acquedotto pugliese

l'acqua, bene comune

Press kit

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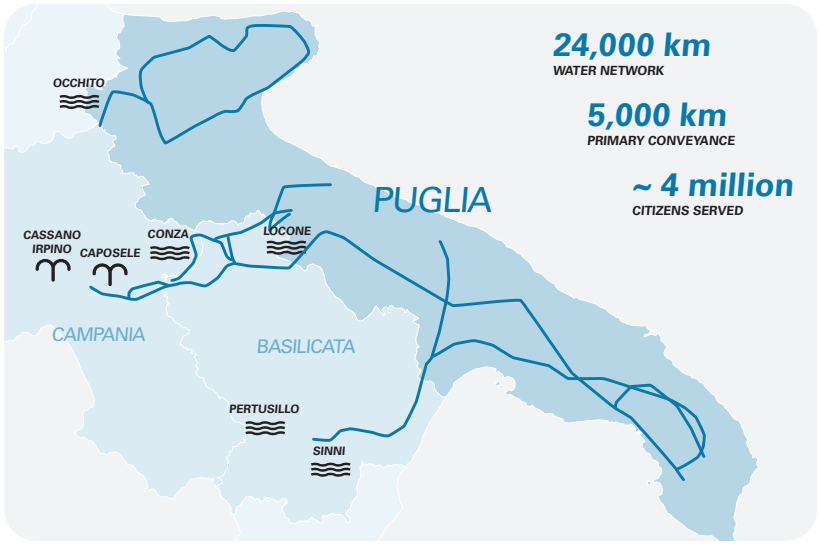
A strategic national company

Acquedotto Pugliese SpA (AQP), a publicly owned company serving the region for over a century, is one of the leading European players in the management of integrated water services. The system managed by AQP is unique in terms of its size, complexity, and level of interconnection, and the company has been officially recognized by national law as being of "strategic importance for the national interest."

Serving 4 million citizens

AQP manages the integrated water service in Puglia and in 12 municipalities in Campania, serving over 4 million people across an area of approximately 20,000 square kilometres. The service area includes two Optimal Territorial Areas (ATOs), one of which is ATO Puglia, among the largest in Italy.

> Watch the video about Acquedotto Pugliese (ENG): https://bit.ly/4kgEJzG



38,000 kilometers of network

The system spans over 24,000 kilometers of water distribution network—5,000 kilometers dedicated to primary conveyance and 3,500 to service connections—along with approximately 1,500 facilities, including reservoirs, distribution chambers, and pumping stations. In addition, the company operates more than 14,000 kilometers of sewer networks and 700 wastewater lifting stations.AQP also manages 5 drinking water treatment plants located across three regions (Fortore, Sinni, Pertusillo, Locone, and Conza della Campania), 10 analytical laboratories, 185 wastewater treatment plants, 56 water reclamation facilities, and 1 composting plant for the treatment of sludge and organic waste.

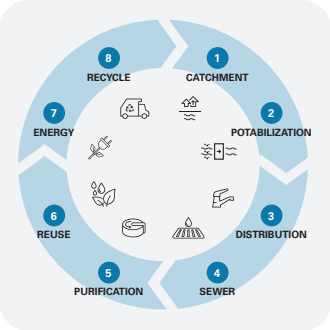
Investments for the territory

In 2024, Acquedotto Pugliese once again confirmed its role as a catalyst for the local economy. Over the past three years, investmen-

ts have grown by 45%, reaching a total of €1.3 billion, including €453.3 million in 2024 alone. These figures place AQP among the leading operators in the sector, with average investments of €112 per inhabitant—well above the national average and in line with the best European benchmarks—demonstrating the company's ability to generate tangible value for the communities it serves.

Integrated water cycle

Acquedotto Pugliese provides end-to-end management of the integrated water cycle, covering the abstraction, treatment, and distribution of drinking water as well as wastewater collection, treatment, and eventual reuse. Due to the region's geological and soil characteristics, natural water storage has historically been limited.



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Unique at national level

AQP manages a complex and advanced water supply system structured around six main schemes—Sele-Calore, Pertusillo, Sinni, Fortore, Locone, and Ofanto—whose high level of interconnection makes it unique at the national scale.

