

# A common vision for European Water Innovation

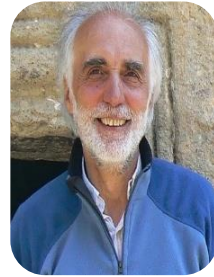


Dear WssTP friends,

Water Market Europe kicked off its first edition on the 28th of March in Brussels and we are glad to see that our new event cycle was welcomed with great enthusiasm by the whole water community.



**Giovanni Bidoglio,  
Head of the Water &  
Marine Resources Unit  
at the EC Joint Research  
Centre shares his insights  
with us!**



The event succeeded in unveiling the magnitude of the largely unexploited water market, by bringing together voices from the investors' side and perspectives from the 'problem owners' and 'solution providers', who were there to represent a broad range of companies, utilities and regions.

Participants had dynamic interactions through B2B meetings, where they had the chance to explore more on the innovative solutions presented at the sessions and seize the business opportunities created. The Water Market Europe event concluded with a dinner meeting, where all WssTP WG leaders convened to discuss the new Working Group structure, which is being developed in line with the new WssTP Water Vision 2030 and SIRA. A post-event press release with presentations and photos from the sessions of the event will be issued within the upcoming days.

With a well-established cycle of three annual events spread throughout the year, WssTP will be now hosting Water Innovation (WIE) in June as its annual stakeholder event, Water Knowledge Europe (WKE) in autumn as its Horizon2020 brokerage event, and Water Market Europe (WME) in Spring.

Having realised our first event for this year, we are now sailing full speed into the preparations for our Water Innovation Europe 2017 conference "The value of water: the case for innovation and investment in water" that will take place on 14 and 15 June in Brussels. While the agenda of our two-day conference is taking shape, we are proud to announce at this point that Jyri Katainen, EC Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness will be among the key note speakers of the second day of WIE2017! Currently, we are, also, organising a joint workshop with our long-standing partner, SusChem, dedicated to the theme 'Industry Water: From Single Use to Integrated Management' that will be held on the 20th of April 2017 in Brussels.

March is the month that calls each one of us to commemorate the World Water Day on the 22nd of the month. Aiming at attracting attention to the water crisis, this year's theme was on "Water and Waste Water." With a play on words, as it is related to both the aspect of wasting water, as well as the issues around wastewater, this day was an opportunity to reflect on the importance of conserving our limited freshwater resources and the challenges that we still need to face. As WssTP new vision reminds us 'Europe has the chance to turn water challenges into new technological, societal and business opportunities', it's up to us, now, to gear up for them!

**Tomas Michel, WssTP President**

The Joint Research Centre has developed a "science-policy interface" enhancing the use of research results in the implementation of EU policies on water and marine resources. We are providing support to a number of Directives, e.g. the Drinking Water, Bathing Water, Urban Waste Water Treatment, the Nitrates Directives. We are analyzing how the concept of ecosystem services is used in the EU water policy implementation and address the space for water in the Common Agricultural Policy in order to promote the goals of the Water Framework Directive. In a source-to-sea context, JRC is also supporting the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the integration of environmental protection with social and economic needs by striking the right balance between the MSFD and the Common Fisheries Policy.

To address such a broad water policy framework comprising several geophysical, socio-ecological and economic systems at multiple scales, JRC has developed an approach to data, information and knowledge management with a strong emphasis on the harnessing of synergies between portfolios. Indeed, to build a water resilient society one needs to abandon a pure water-centric approach and find a way of "managing Interdependencies" to match the interests of the different stakeholders and economic sectors. Along these lines, the JRC has launched the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus project, intended to support multiple Directorates-General of the European Commission by informing cross-sectoral policy making (e.g. CAP, WFD, Energy Union) on how to improve the resilience of water-using sectors as well as initiatives and agreements at the international level (e.g. SDGs, Barcelona process, EU Development Policy). With a geographical focus on Europe, the Mediterranean region and Africa, the WEFE-Nexus project will deliver country and regional scale reports and outlooks, science-policy briefs, and a toolbox for scenario-based decision making.

Questions about this newsletter? Contact us: [durk.krol@wsstp.eu](mailto:durk.krol@wsstp.eu)  
Writing Committee: M. Mirachtsi, D. Krol, T. Michel Mayer, T. van den Hoven

# A common vision for European Water Innovation

While key for the achievement of these goals is the combination of expertise and data from across the JRC, harvesting of knowledge spreads out to research institutions in the Member States. Examples are the networks of experts who contributed to the development, harmonization and intercalibration of assessment methods for ecological quality of surface waters, and to the identification and prioritization of WFD priority substances and the Watch List mechanism. Sharing of know-how with the Member States, also in the context of the European Innovation Partnership on Water, is essential for the development of minimum quality requirements for water reuse in agricultural irrigation and aquifer recharge, as planned in the Circular Economy package.

