

A common vision for European Water Innovation



Dear WssTP friends,

We are less than a month before Water Innovation Europe 2016 officially raises its curtains on the 22nd of June at the Diamant Centre in Brussels.



Here at WssTP, we are very glad to have put together an exciting programme that brings together a diverse mix of speakers with innovative and cutting-edge presentations from all the aspects of the European water sector. Once again, WIE2016 promises to be a must-attend event for professionals who want to gain new insights and stay ahead of the curve.

Along with WIE's preparations, WssTP Board held its meeting on the 10th of May 2016 and concluded on the Strategy plan process, the outline of which had been adopted by last year's general meeting. The new strategy will be presented at this year's Annual General Assembly that will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 23 June, after the closure of Water Innovation Europe 2016.

WssTP Water Vision 2030 remains at the centre of our attention, as we are working at a feverish pace to give it its final shape for the WIE2016 conference. WssTP Strategic Innovation Research Agenda 2030 will need a bit more time to get finalised. Considering this, WssTP will organise a SIRA 2030 workshop, as part of the pre-conference programme of WIE2016, where the draft of the SIRA will be presented and discussed, allowing participants to contribute with their feedback. On this basis, WssTP keeps advancing its efforts to secure a strong position for water in the Horizon2020 Work Programme 2018-2020, with the new WssTP Water Vision 2030 and WssTP SIRA2030 being core elements of this process.

Meanwhile, seventeen working groups have already scheduled their meetings in the context of WIE2016. The WG meetings are open to anyone interested in learning more about a Working Group and becoming part of it. A special poster session will be also featured during WIE2016, in which participants can find detailed information about the themes of each Working Group, its consistency and its deliverables so far. At the same time, WssTP is in the process of setting up three new Working Groups under the themes, Water and Oil, Water and Mining and Water and Infrastructures. The latter one is a joint initiative between WssTP and the European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP) and will be officially launched at the WssTP & ECTP Workshop scheduled to take place on the 1st of June in Brussels.

As we are getting closer to WIE2016, we are anticipating to build the success of one more conference on everyone's active presence and contribution. At this point, I would also like to thank all those who have injected their energy into the preparations of this conference. I look forward to welcoming you all at Water Innovation Europe 2016 on the 22nd of June in Brussels. Join us there!

Tomas Michel, WssTP President

Special article on the
**Adaptation to Climate
Change** by **Beatriz Yordi**,
Head the Adaptation
Unit in EC's DG-Clima



In April, 175 countries gathered in New York to sign the new global climate change agreement that was decided at the Paris climate conference last December and reaffirm their commitment to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

The Paris Agreement is considered by many a historic achievement – and our common work will show that this is the case. An important part of this effort will be addressing the challenges related to adaptation to climate change and loss and damage associated with its impacts. These are also among the key features of the Paris Agreement.

Adaptation to climate change is not a new policy field in the EU: a strategy for promoting resilience to climate change at EU and Member State level has been in place since 2013. Complementing the activities of Member States, the strategy supports action by promoting greater coordination and information-sharing between Member States, and by ensuring that adaptation considerations are addressed in all relevant EU policies. We will come forward with a report on the implementation next year. After this, a potential reinforcement of the adaptation strategy may be considered.

Global warming is accelerating the frequency of droughts and floods that also affect water quantity and quality. Flood damages have been increasing over the years, and droughts are moving north and east. Both of these phenomena threaten the availability and quality of water for all purposes, including food, energy, drinking water and inland navigation. These concerns are shared by EU Member States, most of which indicate water as a priority sector in their national adaptation strategies.

EU policies are responding to this context. Adaptation to climate change has been mainstreamed into the main water legislation, such as the EU Floods Directive.

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Writing Committee: M. Mirachtsi, D. Krol, T. Michel Mayer, T. van den Hoven

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However, a lot of work still lies ahead. While national adaptation strategies indicate water as a priority issue, climate adaptation measures are not yet part of the measures included in integrated water policies. Moreover, adaptation needs to be better considered in water management and flood reduction and prevention.

Coherent and effective policies that combine environmental, climate change and innovation considerations offer advantages to the water community, and the water sector is a natural ally of our efforts to make the EU resilient and prepare for the effects of climate change. The WssTP is an excellent platform for this cooperation. We look forward to working closely with you on addressing together the climate change challenges and encourage you to approach us with any questions.



The new WG leader of WssTP Working Group 'Urban Water Pollution' **Jan Hofman** is sharing his insights with us!

What are the main priorities of the Working Group, after having restarted its activities?

Urban Water Pollution is a very important topic for research and policy development. Considering that over 50% of the world's population lives in dense urban areas, it doesn't take much imagination to understand that pollution in these areas can be significant. In Europe, the urban population even exceeds 70%. It is, therefore, a major challenge to keep the cities clean. Most pollutants originate from human activity. Significant amounts of pollution find their way into the environment via the water cycle, either through the sewer system, via direct run-off or by infiltration into groundwater. Urban Water Pollution comprises a broad spectrum of compounds and materials: COD, nutrients, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, hydrocarbons, flame retardants, industrial chemicals, but also microbiological contamination of urban water may be important.

