

A common vision for European Water Innovation



Dear WssTP friends,

This month, European Commission formally adopted the Work Programmes 2016-2017 for Horizon 2020. Water is no longer present as a stand-alone topic, as was the case in the period 2013-2015.



Protecting Europe's Water Resources

by Bruno Tisserand,
EurEau President



Instead, it has now been included as a transversal topic across the different pillars and chapters of the Work Programmes. This new approach has not worked out well for water as it should have. This is mainly because no clear ownership for the transversal integration of water in the Work Programme 2016-2017 has been identified within the European Commission.

Nevertheless, WssTP has been able to play a pivotal role during the whole drafting process of the new Work Programmes, by strenuously advocating for raising the profile of the water topic. Today, we are happy to see that our efforts have paid off. Compared with the first drafts of the Work Programmes, we have now found some substantial improvements of the position of water in the call texts. WssTP has even identified 22 calls with a strong potential for water and another 72 calls with a potential link to water.

Besides this important progress, our efforts do not stop here. WssTP is already getting ready to make sure that water will have a strong comeback in the Work Programme 2018-2019. As a first step in this process, we're preparing a new WssTP Water Vision and SIRA that will be ready by May 2016.

This week, WssTP also held its Board meeting on 28th of October in Brussels. The Board has set a number of priorities for the period 2015-2017, including, amongst others, fostering collaborative initiatives between members that create value for WssTP members and society, as well as creating an enabling environment for water related RTD & Innovation.

To this end, WssTP, in its capacity as the management body of the EP Water Group, is working diligently to organise a dinner with Karmenu Vella, the European Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and the key representatives of the water sector on 18th of November in Brussels.

Less than a month separates us now from the annual WssTP Brokerage and Working Group event that will take place on 23rd and 24th of November at the Diamant Centre in Brussels. Once again, our event will enable participants to get a thorough analysis of the calls of the new H2020 Work Programme 2016-17, meet potential cooperation partners and create bridges to accomplish their future projects!

With a wide and diverse membership covering the whole water value chain, WssTP keeps growing and becoming an increasingly important actor within the water sector representation in Europe! So, why don't you consider joining WssTP now? **Until 31st of December, membership is FREE, why not give us a try!**

Tomas Michel,
WssTP President

As well as early drawings of helicopters and flying machines Leonardo Da Vinci was fascinated by controlling water and ensuring its access to humans, animals and plants.

So it was wonderful for EurEau's technical experts to be in Milan recently, to see a celebration of his work at the Festival Dell'Aqua, and to draw inspiration as we looked into the future for Europe's water sector.

Our focus was on the revision of the Water Framework Directive. We started work on this because the revision timetable has already begun. Member states are working hard now on finalising their second River Basin Management Plans to submit to the Commission next spring.

So what did our experts from across Europe say? Here are just a few of the very many points. First let's start with the positives. The overall outcome is that water quality has improved bringing many benefits to customers. This is despite the very many challenges we face for example diffuse pollution and the effects of climate change. We now have more quantity, and better quality monitoring and information about the state of our waters. Thanks to these factors and the River Basin Management Approach overall, there is much more transparency and increased stakeholder participation.

Also, we know the EU is very serious about this Directive's implementation. Member States are being taken to court for infringements, which is painful for everyone involved.

There are unfortunately also problems. The definition of "good status" should be reviewed and we need to communicate the progress achieved. In some cases, we can work as hard as possible but we are also working with nature and status improves slowly because ecosystems are slow.

We are also doing our best despite other factors outside of our control. For example, as consumers' behaviours and demands change, new products with new pharmaceuticals and chemicals from the products they buy, are found in our watercourses. We have a challenge in understanding these better and protecting our watercourses.

The main problem is the lack of action on agriculture and simply not enough coordination to involve all stakeholders. There is no feasible link to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

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

A common vision for European Water Innovation

Again on policy, there is more integration needed between WFD and the Drinking Water Directive. On implementation, we need clearer definitions for exemptions so they can be used more. These were just a few quick points from the discussion and EurEau will publish more information about this discussion very shortly.



This month, **Jochen Froebrich**, the new leader of the WssTP Working Group **'Water & AgriFood'** is sharing his insights with us!

On the occasion of the RESFOOD Conference, held on 27th of October 2015 in Brussels, WssTP and the ETP Food for Life had the chance to set up the 'Water and Food Innovation' dialogue for inclusive green growth in Europe. This dialogue will form the basis for unleashing new business potentials on both sides.

As highlighted by Beate Kettlitz, FoodDrink Europe and Jochen Froebrich, WssTP WG Water and AgriFood, at the RESFOOD conference, there is now a need to move from intention to action. Today, the interaction is often fragmented and requires different and new networks within Europe. Opportunities within the circular economy can provide new impulses for irrigated agriculture by producing specialized products and re-using process water. The AgriFood processing can benefit from more resilience against floods and droughts and address policy barriers with a systemic approach. This dialogue fits perfectly with the new **focus of the WssTP working group Water & AgriFood**, which is to bring parties from the water sector and the AgriFood processing sector together.

Why is it important to have a Working Group focused on Water & AgriFood?

The WG 'Water & AgriFood' has developed from the previous WssTP WG Agriculture. The permanent reflection on "More crop per Drop" will be continued, but will be also expanded to identify new business opportunities for the irrigation sector. The WG is of major importance, as it addresses the challenge for jobs and growth under water scarcity and droughts in Europe from a wider perspective.

What are the main goals and expectations you have from the WG 'Water & AgriFood'?

