the COVID-19 agenerated globally, compared to 2019, by 0.28%. And, even though turnover in Spain decreased by -2.49%, international business increased by 5.62%. This is why the percentage of the international share over Aqualia's total business shows an increase of 34%.



International business increased compared to 2019

| Direct economic value generated (total | <b>consolidated for the group)</b> Thousands of € |
|--|---|
|--|---|

|                                       | 2019      | 2020      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Net business revenue                  | 1,186,881 | 1,188,348 |
| Other operating income                | 38,012    | 39,731    |
| Financial income                      | 37,579    | 37,940    |
| TOTAL DIRECT ECONOMIC VALUE GENERATED | 1,262,472 | 1,266,019 |

Perimeter: FCC Aqualia Law.

| Economic value distributed Thousan  | ds of €   |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|
|   | 2019      | 2020      |
| Operating costs   | 645,069   | 648,329   |
| Procurement   | 475,302   | 474,435   |
| Other operating expenses  | 169,781   | 173,888   |
| Changes in inventory of finished products and those being manufactured      | -14       | 6         |
| Employee wages and benefits   | 288,689   | 309,205   |
| Staff expenses  | 288,689   | 309,205   |
| Capital suppliers   | 135,103   | 50,331    |
| Dividends   | 90,000    | 0         |
| Financial expenses  | 45,800    | 47,405    |
| Change in fair value of financial instruments                               | 285       | 0         |
| Differences in exchange rates   | -982      | 2.926     |
| Payments to governments (taxes)   | 77,744    | 42,056    |
| Corporate income tax  | 45,905    | 33,338    |
| Other tax payments (except VAT)   | 31,839    | 8,718     |
| Investments in the community  | 1,022     | 1,297     |
| Donations and other investments in the community Donations and sponsorships | 1,022     | 1,297     |
| TOTAL ECONOMIC VALUE DISTRIBUTED  | 1,147,627 | 1,051,218 |

| Economic value with              | <b>held</b> Thousands of € |           |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
|                                  | 2019                       | 2020      |
| Total economic value generated   | 1,262,472                  | 1,266,019 |
| Total economic value distributed | 1,147,627                  | 1,051,218 |
| TOTAL ECONOMIC VALUE WITHHELD    | 114,845                    | 214,801   |

|                | Breakdown of taxes by country Th | ousands of € |        |
|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Country        | Corporate income tax             | Other taxes  | Total  |
| Saudi Arabia   | 189                              | 0            | 189    |
| Algeria        | 2,104                            | 673          | 2,776  |
| Bosnia         | 1                                | 0            | 1      |
| Colombia       | 806                              | 1,509        | 2,315  |
| Ecuador        | 47                               | 24           | 71     |
| Egypt          | 1,732                            | 160          | 1,892  |
| UAE            |                                  | 19           | 19     |
| Spain          | 23,251                           | 3,630        | 26,882 |
| France         | 434                              | 1,358        | 1,791  |
| Italy          | 731                              | 37           | 769    |
| Kosovo         | 12                               | 8            | 19     |
| Mexico         | 145                              | 209          | 354    |
| Panama         | 12                               | 3            | 15     |
| Portugal       | 269                              | 54           | 324    |
| Czech Republic | 3,547                            | 1,056        | 4,603  |
| Romania        | -10                              | 5            | -5     |
| Tunisia        | 16                               | -27          | -11    |
| Uruguay        | 51                               |              | 51     |
| GENERAL TOTAL  | 33,338                           | 8,718        | 42,056 |

| <b>Grants</b> Million €                       |      |      |
|---|------|------|
|   | 2019 | 2020 |
| Total subsidies <sup>3</sup>                  | 35.3 | 14.2 |
| Amount of operating grants for R&D&i projects | 2.1  | 2.9  |
| Amount of capital grants for R&D&i            | 0.2  | 0    |

represented a growth of 19% over 2019.

- 3 Amount received in public subsidies.
- 4 ROE: Profit after taxes on net assets.

It should be noted that in 2020 a total of €5,124,362 Furthermore, the increase in equity produced throughout was invested in R+D+i to respond to the global the year for an amount of net income after taxes similar challenges facing the market and the water sector, which to that of the previous year, led to a two point decrease in the return on equity<sup>4</sup>, going from 19.20% in 2019 to 17.03% in 2020. The level of indebtedness at the end of the year stood at 51.42%.

# What the pandemic could not prevent: Key milestones in 2020 and the response to COVID-19

Despite the outbreak of the pandemic in March, Aqualia continued with its activities to guarantee access to water, as well as implementing protocols for sanitary controls of the sanitation network and measures for the welfare of its employees in the workplace.



# January

- The University of Almeria and Aqualia teamed up to disseminate and research the water cycle.
- The company joined the International Federation of Private Water Operators (Aguafed).
- Aqualia acquired 51% of the Qatarat and Haaisco companies from the prestigious Saudi Arabian group Ali Reza.

# February

- New contracts to provide purification services to more than 130,000 people in the Aragon region.
- The Aqualia team received more information on ethics and integrity.



# March

- Aqualia faced the COVID-19 with solidarity, adaptation and a vocation for service.
- New contract to manage the cleaning and maintenance services for Zaragoza's sewerage network.
- The company activated the Contingency Plan for health emergencies, including protection measures aimed at clients and employees, including: The preparation of technical guidelines on protection measures and the suspension of supply cut offs in the event of non-payment by users.
- All branches were closed and new electronic management tools were made available to clients.
- Acquisition of the assets of the SWDP in Mar de Alborán, in Almería, a territory with high water stress, contributing a turnover of €15.9 Million/year.
- Launch of the first measures to adapt to the situation as a result of COVID-19. The implementation began of a number of Contingency Plans, adapted to the situation at any given time.



# April

- Aqualia was voted "Best Company of 2019" by the readers of iAgua, the leading medium in the sector in Spain and Latin America.
- A globally unique bio sanitary protocol against COVID-19 enabled the resumption of work on the Salitre WWTP in Bogota (Colombia).



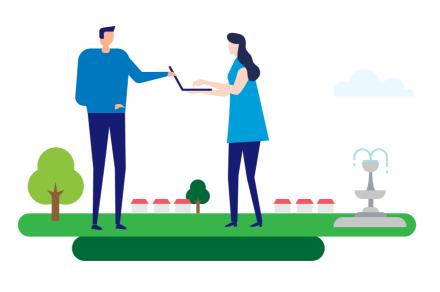
- The Badajoz Water Service achieved the highest rating in the European Benchmarking Cooperation (EBC).
- The Association of Communication Managers (DIRCOM) distinguished Aqualia's CSR Report as one of the three best of the year.



- initiative together with other large companies, the public sector and some NGOs. This was the first major alliance formed in Spain to develop United Nations SDG 6. The initiative was supported by the Government of Spain.
- ACUAES once again entrusted Aqualia with the management of Zaragoza's water supply capture.
- Certification of the Asset
   Management System by AENOR.

   Scope: Management of the endto-end water cycle in the port
   area through its subsidiary Oman

   Sustainable Services Company.
- Aqualia initiated the water service for 450,000 users, for 12 concession contracts in the Department of Córdoba, as well as the management of the municipality of Villa del Rosario, Colombia.





- Ecosistemas Morelos (EMSA) was purchased enabling the company to strengthen its presence in Mexico.
- A new edition of the "Switch to e-billing" campaign resulted in over 450,000 users subscribing to Aqualia's digital billing service.
- Aqualia was awarded the design, construction and operation of an industrial effluent treatment plant in Tarragona.





# August

- The Aqualia-led Mides project operated in Dénia (Alicante) and Guía de Isora (Santa Cruz de Tenerife), the world's first two desalination plants with no external energy consumption.
- An agreement was signed for supply to the municipalities of Guía de Isora and Santiago del Teide in Tenerife through the Fonsalía desalination plant. With a capacity to produce 14,000 m³/day and ready to increase to 21,000 m³/day.
- New patents were registered for more efficient water management. With these new registrations, Aqualia now holds 17 patents. They are all focussed on the efficient use of water resources.

# September

- The El Alamein plant (Egypt)
   was chosen as one of the three
   desalination plants of the year at
   the Global Water Awards.
- The IFM fund selected two projects submitted by Aqualia for its international programme of social and environmental grants.
- The Podhradí mini-hydroelectric water treatment plant, operated by SmVak, a subsidiary of Aqualia in the Czech Republic, reached a figure of 10 Million KWh of green electricity produced while avoiding the emission of 23,000 Tn CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere.

# October

- Recognition of best practices in preventive culture in Aqualia's contracts.
- The documentary Brave Blue World, featuring Aqualia's All-gas project, was premiered and is available on Netflix in 191 countries.
- The El Salitre WWTP at 92% completion. Despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, construction continued on a wastewater treatment plant planned for a flow of 7 m³/second, equivalent to 250 Olympic swimming pools/day.
- Aqualia launched a custom website for 450,000 users in Colombia.

# November

- Aqualia's Advisor project was included among the 101 most innovative initiatives in 2020 to tackle climate change.
- The municipality of Lleida and Aqualia created a Social Solidarity Fund to guarantee access to water for families at risk of exclusion.
- In collaboration with several Italian regional governments and in alliance with the University of Palermo, Caltaqua launched a programme for the early detection of the SARS-CoV-2 virus by sampling and analysing wastewater.





# December

- The campaign entitled "¿Quién hay detrás del agua que usamos en casa?" ("Who is behind the water we use at home?") developed by Aqualia in the context of COVID-19, was a winner at the European Excellence Awards (EEA).
- Aqualia joined the United Nations Global Compact as a full member.
- The concession contract for the city of Vigo was extended for 5 years. During this time, an ambitious €40.2 million investment plan for service improvements will be developed in the city.

# Aqualia's presence in Spain and in the world

The Aqualia network currently serves over 29 million users in 17 countries.

17 countries 29.6 Million

The company currently provides services to over 29.6 million people in 17 countries: Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, United Arab Emirates, Spain, France, Italy, Mexico, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, the Czech Republic, Romania and Tunisia.

#9
in the world in Europe

According to the latest Global Water Intelligence ranking (March 2021), it is Europe's fourth largest water company in terms of population served and ranks amongst the top ten worldwide.



# €1,188.35 Million invoicing

In the 2020 business year, the company had a turnover of €1,188.35 million. 66% of this corresponded to the domestic market (Spain) and 34% to the international market. Of these, invoicing in the different areas was as follows: Europe (15%), Latin America (5%) and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) (14%).

| Bi                                     | lling by area    |              |
|--|------------------|--------------|
|  | 2020             | chg.<br>2019 |
| Latin America                          | €57,255 Million  | -34%         |
| Middle East and<br>North Africa (MENA) | €163,248 Million | +44%         |
| Rest of Europe                         | €183,528 Million | +0.3%        |
| Spain                                  | €784,317 Million | -0.2%        |

# €15,025.89 Million business backlog

And it had a business backlog of €15,025.89 Million. Of this, 48% corresponded to international business and 52% to the domestic market.



### **Business backlog**

■ Domestic market (Spain) **52%** 

International market 48%

# €282.93 Million

With an EBITDA of €282.93 Million in 2020, Aqualia maintained a business strategy focussed on traditional markets (based on concessions). The company also achieved significant growth in the volume of international activity.





### Business legend



Municipal concessions for the management of the end-to-end water cycle



O&M services



Infrastructure concessions in BOT contracts



EPC models

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# **Market in Spain**

Change of government in Spain

Official declaration of the global pandemic due to COVID-19

Service in municipalities



Extensions and renewals represent a backlog of **€338,000 Million**, close to 100%.





Reinforcement in the reduction of variable costs (energy and water purchase) to reduce the drop in margins linked to the drop in consumption due to the pandemic.



This has made it possible to maintain EBIDA natios





With regard to the **Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (Spain),** sponsored with European Funds, transversal proposals with the collaboration of public-private figures are being developed (digitalisation and energy efficiency) as well as local and regional proposals, which will be presented in the first half of 2021.

### Economic and legal context

### Economic



According to the DBK sector report for the water distribution sectors, there is expected to be strong pressure on profitability:

- Companies in the sector are facing a growing need for investment as a result of environmental requirements and the processes for digital transformation and adaptation to new technologies.
- A concentration of income and higher operating costs due to the health crisis.

The development of technological innovations took on special significance, both for the proper maintenance of the network, and for the improvement of relationships

The protection of disadvantaged groups is also a priority, as a result of which several companies have announced a freeze in tariffs in 2021.



Major developments in legislation are envisaged by Spain's Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge:

- Preparation of the Green Water Book
- Approval of the 2020-2030 Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Approval of the 2020-2030 Energy and Climate Plan
- Submission to public information of the Water Treatment and Re-use Plan
- The Urban Water Cycle Committee was convened, with the presence of the Ministry, Business Associations, Trade Unions and Users, as the basis for a future Spanish Urban Water Observatory.
- Suspension of the application of the Budget Stability Law in 2021 and 2022, which will enable municipalities with cash surpluses to allocate the surpluses to making investments. This will speed up investments in the hydraulic field.

A Contingency Plan was also established to minimise any financial and non-financial impact that may arise from this crisis.

An amendment to the current Sector Agreement (2018- 2022), was signed with the Trade Unions, to set the wage increase in 2021 at 1.5%, halving that initially envisaged in the Agreement, given the extraordinary situation we are going through.

In 2020 Royal Decrees were also passed in Spain to protect the vulnerable population, including:

• Royal Decrees-Law 11/2020 of 31 March, 26/2020 of 7 July and 37-2020, of 22 December. These adopted urgent measures to address situations of social and economic vulnerability caused by the

pandemic. Guaranteeing the supply of basic services and establishing that the water supply may not be suspended for consumers catalogued as severely vulnerable or at risk of social exclusion, as defined in articles 3 and 4 of Royal Decree 897/2017, of 6 October.



### Main projects and contracts in Spain in 2020

ponds and distribution network for Mar de Alborán in of waste treatment, Aqualia initiated an experimental Almería. This infrastructure, after the investment work for upgrading and initial operation to be carried out in 2021, treatment plant. will enable the distribution of desalinated water to the cities of Almería and Níjar and to the irrigation communities in It was also awarded the management of the supply the area. At full capacity, it will enable the distribution of 20 Hm<sup>3</sup>/year of water in a territory with high water stress, contributing turnover of €15.9 Million/year.

It should also be mentioned that Aqualia was awarded the contract for the design, construction and operation of an industrial effluent treatment plant at the Tarragona petrochemical estate, with a contract value of €35.6 million. The plant will have a capacity of 1,800,000 litres/hr 24 hours C.I., S.A.

In Spain, Aqualia acquired the assets of the SWDP, irrigation a day. In its commitment to the integrated management pilot plant last year to define the features of the future

> abstraction for approximately, 800,000 citizens in 39 municipalities in Zaragoza, with the management of hydraulic installations that supply an average of 3 Million m<sup>3</sup>/day<sup>5</sup>.

> Finally, there should be special mention for Aqualia's integration into the territorial and legal structure, for the contracts the company acquired in 2019, Agua y Gestión

<sup>5</sup> ACUAES (Sociedad Estado de Aguas de las Cuencas de España), depending on the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge awarded

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### International market: Context and activity

In the international arena, Agualia concentrated its activity during the 2020 business year in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East (MENA) and Latin America (LATAM). The same challenge was present in all countries: Being able to optimally administrate the sanitary crisis and the management of the end-to-end water cycle for all Aqualia's clients.

### In Europe the following deserve special mention:

### Czech Republic

For the period 2022 to 2026, the Ministry of Finance is promoting a review of the tariff framework, which is being evaluated in different areas of the public sector. This review focusses on the maximum tariff growth and the adjusted calculation, depending on the replacement value, investment requirements, regulatory capital and the associated regulatory profit.

SmVak, a local subsidiary of Aqualia, has bid for several end-to-end water cycle tenders and included new municipalities in the eastern part of the country in the backlog of contracts.

### France

Aqualia continued to expand its water market development perspective in western and south-central France.

In this regard in 2020, work to integrate the new business in France and to adapt it to Aqualia's standards was maintained so as to improve the water supply service and sanitation network management for more than 140,000 citizens. New contracts were also added for the management, operation and renovation of water and sanitation networks in the Ile-de-France region.

### Italy

At the beginning of 2020, the debate on public intervention in the Italian regulatory agency and the tariff structure was reignited. The situation finally stabilised following the replacement of managers in the Italian regulatory agency and the removal of incentives for the most efficient regulators in the purchase of water, such as Aqualia.

### Portugal

Although no new municipal concessions have been tendered, there have been several corporate moves by financial investors because of the imminent local elections. The high risk profile of the buyers demonstrates a strong interest in the concessional framework and confidence in the future growth potential for the country's water market.

### Romania

Despite the restrictions imposed by the authorities in order to address COVID-19, it has been possible to make progress in the works to extend the Glina treatment plant and the contracting of equipment to minimise the impact on the works plan.

### The Balkans

The contracts for the Berane and Plievlja projects, whose works were completed and are now in operation, were terminated. The Prziren project is finished and awaiting temporary receipt to start assisted operations.

### In MENA, activity in the seawater desalination and wastewater treatment areas continues:

### Saudi Arabia

In January Agualia acquired 51% of Qatarat and Haaisco from the prestigious Saudi Arabian group Ali Reza. Since they were acquired, all the plants have been operating at full capacity to provide an essential service to citizens during the pandemic.

Aqualia also continued with the execution of diversion and adjustment works in the supply and sanitation services affected by the Riyadh Metro, where Aqualia is executing the diversion of services and provisional and definitive connections on Lines 5 and 6.

The company also undertook work on the development of other lines of commercial activity within the framework of the VISION 2030 programme for the improvement of infrastructures, such as projects for new wastewater treatment plants, contracts for the restoration, operation

and maintenance of existing treatment plants and contracts for the provision of services for comprehensive treatment plants in the geographical area of Al Ain and water management throughout the country.

### Algeria

Aqualia managed to maintain continuous operation at full capacity and without significant incidents in the two desalination plants, Mostaganem and Cap Djinet, thus providing a critical service to the population in the area.

### Egypt

Aqualia completed a year of guaranteed operation at With regard to activity in Qatar, in 2020 work began the El Alamein desalination plant, with 150,000 m<sup>3</sup>/ day of capacity, and obtained an extension of this treatment plant project continued at a good pace despite the impact of the pandemic, and initial operations are into service in 2021. expected in 2021.

### **United Arab Emirates**

In 2020, the Aqualia subsidiary company, MACE, provided operation and maintenance services for the collector networks, pumping stations and wastewater the city of Abu Dhabi.

### **Oman**

Despite the pandemic, Aqualia continued to operate without incident the management of the end-to-end cycle for the Sohar port area through the subsidiary, Oman Sustainable Services Company.

### Qatar

on the initial operation phase for the Al Dhakhira wastewater treatment plant in the north of the country, contract until 2022. And the Abu Rawash wastewater built by Hyundai, with a capacity of 55,000m<sup>3</sup>/d and that will be operated by Aqualia MACE once it fully enters

> A joint venture led by Aqualia and with the participation of reputable local partners was also set up to develop projects to improve the sewerage, water treatment and re-use network, which will provide services to the Qatari Ministry of Public Works and Sanitation.



### El Alamein Desalination Plant: A high-level referral

The El Alamein desalination plant is a first class benchmark for new projects in the desalination plan designed by the Egyptian government with the aim of reducing the country's water stress in the Mediterranean and Red Sea coastal areas.

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### USA

States strengthened.

infrastructures and low penetration of private operators in the sector are the source of the main growth opportunities for Aqualia in certain states. However, the COVID-19 crisis, the general elections and the turbulent political transition led to a general slowdown in the economy and, in particular, for water and sanitation projects.

### **LATIN AMERICA**

The lack of water infrastructures and the search for efficiency in the existing ones are two factors that strengthen Aqualia's growth possibilities in Latin America.

### Mexico<sup>6</sup>

becoming a leading company in the sector with a highly diversified asset portfolio.



The experience acquired in the BOT (Build, Operate, Transfer) contracts for Aqueduct II in Querétaro and Realito in San Luis de Potosí enabled us to put forward similar projects to institutional clients, where the technical and financial skills involved give Agualia an advantageous position in the country.

The Guaymas desalination plant, which was expected to be completed in 2020, will come into operation during 2021.

the concession for the Cuernavaca WWTP. With this non-payment by the client. transaction, Aqualia completed a cycle of activities in the country by adding wastewater treatment in Cuernava, desalination in Guaymas and drinking water supply in Querétaro and San Luis de Potosí.

In 2020 Aqualia saw its commercial activity in the United Last June, Aqualia took control of the AQUOS (Realito) concessionary company by acquiring an additional holding, bringing its total shareholding to 51%, Water scarcity, the obsolescence of hydraulic a concession in which Aqualia had previously held a minority shareholding.

### Colombia

In 2020 construction of the El Salitre WWTP in Bogotá continued, with a minimal impact by the pandemic on the execution as a result of the strict protocols implemented.

This collection of measures placed Aqualia at the forefront with regard to sanitary safety in hydraulic infrastructure works, and has been recognised by public bodies and the multilateral banking sector.

In March 2020, the acquisition of 12 municipal concessions in the Córdoba Department was completed, which together with the concession awarded in Villa del In 2020 Agualia consolidated its presence in Mexico, Rosario in the Santander Department, which started in May, consolidated Aqualia's presence in the country as an integral management operator.

### Peru

The State is in the process of evaluating the efficiency of its public supply services in order to assign to private initiatives in those areas with the worst management indicators.

In 2020, the company also presented a private initiative for desalination in the municipality of Ilo, which was declared significant and has begun to be developed. Agualia is currently studying different projects both as a provider of services for Public Companies as well as for financing, designing, building and operating large hydraulic infrastructures.

### **Panama**

Aqualia withdrew from the assistance and advisory contract for the operational and commercial management of IDAAN (Panama) due to the long period of time elapsed from the award to approval by the comptroller's office. In this same country, a contract In June, Aqualia acquired 100% of the shares of for the engineering, construction and 10-year operation Ecosistema Morelos (EMSA), the purpose of which is of the Arraiján WWTP was also terminated early due to

Regarding the population served, at an international level, Aqualia increased by 13.5% the number of municipalities in which it provides different services and by almost 76% the number of inhabitants to whom the end-to-end water service is provided.

|                                | Internat              | ional activity                               |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
|                                |                       | End-to-end cycle                             |
| Concession                     | No. of municipalities | No. of inhabitants with supply service       |
| End-to-end cycle <sup>7</sup>  | 109                   | 1,361,040                                    |
|                                |                       | Supply                                       |
| Concession                     | No. of municipalities | No. of inhabitants with supply service       |
| Distribution                   | 33                    | 274,884                                      |
| Registration                   | 1                     | 433,076                                      |
| BOT <sup>8</sup>               | 6                     | 2,158,600                                    |
|                                |                       | Sewerage system                              |
| Concession                     | No. of municipalities | No. of inhabitants with sewerage service     |
| Sewerage system                | 13                    | 219,261                                      |
| <b>O&amp;M</b> Sewerage system | 2                     | 2,033,125                                    |
|                                |                       | Purification                                 |
| Concession                     | No. of municipalities | No. of inhabitants with purification service |
| WWTP <sup>9</sup>              | 4                     | 1,091,010                                    |
| O&M                            | 2                     | 2 1 (2 7 7 7                                 |
| WWTP                           | 3                     | 2,162,725                                    |

- 7 Colombia is included for the 12 municipal districts of Córdoba and Villa del Rosario. The population data were estimated from the information obtained from the Due Diligence undertaken for the acquisition of the contracts.
- 8 Includes Saudi Arabia with a population of 157,500 inhabitants: It is the equivalent population that was estimated for the KAIA desalination plant.
- 9 A population of 400,000 for the Cuernavaca WWTP is included here.

|  |  | The environmental data for activities in this country are not consolidated in this repo | • The environmental data for activities in this country are not consolidated in this repor | Ine environmental data for activities in this country are not consolidated in this rep | The environmental data for activities in this country are not consolidated in this repo |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|

The value of transparency

Committed to guaranteeing responsible supply

Ethics and transparency are two pillars that companies should practise and communicate to guarantee their survival, but also to contribute to the expansion of best practices inside and outside their company. From supporting local suppliers to the implementation of compliance programmes, Aqualia is committed to creating solid and shared relationships with all the steps in the value chain.

What does it mean to work in a company committed to integrity, honesty and transparency?

"Agnalia's goal is to be excellent,
so that our management is undertaken
showing respect for values such as ethics,
integrity and social involvement.
The implementation of a compliance model
throughout the value chain enables us to
progress along the right path
to achieve this"

AQUALIA EMPLOYEE



# The value of transparency

In 2020, Aqualia succeeded in implementing its Criminal Prevention Model in Italy, the Czech Republic, Colombia, Mexico, Portugal and France.

### **Governing Bodies**

Aqualia's Board of Directors consists of directors representing shareholdings of 51% of FCC and 49% of IFM. As at 31 December 2020, the situation was as follows:

| Members of the Board of Directors                              | Investment          | Appointment & Remuneration | Audit &<br>Control  | Regulatory<br>Compliance Delegate |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Position on the Board  | Committee           | Committee                  | Committee           | Committee                         |
| <b>Alejando Aboumrad González</b><br>President                 | •                   |                            |                     |                                   |
| <b>Nicolás Villen Jiménez</b><br>Vice President                |                     |                            | •                   | •                                 |
| <b>Juan Rodríguez Torres</b><br>Voting member                  |                     | •                          | è                   | •                                 |
| <b>Lars Bespolka</b><br>Voting member                          | <b>P</b>            | •                          |                     | <b>O</b>                          |
| <b>Gerardo Kuri Kaufmann</b><br>Voting member                  |                     | P                          |                     |                                   |
| Scott Longhurst<br>Voting member                               |                     | •                          | •                   |                                   |
| <b>Pablo Colio Abril</b><br>Voting member                      | •                   |                            | •                   | •                                 |
| Javier Amantegui Lorenzo<br>Secretary (non-director)           |                     |                            |                     |                                   |
| José Fernando Cerro<br>Deputy Secretary (non-director)         | (non-voting member) | (non-voting member)        | (non-voting member) |                                   |
| Samir Azzouzi Maanan<br>2nd Deputy Secretary (non-director)    |                     |                            |                     |                                   |
| Cristina López Barranco<br>3rd Deputy Secretary (non-director) |                     |                            |                     |                                   |
| Jesús Ortega<br>CCO*   |                     |                            |                     | (non-voting member)               |



### **Aqualia's organisation chart**

### **CEO Félix Parra**

### **Territorial divisions**

Director Santiago Lafuente

Zone I

Juan Carlos Rey

Zone II

Juan Luis Castillo

Zone III Lucas Díaz International

Director Luis de Lope

Europe Guillermo Moya

MENA

José Enrique Bofill

America

José Miguel Janices

### Corporate divisions

Legal Advice Department Elena Barroso

Purchasing Department Alberto Andérez

Director of Communication and CSR Juan Pablo Merino

Director of Regulatory Compliance Jesús Ortega

**Development Department** Antonio Vassal'lo

Economic and Finance Department (CFO) Isidoro Marbán

Studies and Operations Department Pedro Rodríguez

Client Management Department Miguel Perea

Water Engineering and Technology Department **Javier Santiago** 

People and Culture Department Carmen Rodríguez

IT Department Mª Ángeles Vicente



Secretary



Voting member

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The Board of Directors delegates to the CEO. The In Aqualia, the Communications Department is also the latter, together with the Managing Committee, manages and addresses more specific matters through different committees, such as Information Technology, renamed that way to replace the CSR Committee in 2019, in accordance with the instructions of the CNMV's Good Governance Code, reviewed in 2020. In this way it seeks to highlight the transversal role of the CSR in company. the different social, environmental and good governance areas in which the company operates. In 2021 the Coordination Committee was also created, which assumes the functions of this ESG committee.

CSR Department. Therefore, this department unifies the responsibility of involving all areas of the company in the responsible governance of the company with a view Management, Innovation and ESG. The latter was to sustainable development that is respectful of natural resources and people. The Regulatory Compliance Department is responsible for all matters relating to the implementation of ethics and good governance in the

### Implementation of the company's compliance model

One of the milestones reached in 2020 was the international expansion of the compliance model to those countries in which Aqualia has a presence with participation in all or practically all of its shareholding.

Despite the fact that some of the countries in which Agualia operates have less developed regulations, the company implemented a global compliance model which enables supervision of the activity that affects all countries. So, even though some are not suitably developed, Aqualia applies international standards (FCPA, UK Bribery Act, ISO 37001, ISO 19600, etc.) so it has its own regulation.





### Policies and procedures with regard to compliance

In 2020 the Aqualia Board of Directors approved the Bidding Policy that sets out the principles for action with regard to bidding processes.

The Board of Directors also approved the modification of the Criminal Prevention Manual, the Agent Policy, the FCC Group Compliance Committee Regulations, the Whistleblowing Channel Procedure and the Investigation and Response Procedure. The main aim of this approval was to include the disciplinary measures applicable to variable remuneration in the event of noncompliance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct, as well as current legislation and any internal regulations.

The Protocol for the prevention and eradication of harassment was also approved and updated to establish the different types of harassment that may occur in the workplace. The protocol also contemplates providing training for employees, as well as the establishment of disciplinary measures in the event of an act of The bidding management procedure was also updated harassment being committed within the company.

With regard procedures involving the compliance model, the following procedures were approved by the corresponding area managers:

- Procedure for the management and control of sponsorships, donations and collaboration (Communication and CSR Department)
- Procedure for the payment of expenses, allowances and mileage (Economic Department)
- Cash management procedures for both domestic and international activity (Economic Department)
- Procedure for contracting external lawyers (Legal Advice Department)
- Procedure for due diligence with third parties regarding compliance (Regulatory Compliance Department)
- Procedure for compliance risk assessment

to adapt it to the principles and values established in the Code of Ethics and Conduct and the Bidding Policy.

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### Risk assessment and control system

The most significant risks relating to corruption and identified through risk evaluation are bribery, business corruption, influence peddling, fraud, illegal financing of political parties, embezzlement, price fixing in bids and auctions and money laundering. To prevent of all of these, Aqualia established a compliance model and control system.

