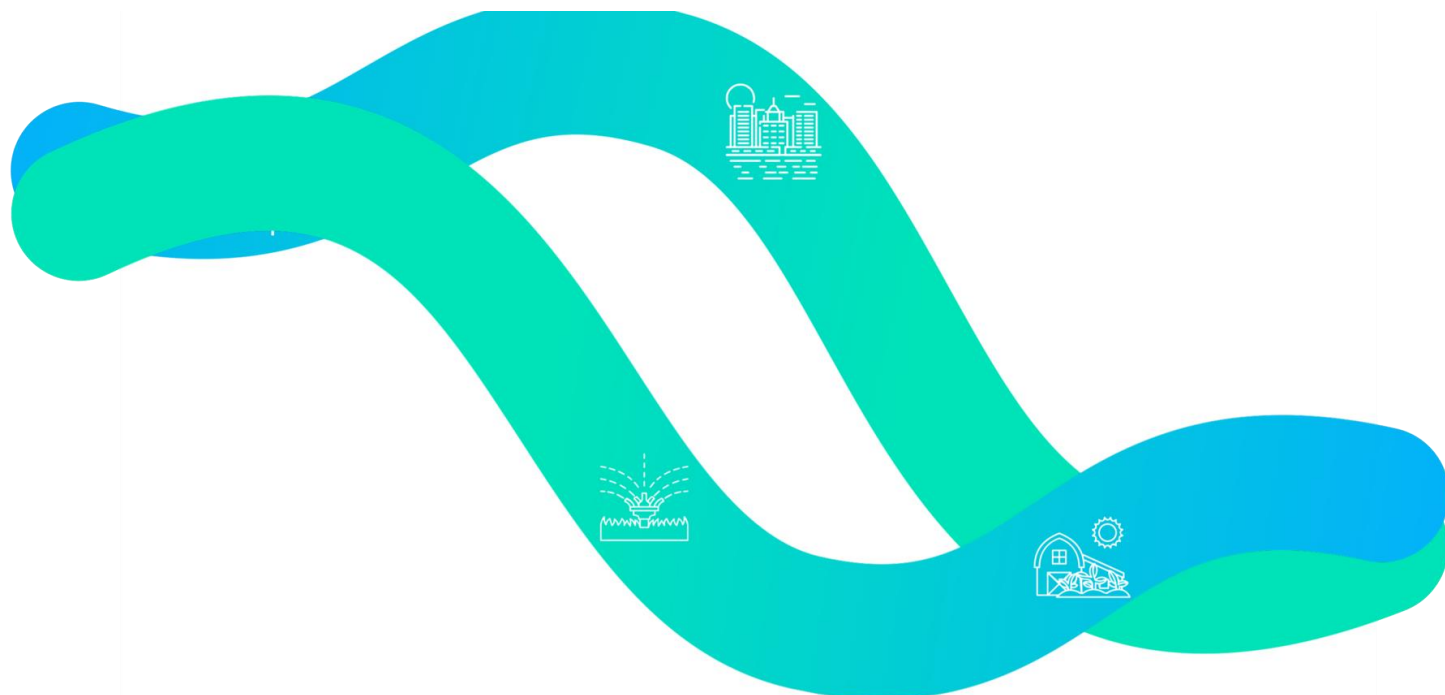


SMART4ENV

Final Newsletter · Number 6

APRIL 2026



WELCOME

Final reflections from the TÜBİTAK MAM Project Team



Dear Stakeholders,

SMART4ENV, TÜBİTAK MAM's Horizon Europe Twinning project, has now completed its 42-month journey that began in November 2022. In this final newsletter, we look back at the training activities, scientific results, international partnerships and stakeholder engagements delivered between June 2025 and project closure.

Thank you to everyone who travelled this road with us — this achievement belongs to all of us.

In this issue, you will read about

- Training and capacity building in the final months
- Scientific and technological results
- Policy engagement
- International networks and collaboration
- Digital presence and public outreach
- What happens next?

The last miles of our journey — and the foundations for what comes next.



SMART4ENV has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe – Horizon-Widera-2021-Access-03 under grant agreement No 101079251.



