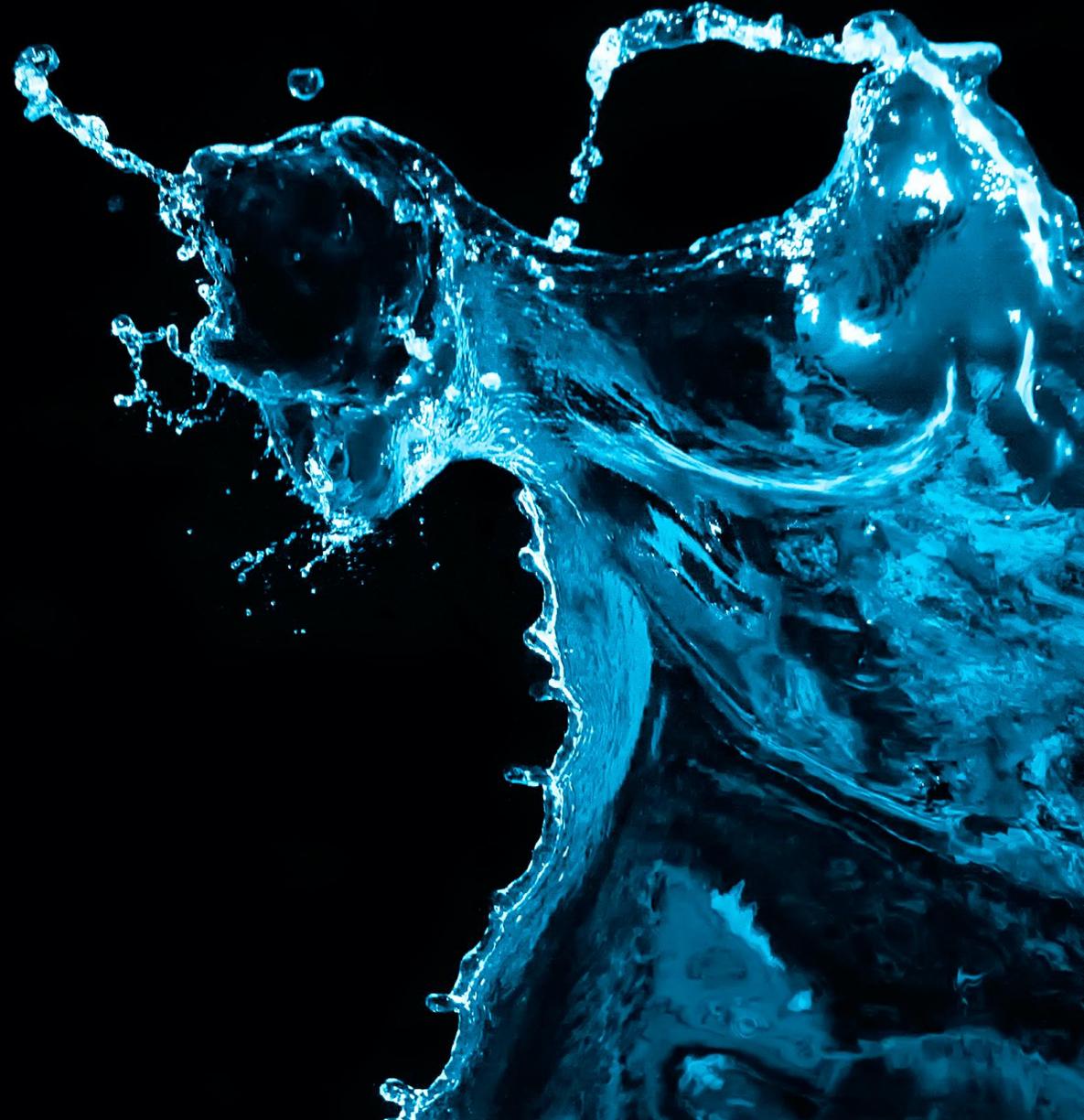




Transboundary Cooperation to Address Common Challenges

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- An island with no physical barriers with other neighbouring countries.
- Does not mean that Malta has water management challenges specific to itself which can be overcome in isolation
- Can the Maltese islands really be considered as isolated and not transboundary?

Regional Commonality

- Droughts (leading to dependence on alternative water resources)
- Floods (increasing the volume of surface water runoff)
- High Population Density (increased global water demand)
- Climate Change (causing uncertainty and the need to prepare for a climate resilient framework)



Loire Basin (2015, France)



Hurricane Apollo (2021, Sicily)



Barcelona (2019, Spain)



Everywhere



Transboundary Collaboration

Common challenges mean that we can learn from one another and not re-invent the wheel.