In 2020, two self-assessments were undertaken on the execution of controls by those who own the control and process. In both cases, all control owners made a selfassessment the execution of their controls, compiling evidence that the activity was undertaken and as could work on the improvements detected. a result the corresponding risk is being mitigated.

Furthermore, all process owners verified the information provided by the owners of each control that make up the different processes.

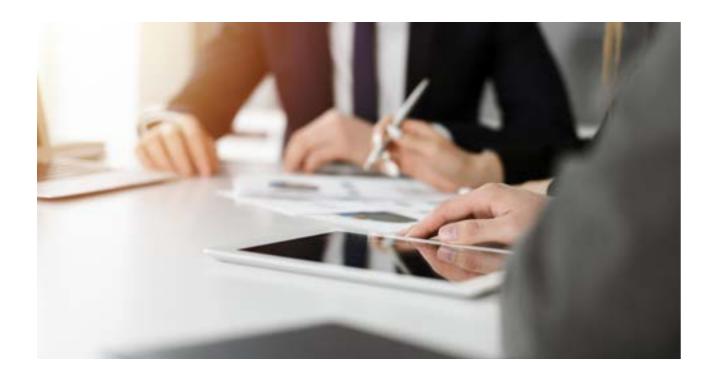
Based on the information provided by the control and process owners during certification, the Regulatory Compliance Department conducted an analysis that

of control owners made a self-assessment of the execution of their controls



was sent to the corresponding process owners so they

At the same time as the certification process, the Regulatory Compliance Department monitored the evidence presented by the control owners (on a sample of controls for each certification period), analysing whether the risks were covered and highlighting the gaps detected that were also reflected in meetings held with the process owners.



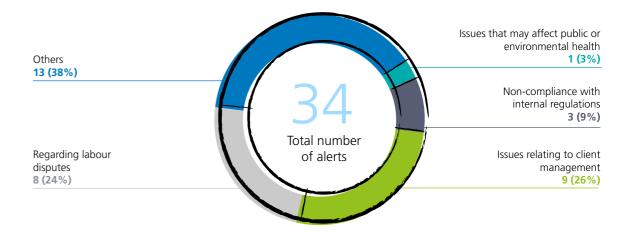
### **Whistleblowing Channel**

that is accessible to public of interest, clients, suppliers to undertake a follow-up. and employees, with accessibility for the latter via Intranet One. This channel may be used to report In 2020 a total of 34 alerts were received on the anything with regard to labour welfare, compliance Whistleblowing Channel, 29 from Spain and 5 of with regulations, quality of customer service and environmental impact. These reports are then classified by the FCC Group's Compliance Committee, which assesses them and proceeds to file them for the record or takes the necessary measures to resolve them. All notifications corresponding to Aqualia received through the Whistleblowing Channel are notified to Aqualia's

Aqualia hosts a Whistleblowing Channel on its website Director of Regulatory Compliance, who then proceeds

international origin.





Aqualia contact service. This increase may be due to the or claims.

This year, an increase was observed in alerts with effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, since the inability regard to client management that were considered to of clients to visit offices has led them to seeking online be irrelevant and should have been submitted via the communication channels for their complaints and/

### Training on compliance

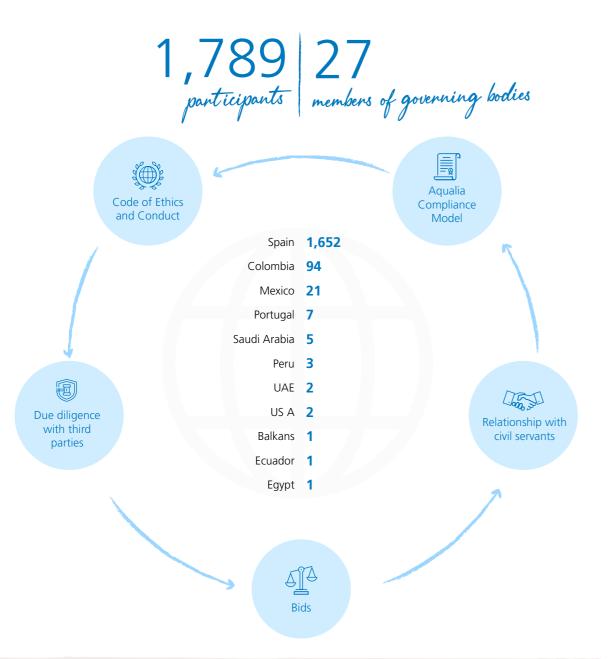






received information on the organisation's policies and and procedures. procedures to fight corruption. In this regard a total

In 2020, all members of Aqualia's governing bodies (27) of 1,789 participants were trained on these policies



### Level of satisfaction with what was learned on the course (5 being the maximum score)



### On the Code of Ethics and Conduct



undertaken via the Training Campus.

The Regulatory Compliance Department also provided online course on the Code of Ethics, as well as a specific training on the Code of Ethics and Conduct to Aqualia online course on correct relationships with members of México staff at the Ouerétaro offices, at the site for the public institutions. execution of the works in the Guaymas project and to staff in Italy<sup>10</sup>.

All new recruits who joined Aqualia (in Spain and in Some suppliers were also included in the training Colombia), who had online access, were invited to plan on the Code of Ethics due to the sensitivity of attend Code of Ethics and Conduct training that can be the relationship with public officials inherent in their activity, especially significant in Aqualia's reputational management. These suppliers were summoned to an

### **Bidding processes and the fight** against corruption and bribery









For key employees who are already directly involved in bidding processes, training was given in which the principles established in the Bidding Policy were explained in detail, as well as the best way to put the provisions of the bidding management procedure into practice.

For employees in Spain who in their work may have a relationship with public officials, training was undertaken that included the basic regulatory principles for the fight against corruption and bribery (Penal Code and international standards such as FCPA, UK Bribery Act and World Bank Integrity Guidelines).

The new process and control owners were given training in anti-corruption which explained the Crime Prevention Model adopted by the company.

At the same time, the aim was to reach offline staff by means of a dissemination campaign in Aqualia work centres. This involved showing a video in which the company's commitment against corruption was reiterated and provided a summary of the principles and values included in the Code of Ethics and Conduct.





### Communication as an essential feature of ethical culture

As part of the awareness raising activities among employees regarding compliance, in 2020 an e-mail was regularly sent out with so-called Compliance Tips, containing the advice used as a basis for preparing the main compliance policies, explaining what a conflict of interest is and how to use the Whistleblowing Channel, etc.

On 9 December, International Anti-Corruption Day, a video was presented on the Code of Ethics and Conduct with its main axes.

### **Due Diligence with third parties**









There was explanatory training on the operation and with Aqualia's ethical principles and values before implementation of the due diligence procedure with third parties with regard to compliance. The recipients were those employees who were part of production The number of business partners who were informed departments that may have been related to business about the organisation's policies and procedures to partners, since they needed to know what measures fight corruption was as follows, broken down by to take to measure the alignment of third parties business partner type and region:

establishing relationships with them.



In 2020 Agualia set out to conduct due diligence activities with third parties - agents and business partners - with regard to compliance, to understand the background and the alignment of strategic partners, agents and suppliers with Aqualia's ethical principles and values.

Depending on the level of the initial risk identified using the basic information provided by the department making the request, subsequent actions are determined to better understand the third party, ranging from the completion of a survey by the third party to a request to the FCC Security Department for screening (a background check).



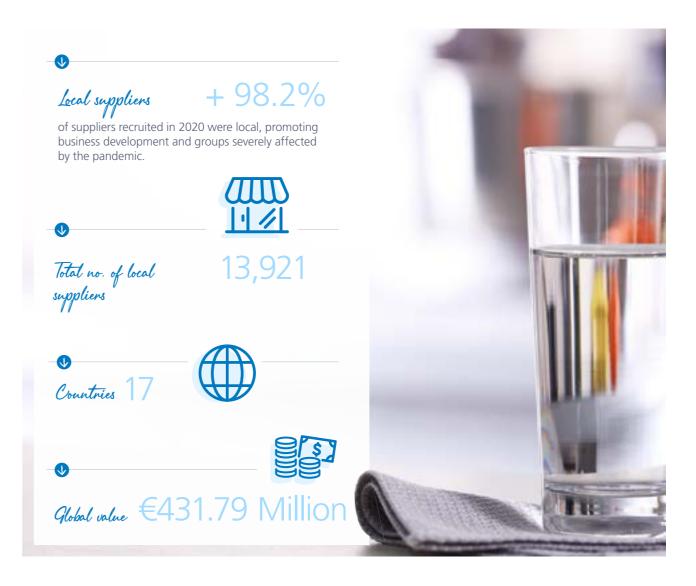
# **Committed to guaranteeing** responsible supply

environments of its stakeholders, especially those with collaborating agents and partners.

The relationship between them should always seek Over 98.2% of contracted suppliers were local, impact: Economic development, social justice and to close down. environmental balance.

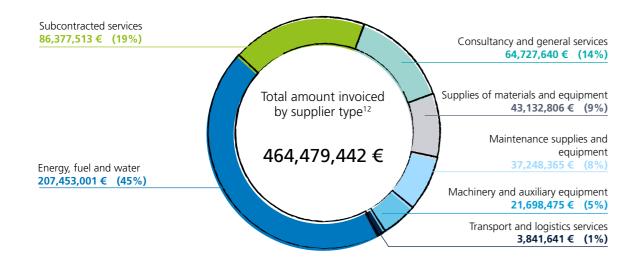
Aqualia is aware of its role as a transforming agent This commitment is of great importance in the case of capable of promoting positive changes in the different suppliers, since Aqualia operates in 17 countries around the world, where it generates economic relationships whom it can operate directly, as is the case of suppliers, with almost 14,000 local suppliers and whose global value in 2020 was estimated at €431.79 million.

collaboration and mutual enrichment with regard to promoting the development of these businesses and ethics and sustainability. In this way, the sector develops the economy of each country, especially in a period in favourably and contributes to the achievement which the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic generated a serious of the Sustainable Development Goals, a global economic crisis throughout the world and significantly guide to achieving major results based on a triple reduced income in many companies, even forcing them



### **Supplier type**

| Supplier type    | No     | . of suppli | ers        | Amour       | nt in €¹¹   | % Purchase    |        |
|------------------|--------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------|
|                  | 2019   | 2020        | % sb total | 2019        | 2020        | % sb<br>total | 20/19  |
| Global suppliers | 228    | 252         | 1.78%      | 35,646,309  | 32,686,994  | 7.04%         | -8.3%  |
| Local suppliers  | 14,137 | 13,921      | 98.22%     | 429,366,899 | 431,792,448 | 92.96%        | 0.6%   |
| GENERAL TOTAL    | 14,365 | 14,173      | 100.00%    | 465,013,208 | 464,479,442 | 100.00%       | -0.11% |



Suppliers are an essential link in Aqualia's value chain and therefore should be an integral part of the company's sustainability strategy. In 2020, with this in mind a Due Diligence procedure was initiated by the Regulatory Compliance Department with third parties

(commercial agents, partners and suppliers, if necessary during the official approval process) for the purpose of analysing the level of risk presented by collaborators with regard to ethics and compliance.

### Criteria for the selection of supplier and contractors

Agualia is aware of its social-economic and environmental impact and so it has established a supplier and contractor selection model consistent with its values and strategic objectives based on five fundamental criteria that are applied in a multi-jurisdictional manner:





### Labour regulations

Compliance with and provision of social security.

Aqualia extends compliance with labour regulations to the entire supply chain. This is how the protection of all those contracted by its external suppliers is guaranteed.



### Occupational **Risk Prevention**

Compliance with legislative requirements is established and continuous improvement that goes beyond these requirements is encouraged.

Aqualia is committed to the safety of the people with whom it collaborates, understanding this value as an inherent feature of productivity and quality of service.



### Preventive approach and environmental respect

Operating under sustainable criteria, minimising the environmental impact of its activities.

These environmental criteria are taken into account in the selection of Aqualia's suppliers.





### Technical Quality

Some services are required to have access to a Quality Management System in accordance with ISO 9001.





### Code of Ethics and the 10 Principles of the Global Compact

Contracts are signed that include a commitment to comply with legal obligations with regard to environmental and anti-corruption issues.

The Code of Ethics and Conduct is applicable to suppliers and contractors in all the countries in which Aqualia operates.

<sup>11</sup> Companies managed through SAP.

<sup>12</sup> Calculation from the weighting for each type of expense over the total acquired from third parties.

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### **2020 Sustainability Report** | As clear as water. Sustainable and transparent governance | 51

### **Supplier assessment**

In its relationships with suppliers, partners and contractors, Agualia starts from the basis of shared understanding, official approval system that foreseeably will begin built on the pillars of integrity, transparency and mutual to be applied in 2021 with the aim of achieving full trust; these allow for easy communication and generate implementation in 2022. stable relationships over time.

In 2020, Aqualia began with the update of its supplier



### **Selection of suppliers**

### Non-financial criteria

Before considering the economic factors for each operation, Aqualia takes criteria for quality, ethics and sustainability into account.

### Compliance

An exhaustive analysis is made of compliance with the requirements for the operation, taking its volume and prior knowledge of the supplier into account.

### **Utmost severity**

Major operations with new suppliers require utmost severity and may involve a visit to their installations.



### Assessment follow-ups

Aqualia conducts internal client satisfaction surveys in order to gain in-depth understanding of the performance of all its suppliers during operations.

These assessments are then used as selection criteria for future purchasing processes.



### System for official approval

Agualia controls and supervises suppliers' compliance with regard to financial, technical and data protection and compliance issues.

Depending on the assessments made by the purchasing and technical departments, strategic suppliers are selected and a list of specially monitored suppliers is drawn up for them to be supervised or even vetoed.

# Best practices

### Strategic alliances between suppliers and Aqualia

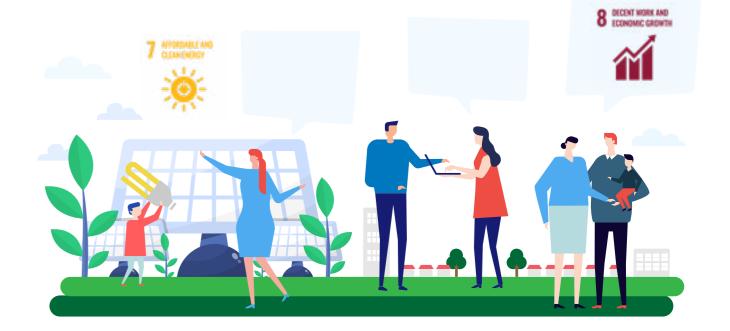
### Renewable energy purchase and sale agreement with Alpiq AG

Aqualia was the first company in Spain specialising in the management of the end-toend water cycle to sign a longterm renewable energy purchase and sale agreement (PPA, Power Purchase Agreement, in English). The agreement was signed with the Swiss company Alpig AG, for a period of 10 years and a consumption of 76 GWh per year (equivalent to requirements for 20.000 households).

### **Contracts with** special employment centres

In 2020, contracts for cleaning in work centres were made via special employment centres in 297 municipalities in Spain.

municipalities



X-ray of a changing planet

Aqualia facing the climate emergency

Actions and lessons learned during COVID-19

The challenge of being more sustainable every day

Ensuring the welfare and progress of the people in the communities where it operates is the main commitment of Aqualia and of all those who are part of it. This year, in addition to continuing the work to alleviate the effects of the climate emergency and to comply with the 2030 Agenda, the company faced the worst pandemic in recent decades.

The lesson to be learned is clear: Only by listening and building bridges between people will we be able to overcome the glocal challenges of today and tomorrow.



## X-ray of a changing planet:

# risks and opportunities in the water market and established policies to address them

The health crisis caused by COVID-19 has been the driving force behind a greater commitment by businesses to society. The priorities of organisations now include facing challenges such as the climate emergency, inequality and lack of access to technologies.



Associated opportunities, policies and derived actions



### **Global health crisis**

COVID-19 entered the global risk landscape in 2020, showing firstly the vulnerability of society to a pandemic already in the making.

In the wake of the health crisis there is an economic and social crisis, as well as systemic changes in the labour market, accelerated by technological advances.

Another of the terrible consequences was the shutdown in the global economy, which could return 150 million people living in developing countries to extreme poverty<sup>13</sup>.

So the health crisis appeared like an authentic black swan, leaving us with an important issue to be resolved: How to face the multiple challenges that have arisen in an increasingly interdependent world.

people could return to extreme poverty as a result of the crisis caused by COVID-19



### Aqualia guarantees access to water

During the most critical moments of the pandemic, Aqualia ensured the provision of the necessary services and, secondly, acting as a catalyst for the many changes so that all citizens had access to water. To do this, the company even suspended water cuts that had already been envisaged.

### Aqualia is all about people who take care

Protocols were strengthened to protect employees and clients by activating prevention and contingency systems: Contingency plans for workers, clients, users, etc.

### Strengthening of public-private collaboration

Aqualia helped in the fight against the virus by collaborating with the authorities in the early detection of infections by detecting the presence of COVID-19 in wastewater.

The company also guaranteed users high-quality tap water, which remained subject to the usual, normal disinfection treatments, provided by companies in the sector, both public and private.



### **Desertification and water stress**

the scarcity of water resources. In this regard, one of the problems that will most affect the population will be the decrease in the volume of water in rivers and other sources population will live in water-stressed areas by 2030.

of the world's population will live in waterstressed areas by 2030



### Saving and efficiency in water consumption

The climate emergency is having an enormous effect on Faced with the climate emergency, policies for saving and efficiency in water consumption, like those that are beginning to be approved in Europe, are critical. A prominent example is European Directive of access. UNESCO estimates that 47% of the world's 2020/2184, on the quality of water intended for human consumption. The directive highlights the European problem of leakage in distribution networks for which it complete an assessment within three years. Based on the results, a threshold will be established below which the countries will have to prepare an Action Plan to reduce leakage levels.

### **Circular economy**

These water stress risks will also be mitigated by circular economy techniques that encourage the re-use of wastewater.



### Concentration of population growth in urban areas

Globally, population growth is increasingly concentrated in urban areas. It currently represents 55% of the world's population and is expected to reach 68% by 2050.

of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2050



### **Smart Cities & 4.0 Industry**

Given this growing concentration, there is a clear commitment at a global level to Smart Cities, where there is a trend for 4.0 Industry as the way of doing business.

### **Fourth Industrial Revolution**

This involves advanced production techniques and smart technologies for interconnected companies that are changing the rules of the game.

### Smart Water / 4.0 Water

In the water sector, this "Smart Water" concept (Smart Water/4.0 Water), includes such features as applied artificial intelligence, Big Data, IoT and robotics.



### Efficient management

Obsolete infrastructures pose risks to maintaining the quality levels of supply, sanitation and treatment services, as well as to efficient water management.

That is why the infrastructure investment deficit has such a severe impact on the sustainability of the system in different ways: It makes maintenance operations more expensive, contributes negatively to environmental objectives and prevents the incorporation of technological improvements that increase efficiency<sup>14</sup>.

The development of technological innovations took on special significance, both for the proper maintenance of the network, and for the improvement of relationships with clients.



### Management models serving the public interest

Management models serving the public good are a suitable solution to meet these challenges. Publicprivate collaboration is crucial for these technologically advanced sanitation infrastructures to be built.

### Cost recovery principle

European legislation also established the principle of recovering the cost of water services in cities, industry and agriculture, so that we citizens pay not only for the service but also for the construction and renovation of infrastructures.



### Inequality in access to technologies

The WEF 2021 Global Risk Report published how COVID-19 increased inequality in education and access to technology, creating a growing digital gap. It also warned about job losses.



### **Telecommuting**

Telecommuting policies implemented by companies have been a catalyst for change in the labour market.

For the first time in Aqualia's history, the service was implemented in 12 states in Colombia, showing the essential role that new technologies and digitalisation play in the activities of a water management company.



### Regulatory and administrative compliance

Legislation, regulations and administrations in the different countries should also adapt to the increasingly strict regulatory requirements of international organisations in terms of water cycle management requirements, water stress, governance, as well as climatic and financial requirements.

European Directive 2020/2184, on water intended for human consumption, requires transparency and access to information on water quality parameters, to achieve increased client confidence and greater consumption of tap water.

The EU's energy and climate objectives are leading to investment in sustainable projects and activities. In June 2020, Regulation EU/2020/852 on establishing a framework to facilitate sustainable investment was published. This included a classification system (taxonomy) that establishes a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities.

In Spain, the state continues to pay a fine to the EU of 10 million euros every six months. This sanction by with Directive 91/271 / EEC on wastewater treatment, due to the lack of treatment plants in a number of urban agglomerations. Another outstanding national issue is investment in water infrastructures to comply with the Water Framework Directive (184/014081).



### Innovation in the water sector

Innovation is a key factor in the water sector, which should meet regulatory requirements by promoting projects related to the application of new technologies to the management of the end-to-end water cycle, its use and re-use, etc.

In this regard, companies like Aqualia should ensure the quality of this resource via a risk management system. To do this, risk assessments and control need to be carried out by means of Water Safety Plans, which start in the abstraction area and continue as far as the home distribution system. Operational supply control programmes also need to be prepared.

Once again, the different innovations to be undertaken require large investment and public-private collaboration. There is great potential for reducing GHG emissions, for example in the case of the water and sanitation sector.

To achieve this and to encourage activities that contribute to mitigating or adapting to climate change, companies such as Aqualia will be looking to access international finance, so they need to explain their innovative initiatives the European Commission is due to non-compliance from an environmental perspective, taking into account energy consumption and other significant metrics.

### Global risk management

The company has a compliance model and a control and or their feasibility, and financial risks, those that may that may affect the company's positioning: Reputational,

assessment system for its strategic risks which are those affect the financing of the company to a greater or lesser degree and therefore the future of the business, as well social-political, economic, etc-; operational risks, those as the regulatory compliance risks mentioned above and that may have an impact on the provision of services managed by the Regulatory Compliance Department.

# Aqualia facing the climate emergency

Aqualia's environmental commitment does not end with responsible water management. In 2020 the company worked on new policies and initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint and protect biodiversity in the areas where it operates.



















↑ 75.40% network efficiency

### Management approach

environmental impacts. For this, it has an Integrated management are as follows:

Aqualia is responding to the climate challenge and the Management System certified within the Environmental expectations of its stakeholders and society through (ISO 14001), Energy (ISO 50001)<sup>15</sup> and Quality (ISO 9001) efficient and sustainable environmental management, scope. The company also verifies its Carbon Footprint which enables it to understand and measure (ISO 14064-1). The requirements established by this



aspects.

Identification and assessment environmental



Identification and follow-up of contractual and legal requirements.



**Operational control** 

of the environmental aspects, of the main uses and of energy consumption (undertaken according to the requirements of the Quality Management System).

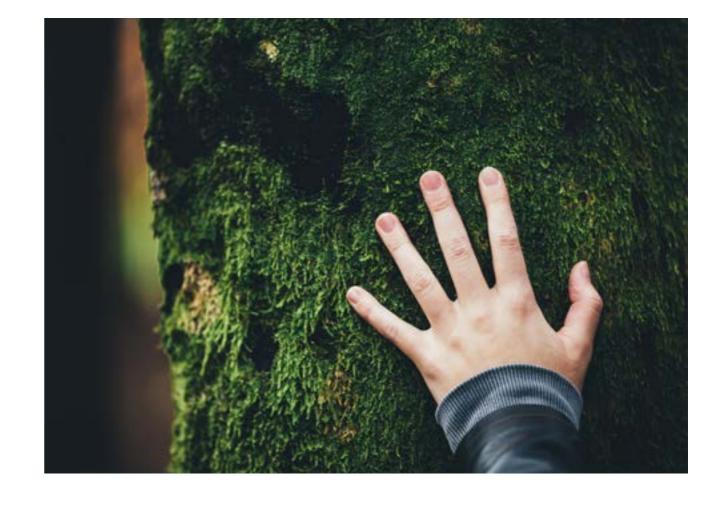


Identification and assessment

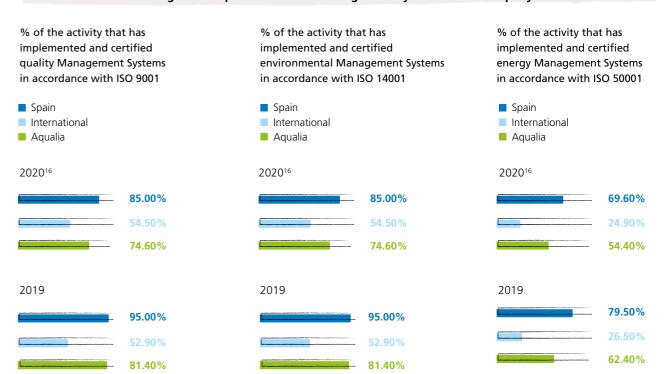
of environmental risks and the establishment of measures for preventing and responding to possible incidents/ accidents.



To be improved: Objectives and review of the Management System.



### Degree of implementation of management systems in the company



15 Since 2016, and every four years, the company has been subject to energy audits (in accordance with the ISO 50001 regulation-Energy Management Systems) in a group of production installations that are responsible for more than 85% of the company's total energy consumption

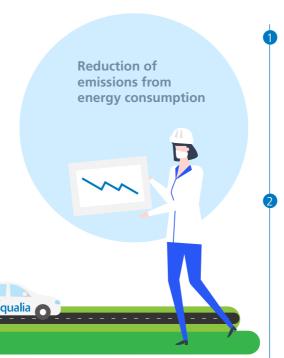
16 The reduction in the Scope of the ISO 9001. ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 Certificates in Spain is due to the fact that Contracts for fewer than 10.000 inhabitants and Sports Centres are eliminated from the certificate, with the exception of Zones, contractual requirements, commercial conditions and/or contracts affected by RD 56/2016, 85% energy consumption.

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### The main aspects taken into account and controls established are the following: Carbon footprint Energy reviews in accordance with ISO 50001 and RD Carbon Footprint for all Aqualia's 56/2016. activities in Spain and Portugal. • Improved measurement. • Review of the Carbon Footprint Reduction Plan for Aqualia's Activity Calculation of energy and verification of the emissions performance by pumps. avoided in the Climate Project. Optimisation and management of hazardous improvement of production and non-hazardous waste processes, installations and in accordance with current legislation. Optimisation of the purchase Agricultural use for of energy (power). WWTP sludge. Maintenance and improvement of the network's hydraulic performance.

### Aqualia and the climate change<sup>17</sup>

Aqualia is responding to the climate challenge with energy management based on optimisation, which is demonstrated in the following action guidelines:



### Use of renewable energy

- Signing PPA projects for the acquisition of renewable energy with a Green Certificate.
- Installation of photovoltaic solar energy panels.
- Installation of micro turbines in the distribution systems.

### Generation of energy in water cycle management

- Hydroelectric operations in catchment basins.
- Installation of micro turbines in the distribution systems.
- The use of biogas produced in the wastewater treatment process to generate electricity or heat.

### Reduction in electricity consumption in WWTPs

- Replacement of existing equipment with more energy-efficient equipment.
- Development of wastewater treatment technologies with low energy consumption.
- Electrodialysis: low energy consumption desalination processes.

### 4 Transformation of the vehicle fleet

- Incorporation of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) vehicles in the fleet of sewer cleaning lorries.
- Incorporation of vehicles powered by the biogas generated in the WWTPs.
- Incorporation of electric vehicles.

For the management of environmental risks, general environmental risk sheets are available and adaptable by contract to the specific circumstances. These sheets contain the preventive measures to be taken in case of risk and the response to be made in case the risk materialises. Here are some examples of preventive measures: Covered storage for identified chemicals and hazardous wastes, with bunds and absorbents to collect spillage, chlorine gas escape detection systems, etc.

With regard to the objectives, the Managing Committee, via the Management System Committee, shall establish the "global" objectives of the Management System (eg: Energy and carbon footprint reduction projects, use/ production of renewable energies, etc.), as well as the strategic lines that are detailed in specific objectives for the contracts defined and approved by the production areas.

With regard to the scope of energy management and climate change, in 2020 the following was worked on:

- Monitoring contracts with energy review.
- Calculation and verification of the Carbon Footprint for all Aqualia's activities in Spain and Portugal.
- Registration of the Carbon Footprint in the OECC (Spanish Office for Climate Change) depending on the MITECO (Ministry for Ecological Transition) for all Aqualia's activity in Spain.
- Review of the Carbon Footprint Reduction Plan for Aqualia's activity.
- Verification of the emissions avoided in the MITECO OECC Climate Project that was approved in 2018 for the use of alternative fuels corresponding to the company's activity and in motor vehicles.
- Follow-up on the project for the Implementation of the Energy Management System in all activities in Spain, in compliance with RD 56/2016.

### Use of renewable energy

In 2020 two projects were launched with the aim of reducing GHGs:

- A PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) was signed for 76 GWh/year of renewable energies (photovoltaic), which came into operation in July and will reduce emissions by about 15,200 t CO<sub>3</sub>e/year.
- The project to install 3.2 MW of peak capacity photovoltaic panels, which will supply 26 consumption points, with an expected annual production of 5 GWh/year, which will result in a reduction of GHG emissions of about 1,000 t CO<sub>2</sub>e/year.

# Best practices

### The Podhradi DWTP in the Czech Republic accumulates 10 M KWh of green energy produced

Since it began operating in 2014, the mini-hydraulic plant at the Czech SmVak water treatment plant has prevented the combustion of 10,000 tons of coal, equivalent to 23,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e into the atmosphere.

In 2019, the energy generation of the seven mini hydroelectric plants was 4 GWh, representing 107% of the total consumption in the towns.