The water resource is sourced from springs located in the Campania region, through the abstraction of surface water from artificial reservoirs and groundwater from deep aquifers through wells.

This interconnection allows water to be transferred from one scheme to another, adapting to changes in demand and balancing the variable output rates of the different sources.

Main Canal

The Sele-Calore system, whose main artery is the Main Canal, is a remarkable feat of hydraulic engineering, with a total length of 244 kilometers and comprising 99 tunnels and 91 aqueducts.

Built between 1906 and 1918, the Main Canal crosses the Apennine and the Murgia massifs along its route, reaching Apulia near Monte Fellone in the province of Brindisi, where it supplies over 25% of the region's total water demand.

Taranto desalination plant

A story of heritage and innovation. To meet the need for diversified water sources and protect aquifers, AQP is planning the construction of a reverse osmosis desalination plant in Taranto, partly funded through Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), with completion expected in 2026.

The project involves an ultra-modern facility with a capacity of approximately 55,400 cubic meters of drinking water per day — equivalent to the daily needs of over 385,000 people.

Water quality

A strong commitment is placed on water quality. In 2024, approximately 1.3 million chemical and microbiological parameters were monitored across around 50,000 collected samples.

Digital twin and Control Room

Inside the Control Room—the company's new "digital brain"—Acquedotto Pugliese leverages data-driven strategies to perform predictive analyses, helping to reduce water losses and manage maintenance more efficiently, while tracking the entire customer service workflow.

> Watch the video about AQP's Control Room (ITA): https://bit.ly/4qdOYqe

The Control Room operates through the Smart Water Management platform, AQP's integrated management system powered by digital technologies. Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Internet of Things (IoT), Workforce Management (WFM), Network Modeling, Business Intelligence (BI), and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have enabled the creation of a digital twin—allowing for the simulation of operational maneuvers and the prediction of their effects, thus ensuring increasingly targeted interventions.

The Control Room makes it possible to harness collected data in support of AQP's unique and interconnected system—comprising 570,000 interconnections—to manage water allocation in response to increasingly unpredictable demand, driven by climate change and frequent droughts. By leveraging new technologies, the system ensures a more sustainable and circular approach to water management.

Through approximately 11,000 sensors, AQP remotely monitors 1,544 water facilities across the primary, secondary, and urban distribution networks, 129 pumping stations, 101 wastewater treatment plants, and 105 meters for large users. The implementation of control systems and devices enables real-time supervision of water flows, energy monitoring, and tracking of key potability and

treatment indicators, allowing for immediate intervention in case of anomalies and more efficient water resource management.

The applied technology also enables remote and automatic flow regulation across most of the network. Acquedotto Pugliese has additionally developed the use of underwater drones for video inspection of the Main Canal, and remotely operated robots for cleaning sewer lifting tanks and wastewater treatment facilities. These technologies complement the already well-established use of robotic systems for inspecting and maintaining the long pipelines that transport water from the sources.

Advanced wastewater treatment

The absence of major rivers in the region means that AQP must comply with stricter wastewater treatment standards than many other areas in Italy—a challenge it meets every day through continuous investment in state-of-the-art treatment plants.

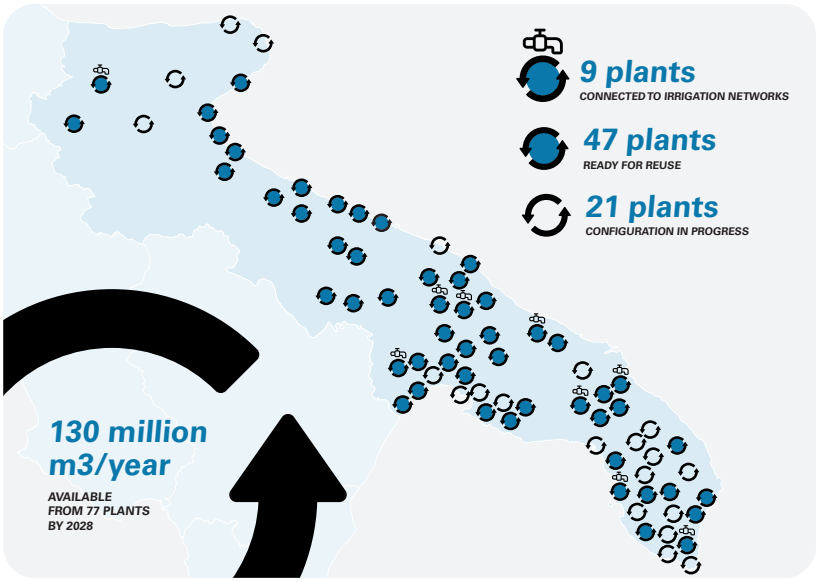
A total of 185 wastewater treatment plants are managed by Acquedotto Pugliese, all equipped with advanced and sustainable technologies.