Leading to the importance for exchange of experiences between different regional entities.

Also leads to possible future collaborations to explore innovative solutions that can be adopted to address current and future water management challenges.



- **5+5 Western Mediterranean Dialogue** – enables a high level discussion between north and south Med countries.
- **MENBO** – allows for regional Mediterranean basin authorities to get together and exchange experiences and issues which are being faced across the Mediterranean.
- **Europe-INBO** – supports EU member states towards the achievement of the Water Framework Directive through the implementation of River Basin Management Plans

Project Collaboration

International Networks also pave the way for future project collaborations that can be funded either through EU/National funds or through Private Funds.

Throughout the years, this has enabled Malta's participation in various projects funded by the EU through HORIZON 2020, Interreg, Prima, ENI-CBC, LIFE...

Such projects also open future possible project collaborations that can act as a continuation to previous projects. Therefore, also incentivize future innovation.





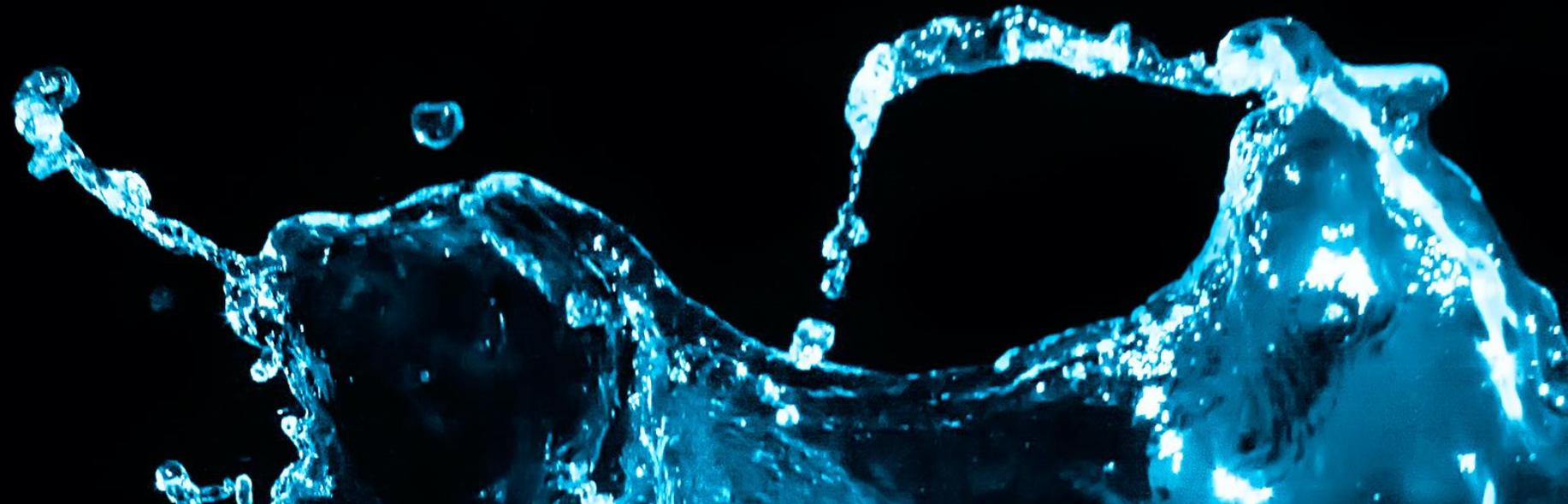
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- Aims to develop a tool-box that can be shared with neighbouring Med regions and in particular other small islands.
- Includes a variety of best practices which have been identified during the implementation of Malta's 2nd RBMP Programme of Measures.
- Will be exchanged during the final stages of the project, in order to enhance its outcomes and improve it.
- Aims to provide an inter-evolving methodology that can be easily adaptable in different case studies and local contexts.

Conclusion

- In the context of a physically isolated country like Malta, the meaning of transboundary goes something that goes beyond water.
- Through transboundary cooperation, the country is enabled to exchange experiences and challenges between regions that share the same challenges as Malta.
- Such cooperation also enables a higher-paced level of innovative approaches and technologies to be adopted and become mainstream to address current and future challenges.





Should we broaden the understanding of “transboundary” to also include not only transboundary basins but also transboundary challenges?

**THE
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