

Water Project Europe WORKSHOP

THE EU DIGITAL TRANSITION FOR THE WATER SECTOR IN THE EU GREEN FUTURE THE ICT4WATER ACTION PLAN FOR CHALLENGES, PRESSURES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

BRUSSELS, BluePoint, 19th OCTOBER 2022 9:00 – 12:50 (Registration starts at 8:30) (230')

Rationale: The European Union with the Green Deal is engaging in a challenging transition towards an environmentally sustainable society and economy where water represents a critical factor in an exacerbated climate change scenario.

At the same time, the rising impact of digital technologies is transforming societies and economies quickly. The European Union with the digital transition aims to exploit digital technologies for sustainability and societal wealth, and to support citizens and business. To this end, effectively managing the green and digital twin transitions is basic for ensuring to the next generations a sustainable and just future and a Water-Smart Society.

The twin transitions need be run and accomplished simultaneously and with a systemic approach. This to prevent negative consequences such as the risks of the digital divide and the risk of loss of inclusiveness in the decision-making processes, which should effectively involve the public sector, citizens, business, and academia.

The ICT4WATER cluster (www.ict4water.eu) is a cluster of over 60 EU funded projects, all working on Digital Water topics, themes, methodologies, applications and approaches. Created in 2013, the cluster has been working over the years, structured in Action Groups, in collaboration with the EC. In the past years it has produced several white papers, organised various events and fostered links with other organisations to promote the digitalisation of the water sector.

Starting from the critical mass of knowledge built up by the 60+ project clustered in ICT4Water, this workshop co-organised by Water Europe and ICT4Water cluster, will discuss solutions and barriers that can foster or hinder the water digital transition for a Water-Smart Society as enabler of the EU Green and Digital twin effort.

Workshop scope: This workshop is part of Water Project Europe (WPE), a series of Water Europe events designed to learn from and build on the experience of innovative projects and initiatives working on converging topics. WPE aims at clustering water-related projects and initiatives by thematic areas to allow them to interact, mutually build on the respective experience, support policy development, and stimulate the market uptake of innovations.

Workshop focus: The focus and questions will be – not limited to - on:

- Promote the digitalisation of the water sector by assessing the necessity for technology change: what, when, who?
- Water policies, business models and standardisation, what are the needed steps?
- Improvement of the digitalisation of the water sector: leading examples from EU funded projects.
- Promote water digitalisation to make solutions an attractive deal for society, business, and the environment: is this enough to supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation in the “twin effort” rationale?
- How can we develop smart policies and processes to support and optimise inclusive stakeholders’ engagement in the water digital uprising for a Water-Smart Society?.

DRAFT AGENDA

TIME	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration and welcome Coffee
9:00 – 09:05 (5')	Introduction to the workshop (WE)
09:05-09:20 (15')	Keynote Speech the Digital Transition in the water sector (Dragan Savic – WE Digital Water VLT Leader - tbc)
09:20 – 09:40 (20')	A Europe fit for the digital age: shaping Europe's digital future (DG RTD/+REA/+DG CNECT- tbc). Technology and Policy challenges for the water digital future
09:40 – 09:55 (15')	Presentation of the ICT4Water Cluster and introduction to the new action plan. Lydia S. Vamvakieridou-Lyroudia, KWR, Programme Director of Watershare.
09:55 (TIME 55' FROM START)	
RESOURCES <i>How the ict4water cluster will contribute to the twin green and transition and what you should know about digital water</i> <i>Challenges and perspectives from the ICT4Water Action Groups Technology and Policy challenges for the water digital future</i>	
09:55 -10:05 (10')	AG Enable Data Sharing
10:05-10:15 (10')	AG Intelligent and Smart Systems
10:15-10:25 (10')	AG Critical Infrastructure Protection
10:25 (TIME 85' FROM START)	
10:25 – 10:40 (15')	Networking coffee
10:40-10:50 (10')	AG Actor Engagement and co-creation
10:50 – 11:00 (10')	AG Policies
11:00-11:10 (10')	AG Business models
11:10 (TIME 130' FROM START)	
Break out sessions: 6 WORKING GROUPS, ONE FOR EACH AREA	
11:10- 11:50 (40')	WORKING GROUPS (moderated)
Format of break out sessions	<p>Participants find questions – to be pre-prepared - printed on pieces of paper and asked to write their answers/suggestions to the questions.</p> <p>Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5' Participants introduce to others in the table • 10' Individual work: each participant writes answers to the questions individually • 15' Group work- The ideas collected are shared, and the moderator pastes them on the Handout A3, grouped according to themes. • 10' Preparing the story per table – either the moderator or one member of the group will prepare a summary of what has been agreed.
11:50 (TIME 170' FROM START)	
11:50 – 12:20 (30')	PRESENTATION OF STORIES FROM TABLES
12:20 – 12:45 (25')	Discussion
12:45– 12:50 (5')	Takes away and conclusions
END	12:50 (TIME 230' FROM START)