17 In this section, construction services were not included as they are not relevant with regard to other services. With regard to countries included in the report, the data for Colombia were not included since activity began in 2020. Neither were the energy data for Oman, nor the environmental data for the activities in Mexico. For all these cases, the reporting system has not yet been established.

| Generation of energy in  | water cycle managemer | nt                    |       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
|  | 2019                  | 2020                  | 19/20 |
| Energy produced. Renewable biogas (GJ)   | 824,146               | 888,193 <sup>18</sup> | 7.8%  |
| Energy consumed. Renewable biogas (GJ)   | 824,146               | 1,002,687             | 21.7% |
| TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMED (GJ)   | 4,241,485             | 4,564,397             | 7.6%  |
| % renewable biogas energy compared to total energy                                   | 19%                   | 22%                   | -     |
| Energy intensity ratio: Total non-renewable energy consumed/turnover (GJ/thousand €) | 2.88                  | 3                     | 4.2%  |

18 For the calculation of the renewable energy produced and consumed, the criterion was changed giving the data for the consumption of biogas used to generate



The ratio of energy intensity over turnover is 3.00 GJ/ This increase in energy intensity was mainly due to an thousand €. This represents an increase of 0.12 GJ/ increase in desalinated water in Algeria and Saudi Arabia, thousand € over the ratio for 2019 (2.88 GJ/thousand €). which was very intensive in energy consumption. The increase in renewable energy was 22% compared to 19% in 2019.

# Best practices

Since 2018, Aqualia has been working on the Advisor Project, for the revaluation of waste from the livestock **industry,** with which new control systems are used to increase the capacity for treatment and in this way guaranteeing the efficiency of the process. Use can be made of fatty waste by transforming it into bioplastics with high added value.

The increase in biogas production is exploited with an ABAD Bioenergy® system for the upgrading of biomethane and a dispenser to feed a specific vehicle in the WWTP followed by EnergyLab, which has already travelled 27,000 km.





### Reduction of energy consumption

obtained to be monitored.

Every four years and since 2016, Aqualia has subjected In 2020, the office building in Las Tablas, where Aqualia its installations to energy audits. To monitor the has its headquarters, was certified in terms of energy improvement opportunities detected in these audits, management. Consumption is expected to be optimised there is a computer tool that will be integrated with in this building that, as in the case of the rest of the Aqualia's technical reporting/analysis tool (AqualiaRT/ offices, has a much lower impact on the company's AqualiaBl) that will enable the actions and results carbon footprint than the production installations, but which are Aqualia's showcase for its end-clients and for all its employees to whom in this way the company's environmental commitment can be transferred.

| Energy consumption                       |           |           |        |  |
|--|-----------|-----------|--------|--|
| Consumption of energy and reagents       | 2019      | 2020      | 19/20  |  |
| Consumption of reagents (Tn)             | 36,125    | 29,821    | -17.5% |  |
| Electricity consumed (GJ <sup>19</sup> ) | 3,157,427 | 3,416,448 | 8.2%   |  |
| Combustible energy (GJ <sup>20</sup> )   | 259,912   | 281,936   | 8.5%   |  |
| TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION (a+b)           | 3,417,339 | 3,698,384 | 8.2%   |  |

- 19 The data correspond to the electricity purchased from third parties.
- 20 The data correspond to non-renewable fuels purchased from third parties.

| Total energy consumption         | 2019      | 2020      | 19/20 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Direct energy consumption (GJ)   | 1,084,058 | 1,147,949 | 5.9%  |
| Indirect energy consumption (GJ) | 3,157,427 | 3,416,448 | 8.2%  |
| From non-renewable sources (GJ)  | 3,417,339 | 3,561,710 | 4.2%  |
| From renewable sources (GJ)      | 824,146   | 1,002,687 | 21.7% |
| TOTAL (SUM) <sup>21</sup> (GJ)   | 4,241,485 | 4,564,397 | 7.6%  |

21 A change of criteria is included to account for total energy consumption: Including that from renewable and non-renewable sources. Only non-renewable energy was included in the 2019 report. The renewable fuel used to produce electricity and not the electricity produced is included in the sum. Ref. GRI 302-1.

| Total energy consumption by type         | 2019      | 2020      | 19/20  |
|--|-----------|-----------|--------|
| TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION (GJ)            | 4,241,485 | 4,564,397 | 7.6%   |
| Electricity purchased GJ                 | 3,157,427 | 3,416,448 | 8.2%   |
| Gas (GJ <sup>22</sup> )                  | 48,755    | 27,364    | -43.9% |
| Diesel installations (GJ <sup>23</sup> ) | 9,985     | 7,548     | -24.4% |
| Diesel fleets (GJ <sup>24</sup> )        | 197,899   | 242,651   | 22.6%  |
| Petrol fleets (GJ)                       | 3,274     | 4,102     | 25.3%  |
| Biogas                                   | 809,801   | 847,365   | 4.6%   |
| Hydroelectric                            | 14,345    | 17,852    | 24.4%  |
| Loss of energy for sale                  | -         | 797       | -      |

- 22 Decrease in activity in sports installations due to COVID-19.
- 23 Decrease in activity in sports installations due to COVID-19.
- 24 The increase is due to new contracts in the Emirates and increased mobility in Spain.

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### **Energy consumption by country**

| GJ       |
|----------|
| ,613,416 |
| ,113,436 |
| 259,374  |
| 48,212   |
| 38,518   |
| 22,941   |
| 217,483  |
| 23,775   |
| 227,242  |
| 2        |

The following improvements were implemented in 2020 for the management and optimisation of energy consumption:

- Launching a centralised monitoring and control platform for proposals and objectives for the improvement of the different contracts relating to energy efficiency, under the ISO 50001-Energy Management Systems standard.
- The change to a new energy invoicing control platform (Synergica) which is much more powerful and enabled more immediate and comprehensive control of the energy costs invoiced by the retailer.
- Initial operation of the SILICE platform for the collection of data on gas production and its destination in the WWTPs managed, in order to be able to make a centralised declaration of the data required for the settlement of the Hydrocarbon Tax on the Spanish Tax Authority's platform.

### Challenge for Aqualia's contribution to climate change. Carbon Footprint Reduction Plan

Aqualia has calculated and verified the Carbon Footprint for all the company's activity in Spain and Portugal. The organisation has also registered its Carbon Footprint in the OECC (Spanish Office for Climate Change) under the MITECO (Ministry for Ecological Transition) for all Aqualia's activity in Spain.

|   | 2019          | 2020          | 19/20   |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------|
| CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from the end-to-end cycle (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)) | 424,711       | 480,043       | 13.03%  |
| Scope 1 emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)                                    | 91,817        | 97,787        | 6.50%   |
| Scope 2 emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)                                    | 288,609       | 344,736       | 19.45%  |
| Scope 3 emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)                                    | 44,285        | 37,520        | -15.28% |
| Turnover  | 1,186,889,341 | 1,188,348,000 | 0.12%   |
| Ratio of emissions over turnover (tCO₂e/mill €)                           | 0.36          | 0.4           |         |



# Main objectives of the Carbon Footprint Reduction Plan for Aqualia's activity (2020-2022)

Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Increase in emissions avoided

Compensation for emissions

### **Emission reduction objectives**

# Renewal of the fleet to electric vehicles

In line with the proposals established by the Draft Law on Climate Change, Aqualia will renew its fleet of vehicles, in which electric vehicles will replace combustion engines in cities with fewer than 50,000 inhabitants.





# Objectives for the consumption of electricity

- ② 2.5% reduction in energy consumption.
- 1% reduction in the consumption of energy acquired from third parties due to an increase in generation from 6 GWh in 2021 and 8.5 GWh in 2022.
- + Purchase of renewable energy from retailers for a total of 62 GWh, 4.4% of the consumption for the period.
- Purchase of renewable energy through
   PPAs, which will represent 16% for the period (76 GWh/year).

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### Objectives for increasing avoided emissions



# Recovering energy in desalination plants

Aqualia proposes to recover the energy in the desalination plants through the turbines and pressure exchange equipment. This would represent a 4% reduction in emissions as a result of the electrical energy.

The Mides project has been able to make desalination installations independent with regard to energy.

# Increasing biogas production

The company is looking to increase the production of biogas by anaerobic digestion in WWTPs used to generate electricity and heat. The target for growth in the 2020-2022 period is 50%. This milestone can be reached due to the fact that Aqualia manages a greater number of treatment plants that use this process and equipment that can use the energy produced.

## Best practices

The Mides project already operates in the first two desalination installations in the world without external energy consumption at the plants in Racons (Dénia, Alicante) and Fonsalía (Guía de Isora, Santa Cruz de Tenerife), obtaining energy contained in wastewater.



These two pilot units desalinate 3.6 m<sup>3</sup>/day each, which enables supply to be provided for 25 people and a saving of more than 3 kWh of electrical energy per m<sup>3</sup>, with the resulting reduction in the carbon footprint.



### Objectives for offsetting emissions

# ABAD Bioenergy® technology

The Ministry for Ecological Transition has endorsed the ABAD Bioenergy® technology in the fight for decarbonisation.

This system is a pioneer in the water sector and has been selected in a competition for Climate Projects as one of the best initiatives that contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in Spain.

The initiative, promoted by the Spanish Office of Climate Change of the MITECO, represents a 100% bonus on GHG emissions prevented by Aqualia in 2018.

The ABAD Programme will last six years and has the following goals:

- Decarbonisation of activities
- Making use of renewable energy sources
- Use of biofuel in the vehicle fleet



The ABAD Bioenergy® system has already been implemented in the water treatment plants managed by Aqualia in La Gavia (Madrid), Lleida, Chiclana and Jerez (Cádiz), and produces enough biomethane to power 200 vehicles.

In 2020, three new installations/WWTPs: Guijuelo (Salamanca), Valdebebas (Madrid) and the Czech Republic, were added to the production of biomethane.

# Participation in other compensation projects

Aqualia is aware of the role it plays in reducing GHG on improving efficiency and contributing to the emissions in other sectors of activity.

reduction of GHG emissions. It maintains a philosophy

Because of its status as a company in the water and whose aim is to offset the Carbon Footprint. sanitation sector, that is why it focusses all its activities

on improving efficiency and contributing to the reduction of GHG emissions. It maintains a philosophy of continuous innovation and is open to new projects whose aim is to offset the Carbon Footprint

### Water footprint, a matter of collaboration









Agualia is working to care for and satisfy the needs of its enable the measurement and guarantee of the social, environmental impact of its activity. It also favours an environment that establishes clear basic principles that

clients, contributing to their welfare, preserving the value environmental and financial sustainability of the end-toof water resources, respecting nature and minimising the end water cycle, and this involves the public and private sectors to overcome the challenges presented.

### Reduction of water consumption



### **Promotion of responsible** consumption amongst citizens

- Smart measurement systems to provide online information for citizens regarding consumption.
- Citizen awareness campaigns, visits to installations, contests for citizens, etc.
- Adaptation of drought plans in contracts, in accordance with the Administration.



### **Reduction of** unregistered water

- Improving hydraulic performance in the water distribution networks.
- Elimination of fraud.
- Control and reduction of municipal consumption



### Use of alternative resources

- Re-use of wastewater.
- Desalination of seawater and salty water.
- Recharging aguifers for use as an alternative resource.

### Smart metering systems and a reduction of unrecorded water

Aqualia is investing in technology and innovation with the aim of achieving smart management. In this regard, the development of monitoring and measurement programmes such as Aqualia GIS, Aqualia GESRED and the Scada Platform, which are available to administrations and citizens, enables greater control and more efficient consumption.



These smart monitoring and management programmes enable Aqualia to collaborate with Public Administrations to solve the problem of leaks in the water distribution networks raised by European Directive 2020/2184 with regard to the quality of water intended for human consumption.

|  | 2019        | 2020        | 19/20               |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Total water consumed in the purification and desalination processes (m³) | 146,456,771 | 176,378,292 | 20.4% <sup>25</sup> |
| Volume of water distributed (m³)   | 674,285,310 | 673,699,808 | -0.1%               |
| Volume of raw water abstracted for management (m³)                       | 853,187,434 | 924,153,976 | 8.3%                |

25 The increase is mainly due to the desalination plants in Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

### Efficiency in global water distribution networks<sup>26</sup>



- 26 It takes into account the total water recorded on clients' meters (m³)/total water distributed (m³).
- 27 The water discharged represents an 11% increase over 2019. This was due to an increase in the water discharged by the new desalination plants in Algeria and Saudi Arabia, but the volume of treated water in the managed WWTPs also increased (687 Hm³ in 2020 vs 631 Hm³ in 2019).

### Circularity in the water cycle

only possible with the collaboration of citizens and the year of COVID-19 and it had an impact on activity. Public Administrations, essential in the installation of

Circularity initiatives in the water cycle also contribute the necessary infrastructures and the implementation to reducing water consumption. However, they are of suitable consumption habits. In any case, 2020 was

| Natural resource                                   | 2019        | 2020        | 19/20 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------|
| Volume of raw water abstracted for management (m³) | 853,187,434 | 924,153,976 | 8.3%  |
| Drinking water produced (m³)                       | 627,890,891 | 664,214,708 | 5.8%  |
| Treated water (m³)                                 | 631,224,578 | 687,943,351 | 9.0%  |
| Raw water purchased (m³)                           | 218,663,738 | 206,052,232 | -5.8% |
| Treated water purchased (m³)                       | 250,391,606 | 265,717,202 | 6.1%  |

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| Water abstracted by extraction source  | %     | 2020        | Water abstraction from areas under water stress |
|--|-------|-------------|---|
| Surface waters (wetlands, rivers, lakes, collected rainwater and other water sources) (m³) | 38.2% | 353,314,947 | 84%   |
| Sea water (m³)   | 36.2% | 334,167,643 | 100%  |
| Salty water (m³)   | 1.6%  | 15,239,269  | 100%  |
| Underground water (m³)   | 23.8% | 219,642,783 | 95%   |
| Other water resulting from extraction, processing or uses of raw materials (m³)            | 0.2%  | 1,789,336   | 0%  |
| TOTAL  |       | 924,153,976 |   |
|  |       |             |   |

|                                |            |            |       | % in areas<br>under water |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|-------|---------------------------|
|                                | 2019       | 2020       | 19/20 | stress                    |
| Water recycled or re-used (m³) | 50,890,362 | 56,424,446 | 10.9% | 100%                      |

In 2020 the production of recycled water increased again, due to an increase in treated water at the New Cairo WWTP, where treated water is used for irrigation. In 2019, the amount was 50,890,362. This was an increase of 10.9%.

Aqualia has taken numerous actions with the aim of improving the protection of the resource, these include the use of recycled water for ecosystem retrieval and the transformation of effluents into water suitable for irrigation, etc.

# Best practices

### Water reduction: Monitoring leaks in the Czech Republic

The implementation of a leak monitor and an online monitoring system, which collects data and evaluates the calculated leaks based on the minimum nightly flow rate, enables rapid leak repair which minimises water losses.

This monitor provides a global tool for the monitoring, assessment and management of leaks in the supply network. It started in 2018 in the supply for Orlová and in 2019 it was extended to all SmVak distribution networks. This network monitoring software provides 110,000 daily data from more than 800 monitoring centres through 1,000 sensors.

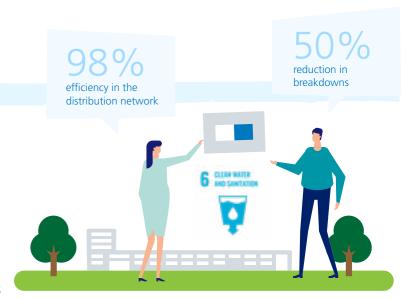


# Best practices

### **Government of the Balearic Islands**

In December, the Balearic Islands
Government authorities visited the new
supervision and remote control system for
the drinking water distribution network in
operation on the island of Ibiza and which
monitors the interconnection of the three
desalination plants.

With an investment exceeding €850,000, this control and surveillance system has achieved a network performance of 98% and reduced the breakdown rate by half. The investments have made it possible to optimise the performance of the network in operation and to modernise its operation.



For the first time in the history of the islands, the integrated management of the desalination plants has succeeded in supplying a greater volume of desalinated water from the wells, thus protecting the island's underground water masses.



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### **Commitment to biodiversity**





Goal



145 identified biodiversity areas



### Protection and recovery of the ecosystem



# Obtaining value-added products in the water treatment process

- Process for obtaining biofuel when treating wastewater.
- Process for obtaining biofertilisers when treating wastewater.
- Process for obtaining bioplastics when treating wastewater.
- Metals and reagents from the brine in the desalination plants.



# Recovery of the key ecosystem in the water cycle

- Identification of the protected spaces within the perimeters where Aqualia operates as manager of municipal services.
- Establishing specific programmes or agreements with environmental associations (e.g. Lagunas de Medina del Campo).
- Recharging aquifers for use as an alternative resource.

Aqualia manages operational centres that it owns, leases or manages next to protected areas and areas with great value from the point of view of biodiversity. The care and protection of these areas and their ecosystems is

part of Aqualia's commitment, which, together with other environmental organisations, promotes initiatives in some of these areas.

### The following projects for the protection of diversity deserve special mention:

### **El Salitre Water Treatment Plant, Colombia**

Reforestation

Throughout the park there have been



6,000 native species of trees planted

1,233 pending plantation



The forest area
13 hectares
extension

A lake 3,030 m<sup>3</sup> capacity for observing the birds of Bogotá

In the Metropolitan Park, progress is being made in the planting of trees of native species, of medium and small size, in areas affected by construction.

### **Guaymas Desalination Plant, Mexico**

# Wildlife rescue plan

This recovery plan included field trips to capture specimens of wild fauna that may be affected by the project, especially those that are subject to some degree of protection.

During the second half of 2020, a total of eight individuals of wildlife were rescued and relocated, five of them belonging to two protected or threatened species: *Heloderma suspectum* and *Crotalus atrox*.

For their relocation and rescue the following was taken into account:

- The destination site had to have suitable conditions and resources for their survival.
- It needed to be as close as possible to reduce the stress on the species to be relocated and the site had to be suitably protected or inaccessible in order to minimise the disturbance for specimens or for people if it involved poisonous species.





wildlife individuals rescued and relocated

protected or threatened species

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### **SmVak installations, Czech Republic**

# Protection of flora and fanna

Aqualia has selected several areas eligible for protection because they contain significant biological value.

In the selected areas, small ponds have been constructed or meadows of flowers have been created at the locations where wastewater is treated. After consultation with specialised NGOs, it was established that flower meadows are areas that should be protected. So in SmVak, five locations were established that will be part of the building renovation plan in order to adapt Agualia's installations to enable coexistence with the flora and fauna.



### Medina del Campo WWTP (Valladolid)

# Creation of habitat for migratory birds

to the projects presented by the NGO SEO Birdlife for involves aid of more than € 20,000. the creation of habitat for migratory birds in the WWTP

In 2020, the Australian company IFM investors, in Medina del Campo (Valladolid). This grant will be shareholders of 49% of Aqualia, awarded two grants awarded through the Medina del Campo service and





### **Collaboration with the Lleida Municipality**

# Recovery of the Rufea wettands

In Lleida, Aqualia participated in a project to restore the In fact, on March 21 on the occasion of the DMA, the Rufea wetlands. The recovery of this natural space has Municipality held an open day so the entire population enabled the Lleida Municipality to commit to this natural could discover the natural values of the area and the environment by building observation and biodiversity recently completed improvements for environmental and towers and a floating walkway so that people can visit public use. and enjoy the Rufea Aiguamolls wetlands.

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# **Actions and lessons learned** during COVID-19

As part of its work to protect public health, Aqualia actively collaborated with all Administrations to detect possible traces of coronavirus in wastewater.

# Context and approach for the pandemic

2020 represents a milestone in Modern Times. An complexity that affected politics, paralysed the economy and changed social customs around the world, caused by the emergence of a virus of unknown origin, detected in China. It was SARS-CoV -2, known as COVID-19, highly contagious, with flu-like symptoms but with much higher mortality.

Due to the dynamics of globalisation, the virus spread rapidly through many countries and the World Health Organization classified it as a pandemic in March 2020. This fact forced all countries to take a strong position in order to guarantee public health and to mitigate

the pandemic. This led to measures being taken based unprecedented challenge, accompanied by extreme on restricting the free movement of citizens, with the resulting effect on businesses in different sectors.

> For some time activity was virtually restricted to those activities considered essential, including the management of the end-to-end water cycle undertaken by Aqualia. For this reason, throughout the entire period, the company increased its efforts to guarantee drinking water and suitable sanitation to all citizens in those areas where it is present, as this is seen as an essential right and it was the key to the correct management of the situation created by the virus.



As a first important measure, Aqualia closed all its customer service offices from 15 March, one day after the state of alarm was declared in Spain. As it became necessary, the company applied this policy of closure in other countries.

### **Contingency Plan**

### **Priority objectives**



Limit and minimise the impact generated by the coronavirus crisis on its activity



Guarantee the continuity of end-to-end water cycle services to all citizens, especially the most vulnerable



Protect the health of both employees and users

It also communicated that it would suspend cutting off supplies due to user non-payment to help them cope with the severe economic situation.



Aqualia encouraged its clients to use electronic channels 

• Organisational measures and tools to make their enquiries and manage procedures. They were able to guarantee the same quality of service • Cleaning, disinfection and ventilation because workers were quick to adapt. This new measure was very well received by clients, and in a few weeks • Management and follow-up of cases among the staff there were already over 60,000 active users on the website and the mobile app.

not Aqualia's only priority issues. In its fight against the virus, the company began to work hand-in-hand with work outside their homes and who were therefore more exposed. Technical guidelines were prepared, constantly reviewed and updated with regard to:

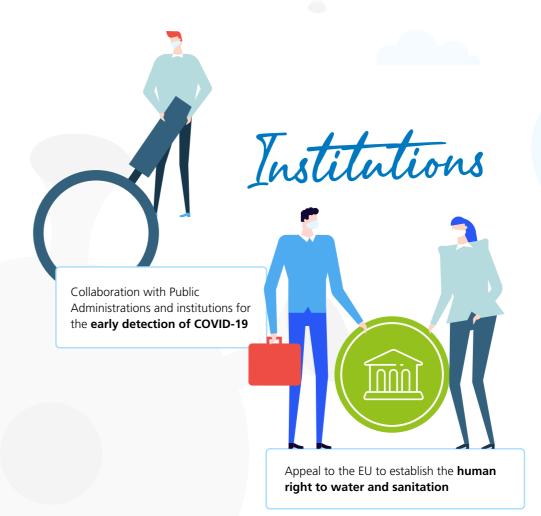
- Management of telecommuting

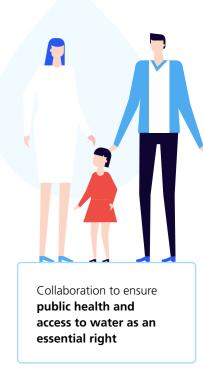
However, health and access to water for all citizens were A number of training sessions were given on general issues concerning the disease, protection measures were also provided and telecommuting was implemented institutions and unions to guarantee safety measures as a containment measure. Employees were also given for its workers, especially those who had to continue to advice on physical activity, nutrition and emotional management.

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# Aqualia vs COVID-19











During the pandemic Aqualia demonstrated the capacity of WWTPs as safe installations and "lookouts" for the control of Public Health.



During the pandemic, different studies revealed the existence of genetic material (RNA) corresponding to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, in wastewater. This occurs because it has its origin in biological fluids and faeces from people infected with the virus. In this regard, early identification in wastewater can serve as a warning of a reappearance At an international level there should be special mention of COVID-19 in the population.

This is why Aqualia, in collaboration with Hispano-Luso Agrarian Research Centre (CIALE in Spanish) and the Technological Research and Development Centre for Water (CIDTA in Spanish) launched a study at the Salamanca WWTP where the best conditions for taking samples and analysis were defined (points and times for sampling, preservation of samples, method calibration).

The company also participated in a Spanish Government project promoted by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge and the Ministry of Health, to monitor the COVID-19 alert in wastewater. This project was developed in different towns and cities,

including Salamanca, Ávila, Medina, Aranda, Guijuelo, Lleida, Dénia, Novelda, Villena, Morón de la Frontera, Chipiona, Ronda, Algeciras (Emalgesa), Almería and El Puerto de Santa Maria (Apemsa).

for the performance of Caltagua (Agualia's Italian subsidiary) in the analysis of wastewater jointly with the University of Palermo, to follow the development of the coronavirus in Sicily. The agreement, signed by both parties, contemplated taking water samples at the entrance to the treatment plants managed by the company and their subsequent analysis and establishing the viral load in the educational centre's laboratory.

The initiative was included in the SARI programme (Monitoring of Environmental Waste in Italy) implemented on a national scale by the Instituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), in collaboration with a number of regional governments, research centres and 50 water service operators.

# Aqualia's awareness-raising role

Closely linked to its daily activities, Aqualia implemented a number of awareness-raising initiatives on the responsible use of water and caring for the environment. As an example, on World Sanitation Day, Aqualia joined the call by the European Union to establish access to water and sanitation as a basic human right in EU legislation.

Also with the aim of raising awareness on the care of the sanitation network, a campaign was undertaken under the slogan #nolotires (#dontthrowitaway) to inform the population and make people aware of the correct way to dispose of masks and other single-use health products whose consumption increased considerably due to the pandemic.

In this regard, the presence of Agualia as a significant agent in the sector was demonstrated by its participation in events like the "Corporate Water Leaders Panel" conference, held by Global Water Intelligence in order to address the crisis generated by the new coronavirus and its repercussions on global water management. This digital event addressed strategic issues relating to the pandemic, such as the contingency plans implemented by the utilities, the changes generated in the corporate culture by COVID-19 and the formulas for success to guarantee the sustainability of the sector after the crisis. The event was remotely attended by almost 1,000 viewers and there was also participation by important companies in the sector, such as Suez, Acciona and Dupont.



# Who is behind the water we use at home?



There are people like Pablo, Juan, Teresa, Pedro... Aqualia workers who, now that we have to stay at home, continue working so that every time you switch a tap on you have good quality water in your home.

For all these reasons, and so many more, we do not rest, not even now. This is how we take care of you.

People who work for people



### Who is behind the water we use at home?

Finally, the most significant initiative developed in 2020 was the corporate campaign entitled, Who is behind the water we use at home?, in which Agualia assumed its role as an agent for change in society. This campaign that Aqualia undertook, despite the COVID-19 crisis, so that no home was left without water and, once used, it continued returning to the natural environment in ideal condition. The company also wished to raise awareness in those areas where it is present on the importance of maximum number of people possible.

"Communications with a Specific Purpose (COVID-19) category in the European Excellence Awards (EEA) which since 2007 have been recognising the most outstanding

campaigns and projects in Europe in the field of public relations and communications.

In support of the institutional work in the management was created with a view to showing the important work of the pandemic, Aqualia also joined the "Call to Action" campaign promoted by the international Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) association. The initiative highlighted the importance of ensuring access to water and sanitation services to stop the spread of the virus. This association consists of governments from more than staying at home to stop the spread of the virus, for the 60 countries, the United Nations, UNESCO, UNICEF, the purpose of guaranteeing the survival and welfare of the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, CEO Water Mandate, International Water Centre (IWC), Global Water Partnership (GWP), International Water This campaign was acknowledged in the Association (IWA), and companies and associations of all kinds. Aqualia joined this association both individually and in its capacity as a partner of Aquafed, the International Federation of Private Water Operators.





+67,000 viewings of the campaign on YouTube



impressions on banners inserted in



Published in Portugal, Italy and France





SWA: #Teaser 1 World leaders Call to Action on water, sanitation and hygiene & COVID-19



SWA: World Leaders' Call to Action: Message from Michelle Bachelet. UN **Human Rights Chief** 



SWA: Leaders' Call to **Action:** Message from Catarina de Albuquerque, SWA CEO

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### End-to-end water cycle service, Colombia

With the aim of providing service for 450,000 inhabitants in 13 Colombian municipalities<sup>28</sup>, Agualia launched the end-to-end water cycle service in less than a month and in the midst of the global crisis due to the pandemic.

For the first time initial operations were completed remotely with a team of professionals under lockdown in Spain, Panama, US A and Colombia, which gave support to the 450 local workers who are now part of Aqualia's workforce in Colombia.

The involvement and coordination of the responsible team enabled the remote

implementation of technical studies to improve the installations. Training courses and technical support were also given on fraud control, detecting leaks, billing and analysis of software.

The launch of Aqualia's new services in Colombia in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis was a great example of the company's capacity for resilience and the enormous involvement of its workers. The essential role played by new technologies and digitalisation in the activity of a water management company also became clear.



13 manicipalities

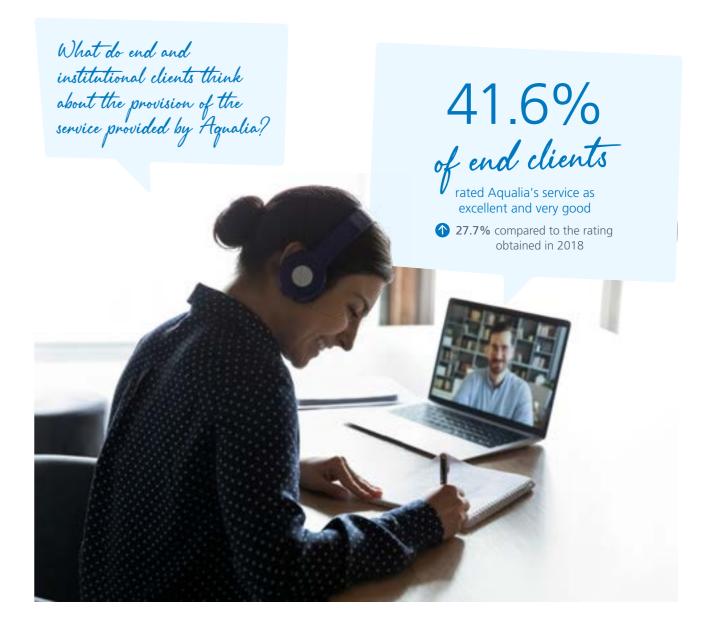




# Asking the group's stakeholders: Aqualia and COVID-19

With the aim of discovering the degree of satisfaction The increase in the degree of satisfaction, which was amongst citizens with regard to the provision of services 81.4% regarding the service provided by Agualia and and the actions taken by Aqualia during the months of 77% regarding the response to COVID-19, shows that COVID-19, in the last quarter of 2020, the company both the end client and the institutions value the effort conducted a survey amongst its groups of interest.

made by Aqualia to maintain a basic service in a context of high uncertainty and vulnerability.



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# The challenge of being more sustainable every day

In 2020 Aqualia continued to conduct materiality analysis. Studies and surveys were undertaken to determine needs of stakeholders and to make them active agents in the conversation and in order to maintain transparent communication with them.

