



iAMP-Hydro

PEN@Hydropower – WG1

Hydropower digitalisation in Southern Europe: Opportunities and challenges for increased flexibility and flow forecasting

Date: 3rd July 2024

Location: Online

Prof. Aonghus McNabola



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



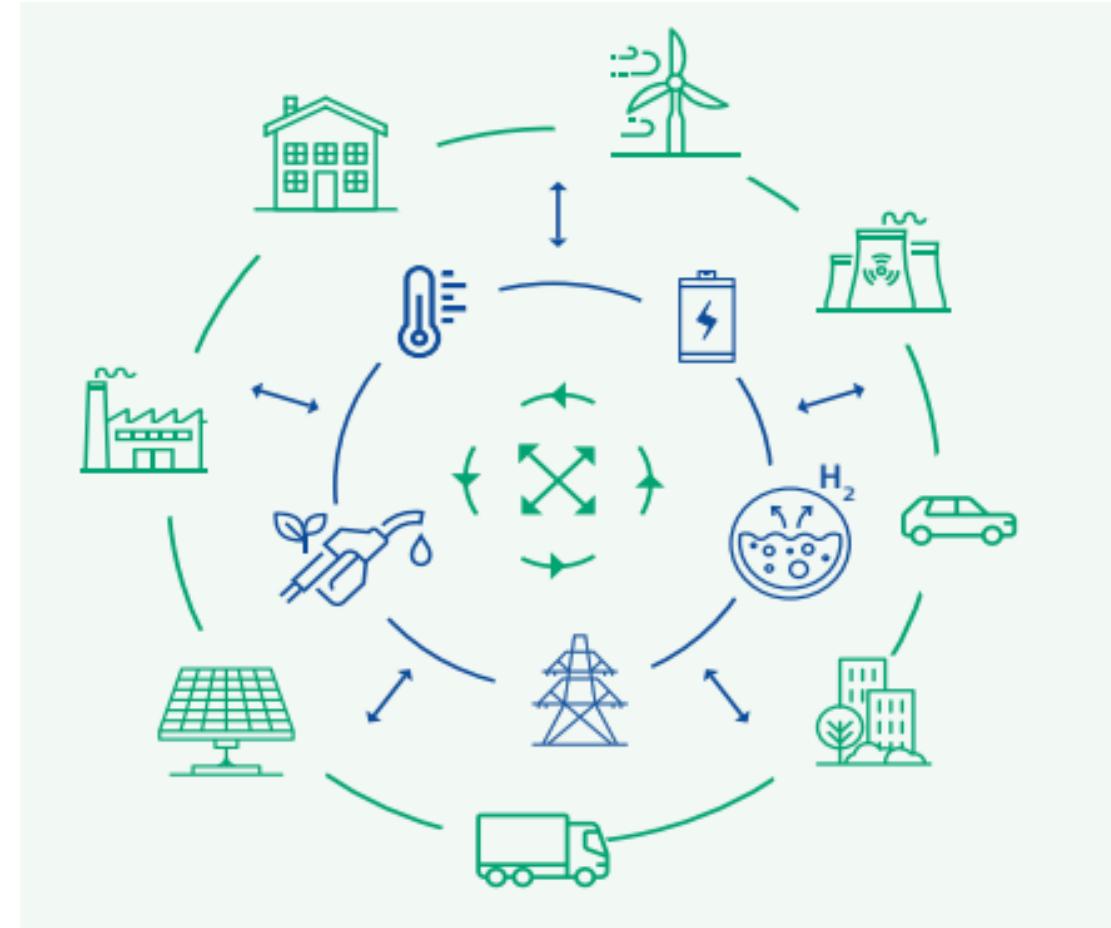
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101122167.



Introduction

Digitalisation of the energy system

- EU electricity sector undergoing a fundamental change with the increase of digitalisation
- Digitalisation means embedding sensors, data collection and amassing big data resources for the optimisation of energy systems
- Hydropower Digitalisation has implications for increasing energy storage capacity:
 - More efficient use of water resources
 - Sensors, Digital Twins & Forecasting Systems
 - Increased flexibility and predictability of storage capacities



Introduction

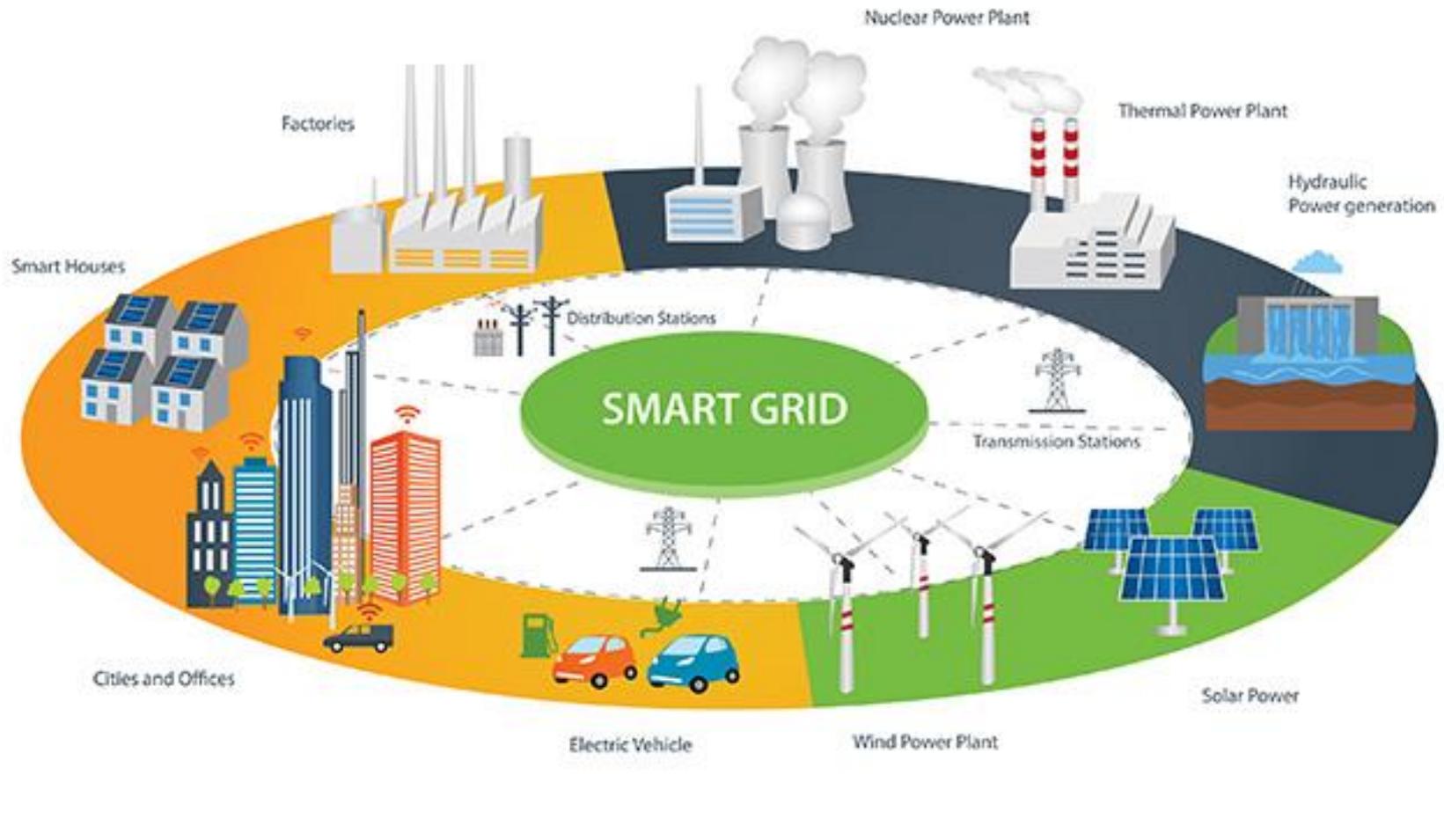
Grid Flexibility, Renewable Energy & Electrification

Challenge

- More variable source renewables
- Less conventional sources
- Greater demand for electricity

