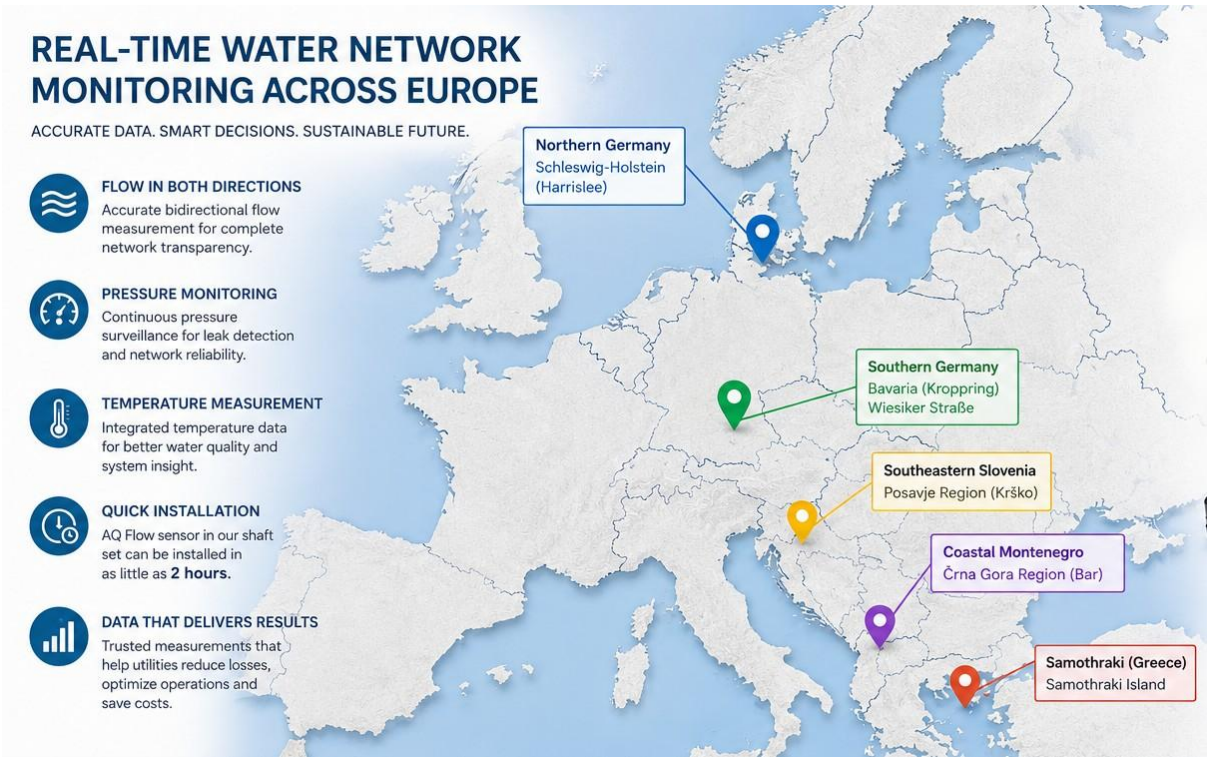
What Europe's Summer 2026 Revealed About Water Networks