# **Materiality in Aqualia**

2020, one step forwards in the identification of material issues and

social, environmental and economic impacts

In 2020, the materiality analysis continued through two independent phases: Firstly, research on secondary sources and secondly, conducting surveys amongst end and institutional clients.



Analysis phases for materiality



### Analysis of secondary sources

- Benchmark sector website.
- Main news collected by the company and communicated through internal channels.
- Review of parliamentary questions from the Spanish Congress of Deputies.
- Meetings with the company's main executives in which new significant issues were identified as a result of Spanish and international regulations that could have affected the sector and the company in 2020.

### Ad hoc research: External analysis

### **End clients**

3,325 surveys
1,500 by telephone
1,825 online

Institutional clients

24 interview



# Research of secondary sources using the content analysis technique

Content analysis is a methodology that focusses on the study of the contents of communication

### This phase had the following steps:

- Collection of information relating to the company published in secondary sources:
  - News on sector websites<sup>29</sup>, main news collected by the company and published on internal channels, parliamentary questions about the sector.
  - Together with company executives, collection of information regarding regulations that affect Agualia in national and international issues<sup>30</sup>.
- Preparation of a document with all the information:
- Analysis and classification of all the information in the body, in accordance with the type of material subject to which they refer (governance, labour, environmental or social).
- These new significant topics have been prioritised in accordance with how often they appear in the media, Spanish and international trends and regulations, as well as their ability to impact on one or more stakeholders. A higher score is given to those topics that appear more often and have an impact on the groups.

### **Main conclusions**

After research on secondary sources, the following issues became important:

- The health and safety not only of employees but also of citizens acquires special significance, as does the company's measures to prevent infections. Water quality and transparent information become paramount issues within the context of COVID-19.
- The right of access to water and sanitation for vulnerable people, which is a regulatory requirement.
- Efficient resource management is primarily a regulatory requirement, relating to water scarcity and the demand for water. Also includes environmental issues relating to climate change and water circularity.

- 29 Sector websites from which the main news was extracted during the year included: iAgua, Smart Water Magazine, Aguasresiduales, Retema, Tecnoaqua, Futurenviro, El Ágora, Municipal Engineering, Sustainable City, Renewable Energies and Global Water Intelligence.
- 30 Meetings were held with the departments responsible for establishing the 7 strategic sustainability lines for the 21-23 plan.

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# External analysis with the aim of discovering the degree of satisfaction, assessing material issues and understanding the image that Aqualia's clients have of the company

Onantitative methodology

through telephone and online surveys to end clients and mixed methodology (qualitative and quantitative) through telephone interviews and filling in an institutional client survey

### This phase had the following steps:

- Integration of questions related to attributes of the company's image in the statistical survey and in the scripts for the interviews. Questions about the company's performance in the COVID-19 context were also added: Performance, degree of satisfaction as an end user, etc.
- Conducting 3,325 end client surveys (1,500 telephone and 1,825 online) and conducting telephone interviews with heads of 24 local administrations (mayors, councillors and technicians) in the municipalities where Aqualia, or any of its subsidiaries, manage the municipal water service.
- Preparation of individualised and descriptive reports for each type of client, in the different geographical areas. These reports were also compared with the results from consultations in other years.

### **Main conclusions**

As a result of this analysis, it was possible to verify that in general terms clients are satisfied, although there is room for improvement and the results are in line with the significant issues resulting from the materiality analysis.



Special attention to Aqualia's performance in the COVID-19 context



Individualised and descriptive reports by client type







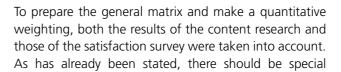
### **Materiality matrix**

The result gave the ratings given by end and institutional clients for the attributes associated with Aqualia. The following was specifically observed:



### **End clients**

Evaluate water and service quality as the most significant issues, followed by environmental commitment. Transparency and specialisation are ranked third and fourth in importance





### Institutional clients

Evaluate the quality of the water, the quality of the service, specialisation and efficiency above the rest of material aspects (> 90%), as well as client proximity and orientation and Aqualia's ethics and transparency.

mention for the importance of water quality, quality of service and ensuring supply, as well as a fast, agile and efficient client experience, as indicated in the Annex to this report.

### **COVID-19 context and Aqualia**

In the consultations with end and institutional client, the company's behaviour during COVID-19 was investigated. Ensuring supply, ensuring water quality and facilitating client management appear as the most significant material issues.



### **End clients**

84%

of clients pointed out that Aqualia helped them to guarantee their water supply

55%

Ease of completing procedures was the second-most valued feature of Aqualia for clients, with 55%.

77%

of clients stated that they were satisfied with Aqualia's actions in the COVID-19 context.



### Institutional clients

96%

of institutional clients felt that guaranteed water supply and quality and the ease of undertaking procedures were aspects in which Aqualia was of great help.

92%

This was followed by the secondmost valued feature, with 92%, which was the company's ability to provide clients with useful information.

# Milestones, objectives and commitments

In 2020, Aqualia continued working on the three axes of its 2018-2020 Sustainability Master Plan to respond to the needs of its stakeholders



### Citizen connections

### **Aqualia is committed** to proximity and close contact with the communities where it operates and undertakes its activities

- It collaborates in social improvement in the cities where it operates.
- It educates and raises citizen awareness.
- It collaborates with municipalities in social improvement.
- It measures the impact on the municipalities where it operates.



## Smart services

### Adapting its services to constant change, in the context of scarcity, protection of resources and the natural environment

- It acts against climate change.
- It develops innovative circular economy projects (Aqualia Circular).
- It addresses water stress by implementing processes to minimise consumption and promote water re-
- It is committed to the protection of the natural environment in the places where it is present.
- It promotes innovation as essential for making progress in sustainable water management.



# Exemplany penformance

### It operates under standards of integrity and business ethics in all the jurisdictions where it is present

• It maintains relationships based on respect, trust and equal opportunities with its employees and suppliers.

### Be Aqualia

Comprehensive People and **Culture Policy** 

- Equality
- Attracting talent
- Female talent
- Diversity and social inclusion
- Training and development
- Occupational health and safety and welfare
- It is a benchmark for ethical management
- It applies ethical criteria to third parties



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# Strategic Plan for

Aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in strategy and management

its commitment to the Global Compact by becoming a full member. Until now, Aqualia belonged to the Global Compact through FCC.

Following the materiality analysis completed in 2020, Aqualia worked on a Strategic Sustainability Plan for

This year, the company has taken one step further in 2021-2023. During the last quarter of 2020 and the first of 2021, work was also done on the strategic lines that will determine this plan and the necessary projects and actions to achieve each of them were established. And all this aligned with the main Sustainable Development Goals to which the company contributes.

SDGs Strategic lines\* Objectives Main projects To be able to communicate Aimed at having a narrative story the value contributed by consistent with Aqualia's purpose Agualia as Managers of the and mission. Public Water Service. communication To promote initiatives aimed at minimising and adapting to Climate emergency • Reducing water consumption. climate change. • Optimising energy efficiency and and care of the reduction of emissions. • Protection and recovery of the environment: ecosystem. • Transfer of R&D&i projects to production. To achieve a technology that Aimed at implementing all those enables the efficient use tools that improve and streamline of resources and efficient management and customer service. management so that Special mention for those aimed at: citizens can enjoy access to • Developing Aqualia Water Analytics

(AWA) for smart water management

in cities; implementing mobility in the management of processes in the endto-end cycle for an improvement in times, greater team efficiency and the

integration of platforms.





Aqualia promotes and integrates the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact into its company culture and is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

| Strategic lines*            | —<br>Objectives   | Main projects   | SDGs  |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-------|
| People<br>management        | To continue to contribute mainly to the objectives of health and welfare, equality and diversity, and dignified, healthy employment.      | Aimed at progressing with regard<br>to work-life balance, diversity,<br>promotion of health and safety,<br>support for expatriates and<br>creation of meeting spaces.   | 3 5 8 |
| 5<br>Ettrics and compliance | To transfer to the entire company, and to the supply chain, Aqualia's culture, ethical values and compliance through 360° implementation. | Aimed at the development of the compliance model, training in ethical culture and the official approval of suppliers.   | 16    |
| 6<br>Social impact          | To define the efforts made by Aqualia to guarantee access to water in a way that strengthens the link with the communities.               | Aimed at social action programmes and mechanisms to guarantee access to water for everyone. As well as establishing mechanisms for the measurement of the impact of Aqualia's projects in the countries where it provides services as an end-to-end manager of the water cycle. | 6     |
| 7<br>Strategic<br>alliances | To contribute to Aqualia's SDGs through strategic alliances.  | Through partnerships with third parties, Aqualia can contribute to the achievement of the 2030 goals.   | •     |



water that is guaranteed by

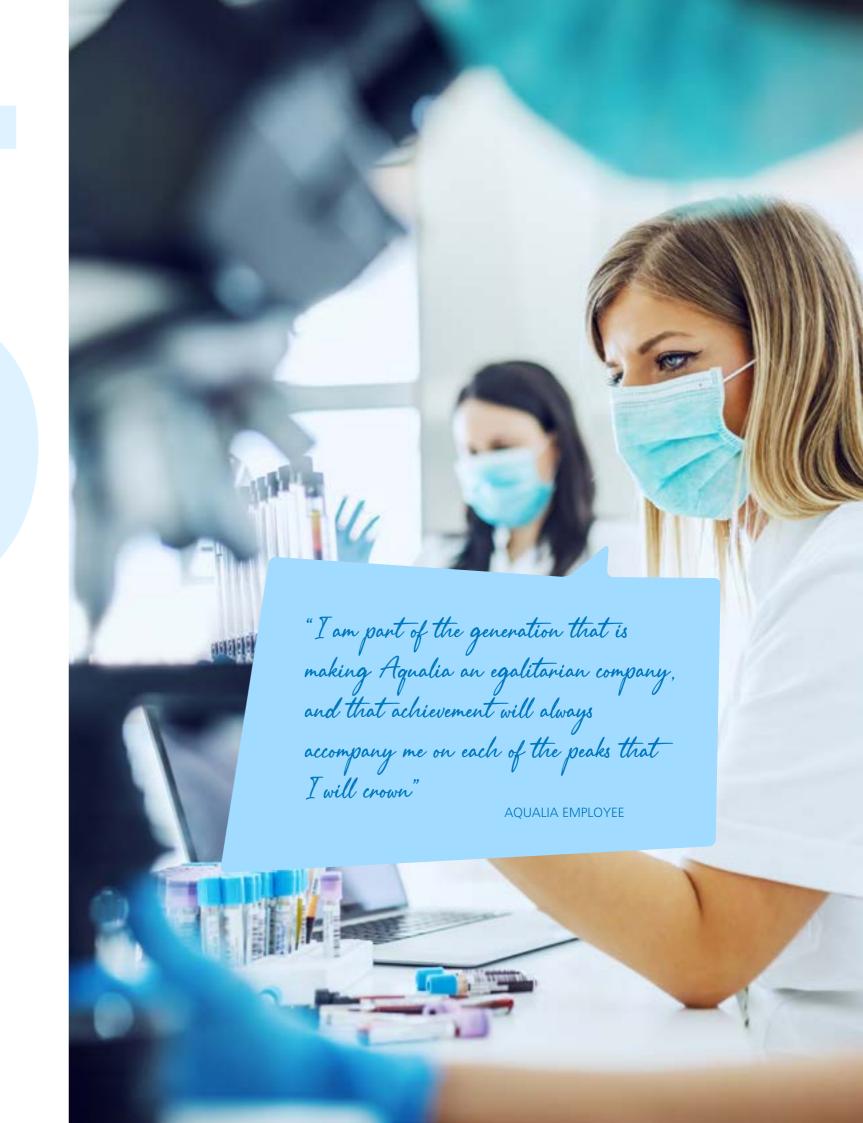
Aqualia.



Promoting a good work environment

Building a better society

As John Donne said, no person is an island: We are part of a whole and the water that surrounds us has to be a point of union. Aqualia is committed to the welfare of those who work with the company to build a more just, diverse and inclusive society; but also to that of those people to whom it guarantees access to an essential right.



96 | **2020 Sustainability Report** | Committed to people







# Promoting a good work environment

Almost nine out of ten employees surveyed declared that, over the last three years, there has been progress with regard to work-life balance in Aqualia.

10,525 employees

45.38 years average age

18.65%

12 years

women

seniority

### Rate of turnover for personnel31

| Average turnover | Men  | Women | Total |
|------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Spain            | 1.6% | 3.1%  | 1.9%  |
| International    | 0.9% | 0.3%  | 1.2%  |

<sup>31</sup> Rate of turnover: leave without pay and resignations compared to the total number of workers.

| Contract | types | hv | rogion | and | aanda |
|----------|-------|----|--------|-----|-------|
|          |       |    |        |     |       |

|                          | 2019   |        |        |        |        |        |       |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
|                          | Men    | Women  | Total  | Men    | Women  | Total  | %     |
| TOTAL EMPLOYEES          | 7,679  | 1,825  | 9,504  | 8,562  | 1,963  | 10,525 | 10.7% |
| TOTAL FOR SPAIN          | 5,163  | 1,435  | 6,598  | 5,227  | 1,484  | 6,711  | 1.7%  |
| Indefinite contracts     | 4,406  | 1,270  | 5,676  | 4,493  | 1,290  | 5,783  | 1.9%  |
| Temporary contracts      | 748    | 160    | 908    | 729    | 190    | 919    | 1.2%  |
| Fixed seasonal contracts | 9      | 5      | 14     | 5      | 4      | 9      | -     |
| Indefinite contracts     | 85.51% | 88.84% | 86.23% | 85.96% | 86.93% | 86.17% | -     |
| Temporary contracts      | 14.49% | 11.16% | 13.76% | 13.95% | 12.80% | 13.69% | -     |
| Fixed seasonal contracts | 0.17%  | 0.35%  | 0.21%  | 0.10%  | 0.27%  | 0.13%  | -     |
| INTERNATIONAL TOTAL      | 2,516  | 390    | 2,906  | 3,335  | 479    | 3,814  | 31.2% |
| Indefinite contracts     | 1,318  | 339    | 1,657  | 1,837  | 409    | 2,246  | 35.5% |
| Temporary contracts      | 1,198  | 51     | 1,249  | 1,498  | 70     | 1,568  | 25.5% |
| Indefinite contracts     | 52.37% | 86.95% | 57.01% | 55.09% | 85.43% | 58.89% | -     |
| Temporary contracts      | 47.63% | 13.05% | 42.98% | 44.91% | 14.57% | 41.11% | -     |

| Classification by working day and gender in 2020 |                  |                        |       |       |       |
|--|------------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|  | Contract<br>type | Type of working day    | Men   | Women | Total |
|  | Seasonal         | Full-time              | 5     | 4     | 9     |
|  |                  | Full-time              | 4,372 | 1,056 | 5,429 |
|  | Fixed            | Part-time              | 121   | 234   | 355   |
| Spain  |                  | Total Indefinite       | 4,498 | 1,294 | 5,793 |
|  |                  | Full-time              | 514   | 95    | 609   |
|  | Temporary        | Part-time              | 215   | 95    | 310   |
|  |                  | <b>Total Temporary</b> | 729   | 190   | 918   |
| TOTAL FOR S                                      | PAIN             |                        | 5,227 | 1,484 | 6,711 |
|  |                  | Full-time              | 2,033 | 469   | 2,502 |
|  |                  | Part-time              | 6     | 10    | 16    |
|  |                  | Unassigned             | 1,296 |       | 1,296 |
| INTERNATIO                                       | NAL TOTAL        |                        | 3,335 | 479   | 3,814 |

### Classification by contract type, gender and age

|                  |                 | Spain |       | Internatio | onal  |              |
|------------------|-----------------|-------|-------|------------|-------|--------------|
| Type of contract | Age<br>range    | Men   | Women | Men        | Women | TOTAL RESULT |
|                  | ≤25 years       | 26    | 8     | 70         | 18    |              |
|                  | 26 to 35 years  | 449   | 156   | 315        | 73    |              |
| Fixed            | 36 to 45 years  | 1,462 | 525   | 547        | 133   |              |
|                  | 46 to 55 years  | 1,687 | 480   | 535        | 115   |              |
|                  | ≥55 years       | 869   | 121   | 371        | 70    |              |
| Total fixed      | contracts       | 4,493 | 1,290 | 1,837      | 409   | 8,030        |
|                  | ≤ 25 years      | 52    | 19    | 29         | 13    |              |
|                  | 26 to 35 years  | 151   | 70    | 62         | 24    |              |
| Temporary        | 36 to 45 years  | 211   | 51    | 68         | 20    |              |
|                  | 36 to 45 years  | 128   | 41    | 1,322      | 12    |              |
|                  | ≥ 55 years      | 186   | 10    | 17         | 1     |              |
| Total temp       | orary contracts | 729   | 190   | 1,498      | 70    | 2,486        |
|                  | ≤ 25 years      | 1     | 2     |            |       |              |
| Seasonal         | 26 to 35 years  | 4     | 1     |            |       |              |
|                  | 36 to 45 years  |       | 1     |            |       |              |
| Total seaso      | onal contracts  | 5     | 4     |            |       | 9            |
| TOTAL RES        | ULT             | 5,227 | 1,484 | 3,335      | 479   | 10,525       |
|                  |                 |       |       |            |       |              |

In 2020, the number of Aqualia employees grew by in this case by 840.3% to 496, which represents 10.7% due to an increase in personnel in three regions. 13.0% of the international total. Finally, there was also The first was Egypt, where it increased by 32.3% to an increase in the workforce in Saudi Arabia, where 1,330 employees, which represents 34.9% of the growth was 293.0% to 169 employees, representing total international workforce, compared to 2019. The 4.4% of the international total. number of employees has also increased in Colombia;

### **Employment figures by country: Increase and diversity**

| _                    | 2019  |       |       | 2020  |       |       |  |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| Workers by country   | Men   | Women | Total | Men   | Women | Total |  |
| International total  | 2,516 | 390   | 2,906 | 3,335 | 479   | 3,814 |  |
| Czech Republic       | 696   | 289   | 985   | 707   | 282   | 989   |  |
| United Arab Emirates | 323   | 6     | 329   | 303   | 5     | 308   |  |
| Egypt                | 1,003 | 2     | 1,005 | 1,328 | 2     | 1,330 |  |
| Italy                | 181   | 23    | 204   | 192   | 23    | 215   |  |
| Portugal             | 82    | 19    | 101   | 88    | 20    | 108   |  |
| France               | 52    | 17    | 69    | 59    | 18    | 77    |  |
| Algeria              | 52    | 5     | 57    | 51    | 5     | 56    |  |
| Colombia             | 36    | 17    | 53    | 385   | 111   | 497   |  |
| Saudi Arabia         | 40    | 3     | 43    | 166   | 3     | 169   |  |
| Mexico               | 19    | 7     | 26    | 32    | 8     | 40    |  |
| Chile                | 12    | 0     | 12    | 9     | 0     | 9     |  |
| Montenegro           | 11    | 0     | 11    | 1     | 0     | 1     |  |
| Ecuador              | 6     | 2     | 8     | 4     | 0     | 4     |  |
| Peru                 | 0     | 0     | 0     | 3     | 1     | 4     |  |
| Romania              | 2     | 0     | 2     | 3     | 0     | 3     |  |
| Kosovo               | 1     | 0     | 1     | 2     | 0     | 2     |  |
| Panama               | 0     | 1     | 1     | 0     | 1     | 1     |  |





### Equality and diversity: Distribution by age, gender and professional category

|                              | 2019  |       |       |       | 2020  |        |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
|                              | Men   | Women | Total | Men   | Women | Total  |
|                              | 7,679 | 1,825 | 9,504 | 8,562 | 1,963 | 10,525 |
| No. of directors             | 104   | 8     | 112   | 115   | 9     | 124    |
| %                            | 93%   | 7%    |       | 93%   | 7%    |        |
| < 35 years                   | 1     | -     | 1     | 2     | -     | 2      |
| 35 and 55 years              | 77    | 7     | 84    | 80    | 8     | 88     |
| > 55 years                   | 26    | 1     | 27    | 33    | 1     | 34     |
| No. of middle managers       | 815   | 195   | 1,010 | 843   | 217   | 1,060  |
| %                            | 81%   | 19%   |       | 80%   | 20%   |        |
| < 35 years                   | 72    | 23    | 95    | 77    | 36    | 114    |
| 35 and 55 years              | 545   | 153   | 697   | 556   | 162   | 718    |
| > 55 years                   | 199   | 19    | 218   | 210   | 19    | 229    |
| No. of technicians           | 905   | 502   | 1,407 | 1,259 | 537   | 1,796  |
| %                            | 64%   | 36%   |       | 70%   | 30%   |        |
| < 35 years                   | 279   | 139   | 418   | 342   | 144   | 486    |
| 35 and 55 years              | 512   | 335   | 847   | 709   | 358   | 1,067  |
| > 55 years                   | 114   | 28    | 142   | 208   | 36    | 244    |
| No. of administrative clerks | 337   | 761   | 1,098 | 361   | 798   | 1,159  |
| %                            | 31%   | 69%   |       | 31%   | 69%   |        |
| < 35 years                   | 53    | 101   | 154   | 70    | 119   | 190    |
| 35 and 55 years              | 216   | 586   | 803   | 219   | 594   | 813    |
| > 55 years                   | 68    | 73    | 141   | 72    | 84    | 157    |
| No. in other positions       | 5,518 | 359   | 5,878 | 5,984 | 401   | 6,385  |
| %                            | 94%   | 6%    |       | 94%   | 6%    |        |
| < 35 years                   | 1,428 | 79    | 1,507 | 666   | 83    | 749    |
| 35 and 55 years              | 3,260 | 229   | 3,488 | 4,397 | 256   | 4,653  |
| > 55 years                   | 831   | 52    | 883   | 921   | 62    | 983    |
|                              |       |       |       |       |       |        |

### Selecting and attracting talent: New recruitment in Spain and Internationally by gender

|   | 2020  |       |       |  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|--|
|   | Men   | Women | Total |  |
| No. of new recruitments in Spain        | 375   | 143   | 518   |  |
| < 35 years                              | 137   | 62    | 199   |  |
| 35 and 55 years                         | 218   | 76    | 294   |  |
| > 55 years                              | 20    | 5     | 25    |  |
| No. of new recruitments internationally | 698   | 140   | 838   |  |
| < 35 years                              | 211   | 77    | 288   |  |
| 35 and 55 years                         | 350   | 61    | 411   |  |
| > 55 years                              | 137   | 2     | 139   |  |
| TOTAL NEW RECRUITMENTS <sup>32</sup>    | 1,073 | 283   | 1,356 |  |

32 The average corporate percentage of women hired was 21%: 28% in Spain and 17% internationally.

### **Professional development: Training**



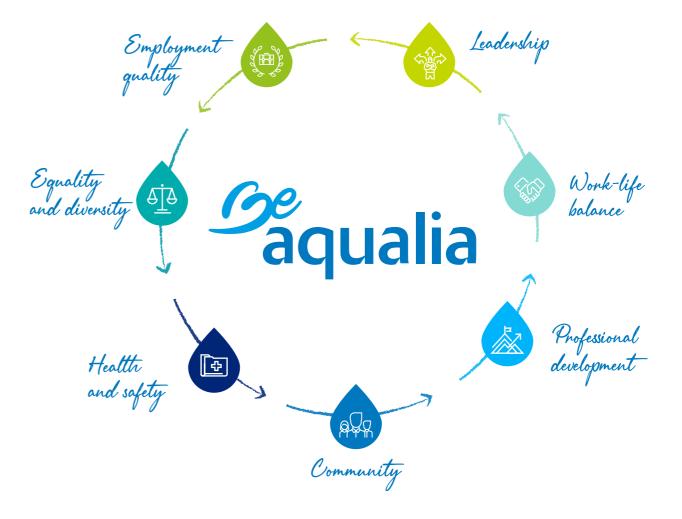


| Main training figures in Spain and |           | 2019         |               |           | 2020         |               |         |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|---------|
| internationally                    | Total     | Spain        | International | Total     | Spain        | International | %       |
| No. courses held                   | 1,697     | 697          | 1,000         | 1,338     | 460          | 878           | -21.15% |
| No. participants trained           | 17,519    | 9,872        | 7,647         | 36,134    | 31,222       | 4,912         | 106.26% |
| No. women trained                  | 3,519     | 2,586        | 933           | 11,868    | 10,871       | 997           | 237.25% |
| No. men trained                    | 14,001    | 7,286        | 6,715         | 24,272    | 20,351       | 3,921         | 73.36%  |
| % absenteeism                      | 9%        | 14%          | 1%            | -         | 15%          | 2%            | -       |
| No. hours received                 | 114,413   | 76,799       | 37,614        | 94,993    | 68,880       | 26,113        | -16.97% |
| No. hours received/<br>worker      | 12        | 11.64        | 12.94         | 9         | 10.26        | 6.85          | -       |
| Training costs                     | 906,323 € | 706,524.48 € | 199,798.29 €  | 614,941 € | 491,728.37 € | 123,212.63 €  | -32.15% |

# **Action approach**

Be Aqualia is the company's cultural transformation project. Designed in line with Aqualia's strategic by a common motto: People who work for people with plan and business outlook, the initiative articulates the aim of achieving a healthy organisation. The project the activity of the People and Culture department, responsible for talent management in the organisation.

Led by the directors of the company, Be Aqualia is guided is structured around the following axes:



previous action blocks, identified as "health assets". The company also began to work on a specific, cohesive and interrelated Strategic People and Culture Plan, which focusses on internal (interdepartmental) and external dialogue (with the rest of the stakeholders), with the required the transmission of information to the entire aim of establishing synergies and creating value.

In 2020 Aqualia continued working on each of the seven Regarding the implementation of the Plan, the pandemic slowed down its development due to the redefinition of management priorities in the short term. In this regard, one of the aspects that were prioritised was internal communication, since the extremely severe situation workforce and through different channels and formats, both online and offline.

The most important milestones of the year included:





### Launching the Be Aqualia app

This application for mobile devices, the app is intended for all company employees, especially those who are deskless, employees who do not have a corporate email account and, therefore, until now received less information. Using the new app, employees can keep up to date with current affairs at Agualia, participate in surveys, give their opinion and join new campaigns and challenges organised by the company.



### Video of Aqualia's CEO

To thank them for the work undertaken by all the company's staff, Félix Parra, CEO of Agualia, sent a video to all the employees. In it, he showed his support for those who had suffered from the disease and explained the measures implemented by Aqualia to preserve the health of everyone and to guarantee the continuity of the service. A thank you letter was also sent to all the staff at the end of 2020.



With subtitles in English, Italian, French, Portuguese and Czech, this video was viewed 3,600 times on the company's YouTube channel. It was also sent out by e-mail, WhatsApp and on the Be Aqualia app.



channel

### **Communication of Corporate Social** Responsibility (CSR)

In October 2020, Agualia participated in a study regarding the communication of Corporate Social Responsibility on social networks. The initiative took an in-depth look at the impact that this communication has on employee identification and welfare. The study was conducted at the University of Warwick (United Kingdom) and involved the participation of 250 workers from different areas and departments of Aqualia who gave their opinion.

## Work-life balance, focus and results

Aqualia took 55 work-life balance measures that affected job quality, flexibility in time and space, support for employees' families, personal and professional development and equality of opportunities. Monitoring these measurements was undertaken through the EFR managing system<sup>33</sup>, which constituted the engine for continuous improvement in work-life balance.

During the 2020 business year Aqualia promoted knowledge and use of the EFR catalogue measures amongst employees through different awareness and communication actions. In this way, 4,155 people were made aware of work-life balance and the use of the Be Aqualia measures by means of an online course.







November 2023.



Strategic line

Certificate in

Aqualia maintains its certification as an

it obtained in 2017. In February 2021,

a renewal audit was conducted with

**EFR (Family-Friendly Company)** which

satisfactory results, so it was renewed until

With the aim of knowing the employees' opinion of work-life balance in Aqualia and to be able to improve management, in September the Employee Voice Survey 2020 was launched<sup>34</sup>, which received 422 replies. There were also 15 interviews with employees complete the process. When selecting the sample for the organisation all positions and all personal/family situations were taken into account, as well as different age ranges.

received training

in work-life balance



supported work-life balance

- 33 Scope in Spain
- 34 Scope in Spain.

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### The measures most valued by the interviewees were:

#### **EFR Measures**





maternity/paternity





Measures to improve the quality of employment



Measures to promote equality



Whistleblowing Channel



Complement to reach 100% by IT



450 managers within the organisation

Flexible

timetables

whose teams were telecommuting during the pandemic believe that performance was not affected.

A survey entitled "How did you feel about your team's performance when working from home?" was also sent out in order to analyse the impact and results of telecommuting during the last months of the pandemic and from the perspective of managers. With regard to telecommuting, Aqualia gave its workers guidelines to make it easier to manage the new situation as best as they could. These included tips on how to maintain a correct ergonomic posture to avoid injury or fatigue and also a series of tips for

With regard to telecommuting, Aqualia gave its workers guidelines to make it easier to manage the new situation as best as they could. These included tips on how to maintain a correct ergonomic posture to avoid injury or fatigue and also a series of tips for the correct emotional management of the pandemic and confinement situation. It also made available to all employees a free professional psychologist service which they could access online at any time using the Mypsico app.

### **Diversity and equality**

Aqualia has collaboration agreements with a number of associations and foundations and is a member of the Diversity Foundation's Diversity Charter. In December 2020 the company also became a full member of the United Nations Global Compact<sup>37</sup>.

Together with the Adecco Foundation, Aqualia is developing a Family Plan, aimed at the children of employees who have a recognised disability greater than or equal to 33%. It also has a Collaboration Agreement with the Down Syndrome Foundation and with FSC Inserta de la Once (The Spanish Association for the Blind<sup>38</sup>).







In 2020, 1,398 employees participated in the Diversity and Disability course, conducted by the Adecco Foundation, aimed at raising awareness among Aqualia employees in this area.

In the Czech Republic, Aqualia's subsidiary SmVak is promoting the inclusion of people with different capabilities through the local NGO Trianon, which employs people with different capabilities to undertake recycling tasks at the Nová Ves water treatment plant.



from the IFM grant received by the Czech association Trianon to promote the employment of people with disabilities within its Ostrava activity.



