

# A common vision for European Water Innovation



Dear WssTP friends,

Our Brokerage and WG event 2016 concluded last week in Brussels, leaving behind lasting impressions ! With more than 130 participants and a compelling agenda of interactive sessions, our event best exemplified the high quality of services WssTP offers to its members and network.



The agenda of the event was shaped this way that enabled all participants to play an active role, gain useful insights on how to get successfully involved in the 2017 Horizon 2020 calls and establish good connections.

The meetings of our Working Groups the second day of the event, also, attracted the attention of the participants who showed a high level of interest and engagement in the discussions taken place. It's up to our participants now to pursue and amplify what has already been started, and to build upon the collaborations initiated in the context of our event! A post-event press release, including presentations and photos from our event will be issued at a later time. Responding to the needs of our network, we intend to organise another event focused on the European SMEs early spring next year. We will keep you posted with more information along the way!

Over the last month, WssTP was present at Ecomondo Fair in Rimini, Italy as well as at iWater Conference, Barcelona, Spain held the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November respectively. WssTP seized this chance to disseminate the new WssTP Water Vision. WssTP, also, attended the final conference of Water PiPP project 'Boosting the market for innovative water solutions through public procurement', which took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of November in Zaragoza, Spain. Durk Krol, WssTP Director presented the WssTP vision, reflecting on how procurers and suppliers can come together and contribute to making Europe a water-smart society. WssTP was also represented by its Working Group leaders at Marrakesh Climate Conference (COP22) which convened from 7-18 November in Marrakech, Morocco.

Meanwhile, the preparations for the MEP Water Group Public Session on 'Water and Adaptation to Climate Change' are well underway. Jos Delbeke, the DG Climate Action Director-General will deliver a keynote speech, which will be followed by a high-level panel discussion chaired by Esther de Lange. Adaption to climate change is a topic that will be on the rise over the next year at an EU level and we need to make sure that everybody understands the pivotal role of water in this debate.

Although the year is slowly coming to an end, our activities are not slowing down ! Before we officially say goodbye to 2016, we still have a lot in the pipeline and we are excited to see that new members are getting on board to join these activities and maximise the impact of our work. **Until 31st of December, membership to WssTP is FREE !** Maybe, this is the time to give it a try !

**Tomas Michel, WssTP President**

## PRIMA

The Partnership for Research & Innovation in the Mediterranean Area  
by **Jack Metthey**, Director for Climate Action & Resource Efficiency at the EC's DG for Research&Innovation



The Mediterranean basin is considered one of the most arid regions in the world. 180 million people there are considered to be "water poor<sup>1</sup>"; a further 60 million people are "water-stressed<sup>1</sup>". Climate change, as well as population growth and urbanisation trends exacerbate the situation. Finally, high agricultural water consumption and unsustainable resource management put further pressure on scarce resources and fragile ecosystems. The implications are enormous: People suffer from poor health and nutrition, living standards and livelihoods decline as unemployment and political instability rise. This immense economic and social stress drives many people, especially farm families, to leave their homes and look for better prospects in cities or even to migrate in particular towards Europe. Past efforts and funding to identify novel approaches to adequately address these increasingly complex and interconnected challenges proved largely insufficient.

In 2012, a group of EU Member States and Mediterranean countries decided to act. Building on the Union for the Mediterranean and EU's Neighbourhood Strategy, this group pushed for an international R&I cooperation within the Council of the EU. Subsequently, the European Commission came forward with a legislative proposal for Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean –"PRIMA".

This initiative's goal is, above all, to promote the sustainable management of water and food systems in the Mediterranean area by pooling know-how and financial resources in a strategic research partnership between the EU and the participating states under the Horizon 2020 Framework programme. The ensuing project calls will target the development of joint innovative solutions to make water management and food provision in the region more efficient, cost-effective and sustainable while addressing related socio-economic problems.

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The partnership will, thus, step up R&I cooperation among participating states and promote tools for climate change adaptation. At the same time, local economies, including SMEs, will benefit from new opportunities in the water and food sector, thereby boosting overall growth and investment. Last but not least, PRIMA aims at tackling the root causes of migration and enhancing political stability.

So far, the 13 participating states<sup>1</sup> and the EU itself have pledged around €400 million to the initiative. Council and Parliament now need to give their approval before the partnership can enter into force. It is expected that PRIMA, set to run for 10 years, will be fully operative by early 2018.

