

# A common vision for European Water Innovation



Dear WssTP friends,

Water Innovation Europe 2019 is less than two weeks away. I am sure that one more year, the massive presence of our members and the strong visibility of our network will make WIE2019, once again, a great success. The programme of the conference is filled with inspiring sessions and an excellent line-up of speakers and panellists that shall not be missed.



As I have hinted at already in previous editorials, stay ready for new and exciting news, which will only be unveiled at the event itself!

During WIE2019 we shall also present the outcomes of the WssTP Water-Oriented Living Lab (WOLLs) mapping. This exercise, as far as I know, represents a first ever attempt, to analyse living labs based on a specific sector and/or key topic. Living Labs are a cornerstone of our future strategy towards implementation of new water knowledge. They represent a most valuable link between water innovation and our WssTP Water Vision 2030. Being availed of this analysis, they should open immediate opportunities for collaboration, and serve as a guide for new future ones.

On another note, now, Horizon Europe will be a central element of EU research funding. While still in the “making”, and prone to changes and adjustment, which might come with a new Commission, the foundations of this ambitious program are being laid right now.

The European Commission has published a call on 13 May 2019 for applications to join the advisory boards of the Missions that are to be set up under Horizon Europe. WssTP members’ expertise covers the full water cycle and can play a pivotal role in the works of the Mission Boards by identifying the strategic choices to address the water challenges and the related implications. I strongly invite WssTP members to consider applying to this consultation for the Mission Boards proposing themselves to participate in one or more of the Missions Boards and deploy their invaluable resources in this exercise by the 11th of June 2019.

Digital Water and Multiple Water for Multiple Purposes and Users are two central elements of our Water Vision 2030. Whenever we have the possibility to address these topics, we do so at the highest level. Guillaume Binet, WssTP Cluster leader ‘Digital Water’ will moderate a Thought Leadership Round Table at the BlueTech Forum, taking place on the 6th of June in London. I myself will give a keynote speech on “Circular Economy in Urban Water Management” during the World Circular Economy Forum, happening from the 3rd to the 5th of June in Helsinki.

See you all at WIE2019!

**Tomas Michel, WssTP President**

## Setting the tone for the ICPDR in 2019

*On 31 January 2019, Hungary took over the annual Presidency of the ICPDR, with incoming President Péter Kovács setting out the main priorities for his term.*



As ICPDR President, I plan to pursue efforts to further improve the financial framework and sponsoring system to support the activities of the ICPDR, and to explore possibilities of involving new partners from the basin who can actively support ICPDR-related activities. I see the engagement of the private sector in individual partnerships with the ICPDR as an opportunity to harmonize efforts. This continues moving us forward with our joint concerns and objectives, ever-closer to a water-smart society across Europe, buoyed by the research and innovation the ICPDR prioritizes and values.

The second priority of the Hungarian Presidency will be to strengthen water security by ensuring the availability of a sufficient quantity of clean water for the entire Danube basin. Droughts have been highlighted in the newly released ICPDR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy as an important factor that is likely to occur more frequently and become more intense in years to come. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the Hungarian Presidency tackles this through the continued promotion of climate change adaptation measures in the Danube River Basin.

We can see that the Danube River basin is not being spared the effect of Climate Change. We are concerned that more frequent or prolonged droughts could increase competition between water uses, which could lead to water scarcity in the long-term. We need to start thinking about this on a transboundary level and ensure that all means are used to identify robust measures and promote the mitigation of the effects of drought.

The third priority of my 2019 mandate will be to take the next steps in the implementation of the Danube River Basin Management (DRBMP) and the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP). 2019 will be an important year in the data collection for both plans, with the upcoming third DRBMP and the second FRMP imminent.

I have to mention, also, the implementation of the 4th Joint Danube Survey which is a remarkable scientific exercise, which will be launched back to back to the International Danube day's celebration (June 29).

With 2019 marking 25 years, since the signing of the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC), the major legal instrument for cooperation and transboundary water management in the Danube River Basin, the Hungarian Presidency aims to highlight the results achieved so far, increase the visibility of the ICPDR and reach an even broader public as well other river basin commissions worldwide.

Helge Wendenburg, my German predecessor, did a fantastic job during his 2018 presidency. He did well to maintain the ICPDR as a widely and internationally recognised role model, showcasing the benefits of good transboundary cooperation in water resources management, in the most international river basin in the world. It is my privilege to be carrying on and leading the ICPDR for a year.



## New WssTP membership College for public authorities

### Why does it matter?

by Richard Elelman, Head of Politics,  
Eurecat & WssTP Board Member



As the global environmental situation places increasing pressure on all technological, economic, social and political sectors to create broad, comprehensive and coherent strategies in order to address the multiple challenges which society faces, the importance of the role of local governments as implementers of long-term, supranational policies has been fully recognised.

To this end, WssTP, which has long been an advocate of the establishment of inter-sectoral collaboration between all the components of the Quadruple Helix, has decided to incorporate regional and municipal governments within its organisation. In order to effect this, a separate WssTP college will be created for organisations which are led by elected representatives of municipal and regional councils. In what will be known as College F, towns and cities interested and active in the issue of water, will be invited to join the platform as Associate Members. The aim is to ensure that WssTP represents the full value chain, building on the already well-established collaboration with organisations such as NETWERC H2O. WssTP will seek to play an important role in the increase of citizen awareness regarding water issues and that those citizens are provided with a channel of interaction with other relevant bodies within the European Union.

