



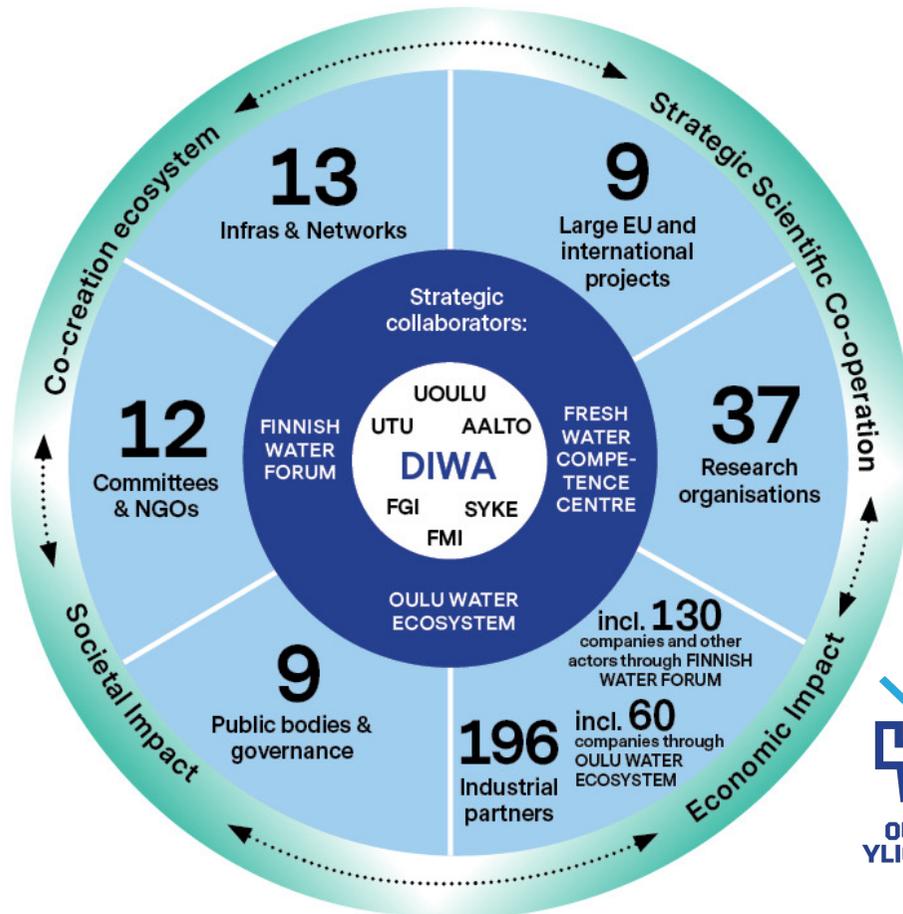
# Co-developing the DIWA Digital Twin for water management

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# Digital Waters (DIWA) Consortium



DIWA brings together a group of **experts in the multidisciplinary water sector, spatial information and information technology**

>230 Researchers (~60 PhD Pilot Students)

Connections to various actors: **companies, ministries, and local level actors** (cities, municipalities, citizens) - Multiactor approach

**Co-creation** based solutions. Direct connection to planning and decision-making. Citizen science as part of R&D activities



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# Digital Twin Architecture

A **digital twin** is a virtual representation of a **physical system**.

It is continuously updated with **real-time data** from that system.

The virtual representation allows for **simulation, analysis, and control** of the physical counterpart.

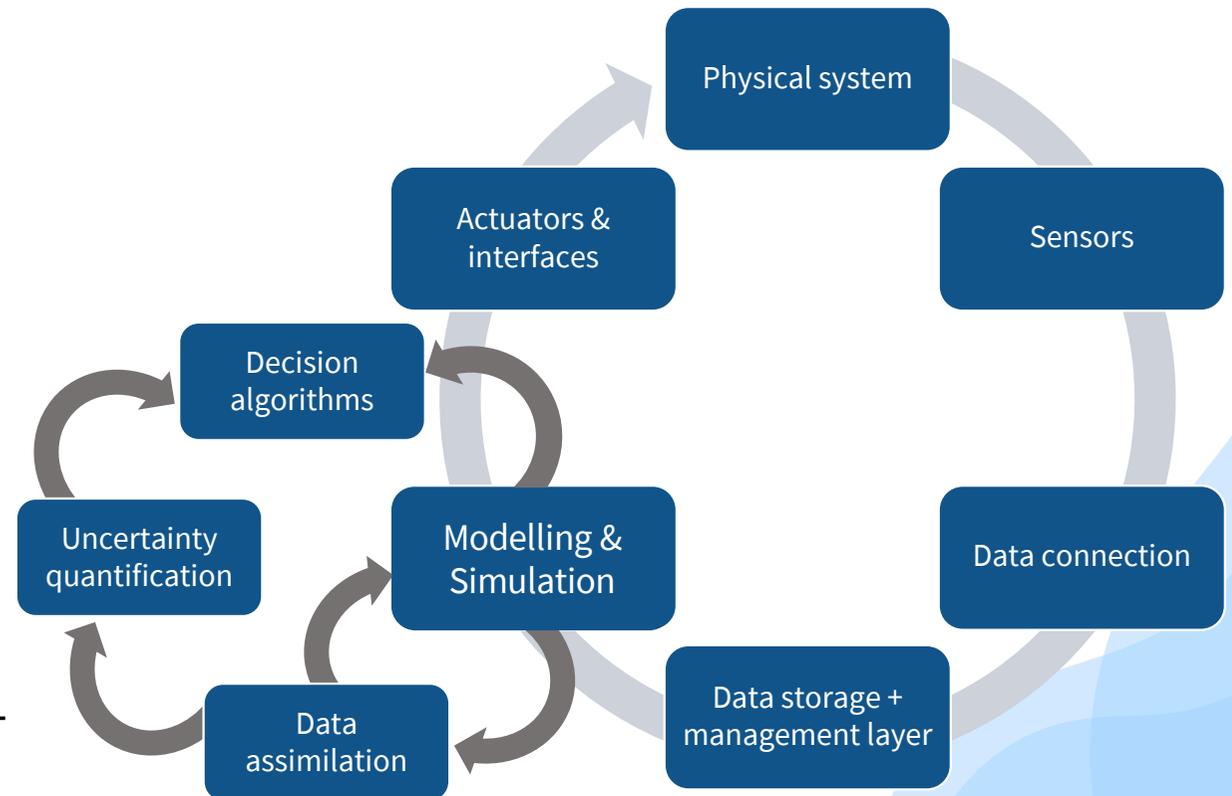
**The digital twin architecture** is an **interconnected computational system** that facilitates the flow of data and information between developers, users, and the environment.