The intensive training pace that picked up over the summer continued without a break through to project closure. Mobilities and on-site visits with our partners UVIC-UCC (Spain), NMBU (Norway) and SITES (Bulgaria) gave our researchers hands-on time with leading experts in the field:

- June–July 2025: Data-driven process-control training at NMBU (Norway) and participation in the IWA ICA Conference in Oslo.
- August 2025: UNIVPM experts Anna Laura Eusebi and Giorgio Passerini delivered on-site training at TÜBİTAK MAM on smart water management and air-quality modelling; the same month, an institution-wide IPR training reached 77 researchers and administrators (target: 3).
- October 2025: Together with UVIC-UCC, we co-organised the 'Bridging the Gap' panel at the EARMA BESTPRAC Conference in Barcelona.
- December 2025–February 2026: SITES experts Leonardo Piccinetti and Irina Vitchinka delivered a series of trainings on innovation management and leadership skills for young researchers.
- March 2026: UVIC-UCC and NMBU experts carried out the final round of on-site visits on environmental technologies and smart water management.
- April 2026: The last training module, held in Vic (Spain), brought the mobility programme to a total of 22 mobilities (target: 20).



Representative scenes from SMART4ENV training and laboratory engagement activities.

Over the course of the project, 14 experts provided 16 weeks-equivalent of on-site support. Thanks to this intensive programme, 14 researchers (9 men, 5 women) and 4 interns were trained across the six case studies — well beyond the original target.



Scientific and Technological Results

14 researchers trained
(target: 6)

1 national patent
application

9 new regional
collaborations

4,074 LinkedIn followers
(10× the target)

On 12 January 2026, we filed a national patent application with TURKPATENT for the low-cost visual-sensor technology developed for wastewater treatment ('Suspended Solids and Turbidity Detection System for Process Control'). Together with the project's scientific publications, this is a concrete marker of TÜBİTAK MAM's growing research output.

The project directly produced six peer-reviewed journal papers, with three more currently under review, and results were shared at 20 international and 8 national conferences, including 19 international oral presentations (against a target of 6) and 4 poster presentations.

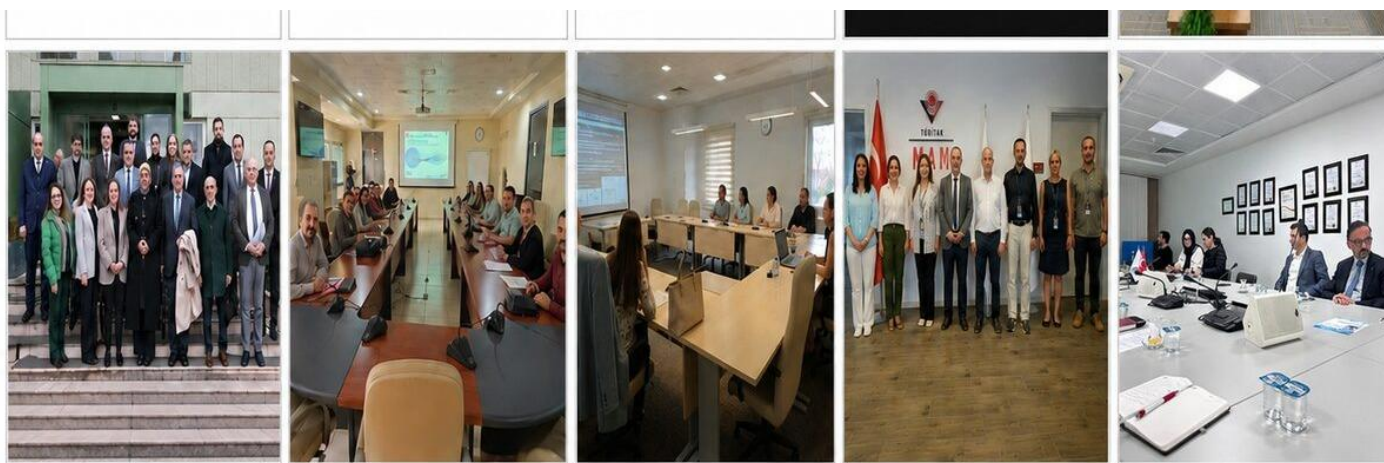
All outputs are openly available with persistent identifiers in the SMART4ENV Zenodo community, which now holds six peer-reviewed publications, 20 conference outputs, two fact sheets, 32 training presentations, one dataset, one video and one poster — shared under open licences in line with FAIR principles.