Currently, 9 plants managed by Acquedotto Pugliese, with a total potential of approximately 15 million cubic metres per year, supply polished water for irrigation purposes: Acquaviva delle Fonti, Castellana Grotte, Corsano, Fasano-Forcatelle, Gallipoli, Ostuni, San Pancrazio Salentino, San Severo and Ginosa. For each of these plants, Acquedotto Pugliese – one of the leading operators in Italy – has prepared the environmental and health risk management plans required by national and European legislation on reuse. In particular, AQP has combined the qualitative risk assessment required by the legislation with a quantitative assessment based on water quality over the last three years. This qualitati-

ve- quantitative method makes the Plan even more effective because, through statistical analysis, it increases forecasting and prevention.

An additional 47 wastewater treatment plants managed by AQP, with a potential capacity of approximately 65 million m3 per year, are already equipped with water reclamation systems: with the gradual implementation of connections and distribution networks by irrigation authorities, will be able to further support the needs of the agricultural sector. AQP is also carrying out works that will enable a further 21 treatment plants to supply reclaimed water by 2028, with an additional potential of 50 million m3 per year.

In total, the plants managed by Acquedotto Pugliese that currently supply water for reuse, those already equipped to do so and those that will be built by 2028 number 77 out of a total of 185, for a volume of treated water of approximately 130 million m3 per year out of a total of 250 million treated.



In terms of discharge methods, 29 plants release treated water into the soil through infiltration trenches, operating under the strictest discharge limits set by current regulations. This approach has delivered excellent environmental results, contributing to the creation of new green oases.

A noteworthy example is the Melendugno (LE) phytotreatment plant: covering around eight hectares - with five hectares of open

water and six phytotreatment/lagooning basins - it is one of the largest facilities of its kind in Italy. These systems provide an alternative to conventional treatment technologies, offering both economic benefits (lower energy consumption, reduced operating costs) and environmental advantages (elimination of disinfection treatments and their by-products, better landscape integration).

The project was awarded first place in the 2011 national Pianeta Acqua prize, promoted by the National Forum for Water Conservation and Efficiency.

The cleanest sea in Italy

The focus on wastewater treatment also contributes to the excellent health of the seas: in 2025, for the fifth consecutive year, Apulia ranked first in Italy for the quality of bathing waters, with 99.7% rated as excellent. This was confirmed by microbiological analyses conducted by SNPA, the National Environmental Protection System, which coordinates the network of regional environmental agencies.

Objective: to reduce sludge by 25%

In line with its commitment to waste reduction, AQP has purchased 66 new high-efficiency mechanical dewatering units. This initiative aims to reduce sludge from wastewater treatment by up to 25%.
With the same objective, AQP has launched the construction of solar greenhouses for natural sludge drying at 14 wastewater treatment plants. These facilities will reduce the water content in the sludge from 75% to 20%. Compared to other drying technologies, such as thermal dryers, solar greenhouses offer a more sustainable solution by relying solely on natural solar energy.
The company is also engaged in innovative research projects aimed at transforming sludge into a valuable resource through reuse. Among these is the development of eight gypsum production plants.

Thanks to these investments, AQP has achieved a near-total reuse rate of waste materials—only 1 ton out of 170,000 was sent to landfill.

ASECO

ASECO S.p.A. is part of the AQP Group and operates under the joint direction and coordination of Acquedotto Pugliese SpA and AGER Puglia. ASECO manages the composting plant in Ginosa Marina, located in the province of Taranto. Following a revamping process, the facility resumed operations in February 2024.

Energy saving and renewable sources

In recent years, AQP has strengthened its commitment to reducing energy consumption and has launched several initiatives to decrease its energy dependence. The company has set a goal to increase the amount of energy produced from renewable sources: in 2024, this amounted to 7.04 GWh, with plans for continued growth in the coming years—bringing significant benefits both for service tariffs and the environment.