Hydropower

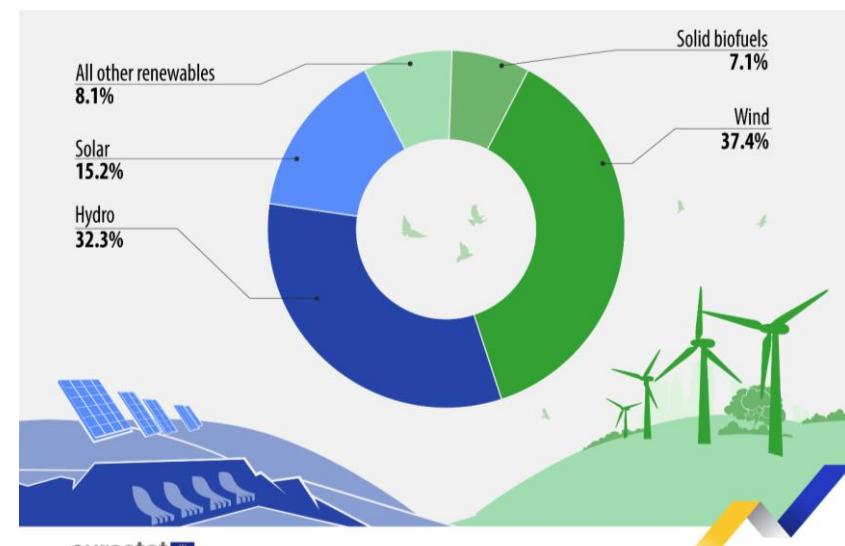
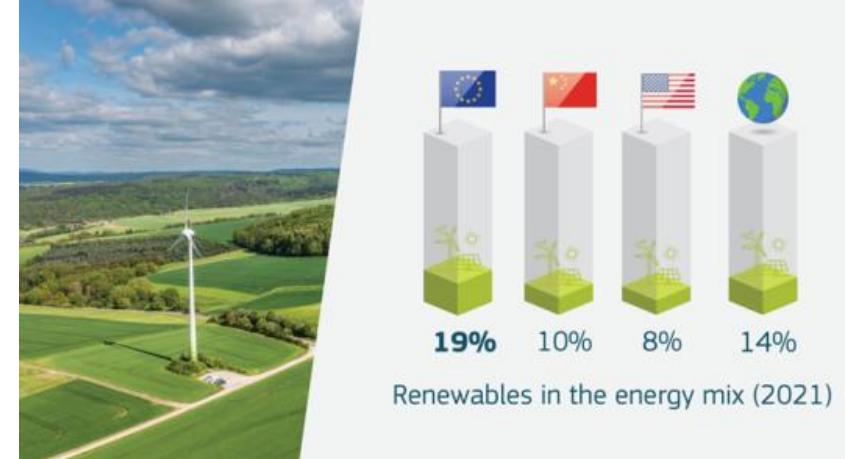
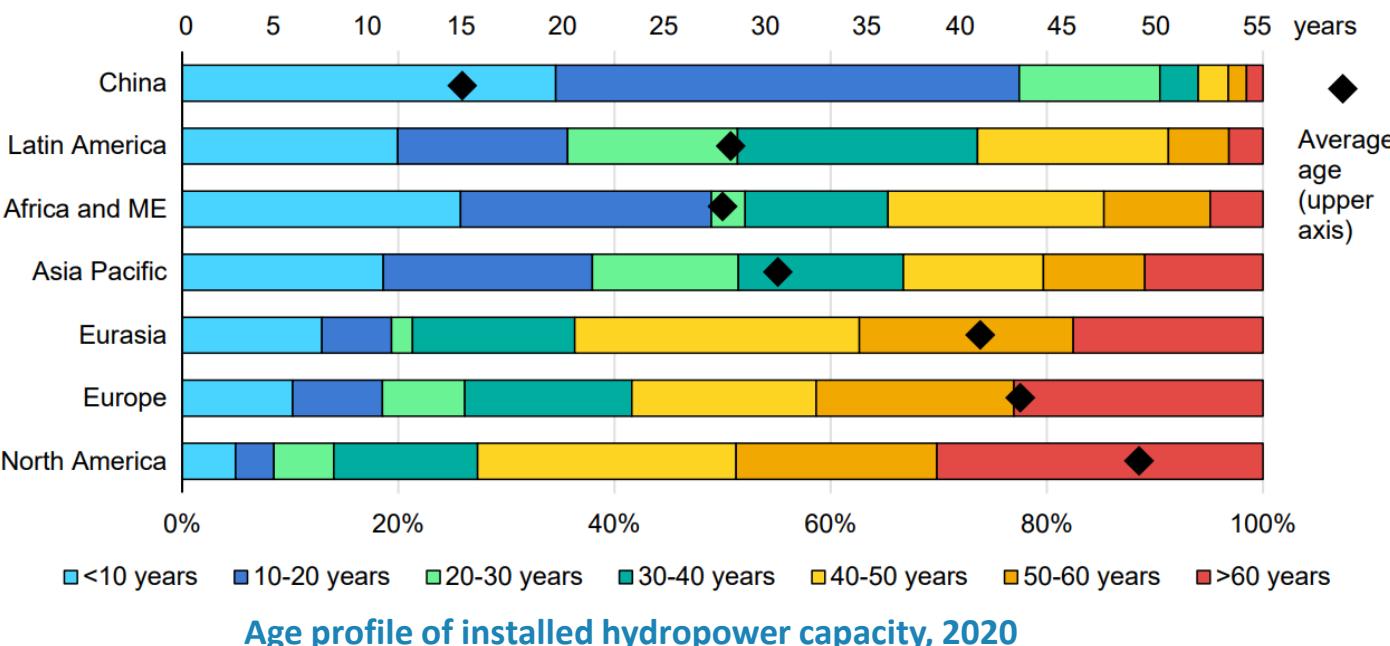
- Start/stop quickly (dispatchable)
- Energy Storage
- Predictable / less variable
- More off-design operation
- More hydro-peaking
- Climate change challenges



Introduction

Hydropower & Digitalisation

- Hydropower represents one sixth of global electricity generation
- Provides significant contribution to grid flexibility and security
- However the fleet is aged and requires significant modernisation works

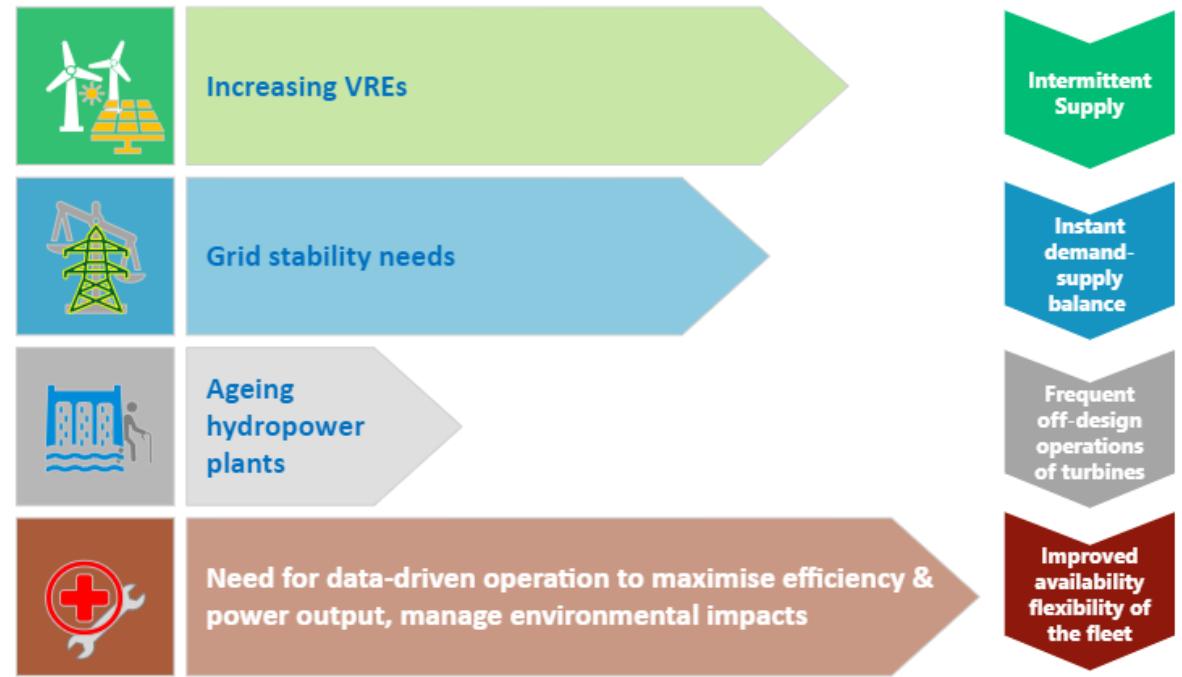
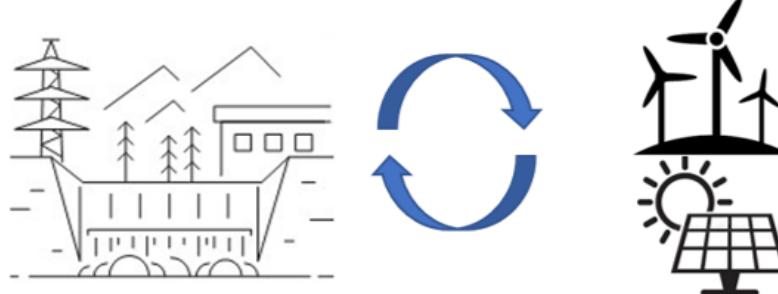


Sources of renewable energy in gross electricity consumption, EU 2021



Problem Statement

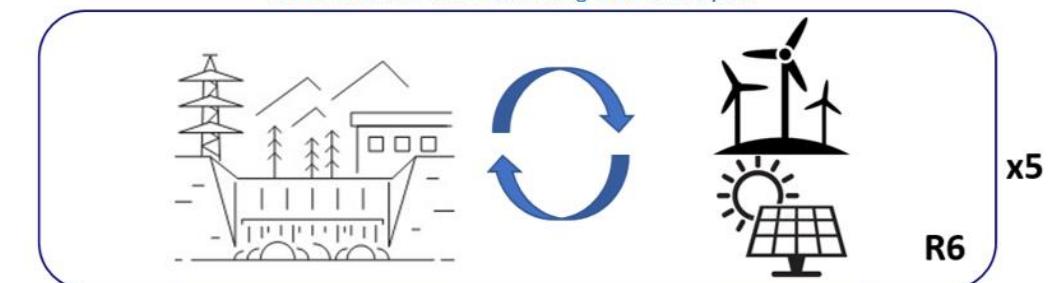
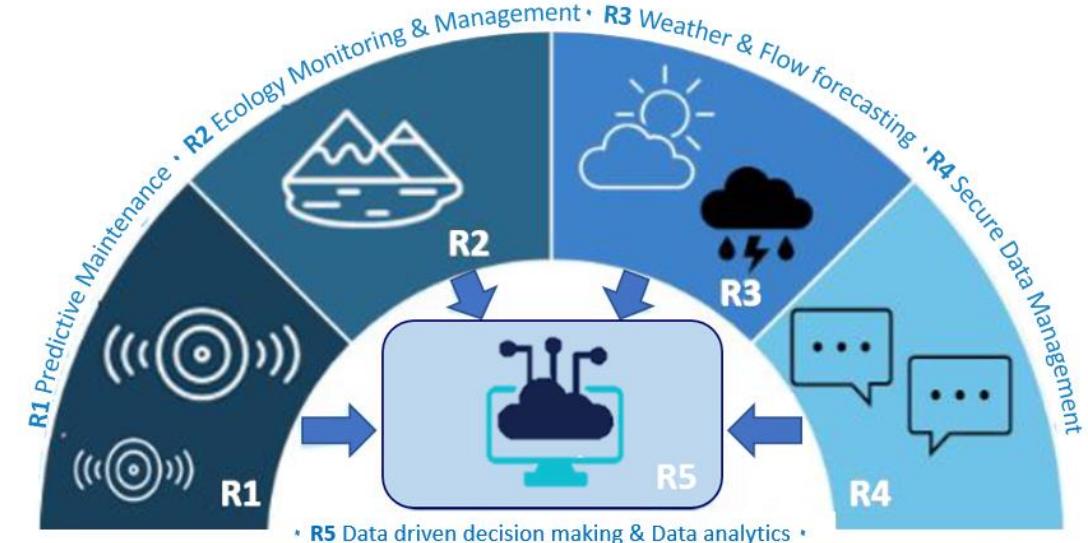
- Digitalisation required to increase grid flexibility, environmental and socio-economic sustainability and to foster the green and digital transitions in Europe.
- The digitalisation of the world's 1225 GW of existing hydro could increase annual production by 42 TWh, amounting to 5 billion USD in annual operational savings and significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions



Project Objectives

intelligent Asset Management Platform

- 1. Co-develop and validate** novel condition monitoring and predictive maintenance digital solution at TRL5 for hydromechanical and electrical equipment.
- 2. Co-develop and validate** advanced sensors and models for the monitoring of biodiversity parameters for an ecologically optimised hydropower operation to improve biodiversity, environmental and socio-economic sustainability of existing plants
- 3. Co-develop and validate** enhanced weather and flow forecasting models for improvement in reservoir inflow, outflow and water balance prediction accuracy



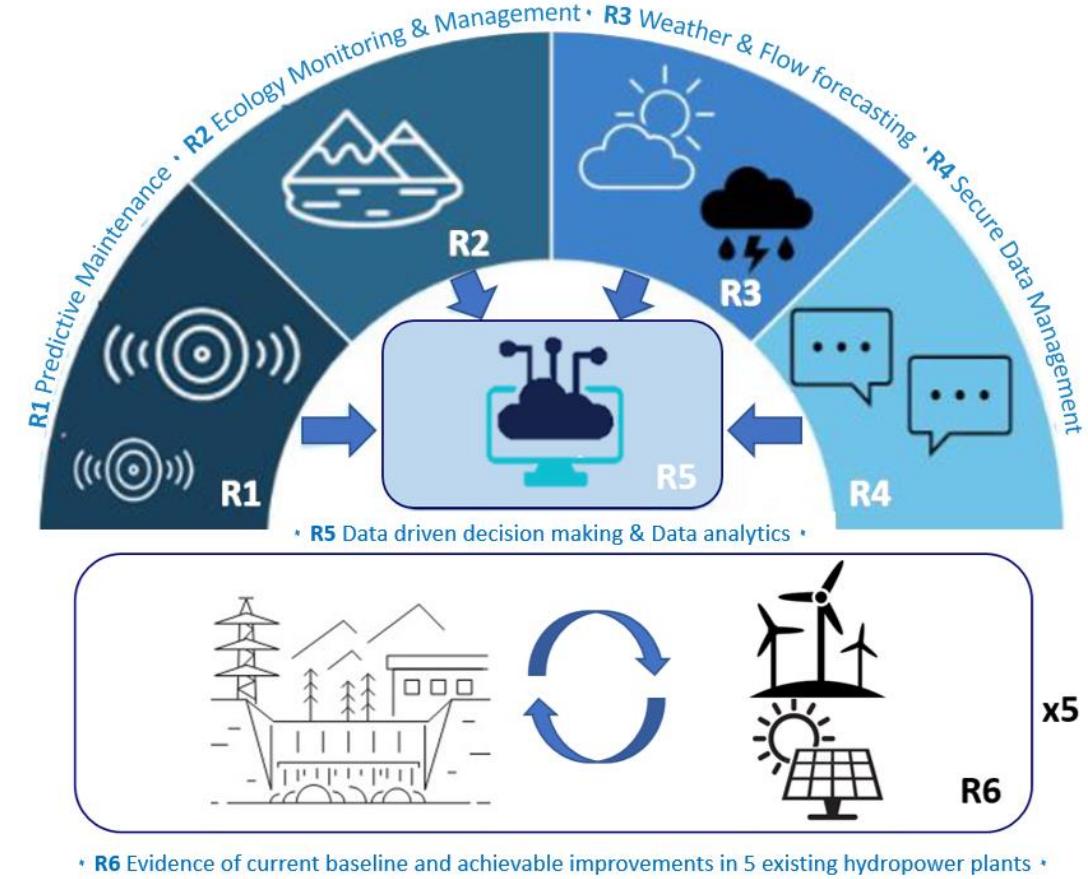
* R6 Evidence of current baseline and achievable improvements in 5 existing hydropower plants *



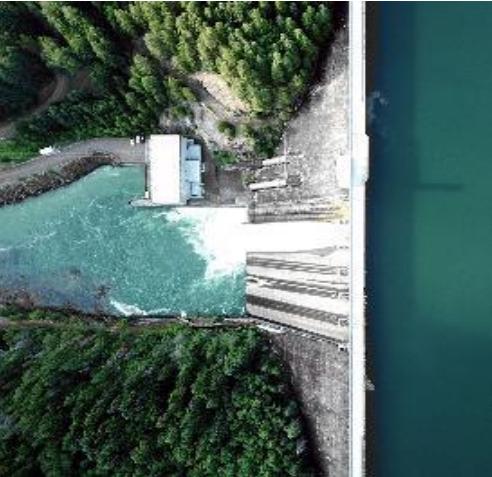
Project Objectives

4. **Co-develop** secure data collection, communication, storage and sharing protocols and standards to enable trusted data-driven operation and maintenance, and interoperability between hydro operators, and with other renewable energy sources
5. **Co-develop and validate** iAMP decision-making algorithms for data-driven O&M, including integration of operations with other renewable energy sources to increase flexibility and optimise hydro positioning in energy markets
6. Widespread dissemination and communication of the potential benefits of digital solutions & gathering evidence for policy makers

intelligent Asset Management Platform



iAMP-Hydro Validation Site



Berchules (0.8 MW)



Bermejales (2.1 MW)



La Vega (2.4 MW)



Makrochori (10.8 MW)



Asomata (108 MW)

Better flow forecasting



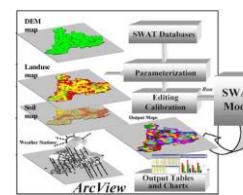
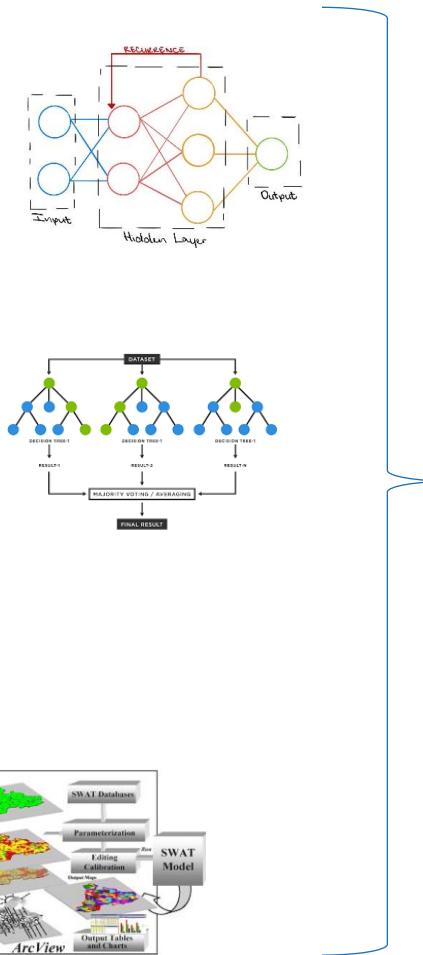
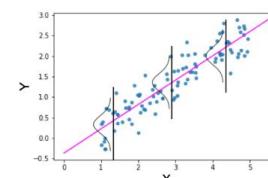
WP6 & WP7 objective

Co-develop **enhanced weather and flow forecasting models** using operational data from power plants and open source data in differing climates, with differing power capacities and flow regimes **achieving >23% improvement** in reservoir inflow, outflow and water balance **prediction accuracy**, from hourly up to **7-day time horizons**



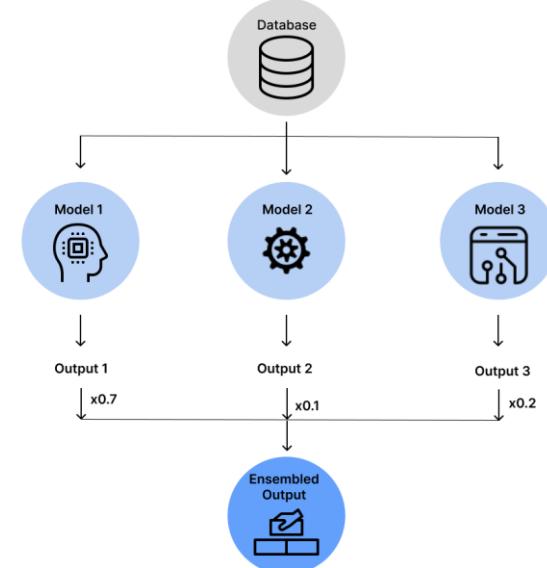
Flow forecast modelling approach

- AI-based: Deep learning (DL): recurrent neural networks (RNN) → **Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)** networks
- AI based: Machine learning (ML): classification algorithms → **random forest (RF)** or **support vector machine**
- General linear model
- Existing **physical models** (SWAT, HBV)



