

A common vision for European Water Innovation



Dear WssTP friends,

Everybody will be back by now from the summer break and looking at a new work season. It has been a warm summer, indeed. Europe has suffered the longest heatwave since 1976. Numerous monthly and absolute records have fallen.



In the Netherlands, they posted end of July 34.8 and 36.1°C in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. The French border city of Lille recorded an all-time record high of 37.6 °C. While that is not so unusual for a Spaniard like myself, that's quite hot at a place where the average high in summer is "normally" closer to 23°C. In fact, while EU citizens in the South have had – as usual - their fair share of heat, and still enjoy unusual high temperatures as I am writing this editorial, it's largely the case that those farther north have seen the most extreme heat, and especially Scandinavian countries have been "scorching" this summer. Europe already feels the impact of climate change, which underlines clearly the need to take preventive measures.

Back to work, it is well worth having a quick look at what is around and ahead of us. In terms of water legislation, we have the revision of the Drinking Water Directive, the proposal for Water Reuse Regulation, the review of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Water Framework Directive, as well as the review of climate adaptation policies. All these dossiers are very important for water and all create opportunities to recognise the value of water and contribute to building a Water-Smart Society by implementing innovative and progressive water policies. But there is clearly more than policy and advocacy needed. There is also Horizon Europe. More, and new technologies, embracing industry 4.0, improved communications technologies and data management should help us promote better water management and governance. WssTP will actively continue to engage in these processes advocating for a most visible podium for water, as well as, for the best water research and innovation possible.

A new season, and WssTP already sparkling with activities. Preparations are ongoing for the WssTP Water Market Europe roadshows that will be hosted back-to-back with iWater in Barcelona and Watec in Cremona (Italy). Water Knowledge Europe 2018 (WKE2018), our annual WssTP Brokerage Event for the upcoming H2020 calls that will take place on 28-29 November in Brussels; and a new WssTP website is to be launched by the beginning of 2019. The summer gone, plenty going on, and even more to do. I wish you all the best possible season entry!

Tomas Michel, WssTP President

'International cooperation as a basis for peace & water security' by **Elisabeth Köstinger**, Minister for Sustainability & Tourism, Austrian EU Presidency



Water is both our most precious resource but also one of the greatest global challenges of the 21st century. We, therefore, need to take the utmost care to ensure integrated water resource management, promote good water governance, maintain water quality and continue to improve aquatic habitats as core parts of our sustainable water solutions.

Key goals of the Austrian EU Council presidency's programme include a healthy environment, the efficient use of resources, eco-friendly and sustainable growth, and measures for a non-toxic environment. The EU Water Conference on 20/21 September in Vienna was the kick-off for reviewing the success story of the EU Water Framework Directive being a cornerstone for future-oriented EU water legislation on the way to achieve the Agenda 2030 objectives.

In the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2018, the water crises rank for the seventh consecutive year among the top five global societal risks in terms of impact. Extreme weather events in a changing climate, severe floods and prolonged droughts are impacting more and more regions worldwide, not stopping at country borders. While local challenges should be dealt with on the appropriate local level, solutions for transregional problems can be found only in international cooperation. As part of three big international river basin districts, Austria plays an active part in the River Protection Commissions for the Danube, Rhine and Elbe, which serve as role models for the implementation of the UNECE Water Convention. Promoting international water cooperation as a basis for peace and water security, we are looking forward to updating the EU Water Diplomacy under the Austrian EU presidency.

During the Austrian EU Presidency, research and innovation activities for the upcoming Horizon Europe programme will be supported by various networks and funding schemes like Joint Programming and ERAnets. For streamlining and targeting research activities, exchange of information between several water initiatives should be improved and the national alignment of water research should be strengthened.

Water is essential for life and important for social, economic and environmentally sustainable development which determines its value. Integrated water resources management concerns several different policy fields and therefore requires multi-sector cooperation between the relevant institutions on a national and European level. I am confident that our combined efforts will result in significant progress in achieving the water-related Sustainable Development Goals!



'This is just the beginning: The digital revolution is ahead of us, and it will be a massive change and an unprecedented opportunity'

by **Guillaume Binet**, Leader of the WssTP Cluster Theme 'Digital Water'

Why is it important to have a Cluster dedicated to the theme 'Digital Water'?

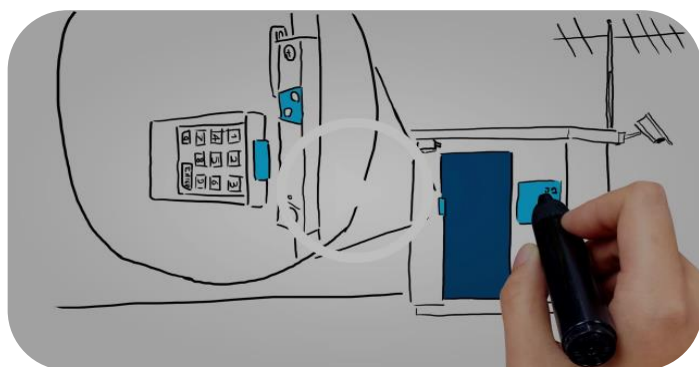
For several years now, the world of water has engaged its digital transformation through the deployment of sensors and real-time monitoring solutions, aiming at increased performance and sustainability. But this is just the beginning: the digital revolution is ahead of us, and it will be a massive change and an unprecedented opportunity for us to build a sustainable, robust and resilient water-smart society. Massive deployment of new low-energy sensors throughout our water systems will generate large amounts of data. Big Data and Artificial Intelligence algorithms will allow improved data-driven insight, forecasting and decision-making in real-time, as well as reinforced customer relationships. New digital-related solutions such as robotics, drones, IoT and more generally ICT solutions will enable new water management approaches, while increasing drastically the amount of available information. In a context of global climate change and rapid urbanization, these technologies will enable new advanced digital solutions to address the future water challenges such as floods and droughts, water security, water pollution or sustainable asset management. As it can be seen, the 'Digital Water' theme is very wide and is changing very fast, this is where the 'Digital Water' cluster comes into action: to support and to foster the development of the digital solutions that will allow us to reach the WssTP Water Vision 2030.

