

A common vision for European Water Innovation



Dear WssTP friends,

The month of October has brought a number of advancements at WssTP! WssTP new Vision 'The Value of Water: Towards a Future proof model for a European water-smart society' is now finalised and printed! We are now even in the process of translating the vision into French, German, Italian, Polish, and Spanish in order to make the document accessible to the widest public. Translation into other languages may also follow.



Water is one of the priorities for the Slovak Presidency

by László Sólymos,
Minister for Environment
of the Slovak Republic



The new WssTP SIRA is also about to be completed! Both WssTP vision and SIRA will be distributed during the WssTP Brokerage and WG event 2016 so that all participants have the chance to take a hard copy with them. At this point, I would like to warmly thank all our strategic partners for endorsing both documents. Their support enables us not only to envision and plan the future but to make a real impact!

We are now counting less than a month before our Brokerage and WG event 2016. This year's edition brings in new elements and sessions so that all actors of the water supply chain are represented and involved in building new partnerships and consortia. In particular, the matchmaking session of this year is organised through B2B meetings that participants will be able to book beforehand! This way, a dynamic interaction that matches participants' needs and goals will be achieved, allowing everyone to get the best out of the event.

Beyond the preparations for our event, we are happy to welcome aboard two new faces. Andrea Rubini is our new WssTP Scientific and Policy Manager, who will support our platform's RTD and Innovation activities. Andrea brings a long experience as a water resource engineer within the European water sector under his belt. Montse Mussons Olivella from CETAQUA has, also, taken over the leadership of WssTP WG Water & ICT since the beginning of October.

A new WssTP Working Group has just been established on the theme 'Water & Infrastructures'. The WG has been set up after a joint initiative between WssTP and ECTP. The aim of this WG is to identify the drivers, needs and ongoing activities around water infrastructure research and innovation by bringing together the forces of both platforms.

In light of our new partnerships, WssTP will be present with a booth at ECOMONDO conference and at iWater Barcelona Conference, which are taking place on the 8th and 15th of November 2016, respectively. For all those who will be attending, pass by our booth to say hello and get our new vision! Given these points, I invite you to read the article contributed by László Sólymos, the Minister for Environment of the Slovak Republic for this newsletter's edition. As an overarching element of our society, water plays a central role and the Slovak Presidency places it among its first priorities!

Water is a 'national topic' among the priorities of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU that the country holds since July this year. Water is the primary medium through which climate change impacts are felt. Climate change has an influence on the occurrence of droughts and floods, with more frequent and intense effects in Europe. Up to 70 million Europeans are affected by water problems during the summer months, and this trend will worsen in the future. Shortages are already being perceived in northern Europe, while the Baltic states are affected by frequent flooding. The EU spends €5 billion a year to deal with the aftermath of floods and 3 billion Euros for drought damage.

Climate change and associated alternating periods of drought and floods were the main topics of the Ministerial Conference on Water and the informal EU Environment Council that was held on 11 July 2016 in Bratislava. The debate has clearly shown that each EU country is experiencing this phenomenon differently. Some states are suffering prolonged droughts, others more frequent and devastating floods, and still others are experiencing both types of extreme events. Although each country's problems are unique, ministers called for clear common European objectives to be set in the fight against climate change, even though there is no single universal solution. Water resources are limited and demand for water is increasing. It concerns us all, because lack of water may bring many new emerging risks.

The Presidency also links its activities with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region that is one of the macro regional strategies of the European Union. The 5th Annual Forum "Innovative Flows - Water, Knowledge and Innovation in the Danube Region" will be focused on water management and research and innovation in the Danube region. In close cooperation with the Presidency trio – the Netherlands and Malta, we bring up cross cutting issues of water, agriculture and cities.

Questions about this newsletter? Contact us: durk.krol@wsstp.eu

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

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The recently adopted Council Conclusions on Sustainable Water Management address challenges related to climate change and water nexus. They recognise that waters in Europe are under pressure, caused by water pollution, intensity of land use and climate change impacts, which compromise water security and exacerbate the negative effects of drought and water scarcity.

The conclusions call to implement efficient use of water in all economic sectors by promoting innovative technologies and practices enabling a sustainable and efficient use and re-use of water. They also reflect the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The ratification of the Paris Agreement provides an opportunity to act together in Europe and implement our international commitments. In the midst of climate change, water plays a central role!



This month,
WssTP interviews
Eilen Arctander Vik,
Working Group Leader of
the newly established WG
**“Water in the Oil & Gas
Industry”**

Why is it important to have a WG focused on Oil and Gas?