Real monitoring data from five European water networks

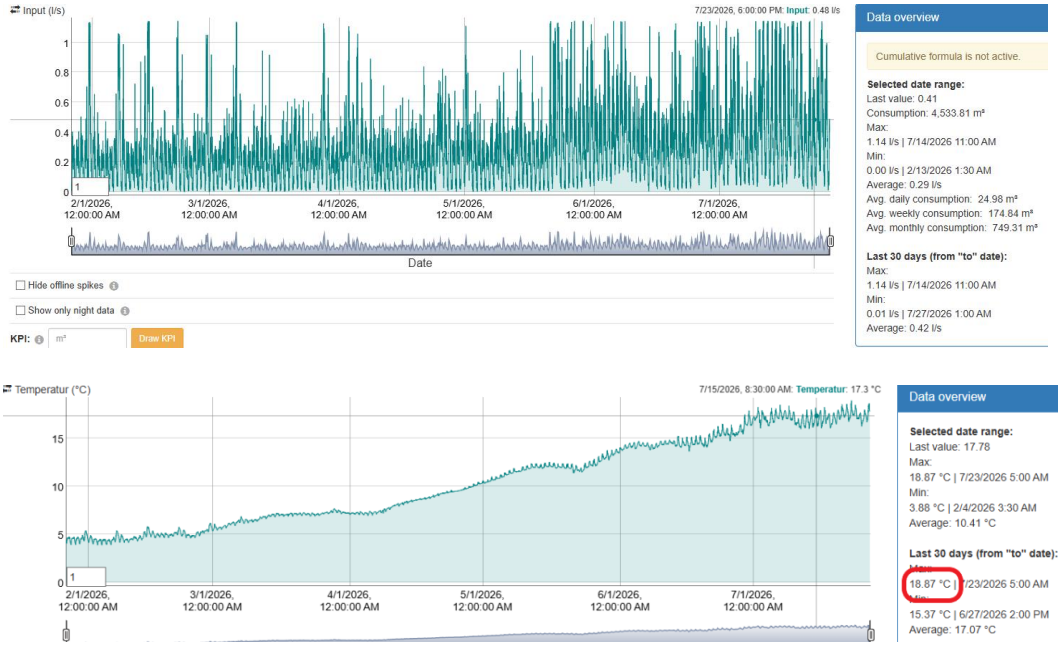
During the summer of 2026, Europe experienced another period of unusually high temperatures. While media focused on droughts and heatwaves, we analysed something different – how real water distribution networks actually responded.

Using monitoring data collected by AQ Flow systems across Europe, we compared water networks operating under very different conditions: continental cities, coastal regions and a tourist island.

The results clearly showed one important fact:

Every water network reacts differently.

Southern Germany (Bavaria)



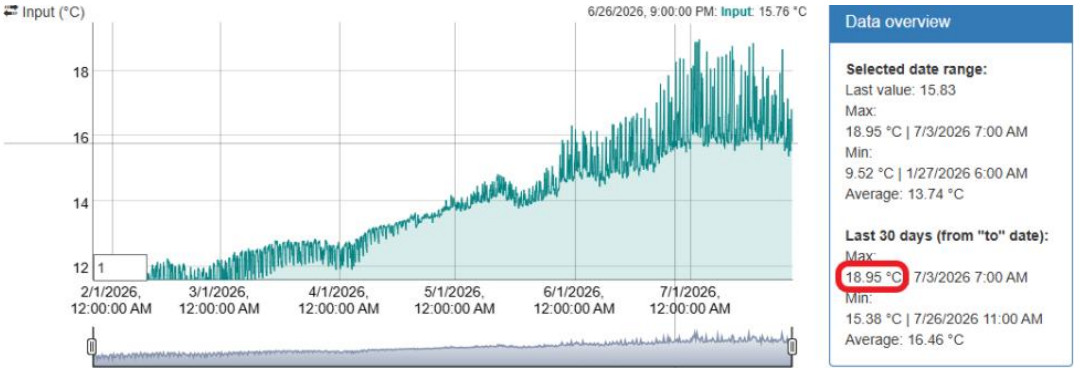
What changed?

- Water demand increased noticeably during the summer months.
- Daily consumption peaks became more frequent.
- Water temperature increased from approximately **4°C** to almost **19°C**.
- Despite higher demand, pressure remained remarkably stable.

Key insight

This network demonstrates how increasing summer demand does not necessarily lead to pressure problems when the system is properly managed.

Southeastern Slovenia



What changed?

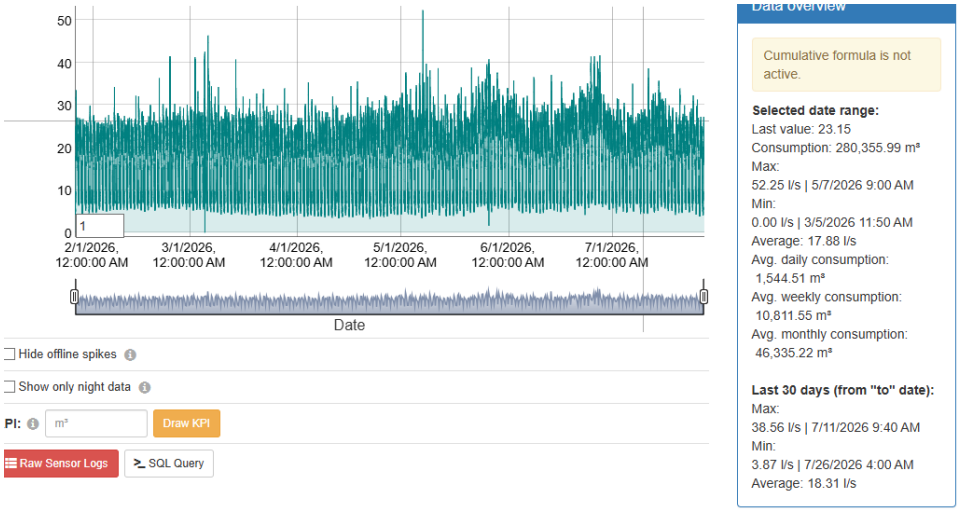
Unlike Bavaria, overall consumption remained relatively constant throughout the monitoring period.