Hybrid Flow forecasting models

Ensemble





Bermejales CUERVA, CARTIF

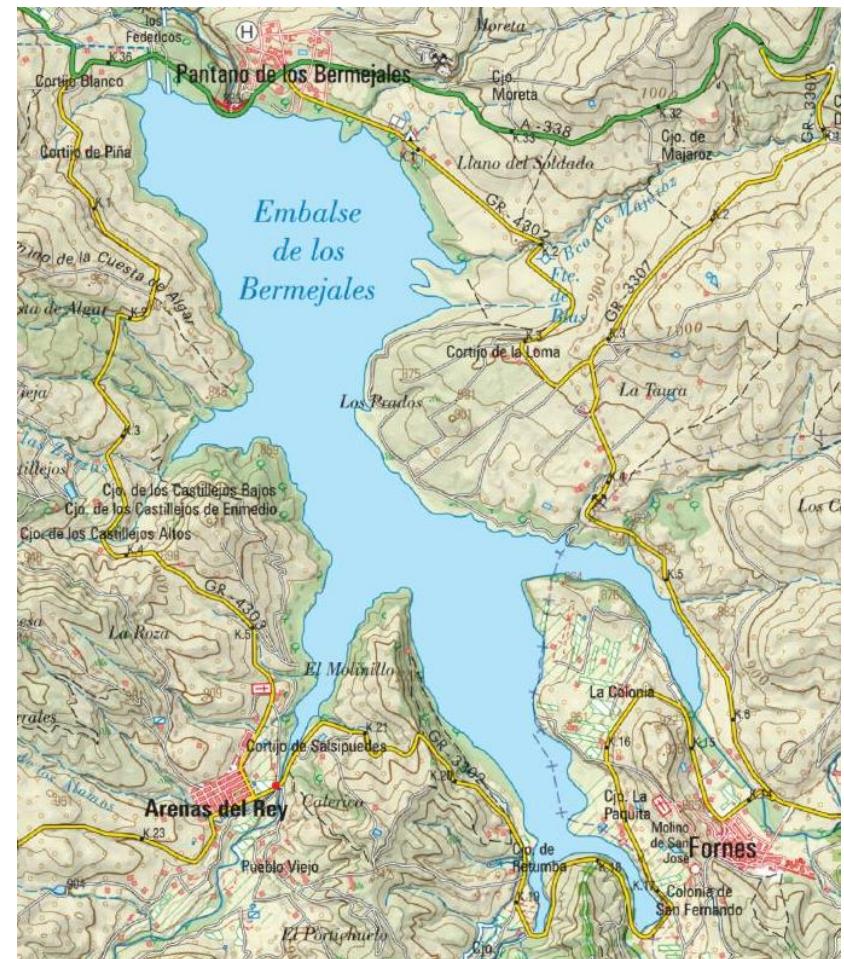
 Cuerva
Energía Transparente

[CENTRO
TECNOLÓGICO] **CARTIF**



Bermejales

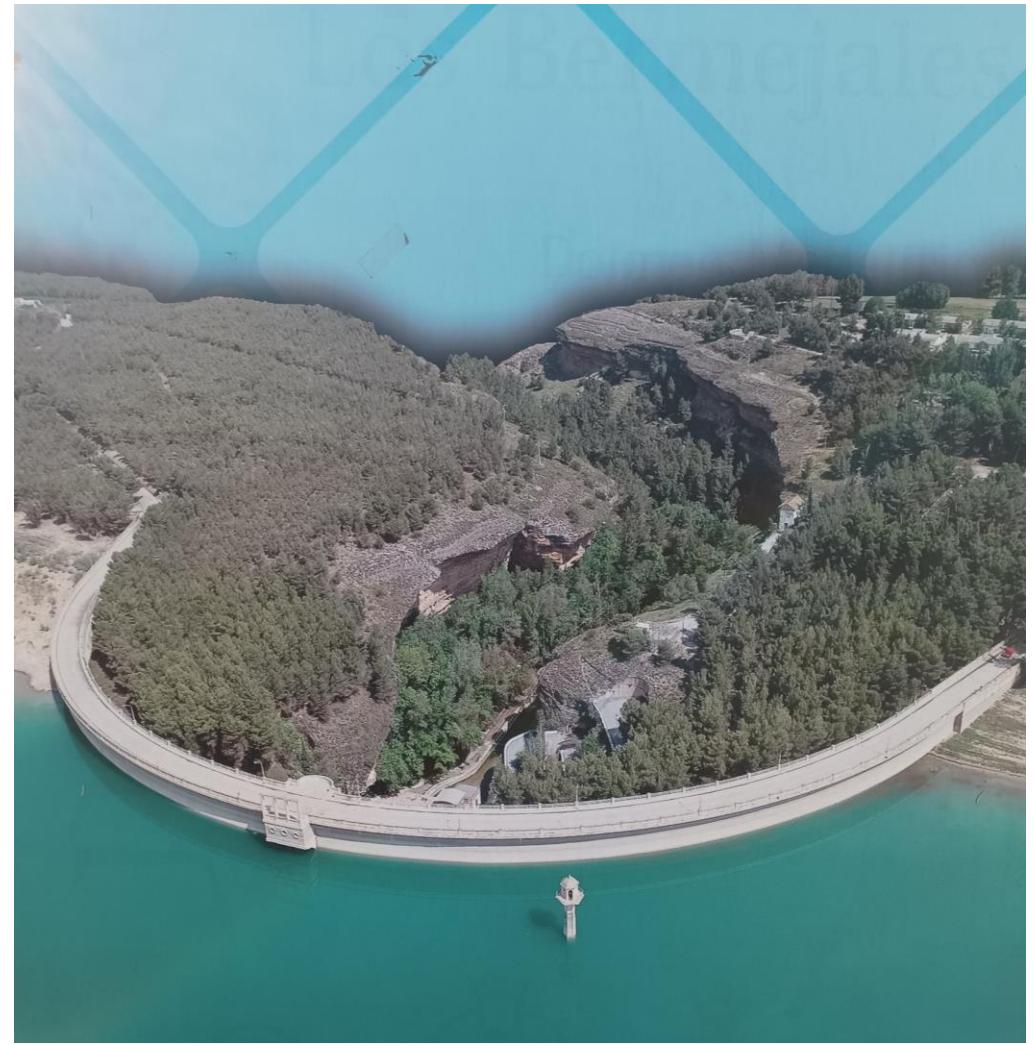
Plants	Bermejales
Nominal Power (MW)	2.1
Type	Dam base
Location	Arenas del Rey (Granada)
Net head (m)	56.5
Mean Flow (m ³ /s)	0.8-4.8
Capacity (hm ³)	102.6
Nominal speed (rpm)	750
Type of turbine	Francis
Principal use	Irrigation



Source: <https://www.ign.es/iberpix/visor>



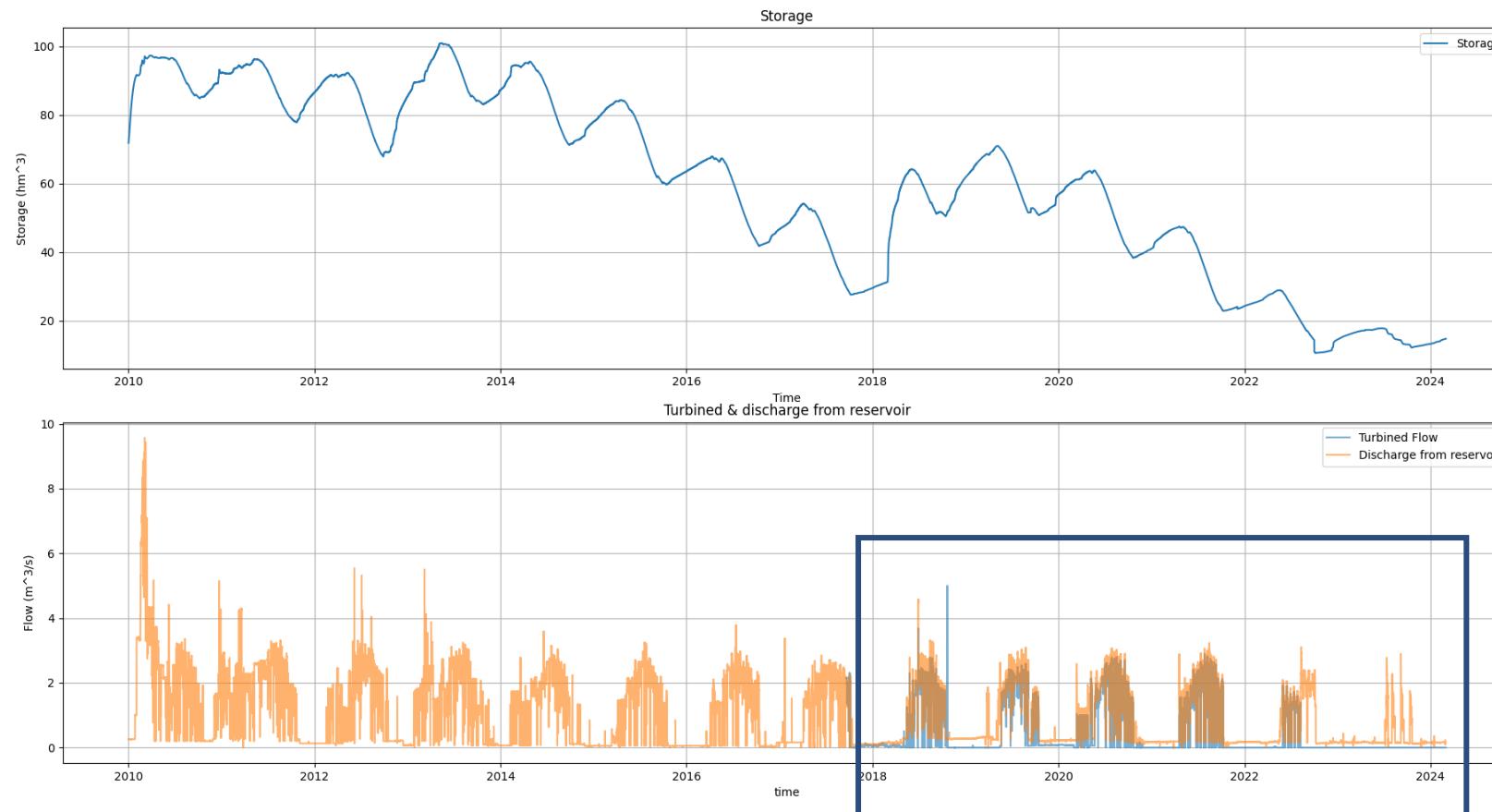
Bermejales



Bermejales



Bermejales



Source: Sistema automático Información hidrográfica (SAIH) : <https://www.chguadalquivir.es/saih/EmbalGR.aspx>

Since 2010, the **total volume in the reservoir** has decreased from 100 hm³ to 20 hm³: Severe drought and change in the irrigation scheme:

Discharge (for downstream irrigation):

2010-2021: 9 months (March to Nov).

