A common vision for European Water Innovation

WssTP

Dear WssTP friends,

2018 reaches its end. At these times we look back to see what has been achieved, we take time and opportunity to think about those next to us, and sometimes even about those not so close to us, exchanging good wishes, and at these times we also start making plans and take compromises for the future immediately ahead.

2,1 billion people lack safe drinking water in their homes, and over 4 billion people don't have access to minimal sanitary infrastructures. This reality, centerstone of UN`s SDG 6, we should definitely recall at these dates, and keep present in our minds throughout the coming year. Realizing the true value of water, understanding its central importance for economic and social development, and acting accordingly in a responsible and efficient way to confront large-scale threats like climate change, population growth and concentration in urban areas, large economic inequalities, and migration, are further "realities" to be remembered and which will have to stay in our agenda.

Looking back at 2018 and all the highlights that have marked our year, the first noticeable milestone to be mentioned is that WssTP, has surpassed a membership mark which not that long ago, seemed unreachable, counting more than 200 members on board as enter a new and surely exciting 2019. Clearly, WssTP is considered important and influential by more and more water actors. A second milestone I would like to give full credit to, has been our WssTP WGs and Cluster leadership teams working and proving great commitment and engagement to facilitate collaboration on key topics driving the implementation of the WssTP Water Vision and SIRA. This is important because a good and well-aligned organization, and people working together, are both central to our capability to deliver clear messages and achieve results.

A third milestone has been the very successful editions of our annual events: Water Market Europe 2018 series, Water Innovation Europe 2018 and our recently concluded Water Knowledge Europe with more than 300 B2B meetings that fired up the collaborative spirit among water actors and exemplified the high quality of services that WssTP can provide to its members and network. A fourth milestone, or should I rather say road sign, has to do with the fact that WssTP starts to look and act also outside of Europe. The newly initiated WssTP International Water Dialogues (WssTP IWD) have taken root with successful initiatives focused on business and research cooperation with China, India, and Iran, including the Clean Ganga workshop that WssTP co-organised, the recent participation of WssTP to the CEWP event "Digitalization of Water" at Slush conference, and ongoing developments that will facilitate EU-Iranian collaboration on water and food.

To continue to grow and make WssTP important and influential, our priorities for 2019 include a further strengthening of our WssTP WGs structure and WssTP Vision Cluster matrix, rolling out the WssTP Living Lab concepts as one of the cornerstones of our Vision and SIRA, strengthening WssTP membership among industrial water users, public authorities, civil society organisations, and in Eastern European EU Member States, and continue to plead for a progressive and innovative EU water policy to enable a European Water-Smart Society. You may all be very proud and congratulate yourselves for a great year! The best is yet to come! My best wishes for all.

Tomas Michel, WssTP President

'The intrinsic link between agriculture and water quantity is the central challenge for water smart societies' by **Jochen Froebrich**, **Leader of WssTP Cluster 'Water-Smart Rural'**

Why is it important to have a cluster dedicated to the theme "Water for smart rural?

Rural areas are at the heart of the cultural heritage in Europe and with its landscapes and environmental conditions, they potentially offer a high quality of life. Smaller cities could be attractive places to work and live, if they could provide a first-class infrastructure, inspiring socio-economic conditions and actual perspectives for jobs and growth. Instead, Europe is facing a continuous abandonment of rural areas and urban sprawl.

It is essential to have happy, healthy European Citizens, especially in rural areas, for the future of the European Union. The initiation of new jobs and sustainable growth in rural areas, hence, requires a systemic innovation with rethinking new business models in a circular and bio-based economy, an ongoing innovation effort and a true recognition of environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and human sustainability. As agriculture is the largest water consumer of river and ground water, the intrinsic link between agriculture, water quantity is the central challenge for water smart societies. Within the Cluster "Water Smart Rural Areas", WssTP recognizes the importance of water security, systemic innovation in water consumption and the recovery of resources in a circular economy.