The Working Group started exploring this area late 2013. The goals were to find knowledge gaps on urban water pollution and identify research needs. Also, best practices and innovative solution that didn't find their way to the market, yet, were sought. In this way, the group aspired to contribute to developing new business opportunities and creating jobs in Europe. Several workshops were held, which delivered a draft paper. At the end of 2014, the group went into hibernation. I think the original goals are still very valid. Now that I'm appointed as WG leader, my main priority is to get the group actively engaging again within the WssTP community.

We anticipate on having a workshop later on this year to discuss our ambition for the coming years and recalibrate the draft paper in order to finalise it.

As the new WG leader, what are the expectations you have from this Working Group?

What I have found is a very enthusiastic core team. I'm looking forward to a great collaboration with them to accelerate the activities of the Working Group. We anticipate on developing opportunities to increase knowledge and expertise on urban water pollution and contribute to the policy development on that theme. I hope the Working Group can be an inspiring place for innovative solutions to create a sustainable and healthy urban environment.

What is Working Group currently working on and what are its expected deliveries within the upcoming year?

The upcoming year will be focused on finishing our WG's Document, which includes an overview on the state-of-knowledge on urban water pollution and the development of a roadmap for research to develop innovative solutions and policy development.

We will start with a workshop in autumn that will help us to recalibrate the existing draft document. It is a great moment for the group to meet each other again. The output of the workshop will be used to finalise the WG's main document and start developing the roadmap from it. It is therefore important that the WG will liaise with important policy development areas, such as the Urban Agenda 2030 and follow up on the Mayor's conference taken place in Leeuwarden earlier this year. It will be exciting times!



Flanders is facing important water challenges: Flanders Knowledge Center Water (Vlakwa) matches for solutions

The Flemish government confirmed the importance of water as one of the 9 themes within its long term vision plan 'Vision 2050'. In 2050 Flanders strives to have a robust water system, which is capable of absorbing (climate)shocks, protecting the ecosystems and offering opportunities for recreation and waterborne transport. Within this framework researchers, government and entrepreneurs have to work together in the

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Flanders Knowledge Center Water (Vlakwa) on providing solutions related to the challenges: Although, Flanders is ranked as the 4th poorest OECD country according to the water availability per capita, 25% of Europe's frozen vegetables are produced in Flanders, where also one of the largest chemical clusters worldwide is located. 1 out of 6 employees in Flanders is directly linked to water-intensive industry, thus the availability of water with a good quality at a reasonable price is vital for the Flemish economy.

[Vlakwa](#) initiates, facilitates and coordinates research and innovation projects. Vlakwa is open for partner matching and collaboration to push solutions and valorisation on a European scale. Also raising public awareness and capacity building is important. Recently, in the frame of European urban water agenda 2050, Vlakwa initiated a pilot project 'saving 30 % water in municipality buildings'. Vlakwa, is open for international collaboration on this issue. Currently, Vlakwa co-organises the expo [Water.War](#) on a sustainable approach to water in Kortrijk (BE, Flanders region).

Welcome 2 New Members



INSA, France

DEEP undertakes research in a range of engineering sciences, dealing with concrete environmental issues across urban and industrial environments. Mobilizing multidisciplinary skills within DEEP leads to knowledge, methods and tools for efficient action to protect the environment, aiming for example to protect or restore ecological health for a given environment (preventive and/or curative actions) or to develop eco-technological processes. Its approach is based on a dynamic balance between the overall study of integrated systems and understanding their basic processes; as well as their linkages at different time and space scales. DEEP works principally in two fields of application: 1) water and urban hydrosystems (EHU), 2) solid wastes, contaminated sediments and soils (DSS). *For more information, please click [here](#).*



Sweden Water
Research, Sweden

Sweden Water Research is a research and development (R&D) company that aims, in a targeted, resource-efficient way, to meet the challenges facing the water services industry. It carries out research, development and innovation work in areas that are important from a sustainable social perspective. It coordinates competences in order to secure maintenance, identify new solutions and disseminate knowledge. Through collaboration, the Sweden Water Research increases the opportunity to create international contacts in the field of research with a view to contributing towards a sharing of knowledge beyond the Swedish borders. *For more information, please click [here](#).*

Join WssTP!



Would you like to become one of the key players in the European water sector, make an impact on the EU Water RTD&I strategy or collaborate with a pan-European network of leading water organisations? With 153 members currently on board and a constant growth since its creation in 2007, WssTP is the platform to join! As a WssTP member, you can benefit from our key services areas:

- **Fostering collaboration** through Working Groups activities and meetings, Brokerage events, Water Innovation Europe Conference & online tools;
- **Intelligence for members:** Policy Watch, Member's newsletter, WssTP Observatory, Help Desk Function;
- **Communication and Dissemination** with monthly newsletters, website, social media, press releases, SME awards;
- **Advocacy for public funding and water:** advises EC on drafting funding calls, strategic policy work for water, WssTP Water Vision and SRA, Management body for MEP Water Group.

For more information, please contact [Durk Krol](#).

AGENDA

31 May 2016

Sustainable Development Goal on Water: Business as Usual in Brussels?

1 June 2016

Joint WssTP -ECTP Workshop

13 -16 June 2016

IWA Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies

16 June 2016

WssTP WG event: Bridging Water, industry and the Agrifood sector – Innovations for jobs & growth in Europe

21-23 June 2016

Water Innovation Europe 2016
Brussels, Belgium

www.wsstp.eu

On Twitter: [@wsstpeu](#)

On LinkedIn: [The WssTP Group](#)