To support these energy efficiency goals, substantial investments have been made to build new renewable energy production facilities, including photovoltaic, hydroelectric, and biogas cogeneration plants fuelled by wastewater treatment sludge. New photovoltaic systems totaling around 4.5 MW are currently under construction, along with the revamping of hydroelectric power stations for an additional 0.6 MW, all scheduled for completion in 2025.

To date, AQP can independently produce approximately 1.5% of its total energy needs. Currently, the company operates 9 hydroelectric power plants with a total installed capacity of 5.2 MW, 7 photovoltaic systems totaling 1.2 MWp, and 3 biogas cogeneration plants powered by wastewater treatment sludge, with a combined capacity of 0.9 MW.

A driver of local development

AQP's direct economic impact on the region is equally significant. In 2024 alone, 270 contracts were awarded for a total value of €498 million. Over the past three years, this figure has exceeded €3 billion, making AQP the largest contracting authority in Southern Italy. This confirms the company's central role in the regional economy, including its broader supply chain impact:

approximately half of all active contracts have been awarded to local companies.

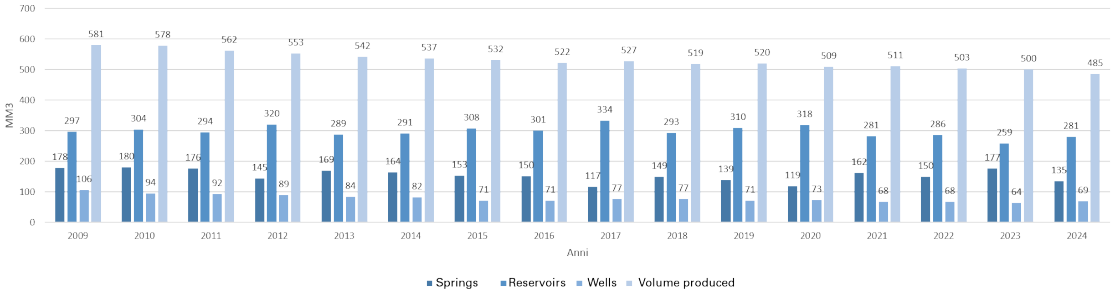
Innovation and ecological transition

AQP's innovation processes focus on digitalization, reducing sewage sludge production, reusing wastewater, improving energy efficiency, introducing advanced systems in line with Industry 4.0, and reducing water losses.

These actions are part of a broader context of climate crisis management. With the aim of preserving resources and making their use more efficient, AQP achieved significant results in terms of water balance over the past year, with a sharp decrease in the volume of water withdrawn from sources, equal to 41.66 Mm3 (-23.57% compared to 2023), and a simultaneous increase in the volume produced by water treatment plants, equal to 22.40 Mm3 (+8.68%).

Thanks to operational and infrastructure innovations, AQP is now able to meet the needs of over 4 million citizens by withdrawing over 120 million cubic metres of water less per year from the environment than in 2009, the equivalent of a medium-sized reservoir.

AQP'S WATER WITHDRAWAL BY TYPE OF SOURCE



Digitalization

AQP is implementing an ambitious digitalization plan involving various operational aspects, with the aim of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of internal processes, customer services and sustainability projects.

Among the main initiatives is the creation of a Smart Water Grid for intelligent management of water resources, integrating IT and IoT services. The plan is structured into four key programs. The Digital Journey aims to simplify and better structure operational processes by enhancing real-time data visibility and accessibility

through the evolution and adoption of enterprise technologies. The Customer Centricity program focuses on delivering positive digital experiences for customers by streamlining procedures and improving service quality. The IT Stable Operation program is designed to reinforce the technological infrastructure to ensure business continuity and support future innovation, without compromising compliance or cybersecurity. Lastly, the Smart AI program aims to introduce artificial intelligence tools to make company applications more intelligent and efficient, enabling faster problem-solving and streamlining of critical processes.

This digitalization plan will enable AQP to improve operational efficiency and deliver high-quality service to its customers, while ensuring compliance with ARERA regulations.