Any policy at any political level requires, in order to be truly effective, the participation of not only industry and academia, together with the relevant public bodies. The support and involvement of the citizen, as has been publically recognised by the European Union, the OECD, the United Nations and the World Bank, is absolutely essential in order to guarantee long-term continuity.

Local governments provide the key to their citizens and furthermore, enhance communication with SMEs and other necessary stakeholders. Other colleges of WssTP will be encouraged to fully interact with College F which will also provide a source of future demo-sites and living labs for water-based project proposals.

By implementing this important initiative, WssTP not only reinforces its capacity to represent the full socio-economic and technical world related to water but also underlines its belief in the inter-sectoral nexus between water, energy, food and the eco-system (WEFE) which will prove vital in the coming decade.



## CyberSecureWater Workshop held successfully in Barcelona

Organised by WssTP and AIOTI in collaboration with Cetaqua, Eurecat, FEUGA, and SUEZ, the CyberSecureWater workshop was held successfully on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May in Barcelona, Spain. The participants of the workshop gained interesting insights on how water infrastructure can become more efficient and secure and experienced a thrilling simulation of a cyber-attack to water infrastructures. The key messages derived from the panel discussions are:

- Water cybersecurity concerns the full range of water infra from urban to industrial to rural. The history of the attacks shows that any digitalised infra is at risk and that attacks are increasing in number and severity.
- Research and innovation development is utmost necessary but we need work to significantly increase the level of awareness of utilities, industries, companies and decision makers about the risks and consequences of cyber attacks.
- The legislative framework needs to be improved and harmonised in the EU.
- Governance is a critical point to debate. With no effective governance, cybersecurity cannot be granted even with innovative solutions.

To learn more, please contact [Andrea Rubini](mailto:Andrea.Rubini@wssTP.eu).



Questions about this newsletter? Contact us: [durk.krol@wssTP.eu](mailto:durk.krol@wssTP.eu)  
Writing Committee: M.Mirachtsi, D. Krol, T. Michel Mayer



**Welcome 3 new members**



**Uponor, Finland**

Do you want to collaborate with a pan-European network and beyond? Impact the EU RTD&I strategy? Promote innovative and progressive innovations in the water sector? With more than 200 members, WssTP is the voice of the water-related innovation in Europe. Join us and become a WssTP member by filling in this [form](#)! Services to members are at the heart of the WssTP strategy. Our activities are based on 3 key programmes:

- The **WssTP Collaboration Programme**: Network, exchange knowledge and experiences, and collaborate along the water value chain through our Working Groups and Water Knowledge Europe.
- The **WssTP Market Programme**: Bring your research results and innovative solutions to the market in Europe and beyond through WssTP Water Market Europe programme.
- The **WssTP Advocacy Programme**: Play your part in raising awareness of the value of water for our society and economy through our Water Innovation Europe.

For more information, please contact [Loic Charpentier](#).

Uponor is a leading global provider of systems and solutions in the fields of hygienic drinking water delivery, energy-efficient heating and cooling and reliable infrastructure. The company is active in a variety of markets in the construction sector, from residential and commercial construction to industry and civil engineering. Uponor products are available to customers in over 100 countries. They provide hygienically safe drinking water as well as energy-efficient heating and cooling. The company has committed itself to sustainability and the goal of making people's lives more pleasant. For more information, please click [here](#).



**OB Impianti, Italy**

OB Impianti is a company founded in 1969, as individual company with head office in the municipality of Verolanuova (Brescia province) in Italy, duly registered as a company to do plumbing installations, water plants, irrigation and drilling wells. Since then, the company has extended its field of expertise in the livestock sector with thermoventilation and climate control plants, liquid and computerized zootechnical feeding, electrical systems, civil and industrial sewage treatment plants and construction of mechanical equipment for water treatment. The experience combined to the constant upgrade, the professionalism and the full and solid research of quality both in the design and in the execution of works allows the company to offer high quality services. For more information, please click [here](#).



**Aganova, Spain**

Aganova is a company specialized in leak detection. Aganova has developed and patented the Nautilus technology, a sphere of 6cm that is inserted into a pipeline (presurised and with water speed) where it freely travels and records the interior sounds of the pipeline. Nautilus localizes leaks with 2 meters accuracy. Aganova's vision is to make the Nautilus System a standard technological solution for leak detection in large diameter networks. For more information, please click [here](#).

**AGENDA**

**3-5 June 2019**

World Circular Economy Conference, Helsinki

**5-6 June 2019**

BlueTech Forum 2019

**6 June 2019**

The energy potential of the wastewater sector:  
the REEF 2W approach

**11 June 2019**

EURAQUA 25th Anniversary Celebration,  
Brussels

**12-13 June 2019**

WssTP Water Innovation Europe 2019

**18-20 June 2019**

European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)

**20 June 2019**

Water and Wastewater Networks

**25 June 2019**

Water JPI Workshop on International  
Cooperation

**24-26 September 2019**

European Research and Innovation Days,  
Brussels

**30-31 October 2019**

WssTP Water Knowledge Europe 2019

**12 December 2019**

EIP Conference 2019  
Zaragoza

**On Twitter:** [@wsstpeu](#)

**On LinkedIn:** [The WssTP Group](#)