1. People with access to less than 1000m<sup>3</sup> of renewable water per capita per year are considered water-poor (source: Global Water Partnership).
2. Access to less than 500m<sup>3</sup> per capita per year is defined as water stress (source: Global Water Partnership).
3. Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia (Germany and Jordan expected to join shortly).



**Violeta Cabello & Floor Brouwer,**  
co-leaders of **WsstP Working Group Nexus**  
are sharing their insights with us!



## Why is it important to have a Working Group focused on this theme?

The water-energy-food-climate nexus has recently emerged as a key concept in sustainability science. It flags the importance of the interconnectedness between the problems related to the use and management of different finite resources, as well as of the need to move to integrated analytical tools. The European Commission is responding to these new research and innovation challenges by incorporating the nexus in the Horizon 2020 Work Programmes. WsstP is the most important platform for technological innovation on water in Europe and deals with the most cutting-edge research areas through its working groups. Therefore, we believe that having a Working Group focused on supporting nexus research is an excellent way to address the needs for innovation related to the Nexus.

## What are the main goals and expectations you have from this Working Group?

As co-chairs of the Working Group we would like to stimulate the group, inventorize the ideas and the needs of the Working Group members, and involve interested members into the activities of our research projects. In addition, we believe it is important to create synergies with related WsstP Working Groups and other nexus initiatives outside the WsstP.

## What is Working Group currently working on and what is it planning for the upcoming months?

During the Nexus Working Group meeting at the brokerage event of the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, participants completed a questionnaire about their expectations, aims and proposals for activities to develop. There were some very interesting proposals, such as the organization of a policy workshop about the nexus in the low-carbon economy, and the creation of a broader cluster of European and Mediterranean projects and initiatives about the nexus to be chaired by WsstP Nexus Working Group. We are now compiling these proposals into the 2017 Work Plan and will follow-up on this in the coming weeks. We invite all interested WsstP members to join the discussion on the Project Place platform!



## Scotland, the Hydro Nation!

Scotland is fortunate to have a plentiful supply of freshwater but the country has a rugged and often mountainous landscape with population gathered in large cities, like Glasgow and Edinburgh but also widely distributed in rural areas. Therefore, our challenges are distribution and maintaining quality of water and service to all customers. Water is fundamental to the Scottish economy with tourism and industry including distilleries reliant on high quality water. To recognise the importance of water, Scotland has begun a journey to become a Hydro Nation. The strategic vision was set out in the Hydro Nation Prospectus document published by The Scottish Government in 2012 of Scotland as a country that *'...recognise(s) water as part of our national & international identity. We understand the sustainable management of our water resource is crucial to our future success and a key component of the flourishing low-carbon economy and the basis of growing international trade opportunities.'*

Underpinned by the duty placed on the Scottish Ministers in the Water Resources (Scotland) Act 2013 to "take such reasonable steps as they consider appropriate for the purpose of ensuring the development of the value of Scotland's water resources", the Hydro Nation vision is one of maximising the economic and non-economic value of Scotland's water resources. It seeks to draw together and develop the many different threads that make up Scotland's water sector.

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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](#).

## AGENDA

**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'

**06 February 2017**

EWA Seminar: A Guide to the EU Water Policy

**20 February 2017**

World Water-Tech - Innovation Summit

**22-24 March 2017**

AfriAlliance Conference

[www.wsstp.eu](http://www.wsstp.eu)

On Twitter: [@wsstpeu](#)

On LinkedIn: [The WssTP Group](#)

## Welcome New Members



UNIVERSITÀ  
di VERONA

Università degli Studi di  
Verona, Italy

The University of Verona is dedicated to innovation and to maintaining the high quality of its teaching and research. The institution has 22,000 students, and 1,500 teaching and non-teaching staff all dedicated to a continual process of growth and to the development of human, structural and financial resources. The University has strong links to the local community and looks to the future through its constant strengthening of the link between courses offered and the world of work. The University of Verona coordinates the Horizon2020 "SMART-Plant" Innovation Action and is partner of the following water related Horizon2020 projects : IntCatch (IA), EnerWater (CSA), Pioneer\_STP (Water\_JPI). For more information, please click [here](#).



UrbanTide

Urban Tide, Scotland

UrbanTide provides open data training and is developing open data software products for both public and private sector companies in this area. UrbanTide has also used open data around water to create 3D visualisations. For more information, please click [here](#).

Questions about this newsletter? Contact us: [durk.krol@wsstp.eu](mailto:durk.krol@wsstp.eu)

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