

# A common vision for European Water Innovation



## Challenges in 2009

Interview of Panagiotis BALABANIS,  
DG Research



### What are the next challenges for the WssTP?

“The WssTP has been quite successful in federating and regrouping the various water stakeholders related to research either in its pilots activities or during events like the stakeholders event. In this regard, **the WssTP needs to become a link...**”

[Read the interview](#)

## Eureka Cluster

**VOTED!**

On January 28<sup>th</sup> in Sines, Portugal, the project ACQUEAU, the water cluster was voted by National and High Level representatives.

Information about how the Eureka cluster will impact the platform activities will be sent soon.

What is a Eureka Cluster?

[Read more](#)

## Pilot Update

### Water and Agriculture

The Pilot “Water and Agriculture” led by Tania Runge from Copa-Cogeca organised its third workshop on February 5<sup>th</sup> in Brussels.

The workshop gathered more than 20 persons from various institutions to discuss challenges and potential implementation cases for the pilot.

In the morning, the introduction focused on the pilot activities and the WssTP functioning.

Presentations described and analyzed the organisation of the Spanish water and irrigation platform and a case study on irrigation in Spain. A last presentation further proposed potential implementation cases.

Speakers underlined the importance on getting trust of stakeholders in the agriculture sector. Cooperation is very long to build regarding the specificity of the agricultural sector.



In the afternoon, discussions debated on:

- answers to calls,
- list of priorities and topics,
- production of reports and critical review of state of arts.

For more information:  
[tania.runge@copa-cogeca.eu](mailto:tania.runge@copa-cogeca.eu)

## Focus What is ‘ETP’?

A quick reminder will be at use in this period of membership renewal but also after the release of last report from the EC evaluating ETP, European Technology Platform.

ETP provides a **framework for stakeholders**, led by industry, to **define Research and development priorities**, timeframes and action plans on a number of strategically important issues, where achieving Europe's growth, competitiveness and sustainability objectives is dependent upon major Research and technological advances in the medium to long term.

ETPs are useful tools for:

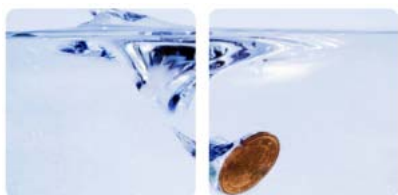
- **Coordination role and network**
- **Synergy effects**
- **Mobilization of resources**

More information:  
<http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/>

## Last NEWS

### Water SPI-CIS

The French Agency for Water and Aquatic Ecosystems, ONEMA organized the First meeting of the preliminary activity on Science-Policy Interface under the CIS process on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The Workshop gathered persons from the European Commission, water experts and stakeholders.



### Water vision Workshop

The European Water Partnership organized on February 4<sup>th</sup> workshop to deliver an European water vision during the World Water Forum.

The workshop further discuss the project water awareness on how to educate the public and financial issues to address to the European Commission?

For more information,  
<http://www.ewp.eu>

### Presentation to the DG Research

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, the WssTP made a presentation to the Advisory Group on the FP7 environmental theme part of the DG Research on "Environmental industries: is technology available to ensure water supply and sanitation? What is the role of research?"

The presentation targeted the drivers and challenges for the water research sector. It also further described the research areas and pilot activities of the WssTP.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Stakeholders Event

### Risks management and crisis in the water and sanitation sector

#### What is the impact of the current financial crisis and the priorities on the research in the water sector?

How to avoid reducing investments in the water sector and its research? How to set priorities? What can each one of us do?

Come along and join us in the debates to discuss how we can improve the water research competitiveness and further build collaboration in this especially challenging environment.



[More information](#)

## Agenda

**27 February**

PCC meeting

**10 march**

Board in Budapest  
Meeting with national representatives

**16-22 March**

**World Water Forum**

- 17 March  
Meeting with Turkish representatives
- 20 March  
Water and Science session

**30 March -3 April**

Wasser Berlin

**April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Stakeholders event**

**"Risks management and crisis  
in the water and sanitation  
sector"**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**General Assembly**  
Board meeting

**2-3 April**

**ETAP 6<sup>th</sup> Forum**

### On Boarding

*Main decisions from last Board held Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>*

1. An external report on MDGs will be sent to the DG Research.
2. Communication plan and budget have been approved. It includes the change of logo and new graphic design.
3. A recruitment campaign to attract new members will be launched from February to June 2009.

### More!

*Some links to get more information*

1. Water Bankruptcy  
<http://www.euractiv.com/en/environment/world-heading-water-bankruptcy/article-179196>
2. European/US research spending gap widens  
<http://www.euractiv.com/en/innovation/eu-spending-rd-slips-us/article-179280>

*Source: Euractive*