

## PRESS RELEASE

### **CENTRAL APENNINES BASIN AUTHORITY AND ACEA ATO 2: AGREEMENT ON THE USE OF THE INNOVATIVE "AQUARUM" MODEL FOR WATER MONITORING**

***The model, developed by Acea Ato 2, will be adopted by the District Basin Authority of the Central Apennines (AUBAC), with the goal of drafting the first district hydrogeological balance to optimise the management of the water resources in central Italy.***

**Rome, 15 November 2024** - Optimising the use of water resources means ensuring sustainable management and addressing the challenges of climate change in an increasingly efficient way. With these goals in mind, the Central Apennines District Basin Authority and Acea Ato 2 have signed a **scientific collaboration agreement** today to monitor in real-time the destination of meteoric inflows in the central Italy district. The collaboration aims to **draft the first district hydrogeological balance**, requested and promoted in accordance with European directives, the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, and the Extraordinary Commissioner for water scarcity.

The project involves the **use of the advanced AQUARUM model**, developed by Acea Ato 2, to analyse the behavior of stormwater in the Authority's district, estimate the water that infiltrates the ground, and provide a comprehensive dataset necessary for calculating the water balance. The Basin Authority will supply Acea with daily climate data on precipitation and temperature, as well as territorial information essential for powering the model and conducting all analyses, including comparisons with historical time-series data. The AQUARUM model will enable AUBAC to integrate analysis results on the fate of meteoric inflows with data on the condition of aquifers, surface waterways, and reservoirs, significantly enhancing resource planning for various uses, such as civil, agricultural, and industrial purposes. The system will allow AUBAC to monitor ongoing phenomena, **identify abnormal patterns, and simulate behaviours and future scenarios**, thereby offering crucial decision-making tools for planning and programming activities.

*"A correct management of water resources requires increasingly refined and sophisticated monitoring systems", stated Marco Casini, General Secretary of the Authority. "Thanks to the collaboration with Acea, we will be able to better quantify meteoric inflows, which are useful for aquifer recharge, and monitor the availability of water in our region. This will allow us to address water scarcity conditions and, where possible, anticipate them, particularly during dry periods, that are becoming more frequent, ensuring the satisfaction of all current and future needs."*

**The President of Acea Ato 2, Claudio Cosentino**, stated: *"Starting from today, thanks to this agreement, the model AQUARUM, developed in-house through the expertise of Acea Ato 2 and used to monitor our sources, will be applied on a larger scale to oversee all reservoirs in central Italy. I believe this represents significant recognition for the company and, in particular, for the professionalism of the Acea Ato 2 team who first developed and implemented it."*

#### **Central Apennines Basin Authority and Acea Ato 2**

AUBAC is the non-economic public body responsible for territorial programming and planning related to hydrogeological risk management, water resource protection and management, coastal defense, and the sustainable use of soil in central Italy. AUBAC is tasked with drafting and updating the District Basin Plan and its related components, including the Water Management Plan, the Flood Risk Management Plan, the Hydrogeological Setting Plan, the Coastal Management Plan, and the Sediment Management Plan, along with their respective intervention programmes. AUBAC carries out its institutional duties in the hydrographic district of central Apennines, which spans an area of over 42,000 km<sup>2</sup> and encompasses 49 neighboring river basins, along with their respective groundwater and coastal waters, located in Abruzzo, Emilia-Romagna, Latium, Marche, Tuscany, and Umbria.

#### **Acea Ato 2**

Acea Ato 2 is a company of the Acea Group that manages the entire integrated water system in the Municipality of Rome and 112 other municipalities, combining service quality, sustainable water management, and environmental responsibility. Acea is one of Italy's leading industrial groups and has been listed on the stock exchange since 1999. It operates in integrated water services, electricity distribution, public and artistic lighting, the sale of electricity and gas, energy production, mainly from renewable sources, and waste treatment and recovery. Acea is the leading national operator in the water sector, serving



around 10 million people. It is also one of the major players in energy distribution in Italy and a key operator in the environmental sector, managing around 1.8 million tons of waste annually.