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

The actions of the cluster will be organized around four main missions. The first one is to specify and update the SIRA challenges related to 'Digital Water': Which are the priority needs and where should we put our focus to enable advanced digital solutions? The second mission is to support European Research & Innovation by contributing to an updated WssTP knowledge database on 'Digital Water' and by supporting the deployment of real-life digital living labs. The third mission is to promote the WssTP vision on 'Digital Water' and to provide long-term vision on water digitalization. Finally, the fourth mission of the cluster will aim at fostering and accelerating the transfer from research and innovation to the market.

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

I see two priority actions to reach this objective: the first one is related to the development of the living labs. Developing new solutions into a favourable and visible environment such as the living labs will be a first important step to engage these solutions on their way to the market. The second solution is based on Water Market Europe (WME) events that were launched by WssTP in 2017. We need to provide research and innovation teams with a tool that will allow them to get in touch and to meet future users and stakeholders as early as possible. WME events are a perfect tool for that and I will leverage on them to increase the visibility of new digital solutions and bring them closer to the market.



STOP-IT Innovation: Meklock-the clever smart lock system

As a protection measure against physical threats, the STOP-IT project's partners Mekorot and Aplicatzia developed Meklock, a smart lock system that is useful for any company that maintains and operates facilities with multiple buildings, entrances and cabinets with large quantities of expensive equipment, vulnerable to break-ins and sabotage. Meklock is an innovative access-control mobile app with a sophisticated management system that interacts with electronic locks. With the help of the system, it is possible to track entry of authorized users or enable or disable remote privileges for opening and locking doors. It does not require the implementation of wired or wireless infrastructure and therefore reduces maintenance costs. It increases the safety, is user-friendly and flexible, offers navigation to facilities and works with a standalone system, among other things. The system is ready to use. In case of interest, please contact [Gil Groskop](#) from Mekorot.

STOP-IT project, now in its second year, deals with the protection of water infrastructures by improving their preparedness, awareness and response level to physical and cyber threats, while taking into account systemic issues, as well as cascading effects. It brings together a strong team of 22 partners from all across Europe and Israel to develop solutions to the most pressing threats. To learn more about STOP-IT, please click [here](#).

Questions about this newsletter? Contact us: durk.krol@wsstp.eu
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FT

FT WATER SUMMIT

WssTP is a supporting partner for the FT Water Summit 2018!

With water stress increasing and concern growing in boardrooms about water risks to operations and investments, the 2018 FT Water Summit is coming up to provide investors and corporate leaders with another perspective: Turning risk into an opportunity by investing in sustainable water projects and/or transforming their corporate water management could unleash a flood of returns. WssTP is a supporting partner of the forthcoming FT Water Summit that will be held on 17th of October in London, aiming at boosting progress towards achieving SDG6 ('Water for All') – a target that many of the world's leading companies have signed up to.

Geoff Townsend, Leader of the WssTP Cluster Theme 'Water-Smart Industry' will participate at the event's session 'Watershed Moment: Roundtable Discussions', moderating the roundtable 'New competitive edge: Creating shared value through collective action' in the afternoon of the October 17th. WssTP network can receive a special discount when registering online, by using the marketing code: WssTP10. To learn more about the FT Water Summit, please click [here](#).

Welcome New Members



PROMIS®, Luxembourg

PROMIS® is a spin-off of well-administered European funded research, development and innovation resulted in an Business enabling Open Innovation e-Platform that organizes and tailors integrated process management, legislation, online communication, learning and training and helps to capture, structure and interlink all relevant information in an integrated multilingual way. Its mission is to bring PROMIS® in the European market and beyond it, while maintaining ahead of competition through flexibility in adapting the services to additional markets, nurturing cooperation with public bodies and associations, providing training courses, as well as remaining at the forefront of innovation through well designed R&D. For more information, please click [here](#).



SME Group, Austria

SME.group was founded in 2017 and has a lot of groups for different SME topics. The Water.SME.Group was established 2017 in Brussels, having as a goal to force the cooperation between the companies and build a cluster network for water SMEs. 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 178 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

8-11 October 2018

EU Week of Regions and Cities

17 October 2018

FT Water Summit

25 October 2018

WME Roadshow WATEC

13-14 November 2018

23rd European Biosolids and Organic Resources Conference & Exhibition

14 November 2018

WME Roadshow iWater

15 November 2018

AIWW Summit

20 November 2018

FT Global Food Systems

28-29 November 2018

Water Knowledge Europe 2018

6-7 December 2018

European Smart Water Summit

www.wsstp.eu

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On LinkedIn: [The WssTP Group](#)