# Digital Twin: overview

Components of a Digital Twin:

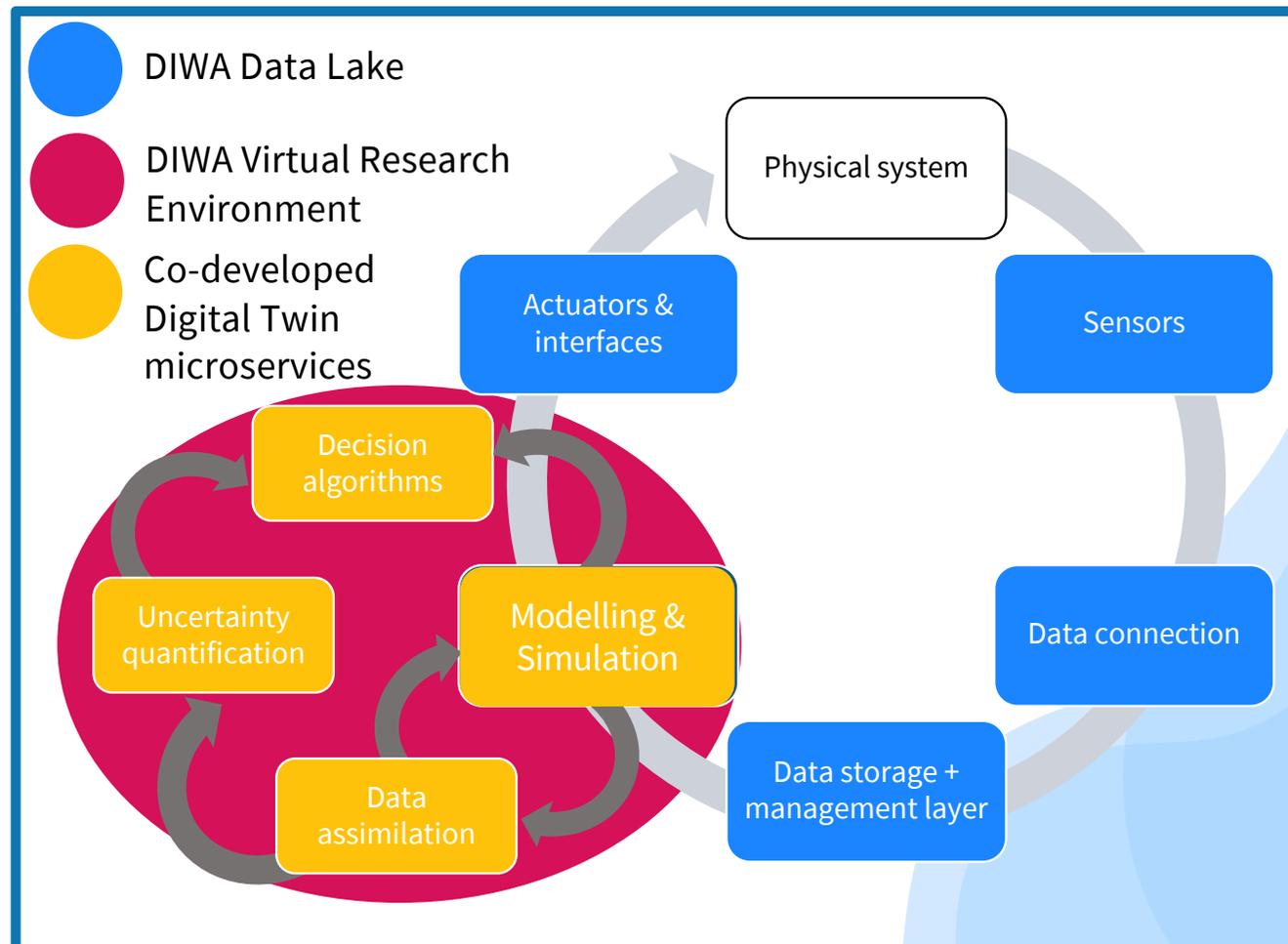
- **Physical system:** some part of reality that humans want to understand and/or manage.
- **Sensors:** detect physical properties and produce digital signals
- **Data connection:** converts digital signal to data object, and transfers information to central processor
- **Data storage & management:** stores, formats, and organizes data objects; generates analysis ready data.
- **Modelling Layer:** utilizes analysis ready data to make predictions, and interpret predictions, allowing insight.
- **Actuators and interfaces:** modify physical conditions (either through IoT or insight to decision makers).



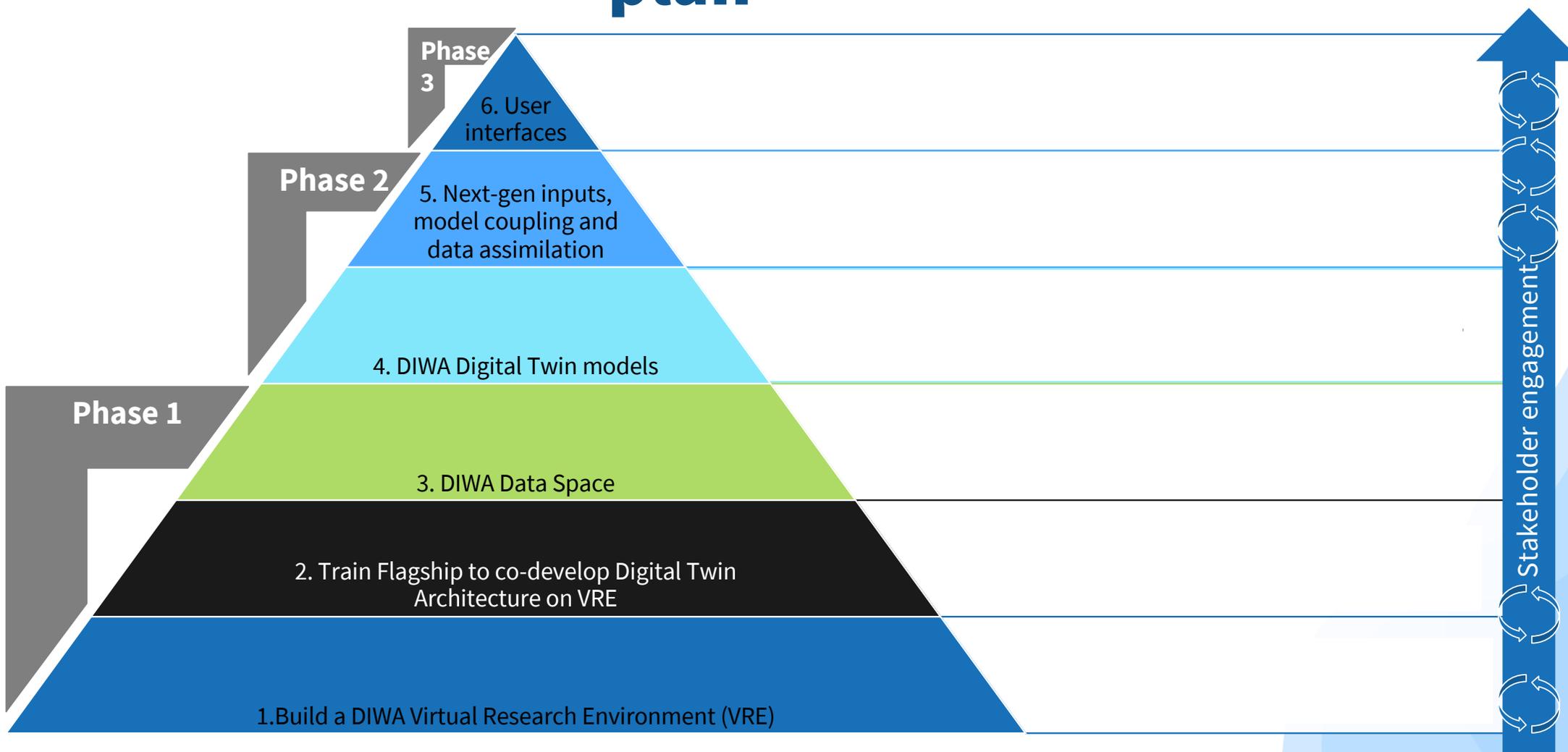
# Digital Waters Digital Twin Architecture

The **digital twin architecture** is an **computational pipeline** that facilitates the flow of data and information between users and the environment.