Smart meters and smart grid

As part of this initiative, AQP is also carrying out a project to replace one million smart meters. This strategic project aims to replace the entire meter fleet within ten years with next-generation digital devices, at no cost to the customer.

The project could even be completed ahead of schedule by 2027. The goal is to enable continuous meter readings that can detect consumption changes and any anomalies, thereby enhancing analytical capabilities. The meters are georeferenced and individually identified, allowing them to be located and integrated with the network to optimize water distribution.

More specifically, the Smart Metering Plan was launched in the field in February 2021 in the provinces of Taranto and Brindisi, where over 188,000 electronic meters have been installed. In September 2023, large-scale replacement began in the municipalities of the Bari province. Thanks to fixed-network remote reading using LoRaWAN technology—whose infrastructure deployment started in March 2024 and is currently underway—smart meters will provide a significant advantage to the billing process, which will be based on actual consumption. The data collected through remote reading will be used to offer new digital services to customers, promoting greater awareness of water consumption, and will provide significant opportunities for digital transformation toward the development of a smart water grid.

2024 figures

The 2024 financial statements report a net profit of approximately €8.4 million.

In line with the Shareholder's directive, the company allocates its net profit to the ongoing improvement of the water system and to support investment efforts.

In 2024, production value reached approximately €696.4 million, with an EBITDA of €235.1 million.

Sustainability

Since 2021, Acquedotto Pugliese has been a member of the Global Compact, the international pact between companies around the world and the United Nations aimed at promoting initiatives, projects, and practices aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda

> Visit the website: https://reportsostenibilita.aqp.it/

The Board of Directors of Acquedotto Pugliese has approved the company's Sustainability Plan for the 2022–2024 period, launching a new growth model designed to create value in the territories it serves. The actions outlined in the Plan are organized into three closely interconnected pillars: Environment, Quality, and People (A.Q.P). Among the most significant objectives are increasing electricity production, ensuring sustainable water resource management, reducing the company's environmental footprint, creating circular processes through new and innovative waste management plants, enhancing service quality through technological innovation, and improving the landscape integration of infrastructure. With regard to people, key objectives include promoting welfare and wellbeing policies to improve quality of life, health, and employee wellness, as well as sustainable mobility to reduce the environmental, social, and economic impacts of private vehicle use.

As of July 2024, the website reportsostenibilita.aqp.it is available as fully fledged sustainability hub, collecting the main initiatives, policies, and programs that make AQP a circular water utility. Designed as a dynamic and constantly updated platform, it is being progressively enriched with content and insights dedicated to ESG topics. The site also features the full 2024 Integrated Report, the Gender Equality Report, and the company's first report on International activities and Research and Development.

Acquedottisti, the people of AQP

The third strategic pillar of AQP's Sustainability Plan—alongside Environment and Quality—is People, whom the company views as a true strategic asset. The employees of AQP, proudly known as Acquedottisti, number over 2,290 and each contributes, accor-

ding to their specific role, to the responsible management of water in all its forms. All employees hold permanent contracts.

Talent development is also driven by respect for individuality, inclusion, and ongoing training, with more than 119,000 hours of training delivered in 2024. For years, the company's inclusion policies have been reflected in key indicators: women currently represent 21% of the workforce, and 59% of female employees are aged 50 or under. At the executive level, since 2021, Francesca Portincasa has served as General Director, becoming the first woman to hold this position.

Thanks to fair recruitment policies and equal access to career advancement, AQP has no gender pay gap, and salary levels are balanced and comparable across genders.

In 2023, Acquedotto Pugliese published its first Gender Equality Report, which was renewed in 2024, and in the same year obtained certification for gender equality.

The only water utility with two gold medals

Among AQP's most distinguished Acquedottisti is Francesco Martino, born in Bari in 1900. In July 1924, he achieved the extraordinary feat of winning two gold medals at the Paris Olympics—one in the rings event (becoming the first Italian to do so) and another as part of the team gymnastics competition. A source of pride for the country, for Southern Italy, for Bari, and for Acquedotto Pugliese, where he worked until 1960.