2022: 5 months (June – Oct).

2023: 4 months (July – Oct, 10 days per month)

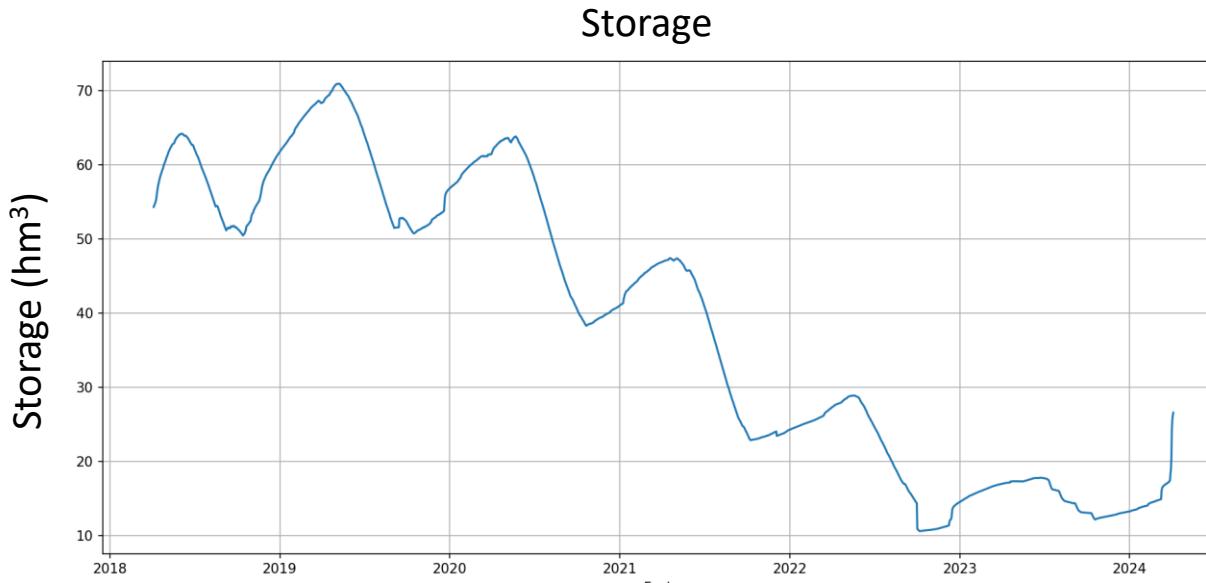
Turbined Flow:

2018- July 2022: 5 years of operation of the HPP

August 2022-2023: out of operation



Bermejales



Conclusions:

- ✓ Drought & Irrigation impacting available Flow
- ✓ New smaller turbine required to avail of reduced storage capacity

Data needs:

1. Operation range of the current Francis turbine
2. Irrigation schemes by the River basin Authority

Forecast of the annual water storage in the short-medium term (2030), depending on:

- ✓ Different irrigation schemes: 5 months, 4 months (10 days per month), others
- ✓ Different precipitation scenarios





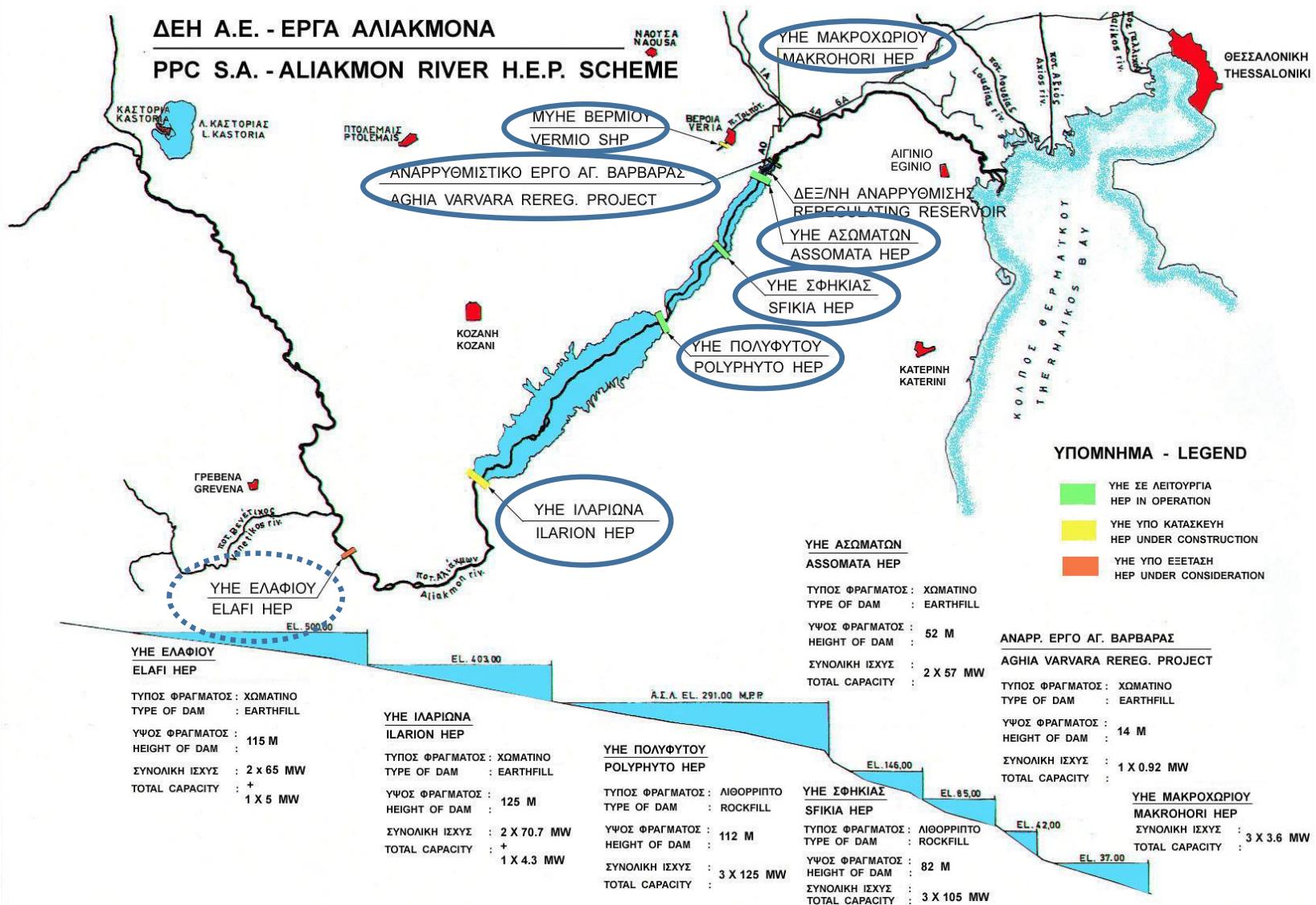
Asomata Reservoir / HPP Agia Varvara Reservoir / Makrochori SHPP

PPC / PPCR, POLI



ΔΕΗ Α.Ε. - ΕΡΓΑ ΑΛΙΑΚΜΟΝΑ

PPC S.A. - ALIAKMON RIVER H.E.P. SCHEME



Asomata reservoir & HPP



Energy for everyone

Aliakmon Hydroelectric Scheme Assomata HPP

Location: Central Macedonia,
Imathia prefecture

Purpose: hydropower,
irrigation

Commercial operat.: 1985

Installed power: 108 MW
(2x54)

Francis type turbines

Mean an. Product.: 130 GWH

Dam: earthfill, 52 m height

Reserv. net cap.: 10 m.c.m.



Agia Varvara reservoir



Aliakmon Hydroelectric Scheme
Reregulation Reservoir & New Reregulation Aghia Varvara Small HPP



Makrochori SHPP

Principle of operation describe Makrochori as a run of the river (RoR) SHPP.

[MAKROHORI SHPP TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION rev.pb.pdf]



Aliakmon Hydroelectric Scheme Makrochori small HPP

Location: Central Macedonia,
Imathia prefecture

Purpose: hydropower,
irrigation,
water supply

Commercial operat.: 1992

Installed power: 10,8 MW
(3x3,6)

Caplan tubular S type turb.
Mean an. Product.: 30 GWH



Agia Varvara reservoir / Makrochori SHPP (PPCR)

Data from PPCR - Daily values for the period 2008-2023 for:

Agia Varvara reservoir: level, volume [th.m³], variation of volume, total inflow, overflow, outflow from Asomata, ecological flow, water supply for Thessaloniki, for irrigation, irrigation before and after Makrochori, drainage water into the river, natural inflow;

Makrochori: Energy generation [MWh] per unit and total, Aux cons, Net prod, Max power, Hours of operation and out of availability per unit, No of starts, overflow, used for energy generation, specific consumption, efficiency.