With the campaign entitled "I give something special, Aqualia makes it easy for me", the Association of People with Disabilities, "El Mago Merlin", delivers Aqualia's bills in the town of Hinojos in Huelva. This is how Aqualia contributes to labour insertion for people with physical, mental and sensory disabilities and other learning difficulties.

### **Diversity Week**

Aqualia organised Diversity Week with the aim of raising awareness and involving all employees in contributing to improving the lives of people with disabilities. So from 30 November to 4 December a number of awareness activities were organised: an interactive game, "Rosco de la Inclusión" #PorLaInclusiónJugamosTodos; the dissemination of the "Vulnerables" campaign video organised by the Adecco Foundation; and a virtual meeting with María Petit, a young woman with visual impairment.



- 37 Since 2007, Aqualia has been represented by the FCC Group.
- 38 The number of workers with disabilities in Spain is 129. This represents 1.92% of the total number of workers.

**35** Scope in Spain.

 ${\bf 36}$  The percentage of participation was 57%.

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### Equality

In 2020 Aqualia continued with the implementation of its Equality Plan II, in which both the company and the majority unions at state level reiterated their commitment to equal opportunities for men and women. In February, the Negotiating Committee for Aqualia's Equality Plan III was set up and an assessment was made of the situation required to start negotiations.

Due to recent legislative developments, training on the new Equality legislation was provided to all members of the Negotiating Committee. The aim of this course, given by an external consultancy firm, was to learn about the regulations in force in Spain with regard to equality plans.

In accordance with the different objectives and action guidelines, the following actions were undertaken in 2020:

| Aim   | Action guidelines   | Actions in 2020   |
|---|---|---|
| To gnarantee the same opportunities between men and women at all levels | Guaranteeing non-discriminatory selection and the incorporation of women in those areas, groups and positions where their representation is lower, based on the company's selection policy and process. | <ul> <li>Implementation of a selection-by-skill model to encourage the incorporation of the candidates most suitable for the position, regardless of their gender.</li> <li>Training in equal opportunities: 455 people.</li> </ul> |

To promote and improve women's prospects of accessing positions of responsibility

- Promoting the training of women and encouraging promotion to positions of responsibility within the company.
- Initiation of the 4th Mentoring Programme
  to Boost Female Talent, with the aim
  of promoting the presence, visibility and
  participation of women in the company's
  organisation, thereby making it easier for
  them to develop their professional careers.
  The 2020 edition saw the participation of
  seven mentees, three male mentors and
  four female mentors. This programme will
  continue to be developed in 2021.
- In 2020, a new edition of the School of Industrial Organisation's (EOI) Management Development Programme for Women with High Potential was held with the participation of 5 members of the Aqualia staff.
- An Aqualia executive also participated in the 2020 edition of the Promociona Programme organised by ESADE with support from the Spanish Confederation of Employer Organisations (CEOE) and Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, with the aim of improving access for women to executive positions and to continue to create shared leadership.

### Action guidelines

# To foster a salary system that prevents gender discrimination

Aim

Since establishing Aqualia's wage gap in 2019, the company has been working to eliminate any barriers that may lead to discrimination.

### Actions in 2020

- The most up-to-date data on the salary gap is that provided in 2019 and calculated by KPMG, which resulted in a gap with respect to total normalised salary of 10%.
- In 2021 the data is being updated in order to provide the greatest possible transparency in the information given to its stakeholders.

To disseminate a conporate culture committed to equality

It develops and participates in initiatives to raise awareness of equality.

- Training in equal opportunities.
- Training in diversity.
- Internal and external communication campaigns.
- Collaboration with foundations such as Adecco, Down Madrid.
- The company is committed to the fight against gender violence and each year implements a number of awareness and sensitivity campaigns organised in different municipalities and with the collaboration of Aqualia staff.

To gnarantee rights relating to work-life balance

Actions to promote a balance between male and female employees in accordance with established legal criteria and that this should not mean losing opportunities either in promotion or in access to training, etc

Raise awareness of co-responsibility.

- Manager training in EFR.
- Work-life balance training for the entire workforce (4,155 people).
- Voice of the Employee Survey.
- FR Certification.
- Communication actions to disseminate EFR measures and their use.
- Transfer of the commitment to work-life balance to the value chain.

Actions with regard to the prevention of sexual harassment and due to gender

Strengthening the procedure for action with regard to the prevention of sexual harassment and for reasons of gender guaranteed by whistleblowing channels and their confidential treatment.

- Preparation of a conflict management procedure.
- Training in prevention of workplace and sexual harassment (2,063 people).
- Updating the group's sexual harassment procedure.

### Awareness-raising campaigns on equality, gender violence and diversity













On 8 March Aqualia joined to the United Nations Generation Equality campaign, giving a voice to three company workers from different generations to make first-hand analysis of the progress and changes experienced with regard to equal opportunities. The www.aqualiaigualdad.com website and the video produced by Aqualia to vindicate women's rights and an equal future, regardless of gender or age, without leaving anyone behind, include statements by them.







#Aqualiaequality video. Join the Equality Generation. Without leaving anybody

### **Intergenerational dialogues**

With the aim of raising awareness and involving all citizens in the change towards real equality, Aqualia coordinated "Intergenerational Dialogues" in a number of towns and cities where it manages the end-to-end water cycle. Santander, Lleida and Almería hosted a number of workshops to enhance the visibility of the different realities that women face in our society and promote the creation of more inclusive work systems, share experiences and discuss how to eliminate barriers and accelerate progress towards gender equality.

### #EmploymentForAll

Once again Agualia collaborated with the Adecco Foundation in the preparation of the #EmpleoParaTodas (#EmploymentForAll) report, entitled "Women at risk of exclusion 2020". The analysis focusses on older women as the undisputed protagonist of the new labour market, in which they are gaining increasing weight. Through the spot entitled "The Social Elevator", the Adecco Foundation reflected on the reality of more than four million women in Spain who are at risk of exclusion.

Coinciding with the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, which the United Nations celebrates on February 11 to promote access and full and equitable participation of women and girls in science, Aqualia shared the testimony of one of its employees:



Patricia Zamora, project manager for the Eco-efficiency area in the Innovation and **Technology Department** 

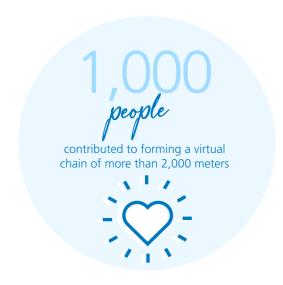




### #AqualiaContigo

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was held this year within the unprecedented context marked by COVID-19. The pandemic restricted the organisation of commemorative events normally held at a local level and in which Aqualia traditionally collaborates with municipalities.

In any case, there was massive support for the #AqualiaContigo campaign. A number of Administrations, mayors and councillors formed part of a huge virtual chain that encouraged people to publish their photos on social media "with open arms". A total of more than 1,000 people contributed to forming a chain measuring more than 2,000 metres. Hundreds of citizens and professionals from the sector supported the Aqualia initiative by sharing it on social media in Spain and Colombia.



### Collaboration with the Adecco Foundation

Aqualia also collaborated with the Adecco Foundation As a result of this collaboration, a project was also in the preparation of the report it produces every year to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The document, entitled "Employment against violence", seeks to enhance the visibility of women who have suffered gender violence, giving rise to initiatives aimed at their inclusion in the workplace.

launched for the training and job placement of ten women who had been victims of gender violence in a sector with high demand such as the logistics sector. Those selected were also provided with skills and abilities to search for employment within a continuous process of mentoring and accompaniment.







# Leadership and professional development

The seventh edition of the Otto Walter Cycle was held leadership style and with a transition towards a more aim of continuing with the transformation of Aqualia's common language shared by all.

in 2020, this time in a virtual classroom format. The participative, talent catalyst management model that programme is aimed at middle managers, with the strengthens team cohesion and is supported by a



# Personal development

In 2020, within the area of personal development, the measures included in the Be Aqualia Psycopack that seek the welfare of employees were maintained:



### **Psychomet**

Aqualia makes available to all employees this tool that enables them to check their level of mental and emotional welfare, helping employees to make early identification of any problem of a psychological order that they may be experiencing.



### **Employee Aid** Programme (PAE)

24/7 Psychological care service offered by expert psychologists who help employees resolve any possible psychological and emotional distress that they are experiencing, both personally and professionally.



### **Procedure for** managing interpersonal conflicts

Effective tool for the management and resolution of conflicts arising in the workplace through a mediation process. The present procedure complements the protocol for action with regard to bullying situations already adopted by Aqualia.

# Professional development

Training at Aqualia is linked to the company's strategic In April, within the framework of the health crisis, objectives, to improving the performance of workers' functions and to ensuring their health and welfare. With this in mind, training is developed that is adapted to the requirements for each of the positions within the company.

Agualia launched a training course to address coronavirus<sup>39</sup>. The training was aimed at all employees and sought to provide the entire organisation with specific and updated information on the organisational, hygienic and technical measures implemented by the company. The course also promoted creating habits for high professional performance in times of crisis. It was completed by 6,285 people.

### This training was contemplated in two modalities:



### **Online**

One for employees who were telecommuting



### **In-person**

Another for employees of the Services who attend the work centres in person

Despite the difficulties posed by the pandemic, the company continued to commit to the training and professional development of workers in the remaining areas. To do this, the resources and tools available were adapted to be able to make use of a virtual classrooms or online platforms, like the Campus FCC.

So in 2020, 1,338 courses were organised (460 in Spain and 878 internationally) and a total of 36,134 participants (31,222 in Spain and 4,912 internationally) were given 94,993 hours of training (68,880 in Spain and 26,113 internationally).

A total of 94% of male employees and 97% of female employees participated in the different training courses.









997%

39 Scope in Spain.

### Training by professional category<sup>40</sup>

| Training hours    | Men    | Women |
|-------------------|--------|-------|
| Executives        | 4,210  | 680   |
| Middle management | 12,511 | 4,524 |
| Technicians       | 9,375  | 6,761 |
| Qualified workers | 2,169  | 7,721 |
| Low qualification | 19,159 | 1,770 |

#### 40 Scope in Spain.

people received training: 31,122 in Spain and 4,912 process, attended by 7,886 participants. Internationally.

total number of participants in courses increasing by were trained. In 2020 training continued to be given on 106% compared to the previous year. And the number the Code of Conduct and Ethics. of participants in Spain by 216%.

Attendance at training courses increased in 2020, With regard to training, courses were given on the favoured by the use of online tools. A total of 36,034 Office 365 tools necessary for the digital transformation

Other training given in 2020 included that for the The use of tools favouring online training led to the position's specific risks, in which a total of 455 people

### Accreditation of professional skills

In 2020, two calls were made in Girona and Tarragona for the accreditation process, approved in the 2nd Agreement signed with the Department of Education in Catalonia. A total of 55 workers from Catalonia, Aragon, La Rioja and Navarra participated. Of these, 81.82% achieved full certification and 18.18% partial certification in the following professional skills:

- Assembly and maintenance of water networks
- Organisation and control of assemblies and maintenance of water and sanitation networks and installations
- Operation of water treatment plants.
- Energy and water

Aqualia is also cooperating with the Regional Government of Valencia to promote accreditation processes in this region; and as a result, the first call for applications aimed at those responsible for water networks was launched. It was expected to finish in the first quarter of 2021 and 13 workers from Aqualia registered for it.



2nd Agreement signed with the Department of Education in Catalunya

workers participated from Catalonia, Aragon, La Rioja and Navarra



81.8% obtained full certification

obtained partial certification in different professional skills



### Selecting and attracting talent







Strategic line

In 2020, 1,356 people joined the company (1,709 in new information registration platform, Share Point 365, 2019) as part of the activity in Spain and internationally.

During this period, Aqualia worked on improving personnel selection procedures, both in Spain and internationally, through two channels: The modification of mandatory documents and formats to guarantee homogeneity and equality, and the implementation of a



where all of Aqualia's selection processes are registered.

Those involved in personnel selection processes were given training on how to improve the way they publish vacancies and shortlist candidates.

With regard to attracting young talent, the following actions taken deserve special mention:

The renewal of all agreements with universities with which Aqualia collaborates that required approval for new periods of validity.

Signing new agreements with other schools, universities and vocational training centres in different communities (Francisco de Vitoria University, IES, Erasmus Project-Internships in companies).

The inclusion of five student interns at the La Paloma Institute in Madrid for the 2019-2020 Higher Degree in Water Management course and of the Dual Professional

Signing a pilot agreement with an Occupational Training Centre in Gijón (Asturias), under which an Erasmus student from Slovakia will work for a month at the Oviedo Laboratory.

Finally, it should be pointed out that since 2017 there has been a General Protocol for the Design, Implementation and Valuation of an Anonymous Curriculum Vitae Project for the selection of personnel, signed with the FCC Group. The aim of this protocol is to establish a general framework for working with the State Secretariat for Social Services and Equality to promote the implementation of depersonalised recruitment processes with regard to the managerial group so as to avoid possible gender biases in staff selection processes and, where applicable, employee promotion.

the Intermediate Degree in Water Treatment Networks and Stations course as part Development promoted by Canal de Isabel II.

Best practices

Agualia supported the Sondersland young talent festival that virtually brought together thousands of young people from all over the world so that

they could discover the most significant trends that would shape their careers, at a decisive time for a generation that has seen its future become more uncertain due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Aqualia participated with the presentation of "Water, not magic". This underlined that the vocation for service of all professionals in water management makes the day-to-day life of citizens much more comfortable.



### Health, safety and welfare

The safety, health and welfare area follows the lines This plan consists of three lines of action that established in the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.

represent the company's most significant areas.



### Lines of action for the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan

### Improvement and integration of preventive activity

- 1.1. Analysis of actions against critical and/or significant risks
- 1.2. Integration of work medicine.
- 1.3. Healthy company.
- 1.4. Simplification and invoicing of preventive tasks.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH** AND WELFARE Improvement and modernisation

- 2.1. Training and motivation for Health and Safety Technicians.
- 2.2. Digitalisation of the department.
- 2.3. Facilitating and promoting knowledge.

#### MANAGEMENT Implementation of a preventive culture

- 3.1. Be Aqualia management culture.
- 3.2. Increased participation in preventive activity.

Due to the COVID-19 circumstances, there was a slowdown in the execution of the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan, which completed 25% of the projects and 75% are outstanding or being executed.

system was subject to a complete review, to adapt it guarantee the identification and elimination of hazards, minimise risks, define those responsible for the different processes and guarantee safety and health at work.

The tools implemented for employees to identify workrelated hazards are a physical mailbox in each work centre, a virtual mailbox in the corporate Health and Welfare SharePoint and on the Be Agualia app (specific access for incidents and hazards). In the first case, the measure is transferred to the contract prevention plan; in the second, the corresponding treatment is given. So where a danger or incident is local, the affected can send incidents, dangers, etc. with regard to contract is transferred and proceeds as in the first case; if it is a general incident, it is processed from the

Throughout 2020, the Health and Welfare management company's central services. In the case of the app, a record is opened and managed as in the previous point, to ISO 45001:2018 and incorporate it into Aqualia's depending on whether it is a local or general problem. other management systems. There are procedures to This information is anonymous, unless the worker wishes to sign voluntarily.

> Those responsible for the contracts, the technicians and the Health and Welfare coordinator are also responsible for ensuring compliance with and monitoring procedures, assessing corrective measures if necessary, and designing preventive policies.

> Workers also have communication tools and specific mailboxes in each business line and a specific button on the Be Aqualia app, through which they occupational safety.

### Main health and safety indicators

All accident rates fell during 2020 compared to the by 93%. The frequency rate also fell by 19% and 56% previous period, both in Spain and internationally. in Spain and Internationally respectively, the accident Special mention should be made of the fall in the severity rate by 16% and 21%, and the absenteeism accident incidence rate compared to the previous year rate by 74% and 81%. since in Spain it decreased by 92% and internationally

| Accid | lent | rate |
|-------|------|------|
|       |      |      |

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| Accident rate indicators <sup>41</sup> | Spain | Internationally | Change for<br>Spain | Change internationally |
|--|-------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Accident frequency index               | 11.41 | 4.10            | -19%                | -56%                   |
| Accident severity index                | 0.55  | 0.12            | -16%                | -21%                   |
| Accident incidence index               | 1.97  | 1.48            | -92%                | -93%                   |
| Accident absenteeism index             | 0.30  | 0.14            | -74%                | -81%                   |

41 These indicators provide information on own staff for Spain and own staff and subcontracted personnel internationally.

Frequency index: (Number of accidents with sick leave/Number of hours worked) \* 1,000,000. Severity index: (Number of days lost/Number of hours worked) \* 1,000,000. Incidence index: (Number of accidents with sick leave/Number of workers) \* 100. Accident absenteeism index: (No. days lost/No. workers).

## Preventive culture in times of pandemic

COVID-19 pandemic forced all areas to rethink some of area, two important measures were implemented: their processes to guarantee the safety of all workers and

Undoubtedly in 2020 the situation created by the their families. In this regard, from the Health and Safety

### Measures



### International health surveillance

Specific action guidelines were prepared for expatriate personnel and frequent travellers, including a dedicated position for health surveillance. At the same time, a study of the situation in each country in which Aqualia operates was initiated with regard to the pandemic, with the aim of diagnosing the situation and promoting the homogenisation of decisions relating to the corporation, always within the specific legislative and governmental remits for each country.



### The Health and Welfare button on the Be Aqualia app

On this new internal communication channel, a number of services relating to welfare and prevention against the virus were integrated:

- Instant communication system for incidents and dangers.
- COVID recommendations.
- Videos with warm-up and stretching exercises, depending on the position.

Finally, and with the aim of improving the performance was held and in which a series of decisions regarding of the area with regard to subcontractors, a workshop the future were taken: with senior management, suppliers and contractors





### Participation of the Health and Welfare area

The area will participate in the selection of new subcontractors for certain special activities during the purchasing processes.



### Subcontractors

Subcontractors currently contracted will also be assessed by the Health and Welfare area.



### **Health and Welfare** technicians

Technicians will provide their control activities (inspections, training, talks, etc.) to the subcontractors for special activities.



#### All subcontractors

Both in the selection phase and in the contracting and execution phase, should be registered on the Nalanda platform (or similar for International subcontracting) and should have fitness certificates issued on the platform itself.

As a result of the effort to keep the company's preventive culture up-to-date and active, some of the services of the Aqualia delegations in the Canary Islands, Italy, Chile and Oman received an award for the best preventive practices: SWDP Fonsalía and Adeje (Canary Islands), Caltaqua (Italy), Huechún (Chile) and OSWS (Oman).

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# **Building a better society**









### Important figures

academic





6.1% Awareness-raising environmental and education

70.6% Communication and dialogue with stakeholdens





### Contracts benefitting through tariffs



78,717 3,912 Spain internationally

82,629

### Households benefiting from social discounts or subsidies



3,973 3,024
Spain internationally







### **Guaranteeing access to water**

should be guaranteed for everyone. Aqualia proposes mechanisms that enable the service to be provided for people in need, thus ensuring that no one may be deprived of this asset for financial reasons. The In this regard, Aqualia not only dedicates its greatest company's role is not only to provide a good service, but also together with the Public Administrations, to guarantee social sustainability.

and a correct sanitation network constitute the highest service priority for all citizens in the areas in which it is present. For this reason, each year it launches a number That is why in 2020, the purpose for which Aqualia was of initiatives dedicated to ensuring supply and protecting the rights of the most vulnerable, in order to reduce inequalities caused by socio-economic issues. This year, more than ever, these initiatives have been most crucial,

Water is a basic need and, therefore, a human right that as the living conditions of millions of people around the world have deteriorated considerably due to the

efforts to the modernisation of infrastructures, innovation and the quality of the service, but also collaborates with different institutional and social entities to support those who are having enormous difficulties in overcoming For Aqualia, the guarantee of access to drinking water inequalities. and maintaining a quality of life similar to that of the rest of their community.

> created, to respond to a social demand to improve the quality of life with the management of the end-to-end water cycle, continued to be the driving force for all those who work in the company.

# Ensuring the quality of water during COVID-19









Strategic line

In 2020 guaranteeing the quality of tap water was maintained with total normality, since the usual disinfection treatments applied by the company are totally effective in eliminating the virus, as recognised by the WHO technical report, "Water management, sanitation, hygiene and waste for COVID-19", published last March 2020.

Aqualia's experience, as well as its investment in efficient and responsible solutions that ensure water quality, enables it to face the crisis and quarantee water quality for all citizens.



### Bonds and social tariffs

Although the capacity to set tariffs and regulate the provision of services in the end-to-end water cycle in Spain is the exclusive responsibility of the Administration, Aqualia actively promotes social action mechanisms in tariffs and solidarity funds for the most disadvantaged users. The company has also worked to improve coordination with municipal social services to protect clients at risk of vulnerability or social exclusion. Access to water is also guaranteed to all vulnerable people and payment deadlines have been extended for all clients affected by the pandemic.

Internationally Aqualia collaborates with the governments of those countries with which it works to provide water and sanitation services for those at the types of tariffs have been established that correspond most disadvantaged social levels. The Colombian model deserves special mention as the most developed: Six from the state to guarantee water for all.



to social levels and the lowest strata receive subsidies

### **Solidarity Social Fund**

As an example of this, the Lleida Municipality and Aqualia signed an agreement to create a Social Solidarity Fund that guarantees access to drinking water to citizens who cannot pay the bill for reasons for citizens who cannot pay their bills. Other examples of social exclusion. The financial endowment for this Fund for one year is €100,000, of which 75,000 will be paid by Aqualia and the other 25,000 by the Lleida Municipality. This decision represents a great help for all those families in the area that have been severely affected by the economic situation aggravated by the 2020, and with the same purpose of helping citizens pandemic that played a leading role in 2020.

This same procedure was followed in other municipalities, such as San Andreu de la Barca and Chipiona. In both cases, a fund of €10,000 was earmarked can be found in Cassa de la Selva, Dénia, Novelda, Alboraya, etc.

Following the measures included in the Contingency Plan against SARS-CoV-2 activated on March 13, to continue accessing water as a basic need for the community, and in accordance with RD 11/2020, 26/2020 and 37/2020, supply cuts as a result of nonpayment by users who are in a situation of economic vulnerability were suspended.



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### **Social action**

In its commitment to society in those areas where it is present, Aqualia has launched a series of actions, within the framework of its CSR policy, focussed on improving people's lives and promoting the social-economic development of the communities in different countries.

### **Cáritas and the Spanish Committee of UNHCR**

In line with the approach for other years, in 2020 Aqualia renewed its collaboration with Cáritas and the Spanish Committee of UNHCR to support their initiatives in Spain.

There has been support for Cáritas since 2015, in order to help any citizen living in conditions considered to be at risk of social exclusion to have access to good-quality drinking water as part of their basic rights. In this regard, Aqualia collaborates to reduce the poverty figures in Spain and the associated inequalities that make it very difficult for the people who suffer from this to escape from their situation by themselves.

In 2020 Aqualia donated €55,391 to Cáritas for care and support programmes for people at risk of social exclusion in Spain. As part of Aqualia's support in the

fight against COVID-19, it also donated €20,000 to Cáritas for its social emergency fund against the disease.







Since 2019 Aqualia has maintained its support to the Spanish Committee of UNHCR for humanitarian actions. It focuses especially on those initiatives dedicated to bringing drinking water to the most disadvantaged.







After the donation of €30,000 made at the end of 2019 to the NGO for a water access project in the Bolomoni region of Uganda, the organisation was able to install a solar pumping system with a backup diesel generator. Thanks to this, access to water can be guaranteed for 1,200 refugees, out of a total of 6,000 who live there.

With this programme, the Spanish UNHCR Committee was able to completely eliminate the transportation of water by tanker lorries in Bolomoni and the Bolomoni Health Centre can now function without problems with a constant water supply and absenteeism amongst school children has been reduced as they no longer need to fetch drinking water.



have access to water in the Bolomoni region of Uganda, thanks to a donation made in 2019







### Córdoba, Colombia

effects of poverty in the diet of hundreds of vulnerable families.

An example was the donation of food lots in the town of Córdoba, Colombia, for the population at risk of social exclusion. This action had the active participation of a number of employees, who went personally to deliver the lots to those families who had difficulty moving from their home to the reference point.

In 2020 Agualia also contributed to helping reduce the A total of more than a thousand food lots with basic foods, such as flour, oil and rice were distributed in the twelve municipalities of the town of Córdoba. The mayors and neighbourhood councils, also collaborated under strict security measures to prevent coronavirus







### **#Ningúnhogarsinalimentos**

Along the same lines, Aqualia, as part of the FCC Group, participated in the #Ningúnhogarsinalimentos (#Nohomewithoutfood) campaign together with the La Caixa Foundation and Caixabank to support the Spanish Food Bank. The objective was to raise funds for the 54 centres throughout Spain. Through this campaign, FCC encouraged its employees to make a donation of €6 via SMS and made a commitment to donating the same amount on behalf of the entity.







### **Red Cross**

For Aqualia, poverty not only affects food and access to water, but also includes problems related to the use of energy as a basic tool for maintaining daily life as an essential part of the "welfare state", which is taken for granted in many countries like Spain. This is why in 2020 it collaborated with the Red Cross by donating a lot of household appliances for vulnerable families in Talavera de la Reina, Toledo, together with training sessions on home economics and energy efficiency and the renovation of homes with outdated and dangerous installations.





### The Beskydy seven

Aqualia also participated in a traditional Trail race in the Moravian-Silesian region of the Czech Republic, known as "Beskydy seven". As a supplier of drinking water tanks for the correct hydration of all the participants in the race, it showed its support for sport as a healthy way of life and the protection of the natural environments through which the company's most precious asset flows, water.





### Spanish Rubinstein-Taybi Syndrome Association (AESRT)

Through Aqualia workers who organised the Development Programme for the Management of High Potential Women in 2020, the company collaborated with the Spanish Rubinstein-Taybi Syndrome Association (AESRT) to finance a book of solidarity stories with which the non-profit entity aspires to raise awareness for this syndrome, raise funds for research and to support families with children diagnosed with RTS. The storybook was entitled "Friends with big hands."

The Rubinstein-Taybi syndrome is of genetic origin, it is rare and involves a number of congenital anomalies with which these boys and girls are born. These include broader thumbs and big toes which is why it is popularly known as the big hand syndrome. SRT has an approximate incidence of 1 for every 125,000 births.



# **Impact on society: Helping governments** through public-private collaboration

As part of its commitment to contributing to reaching currently working on the impact of the management with the PPPs Centre for Cities, an initiative of the United Nations through the UNECE Regional Commission, in the accordance with this methodology. development of the "UNECE People-first PPP Evaluation Methodology". This is the first United Nations tool for Aqualia is also collaborating with this centre, which the quantitative assessment of PPPs in terms of their is an international benchmark in the preparation of contribution to reaching the SDGs.

In accordance with this methodology, Aqualia has since private collaboration projects. Specifically, in 2020 elaborated case studies for projects such as WWTP El Aqualia was part of both the General Working Group Salitre, in Colombia; New Cairo Treatment Plant, Egypt, and the Working Group that was responsible for the etc., projects highlighted by the benefits they bring to economic efficiency and fiscal sustainability aspect of the community, citizens and countries. The company is the methodology.

the SDGs, Aqualia has been collaborating since 2016 of the end-to-end water cycle in Almería, where the impact on SDGs in the territory is being measured in

> best practices and standards in accompanying and helping governments in the implementation of public-







# **Participation in forums**

Aqualia is a member of a multitude of associations around the world dedicated to researching and acting on the public water service. The following is a lost of these associations with the SDGs to which they contribute as a result of this collaboration:

| Scope | Association   | SDG         |
|-------|---|-------------|
|       | Spanish Water Supply and Sanitation Association - AEAS  | <b>6 17</b> |
|       | Spanish Association of Urban Water Services - AGA       | <b>6 17</b> |
| Spain | Spanish Association for Desalination and Re-use - AEDyR | 6 12 17     |
|       | Spanish Chamber of Commerce                             | •           |
|       | National Water Council - CNA                            | •           |

| -<br>Scope                             | Association  | SDG         |
|--|--|-------------|
|  | Association of Infrastructure Construction and Concessionary Companies -SEOPAN-WATER                                       | •           |
| Spain                                  | Spanish Association for the Defence of Water Quality - ADECAGUA  | 9 17        |
|  | Madrid Institute for Advanced Studies - IMDEA  | 6 9 17      |
|  | Catalonia Water Services Association - ASAC  | <b>6 17</b> |
|  | Water Supply Association - AAA   | <b>6 17</b> |
| Catalonia                              | Catalan Water Partnership - CWP  | 17          |
|  | Associació Industrial per la Producció Neta - AIPN   | 9 17        |
| Balearic Islands                       | Association of Water Industry Employers in the Balearic Islands - ASAIB  | 17          |
|  | Ibiza and Formentera Water Alliance  | 17          |
| Autonomous<br>Community of<br>Valencia | Community of Valencia Water Supply and Sanitation Association - AVAS   | •           |
| Aragon                                 | ZINNAE Urban Cluster for the Efficient Use of Water  | 6 9 17      |
|  | Andalusian Water and Sanitation Association - ASA  | <b>6 17</b> |
|  | CENTA Foundation   | 6 9 17      |
|  | Business Confederation of the province of Almería  | 17          |
| Andalusia                              | Asinal   | 4 17        |
|  | Almería Chamber of Commerce  | 17          |
|  | Association of Merchants and Entrepreneurs of Benalmádena - ACEB   | 17          |
|  | Confederation of employers in the province of Cádiz - CEC  | 17          |
|  | Canary Islands Water Centre Foundation - FCCA  | 6 9 17      |
| Canary Islands                         | Canary Island Association of Urban Water Distribution and Treatment<br>Employers in the Province of Las Palmas - ADITRAGUA | 6 17        |
| Extremadura                            | Confederation of business organisations in the province of Badajoz - COEBA   | 17          |

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| Scope          | Association  | SDG            |
|----------------|--|----------------|
| International  | International Desalination Association - IDA   | <b>6 9 17</b>  |
|                | International Water Association - IWA  | <b>9 1</b>     |
|                | Smart Water Networks Forum - SWAN  | 6 9 17         |
|                | Associates of the International Federation of Private Water Operators - AquaFed                              | <b>5 17</b>    |
|                | Specialist Centre on PPPs in Smart and Sustainable Cities  | <b>9 11 17</b> |
|                | Isle Utilities TAG (Technology Approval Group), World Water Innovation Fund (WWIF) and Water Action Platform | <b>5 9 17</b>  |
| Гимопо         | European Federation of Water and Sanitation Associations - EUREAU  | <b>1</b>       |
| Europe         | Ditchley Foundation Water Advisory Committee   | 17             |
| Daytugal       | Portuguese Association of Water and Wastewater Services - APDA   | <b>9 17</b>    |
| Portugal       | Portuguese Companies Association for the Environment Sector - AEPSA  | <b>13 17</b>   |
| Italy          | Federation of Energy, Water and Environmental Services - UTILITALIA  | 17             |
|                | Association Scientifique et Technique pour l'Eau et l'Environnement  | <b>6 11 17</b> |
| France         | Fédération des Distributeurs d'Eau Indépendants  | <b>6 17</b>    |
|                | Fédération Professionnelles des Entreprises de l'Eau   | <b>5 17</b>    |
|                | Water Supply and Sewerage Association of the Czech Republic - SOVAK  | <b>6 17</b>    |
|                | Water Management Association of the Czech Republic - SVH   | <b>6 7</b>     |
|                | Czech Society for Trenchless Technology - CZSTT  | <b>9 1</b>     |
| Czech Republic | Moravian-Silesian Regional Development Association   | <b>1</b>       |
|                | Water Supply and Sewerage Association of the Czech Republic - APROVAK  | <b>5 1</b>     |
|                | Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic  | <b>1</b>       |
|                | Czech Chamber of Commerce  | <b>1</b>       |
| America        | National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities of Mexico - ANEAS                                     | <b>o</b>       |
|                | Latin American Association of Desalination and Water Re-use - ALADYR   | <b>9 17</b>    |
|                | Water Environment Federation - WEF   | <b>5 9 17</b>  |
|                | Association of Public Services of Colombia - ANDESCO   | 6 17           |

Best practices

In 2020 the company was present at strategic events and forums of international importance with a view to solidifying its position as a sector benchmark for innovative solutions that meet the challenges for the future and respond to new public-private collaboration models.