> Watch the video about Francesco Martino (ITA): https://bit.ly/3L9mkb0

Martino was hired as an engine mechanic by the Autonomous Entity of Acquedotto Pugliese in February 1924—a date that dispels the myth that he joined the company thanks to his Olympic achievements. In 1925, he was transferred to the procurement office; in 1945, promoted to senior road maintenance mechanic; and in 1952, appointed head caretaker. Despite his training and competitions throughout Italy and beyond, Martino never failed to make a meaningful contribution in the workplace.

Acquedotto Pugliese preserves the memory of its Olympic champion as part of its cultural heritage: Martino's two medals, a testament to determination and pride, continue to embody the spirit and values of the company.

Acque del Sud

To help revitalize the management of reservoirs and hydraulic infrastructure under Acque del Sud SpA—a company that, as of January 2024, has taken over the functions of the former EIPLI—Acquedotto Pugliese and Acea entered into a partnership in June 2024. The two companies committed to forming a temporary consortium (RTI) with equal shares, with the aim of participating in the tender to become industrial partners of Acque del Sud.

In fact, under a government decree, the current sole shareholder—the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF)—may transfer up to 30% of shares to entities that will serve as partners and take on a management role.

International activities

Over the years, AQP's international activity has focused on countries in the Mediterranean basin and the Balkans. More recently, and particularly during 2022 and 2023, it has expanded its efforts to include partnerships with Middle Eastern countries and the United Arab Emirates.

Numerous international cooperation initiatives are currently underway, including the Cross Water project, in which the Apulia Region (as lead partner) and Acquedotto Pugliese are working alongside the Molise Region, the Municipality of Tirana, the Tirana Water and Wastewater Utility (UKT), and the Montenegrin Regional Water Utility (PE RWMC). With a budget of €5.5 million, the Cross Water cross-border project aims to promote the joint development of new infrastructure and technologies, as well as new control and measurement systems.

> Browse the Innovation Report on International Activities 2024 (ITA): https://bit.ly/4isF0yE

Also noteworthy is AQP's participation in Interreg Greece and Interreg IPA programs with Albania and Montenegro, which aim to share and actively promote best practices in the reuse of treated wastewater, as well as in the design of networks and monitoring systems.

In support of developing countries, AQP has also assisted national authorities in drafting international water aid policies and has carried out high-level training activities.

As of 2024, AQP has become the first Italian company to join the World Water Council, the international organization dedicated to

raising awareness and promoting action on global water-related challenges.

The water cycle route

AQP promotes sustainability also through the development of green infrastructure and the promotion of new models of slower, more sustainable tourism. The Ciclovia dell'Acqua (Water Cycle Route) is a unique trail that runs along AQP's Main Canal—a "hidden river" of Apulia, immersed in the evocative landscape of Mediterranean scrub and the region's iconic trulli.
A new expansion project is currently underway, which by 2026 will extend the route from its existing 22 kilometers in the Itria Valley to 192 kilometers, following the aqueduct all the way to the border with Basilicata. The project is supported by regional and National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) funds, amounting to approximately €39 million.

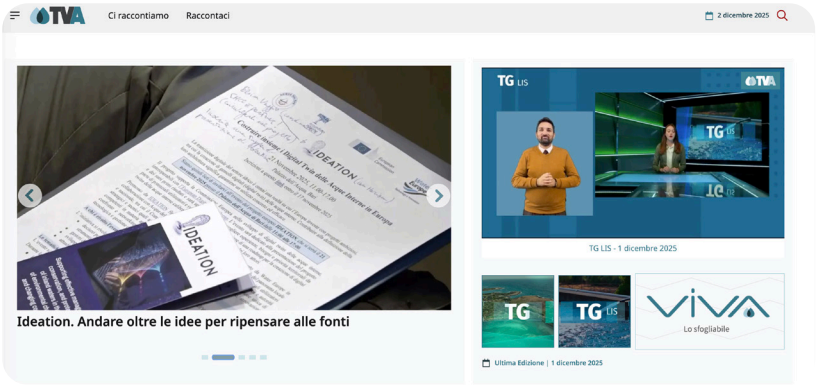
TVA, a new way to communicate

In 2022, Acquedotto Pugliese launched TVA, the first thematic web TV dedicated to the world of water—an innovative communication project designed to enrich the information landscape on sustainability, the environment, and innovation.

