

# A common vision for European Water Innovation



Dear WssTP friends,

Fortunately, we are not alone in our mission to visualize a podium for water and its importance. The meetings at the World Economic Forum have just concluded, and provide, once again, solid arguments for our cause. Water crises have ranked - already for the 8th year in a row now - among the top global challenges in terms of their impact.



'The challenges, we are facing, call for the development of water smart cities where urbanization goes hand in hand with sustainable water management'

**by Jens Prismo, Leader of WssTP Cluster 'Water Smart Cities'**



It is good to see the number and importance of those recognizing the Value of Water, increases. Even though we would strive for much more, we like to think that such is also reflected by discussions at an interinstitutional level on Horizon Europe, which in our opinion also show positive support for water-related issues.

2019 is election year! We are eager to see how water will be reflected in the next European Commission and Parliament. We should not neglect any as small as possible opportunity, to make our message and arguments heard. Let me thus just recall some of the important policy dossiers which are being dealt with, and which will be important, this year.

The **Water Framework Directive** is being REFIT evaluated by the European Commission. A full Evaluation report is to be expected late 2019. The **Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive** is also being REFIT evaluated by the Commission. A full evaluation report also expected late 2019 could well conform the basis for a future review proposal.

A Council common position on the EU **Drinking Water Directive** should be available between March and June 2019. Important negotiations among the Commission, Parliament and Council, will follow subsequently. There are ongoing discussions in the EU Parliament and Council on **Water Reuse Regulation**. The parliament's position is expected by March 2019, and we might expect a position by the Council about 3 months later. Trilogue negotiations on this topic could take place as early as November 2019. Last, there will be a public consultation (planned for 2nd quarter 2019) on the **Industrial Emissions Directive**, whose REFIT evaluation is also ongoing. Work on this is expected to be finalized during the 2nd quarter of 2020.

I look forward to our continued collaboration on water related issues and hope to be able to greet many of you during our **events coming up this year**. WssTP **Water Market Europe WME 2019** will be dedicated to the food and beverage sector and take place on March 20th. We are scheduling a second **WME event** to take place **on May 7th in Brussels**. The highlight of 2019 will of course be **Water Innovation Europe WIE 2019** which will take place **in Brussels from June 12th to June 13th**. You are all already now, cordially invited! Stay tuned for more!

**Tomas Michel,**  
WssTP President

**Why is it important to have a Cluster dedicated to the theme 'Water Smart Cities'?**

In Europe, as well as, globally the trend is for more and more people to live in cities. This means that the demand for clean water and proper sanitation in cities is rising dramatically. Urban development, also, increases the area of paved land, which - combined with more heavy rainfall and rising water levels from climate change - increases the risk of flooding. Other cities have to react to water scarcity caused by overuse and droughts.

These challenges call for the development of water smart cities where urbanization goes hand in hand with sustainable water management. Thus, they will form the basis for the work of the Water Smart Cities Cluster.

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

The Cluster Smart Water Cities will focus on the concept of Living Labs where the different stakeholders of the urban water cycle contribute to the process of making this more sustainable. The stakeholders will, among others include municipalities and other local government organizations, utilities, universities, industry and citizens etc.

For the coming 2 years, our main focus will be on the development of the WssTP Smart Water Cities Living Lab concept. In cooperation with other WssTP clusters, we have already initiated an inventory of existing Water Living Labs throughout Europe. The results of this will be presented at conferences and other events. Existing living labs will be invited to participate in this process.

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

In close cooperation with the WssTP Working Groups, the Smart Water Cities Cluster will focus on the use of existing or new Living Labs to act as sites for demonstration of new solutions, exchange of best practices, identification of emerging needs, and broadening the vision building across Europe. Attention will be given on the reduction of water use for urban purposes, the development of new business models, digitalization, conscious water management in urban planning, enhanced resilience against climate change, conversion of wastewater treatment plants to resource recovery facilities and participatory governance models towards fully circular models and practices of water.



Source: WssTP

## New college for WssTP Members: Public Authorities Launching Event, 5 March 2019

In 2017, WssTP was recognised as 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. WssTP's partnership with the Covenant of Mayors was a first important step for our platform to build bridges between our 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.

