

A common vision for European Water Innovation



Dear WssTP friends,

We're only two weeks away from Water Innovation Europe 2017! Our much-anticipated conference will delve into the key innovation components of the new WssTP Water Vision 2030, with distinguished speakers in their fields participating in each conference's session.



Angelo Salsi, Head of Unit, LIFE & CIP Eco-Innovation, EASME and **Solon Mias**, Project Advisor, EASME talk to us about the 2017 Call of the LIFE Programme



The spotlight of the programme will be on the opportunities and challenges to realise the WssTP Water Vision, marrying together the varied backgrounds, experiences and perspectives of each speaker. The EC Vice-President Jyrki Katainen will deliver the opening keynote speech of the conference on the 15th of June. To check the full programme, please click [here](#).

A prestigious ceremony has been, also, set up for the WssTP Awards that will take place on the 14th of June. The conference's participants will follow the nomination of this year's winners and will get together for a networking dinner, where they will continue their discussions in a relaxed atmosphere.

As every year, the WssTP Working Groups will convene back to back with Water Innovation Europe. The summer meeting of the Working Groups carries special importance, as they will be discussing their annual Work Plans for 2017-2018 which will provide inputs for the Work Plans of new WssTP clusters which will oversee the implementation of the key components of the WssTP Water Vision and SIRA. The new Cluster structure will be presented during Water Innovation Europe 2017.

At this point, I would also like to highlight that the WssTP Annual General Meeting will be held on the 14th of June and this time will be particularly interesting, as it will include the election of a new WssTP Board for the period 2017-2019 which will take place on the base of the new WssTP Articles of Association, as adopted by the General Assembly, last year. In this regard, I would like to encourage all our members to make themselves available and join us on this important occasion. We have made and approved changes to make WssTP more inclusive and representative. Your active participation is essential to implementing this new spirit.

The new Board will also have to decide who will lead WssTP, during the next two years, into the future. Having served as a president of WssTP for the past five years, I can only say that this has been a fast-paced and exhilarating journey. Looking back, WssTP has achieved a lot. From 62 members in 2011, we are currently counting 175 members on board. Undoubtedly, we have come a long way, and through our Vision and SIRA documents, we have designed and set up new roads we want to walk on in the future. There still is way to go, and an exciting future, ahead of us! Now that we are just a breath away from WIE2017, once again we count on you for making this event a success! Water Innovation Europe is a conference made for you, but most importantly, WIE2017 represents a platform which empowers WssTP and its members, through your active participation and compromise. I am looking forward to welcoming each and every one of you at our conference!

Tomas Michel, WssTP President

What are the current advances and novelties of the 2017 call of the LIFE programme?

The LIFE 2017 Call for proposals was published in April with an indicative budget of about 373 million Euro. The deadline for the submission of proposals is in September 2017 and more information can be found on the [LIFE](#). As last year, the LIFE programme includes two sub-programmes for Environment and Climate Action and its main aim is, of course, to achieve clear and substantial environmental impacts. In 2017, we have placed emphasis on the long-term sustainability of the funded projects so that they continue their positive impact even after the EU funding is finished. Furthermore, we want these impacts to multiply. Therefore, in the latest calls we have been inviting proposals which are capable of replicating these positive impacts by making use of their project solutions or services in the premises of other stakeholders or customers, either within the same sector or in other sectors. Finally, we are searching for proposals whose positive impact goes beyond the environmental benefits, offering in parallel social and economic benefits, including support to other policies but also jobs creation and financial gains for Europe. It is for this reason that in the 2017 call, we have diverted part of our focus towards innovative Close to Market (C2M) project proposals without reducing in any way the importance of traditional LIFE projects.



What are the actions that LIFE programme takes to support the management of water resources in the EU and the implementation of water policy, notably the EU Water Framework Directive?

Addressing water resources and their quality but also achieving floods and drought management in a cost efficient way is a serious challenge within the EU and for this reason Water is an important thematic priority for the LIFE programme.

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In line with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Flood Directive, LIFE gives priority to proposals which support Member States to move towards genuinely integrated water resource management, promoting ecosystem-based approaches, where relevant. This includes proposals working on natural water retention and water saving measures; flood and drought risk management; re-naturalisation of water environments. Proposal topics also include those addressing hydro morphological pressures but also water pollution from a variety of sources including urban water users, agriculture but also the chemical industry. In addition, the LIFE Water thematic priority includes specific project topics linked to the water industry with particular focus on technologies and processes used to ensure the provision of water services (production of drinking water or waste water treatment). It is worth noting that, through the 2014 and 2015 calls alone, the LIFE programme funded more than 33 Water projects with an average EU funding contribution of about 1M Euro and an average number of 4 partners. We are hoping to fund nearly 20 additional projects from the 2016 call. These projects cover a large spectrum of water related stages including drinking water production and supply; water use, saving and re-use within end-user premises or processes; waste water treatment; and protection or depollution of coastal, river, lake and groundwater environments.

How can the LIFE Programme facilitate the results of research and innovation to get closer to the market?