Policy Engagement

Turning research into policy dialogue was a priority throughout the closing months. The team held more than ten meetings with policy makers, including the Presidential Policy Board, the Ministry of Industry and Technology, the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change (and its Directorate of Climate Change), the General Directorate of Water Management, the General Directorate of Agricultural Reform, and the water utilities İSKİ and İZSU.

These exchanges, together with the National Outreach Workshop held in Istanbul on 7 November 2025 — which brought together 46 technology developers, technology users and policymakers — gave decision-makers direct, evidence-based input on Smart Environmental Solutions for water, agriculture, air quality and coastal management. A follow-up internal Sandpit Workshop on 17 November 2025 saw 18 SMART4ENV representatives prioritise future research directions building on this input.



A selection of the policy and institutional meetings held during the final reporting period.



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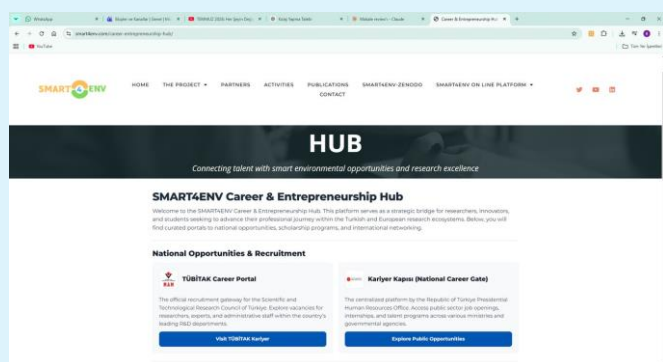
International Networks and Collaboration

During this period, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Italy's Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy and completed four international university collaboration agreements with the University of Niš, the University of Cantabria, Zhytomyr Polytechnic State University and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. We also joined new platforms including EERA CCS, EGVI4for2Zero, EUROCEAN, Processes4Planet and A.SPIRE.

At regional level, nine new collaboration agreements were signed, including with İSKİ, five development agencies, a chamber of industry and two private companies.

Digital Presence

The project website remained the central public gateway throughout the closing months, ultimately attracting more than 2,000 unique visitors and over 15,000 page views. The platform, Zenodo community and social channels will continue to keep project results visible and accessible after closure.



The SMART4ENV Career & Entrepreneurship Hub.

Connecting with the Public

We took part in European Researchers' Night events in Sakarya, Kocaeli and Düzce on 26 September 2025, and reached citizens directly through four information days — including the 2026 TÜBİTAK MAM Science and Technology Week — and five science cafés. The project's Final Conference shared all outputs and results with target sectors, introducing new research avenues, future developments and international synergies.



Our two open-access MOOCs — with 167 registered users and 63 certificates — and the digital climate-change game developed for young people remain an important part of the project's educational legacy.

4 information days

5 science cafés

63 MOOC certificates



What Happens Next?

Project closure is not the end of the story. SMART4ENV's Sustainability Strategy (Deliverable D5.1) sets out a concrete, monitored roadmap for the next five years, built around the outcomes and networks established during the project:

- The SES Platform and its interactive Power BI Dashboard (100 SES registers from 29 Turkish cities) will keep connecting stakeholders, with the online platform in active use for at least three more years.
- A dedicated team of 5 skilled research-management support staff will continue to serve TÜBİTAK MAM researchers after project closure.
- Our MOOCs will remain open for a further year.
- TÜBİTAK MAM aims to sign at least 6 new memberships or collaboration agreements with international research networks, plus agreements with at least 7 development agencies, industrial chambers or technology companies and 4 new industry partners, within five years.
- The team is targeting +1 TRL level per year for the technologies developed in the case studies, 2 further patent applications, and at least a 25% increase in peer-reviewed publications within five years.

