

A common vision for European Water Innovation

February 2014



Dear friends,

At its first meeting of the year, the WssTP board dedicated a special strategy session to review the achievements and progress of WssTP during 2013 against its strategic priorities. There was general agreement that a lot of progress has been made over the last year and that the current position and strength of WssTP would have been unimaginable a few years ago.



The WssTP board also defined an action plan for the new year with an emphasis on the WssTP Working Groups, strengthening SMEs involvement, further roll-out of the EIP Water, and making sure that water will be properly represented in the preparation for the Horizon2020 Work Programme for 2016-2017 in the interest of our members.

Since the beginning of the year, our Working Group's activities have come under the spotlight. Over the last period, we have seen the meetings of WG Shale gas, WG Eco-system services, WG Resource recovery and WG Industry. The rest of our Working groups are already in the process of scheduling their meetings for the upcoming months. A coordination meeting of all the WG leaders took place on 18th of February, to discuss the progress in the different WGs, coordination issues, and preparations to provide input to the drafting process of the Horizon2020 Work Programme for 2016-2017.

WssTP is now gearing up for the 2014 edition of 'Water Innovation Europe', our annual stakeholder event that will be dedicated this year to the theme '**Water: green tape or blue gold**'. This theme has been chosen to emphasize the business opportunities the water sector is offering to the European economy and labour market, especially in the context of the green and circular economy. The event will contribute to shaping the mind-set of the new European Parliament and the new European Commission that will take office after the summer holidays, with regard to the opportunities for the European water sector. The event will be hosted at Diamant Centre on 25th and 26th of June in Brussels.

In the context of the EIP Water, the report on 'Barriers and bottlenecks to water innovation' came to light. An ad-hoc group of the EIP Water Task Force involving WssTP, SusChem and the Industry Expert Group has identified and analysed the barriers and bottlenecks to innovation in the water sector in Europe and abroad. The only way to make best use of the report's outcomes and tackle effectively the barriers that hamper water sector's innovation, is a strong collaboration with different stakeholders from policy instruments, industry and academia.

WssTP's continuing progress stems primarily from its excellent collaboration with all its members. WssTP grows and its growing agenda and activities call for an even closer collaboration with the current members and a further expansion of WssTP family. WssTP's members, as the backbone of our platform are also the backbone of our success! To find all our members and our updated membership package, how about having a look [here](#)?

Tomas Michel, WssTP President

Special article by Stavros Kalafatis, Alternate Minister for Environment, Energy & Climate Change on the Greek Presidency



It is more than clear that restoring and preserving the environmental well-being of the marine environment by the year 2020, is not only a key point to maritime planning, as a pillar of the European Union's environmental policy, but also a prerequisite for its development as well.

To achieve this goal, which permeates the priorities of the Greek Presidency, it is necessary to scratch beyond the surface of mutual cooperation and understanding so as to attend, in common, to the vision of a pioneering Europe via the sustainability principles. This objective becomes all the more imperative in regards to the Mediterranean basin since it is here where maximum coordination is required to establish the most conducive way to the management of maritime activities, the protection of marine environment and heritage, the prevention of and the fight against pollution as well as the protection of biodiversity up to the level of the citizens' daily practices.

Within the aforementioned context, on a national policy-making level and in regard to the interests of the Ministry, the following areas occupy a prominent place: maritime spatial planning, integrated management for the coastal areas and marine biodiversity. This transition from land planning to the sea, being an initiative of primary importance in the 'Europe 2020' strategic framework, requires the coordinated management between overland and sea areas.

In parallel, following the implementation of the European Communities' (under National Law via the Special Secretariat for the Waters) Directive 2008/56, we have proceeded to specific sets of actions which are to be carried out under a binding timetable. More specifically:

- Adoption and implementation by July 15th 2014, of a monitoring program for the ongoing assessment and the regular updating of the targets set.
- Establishing programs of measures by the end of 2015, with the aim to achieve a good environmental status.
- The launching of all these by the end of 2016, in accordance with the Article 12.

As we intensify our efforts on every level, we uphold this basic principle: that ensuring a more secure and protected marine area is a constituent of progress and prosperity for the European nations and the culture that we share.

Questions about this newsletter? Contact us: durk.krol@wsstp.eu
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Water Beyond Europe II

ACQUEAU's workshop 'Water Beyond Europe II' held on 20th February was a success. Attendants enjoyed with a wide range of topics from the presentations delivered by the European and South African speakers.

In addition, ACQUEAU would like to announce that South Africa's identification on Water Research Innovation as one of the main areas where to focus the efforts to advance in the South Africa-EU science and technology partnership, has meant the confirmation from the Department of Science and Technology and the Water Research Commission that South Africa will participate in the EUREKA ACQUEAU cluster in the 2014 programme.

With this collaboration, any South African projects awarded with the ACQUEAU Label will receive funding for the South African partners, as long as they adhere to all evaluation criteria and have a European partner. Lastly to remind that ACQUEAU workshops are bi-annual, having as main objective to bring together relevant R&D and innovation stakeholders – Large Enterprise, SMEs, Research Centres and public authorities – to develop projects ideas around a selection of water priority issues. Looking forward to the next one!