Since March 2020 the events have been held in digital format through webinars on different platforms. These have enabled Aqualia to participate in events such as a virtual meeting with the ministers of Foreign Affairs and Industry, Trade and Tourism of the Government of Spain;



the Corporate Water Leaders panel, organised by Global Water and a webinar entitled "A day at the Salitre WWTP", developed with ALADYR, the Latin American Association for Desalination and Water Re-use.



# I Andesco Congress (Gremial Association of Domiciliary Public Services of Colombia)

Aqualia's participation as a sponsor of the 1st Andesco Congress (Asociación Gremial de Servicios Públicos Domiciliarios de Colombia) in October in a 100% virtual format deserves special mention. The Congress was inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Colombia, Iván Duque.

The company was also highlighted in the catalogue presented by ICEX, under the slogan "Spain, a world benchmark in the management and use of water". The document, which clearly shows the leadership of Spanish companies in the sector worldwide, refers to the cases of the Mostaganem (Algeria) and Djerba (Tunisia) desalination plants, as well as the New Cairo (Egypt) and El Salitre (Colombia) treatment plants. The catalogue also presents a successful model for public-private collaboration in the projects in Algeria and Egypt, the contribution to social and economic growth and the size and important environmental value that the company contributes to the project in Colombia.



### **SWAN Congress (Smart Water Networks Forum)**

Aqualia also participated in the SWAN Congress (Smart Water Networks Forum), organised by the Smart Water Networks Forum, which focussed on the digitalisation of the water sector and the generation of value from big data.

At this event Eva Martínez, Section Manager for Smart Services in the Aqualia Innovation and Technology department, participated by presenting the H2020 RUN4LIFE project, whose objective is the development of resilient processes and infrastructures through data transmission. In the presentation, it was explained that the objective is to offer a better water service to citizens.

In her speech, within the panel denominated "A holistic approach to the integration of networks (citizens, mobile phones, cybersecurity)", Martínez stressed that "data is an ally for current and future uncertainties; the challenge is to be able to transfer the real value of water to our clients".

Service quality

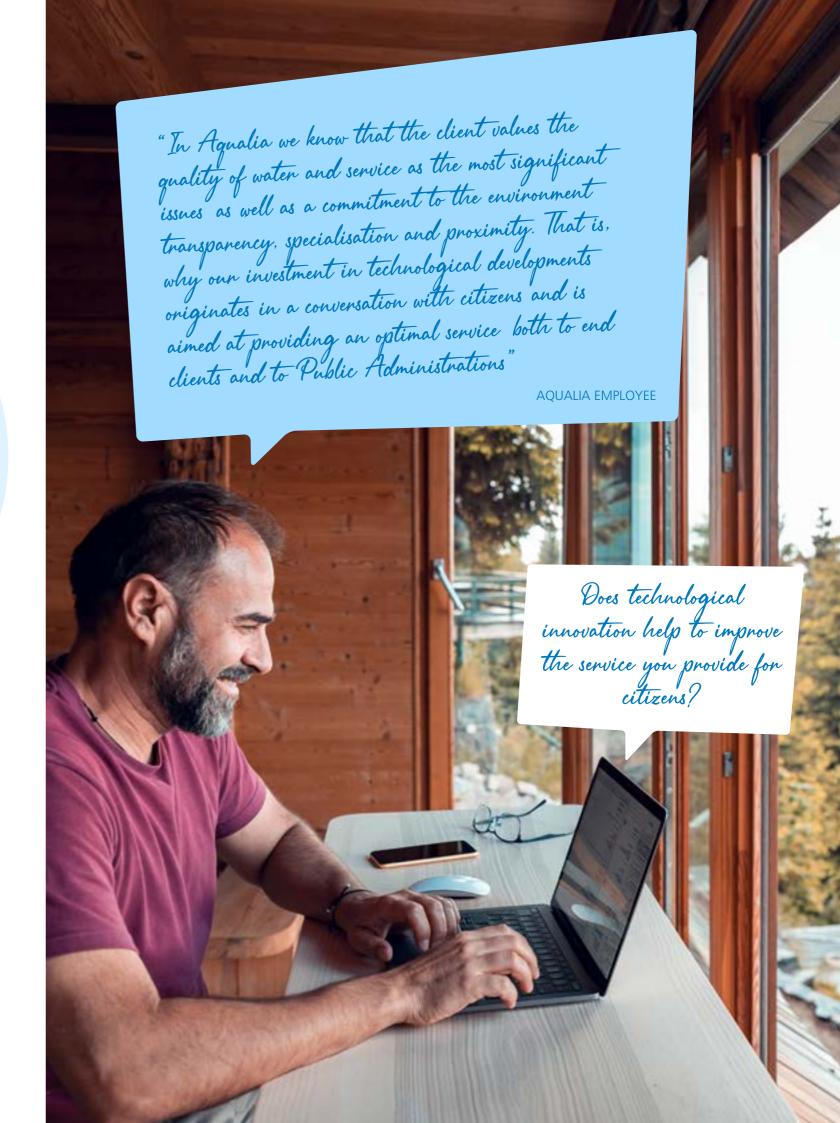
Water quality Mobility solutions for fast and efficient service

Smart cities serving citizens

Global client management

Customer Service Channels

Agile and effective communication with employees, suppliers and clients is key to meeting their needs and those of all citizens. That is why Aqualia uses all available technologies to reach them and anticipate the issues that are already on their agenda, such as digitalisation and smart cities.

















Modernising infrastructures to make them more sustainable and efficient.



Investment in digital transformation

### **Electronic invoice**

Number of e-bills issued

1 21%

Spain **2.331.580** 

International 111,060

Number of clients with e-invoicing

548.273

Spain 529,483

International 18,790



**Installed smart meters** 

Total installed 127.4%



### Aqualia contact

Telephone helpline

Oueries 38.88% Requests 45.65%

Breakdowns 14.83% Complaints 0.64%

Attention through the app

Total users Spain

New users 26,099

Procedures completed **64,186** 

### Service through a virtual office

Total procedures Spain

1 26%

Data modification 32.34% Electronic invoicing 23.77%

Credit card 19.85% Complaints 2.52%

Aqualia contact survey

6.28 Total responses Spain Excellent rating: 4,973 Very good rating: 813 Good rating: 300

Agualia's commitment to its clients leads the company to constantly seek innovative solutions that make life easier for all its users. This was experienced with particular intensity during the difficult times faced in 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19. In response, Aqualia made different actions and protocols available to all clients, using the channels available to them, to guarantee excellence in the treatment and care provided.

Digital transformation in Agualia was designed with the main aim of providing the best service for the company's clients and technicians. To do this, it was developed around four pillars: Integrated solutions for global efficiency, omnichannel platforms to improve customer service, mobility solutions for technicians and artificial intelligence serving employees and clients with the help of big data.

# **Quality of service**

# Aqualia LIVE: technologies serving people

The value of technologies in Aqualia is understood to the extent that they create value for clients. That is why the new Agualia LIVE technology platform was created for the global digitalisation of the end-to-end water cycle using the latest technologies for efficient water management and providing better service to citizens. The main features are:



### **Technological** suitability

 Choosing the best technology applicable to water management.



### Mobility

- Solutions designed for efficient field management, with user experiences focussed on technical personnel.
- It enables citizens to understand and manage their information in real time from any device, smartphone, tablet, computer, etc.



Modularised solution

 Global management through specialised modules, integrated to provide a global vision.



Adaptability

services,



### Proven experience

• It is adapted to • It covers all the specific needs processes in all the of Aqualia's services provided by Aqualia in generating different countries and provides efficiency in each a solution for individual case. clients, citizens and

workers.

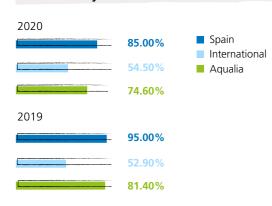




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In 2020, the following activity percentages were In 2020 the consortium formed by Aqualia and the certified in accordance with ISO 9001:

### % activity with ISO 9001 certificate



Omani company Majis for the management of the water infrastructures in the port of Sohar (Oman), OSWS (Oman Sustainable Water Services SAOC), obtained the AENOR ISO 55001 asset management certification.

There are 280 entities worldwide certified with regard to asset management, of which only 59 are in the field of water. So with this certification, Agualia is now part of the select club of companies concerned with increasing the value of their assets by aligning them with the company's strategic objectives.



# Best practices

### **High-quality service**

Despite the circumstances this year, Aqualia has continued to serve as true guardians of water.

The service in Badajoz participated in the European Benchmarking Cooperation programme, which analysed 330 service supply and sanitation indicators, awarding a 3-Star certificate (the highest category) to the Aqualia service in Badajoz. Special mention was given to aspects including the effort to improve efficiency, good coverage of services, energy efficiency and hydraulic performance. In short, the management of the public services in the end-to-end water cycle. Areas for improvement were also detected, such as the need to renew the networks, especially those for sanitation.

The contingency plans that were put in place in the Czech Republic to address the emergency situation that occurred as a result of torrential rains and floods is just one example that enables Aqualia employees to be classified as the guardians of water.



Photo: Pablo González Cebrián



# Water quality

distributed between Spain, Italy and the Czech Republic. They all have a structure that responds to the need for laboratories to be able to decide independently as 
The agreement also includes the training of company required by the EN ISO/IEC-17025 standard, article 4.1, and to the analytical needs of contracts managed by technique that will make the Oviedo laboratory's offer the Aqualia Group, in accordance with regulations<sup>45</sup>.

Aqualia's commitment to water quality has taken on special importance this year in which special mention should go to the company's activity with regard to monitoring of COVID-19 by the company's expert staff, in collaboration with the CSIC (Spanish National Research Council) with whom an agreement was signed

The company has a network of accredited laboratories to analyse the wastewater in a number of municipalities Castile León, Galicia and Castile-La Mancha.

> staff and inter-comparison exercises to fine-tune a PCR comprehensive.

In collaboration with several Italian regional governments and in alliance with the University of Palermo, Caltaqua, an Italian subsidiary of Agualia, launched a programme for the early detection of the SARS-CoV-2 virus by sampling and analysing wastewater.

| Parametric results with regard to drinking water     |           |           |  |
|--|-----------|-----------|--|
|  | 2019      | 2020      |  |
| No. parametric results with regard to drinking water | 1,148,044 | 1,019,780 |  |
| % compliant results                                  | 99.93%    | 99.89%    |  |
| No. non-compliant results                            | 804       | 1,140     |  |

45 European regulations transposed into Spanish law by Royal Decree 902/2018 of 20 July, which establishes the sanitary criteria for the quality of water for

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# Mobility solutions for fast and efficient service

improvement of service to citizens, and is therefore one of the main lines of action the Aqualia LIVE platform.

This is why since 2019 Aqualia has been developing an ambitious project in the field of work orders and meter reading, applying computer technologies and the End-user field tests were optimally completed in geolocation of processes.

Precisely in this regard, in the third quarter of 2019 a mobility project for meter reading was initiated which uses smartphones to manage service user meter reading by geolocating the reading points and managing the whole process online.

Achieving mobility solutions is now a key element in the In this way, coverage is given to all processes involving Aqualia's workers, both work orders like meter reading and reporting incidents, etc. As there is only one mobile application for all processes, work productivity is improved as a result of this, as is service to citizens.

> December. The pilot scheme scheduled for January 2020 was a successfully launched, with the corresponding deployment for other operations taking place gradually.









**473** in Spain 1 in Italy 5 in Portugal



### Data for investment in digital transformation

| Item                           | Amount (€) |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| GIS (Incorporations and tools) | 237,184.00 |
| WO (Mobility and desktop)      | 372,953.90 |
| Asset management               | 393,926.24 |
| Water Analytics                | 248,206.00 |
| Readings Module                | 122,175.00 |
| Asset management               | 158,424.00 |
| WO Mobility                    | 70,970.63  |





### **Remote Reading Project:** Intelligent management in Dénia is already a reality

Nearing completion, this project is already showing its great potential. It is undoubtedly an initiative that unites us with our users, whether they are institutional or end clients, and that provides synergies that go beyond the management of the resource itself. In a short space of time, this technology will become indispensable for water management.

From the point of view of technical environmental sustainability, the project enables us to optimise available resources. The possibility of managing breakdowns in real time, not only in the networks we manage, but also at user level. In this way, remote reading meets one of the main demands of society and the residents of Dénia: The disappearance of bills due to leakage or unused water. It also substantially increases transparency in management, providing information to clients and the Administration with regard to network incidents.

Another issue to take into account is the use that the Administration could make of it, making it an integral part of the system and applying it to tourism, social services, ecological transition, with other contracting, etc.

### Remote control in Caltagua, Agualia's Italian subsidiary, to gain efficiency and improve service to citizens

The Italian subsidiary of Aqualia presented an ambitious project with which it intends to monitor supply, its system's main hydraulic hubs and the treatment plants it manages.

With a total investment of slightly more than one million euros, the project was born with the aim of increasing the efficiency of the network and improving the service to citizens.

The initiative is based on the taking, transmission in real time, recording and computational analysis of recorded data, through sensors located in sensitive points in the network. The availability of historical data will also enable further processing, which will be undertaken to identify critical problems not visible during normal system operation and to perform actions such as leakage detection.

The initiative is highly valued in the region, where one of the most prestigious specialised media in Italy, Servizi a Rete, reported on the project and published a detailed article explaining all the benefits it will bring to the inhabitants of the region.

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#### **2020 Sustainability Report 2020** | Commitment and technology serving our clients | 139

# **Smart cities** serving citizens

With regard to smart cities, Aqualia has an ambitious information and consumption on telemetry meters, Aqualia Water Analytics (AWA) project, dedicated to which is undertaken using big data, and the application the smart management of water in cities. This initiative of advanced analytical techniques and artificial will enable Aqualia to put a number of processes at the intelligence, which seeks to optimise management and service of citizens, such as the digitalisation of network improve efficiency.



# Global client management using **CRM Microsoft Dynamics**

The pillars of digital transformation in Aqualia are being more efficient, improving customer service and putting artificial intelligence at the service of employees and clients.

Agualia is continuing to progress in order to offer all availability and access to information through guided its clients a high-quality omnichannel experience in processes. their interactions with the company. With the aim of achieving the total integration of all the channels, this 
The solution includes a new website for clients that will with greater accessibility, availability and integrity in the currently in progress. information corresponding to interactions.

The project will also integrate customer service with business team conducted tests that showed it to be other management systems, such as the Diversa satisfactory. Development is expected to be completed commercial system. With this, the company seeks in February 2021, with testing in March and April and to provide sufficient flexibility and guarantee fast implementation in May 2021.

project for implementing Microsoft Dynamics CRM replace the current virtual office, covering all operations will enable all channels to be interrelated in real time and with the corresponding adaptations of the CRM

In the last quarter of 2020 the technical team and the



# **Customer Service Channels**

Due to the state of alarm, the closure of the on-site offices and other health measures taken, the Customer Service Centre received 54% more calls last year compared to the previous year (1,240,219)<sup>46</sup>.

The specialised, proactive and efficient attention of Aqualia managers during these months, performed using the Presence (Evolutio) system, enabled clients to be attended continuously and without interruptions via a number of customer service channels (Aqualia contact): Telephone customer service centre, virtual office, app, Twitter and e-mail.

After the gradual opening of on-site offices and the end of the state of alarm, sanitary measures including social distancing, use of face masks, disinfection of areas, etc., came into force.

To avoid collapse in the offices, the Telephone Customer Service Centre made the "Appointment Management" service available to clients, improving not only the telephone service but also offering a faster and more efficient face-to-face service with full health guarantees.

Aqualia maintained customer service via the Twitter platform. Messages sent by users are handled and managed through the @aqualiacontact account. SMS messages can also be sent for the notification of invoices with incidents and warnings regarding network breakdowns. 51.5% more interactions were managed via Twitter in 2020 compared to 2019.

The efficiency of all client relationship channels enabled us to have a very low complaints rate of 0.45% to December 2020, with an average time for response to claims of less than 11 days. It is also worth mentioning the average installation time for a meter (from the time the request is recorded), established as seven days.



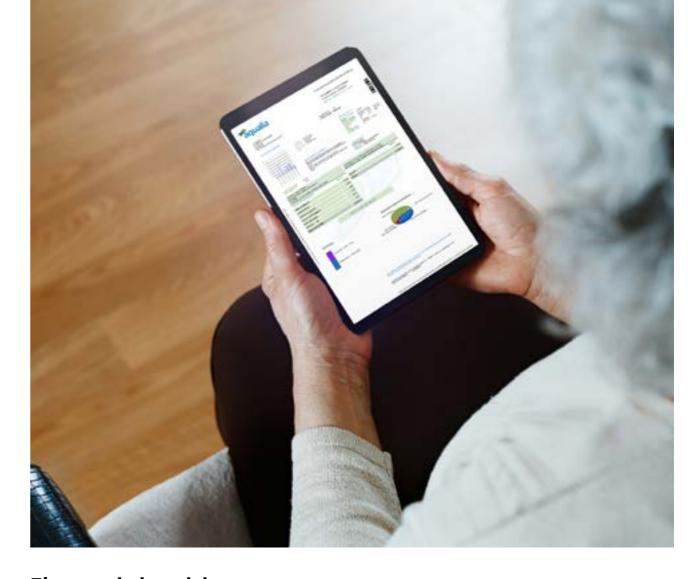
### Talking with our clients: Satisfaction survey

Aqualia conducted a customer satisfaction survey in 2020. The very positive results showed that 8 out of Agualia. The percentage of clients who rate this service as excellent or very good is increasing and amounts to 41.6% of the total. This represents an increase of 14 percentage points over the results obtained in 2018.

In France, a satisfaction survey was also conducted with regard to the service provided by SEFO and CEG in which the company obtained a score of 3.22 points good and 94% rated water cycle management as good.

out of 4, which represents an increase of more than two tenths compared to the last survey conducted in 2019. 10 clients are satisfied with the service provided by The aspects most valued by users were the personal treatment of employees, customer service channels and repair and improvement work undertaken in homes.

> Clients in the Czech Republic also received a score higher than 9 in the satisfaction surveys recently conducted amongst its end, institutional and industrial clients. Specifically, 92% of end clients rated water quality as



# **Electronic invoicing**

The health emergency, caused by COVID-19, revealed new registrations for this mode of invoicing. In total So in April Aqualia launched a campaign to promote to be worth €200,000 a year. electronic invoicing that resulted in more than 30,000

that digitalisation is the only option to keep economic there were 86,908 new registrations in 2020. According dynamics safe from the risk that the management to a study by the SERES Group, the environmental, time of a pandemic poses in the business environment. and management savings that this entails are estimated





Research today to know tomorrow

The circularity of a drop of water

Collaboration to go further

Call for the responsible use of water and sanitation

Less than a decade remains until 2030, the deadline for meeting the commitments made in the Sustainable Development Goals. Although Aqualia has been working for years to meet them, and despite the complications arising from the pandemic, in recent months it has stepped on the accelerator so that the Decade of Action can also be one of social and environmental transformation.



# Research today to know tomorrow

In 2020 six new projects were initiated to put innovation and technology at the service of quality, eco-efficiency, smart management and sustainability. Investment in R&D has increased more than 19% compared to 2019.





compared to 2019

















policies for transition to a circular economy with a zero carbon footprint, seeking the development of new smart management tools and new proposals for sustainable the previous business year, which represents 0.43% of services and smart management tools. In this way, the Department of Innovation and Technology is supporting the company in meeting the United Nations Sustainable As a result of the knowledge obtained in innovation, Development Goals (SDGs) in different points, guaranteeing an affordable and high quality water and sanitation service (SDG 6), optimising its energy balance has been strengthened with a new tool to generate (SDG 7) and avoiding its impact on climate (SDG 13) more sustainable products, activities and processes. through responsible consumption (SDG 12).

Agualia's innovation activity is in line with European The projects developed in 2020 strengthen Agualia's technological commitment, which increased the amount dedicated to R&D<sup>47</sup> by 19.4% compared to

> clients can obtain better services for more efficient water cycle management. This year Agualia's commitment

47 The total invested in 2020 is the sum of the R&D&I grants (€2,346,093 in 2019 and €2,892,722 in 2020) + net investment made by Aqualia (€1,945,386 in 2019

#### In 2020

# Five projects were completed

**European Life** projects

Methamorphosis

**Icirbus4Industries** 

Interconecta project (Feder)

Advisor (extended until March 2021)

regional RIS3 Idepa project

ValorAstur

EU H2020 framework programme project

Mides

# The development of ten other ongoing projects has continued

regional RIS3 Idepa project

Recarbon

programme projects

Ulises

Intext

Water Joint **Project Initiative** (ERA-NET)

project

MarAdentro

(BBI) Initiative

projects

**B-Ferst** 

**Deep Purple** 

**Bio-Based** Marie Industries Sklodowska **Curie training** project (MSCA)

Rewatergy

H2020 programme projects

Run4Life

Sabana Scalibur

And as a result of public calls made in 2019

It has been possible to start six new projects

Life

projects

Infusion

**Phoenix Zero Waste Water** 

H2020 programme projects

Rewaise Sea4Value

**Ultimate** 

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# Success stories

#### **Life Methamorphosis**



2020 saw the completion of the Life Methamorphosis project, in which the application of an innovative treatment train enabled energy recovery from municipal wastes to be maximised, achieving significant environmental improvements. It was also possible to reduce energy demand for the treatment process by 73% and save 74% in associated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to currently installed aerobic membrane technology.



Learn more about the Life Methamorphosis project

#### H2020 Mides

The Mides (microbial desalination for low-energy drinking water) project was also completed in 2020 and involved developing a unique and innovative system to produce drinking water with advanced desalination processes at no energy cost. This avoids the electricity consumption found in conventional desalination plants, which amounts to 4 kWh/m³.

The system runs on energy created from wastewater treatment processes through an equally new technology: The microbial desalination cell.



In this biological reactor, bacteria use the organic material in the wastewater to create electricity, which in turn enables the migration of salts through selective membranes.

The result of the project opens a new market for low-cost desalination in decentralised low-medium capacity plants, since it makes it possible to treat wastewater and obtain a positive energy balance. This is a significant milestone in the conception of the cities of the future: It enables the establishment of integrated stations that generate energy, purify wastewater and act as desalination plants with low energy consumption and with smart management and control systems.



**Learn more** about the H2020 Mides project

#### Interconecta Advisor

The management of waste from the meat industry is a significant challenge and entails a high cost in certain regions. The Advisor project proposes an alternative with the development of environmentally and economically sustainable solutions. With the support of the Guijuelo Municipality, this waste can be used beneficially, taking advantage of the anaerobic digesters in the WWTP.

A new thermal pre-treatment and new control systems increase treatment capacity and guarantee the efficiency of the process to obtain valuable products, enabling vehicles to be supplied with renewable bioenergy.



#### **H2020 Rewaise**

This ambitious project (Resilient Water Innovation for Smart Economy) was launched in 2020, with a budget of more than €18 million (€15 million grant) and is developing a digital framework for sustainable water management with a zero footprint. It addresses technological, financial, legal and social issues and involves all stakeholders in the comprehensive water cycle.

H2020 Rewaise takes into account three key components of the economic and social value generated by the end-to-end water cycle:

**Value in the water:** Promoting efficient use and reuse, while recovering energy and materials present in untreated water streams and waste water.

**Value of the water:** It expresses the importance of water in economic activities and companies related to the sector.

**Value through water:** It underlines the social, health and welfare functions of water, which enables us to undertake almost all of our economic activities.

With four other companies and partners from 11 countries, Rewaise demonstrates in real conditions the effectiveness of technological innovations and new models for water governance, which will reduce water consumption by more than 30% and develop a self-sufficient energy cycle. New value chains in the production of minerals and fertilisers from water will generate employment and new commercial activities in the circular economy.





**Learn more** about the H2020 Rewaise project

| Aqualia<br>project types   | Main<br>projects <sup>48</sup>                          | Objectives relating to the end-to-end water cycle  |  | Goals relating<br>to climate<br>change                       | Achievements in projects completed in 2020  |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|
|  |   | On the transformation of waste into resources and biofactories/ circularity  | Renewable<br>biofuel<br>energy   | Carbon Neutral<br>Target by 2050                             |   |
| Or a litu  | Life Methamorphosis • Final (2020)                      | Transforming waste into value.   | Converting<br>leachate from<br>municipal waste<br>and slurry to<br>biomethane. | Reduce energy<br>consumption<br>and the carbon<br>footprint. | Using<br>biomethane in<br>cars and lorries.   |
| Developing innovative technologies, maximising the efficiency and reliability of uninterrupted water | Life Infusion<br>(2024) ●<br>Started<br>in 2020         | Preparing design<br>parameters for future<br>AMB resource recovery<br>plants and evaluating<br>technologies.   |  | Replacing<br>electricity.                                    | Start-up.   |
| service (24 h/d<br>and 365 d/year)<br>to guarantee the<br>highest quality.                           | Life Zero Waste<br>Water (2024) ●<br>Started<br>in 2020 | Demonstrating the combined treatment of Urban Waste Water (ARU) and the Organic Fraction of Municipal Solid Waste (FORSU) with the AnMBR anaerobic reactor.  | Producing biomethane.  | Reducing<br>electricity<br>consumption.                      | Signing the agreements.   |
| Smart<br>management  | <b>Life Icirbus ●</b> Final                             | Generating construction materials and biofertilisers.  |  |  | National patent<br>with co-holders<br>(INTROMAC<br>CTAEX,<br>DISAMIN) <sup>49</sup> . |
| management of<br>water resources<br>with smart<br>technologies.                                      | <b>H2020 Run4Life</b> ● Final                           | Recovering nutrients from<br>the separation of grey and<br>black water.  | Producing<br>bioenergy.  | Producing self-<br>generated energy.                         | Water for toilets<br>and irrigation<br>in the ZFV<br>gardens.                         |
| Increasing the safety and resilience of infrastructures by controlling and planning the processes.   | H2020 Rewaise<br>(2025) ●                               | Implementing new circular economy and digital  | Transforming wastewater  | Promoting<br>sustainable                                     |   |
| Providing information that is transparent and suitable for the service.                              | Started in 2020   | management solutions in<br>nine LivingLabs: Recovery<br>of materials from brines,<br>re-use of wastewater and<br>its transformation into by-<br>products, and simulation<br>of water quality, processes<br>and networks. | into energy.   | desalination and new membranes.                              |   |

Programme type 

European 

Spain

- 48 The vast majority of grants are for EU Life and H2020 projects. The exceptions are Advisor, MarAdentro and Valorastur/Recarbon, which are administered by the CDTI. But they also come from the European ERDF and RIS3 funds.
- 49 No. 201930876 (requested 08/10/2019).

| Aqualia<br>project types   | Main<br>projects <sup>48</sup>                 | Objectives relatir end-to-end wate  |  | Goals relating<br>to climate<br>change   | Achievements in projects completed in 2020  |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
|  |  | On the<br>transformation<br>of waste into<br>resources and<br>biofactories/<br>circularity  | Renewable<br>biofuel<br>energy   | Carbon Neutral<br>Target by 2050   |   |
|  | <b>H2020 Scalibur</b> (2022) ● Started in 2020 | WWTP sludge<br>treatments.<br>Converting<br>organic matter into<br>by-products.   | Converting waste into energy value through the production of biomethane and its use as a fuel for vehicles.  | Energy recovered from<br>WWTPs and urban<br>solids for vehicle fuel.                   | First project with<br>the participation of<br>SmVaK in the Czech<br>Republic.   |
| Eco-efficiency  Developing advanced technologies that  | BBI Deep Purple<br>(2023) ●<br>Started in 2019 | Developing bio-<br>refinery works<br>to produce and<br>recover cellulose<br>and plastics using<br>organic matter<br>from wastewater<br>and municipal<br>wastes. | Generating new<br>materials and<br>biofuels through<br>the treatment<br>of wastewater<br>and municipal<br>wastes with no<br>contribution<br>from external<br>fossil fuels. | Solar and self-<br>generated energy.   | European patent granted on 12.08.20 together with the Rey Juan Carlos University. A first prototype is already operating in Toledo-Estiviel. A reactor that is 10 times larger is planned for the Linares WWTP. |
| optimise the use of renewable resources.  Avoiding the generation of waste in the company's processes and services.      | BBI B-Ferst<br>(2023) ●<br>Started in 2020     | Developing and assessing new biofertilisers from municipal wastes and purification by-products.   | Avoiding the energy required to generate artificial fertiliser (urea).   | Reducing the carbon footprint in the production of fertilisers.                        | Prototype under<br>construction at<br>Jerez WWTP.   |
| Finding solutions<br>that enable growth<br>in all water markets<br>in accordance with<br>eco-efficiency<br>requirements. | <b>H2020 Mides ●</b> Final                     | Using organic<br>material from<br>wastewater as fuel.   | Implementing<br>desalination with<br>no contribution<br>from external<br>electricity.  | The microbial desalination cell (MDC) reduces the energy cost of desalination tenfold. | Reduction of energy cost x10. European patent for the microbial desalination cell (MDC). Granted on 26.08.20.   |
|  | RIS3 Valorastur • Final                        | Reducing the generation of waste that is transformed into new resources.  | Implementing processes to optimise the nutrient elimination process in the S. Claudio WWTP.  Cost reduction in electricity; minimising the purchase of iron salts.         | Applying eco-<br>efficient purification<br>with control of<br>energy consumption.      | Delivery of new drying equipment at the WWTP in Grado.  Development of new low-cost absorption materials from dried sewage sludge.  |

48 The vast majority of grants are for EU Life and H2020 projects. The exceptions are Advisor, MarAdentro and Valorastur/Recarbon, which are administered by the CDTI. But they also come from the European ERDF and RIS3 funds.