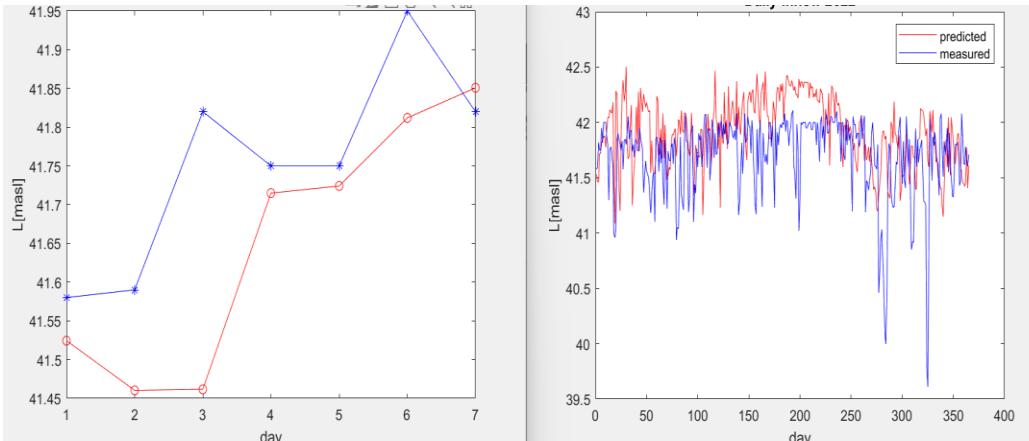
Agia Varvara reservoir / Makrochori SHPP (PPCR)

Ensemble Approach

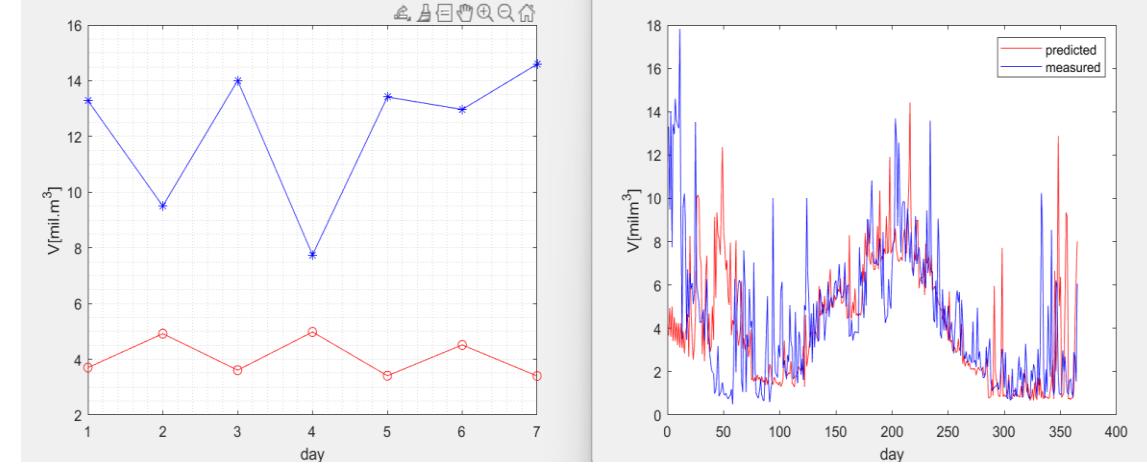
Investigating various statistical, AI and physical modelling methods:

- Time series forecasting: Autoregression & Moving
- Data: daily recorded values from **2010 to 2021** for reservoir inflows, levels and energy generation
- Forecast: for next 7 days and 365 days.

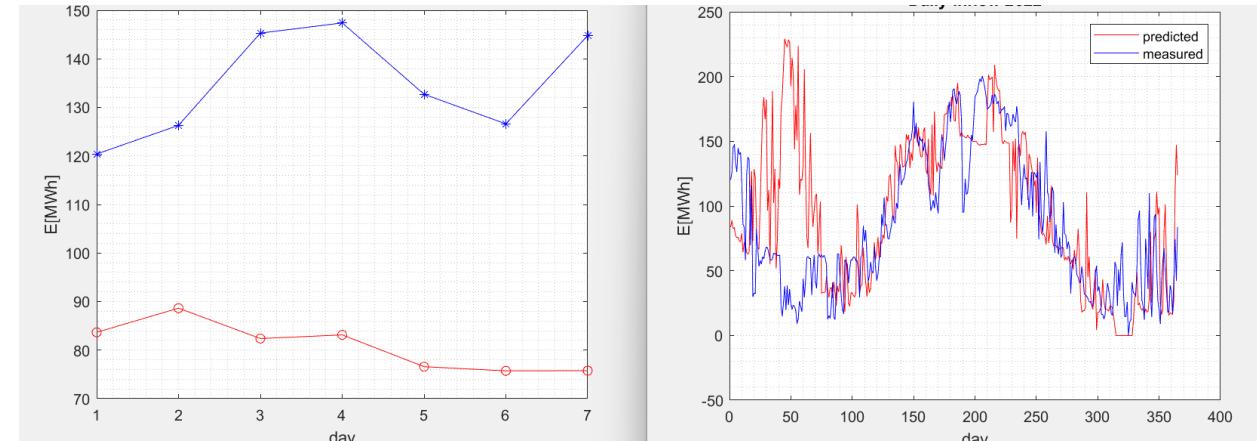
LEVEL, RMSE=0.269



INFLOW, RMSE=21.53



ENERGY, RMSE=142.71



Agia Varvara reservoir / Makrochori SHPP (PPCR)

Recurrent neural network LEVEL, L [masl]

Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm,

RMSE=0.3644 (KPI: RMSE->0)

Scaled Conjugate Gradient,

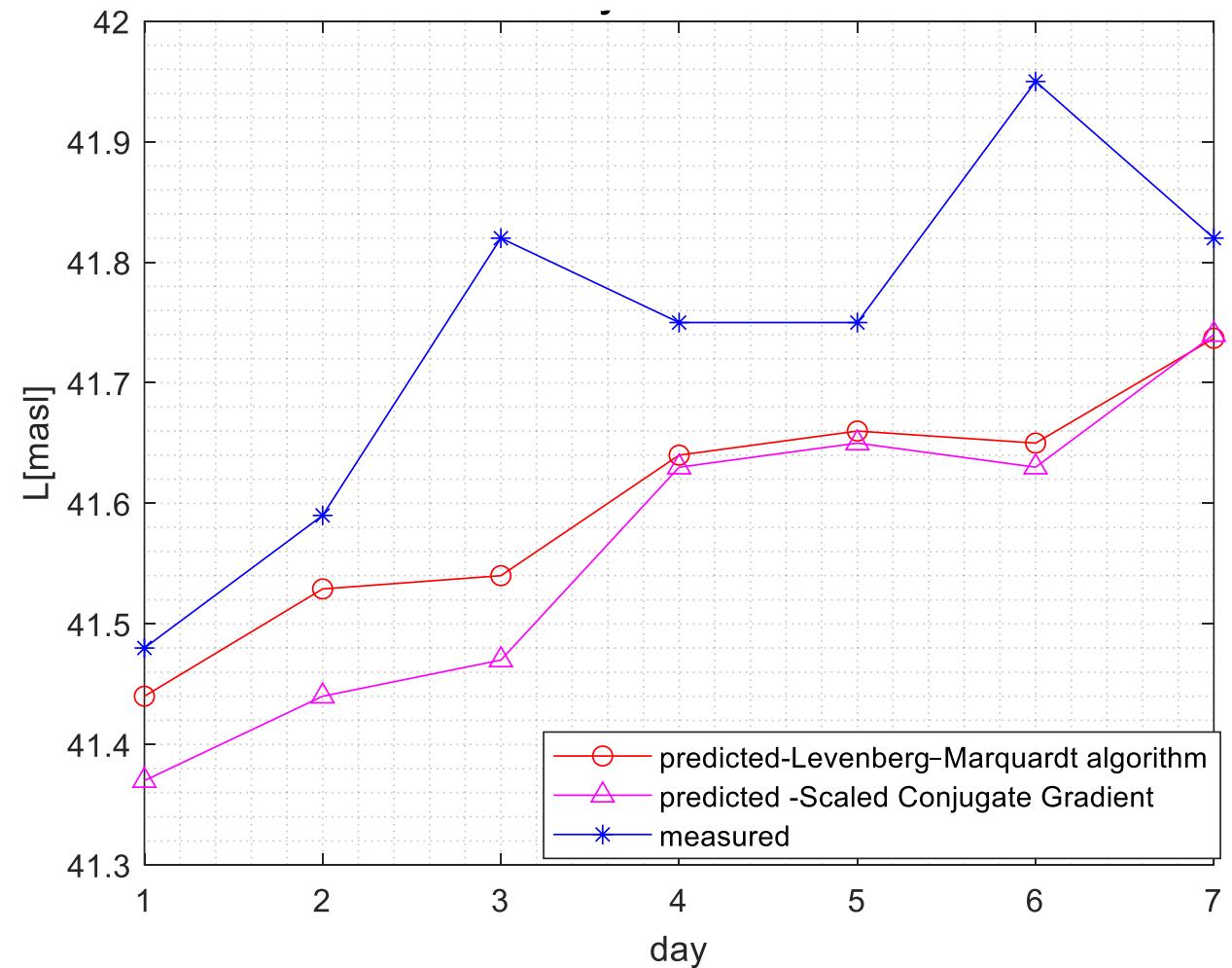
RMSE=0.4649 (KPI: RMSE->0)

