

# A common vision for European Water Innovation



## Water and Energy

Water and energy are inextricably linked. Energy production accounts for 44 % of total water abstraction, primarily serving as cooling water. Energy is also used when water is used, and vice versa. Many R&D initiatives have been launched to study the unknowns in this topic, at the region, nation and international level. The WssTP is working on these issues through two major activities:

### - **Water, Energy and Climate Change**

There is a general consensus on the fact that climate change is happening as a result of anthropogenic greenhouse gasses emissions and changes in land use. Climate change and an increasing in the demand are putting lot of pressure on water resources and, as a consequence of it; our society is becoming more vulnerable.

The Task Force Climate Change has worked to assess the current studies on this topic and to identify the knowledge gaps where research and innovation programmes of the EU could have a major impact. The Task Force will present his report during the IWA Conference on "Water and Energy" on "Climate Change, Water and Energy: formulating a R&D based EU concept for actions" on Thursday October 29<sup>th</sup>: <http://www.iwawaterandenergy2009.org/home.php>.

## Challenges for research

### - **Water, Energy and Industry**

The Pilot Programme Industry has put Water and Energy as one of its major challenge. The group discussed standards, research areas and new technology development on the water and energy topic. The group went through the list of research topics: heat recovery system; energy production from waste water; energy savings water recovery, cooling towers; blue energy... They decided to form a Task-force and to organise an open workshop early January 2010. More: [wsstp@wsstp.eu](mailto:wsstp@wsstp.eu)



## The WssTP steps forward to

## Strengthen collaboration

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, the DG Research and the WssTP held their first meeting together to address to other DGs. Manuela Soares opened the session chaired by Andrea Tilche and Diane d'Arras. The meeting aimed at presenting the activities of the WssTP since its creation and to open the dialogue for a stronger collaboration with DG Environment, DG Agriculture, DG Regio, DG Enterprise and the CIP. The six pilots and three task forces of the WssTP presented their work and pointed out their success, their difficulties and further underlined research and development gaps in the water sector.

The representatives discussed how to better coordinate efforts between the WssTP and the different activities of the DG. The report will be sent to members.

The WssTP attended the annual **ETPs meeting** in Brussels on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. In his opening speech, the Commissioner for Research, Janez Potocnik reminded the particular current context. The economic crisis calls for delivering solutions to strengthen Europe. ETPs are a key tool in the triangle of a knowledge based economy, innovation and growth. ETPs should therefore get strongly involved in connecting with the European innovation policy. More on: <http://www.cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms>

The Life Programme organised a conference on "**Water for Life, Life for Water**". The conference draws conclusions on the programme underlying the importance of LIFE+ as a tool to implement the EU policy and the Water Framework Directive. The discussions highlighted the need for a better harmonisation and collaboration, to offer concrete and local answers to projects and more importantly, dissemination of Life+ water projects:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/news/events/events2009/october09.htm#water2>

## Irish Connection

“Ireland has already benefitted greatly from previous EU Framework programmes, with our third level and company-based researchers drawing down almost €200 million from the Sixth EU Framework Programme.”

Ireland is very active but, the WsstP however doesn't count any Irish members so far.

The EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, organised a **National FP7-ENV Information Day** to promote the publication of the FP7 Environment Call (Work Programme 2010) on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009. The WsstP was invited to present its work and held a stand to create new contacts with Irish researchers.

**More:**

[www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)

[www.fp7ireland.ie/Page.aspx?SP=913](http://www.fp7ireland.ie/Page.aspx?SP=913)

## IWRM.net

IWRM-net partners and the WsstP started to collaborate to strengthen the network of interested scientists and funders. The both organisations agreed to share their agenda of events, forum and other common inputs through their website. They agreed to further investigate common issues and future joint work.

<http://www.iwrn.net>

## Copa Cogeca

The Chair of WsstP, Diane d'Arras, met the Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General of Copa Cogeca to discuss the future of the Pilot Agriculture. The WsstP and Copa-Cogeca agreed to pursue their collaboration and to further support the activities of the pilot programme on “Agriculture”. The pilot will deliver two new reports in 2009 on “irrigation” and “water reuse”.

## Industry and Water

### Opening new topics

The Pilot Industry met on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2009.

The pilot discussed the update SRA based on the discussion of 19<sup>th</sup> August. The group agreed to work on the final draft that would be distributed to the pilot members by the PCC. The group particularly discussed main drivers as costs, legislation and sustainability. The group updated on the cooperation with other platforms: SUSCHEM, BIOMINE, FOOD FOR LIFE but also with topics related to textiles, paper... The pilot will submit to the board of the WsstP to officialise the collaboration when the contacts are more advanced. The two other topics discussed were “water and energy” and “brines”. As a follow-up, two public events will be planned on this topic.



## Scientific Publication

The WsstP published its first scientific publication after the meeting with the European Commission on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

This publication is a combination of the five reports sent to DG Research on “Managing rain events and flooding in urban areas”, “Asset Management for sustainable urban water”, “Supply Demand Balance & Public Participation”, “Alternative Water Resources” and “Sustainable Sludge Management in Urban Areas”.

In the context of the update of the SRA, the WsstP will deliver six new reports to DG Research by the end of 2009 on “Coastal Zones”, “Irrigation for agriculture”, “Water reuse”, “Climate Change in R&D”, “Managed Aquifer Recharge” and “Sensors and Monitoring”. The next publication is therefore planned for the second part of 2010.

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

## Links

### Euractiv

Link food and environmental security  
[www.euractiv.com/en/cap/eu-urged-link-food-environmental-security/article-186348](http://www.euractiv.com/en/cap/eu-urged-link-food-environmental-security/article-186348)

Legal action over untreated waste water  
[www.euractiv.com/en/environment/uk-spain-face-legal-action-untreated-waste-water/article-186231](http://www.euractiv.com/en/environment/uk-spain-face-legal-action-untreated-waste-water/article-186231)

### EEA

EEA moves towards Copenhagen  
[www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/eea-kicks-off-public-activities-in-the-run-up-to-cop15?utm\\_campaign=eea-kicks-off-public-activities-in-the-run-up-to-cop15&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=EEASubscriptions](http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/eea-kicks-off-public-activities-in-the-run-up-to-cop15?utm_campaign=eea-kicks-off-public-activities-in-the-run-up-to-cop15&utm_medium=email&utm_source=EEASubscriptions)

## Agenda

### WsstP

**October 22-23<sup>rd</sup>**

International Forum of R&D  
for Eco-innovation  
in Katowice, Poland

**October 28<sup>th</sup>**

Board Meeting  
in Copenhagen, Denmark

**October 28<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting with the EEA  
in Copenhagen, Denmark

**October 29-31<sup>th</sup>**

Presentation during IWA Water & Energy  
on “Climate Change, Water and Energy”  
in Copenhagen, Denmark

**November 24-25<sup>th</sup>**

ETAP Forum  
in Copenhagen, Denmark

**November 26<sup>th</sup>**

Pilot Industry  
in Brussels, Belgium

**December 16<sup>th</sup>**

Board Meeting  
in Brussels, Belgium

## RESCHEDULED MEETINGS

*The following meetings have been rescheduled*

- Workshop on Sensors & Monitoring in Barcelona, Spain
- Workshop on Water & Energy in Brussels, Belgium

### For more events:

[www.wsstp.eu/content/default.asp?PageId=270&LanguageId=0](http://www.wsstp.eu/content/default.asp?PageId=270&LanguageId=0)