Main

projects<sup>48</sup>

Interconecta

Advisor

(2021)

Final

Assessing the

of pilot units

in a number of

SWDPs operated

by Aqualia, with

the technical and

economic impact.

an analysis of

implementation

Aqualia

project types

On the transformation of waste into resources and biofactories/ circularity

Renewable biofuel energy

**Carbon Neutral** Target by 2050

#### H2020 Sea4Value (2024)

Started in 2020

Eco-efficiency

Aqualia

advanced technologies that optimise the use of renewable resources.

Avoiding the generation of waste in the company's processes and services.

Finding solutions that enable growth in all water markets in accordance with eco-efficiency requirements.

The project focusses on recovering resources from concentrated brines in seawater desalination stations (SWDPs).

Alternative to traditional mineral extraction, generating new raw materials and a new source of income for desalination.

Reduces discharges and emissions.

H2020 Ultimate (2024)

Started in 2020

Comparing FBBR (Elsar) and AnMBR anaerobic reactors at 20 m³/h scale to recover

biomethane and

feed a fuel cell.

Studying the codigestion of yeast.

# Eco-efficiency

Developing advanced technologies that optimise the use of renewable resources.

Avoiding the generation of waste in the company's processes and services.

Finding solutions that enable growth in all water markets in accordance with eco-efficiency requirements.

Maradentro (2021)

Started in 2020

A 400 m<sup>2</sup>infiltration system will be built at the Medina del Campo WWTP for the advanced treatment of treated water and its re-use in recharging aguifers.

Objectives relating to the

Renewable

Biofuel is produced

for WWTP vehicles

from the residues

of the meat

The increase in

biomethane

biogas production

is exploited with an

ABAD Bioenergy®

upgrading system.

industry.

biofuel

energy

end-to-end water cycle

On the

transformation

of waste into

resources and

biofactories/

industrial waste into

circularity

Converting

bioenergy

Developing system design and simulation tools to optimise the operation and costs of processing contaminant removal compared to conventional tertiary treatment.

**RIS3 IDEPA** Recarbon (2021)

Final

Testing the feasibility of Biochar for cleaning biogas at the Jerez, Chiclana and Lleida WWTPs and for deodorising at the San Claudio and Luarca WWTPs.

Developing advanced methods for the analysis of micro-pollutants to evaluate the new activated carbon absorption units optimised from Biochar

**Programme type** • European • Spain

**Goals relating** 

**Carbon Neutral** 

Target by 2050

Reducing the cost of

waste transportation

with the production

of biofuel.

to climate

change

Achievements

in projects

2020

completed in

Implementing

Energylab is

analysing the

performance

of a specific

27,000 km.

vehicle that has

already travelled

a biogas refuelling

area in the WWTP.

**H2020 MSCA REWATERGY** (2023)

Started in 2020

Research at the University of Cambridge focussed on production of hydrogen from ammonia in wastewater.

University of Ulster, development of photo and electro-disinfection processes to eliminate micropollutants in drinking and waste water.

48 The vast majority of grants are for EU Life and H2020 projects. The exceptions are Advisor, MarAdentro and Valorastur/Recarbon, which are administered by the CDTI. But they also come from the European ERDF and RIS3 funds.



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| Main<br>projects <sup>48</sup>               | , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,   |   | Goals relating<br>to climate<br>change  | Achievements<br>in projects<br>completed in<br>2020   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
|  | On the<br>transformation<br>of waste into<br>resources and<br>biofactories/<br>circularity  | Renewable<br>biofuel<br>energy  | Carbon Neutral<br>Target by 2050  |   |
| Life Intext<br>(2023) ●<br>Started in 2019   | Simplifying water re-use with decentralised solutions.  | Assessing and adapting low-cost purification technologies to minimise energy costs.   | Adapting low-cost purification technologies to minimise energy cost, the carbon footprint and waste, trying to provide sustainable and economic solutions.  | Demonstration<br>platform for these<br>technologies at the<br>Talavera de la Reina<br>WWTP.   |
| Life Ulises<br>(2022) ●<br>Started in 2019   | Promoting the reuse of water at the WWTP outlet.  | Transforming a conventional WWTP into an "energy production factory".   | Improving digestion with hydrolysis and biogas and using the biogas to eliminate the carbon footprint of WWTPs.   | Biomethane cleaning with the ABAD Bioenergy® process to provide vehicular biofuel with a biomethane dispenser.  |
| <b>H2020 Sabana</b> (2021) ● Started in 2016 | Producing new<br>biofertilisers and<br>biostimulants.   | Using algae<br>to produce<br>oxygen without<br>electricity.   | Reducing the carbon footprint.  | Designing two<br>new algae<br>production plants.  |
| Life Phoenix<br>(2024) ●<br>Started in 2020  | Optimising tertiary treatment to achieve the most ambitious objectives of the new European water re-use regulation (EU 2020/741). |   |   | Three mobile plant were designed, one for the physical-chemical treatment of 50 m <sup>3</sup> /h, filtration of 30 m <sup>3</sup> /l, and ultrafiltration of 20 m <sup>3</sup> /h.   |
|  | Life Intext (2023)  Started in 2019  Life Ulises (2022)  Started in 2019  Started in 2016  Life Phoenix (2024)                    | Don the transformation of waste into resources and biofactories/ circularity  Life Intext (2023) ● Started in 2019  Life Ulises (2022) ● Started in 2019  Fromoting the reuse of water at the WWTP outlet.  Producing new biofertilisers and biostimulants.  Producing new biofertilisers and biostimulants.  Producing new biofertilisers and biostimulants.  Optimising tertiary treatment to achieve the most ambitious objectives of the new European water re-use regulation (EU | Do the transformation of waste into resources and biofactories/ circularity  Life Intext (2023) ● Started in 2019  Life Ulises (2022) ● Started in 2019  Promoting the reuse of water at the WWTP outlet.  WWTP outlet.  Transforming a conventional WWTP into an "energy production factory".  Life Phoenix (2024) ● Started in 2016  Life Phoenix (2024) ● Started in 2020  Coptimising tertiary treatment to achieve the most ambitious objectives of the new European water re-use regulation (EU | On the transformation of waste into resources and biofactories/ circularity  Life Intext (2023) ● Started in 2019  Life Ulises (2022) ● Started in 2019  Life Ulises (2021) ● Started in 2019  Producing new biofertilisers and biostimulants.  Discreptive Felating to the end-to-ned water at the WWTP outlet.  Using algae to produce oxygen without electricity.  Life Phoenix (2024) ● Started in 2020  Discreptive Felating to the change  Carbon Neutral Target by 2050  Adapting low-cost purification technologies to minimise energy cost, the carbon footprint and waste, trying to provide sustainable and economic solutions.  Transforming a conventional WWTP into an "energy production factory".  Using algae to produce oxygen without electricity.  Renewable bioful Target by 2050  Adapting low-cost purification technologies to minimise energy cost, the carbon footprint and waste, trying to provide sustainable and economic solutions.  Unimise energy with yurint and waste, trying to provide sustainable and economic solutions.  Unimise energy with yurint and waste, trying to provide sustainable and economic solutions.  Unimise energy with yurint and waste, trying to provide sustainable and economic solutions.  Unimise energy with yurint and waste, trying to provide sustainable and economic solutions.  Unimise energy with yurint and waste, trying to provide sustainable and economic solutions.  Unimise energy with yurint and waste, trying to provide sustainable and economic solutions.  Unimise energy with yurint and waste, trying to provide sustainable and economic solutions. |

#### Number of projects by type



| 1







48 The vast majority of grants are for EU Life and H2020 projects. The exceptions are Advisor, MarAdentro and Valorastur/Recarbon, which are administered by the CDTI. But they also come from the European ERDF and RIS3 funds.

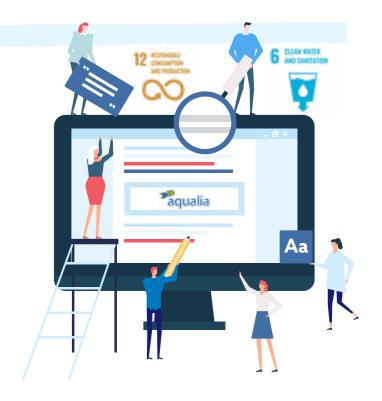
# Best practices

#### **Communication with stakeholders**

Aqualia has informed researchers from all over the world with regard to the progress and results of its latest projects in a number of webinars and virtual events.

For example, in a digital presentation organised by the prestigious German institute FZ Jülich, one of the most prestigious research institutions in Europe, the enormous potential that microalgae have in sustainable wastewater treatment and in the circular economy was reported.

This virtual event is part of an online conference cycle on research with microalgae that the German institution promoted during lockdown. Aqualia collaborated with this institution, which focusses its activities on the fields of health, energy and the environment, and regularly brings together scientists and specialists from around the world to disseminate knowledge on the potential of algae.





# The circularity of a drop of water







As a result of investment in new technologies capable of converting wastewater into new materials and energy sources, Aqualia is prepared to help many industries and Public Administrations to work on the transition from a linear to a circular economy.

In a world where resources are increasingly scarce and the population is growing, it is necessary to adopt strategies focussed on a circular economy to increase the use of energy, raw materials and secondary materials.

Water plays a very significant role in the success of the circular economy in other productive sectors that use the minerals and materials resulting from its treatment. New technologies, capable of converting wastewater into new materials and using it as an energy source, or biofactories. have led many industries to work on the transition from a traditional linear economy to a circular model.

Aqualia has been developing this line for several years in different parts of the world, enabling the water sector to be seen as a key factor in the economic future of any

Wastewater treatment is the operation that presents the greatest opportunities within the end-to-end water cycle. That is why Agualia focusses on accelerating efforts to transform WWTP stations into circular stations

# Circular stations on biofactories

The aim of the main projects for converting WWTPs into circular stations or biofactories is to:



Avoid, recover, transform and evaluate

the residues in usable resources so they can be used for agricultural purposes or for energy recovery.



**Produce** renewable energy

so they are able to be self-sufficient and generate surpluses.



Regenerate water

for subsequent reuse for agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental purposes.



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# Best practices

#### **Technological transfer**

The Run4Life project, led by Aqualia, proposes a wastewater treatment system that does not require connection to sewerage networks and seeks to re-use 100% of grey water.

During the project's development phase, in the Vigo Duty-Free Zone and its Nigrán Business Park, they analysed the perception and social acceptance of this technology as a solution to face climate change and other environmental challenges.

The recovery of resources on-site represents new commercial opportunities for Aqualia and strengthens its contribution to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption).



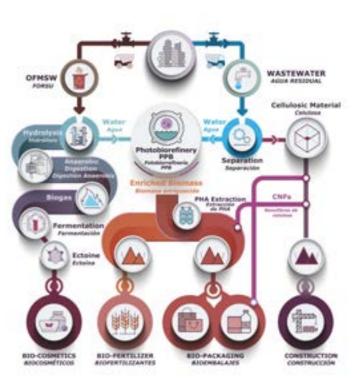




Another outstanding initiative in 2020 that promotes the circular economy was the Deep Purple Project, developed in the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Framework Programme. Under Aqualia's leadership and supported by 13 partners from six countries, the project proposes an integrated synergistic treatment for the recovery of three types of bio-waste: the organic fraction of municipal solid waste (FORSU), sludge from wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) and urban wastewater.

Through a multiplatform photo-biorefinery based on phototrophic purple bacteria (PPB) in anaerobic carousels, solar energy is used to purify wastewater without aeration. Biomass transforms the organic content of sewage and municipal waste into raw materials for biofuels, plastics, cellulose and new base materials in the chemical and cosmetic industry. Within the framework of the Deep Purple project, a photo-biorefinery is already under construction at the Estiviel WWTP (Toledo) and the construction of another in Linares is planned for 2021.





# Low-cost purification technologies for sanitation in small towns

With the ultimate aim of improving citizens' quality of life, Aqualia presented the Life Intext project in Talavera de la Reina, Toledo at the beginning of the year.

In Spain only 65% of municipalities with between 2,000 and 10,000 inhabitants have suitable water treatment. The problem particularly affects Castile-La Mancha, where 1,300 new suitable sanitation installations are required. This project addresses the problem of wastewater in small towns, with the development of new technologies and the improvement and optimisation of existing ones. As part of its presentation, a media event was held that was attended by a number of regional, local and business figures from the autonomous community.



#### Water quality and wastewater reuse

Another leading project in 2020 was the Life Phoenix project which is being developed in Andalusia and Portugal to address the re-use of wastewater at a European level. It also enables us to face the growing threat posed by emerging pollutants and microplastics in our waters.

The Esquilón II Deposit in Puerto de la Cruz (Tenerife) also hosted the presentation of a demonstration unit to combat nitrates in water, a project that will resolve a historical problem in the municipality, which had been restricting the recommendation to consume tap water by pregnant women and babies aged under 6 months.

# Production of new biofertilisers and biostimulants in WWTPs

At the end of December Aqualia presented the H2020 Sabana R&D project which is being undertaken together with the Mérida Municipality. The company will build one of the largest microalgae-based wastewater treatment plants in the world in the city of Mérida. The aim is to study the possibility of cultivating microalgae from nutrients contained in wastewater to obtain biomass and subsequently use this as a biofertiliser, biostimulant and/or biopesticide of high agronomic value.

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# Collaboration to go further

Agualia has joined the Spanish StepbyWater alliance, a network of companies, institutions and social organisations to promote responsible water management.







An important change in the production processes alliances with scientists, companies and institutions that entails the collaboration of all the agents involved. This is why Aqualia constantly seeks new synergies and and other sectors.

can help develop practical solutions for the water sector

### **StepbyWater**

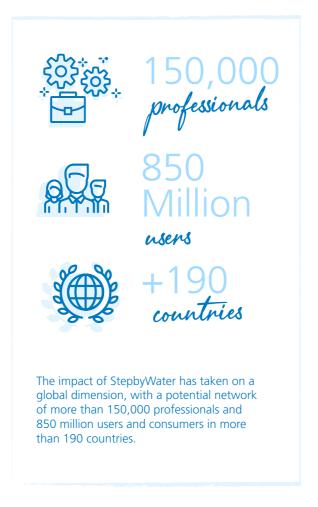




From a collaborative standpoint, one of the company's major milestones was its adhesion to and promotion of the Spanish StepbyWater alliance. This network of companies, institutions and social organisations combine forces to address the responsible management of water and contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, especially SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) and SDG 17 (Partnerships to achieve the objectives).

Loyal to its commitment to the sustainable management of water services and to all initiatives that guarantee their protection, Aqualia joined this alliance to exclusively represent companies specialising in the management of the end-to-end water cycle. The alliance also boasts more than twenty leading organisations in the field of sustainability, including Coca Cola, Unilever, L'Oréal, Cosentino, Mahou-San Miguel and Capsa Food, with ambassadors including Olympic champion Carolina Marín and Nacho Dean, a naturalist, explorer and influencer.

This project was widely reported in the media who recognised the importance of this collaboration to highlight the importance of water.



#### **Events**

#### "World Water Tech North America"

In 2020, Agualia participated in an event in the US transformation and change management, water the world. The thematic axes addressed were digital management strategy.

entitled "World Water Tech North America" together quality, wastewater re-use and energy consumption, with a group of more than 250 executives from all geared towards the One Water Resilience concept, companies in the sector in 17 countries from around which is based on a holistic water resources

#### Water management in the future: Sustainability, investment and CSR



With regard to its commitment to offering citizens challenges facing the industry in the short, medium Bizkaia Water Consortium (CABB), involving an analysis of the water services management sector and the main meeting the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

a smart service, special mention should be given to and long term. The speakers addressed issues such as Aqualia's speech at the Water management in the public-private collaboration, the impact of COVID-19 future: Sustainability, investment and CSR event on the provision of services, the social commitment of organised by El Correo Vasco together with the Bilbao operators, Next Generation funds and their impact on the water sector and the involvement of the industry in 160 | **2020 Sustainability Report** | A decade for us to transform 2020 Sustainability Report | A decade for us to transform | 161

#### Public-private collaboration

Public-private collaboration is essential to emerge stronger from this pandemic. This is the conclusion reached in the "Reconstruir Castilla y León" programme produced by the Autonomous Television channel for Castile-León (RTVCyL).

installation managed by Aqualia. Representatives of the local administration, the company and a group of engineers shared ideas and agreed on the need to join forces to emerge stronger from the crisis generated by COVID-19.

a Circular Economy Master Plan for Castile-La Mancha,

presenting several initiatives on circular economy applied to the water cycle that the company has launched since 2015. These included the above-mentioned Deep Purple, the Scalibur project, which seeks to reduce and recover organic waste to transform it into bioenergy This programme was recorded at the Avila DWTP, an and other by-products, and the Life Intext project, to support European SMEs working to optimise low-cost treatment technologies in small towns.

Caltagua, Aqualia's Italian subsidiary, signed a collaboration agreement with the University of In 2020, Aqualia also participated in the preparation of Palermo to study solutions that minimise the production of sewage sludge.



The Spanish Association for Desalination and Reuse (AEDyR) held a meeting to report on the actions contemplated for the water sector within the European Union's Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan. The event was attended by Teodoro Estrela, General Director of Water at the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Spain's Demographic Challenge, as well as by heads

of the main companies in the sector and international organisations in the field of desalination, such as IDA (International Desalination Association), Aladyr (Latin American Desalination and Water Re-use Association) and EDS (European Desalination Society).

### **Brave Blue World Documentary**

With regard to the dissemination of the company's is available on Netflix, so it has a potential audience innovative actions, Aqualia participated in the Brave Blue World documentary, which presented the All-gas project as one of 12 sustainable solutions worldwide is developing innovations and new technologies to for overcoming water scarcity. It is a striking, optimistic rethink water management in the face of an uncertain documentary that aims to promote a positive change in the culture of water and sanitation worldwide. It distribution of drinking water.

of 193 million people worldwide. Filmed in five continents, Brave Blue World looks at how mankind scenario involving water stress and the unequal



Another example of Agualia's collaboration with its stakeholders was the call for the IV Edition of the Agualia Journalism Award, with the aim of promoting public awareness and sensitivity.

How to give water a second life was the theme selected for this year and the winner was Paco Rego, who won the award for a report on the All Gas project and its possibilities to build more resilient towns and cities. It was published in the newspaper El Mundo.



for in-depth analysis of end-to-end water circularity.

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# Call for the responsible use of water and sanitation







In October, Agualia signed an appeal for the European Union to guarantee access to decent sanitation for the ten million Europeans who still lack it.

Water is a scarce commodity, but it is essential for the and infant mortality, impoverishes biological diversity survival and development of communities. That is why responsibly to ensure its future.

Water scarcity currently affects more than 40%<sup>50</sup> of the in the best possible way. world population, which increases the risk of diseases

and slows down economic growth in underdeveloped it is everyone's responsibility to protect it and use it countries, enabling social inequalities to remain. That is why Aqualia makes a special effort to educate the population about how to consume water and protect it

#### Call to action

The company was one of the organisations that signed an appeal on 21 October for the European Union to guarantee better access to sanitation for the 10 million Europeans who still lack a decent sanitation service.

By signing this document, Aqualia once again demonstrated its staunch commitment to achieving the human rights to water and sanitation and adhering to SDG 6, which requires public-private collaboration, research and investment to optimise available resources and ensure clean sanitation without leaving anyone behind.



### **Public** awareness

Since Aqualia began its activity as an operator for the end-to-end water cycle in 12 municipalities in the department of Córdoba, in northern Colombia, the company has been developing a specific Social Responsibility plan for the area.

Due to the expansion of the pandemic, the company used virtual channels to raise awareness amongst the population. During these months there have been a total of 68 talks regarding the end-to-end water cycle, as well as 45 workshops on efficient use and saving of water, as well as social and environmental aspects based on the SDGs, with special emphasis on SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation).

With regard to this, throughout 2020 Aqualia once again launched the #Nolotires (#Don'tthrowitaway) campaign in collaboration with different institutions, with the aim of making the population aware of those small actions that can have a severe negative impact on the water cycle. On this occasion, the campaign focussed especially on those objects that should not be flushed down the toilet because their elimination makes On 22 March, World Water Day, Aqualia invited people the work of the sanitation network more difficult.

Since the pandemic began, there has been a significant increase in the number of gloves, masks, and sanitary towels that reach the sewer after being flushed down the toilet rather than deposited in the corresponding way to dispose of these and other polluting waste.





#NoLoTires - Gloves, masks and sanitary towels never go down the toilet

to reflect on the strength and resilience of the urban water supply and sanitation services, which were profoundly affected by the pandemic. Despite the seriousness of the sanitary emergency, which paralysed daily activity around the world, urban water services generally continued to be provided normally and helped rubbish container. To avoid this, Aqualia provided to prevent the situation from being worse. This was information through images and videos on the correct a key factor in its work in these crucial moments and the central axis of Aqualia's appearances in the media.

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There should be special mention for an action undertaken by Aqualia's subsidiary in Tenerife, Entemanser, together with the Granadilla de Abona Municipality, to publicise the services of the sanitation network and raise awareness among young people about the importance of not contaminating this resource.

To coincide with World Sanitation Day, the night work of the Entemanser service at the Wastewater Pumping Plant was filmed in the presence of the first deputy mayor (Marcos González) and the general services delegate councillor (Marcos Rodríguez). Information posters were also hung in the town's fourteen education centres of the town and a drawing contest was held on sewer covers to make the campaign visible on the street.

The campaign ended with a video by the Municipality produced to raise awareness amongst the whole town's about the proper use of the toilet and the appropriate means for depositing waste.





Video Granadilla #Nolotires campaign 'World Sanitation Day'

#### www.aqualiaeduca.com

# Educational channel

The most important tools used by Aqualia in 2020 included the www.aqualiaeduca.com web campaigns and initiatives, aimed at children of all ages so they could acquire knowledge about this valuable resource and learn that we all need to act consciously to protect it. This website has access to exclusive content to learn while having fun and become aware of the need for responsible consumption, as well as appreciating the work of those who ensure that drinking water reaches their homes.

During the months of lockdown, Aqualia activated a wide dissemination campaign on its educational platforms to help parents combine telecommuting with care for their children and give them an opportunity to learn how to appreciate water.



850 Million

l. 141% more users

Between March and April, 141% more users were registered than in the same months in the previous year.

15,664

112%

39,135

page views

The figures for the online channel reveal its consolidation as an educational source of reference for teachers and families. The number of visits was especially high in Spain, Mexico, Peru, Colombia and Argentina.



Campaigns and initiatives on the www.aqualiaeduca.com website



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#### 18th Edition of the international children's drawing contest

# Guardians of water

In 2020 Aqualia launched the 18th edition of the Digital Children's Drawing Contest This contest invited boys and girls in Spain and Portugal in the 3rd and 4th years at Primary School in the municipalities where it provides services to participate. On this occasion, on the fifth anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals, Aqualia wanted to help children to get to know them, inviting them to become guardians of water by designing a poster that reflects their vision of the water cycle and how to use it sustainably.

The children in the house are not the only ones who need to learn how to take care of such a valuable asset. So throughout the summer of 2020, a campaign was conducted with the hashtag #ConsumoResponsable in which tips were given on how to save water in daily tasks like washing the car and watering plants. The campaign was published on all the company's channels using messages and short videos to create social awareness.

+ 86,000 viewings





**Video**The SDGs as you have never

11,670
visits to the website
129,300
page views

+6,600
participants

The participants, mostly young people and children, dedicated
3,800 hours to digital training on the end-to-end water cycle.

# Public awareness-naising



Water consumption is not the only problem that Aqualia is involved with, but a large part of the work to maintain water quality is directed towards the proper management of sanitation. In this regard, one of the main axes of Aqualia's communication is the awareness of citizens to put an end to the bad practice of using the toilet as a wastebasket.

Table of GRI contents

In response to the requirements and expectations of the different stakeholders, and in accordance with the company's commitment to establishing basic sustainability pillars on which to work and internalise the reporting culture, transparency and corporate responsibility management, Aqualia has prepared a Corporate Social Responsibility Review every year since 2009.



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# **About this report**

This report, which includes the organisation's and the indicator for AQ CT is included. This report was management and commitments regarding the most significant financial and non-financial issues in 2020, was prepared in accordance with the comprensive In follow-up for the guidelines established by GRI option of the 2016 GRI Standards. In the case of the following principles were complied with, so standard 303 and 403, the 2018 version was applied. the requirements demanded by the standard are The information on two indicators for the company's guaranteed: activity is also maintained (AQ AH2O and AQ CyS 1)

verified by an independent external entity (AENOR).



#### inclusion of stakeholders

The company established different two-way communication channels with its stakeholders, as described in the section on Value *creation,* where this year the main channels of dialogue promoted by health situation are included.



#### Sustainability context

This report was conceived as an instrument that reflected the activity and performance of the company, with the integration of the three main axes for sustainability: Economic development, social justice and environmental balance.



#### Materiality

In order to identify important issues, the last three reports have involved active listening to Aqualia's different stakeholders. In the section regarding The challenge of becoming more sustainable every day the added value for each of the phases is explained and the material issues are listed in the annex.



#### Comprehensiveness

In the preparation of this report, the collaboration of the company's main management areas was requested, with the intention of gathering together all the organisation's significant and strategic issues.

The application of the GRI principles that determine the quality of the report were also taken into account: accuracy, balance, clarity, comparability, reliability and timeliness.

The reporting methodology was based on the application of the methodology proposed by the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) to prepare integrated reports from the perspective of identifying the capital that the organisation has or manages and using them to explain how value is created for society.

territory of Spain where the company's head offices are all stakeholders.

located. The data provided in the different areas include 100% of the consolidated information for dependent entities, for joint-venture operations (only JVs and EIGs) in proportion to the shareholding and do not include information for those companies in which there is no control.

Changes in calculations and the scope of the information are commented on in each particular case.

Finally, it should be said that the report responds to the need to communicate the 2021-2023 Strategic Throughout the document, national data refer to the Sustainability Plan to the entire Aqualia staff and to





### VERIFICATION OF SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

#### VMS-2021/0015

AENOR has verified the Sustainability Report by the organization

### FCC AQUALIA, S.A.

INFORME DE SOSTENIBILIDAD AQUALIA 2020.