- **Research data pipelines** overlap with **digital twin data pipelines**
  - Data collection, data processing, modelling, interpretation, presentation of results.
- Standard protocols + research infrastructure enable co-development
  - FAIR Compliant
  - OGC Standards
  - European Interoperability Framework
  - Shared HPC + Software + Data Systems



# The 6-step DT Architecture development plan



# Step 1: Where we work together.

- DIWA DataLab
- JupyterHub VRE on CSC.fi
- Translate research code into Digital Water Labs:
  - Public interaction with GitHub repository enabled by BinderHub
  - Voila, Dash, Streamlit allow the public at large to interact with data visualizations
  - Supports open, reproducible research + scientific communication
- Co-develop DIWA Digital Twin Models:
  - Coupled, interoperable process + data drive models w/ automatic data assimilation
  - User interfaces enable stakeholder engagement for scenario evaluation and design
- Design and host user interfaces for DIWA Digital Twin Models





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The JupyterLab IDE with Python and a collection of standard data science packages.

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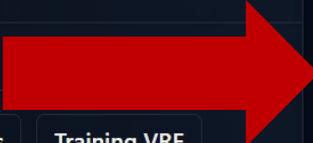
### Data Science Notebook

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Small (8 CPU, 32G RAM)

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 **QGIS** QGIS

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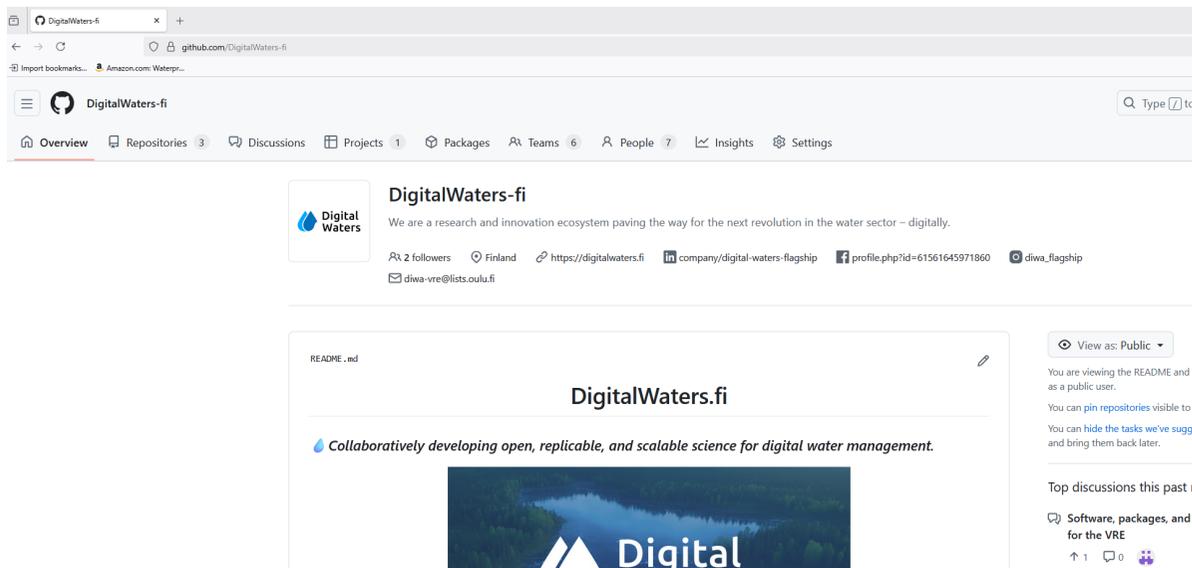
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 **Meshlab**

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# DigitalWaters.fi GitHub Organization



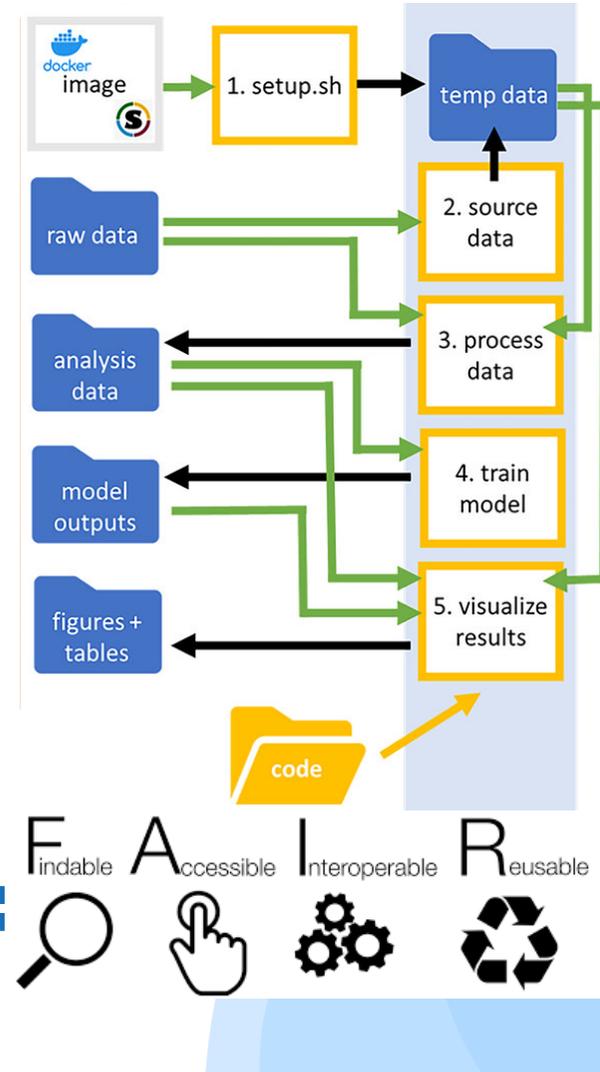
Scan QR code or visit  
<https://github.com/DigitalWaters-fi>

- Public-facing hub for DIWA Digital repositories + images
- Coming soon: live hosting with BinderHub
- Develop, research, and collaborate
  - Version control, track contributions, undo mistakes.
- Access the DIWA DataLab and DataLake.
- Discussions, trainings, projects

# Step 2: How we work together.

Training on DIWA Digital Twin technology

1. PhD Pilot Course: water digitalization
  - Learn open-source software + FAIR best practices
  - Publish a GitHub repository with standard elements
  - Co-design AI policy and usefulness metrics
2. DIWA GitHub organization
  - Publish trainings
  - Access software + tools
  - Collaborate + get help
3. Digital Twin Webinars
  - Launch products + train flagship