Five new research avenues will guide TÜBİTAK MAM's future work in Smart Environmental Solutions: interoperability-led smart monitoring and early-warning systems; PFAS and emerging-pollutant management; AI-based decision support for resilience planning; a flagship wastewater-digitalisation and circular-resource-recovery demonstrator; and soil health monitoring and remediation. Together, these give TÜBİTAK MAM a clear, fundable pipeline for the years to come.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

The knowledge, connections and infrastructure built through SMART4ENV will support TÜBİTAK MAM's work on Smart Environmental Solutions for years to come. Please feel free to reach out anytime with questions or collaboration ideas.

With gratitude, on behalf of the SMART4ENV Consortium,
TÜBİTAK MAM Project Team



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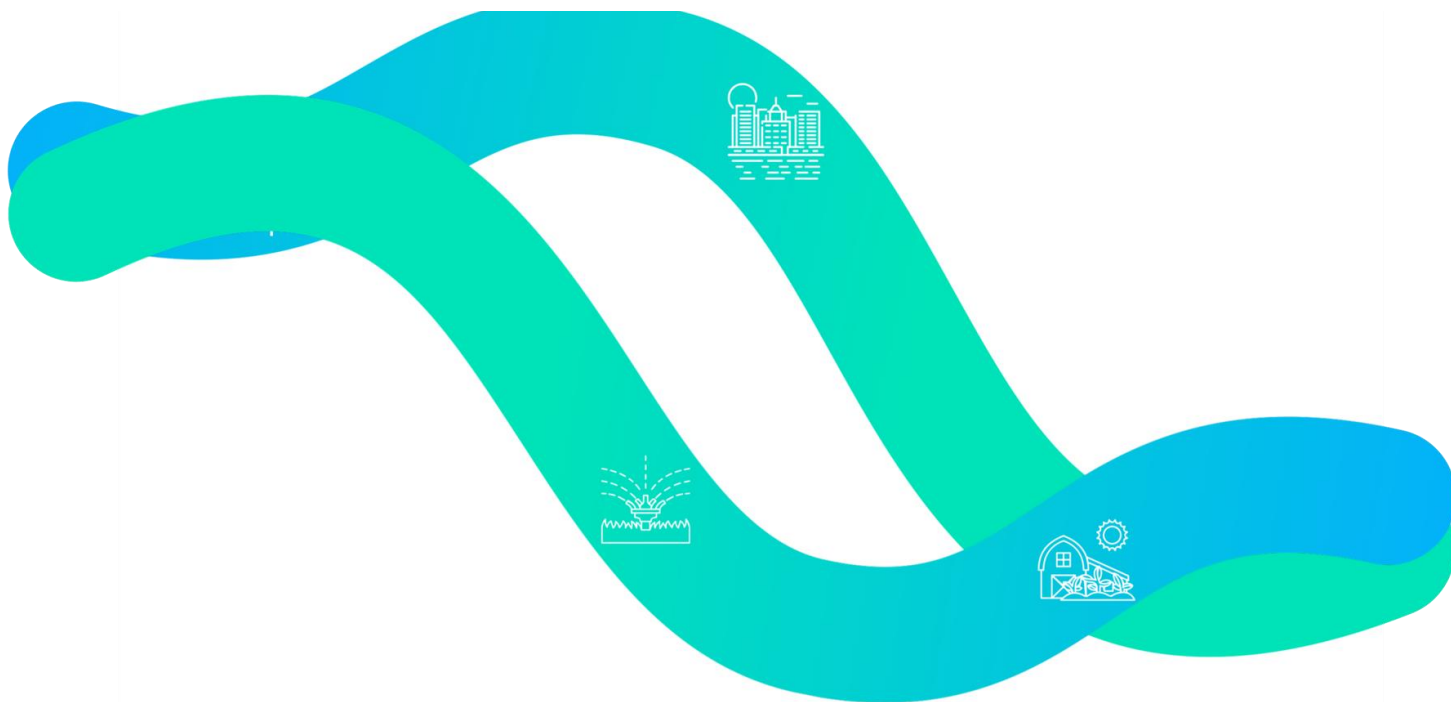


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Horizon-wide
biotechnology
universities



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