Reporting period: 2020

In accordance with GRI Standars option:

Comprensive

Issue date: 2021-06-04



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Rafael GARCÍA MEIRO Chief Executive Officer

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# **Material issues**

In 2020, the most significant issues for stakeholders were as follows:









| Issue   | Scope    | Explanation of materiality |
|---|----------|----------------------------|
| Water quality   | QP       | GRI 416                    |
| Efficient management of the shortage of natural resources   | 90       | GRI 303                    |
| Climate change: contribution to environmental impact mitigation and risk management plans                                     | P        | GRI 305                    |
| Innovation in the environment: development of R&D&i   | QP       | GRI 103-3                  |
| Circular economy of water: re-use of waste to minimise negative environmental impacts   | 90       | GRI 303/306                |
| Environmental awareness and raising awareness on the sustainable use of resources   | QP       | GRI 413<br>AQ CyS1         |
| Responsible energy consumption: degree of energy consumption and plans for the development of environmentally friendly energy | QP       | GRI 302                    |
| Biodiversity: sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems in the territories in which the company operates                      | QP       | GRI 304                    |
| Ethics and integrity (compliance)   |          | GRI 205                    |
| Systems for prevention and mitigation of corruption   |          | GRI 205                    |
| Good Governance: the company has suitable mechanisms for the identification and management of its risks and opportunities     |          | GRI 201/205                |
| Transparency: making information on the company's different management areas and their results available to stakeholders      | <u> </u> | GRI 205<br>AQ CT           |

| Issue  | Scope      |                    |
|--|------------|--------------------|
| Safety, occupational health and welfare of the employee:<br>COVID- oriented  | @<br>(8)   | GRI 403            |
| Equal opportunities, diversity and work-life balance   | ©<br>®≡    | GRI 401/405        |
| Professional development: policies, training plans and actions aimed at the professional development of the employee                               | <b>⊗</b> ≡ | GRI 404            |
| Access to water: the company makes it easier to access water for all people including those in vulnerable situations                               | <b>⊗</b> ≡ | GRI 413<br>AQ AH20 |
| Client experience: In 2020, geared towards the care of the client's health and safety  | <b>⊗</b> ≡ | GRI 103-3          |
| Transparent communication: the company maintains transparent communication including easy and transparent access to its tariffs                    | $\Diamond$ | AQ CT              |
| Social action - local development: The company's proactive and reactive involvement in local community initiatives in response to specific demands | $\Diamond$ | GRI 413            |
| Promotion of and respect for essential Human Rights  | $\Diamond$ | GRI 412            |
| Technological development  | $\Diamond$ | GRI 203            |
| Creation of stable employment: Company's capacity to create jobs in the communities where it distributes and supplies                              | $\Diamond$ | GRI 401            |
| Collaboration and public-private partnerships  | $\Diamond$ | GRI 413            |

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# Aqualia's commitment to the **Ten Principles of the Global Compact**



Since its creation Aqualia has assumed a commitment Throughout this report you will see all the policies, development. As proof of this, since the end of 2020 it has been a full member of the Global Compact, the United Nations benchmark institution for promoting and other social-economic entities. This membership involves complying with and promoting the ten principles of action that constitute the management guidelines with regard to the following issues: Human against corruption.

to all its stakeholders, together with a constant desire measures and actions undertaken by Agualia in 2020 to improve that marks the path towards sustainable and that reflect its commitment to the principles of the Global Compact, as well as its contribution to the global achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, also promoted by this institution. This commitment also respect for human rights and best practices in companies comes from the company's own management, which assumes as its own the challenges that world society will face over the next ten years, when an optimal scenario is expected to have been created to mitigate and reverse the effects of climate change, as well as rights, labour standards, the environment and the fight to have established a more just and egalitarian society around the world, and to have laid the foundations for the most vulnerable countries to achieve prosperous and sustainable economic development over time.

| <br>Subject        | Principles of the Global Compa                            | act | Chapter for the associated report  |
|--------------------|---|-----|--|
| Human rights       | 1. Protection of Human Rights                             |     | <ul><li>5.1: Promoting a good work environment</li><li>7.4: Call for the responsible use of water<br/>and sanitation</li></ul>             |
|                    | Non complicity in the violation of Human Rights           |     | 3.1: The value of transparency   |
|                    | Freedom of affiliation and right to collective bargaining |     | <ul><li>3.1: The value of transparency</li><li>4.4: The challenge of being more sustainable every day</li></ul>                            |
| Labour regulations | 4. Elimination of forced labour                           |     | 3.1: The value of transparency   |
|                    | 5. Eradication of child labour                            |     | 4.4: The challenge of being more sustainable every day   |
|                    | Fight against discrimination in employment                |     | 5.1: Promoting a good work environment   |
|                    | 7. Preventive approach                                    |     | — 4: Global challenge  |
| Environment        | 8. Environmental responsibility                           |     | 4. Global Challenge  |
|                    | Technologies that respect the environment                 |     | <ul><li>4: Global challenge</li><li>6: Commitment and technology serving<br/>our clients</li><li>7: A decade for us to transform</li></ul> |
| Anti-corruption    | 10. Fight against corruption, extortion and bribery       |     | 3: As clear as water. Sustainable and transparent governance   |

# **Table of contents: GRI Standards**



# GRI 102: General Content 2016

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE  | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|---|--|-----------|------|
| Organisati      | ional profile   |  |           |      |
| 102-1           | Name of the organisation  | FCC Aqualia S.A. In the document, this name will be replaced by the Aqualia trademark.   |           |      |
| 102-2           | Activities, brands, products, and services                      | Pages 6-11 and 14-15 The local websites can be found in the Aqualia link https://www.aqualia.com/es/webs-locales   |           |      |
| 102-3           | Location of headquarters  | Avda. del Camino de Santiago 40. 28050<br>Madrid. Spain  |           |      |
| 102-4           | Location of operations  | Pages 28-29  |           |      |
| 102-5           | Ownership and legal format                                      | FCC Aqualia SA is owned by FCC (51%) and IFM Investors (49%)   |           |      |
| 102-6           | Markets served  | Pages 15 and 28-35   |           |      |
| 102-7           | Scale of the organisation                                       | Pages 16-18 and 22-23  |           |      |
| 102-8           | Information on employees<br>and other workers                   | Pages 96-98 In approximately 90% of activities relating to civil engineering works that require specialised machinery, labour needs to be subcontracted. |           | 8.5  |
| 102-9           | Supply chain  | Pages 47-51  |           |      |
| 102-10          | Significant changes to the organisation and its supply chain    | Pages 6-11; 16-18; 24-27; 48   |           |      |
| 102-11          | Precautionary principle or approach                             | Pages 40-46 and 57   |           |      |
| 102-12          | External initiatives  | Pages 92-93; 105; 158; 174-175   |           |      |
| 102-13          | Membership of associations                                      | Pages 126-128  |           |      |
| Strategy        |   |  |           |      |
| 102-14          | Statement by senior executives responsible for making decisions | Pages 6-11 The local websites can be found in the Aqualia link https://www.aqualia.com/es/webs-locales   |           |      |
| 102-15          | Key impacts, risks and opportunities                            | Pages 6-11 and 54-57   |           |      |
| Ethics and      | integrity   |  |           |      |
| 102-16          | Values, principles, standards and rules for behaviour           | Pages 17; 40-46  |           | 16.3 |
| 102-17          | Mechanisms for advising and ethical concerns                    | Pages 40-46  |           | 16.3 |

| 102-17            | ethical concerns                                | Pages 40-46   |    |
|-------------------|---|---|----|
| * Contribution of | of GRI standards to the goals of the SDGs, acco | rding to the document prepared by GRI, Linking the SDGs and the GRI Standar | ds |

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE  | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|---|--|-----------|------|
| Governance      |   |  |           |      |
| 102-18          | Governance structure  | Pages 38-40  |           |      |
| 102-19          | Delegating authority  | Pages 38-40  |           |      |
| 102-20          | Executive-level responsibility for economic, environmental and social issues              | Pages 6-11 and 40  |           |      |
| 102-21          | Consulting stakeholders on economic, environmental and social issues                      | Pages 86-88; 172-173   |           | 16.7 |
| 102-22          | Members of the highest governance body and its committees                                 | Pages 38-39  |           | 16.7 |
| 102-23          | President of the highest governance body  | Page 38  |           | 16.6 |
| 102-24          | Nominating and selecting the highest governance body                                      | 2020 Corporate Governance Report https://www.fcc.es/en/informe-anual-de-gobierno-corporativo (C.1.16. Page 36)   |           | 5.5  |
| 102-25          | Conflicts of interest   | Pages 42-45  |           | 16.6 |
| 102-26          | Role of the highest<br>governance body in selecting<br>objectives, values and<br>strategy | 2020 Corporate Governance Report https://<br>www.fcc.es/en/informe-anual-de-gobierno-<br>corporativo<br>(F. Internal Risk Control and Management<br>Systems relating to the process of issuing<br>Financial Information. F.1.2. Page 82) |           |      |
| 102-27          | The highest governance body's collective knowledge  | 2020 Corporate Governance Report https://www.fcc.es/en/informe-anual-de-gobierno-corporativo (C. Structure of the Company's Administration. C.1.3. Page 22)  |           |      |
| 102-28          | Assessing the highest governance body's performance                                       | 2020 Corporate Governance Report https://www.fcc.es/en/informe-anual-de-gobierno-corporativo (C. Structure of the Company's Administration. C.1.17. Page 38)   |           |      |
| 102-29          | Identifying and managing economic, environmental and social impacts                       | Pages 6-11; 54-57  |           | 16.7 |
| 102-30          | Effectiveness of the risk management processes  | Pages 40-42; 57  |           |      |
| 102-31          | Assessment of economic, environmental and social issues                                   | Pages 89; 172-173  |           |      |
| 102-32          | Highest governance body's role in the preparation of sustainability reports               | Pages 6-11   |           |      |
| 102-33          | Communicating critical concerns   | Pages 6-11; 86-89; 172-173   |           |      |
| 102-34          | Nature and total number of critical concerns  | Pages 172-173  |           |      |
| 102-35          | Remuneration policies   | 2020 Corporate Governance Report https://<br>www.fcc.es/en/informe-anual-de-gobierno-<br>corporativo (C. Structure of the Company's<br>Administration. Page 20)  |           |      |

<sup>\*</sup> Contribution of GRI standards to the goals of the SDGs, according to the document prepared by GRI, Linking the SDGs and the GRI Standards.

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE   | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|---|---|-----------|------|
| 102-36          | Process for determining remuneration  | 2020 Corporate Governance Report https://<br>www.fcc.es/en/informe-anual-de-gobierno-<br>corporativo (C. Structure of the Company's<br>Administration. Page 20)   |           |      |
| 102-37          | Stakeholders' involvement in remuneration                                     | 2020 Corporate Governance Report https://<br>www.fcc.es/en/informe-anual-de-gobierno-<br>corporativo (C. Structure of the Company's<br>Administration. Page 20)   |           |      |
| Stakeholde      | er engagement   |   |           |      |
| 102-40          | List of stakeholders  | Page 19<br>Ref. Pages 32 and 33 of the 2019<br>Sustainability Report  |           |      |
| 102-41          | Collective bargaining agreements  | The legislation for each country applies. This means that in Spain all employees are subject to a collective agreement. In Europe, all countries have a collective agreement, except Portugal, where there is no specific agreement for water. In the MENA area, there is no union representation or collective bargaining in any country except Algeria. America also complies with the legislation corresponding to each country. |           | 8.8  |
| 102-42          | Identifying and selecting stakeholders  | Page 19<br>Ref. Pages 32 and 33 of the 2019<br>Sustainability Report  |           |      |
| 102-43          | Approach to stakeholder engagement  | Page 19<br>Ref. Pages 32 and 33 of the 2019<br>Sustainability Report  |           |      |
| 102-44          | Key issues and concerns raised  | Pages 86-89; 172-173  |           |      |
| Practices fo    | or preparing reports  |   |           |      |
| 102-45          | Entities included in the consolidated financial statements                    | https://www.aqualia.com/informacion-<br>financiera/cuentas-anuales  |           |      |
| 102-46          | Defining report content and what the issue involves                           | Pages 86-89; 172-173  |           |      |
| 102-47          | List of material topics   | Pages 86-89; 172-173  |           |      |
| 102-48          | Restating information   | About this report   |           |      |
| 102-49          | Changes in the preparation of reports   | About this report   |           |      |
| 102-50          | Reporting period  | About this report   |           |      |
| 102-51          | Date of most recent report  | 2019  |           |      |
| 102-52          | Reporting cycle   | Annual  |           |      |
| 102-53          | Contact point for questions regarding the report                              | www.aqualia.com   |           |      |
| 102-54          | Statement on preparation of<br>the report in accordance with<br>GRI Standards | About this report   |           |      |
| 102-55          | Table of GRI contents   | Pages 176-189   |           |      |
| 102-56          | External verification   | About this report   |           |      |



# GRI 200: Economic Standards

# GRI 103: Management Approach

Associated material issues: Risk management, ethics and integrity, corruption prevention and mitigation systems, transparency, technological development

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE  | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|--|--|-----------|------|
| 103-1           | Explanation of the material issue and what it involves | Pages 172-173  |           |      |
| 103-2           | The management approach and its components             | Economic Performance: 22-23 and 28-34;<br>Risk management: 42 and 57; Corruption<br>prevention systems: 40-46; Supply chain;<br>47-57; Technological development: 132-<br>140. |           |      |
| 103-3           | Assessment of the management approach                  | Pages 22-23; 40-46; 48-51; 57; 132-140   |           |      |

# GRI 201: Economic Performance 2016

Associated material issues: Risk management, good governance

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE     | OMISSIONS | SDG*                   |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 201-1           | Direct economic value<br>generated (VEG) and distributed<br>(VED)              | Pages 18; 22-23               |           | 8.1 8.2<br>9.1 9.4 9.5 |
| 201-2           | Financial implications and other risks and opportunities due to climate change | Pages 30; 54-57               |           |                        |
| 201-3           | Defined benefit plan obligations and other retirement plans                    | There are no retirement plans |           |                        |
| 201-4           | Financial assistance received from government                                  | Page 23                       |           |                        |

## GRI 203: 2016 Indirect Economic Impacts

Associated material issues: Risk management, technological development

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE   | OMISSIONS | SDG*               |
|-----------------|--|---|-----------|--------------------|
| 203-1           | Investments in infrastructure and services supported | Pages 31-34; 136-139  |           | 9.1                |
| 203-2           | Significant indirect economic impacts                | Pages 6-11; 18; 126<br>Ref. 2019 Sustainability Report,<br>page 119 |           | 1.4<br>8.2 8.3 8.5 |

<sup>\*</sup> Contribution of GRI standards to the goals of the SDGs, according to the document prepared by GRI, Linking the SDGs and the GRI Standards.

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# GRI 204: Procurement practices 2016

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION                               | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE  | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|---|--|-----------|------|
| 204-1           | Proportion of expenses in local suppliers | Page 48 Local suppliers are those that are geographically located in the same territories in which Aqualia is providing its service. In this case, local will be defined as CCAA. This means that Aqualia achieves local development in those areas where it is implemented. |           | 8.3  |

# GRI 205: Anti-corruption 2016

Associated material issues: Ethics and integrity, good governance, corruption prevention and mitigation systems, transparency

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE   | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|---|---|-----------|------|
| 205-1           | Operations assessed for risks relating to corruption  | There was a total of 22 company operations relating to corruption risks and 100% of them were assessed to identify the risks. Page 42 |           | 16.5 |
| 205-2           | Communication and training on anti-corruption policies and procedures   | Pages 44-46   |           | 16.5 |
| 205-3           | Confirmed cases of corruption and the action taken  | In 2020, no cases relating to corruption were reported via the Whistleblowing Channel.  |           | 16.5 |
| AQ CT           | Transparent communication: The company maintains transparent communication including easy and transparent access to its tariffs | Page 140<br>Aqualia informs regarding the different<br>prices established by the proper authority<br>on the different local websites. |           |      |





# GRI 103: Management Approach

Associated material issues: Responsible energy consumption, efficient management of natural resources, biodiversity, climate change, environmental innovation

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE   | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|--|---|-----------|------|
| 103-1           | Explanation of the material issue and what it involves | Pages 87-89; 172-173  |           |      |
| 103-2           | The management approach and its components             | Energy: Pages 58-61; Water: 68-71;<br>Biodiversity: 72-75; Emissions: 64-67;<br>Circular economy: 68-69; 154-157;<br>Innovation: 144-145    |           |      |
| 103-3           | Assessment of the management approach                  | Energy: Pages 61-64 Water: 69-71;<br>Biodiversity: 72-75; Emissions: 64-67;<br>Circularity: 69-70; 146-152; Innovation:<br>135-138; 144-152 |           |      |

# GRI 302: Energy 2016

Associated material issue: Responsible energy consumption

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE                           | OMISSIONS                       | SDG*                    |
|-----------------|--|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 302-1           | Energy consumption within the organisation                 | Pages 61-64   |                                 | 7.2<br>8.4 12.2<br>13.1 |
| 302-2           | Energy consumption outside the organisation                |   | This information is unavailable |                         |
| 302-3           | Energy intensity   | Page 62. Covers consumption within the organisation |                                 | 7.3 8.4<br>12.2 13.1    |
| 302-4           | Reduction of energy consumption                            | Pages 63-64   |                                 | 7.3 8.4                 |
| 302-5           | Reduction in energy requirements for products and services | Pages 64; 146-152                                   |                                 | 7.3 12.2<br>13.1        |

<sup>\*</sup> Contribution of GRI standards to the goals of the SDGs, according to the document prepared by GRI, Linking the SDGs and the GRI Standards.

## GRI 303: Water 2018

Associated material issues: Efficient resource management, circular water economy

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE  | OMISSIONS | SDG*             |
|-----------------|--|--|-----------|------------------|
| 303-1           | Interactions with water as a shared resource       | Pages 5; 54-57; 68-71; 92-93; 135-138<br>Environmental management approach   |           | 6.3 6.4<br>6a 6b |
| 303-2           | Management of impacts relating to water discharges | Regardless of the country where an installation is built, Aqualia uses European technology that needs to meet high standards with regard to discharge levels. This ensures that in most countries the minimum levels established by regulatory requirements are exceeded.              |           | 6.3              |
| 303-3           | Water abstraction                                  | Pages 69-70  |           |                  |
|                 |  | <b>a) Total:</b> 821,959,643 m³ (There is no breakdown of water discharges according to destination type (surface waters, marine, etc.) Ref. 303-4, a).iv: Ref. Page 70. Re-used water.  |           |                  |
| 303-4           | Water discharge                                    | <b>b) Total discharge of water with high salinity:</b> 162,011,975 m³ (Spain: 14,531,872; Saudi Arabia: 17,927,470 Algeria: 135,630,302)   |           | 6.3              |
| 303-4           | water discharge                                    | c) Water discharges in areas under water stress: 764,465,135 m³ and in areas without water stress: 57,494,508; Ref. 303-4, d.i: Ref. Page 80. Covid Ref. 303-4, d.ii: in accordance with the legislation in each country. Ref. 303-4: Data on fines is provided in Standard GRI 307-1. |           |                  |
| 303-5           | Water consumption                                  | The consumption of water coincides with the total amount of water captured from abstraction sources. Ref. Page 69-70.  |           |                  |

# GRI 304: Biodiversity 2016

Associated material issue: Biodiversity

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE   | OMISSIONS                       | SDG*                  |
|-----------------|---|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 304-1           | Operational centres owned,<br>leased or managed in, or<br>adjacent to, protected areas<br>and areas of high biodiversity<br>value outside protected areas | Total installations in protected areas or areas of great value for diversity: Spain + International: 145; |                                 | 6.6<br>15.1 (15.5)    |
| 304-2           | Significant impacts of activities, products and services on biodiversity  | Pages 72-75   |                                 | 6.6 14.2<br>15.1 15.5 |
| 304-3           | Protected and restored habitats   | Pages 72-75   |                                 | 6.6 14.2<br>15.1 15.5 |
| 304-4           | Species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and national preservation lists whose habitats are in areas affected by the operations                 |   | This information is unavailable |                       |

### GRI 305: Emissions 2016

Associated material issue: Climate change

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE | OMISSIONS | SDG*              |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 305-1           | Direct GHG emissions (scope 1)   | Page 64                   |           | 3.9 12.4<br>13.1  |
| 305-2           | Indirect GHG emissions when generating energy (scope 2)                                      | Page 64                   |           | 3.9 12.4          |
| 305-3           | Other indirect GHG emissions (scope 3)   | Page 64                   |           | 3.9 12.4          |
| 305-4           | GHG emission intensity   | Page 64                   |           | 13.1 14.3         |
| 305-5           | Reduction of GHG emissions   | Pages 64-67               |           | 13.1 14.3<br>15.2 |
| 305-6           | Emissions of ozone-depleting substances (ODS)  | Not applicable            |           |                   |
| 305-7           | Nitrogen oxides (NOx),<br>sulphur oxides (SOx) and other<br>significant emissions to the air | 72.05 tNOx<br>0.03 tSOx   |           | 3.9 12.4          |

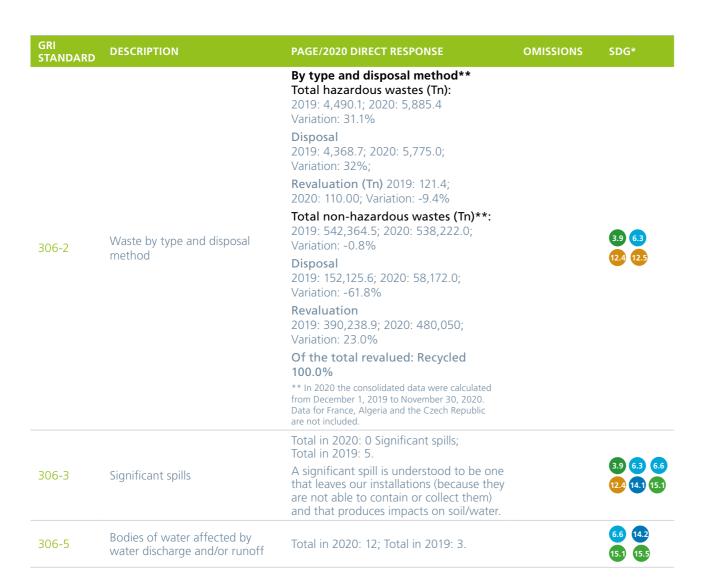
# GRI 306: Effluents and waste 2016

Associated material issue: Circular economy of water

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE   | OMISSIONS | SDG*                     |
|-----------------|--|---|-----------|--------------------------|
| 306-1           | Water discharge depending on quality and destination | Ref. 303  |           | 6.3 6.4 6.6<br>12.4 14.1 |
|                 |  | Total volume of water discharges, expected and unforeseen m³ 2019: 743,878,473; 2020 Total: 864,321,643 Variation: 11.14%.  |           |                          |
|                 | Waste by type and disposal                           | Increase due to the new desalination plant in Saudi Arabia.   |           | 3.9 6.3                  |
| 306-2           | method   | Total waste generated (Tn) **: 2019: 546,854.7; 2020: 544,107.9. Variation: -0.5%   |           | 12.4 12.5                |
|                 |  | ** In 2020 the consolidated data were calculated<br>from December 1, 2019 to November 30, 2020.<br>Data for France, Algeria and the Czech Republic<br>are not included. |           |                          |

<sup>\*</sup> Contribution of GRI standards to the goals of the SDGs, according to the document prepared by GRI, Linking the SDGs and the GRI Standards.

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## GRI 307: Environmental Compliance

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE   | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|---|---|-----------|------|
| 307-1           | Noncompliance with environmental laws and regulations | Fines or sanctions for environmental performance amounted to 113,696.99. Scope: Spain and Italy |           | 16.3 |

## GRI 308: Supplier Environmental Assessment 2016

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE  | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|--|--|-----------|------|
| 308-1           | New suppliers that were screened and selected under environmental criteria | Pages 48-50  |           |      |
| 308-2           | Negative environmental impacts on the supply chain and actions taken       | 3 suppliers were detected for which special monitoring was undertaken. |           |      |

<sup>\*</sup> Contribution of GRI standards to the goals of the SDGs, according to the document prepared by GRI, Linking the SDGs and the GRI Standards.



## GRI 103: Management Approach

Associated material issues: Employee safety, health and welfare, equal opportunities, diversity and work-life balance, professional development, water quality, public-private partnerships, job creation, social action, work-life balance and environmental awareness on the sustainable use of resources, access to water, transparent communication, promotion and respect for human rights, client experience

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE  | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|--|--|-----------|------|
| 103-1           | Explanation of the material issue and what it involves | Pages 172-173<br>Pages 86-89   |           |      |
| 103-2           | The management approach and its components             | Creation of employment: 114; Equal opportunities, diversity and work-life balance: 103-109; Health, safety and welfare: 115-117; Human Rights: 40-46; Access to water: 120-123; Social action: 122-125; Transparent communication: 140-141; Sensitivity and awareness-raising: 160-167; Client experience: 120, 135; Public-private partnerships: 9, 54-57; 126-129. |           |      |
| 103-3           | Assessment of the management approach                  | Pages 18; 96-100; 118-126; 126-129; 132-<br>137; 140; 144-147; 162-167   |           |      |

### GRI 401: Employment 2016

Associated material issues: Creation of employment, equal opportunities, diversity and work-life balance

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE   | OMISSIONS | SDG*              |
|-----------------|---|---|-----------|-------------------|
| 401-1           | New employee recruitment and staff turnover   | Page 96: Staff turnover and Page 100:<br>New recruitment<br>International workers also enjoy benefits   |           | 5.1<br>8.5<br>8.6 |
| 401-2           | Benefits enjoyed by full-time<br>employees that are not given<br>to temporary or part-time<br>employees | Pages 103-104 Social benefits are independent of the working day and include the following: Subsidised loans, life insurance, accident insurance and family aid |           |                   |

<sup>\*</sup> Contribution of GRI standards to the goals of the SDGs, according to the document prepared by GRI, Linking the SDGs and the GRI Standards.

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION    | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE  | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|----------------|--|-----------|------|
|                 |                | Data for Spain:<br>Employees with maternity leave: 47<br>Employees with paternity leave: 174   |           |      |
| 401-3           | Parental leave | 100% of the affected employees returned to work after maternity leave. The remaining requested paid leave to care for children and returned to work afterwards. 100% of the affected employees returned to work after paternity leave. 100% of the affected employees who returned after maternity/paternity leave were still employed 12 months after they returned to work, except those cases where the works were completed or replaced. All those employees who became mothers or fathers requested maternity or paternity leave. |           | 5.1  |

# GRI 403: Occupational Health and Safety 2016

Associated material issues: Safety, occupational health and welfare of the employee

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE  | OMISSIONS | SDG*            |
|-----------------|---|--|-----------|-----------------|
| 403-1           | Occupational health and safety management system  | Page 115   |           | 8.8             |
| 403-2           | Hazard identification,<br>risk assessment and the<br>investigation of incidents   | Pages 115-116  |           | 8.8             |
| 403-3           | Occupational health service   | Pages 115-116  |           | 8.8<br>Goal 3.3 |
| 403-4           | Worker participation,<br>consultation and<br>communication regarding<br>occupational health<br>and safety                 | In all contracts there are mechanisms that facilitate consultation and participation in health and safety issues. The tools implemented are a physical mailbox in each contract, a virtual mailbox at the Health and Welfare sharepoint and on the APP (specific access to incidents and dangers), talks on safety, etc. |           | 8.8             |
| 403-5           | Training of workers<br>on occupational health<br>and safety   | Pages 110-111  |           | 8.8             |
| 403-6           | Promoting the health of workers   | Pages 77; 78-79 (COVID-19), 116  |           | 3.8             |
| 403-7           | Prevention and mitigation of impacts on the health and safety of workers directly linked through commercial relationships | Page 117   |           | 8.8             |

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE  | OMISSIONS | SDG*               |
|-----------------|---|--|-----------|--------------------|
| 403-8           | Workers covered by a prevention of risks at work system | Spanish legislation requires that all ORP measures be extended to all employees on the staff or subcontracted (100% in Spain) who work in the organisation's installations. 100% covered by the certificate.   |           | 8.8                |
| 403-9           | Work-related injuries                                   | Page 116  Number of occupational accidents with sick leave: Spain: 131/ International: 88. Total: SP + International: 219  Number of accidents without sick leave: Spain: 207/ International: 102. Total: 309  During the 2020 business year there were no serious accidents involving own staff. With regard to subcontracted staff, there were two serious accidents and regrettably one resulted in death.  Number of hours worked: Spain: 11,480,336/International: 21,489,531/ Total 32,969,867 |           | 3.9<br>8.8<br>16.1 |
| 403-10          | Occupational illnesses and diseases                     | In 2020 there were 2 cases confirmed as disease  |           | 3.9                |

# GRI 404: Training and Teaching 2016

Associated material issue: Professional development

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE             | OMISSIONS | SDG*                           |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 404-1           | Average hours of training per year per employee   | Pages 100; 111                        |           | 4.3 4.4 4.5<br>8.2 8.5<br>10.3 |
| 404-2           | Programmes for improving employee aptitudes and transition aid programmes               | Pages 110-112                         |           | 8.2 8.5                        |
| 404-3           | Percentage of employees receiving regular performance and career development assessment | Project stopped due to health crisis. |           | 5.1<br>8.5<br>10.3             |

<sup>\*</sup> Contribution of GRI standards to the goals of the SDGs, according to the document prepared by GRI, Linking the SDGs and the GRI Standards.

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# GRI 405: Diversity and Equal Opportunities 2016

Associated material issues: Equal opportunities, diversity and work-life balance

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE | OMISSIONS | SDG*           |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 405-1           | Diversity in governance bodies and employees                       | Pages 38-39; 99; 105      |           | 5.1 5.5<br>8.5 |
| 405-2           | Comparison of women's basic salary and remuneration to that of men | Page 107                  |           | 5.1 8.5        |

# GRI 412: Human Rights Assessment 2016

Associated material issue: Promotion of and respect for Human Rights

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE  | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|---|--|-----------|------|
| 412-1           | Operations subjected<br>to human rights reviews<br>or impact assessments          | Pages 49-50 All operations with Aqualia's suppliers and subcontractors are subject to the Ten Principles of the Global Compact. 3 suppliers were detected for which special monitoring was undertaken. |           |      |
| 412-2           | Employee training on human rights policies and procedures                         | Pages 44-46  |           |      |
| 412-3           | Significant investment agreements and contracts that include human rights clauses | 100% of contracts with suppliers.  |           |      |

## GRI 413: Local communities 2016

Associated material issues: Social action, public-private partnerships, access to water, awareness and environmental awareness

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE   | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|---|---|-----------|------|
| 413-1           | Operations with local community engagement, impact assessments and development programmes | Pages 118-129; 158-167  |           |      |
| 413-2           | Operations with significant actual or potential negative impacts on local communities     | There are no operating centres that have or could have significant negative impacts on local communities. |           | 2.3  |
| AQ AH2O         | Actions to achieve access to water for everyone   | Pages 118-126   |           |      |
| AQ CyS 1        | Sensitivity and awareness-<br>raising campaigns   | Pages 163-167   |           |      |

# GRI 414: Social Assessment of Suppliers 2016

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION   | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE   | OMISSIONS | SDG*               |
|-----------------|---|---|-----------|--------------------|
| 414-1           | New suppliers that were screened and selected under social criteria | Pages 49-50 Fully implemented in Spain. Internationally, work is being undertaken to cover 100% of suppliers. |           | 5.2<br>8.8<br>16.1 |
| 414-2           | Negative social impacts on<br>the supply chain and action<br>taken  | Pages 49-50. No impact. 3 suppliers were detected for which special monitoring was undertaken.                |           | 5.2<br>8.8<br>16.1 |

# GRI 416: Client Health and Safety 2016

Associated material topic: Water quality

| GRI<br>STANDARD | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE/2020 DIRECT RESPONSE                         | OMISSIONS | SDG* |
|-----------------|--|---|-----------|------|
| 416-1           | Assessment of health and safety impacts in the product and service categories            | 100%  |           |      |
| 416-2           | Incidents of noncompliance concerning health and safety impacts on products and services | Fines for health issues: €4,570<br>Scope in Spain |           | 16.3 |

<sup>\*</sup> Contribution of GRI standards to the goals of the SDGs, according to the document prepared by GRI, Linking the SDGs and the GRI Standards.

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