The 2016 Commission Communication on Data, Information and Knowledge Management, advocates a stronger anticipation culture to strengthen EU preparedness and resilience. Working together the Member States, the scientific community, international partners and JRC, we can make a significant contribution to informed decision-making in the water domain.



This month WssTP interviews **Leonard Osté**, leader of the **WssTP Working Group Emerging Compounds!**

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

The WssTP Working group 'Emerging Compounds' has two faces: a technological one focused on the treatment of emerging substances from waste and drinking water, and the environmental one focused on protection and restoration of the natural environment. Technology is one of the core topics of WssTP, but I think that 'Multiple Waters, for multiple purposes and user for multiple purposes and users' also requires a sound understanding of the (aquatic) environment. That is why the source – path – receptor approach is an essential axis within our working group. An ever-increasing number of chemicals is used and a number of them end up in water. End of pipe treatment of waste water is essential to keep the water clean, but we also need to consider interventions earlier in the life cycle.

**What are your expectations from this Working Group?**

The working group acts as a platform to discuss these issues and to extract research gaps. We, also, actively contributed to the development of the new WssTP SIRA document.

I hope that the WssTP SIRA document influences the H2020 calls, especially when it comes to issues regarding emerging compounds, leading this way to more project proposals. In fact, beyond being a thematic group, Emerging Compounds, also, intends to be a forum for ideas and a nursery for project proposals, where new winning consortia can come to life and strong synergies can be created.

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

We will meet again during the WssTP annual stakeholder conference, Water Innovation Europe 2017 on the 14th of June in Brussels. Our aim is to look at the draft working programme for 2018-2020 and see whether there are interesting calls to address or to do suggestions for improvement. Furthermore, we are currently in close contact with the WG Urban Water Pollution to develop joint activities with respect to emerging pollutants in urban areas. It is a challenge to reuse water a number of times without losing quality. *For more information or questions about the WG, please liaise with [Leonard Osté](#).*



**WssTP joins the Covenant of Mayors as Associated Partner**

WssTP is excited to be an official associated partner of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and energy!

As one of the world's biggest urban climate and energy initiative, the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy brings together thousands of local and regional authorities voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives on their territory.

This is an important step for WssTP, as it allows us to build bridges between our platform's work and the cities, the water-related challenges they face and the solutions that are in need of. Involving stakeholders in the governance process is a factor of paramount importance, as it is, also, indicated in the new [WssTP vision 2030](#) which highlights multi-stakeholder governance as a critical component to achieve the transition to a water-smart society. *For more information on the Covenant of Mayors, please [click here](#).*



## Welcome New Members



### E.D.E.Y.A., Greece

The Hellenic Association of Municipal Water and Sewerage Companies abbreviated E.D.E.Y.A. was founded in 1989 and is a non-profitable and non-governmental organization, located in Larisa, Greece. E.D.E.Y.A. has 117 D.E.Y.A. (Municipal Water and Sewerage Companies) members all over Greece. Its purpose is to coordinate the activities of its members and represent them. Furthermore, it assists its members to improve their services in the water supply and sewage sectors. *For more information, please click [here](#).*



### Powel, Norway

Powel is a leading supplier of software solutions and services to the energy, public, water and contracting sectors. Powel delivers solutions and services related to Digital water. This includes documentations systems for water and wastewater systems, operational tools for water and wastewater systems, Asset Management solutions, customer relation services etc. The solutions are based on cloud based services, GIS-analytics and IoT. Founded in Norway in 1996, Powel has grown to be an international corporation with staff numbering 460 and offices in seven countries with headquarter in Trondheim, Norway. Throughout the years, Powel's goal has always remained the same: To create solutions that both benefit its customers and support sustainable development. *For more information, please click [here](#).*

### SITIES, Italy

SITIES.p.A. is an Italian Company specialized in Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Project Management and Technical Support Activities in the following sectors: Oil & Gas, Infrastructure Developments and the Energy Sector. Established in 1945 is now operating in Europe, Asia, Middle East, North America and Africa, having its focus on supporting its clients within the Oil & Gas Petrochemical, Energy, Industrial Plants & Utility Infrastructure, as well as Hi-tech Industrial Plants & Commercial Buildings. *For more information, please click [here](#).*

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 170 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.

## AGENDA

**7 April 2017**

EIP Steering Group Meeting

**20 April 2017**

WssTP- SusChem Workshop  
From Water Use to Water Management : The case of smart & small water treatment Units

**24 April 2017**

Global Water Summit 2017: Intelligent Synergies

**10 May 2017**

2nd EWA Spring Conference: Sanitation approaches and the SDGs

**6 June 2017**

BlueTech Forum 2017

**14-15 June 2017**

Water Innovation Europe 2017

**2-10 October 2017**

World Chemical Summit

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

**On Twitter:** [@wsstp\\_eu](https://twitter.com/wsstp_eu)

**On LinkedIn:** [The WssTP Group](#)