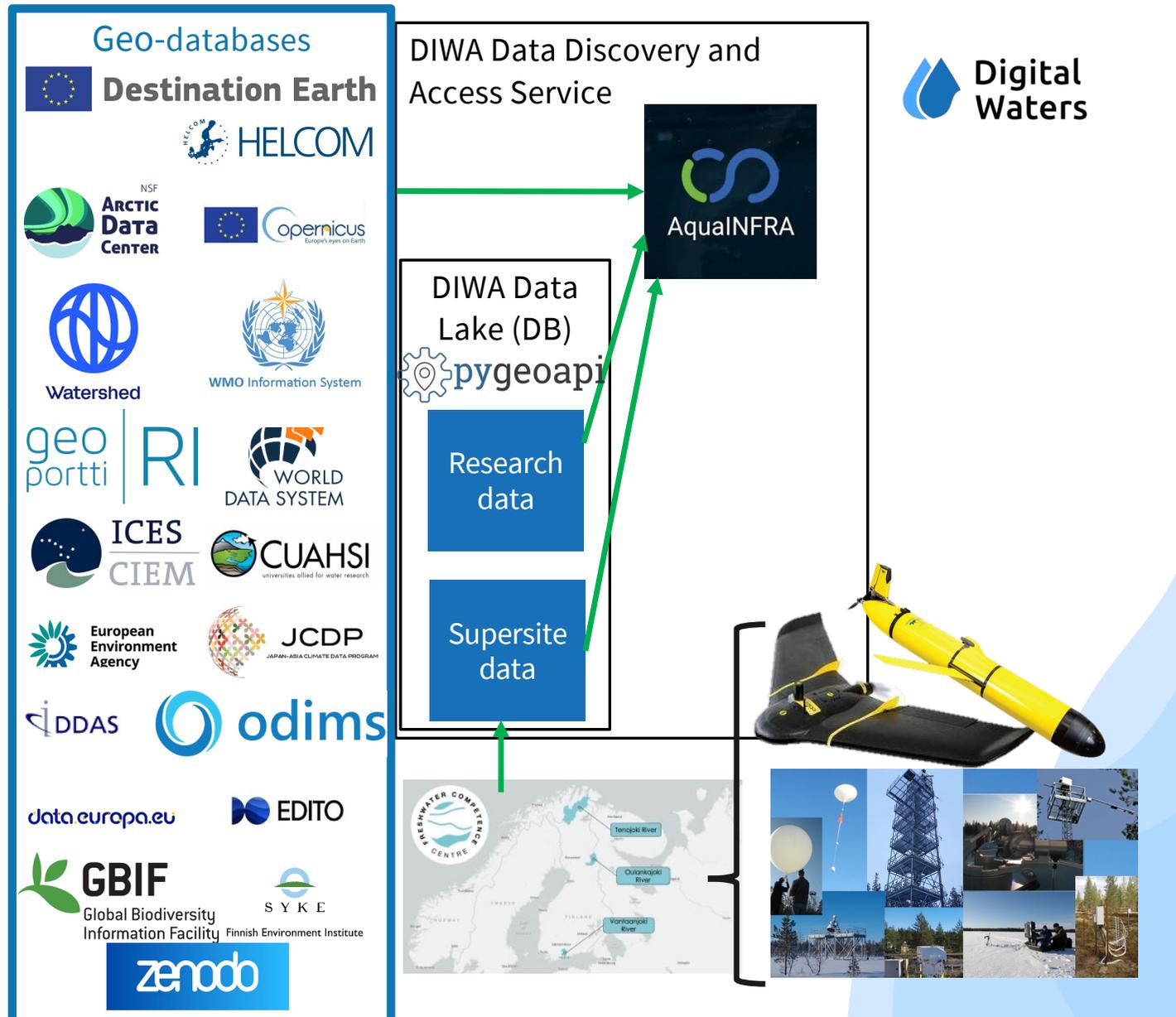


 **COOKIECUTTER** +  **binder** =  **F**indable  **A**ccessible  **I**nteroperable  **R**eusable

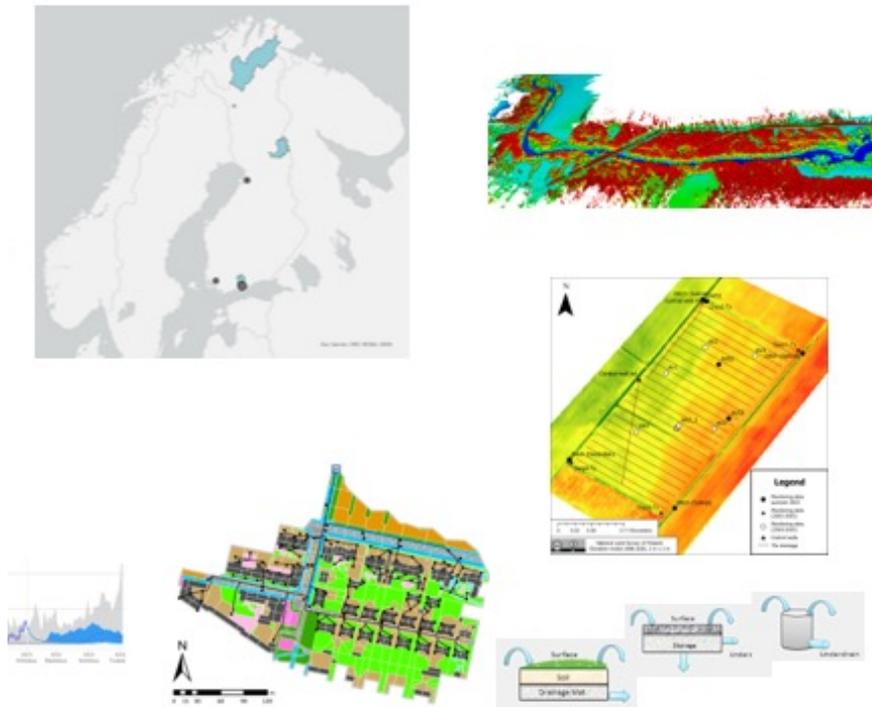
# Step 3. Streamline data access.

## DIWA DATA SPACE.

- Data Discovery and Access Service
  - Build on AqualNFRA DDAS
  - Search 90 million datasets from one place
- Data Lake:
  - New observations: GEOPORTTI + HYDRO + CRYO RIS
  - Experiments + field work
  - Model data + outputs
- DIWA Data Space interoperability framework
  - open standards to ensure that geospatial data can be seamlessly shared and used across different systems, applications
  - OGC standards for data models and APIs
  - European Interoperability Framework



# Step 4. Get insight from data.



- DIWA Model Lab
- Coupled and interchangeable
  - hydrologic/hydraulic/systems models provide information on system fluxes at management-relevant scales
  - We are starting with HBV, SWAT+, SpaPHY
  - Images on DIWA Data Lab
  - Coupled + Interchangeable
- Data assimilation system
  - Compare observations to predictions in real-time
  - Models get smarter over time
  - Integrating process and data-drive (ML/AI models)
  - Integrate rich data inputs from Geoportti, JERICO, CRYO, HYDRO-RI

# Step 6. Bring data-driven insights to water resources management.

## DIWA WaterLab

- Intuitive and transparent user interfaces
- Diverse stakeholders access ModelLab and DataSpace
  - Dashboards
  - User interfaces
  - Chatbots
- Tools for hypothesis testing
- Tools for system and scenario analysis



## FGI Geospatial Visualization and XR Lab

# User interfaces: stakeholder-driven design



User survey, in collaboration with SYKE, EDC-centres and ministries

Broader themes – catchment-based planning and digitalization

1. What are the current challenges in and enablers of integrating catchment-based planning?
2. Current use of and needs for digital services, tools, and data

