Managing water together, through a direct connection to the environment.

EPFL ECAL LAB

Monday November 9, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

MOUNTIS



Managing water together, through a direct connection to the environment

After several years of work, the *Mountis* platform, the Swiss demonstrator of the major European initiative *MountResilience*, is now live. All stakeholders – local authorities, the agricultural sector, tourism, energy production and civil society – can view key indicators of water quantity and quality in real time. This enables them to make the necessary decisions collectively in response to a specific situation, such as a drought, or to develop projects aimed at improving a region's resilience to climate change.

Three years of research and innovation, as part of *MountResilience* – one of the leading European projects dedicated to climate change – are now becoming a reality. The first implementation, in the form of a demonstrator in the Val de Bagnes, will be operational from November 9, 2026. However, the system is designed to operate elsewhere in Valais, Switzerland and around the world. Its development has been driven by real-world needs involving numerous stakeholders and partners.

Switzerland's participation in *MountResilience*, led by the EPFL+ECAL Center – the design centre for technology of EPFL – brought together academic stakeholders, such as EPFL's RIVER Lab; innovation organisations, such as BlueArk and Apptitude SA; and institutional practitioners, such as the Canton of Valais and the Foundation for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions (FDDM). To develop *Mountis*, the project also involved people on the ground in its co-creation: farmers, residents, politicians and water management officials all contributed to defining the features and interactions, and then to testing the final proposition.

Mountis operates using sensors located in the mountains such as water reserves, pressure in mountain streams, soil moisture and water quality. These sensors function in real time – a challenge given the lack of infrastructure in certain mountain areas and the harsh natural conditions.

In order to provide information that is useful, engaging and accessible to everyone, the technical data is converted into simple and effective indicators, which form the backbone of the platform. The design work has generated new concepts for the visualisation of these indicators. These are accompanied by a catalogue of solutions tailored to the problems encountered, local observations and additional water-related services for different users.



↑ *Mountis* (image © EPFL+ECAL Center)

The work has not only made it possible to overcome technological challenges, but also to understand how such an interface can help rethink people's relationship with the environment, thereby facilitating decision-making and project development. The ultimate aim is to encourage the emergence of more widely accepted solutions, thereby reducing delays, conflicts and the waste of resources. This, in turn, will strengthen communities' resilience in the face of accelerating climate change.

RELEASE INFORMATION

From November 9, 2026, the *Mountis* platform is available to everyone at mountis.app.

Mountis is presented at the *MountResilience* Consortium's annual meeting in Valais, which brings together more than 100 European experts from November 9 to 11.

A special session at the BlueArk 2026 conference will also be dedicated to *MountResilience*, which will present other demonstrators from this major European project.

MOUNTRESILIENCE – ABOUT THE EUROPEAN PROJECT

The Valais demonstrator of the *MountResilience* project is a five-year research, innovation and implementation initiative, carried out under the auspices of the Horizon Europe programme and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation. Led by the EPFL+ECAL Center, EPFL's design centre for technology, it brings together BlueArk, EPFL's RIVER Lab, Apptitude SA, the FDDM and the State of Valais.

The *MountResilience* project aims to improve the capacity of mountain regions to adapt to climate change and thereby strengthen their resilience. It forms part of the EU's mission on climate change adaptation under the Horizon Europe programme. *MountResilience* is coordinated by Unimont, the University of the Mountains, part of the University of Milan. It involves the implementation of six demonstration sites: Lapland, Tyrol, Piedmont, Gabrovo, Râu Sadului and Valais.

It focuses on the development, testing and scaling of flexible climate change adaptation strategies and nature-based climate solutions. This holistic approach takes into account political considerations, societal requirements and community practices.

PARTNERS

Co-funded by the European Union

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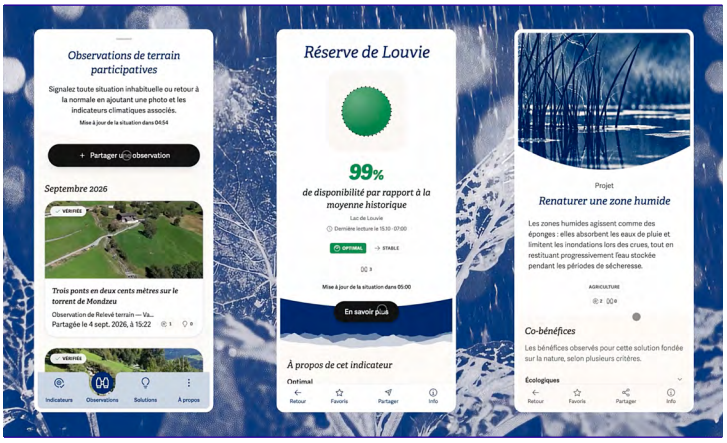
This project is supported by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) under contract no. 23.00372.



↑ *Mountis, main features* (image © EPFL+ECAL Center)



↑ *Mountis, indicators* (image © EPFL+ECAL Center)



↑ *Mountis, main sections* (image © EPFL+ECAL Center)

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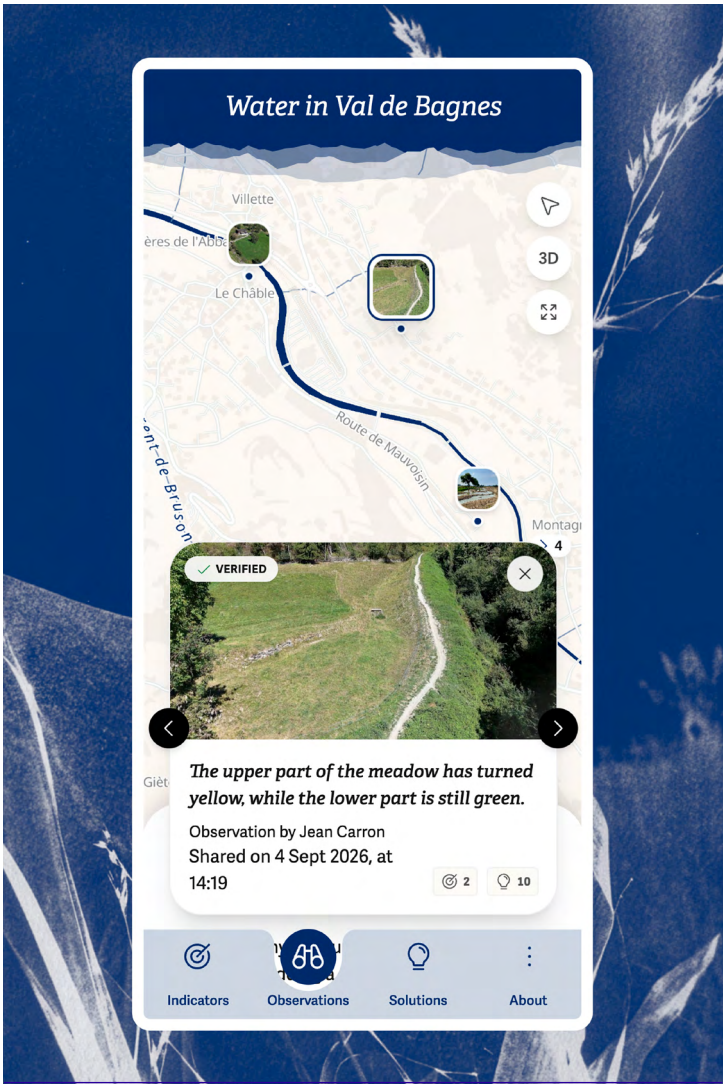
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↑ *Mountis* (image © EPFL+ECAL Center)

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