How is the Cluster 'Water Smart Rural' going to drive the way to the implementation of the WssTP Water Vision 2030?

The Cluster Water Smart Rural strives for water security, innovation in water use, and happy, healthy European citizens. Innovation towards water security must be a permanent process that has to involve European Citizens in a multi actor effort from the beginning. To reach this aim, it requires a fundamental change in research and development. Joint collective learning amongst all payers in the field of innovation must be a central part in the entire transformation process.

To facilitate the ongoing learning, the Cluster Water Smart Rural adopts the concepts of living labs that allows the exchange of best practices, emerging needs, and broadening the vision building across Europe.

The Cluster Water Smart Rural will focus over the next years on three critical areas of innovation in the field of circular economy and inclusive growth : 1) Increase of Waste Water Reuse in the AgriFood Sector 2) Advancing Nutrient Recovery from organic waste 3) Contributing to water security at the scale of river basins

Activities within the Living Lab will provide room for contributions from multiple working group and exchanges with other clusters. To gain first-hand experience and to offer WssTP members a place to unpack the concept of Living Labs, we will first consolidate the Living Lab on Waste Water Reuse – Learn to offer (L2O), a case study driven co-learning platform that will deploy insights how to advance new Agri-Food business opportunities in the field of waste water reuse. The L2O Living Lab embraces the concept of "multiple waters for multiple uses" and aims at generating new labelled water-footprint emblematic products via real business cases at several selected transnational regional levels.

What are the key actions the Cluster has identified to bring research and innovations from the SIRA to the market?

Advancing waste water reuse, nutrient recovery and water security in river basins is less a technological challenge than a complex interaction of creating new markets, alternatives in water consumptions, consumer habits, regulations, and creating a common vision.

The Cluster will utilize the Living Labs as a science policy business interface to foster the innovation and market up-take of research and business development. Key actions will include: Foster the description of Demo Sites and activities at the local living lab nodes ; Map innovative business opportunities ; Launch the series of WssTP Think Tank events to advance the exchange of lessons learned amongst the local living lab nodes.

The L2O Living lab will host the WssTP Think Tank events - Co-innovation in Agribusiness and Waste Water reuse – in Brussels from early 2019 onwards. Additional regional events will be hosted around the local Living Lab nodes.

Water Test Network Officially Launched!

On the 11th of December, the Water Test Network had its official launch at the Scotland House in Brussels. "How will the project deliver innovation into the water sector?" This official launch was all about answering this question and presenting the opportunities that the project can provide.

The Water Test Network is a project funded by the ERDF (€3.61million) as part of the Interreg North-West Europe programme. The project is a collaboration between partners across North West Europe (NWE) which will establish a transnational network of testing facilities to enable SMEs in NWE to develop, test and verify new innovative. Its main aim is to speed up market uptake of innovative water technologies. The project runs from March 2018 until December 2021 and offers SMEs a fully-funded integrated package of support which will be tailored to their needs. The Water Test Network project is now ready to receive applications. If you are an SME in NWE and want to make use of the transnational network of testing facilities and the accompanying services, please click here.

WssTP awarded their innovations as best in their field! Six months later, **WssTP Awards Winners 2018** take a minute to reflect on their progress!

" The WssTP Digital Water Prize has recognized the hard work of the **SmartH2O** consortium and the potential impact the SmartH2O solution can bring to the digitization of water utilities, in terms of water conservation, demand management, and increased user awareness. The SmartH2O legacy is growing: several former SmartH2O partners are now collaborating on the H2020 project enCOMPASS, I was selected to start the Chair of Smart Water Networks in Berlin, and the SmartWater service is being developed by Webratio." Andrea Cominola, Assistant Professor, Chair of Smart Water Networks at Technische Universität Berlin and Einstein Center Digital Future.