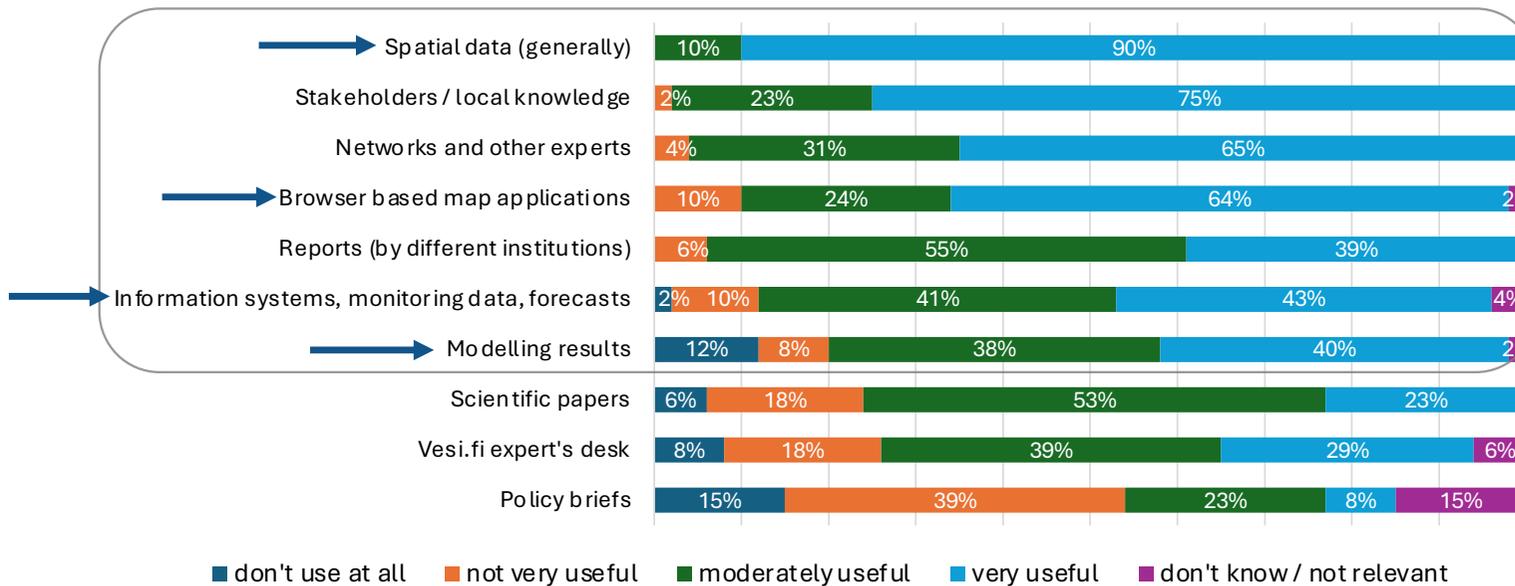
Actor group	Organisations	Responses	Total
National/regional level (ELY)	ELY-centres (10)	13	14
	Ministry	1	
Municipalities	Municipalities (16)	16	17
	Regional council	1	
Water associations	Water associations (3)	9	9
Research & education	Universities	2	4
	Research institutes (1)	2	
Private sector, sectoral organisations & others	Private sector & consultancies	3	7
	Sectoral organisations	3	
	Other	1	
			<b>Total 51</b>

*Slide by Alexandra Malmström, Mirjami Lantto Klein, Mia Pihlajamäki, Marko Keskinen / Aalto University  
Lauri Ahopelto, Mika Marttunen / SYKE*

# Information sources and services: current state / use

Q: Which of the following sources of information do you use in your work?  
Rate their usefulness in your tasks related to catchment-based planning

Usefulness of information sources

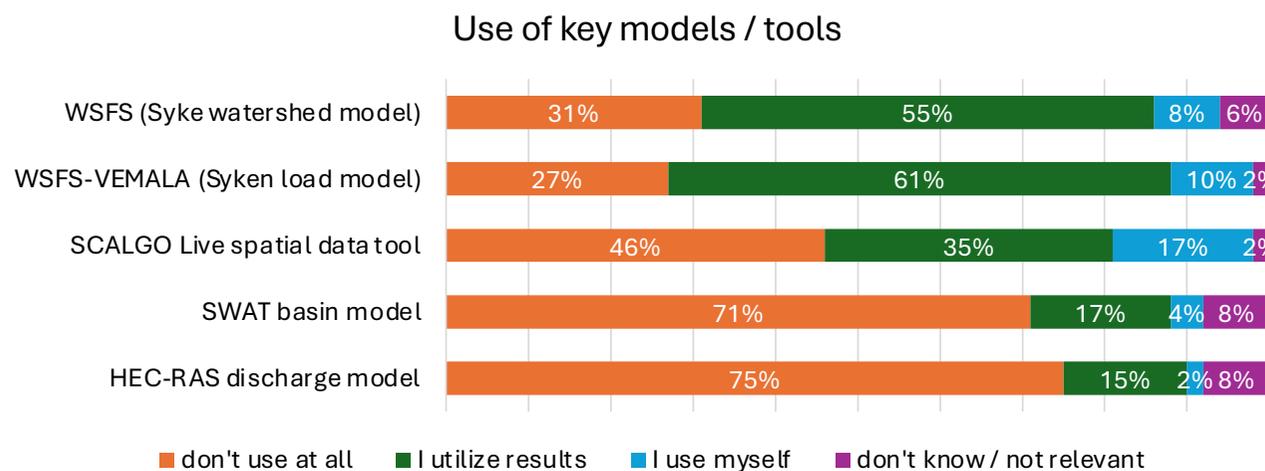


## Important spatial datasets:

- catchment areas
- property borders and landownership
- land use and land cover
- soil characteristics
- ecological indicators, species, and protected areas
- flood maps
- stormwater sewer systems
- water quality/load
- water discharge
- groundwater
- sensitivity to erosion
- elevation

# Information sources and services: current state / use

Q: Below is a list of various watershed and environmental models and tools used in water management. Do you use these models or their results in your work?



Few respondents reported using the models / tools themselves, but many reported utilising their results

→ Production of e.g., scenario reports based on models important

# Information sources and services

## Key needs

- Sources and services accessible through one platform
- Integration of different types of data under the same service
- Spatial information regarding ongoing, planned, or implemented activities and measures
- Tools supporting the planning of water management measures
  - Helping with the identification of potential measures for a specific location / locations for specific measures
  - Modelling scenarios / impacts of measures
- Tools enabling the visualisation and demonstration of action impacts (to stakeholders)

## Also...

Spatial datasets on:

- landowners
- automatic / continuous water quality / load monitoring
- more accurate elevation measurements / modelling (laser-scanned)
- better ecological and environmental data (e.g., protected species and areas)

Tools for:

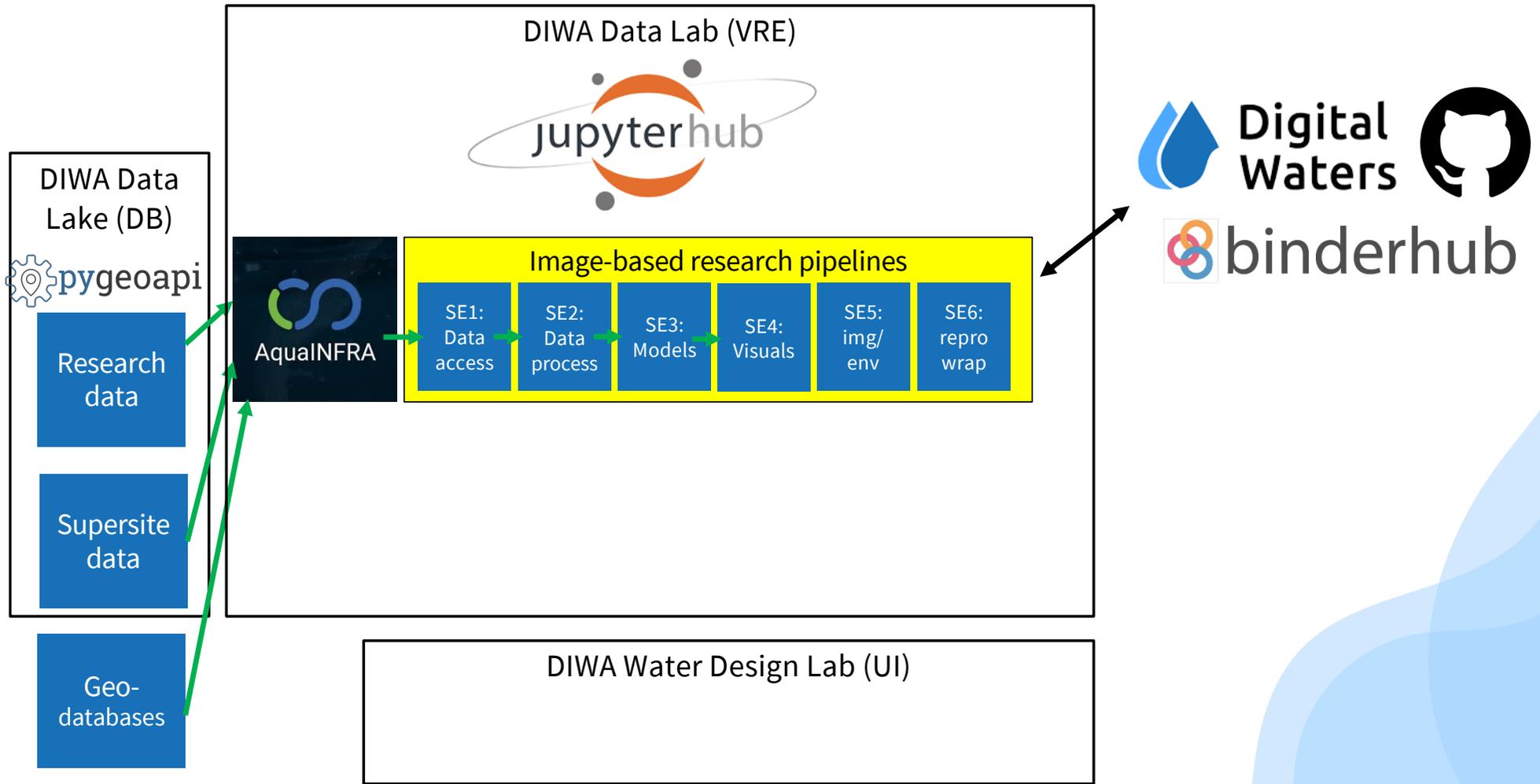
- definition / delineation of catchment areas
- discharge / hydrology / flood risk modelling
- water quality / load modelling

# Planned DIWA Digital Twin Services

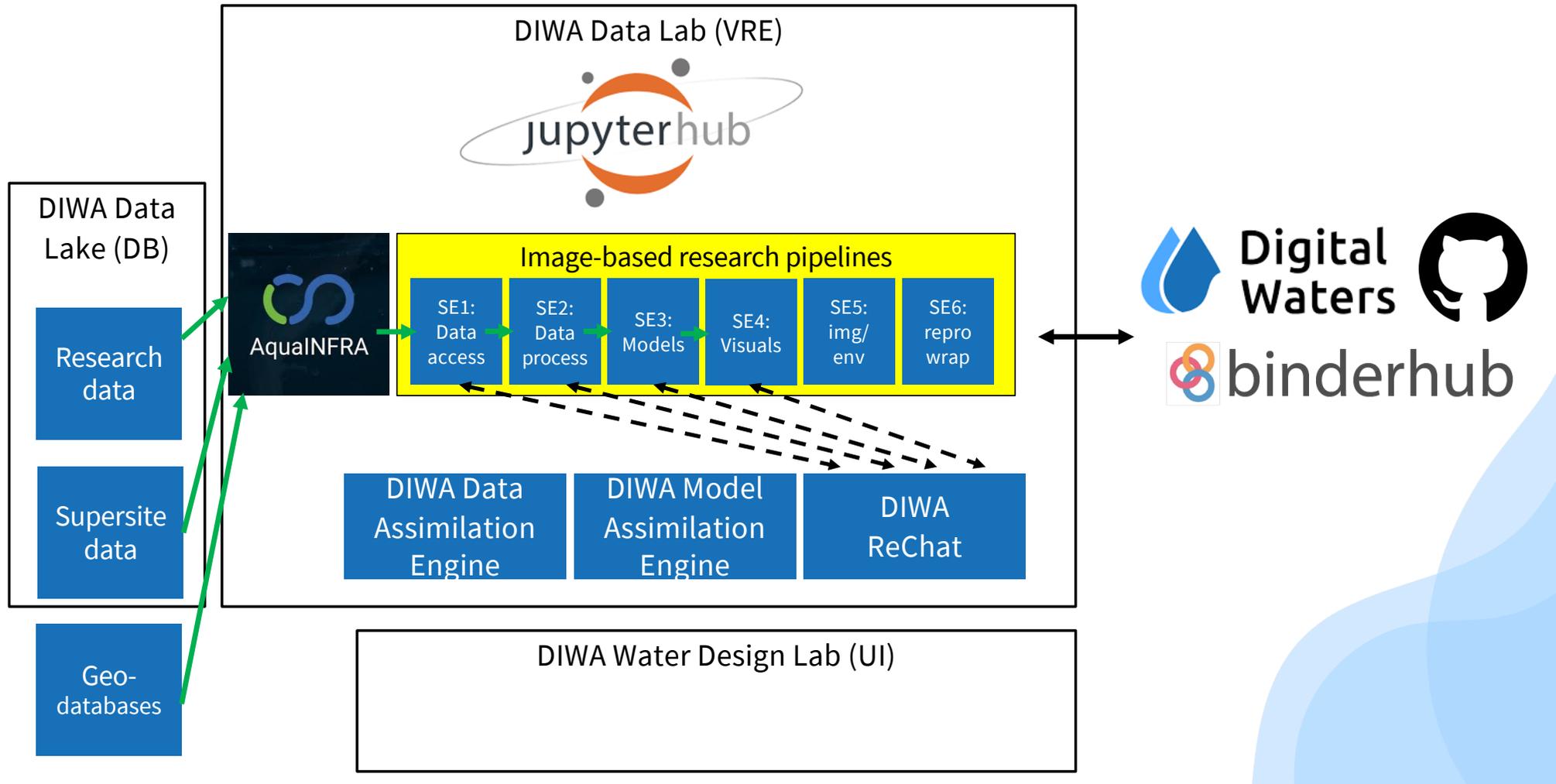
- Design + Management**
- Researchers**
- **DIWA DataLab:** a JupyterHub based virtual research environment with a BinderHub public access point promoting open science, training, and co-development of DT services (Dec 2025)
  - **DIWA Data Discovery and Access Service:** a federated search that brings observations geodatabases, national infrastructure, supersites, and research into the DIWA DataLab (Spring 2026)
  - **DIWA ReChat:** a knowledge-aware hydrology focused chatbot to empower development of data-to-knowledge pipelines on VRE (Fall 2026)
  - **DIWA ModelLab:** coupled, interoperable process models with a robust data assimilation framework facilitating design and scenario evaluation (Spring 2027)
  - **DIWA WaterLab:** user interfaces for the DIWA ModelLab that support stakeholder needs (Spring 2028)