LIFE welcomes project proposals which are continuation of research projects like those funded under Horizon 2020. Even so, we would like to clarify that LIFE is not a research programme and, hence, what we are interested in is project proposals which have proved that their technical readiness is beyond research and are now gearing towards the market. LIFE is funding such C2M projects looking for high readiness level project proposals aiming at semi or full industrial scale demonstrations/pilots and for which the applicant has clear market knowledge. In addition to funding, LIFE is facilitating these projects through market oriented actions during the project execution, such as the drafting of business plans, market studies or other replication/transferability actions including feasibility studies for different customers. Finally, we are currently envisaging a more strategic approach on how to support LIFE C2M projects.

Do you have any advice for future LIFE Programme applicants?

Applicants need to think in terms of quantified impacts. We would like to see substantial, ambitious and sustainable impacts in terms of environmental but also social and economic benefits. These impacts need to be credible and clearly supported with background information, preliminary studies and detailed performance indicators. Applicants need to understand that the LIFE programme wants to achieve true innovation which will positively affect the environment and the everyday life of European citizens already during the duration of the project.



Pascale Roualt,
leader of the
Working Group
Bathing Waters
shares her insights
with us!

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

The importance to focus on that topic right now has three major aspects. The most important one is, of course, the protection of public health. Urban beaches may be impacted by short term pollution events due to heavy rainfalls and related storm water discharges, combined sewer overflows and surface runoff. Moreover, many people are bathing in rivers which are currently not monitored according to the European bathing water directive. Effective instruments for early warning and prediction of such pollution events are still widely missing.

Secondly, with the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive many measures are taken in order to achieve a good ecological status or a good ecological potential. That means that right now and in the subsequent years, many concepts for restructuring many of European surface waters inside and outside of urban areas are planned and implemented. Simultaneously, many initiatives exist which promote bathing in urban rivers again. By investigating measures and methods for planning and implementation of effective countermeasure alongside the existing concepts for the implementation of the WFD opens many synergistic opportunities.

What are your expectations from this Working Group?

Our expectation from this Working Group is both giving valuable input for the next revision and the application of the Bathing Water Directive and identifying the research questions which are still to be answered for effectively managing bathing waters. This includes especially the demonstration and added value of new analytical techniques, like devices for online monitoring of faecal indicators, additional parameters required to minimize risks for bathing people, and robust measurements of parameters like viral pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria. Thereby, knowledge gaps and barriers which may hinder market opportunities for these kinds of products are evaluated and new areas of project development identified.

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

In order to reach as many people as possible, the working group decided to summarize the major outcomes, regarding the above mentioned topics, into a brief position paper. The Working Group's next working meeting will be on June 14, 2017 alongside the WsSTP Water Innovation Europe Event.



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Welcome New Members



Lappeenranta University of Technology, Finland

Lappeenranta University of Technology (LUT) is a pioneering science university in Finland, bringing together the fields of science and business since 1969. LUT has outstanding feature of successfully integrating expertise in technology and economics. LUT focuses on demanding topical issues, such as the mitigation of climate change and the continuous availability of clean water and energy. LUT has six multidisciplinary research platforms supporting the LUT strategy. One of them is focused on the water treatment technologies, taking into account also environmental, societal and economical impacts of the technological solutions. The main objective of this research platform is to renew waste water treatment more toward utilisation of waste water compounds than only to degrade and dispose of them. *For more information, please click [here](#).*



Europe for Business, Italy

Europe for Business is a European consulting company specializing in Greentech consulting (Energy, Water, Waste, etc.) change in all the document, International Cooperation, Management Innovation and Innovation Strategy and hands-on management of commercialization for a portfolio of researchers located in Europe, Middle East and Latin America. EFB works in partnership with clients to achieve outstanding sustainable results and implement winning innovation strategies. EFB has also extensive collaboration with EU projects in Greentech (Energy, Water, Waste, etc) and International Cooperation fields and in implementation of EU-scale projects and networks. *For more information, please click [here](#).*



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

The focal point for water at BGU is the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research (ZIWR) with 20 faculty members and around 60-70 graduate students. The ZIWR has two departments, DWT – mostly deals with membranes, water treatment and desalination and EHM that has a group of 5 microbiologists, hydrologists (groundwater and surface water) and modeling people. This department deals mostly with contaminant transport, remediation and vadose zone hydrology (including recharge etc.). Overall, the ZIWR have around 50-60 running projects in any given moment, funding is both from scientific and industrial sources. The ZIWR is very active in international collaboration. *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 175 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

6 June 2017

MEP Water Group- UNESCO Session
'Wastewater: The Untapped Resource'

6 June 2017

BlueTech Forum 2017

8 June 2017

SusChem Stakeholder Event

14-15 June 2017

Water Innovation Europe 2017

20-22 June 2017

LESAM 2017

24-30 September 2017

Porto Innovation Water Week

27-28 September 2017

EIP Water Conference

2-6 October 2017

World Chemical Summit

www.wsstp.eu

On Twitter: [@wsstpeu](https://twitter.com/wsstpeu)

On LinkedIn: [The WssTP Group](#)