Regions and municipalities are, both physically and socially, the closest institutions to the citizen. They provide a direct link to the citizens, who together with the public sector, industry and academia constitute the *Quadruple Helix*. Local authorities are, thanks, in no small part, to their proximity to the citizen, key players in both water management and the enhancement of the circular economy. Many supranational entities, including the EU, UN, and the OECD publicly recognize that the municipality represents the principal tool of implementation for supranational strategies. Therefore, municipal and regional administrations, no matter their nationality, need to explain, discuss and, indeed, involve their own citizens in issues that affect water management and the implementation of water-based legislation.

As the voice and promotor of water-related RTD and innovation in Europe, WssTP has decided to develop a new college this summer to involve public authorities who demonstrate an interest in the water sector. WssTP demonstrates its ambition to create a full, open and transparent dialogue between all stakeholders. The launching event will take place in Brussels on **the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2019**. Municipalities, cities, regions and association of municipalities interested in this workshop, they are invited to contact [Loic Charpentier](#), for more information on the upcoming event.



## The EnergyWater project has come to a successful ending

After three exciting years of work in developing the EMSA-web tool and creating the Energy Angels Network, the Energy Water project formally ended. On 23 and 24 January, the project's partners convened for their final meeting at WssTP offices in Brussels to present the final and promising results of their work and celebrate the project's successful completion.

Through its EMSA web tool, the EnergyWater project succeeded in leaving behind an innovative working environment where companies can evaluate their water processes and energy consumption; compare their results with other European companies; acquire access to examples of best practices already implemented in other EU industries; and obtain a detailed improvement action & saving measures proposal. More than 300 companies have tested the tool and benefited from its innovative functionalities.

Same time, with 120 trained Energy Angels currently registered in the EMSA tool, the project is offering an open network of skilled energy managers and auditors that functions as a catalyst for the implementation and financing of energy efficiency in the industrial sector. Throughout its duration, the EnergyWater consortium also managed to implement a training module to improve the availability of skilled energy managers and auditors, during which up to 200 people have been trained. The EnergyWater [MOOC remains free and available](#) for those who want to get trained and obtain a certification.

To learn more about the EnergyWater project and the results it can bring for large companies and SMEs please watch its latest video [here](#).

Questions about this newsletter? Contact us: [durk.krol@wssstp.eu](mailto:durk.krol@wssstp.eu)  
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**Welcome 3 New Members**



**IAAMA, Spain**

The Research Institute of Water and Environmental Engineering, IAAMA, of the Technical University of Valencia (Universitat Politècnica de València, UPV), was created in 2001 as a new framework to better host and bust the research activities maintained by different groups within the University for more than two decades. It has the goal of promoting scientific research, specialized teaching and technical advising. It is currently integrated by eight Research Areas that focus on different water-related fields, considering water both as a resource and as a biosphere support. All of them present an extensive investigation and advising in their respective areas of work with an important degree of complementariness among them, covering all the Water Cycle. *For more information, please click [here](#).*



**Smat Gruppo, Italy**

Società Metropolitana Acque Torino S.p.A. provides integrated water resource services to customers in Italy and internationally. It operates in the areas of engineering, construction, and management of diversified water sources; drinking water treatment systems; sanitation systems and recycling of urban waste water; collection, purification, and recycling networks; and energy cogeneration and recovery systems. The company also provides integrated water supply and sanitation services, including water infrastructure management, water treatment, water quality monitoring, wastewater treatment, as well as research activities. *For more information, please click [here](#).*



**AGENSO, Greece**

AGENSO (Agricultural and environmental solutions) is an innovative company for agriculture and environment. AGENSO expertise spans in IoT solutions and Precision Agriculture (PA) services and specializes in the promotion of research and services in the areas of sustainable agricultural production, environmental sustainability and advanced technologies for agriculture and environment; being in-line with the objectives set by EU with the 7th Environment Action Programme. *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 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.

*For more information, please contact [Durk Krol](#).*

**AGENDA**

**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

**26-28 June 2019**

Resilient Cities 2019

**30-31 October 2019**

WssTP Water Knowledge Europe 2019

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

**On Twitter: [@wsstpeu](#)**

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