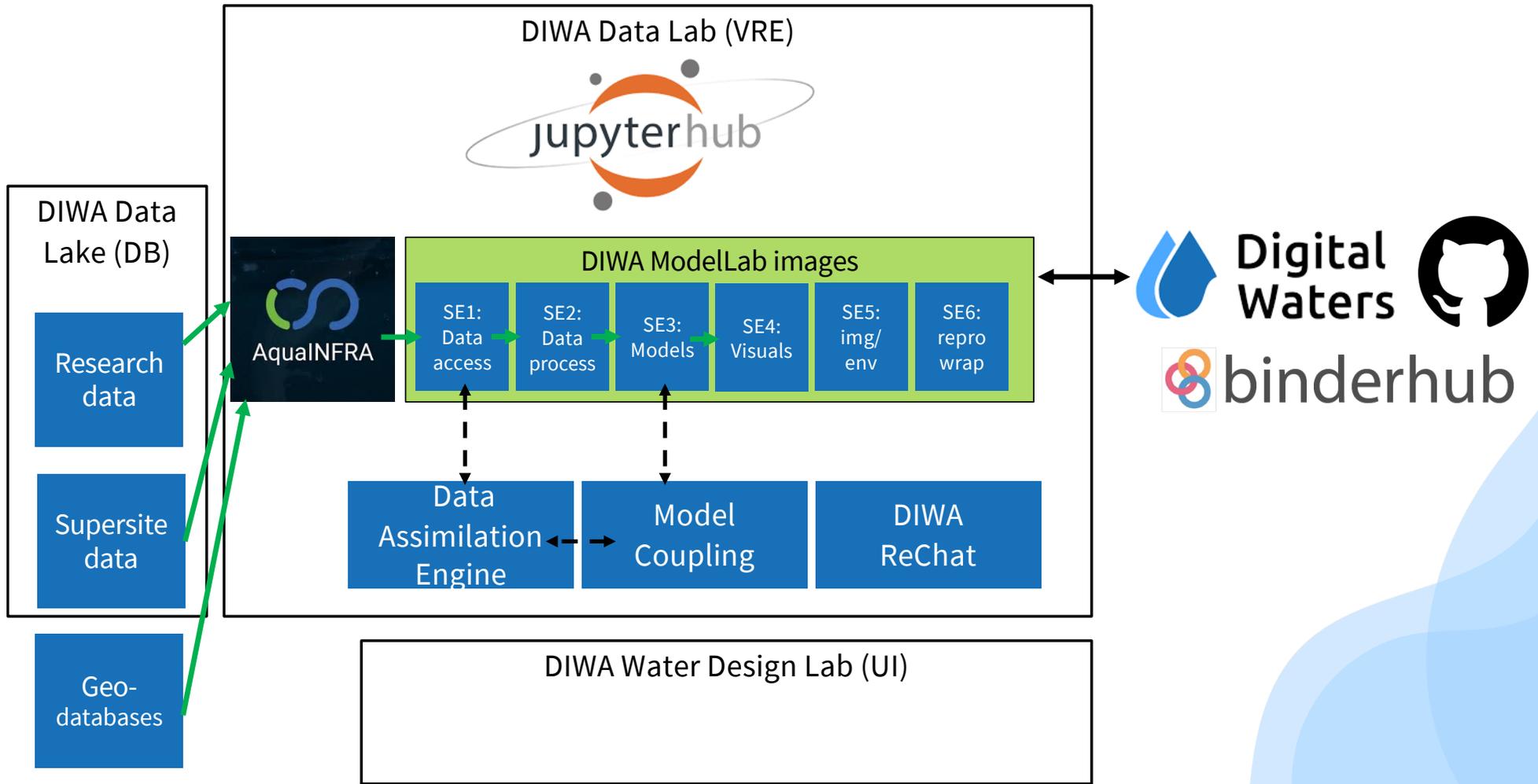
# Phase 1: Architecture



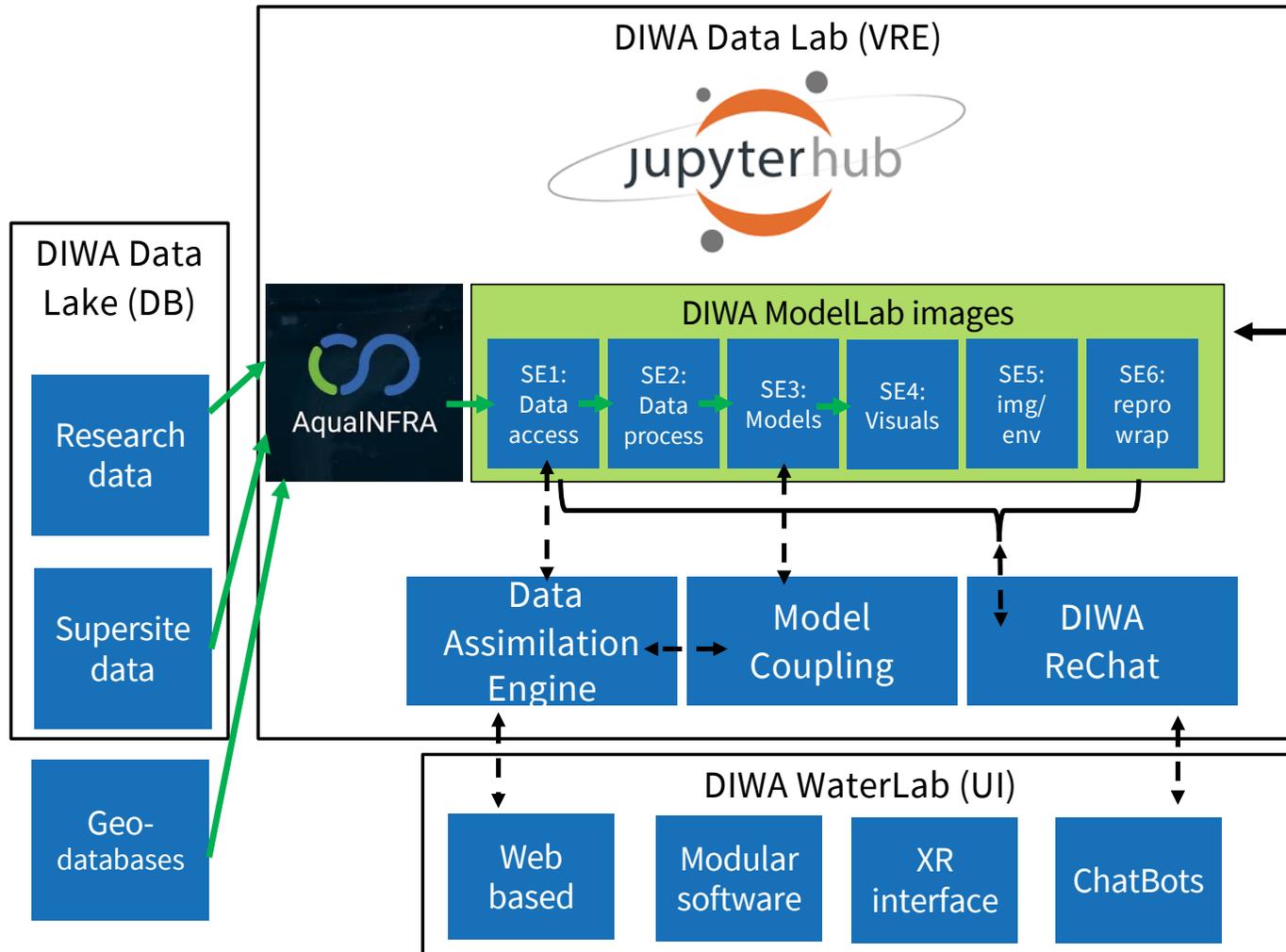
# Phase 2: AI-supported research



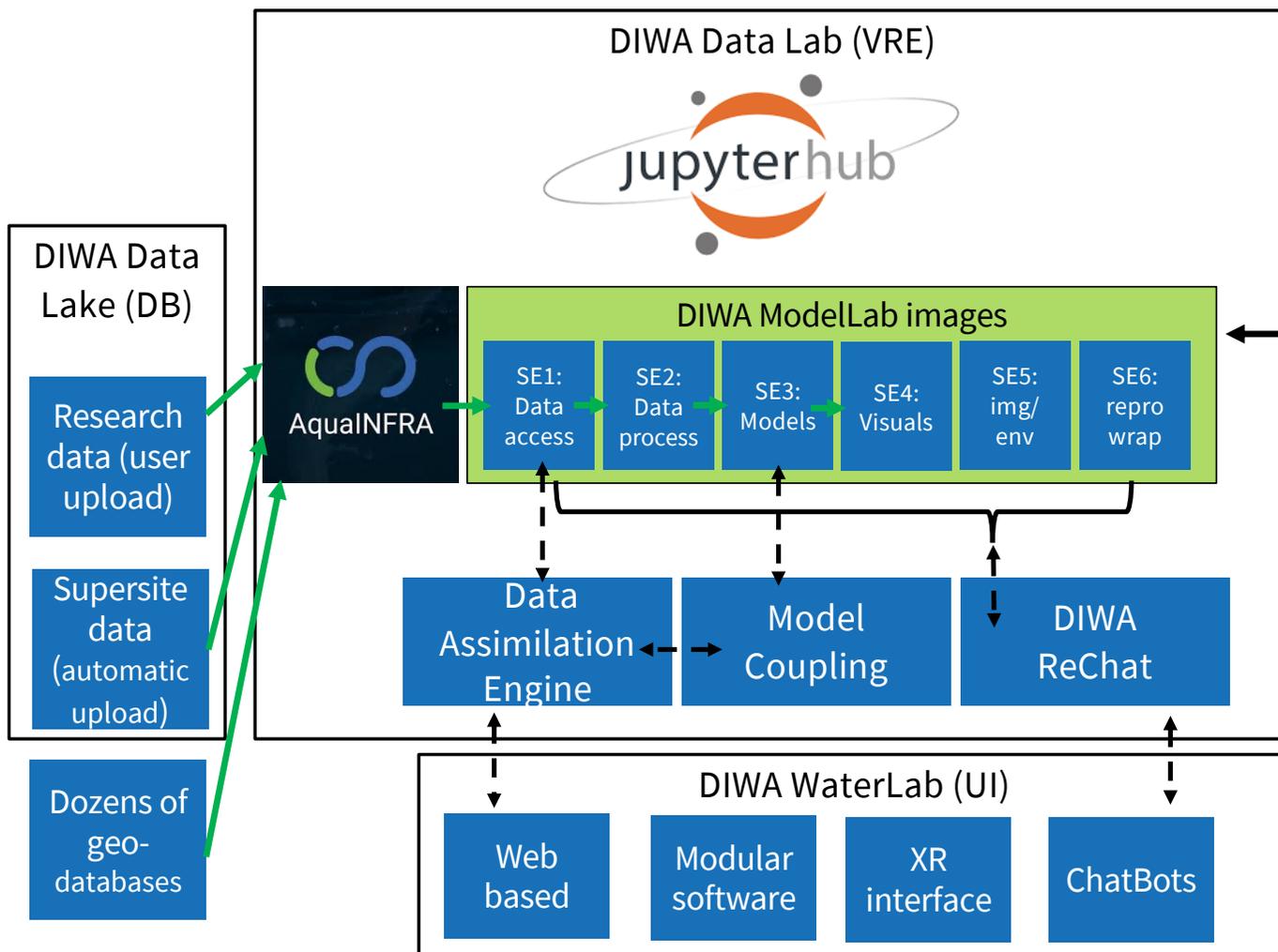
# Phase 2: Models + Middleware



# Phase 3: Data-driven design



# How DIWA services work together



# Summary: DIWA Digital Twin co-development



1. DIWA Data Lab: a JupyterHub environment for collaborative development.
  1. OGC Data Models + Development Standards: maximize interoperability
  2. User-driven workflow libraries accelerate development
  3. BinderHub + Voila + Dash enables research/public engagement with research code
2. DIWA ReChat: a domain-specialized, knowledge aware chatbot that leverages insight from DIWA researcher pipelines to modify software and code
3. DIWA Data Space: OGC compliant research data management + AquaINFRA-driven federated searches