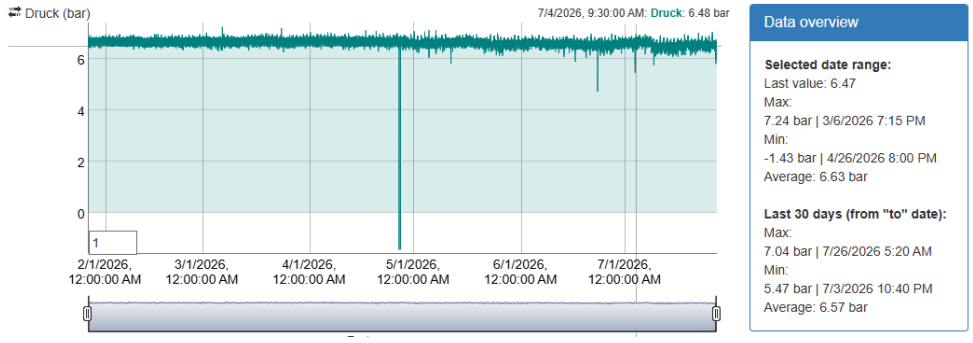
However, water temperature increased by almost **10°C**.

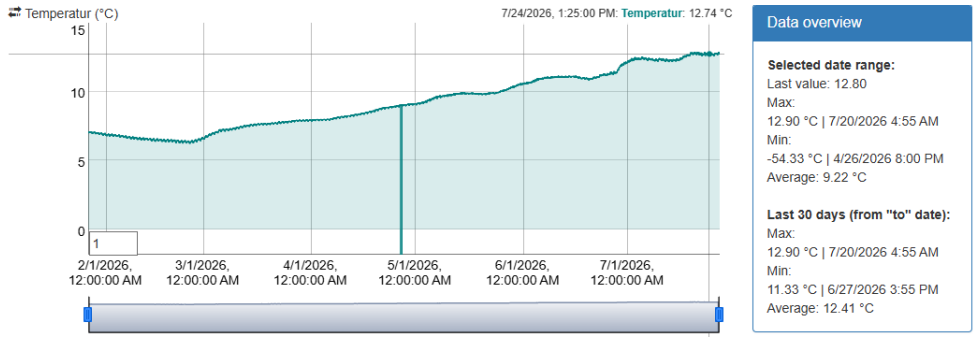
Key insight

Not every network experiences higher demand during summer, but almost every network experiences warmer water.

Northern Germany (Schleswig-Holstein)







What changed?

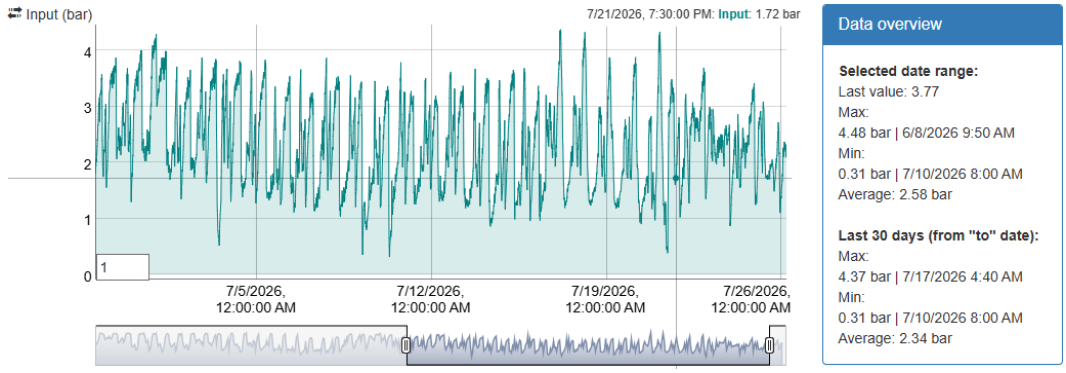
The monitored network in Northern Germany showed the most stable hydraulic behaviour of all monitored locations.