Oil and gas is an important source of energy (covering > 50 % of the world's need in 2014), and with a potential for outcompeting atomic energy, fossil fuel and coal (which contributed in 2014 with > 20 %). The present energy mix is expected slowly to change to renewable energy, hydropower and energy from waste, but oil and gas will still be an important source of energy, especially since the world's population increase is a driving force for the amount energy needed. Only a significant reduction in consumption per capita can change this picture. Water is almost as important to the oil industry as the oil. The industry handles more water than oil. Large volumes of water are vital to many of the core activities. Fresh water plays an integral part in many operating processes – from production and manufacturing to steam and power supply. Seawater is also widely used in cooling systems, and to maintain pressure in oil reservoirs. There are often conflicting demands on water resources in areas where oil companies operate – access to clean fresh water may be limited, available supplies may be over-stretched and, in the worst cases, pollution may have left some natural water resources unusable. The oil industry is committed to finding a healthy balance between the water needs of agriculture, local communities and commerce. Through careful management of its activities, the oil industry can help protect both land-based water resources and the marine environment. Where water is scarce, the oil industry can use its practical expertise to help unearth and tap new sources of water.

What are the main goals and expectations you have from this WG?

Produced water is attracting the attention of an increasing number of water technology companies. With rising volumes and increased water treatment technology needs, it looks like a good market. The big question is how water companies can find their way in and use their skills to find cheaper and better options for the industry. The cost of qualification of technology could be too high for small, innovative SMEs to succeed. One of the main goals of this WG is to enable new technologies in this industry by establishing test sites and cooperation by using EC's financial support. The oil and gas industry often sees itself as having a dual role in water resource management to reduce the impact of operations and to contribute to the communities where they operate. This opportunity should be explored and used in Europe to bring innovative and suitable solutions into the international market. Finally, by bringing together European cooperation and knowledge, qualification of new technology can be brought to the market and that's another important target of our Working Group.

What is the working Group currently working on?

The WG is newly established and only a few companies met in June with a first brainstorming. Key focus of the WG is a holistic thinking regarding water management. In particular, the Working Group is focused on strengthening the network function of the WG by meetings and on line discussions ; producing an overview of current and future practice onshore and offshore; identifying gaps/problems needing solutions and possibilities within current research programmes in EU; contributing to the WssTP vision on the H2020 work programme 2018-2020 by discussing, elaborating and reporting the future topics with respect to water & oil/gas resources and promoting consortium opportunities for joint projects in the context of EU calls. The next meeting of our WG will be during WssTP annual Brokerage Event that takes place the 23rd and 24th of November in Brussels.



Water Priorities in Basque Region

The Water Management established nowadays in the Basque Region is the result of years of planning and regulation development at European, National and Regional level.

The main water-related goals in the Basque country are to protect and enhance the status of water resources, preventing any further deterioration; to promote sustainable water use; to enhance protection and improvement of the aquatic environment, through specific

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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 161 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](#).

Welcome New Members



TÜBİTAK

MAM

TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center, Turkey

Since its establishment in 1972, TÜBİTAK MARMARA RESEARCH CENTER (MAM) performs its operations in "TÜBİTAK Gebze Campus" in the City of Kocaeli. The Center aims at becoming a world leader in science and technology production with its research, development and innovation capabilities widely shared by its Environment and Cleaner Production Institute, Energy Institute, Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Institute, Food Institute, Chemical Technology Institute, Materials Institute and Earth and Marine Sciences Institute. Tubitak is involved in a number of water related activities as resource efficiency, climate change, green infrastructure, water reuse, recycling, recovery, industrial symbiosis, closed-loop processes, integrated watershed management and many others. *For more information, please click [here](#).*



Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC) is one of the the largest private universities in Europe distinguished for its academic excellence, strong ties with industries and a wide range of services tailored for international students. Water is the focus of a number of research activities in UCSC. In particular, the university is involved in 3 EU projects: FP7 INNOVINE, SWEETFUEL and FEASR. *For more information, please click [here](#).*

AGENDA

8-11 November 2016

ECOMONDO

9 November 2016

EWA Brussels Days: 12th EWA Brussels Conference "EU Water Policy and Sustainable Development"

9 November 2016

WaterPiPP Final Conference

15-17 November 2016

Iwater: International Integrated Water Cycle Show

22 November 2016

WssTP WG Resource Recovery Meeting

23-24 November 2016

WssTP Brokerage & WG Event 2016

6 December 2016

MEP Water Public Session 'The role of water in adaptation to climate change'

15 December 2016

BlueSCities Final Conference

16-17 January 2016

WssTP WG 'Managing Emerging Compounds in Urban and Surrounding areas'

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On Twitter: [@wsstpeu](#)

On LinkedIn: [The WssTP Group](#)

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