

A common vision for European Water Innovation



Dear WssTP friends,

This month, the H2020 call “Building a water-smart economy and society” has been closed. The call has not only been based on the WssTP Water Vision in its valuable and very interesting content, but has borrowed its full name and title, from our Water Vision. We are proud for this contribution.



Regarding Horizon Europe, the signals we are receiving continue to be very positive, and despite the fact that we are not there yet, and that nothing concrete has yet been achieved, it becomes clear to us that we are moving in the right direction.

Very much related to our advocacy efforts are WssTP Living Labs. This concept lies at the heart of the WssTP Vision and SIRA and is a central piece of our strategy to make water innovation happen and bring water knowledge and solutions to the market. We started already last year, defining what water living labs could look like, and initiated a mapping exercise analysing existing initiatives which correspond to our definition. The current draft mapping includes more than 90 identified living labs that meet the WssTP criteria. This very useful information is based on literature searches, research and input from WssTP ambassadors (Cluster Leaders and WG members) and we intend to complete it now with an extensive public consultation. This way, we will make sure that future proposals by our members will know of, and relate to, valuable previous experiences with which to collaborate, and from which we can all learn, but also that the concept we want to deliver is based on as strong as possible evidence, and experience.

Also, related to our advocacy activity is our determination to include public authorities and civil society organizations in our discussions, value proposals, and decisions. Thus, WssTP is making efforts to shape two new colleges: F (Public Authorities) and G (Civil Society Organisations). Our last General Assembly, decided on expanding our representativity, to fulfil our ambition to really cover the whole water value chain. On the 5th of March, WssTP will be hosting the launch workshop for Public Authorities.

Important for our advocacy efforts, and for WssTP visibility is also a certain degree of international presence and recognition. WssTP is further rolling out its International Water Dialogues Programme. On the 13th of February, WssTP signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Water and EU Business Cooperation in India with several Indian and European partners as part of our WssTP International Water Dialogue on India.

Calls well aligned with our Vision, a fully representative and inclusive environment to advance water science and research, a clear strategy to make sure water innovation reaches the market, European values and ideas, that can be recognized and shared,.... everywhere.

Tomas Michel, WssTP President

Editorial Article by
**Ioan Deneş, Minister
for Waters & Forests
EU Romanian
Presidency 2019**



Thank you for the opportunity to address the WssTP public, a platform dedicated to water specialists and, at the same time, for the opportunity to present my vision on such an important field as water management.

As the EU member state which currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Romania has, so far, proved to be highly efficient - in only two months of mandate, we have closed 57 legislative files. We intend to maintain this pace and, at the same time, to bring other dossiers as near as possible to a final agreement.

Since water management is one of our main topics of interest, advancing negotiations on the two dossiers in this regard is a priority during Romania's Presidency of the EU Council.

I would like to emphasize that one of the first national events organized by Romania as the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, in cooperation with the European Commission, was a workshop on Sustainable Water and Agriculture management. The event, which brought together many EU experts, was aimed at sharing best practices in terms of investments, innovative use of financial resources and providing funds to create positive synergies for water and agriculture.

More sustenance will be needed to meet the population growth requirements; we therefore expect an increasing pressure on water resources, from a quantitative as well as a qualitative perspective. Climate change already affects the water cycle and creates ancillary problems, especially in agriculture. At the same time, we must be aware that good quality water, in sufficient quantities, is necessary for the environment, in agriculture, in the everyday life of each human being and also to meet the requirements of other economic and social activities.

Throughout the year, water scarcity affects one third of the European Union's territory and not just its southern part, thus having harmful effects both on environment and economy. An alternative solution to mitigate the pressure on water resources could be waste water reuse, provided it is done in a safe and cost-effective manner.

In order to keep the balance between water demand and availability, we need a wiser approach to water resources management. Reducing water losses and the level of nutrients in water, as well as adapting crops to natural conditions, represent just some of the elements that contribute to the growth of available reserves and to the improvement of water resources quality. An integrated water resource management at river basin level, including cross-border cooperation, could be a potential area of progress.

I am confident that implementing the EU directives in the water sector is one of the most important actions to protect both water resources and the aquatic environment.



'Water is not just water. We have different waters for different purposes and, therefore, we have many different values in water' says **Josef Klinger, Leader of the WssTP Cluster 'Value in Water'**



With WssTP's vision for a Water Smart society, it became apparent the need to strengthen the activities in different clusters. The strategic innovation and research Agenda (SIRA) sets one clear goal: The value of water. Besides many different aspects, one important issue is, that water is not just water. We have different waters for different purposes and, therefore, we have many different values in water.