4. DIWA ModelLab: coupled, interchangeable process + data driven models, with data assimilation, enabled by APIs, OpenMI, and CMI.
5. DIWA WaterLab: Scaffolding stakeholder-driven **user interfaces** to DIWA ModelLab to enable data-driven water management

# Thank you!

Elizabeth Carter, PhD  
Research Coordinator, Digital Twin Architecture  
Digital Waters Flagship  
[Elizabeth.carter@oulu.fi](mailto:Elizabeth.carter@oulu.fi)



FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME



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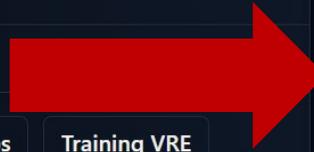
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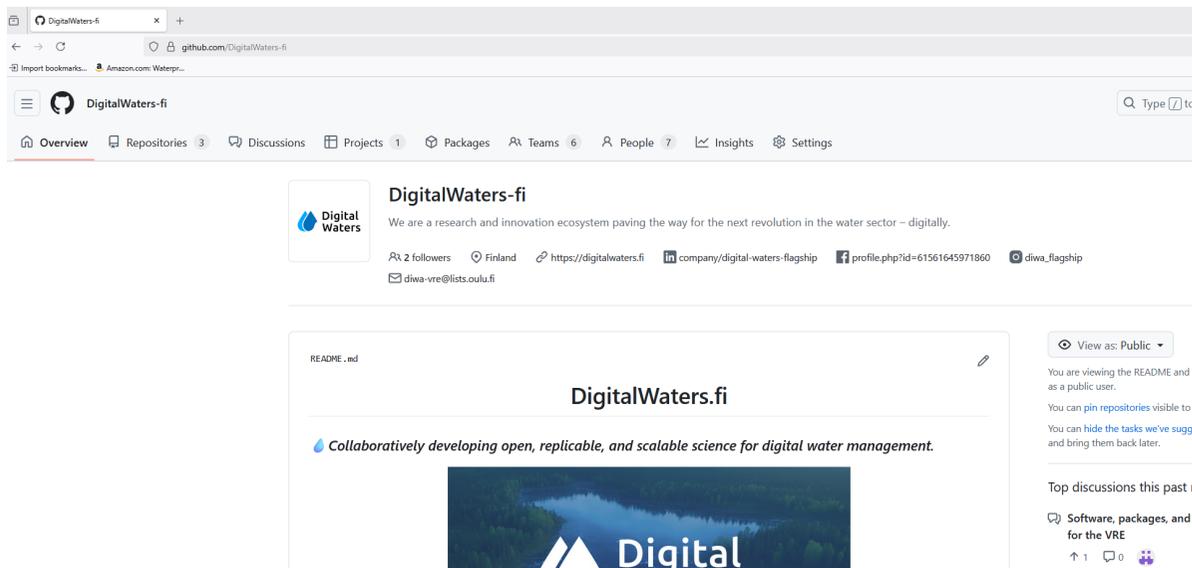
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- Coming soon: live hosting with BinderHub
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  - Version control, track contributions, undo mistakes.
- Access the DIWA DataLab and DataLake.
- Discussions, trainings, projects