The web TV offers weekly programming with several hours of original content focused not so much on the company itself, but on the water resource. It is an open and inclusive communication initiative that AQP has chosen to develop in a participatory way. The schedule features editorial segments, news bulletins, and weekly reports, and is designed to be enriched by contributions from the entire Apulian community. Institutions, companies, local communities, and citizens are all invited to take an active role in shaping the conversation, encouraging reflection on the sustainable use and value of water.

The most recent addition to the programming is the LIS (Italian Sign Language) edition of the news bulletin, aimed at making AQP's information service increasingly inclusive by promoting full participation and removing communication barriers.

> Visit the TVA website: https://tva.aqp.it/



Certifications

AQP operates under an Integrated Management System that complies with international standards in the areas of Quality (ISO 9001), Environment (ISO 14001), Energy (ISO 50001), Occupational Health and Safety (ISO 45001), Information Security (ISO/IEC 27001), and Gender Equality (UNI PdR 125). In 2024 as well, the AQP Group confirmed the effectiveness of its Integrated Management System, maintaining and strengthening the certifications it has obtained. These certifications were issued by Bureau Veritas, an accredited certification body recognized by Accredia.

AQP Water Academy

The century-long legacy of professional expertise developed within Acquedotto Pugliese has led the Human Resources Department to establish the AQP Water Academy—Center of Excellence for Knowledge and Training in Integrated Water Service Management. The Academy creates networking opportunities by managing and promoting shared projects at the local, national, and international levels.

Customer focus

Present throughout the region via both online Municipal Help Desks and 13 physical front offices where customers can request information and manage commercial procedures, AQP remains close to the needs of its customers.
To avoid queues at service desks, the CodaQ app is available, and to provide an increasingly customer-oriented service, both the AQPf@cile platform and a new dedicated app are now online. The commercial call center, organized into specialized teams, handles over 650,000 calls annually, in compliance with the quality standards set by ARERA.

Integrated and cross-functional training across all customer contact channels allows for the rapid upskilling of personnel, with the aim of responding effectively to the diverse needs of customers.

AQP has also launched the "Acqua che ascolta" (Water That Listens) initiative, introducing the Pedius app to enable deaf customers to communicate directly with the Customer Service team.

Additionally, AQP has adopted and continues to promote the use of PagoPA—the national digital payment platform for Public Administration and publicly controlled companies. Digital payments foster positive behavioral change among citizens by encouraging the adoption of sustainable solutions, making everyday tasks such as bill payments simpler and faster.

Customer experience

The commitment and care demonstrated by everyone at AQP is also reflected in the company's daily customer follow-up activities, which have been in place since 2017.

In December 2024, over 45,000 customers were invited to participate in the "Water Quality" survey. Among respondents, 84% expressed a positive perception of the company's commitment and reported overall satisfaction. Notably, the most highly rated aspects were AQP's strong reputation for reliability (85%) and its focus on environmental responsibility (82%). The survey also revealed that nearly one in two customers drinks tap water.

History and growth path

Serving southern Italy

The history of Acquedotto Pugliese is deeply intertwined with that of Southern Italy, where the company has played—and continues to play—a key role in the region's economic and social modernization. The idea of an aqueduct transporting water from the highlands of Irpinia to Apulia was born from the vision of engineer Camillo Rosalba and the determination of local political figures such as Member of Parliament Matteo Renato Imbriani. On June 26, 1902, the Kingdom of Italy approved Law No. 245, "for the construction and operation of the Acquedotto Pugliese."

The first international tender

In 1906, through the launch of the first-ever international public tender, work began on the construction of a canal over 200 kilometers long, crossing the Apennines to carry water from the Sele River springs to Apulia, providing employment to more than 20,000 workers. On April 24, 1915, running water reached Bari for the first time, symbolically flowing from the fountain in Piazza Umberto I. The event, experienced with great emotion and participation by the local population, marked the beginning of a new era for Apulia and the surrounding regions.

Entity for the Acquedotto Pugliese

In 1919, the Consortium was transformed into the Autonomous Entity for the Acquedotto Pugliese, with the goal of accelerating the construction of pipelines and sewer systems, as well as ensuring their maintenance. Running water reached Foggia in 1924 and Lecce in 1927. During the 1930s and 1940s, water began flowing into the homes of more than 350,000 Apulians. No longer limited to public fountains, water started entering residences and newly built buildings—where, for the first time, bathrooms made their appearance.