- Water demand remained almost unchanged throughout the monitoring period.
- Pressure remained constant with only minor daily variations.
- Water temperature increased only moderately, from approximately **7°C** to around **13°C**, reflecting the cooler northern climate.

Key insight

Northern European water networks may experience far smaller seasonal variations than those in southern regions. Nevertheless, continuous monitoring remains essential for detecting operational changes and establishing a reliable long-term baseline.

Coastal Montenegro



What changed?

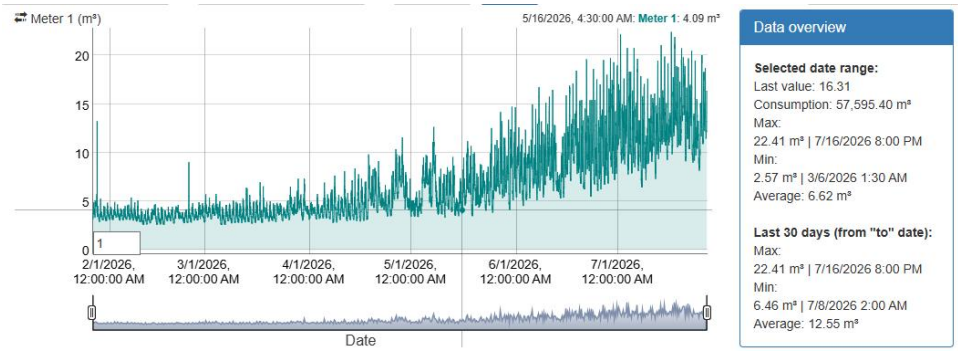
The monitored coastal network showed significantly larger daily pressure fluctuations compared to inland systems.

The demand profile also changed throughout the day, reflecting local operating conditions.

Key insight

Coastal systems often require different operational strategies than continental water networks.

Samothraki, Greece



This was perhaps the most striking example.

Average water consumption increased steadily from spring into the tourist season.

Compared with winter values, average daily demand nearly tripled, while peak consumption exceeded **22 m³**.

Key insight

Seasonal tourism can completely change the hydraulic behaviour of a water network within only a few weeks.

What all five networks have in common

Although every system behaved differently, several common patterns appeared.

- ✔ Water demand changes were highly location dependent.
- ✔ Water temperature increased significantly across continental Europe.

✔ Pressure remained stable in well-managed systems despite increased demand.

✔ Seasonal demand can dramatically increase in tourist regions.

The conclusion is simple:

Operational decisions should be based on measurements, not assumptions.

From data to action

The biggest challenge for many utilities is not understanding the importance of monitoring—it is installing measurement points quickly and cost-effectively.

For this reason, Aqualink developed the **AQ Flow Shaft Installation Set**.

Instead of constructing a new metering chamber, utilities can install a complete monitoring point directly inside an existing valve chamber.

Typical installation time is approximately **2 hours**.

One installation. Four critical parameters.

These observations also highlight another challenge. Utilities need reliable field measurements, but installing permanent monitoring points is often expensive and time-consuming.

To address this challenge, Aqualink developed the AQ Flow Shaft Installation Set.

A single AQ Flow installation provides:

- Bidirectional flow measurement
- Pressure monitoring
- Water temperature monitoring
- Battery-powered cloud connectivity

All data is immediately available through AQ Web for historical analysis, alarms and operational decision-making.

Why utilities choose AQ Flow

Instead of installing multiple independent sensors, operators receive all essential hydraulic parameters from a single measuring point.

The result is:

- faster commissioning,
- lower installation costs,
- no need for civil construction,
- immediate visibility of network behaviour.

Final thought

Europe's summer of 2026 showed that no two water networks behave the same.

Some experienced higher demand.

Others saw rapidly increasing water temperatures.

Tourist regions faced seasonal peaks.

Coastal systems showed different pressure dynamics.

However, every utility shared the same need:

Better operational decisions begin with better field measurements.

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