" Since the awarding of the WssTP Global Water Challenge prize, **HSBC Malta** has been able to replicate our nationwide water-conservation campaign - Catch the Drop - from schools and into the wider community with the launch of the HSBC Malta CSR Institute. The Institute intends to train 500 'ambassadors' by 31st December 2019 around Sustainability issues. We are absolutely thrilled to note that since the launch of the Institute in October 2018 our training sessions are fully booked all the way up to March 2019." Glenn Bugeja, Manager Corporate Sustainability, HSBC Malta

" After the Water Governance Award 2018, Acceptables Avenirs has applied **Concert'eau®** for the social acceptance of an experiment of REUSE for spray irrigation of cereal crops in France. The solutions modeled and evaluated led to identify the adaptations of the experiment so that it is in conformity with the technical and economic expectations and respectful of the expectations of the local residents, the farmers, the municipality and NGO. Concert'eau® has confirmed its efficiency to integrate social issues in water management." Philippe Vervier, CEO, Acceptables Avenirs

" Since the WssTP SME Innovation Award, **Altered** has closed a round of financing that will let us accelerate sales, market rollout and further product development. We are excited to be launching a series of new products and partnerships during 2019. Not least the IKEA partnership that will take us a step closer to our mission to greatly reduce the use of water and energy across the globe." Kaj Mickos, Co-Founder Altered

" 2018 - The year of **TECHNI** in water technology! In 2017, the system won the Oslo NoDig challenge, then the Wsstp infrastructure award under Water Innovation Europe 2018, and recently now the award for best new tool in International Society of Trenchless Technologies. I can only say it has been a fantastic time where the water industry challenges us further. We are developing new robotic systems, performing branch pipe services and taking up new challenges like the safety and security of water supply." Dag Almar Hansen, CEO, TECHNI

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PRIMA Calls for Proposals 2019 are Open!

PRIMA – Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area is the most ambitious joint programme to be undertaken in the frame of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. The aim of PRIMA is to build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for agro-food systems, to make them sustainable, and for integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area. After the approval of EC of the Annual Work Plan for 2019 the 2019 Calls for proposals are now open, with a budget of approximately 63 million euro for 12 topics. The deadlines are the 28th of February 2019 for Stage 1 Pre-proposals, and the 16th July, 2019 for Stage 2 Full proposals. *For more information, please click here.*

Welcome New Members

Turku University of Applied Sciences, Finland

Turku University of Applied Sciences is an innovative and multidisciplinary higher education institution, which creates international competitiveness and well-being for Southwest Finland. The institution has ongoing R&D activities and expertise in the following areas: Urban stormwater management; Hazardous substances in natural waters and WWTPs ; Waste water treatment, especially decentralized colutions ; Rural water management, water and agriculture ; Water quality and quantity monitoring. Past and on-going projects include national and international R&D on above-mentioned topics. *For more information, please click here.*

AGS, Portugal

AGS provides engineering services and solutions for the entire urban water cycle. Its activities are ranging from consultancy and development of specialised engineering services to the management, operation and maintenance of water and wastewater collection, treatment facilities, storage and distribution systems to meet the needs of both public and private activities. *For more information, please click here.*

Enco, Italy

ENCO Srl – Engineering & Consulting is a Naples-based consulting firm that operates since 1987 in the areas of consulting on research and innovation and technical assistance to businesses. ENCO is specialized in financial opportunities on technological innovation, technology transfer, local development, territorial animation and awareness, research, the creation of new businesses, training, national and European projects. ENCO is involved in SALTAGE and Water2REturn. *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 204 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 SIRA, Management body for MEP Water Group.

AGENDA

22 January 2019
Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency Info Day

5-6 February 2019
European Industry Week 2019

12 February 2019
JPI Urban Europe Policy Conference 2019

26-27 February 2019
World Water-Tech Innovation Summit

20 March 2019
WssTP Water Market Europe 2019

7 May 2019
WssTP Water Market
Europe Belgium Roadshow

28 May 2019
4th European Climate Change Adaptation Conference

12-13 June 2019
WssTP Water Innovation Europe 2019

16-19 June 2019
12th IWA International Conference on Water Reclamation and Reuse

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