Input: daily values $x(1:\text{end}-2)$

Output: daily values $x(3:\text{end})$

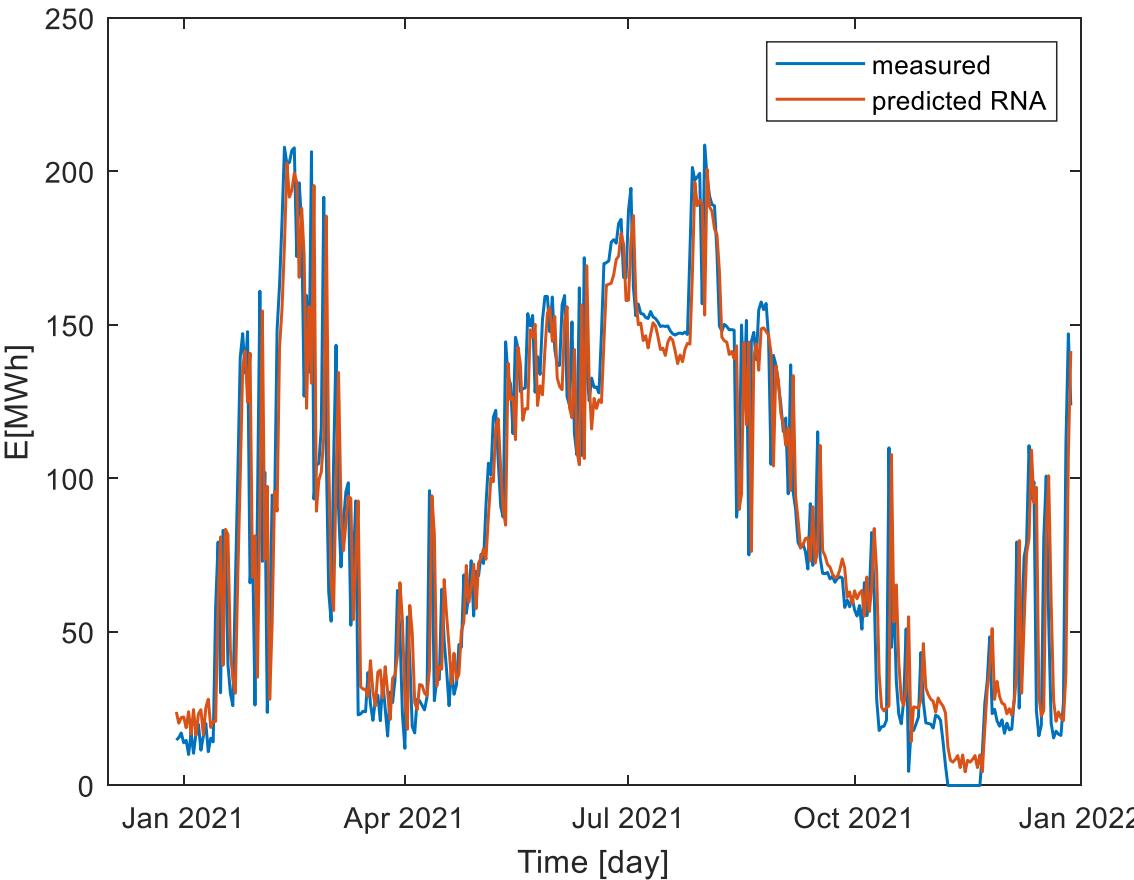
Hidden layer: 10 neurons

where: x = variable (inflow, level, energy)

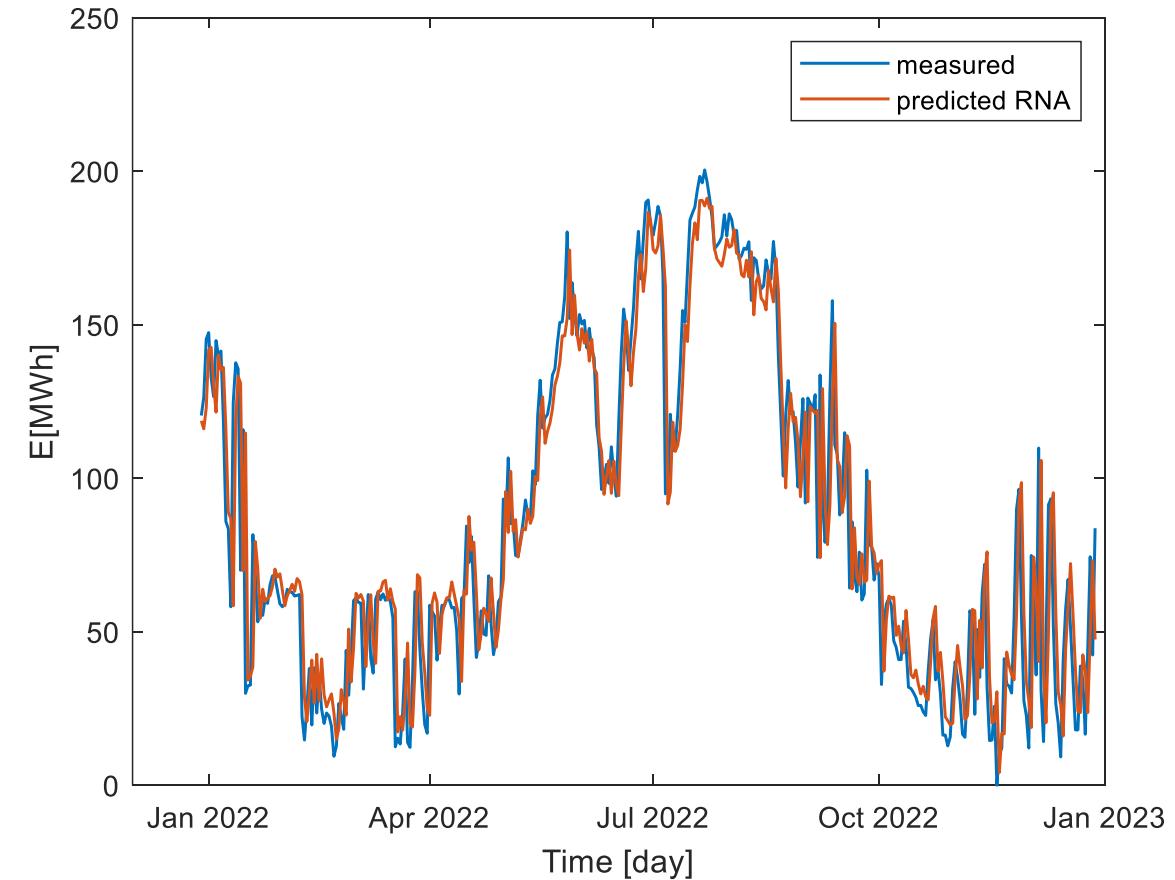


Agia Varvara reservoir / Makrochori SHPP (PPCR)

ENERGY, 2021, RMSE=25 (for 365 days forecasting)

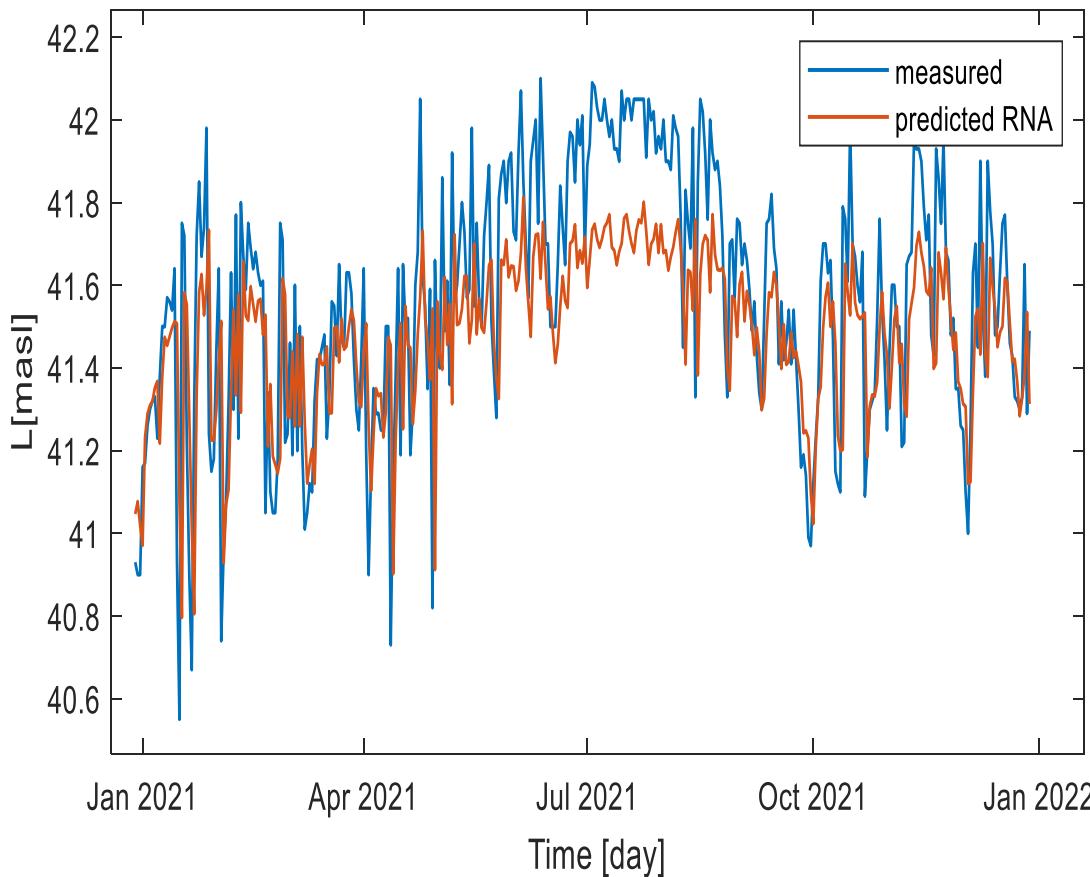


ENERGY, 2022, RMSE=18.77 (for 365 days forecasting)