We are aspiring to engage in a dialogue with parties in the agrobusiness to identify new opportunities for the irrigated agriculture. The WG will also offer WssTP members a service to reach out to new partners. Among the WG's goals are to make a significant contribution to the dialogue on linking water and food in Europe as well as to demonstrate the capabilities of the water sector to solve challenges in the water food sector.

What does the Working Group plan on working in the upcoming months?

The Working Group is planning to finalise a state of the art report and contribute to the preparation of WssTP new strategic water vision. It will also organise high level meetings to facilitate water and food innovation dialogue. At the same time, all WssTP members are invited to join the discussion at WssTP annual Brokerage & WG event on November 24th to reflect on the new work plan of the Working Group and to identify opportunities how to participate proactively within the Water and Food Innovation dialogue in 2016.



WIDEST present at ICT2015!

WIDEST, a H2020 CSA coordinated by Eurecat, made its presence felt at the ICT2015 event, held from the 18th to 22nd of October in Lisbon. The event was organized by the EC with the major research and business players in the ICT field present. All projects from the ICT4Water cluster presented their latest advances and results from their research efforts at the exhibition area. The stand of the ICT4Water cluster attracted the attention of citizens but also members of the EC, including, amongst others, the European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Günther Oettinger, the General Director of DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology, Roberto Viola, and the Director of Net Futures, Mario Campolargo, along with other regional political representatives. A massively attended networking session, regarding the role of Smart Water in Smart Cities completed the event.

In parallel with this, WIDEST is collecting information about trends, gaps and technologies, which will be available on an "ICT for Water Observatory" and other existing platforms. How about filling out the following [survey](#) to help WIDEST identify the functionalities that best fit your needs?



Vlakwa celebrated its 5th anniversary!

On the 22nd of October, more than 100 attendees from all the major Flemish actors in the field of water took part in the academic meeting, organized by VLAKWA (Flanders Knowledge Center Water) to celebrate its 5th anniversary. The event was organized in collaboration with Aquarama Trade Fair, AquaFlanders, TNAV, VITO and Vlarlo.

Durk Krol, Director of WssTP took part in a multi-stakeholder panel discussion and highlighted that innovative European water-related technologies can provide appropriate solutions to cope with the increasing global environmental challenges.

Questions about this newsletter? Contact us: durk.krol@wsstp.eu
ig Committee: M.Mirachtsi, D. Krol, T. Michel Mayer, T. van den Hoven

After the panel discussions, the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Belgium, His Excellency Sulaiman HAMID ALMAZROUI, was welcomed. He underlined the importance of Water for the UAE and a positive move towards closer collaboration between UAE and Flanders. He noticed, that Flanders has lots of specialists and a lot of know-how. VLAKWA succeeded in starting a dialogue between UAE and the Flanders Government at the International Water Summit in Abu Dhabi, 18-21 January 2016 to valorize Flemish technology in the UAE region.



20th European Biosolids & Organic Resources Conference & Exhibition

The conference will be held the 10th & 11th November 2015, Manchester Town Hall, UK and remains “**The best technical sludge event in Europe**” and provides attendees the opportunity to hear from some of the most high-profile industry experts and network with over 200 like-minded people. The programme covers both the latest innovations and updates of existing technologies. This year, the Biosolids Conference will celebrate its 20th anniversary. The event will look back at the history of sludge developments and also forward to where the next 20 years will take us. For conference details, please click [here](#).



Welcome 3 New Members



Coca-Cola, USA

The Coca-Cola Company is an American multinational beverage corporation and manufacturer, retailer, and marketer of non-alcoholic beverage concentrates and syrups, which is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. As a business operating in almost every country in the world, Coca-Cola believes setting sound water policy at the national level for each country is one of the most effective ways to achieve long-term water security for communities and businesses. *For more information, please click [here](#).*



Advanced Bioprocess Development Ltd, UK

Advanced Bioprocess Development Limited (ABD) is a private limited company set up by Manchester Metropolitan University. ABD develops biological water and wastewater treatment processes for licensing, using expanded bed biofilm reactor (EBBR) technology. This generic technology is used to develop novel processes, either in house for licensing or under contract. *For more information, please click [here](#).*



Cobre Las Cruces, Spain

Cobre Las Cruces (CLC) is an open pit mine, located in Southwestern Spain. The mine exploits copper sulphides and produces copper cathodes in a hydrometallurgical plant, implementing a brand new lixiviation and electrodeposition technique. Its mission is to reach optimum premium copper production in a safe and sustainable way, maximizing return on investment, ensuring the satisfaction of stakeholders. *For more information, please click [here](#).*

Increase your chances to succeed in 2015 Calls- Horizon 2020!



Join WssTP!

WssTP counts now 151 members, a constant growth since its creation in 2007. As a WssTP member, you can have a European impact on the EU Water RTD&I strategy and be benefited from numerous services including:

- Networking workshops and brokerage events
Information on the latest news about calls for proposals and relevant EU policy
- Take a leading role in one of our working groups
- Contribute to the shaping of relevant EU policy and the priority setting for public funding, research and innovation at EU level.

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

AGENDA

3-6 November 2015

Amsterdam International Water Week

5 November 2015

Economic Benefits of Water Innovation Workshop

10-11 November 2015

20th European Biosolids & Organic Resources Conference & Exhibition

16-18 November 2015

11th EWA Brussels Conference

19 November 2015

EIP Water Steering Group meeting

18 November 2015

EP Water Group Dinner with EU Commissioner Vella

23-24 November 2015

[WssTP Brokerage and WG Event](#)

10 February 2016

EIP Water Conference

www.wsstp.eu

On Twitter: [@wsstpeu](#)

On LinkedIn: [The WssTP Group](#)