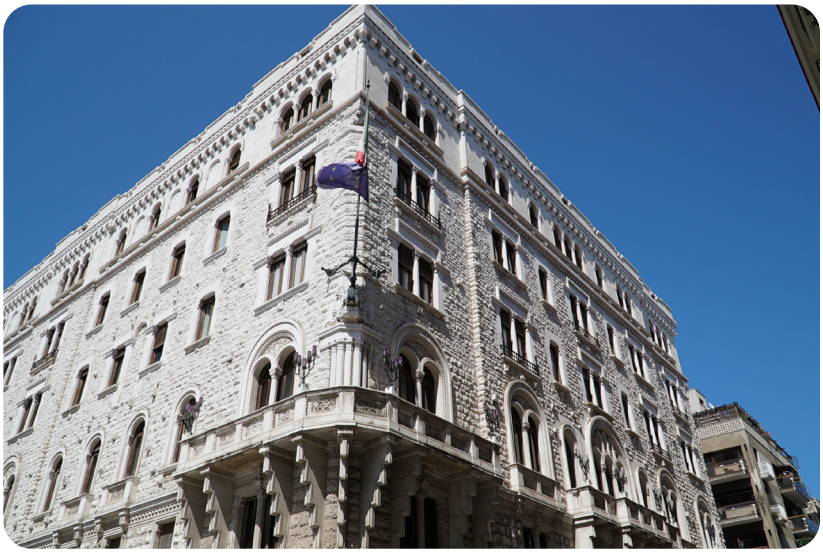
The Water Palace

In that same year, the idea was born to construct a building as a lasting tribute to the achievement of bringing water to Apulia. The story of this remarkable endeavor—etched in stone—is powerfully told through the artistic genius of Duilio Cambellotti, a Roman artist of international acclaim, who created an extraordinary collection of murals, sculptures, furnishings, and decorative elements that vividly recount the epic of water.

Nearly 3,000 visits per year

The story of this monumental achievement, etched in stone, is symbolically and powerfully conveyed through the genius of Duilio Cambellotti, a Roman artist of international renown, who created a rich gallery of murals, sculptures, furnishings, and other decorative elements. Located in the heart of Bari, the "Water Palace" has over time become a cultural treasure for all of Italy and

> Watch the video *The origin of the future (ENG)*: https://bit.ly/4au6Ub7



today stands as one of the most visited artistic sites in Bari, with nearly 3,000 visitors each year.

An integrated water network system

By the 1970s, Acquedotto Pugliese had evolved into a complex system of integrated networks, supplying drinking water from both springs and reservoirs. In 1974, the Pertusillo aqueduct was put into operation, extending as far as Taranto, and around the same time, the Fortore aqueduct began serving the northern part of the region. During these years, the first water treatment plants were built to process water from artificial reservoirs.

Transformation in S.p.A.

In July 1999, AQP was transformed into a joint-stock company (S.p.A.), and in January 2002, the Italian government transferred ownership of the aqueduct to the Regions of Puglia and Basilicata. In 2011, Basilicata transferred its shares to the Region of Puglia, which thereby became the sole owner of AQP.

Strategic company

With Law No. 191 of 13 December 2024, the Italian State recognised Acquedotto Pugliese as a company of 'strategic importance for the national interest'.

From 2026 in-house company

The current corporate structure sees 80% of the shares held by the Puglia Region and the remaining 20% in the process of being transferred to the municipalities of Puglia. This configuration has allowed the Apulian Water Authority (AIP) to entrust AQP with the management of the Integrated Water Service in Apulia for a further 20 years, starting in 2026, under an in-house providing formula.

Summary sheet
AQP figures

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer	**Roberto Venneri**
Chief Operating Officer	**Francesca Portincasa**
Production value	**€696.4 million***
Net profit	**€8.4 million***
Investments	**€453.3 million***
Tenders issued	**€498 million***
Research projects	**€5.5 million***
Employees	**2,290***
Population served	**over 4 million***
Utilities served	**over 1 million***
Water network	**over 24,000 km**
Sewerage network	**oltre 14,000 km**
Water treatment plants	**5**
Wastewater treatment plants	**185**
Refining plants	**56**

* Data from the 2024 Integrated Report