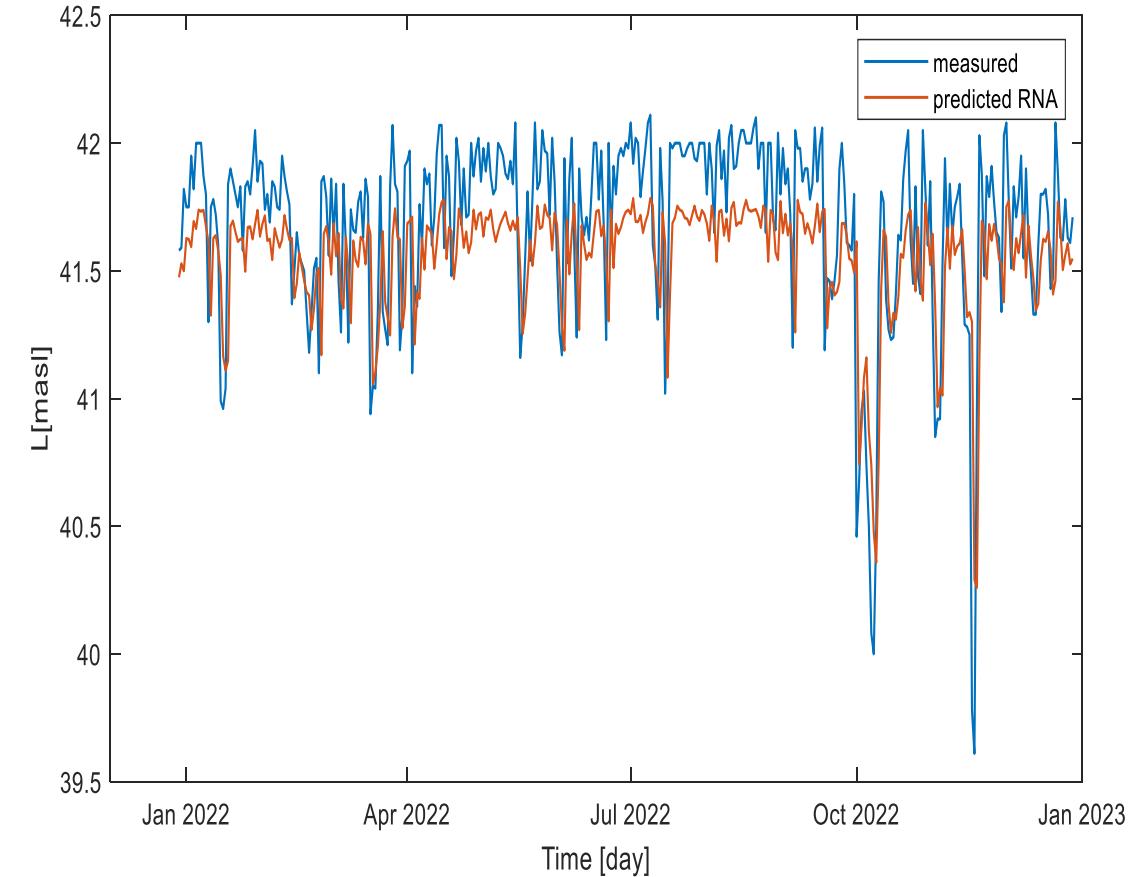


Agia Varvara reservoir / Makrochori SHPP (PPCR)

LEVEL, 2021, RMSE=0.1192 (for 365 days forecasting)

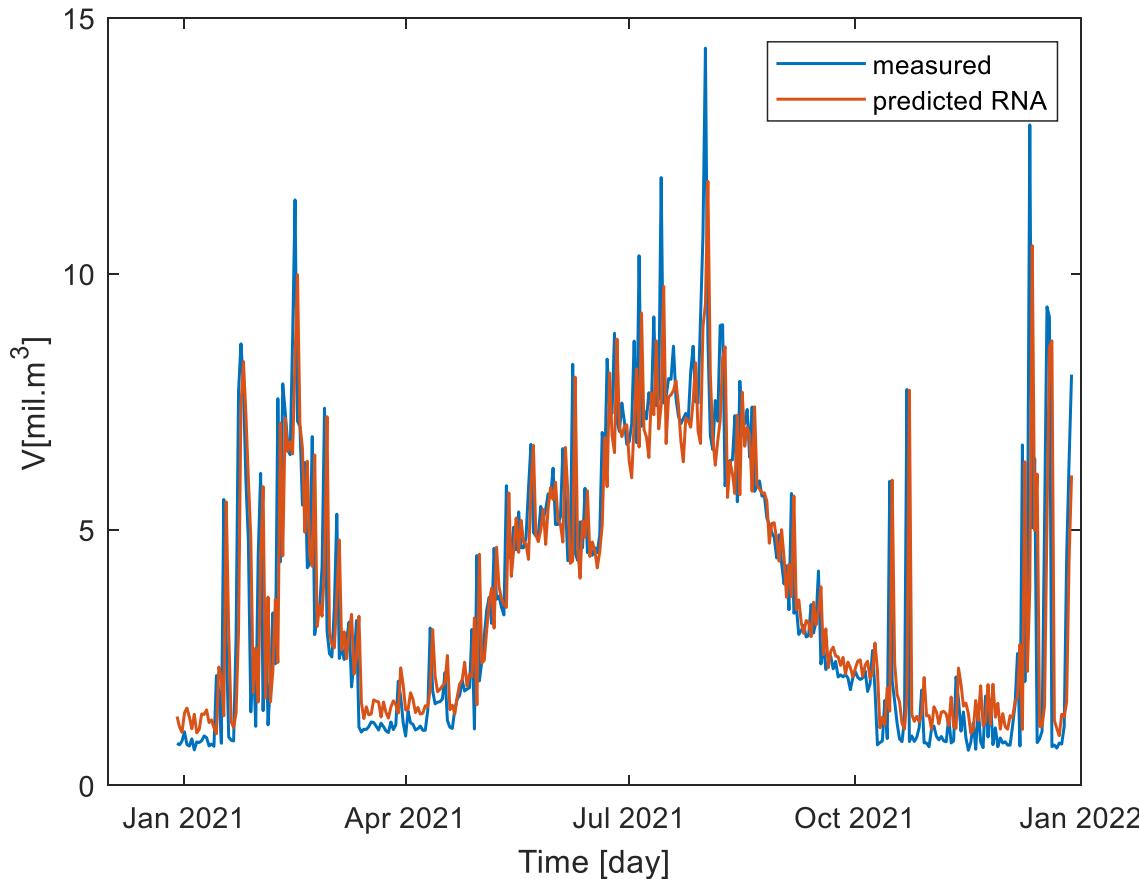


LEVEL, 2022, RMSE=0.3020 (for 365 days forecasting)

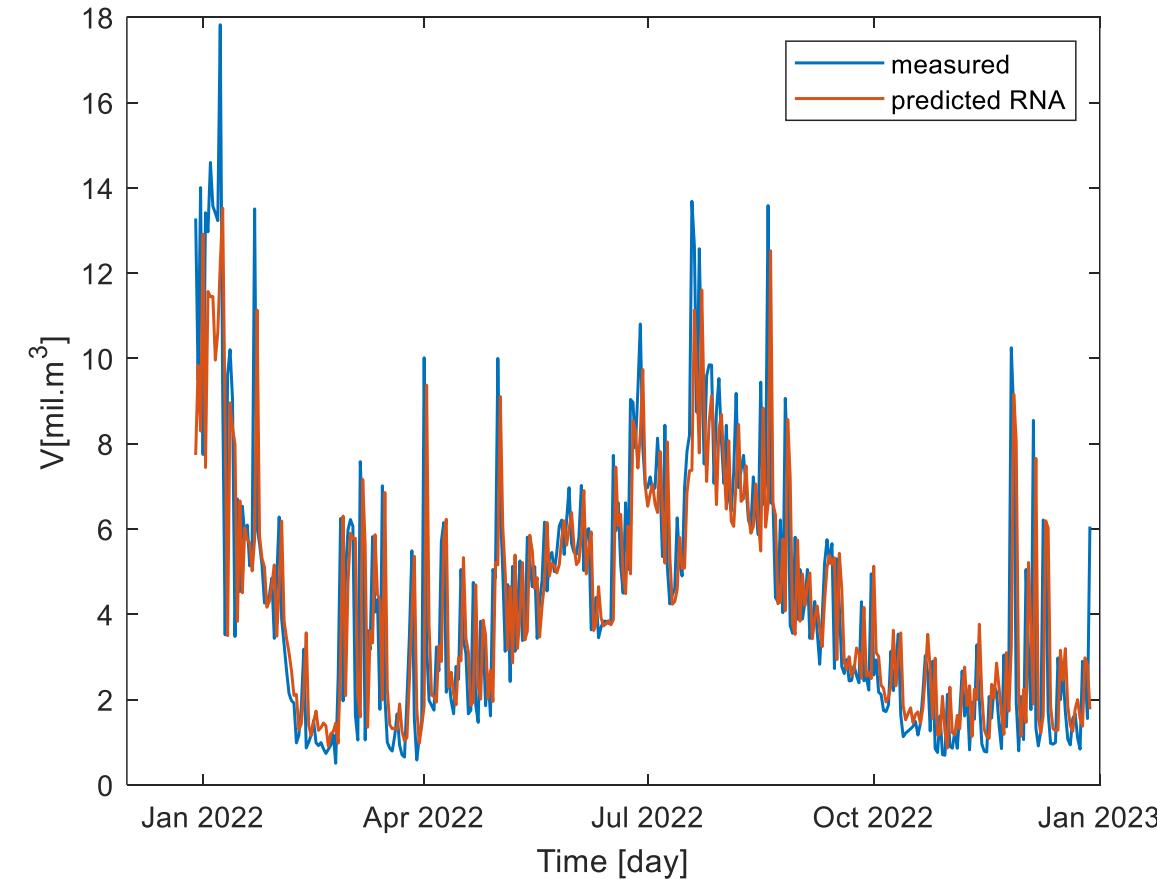


Agia Varvara reservoir / Makrochori SHPP (PPCR)

INFLOW, 2021, RMSE=1.63 (for 365 days forecasting)



INFLOW, 2022, RMSE=2.11 (for 365 days forecasting)



Conclusions

Work in progress

- iAMP-Hydro commenced in October 2023 – preliminary results of flow forecasting promising but much work to be done over the coming >2 years.
- Challenge of irrigation and drought in Southern Europe a recurring theme across our five pilot plants – solutions needed to adapt to these conditions.
- Other elements of digitalisation work ongoing (condition monitoring, biodiversity monitoring, secure data management, decision support, etc)
- Co-development workshops: keen to engage with stakeholders to co-develop solutions and showcase demo site. Next event on Artificial Intelligence in hydropower digitalisation in Dec 4th (Online Event)
- More details at www.iamp-hydro.eu





iAMP-Hydro



Thank you!

Contact

Prof. Aonghus McNabola

Professor in Energy and Environment,

Dept. of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering,

Trinity College Dublin,

Dublin, Ireland.

D02 PN40

amcnabol@tcd.ie

Partners



Trinity College
The University of Dublin



Cuerva
Energía Transparente



Suite5
We Deliver Intelligence



EasyHydro



CENTRO
TECNOLÓGICO
CARTIF



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101122167.