Launch of demEAUmed Project

On the 20th and 21st of February, the official launch of the European project demEAUmed took place at LEITAT (Member of TECNIO), in Terrassa, Spain. DemEAUmed is coordinated by WsstP's member, LEITAT and counts the participation of 15 institutions from 7 different countries, among which three more WsstP members are found, Unesco-IHE, FRAUNHOFER and ADASA. It is co-financed under the Environment (Water Inno & Demo) theme, part of the EU Seventh-Framework Programme, with a total EC contribution of 4 million Euros.

DemEAUmed aims to involve industry representatives, stakeholders, policy-makers and diverse technical and scientific experts in demonstrating and promoting innovative technologies, for an optimal and safe closed water cycle in Euro-Mediterranean tourist facilities, leading to their eventual market uptake. The demonstration site of DemEAUmed is the Samba Hotel; a representative 4* hotel chain sited in Lloret de Mar and Blanes. The solution proposed by demEAUmed integrates innovative water treatment technologies, ICT and water management tools. Different proven water treatment technologies at pre-marketable level will be properly combined to treat and adapt the different water flows to the necessities of the different areas within the resort, while saving fresh water consumption and reducing environmental and socio-economic impact in a safe way.

DemEAUmed will face two essential challenges shared by the Mediterranean countries: the importance of the tourism sector in their economies, and water scarcity characteristic of the Mediterranean. The project will be an important showcase contributing to strengthening the link between the water and tourism sectors and a platform to promote the use of sustainable innovative technologies in other Euro-Mediterranean tourism facilities with a view also on to global tourism market.

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Closing the water cycle without concessions on food quality and safety

About 65 % of the daily water consumption is used for food production and processing, while 30 % of the food produced in Europe is lost and wasted. How to hasten the transition towards a culture of saving, re-use and recycling in the food chain? And how to build up more sustainable patterns for consumption and production without making concessions on food quality and safety? These are the main challenges of the EU funded **RESFOOD project - "Resource Efficiency and Safety in Food Production and Processing"** which started in November 2012. The RESFOOD research partners have already achieved encouraging preliminary results and a set of new technologies are now selected to be further investigated at the pilot scale in the coming months.

The project aims to have a great impact on food production and processing by big saving and recovery of water, nutrients and energy, as well as recovery of valuable materials from raw agricultural materials. Far going closure of the water cycle – with the help of innovative new technologies for water treatment, decontamination and detection – will lead to big changes in horticulture and food processing.

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Increase your chances to succeed in 2014 Calls- Horizon 2020! Join WssTP!

WssTP counts now 104 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

3rd March 2014

WssTP WG Agriculture & Irrigation, Brussels

4th March 2014

WssTP WG Water & Industry, Brussels

10th- 11th March 2014

Innovation Convention 2014, Brussels

17th -21st March 2014

Water Campus Business Challenge 2014, Netherlands

7th April 2014

2nd Stakeholder Forum of the EU ETV Pilot Programme, Germany

9th -11th April 2014

Smart Growth through Research & Innovation towards Europe 2020, Athens, Greece

23rd May 2014

EIP Water Steering Group, Brussels

25th-26th June 2014

Water Innovation Europe 2014, Brussels

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On LinkedIn: [The WssTP Group](#)

Equally important focus of the project is on the water management in food processing. The aim is to close the water cycle: instead of discharging the water after the first use, the water is treated and re-used in the process. The project defines the real water quality needed and develops monitoring tools to control this quality all along the processing stage. The RESFOOD concept is based on offering "affordable, practical and cost-effective" solutions for the food production and processing industry. The new technologies offered by the project will stimulate new markets and lead new start-ups especially in the water treatment sector and biomass valorization. The new solutions for the disinfection and detection of pathogens in food and water will increase the consumer confidence towards the fresh-cut produce.

For RESFOOD, developing innovative technologies is not enough, as the Project Coordinator Willy Van Tongeren from TNO says, "We need to convince stakeholders that food can be produced and processed with reused water and nutrients without doing any concessions at food quality and safety". For more information, please visit [RESFOOD's website](#).



Welcome 3 new Members!



CMI Industry, Belgium

CMI Industry designs, integrates, supplies and upgrades industrial equipment in the mechanical, thermal, chemical, biological and energy efficiency fields. CMI Industry provides tailored technological solutions to guarantee a rapid return on investment, further enhanced by related services such as the know-how transfer, expert services for training, commissioning, remote assistance and performance audits for the facilities. CMI Industry has technological centers and commercial and operational Business Units in Europe, North America, Latin America, China, India and Russia. For more information, please click [here](#).



Technion, Israeli Institute of Technology, Israel

Technion is Israel's largest science and technology university, which was founded in 1912. With more than 80 collaborative agreements with academic institutions around the world, Technion is a global center for applied research. Technion researchers are at the center of the government-backed University-Industry Consortia Program (MAGNET) to develop precompetitive generic technologies. The award-winning technology incubator, Technion Seed, assists technology-based start-ups to develop innovative products from initial concept to commercial venture. Technion is a vital center of national and international outreach, with a range of programs promoting science and technology for young people across the world. For more information, please click [here](#).



Centre de Recherche Public Gabriel Lippmann, Luxembourg

The CRP - Gabriel Lippmann is a public establishment for applied scientific research and technological development, technology transfer and permanent high-level training. Its activities are aimed at strengthening the economic fabric of the country through the creation of new technological skills within the CRP - Gabriel Lippmann and the transfer of know-how to companies. The CRP - Gabriel Lippmann focuses around three major axes: innovative materials technology, in particular nanotechnologies and instrumental development, sustainable management natural resources and technology information society. For more information, please click [here](#).