For that reason, we have to think as one circular water world and we have to find solutions to use and market the value in water. There are already many activities in different sectors and types of wastewaters in place like the recovery of nutrients, metals or energy. Consequently, we can create new products like fertilizers, biopolymers or cellulose for a water-smart society. But a product needs a market, where someone pays a reasonable price. Thus, it was obvious that there is a need to cluster WssTP's activities for the value in water.

The cluster and its leaders are the ambassadors of WssTP vision and we will drive the way to the implementation of this vision by strategic actions e.g. together with WssTP board in high-level meetings with the EC. Additionally, we have very active working groups which are sharing knowledge under WssTP's members. In the future, one key issue will be the implementation of living labs, where we can showcase full demonstration techniques in different water sectors. The vision is that different stakeholders are working together in intersectoral concepts to use the value in different waters in the best possible way.

For this vision, we have to focus on following basic requirements: thinking out of the box, overcome political and social burden, demonstrate the technique and create or identify the market. The cluster value in water is one driving force for the identification and creation of living labs as one of WssTP's key actions. With this living labs, we will create water advocacy for a European water smart society and we can highlight Europe's water knowledge worldwide.



SAVE THE DATE: **SAVING-E Final Event**
25 March 2019

LIFE SAVING-E Project celebrates its official closure with a final event on the 25 of March in Barcelona. The event, which is organized by the consortium's partners: UAB, DAM, Agència Catalana de l'Aigua and WssTP, is going to present a comprehensive overview of the SAVING-E project, as well as the project's results from its 3.5 years' duration. Stakeholders from industry, research centres, end-users, regional representations offices and EU associations are expected to attend, strengthening networks and identifying potential areas of interest. *For more information about the project, please check the [website](#).*



WssTP partners with **BlueTech Research** in light of the **BlueTech Forum 2019**



WssTP is glad to partner with BlueTech Research again ahead of their annual water event BlueTech Forum 2019. BlueTech Forum is focused on solving our problems with water through innovation and the theme for the 2019 event, which will be hosted in the wonderful Kew Gardens in London, is "Innovating Towards Resilient Water Systems".

The water cycle is where the impact of climate change is already being felt most keenly. Water scarcity and flood risk are intensifying and directly affecting communities, economies and the environment. But rarely does water get the attention it deserves in the climate change debate. Water is the locus of a multiplicity of opportunities to mitigate the effects of climate change, shore up resilience and drive resource efficiency.

Questions about this newsletter? Contact us: durk.krol@wsstp.eu
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BlueTech Forum 2019 is focused on identifying workable solutions and market opportunities in water management and technology. Now is the time to embrace new models for solving our burgeoning crises by valuing water smartly and aligning its utility with fundamental principles of sustainability, inclusion and resilience.

Here are 5 things you can expect from BlueTech Forum 2019: Over 200 C-Suite delegates; 12 emerging water tech companies; interactive Thought Leadership roundtables; Multiple end-user companies presenting a set of roundtable sessions to address the common challenges they face in their businesses, and solutions required, and 1:1 meetings. *For more information, please [click here](#). To register, please click [here](#).*



Welcome 2 New Members



EJWP, the Netherlands

The European Junior Water Programme aims to build a community of young European water management professionals who share a deep commitment to addressing today's and future water and climate change issues. It is designed to provide participants with the tools, the skills and the appropriate cocreation and cooperation network to find new solutions and share knowledge for the purpose of creating and maintaining a sustainable and safe water management system in Europe. *For more information, please click [here](#).*



Aqua Alarm, Norway

Aqua Alarm is a water technology company delivering real-time monitoring equipment that is accurate, cheap, robust and small. Aqua Alarm has developed the BiWAS (Biological Water alarm system) technology which is a compact, early warning system for monitoring the quality of drinking water. The system is composed of a software network that lets the users observe the water quality at multiple locations in near real time and a sensor component containing two detection modules. Its vision is to make BiWAS a game changer in the way we ensure safe drinking water for the future. *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.

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

AGENDA

5 March 2019

WssTP Launch Event on College F: Public Authorities

5-6 March 2019

WssTP Joint Board & Cluster Meeting

20 March 2019

WssTP Water Market Europe 2019

7 May 2019

WssTP Water Market Europe Belgium Roadshow

5-6 June 2019

BlueTech Forum 2019

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

On Twitter: [@wsstpeu](#)

On LinkedIn: [The WssTP Group](#)