

# A common vision for European Water Innovation



Dear WssTP friends,

A few weeks after the EIP Water Conference 2016 concluded with success, WssTP is proud to have left an impact on it, through the dynamic contribution of its members and WssTP Working Groups.



Having attracted more than 500 participants, the EIP Water Conference focused on innovation and how innovation partnerships in general, and specifically in the water sector, are progressing in Europe. In his interview at the EIP Water Conference 2016 Durk Krol, WssTP Director, particularly emphasized how WssTP and EIP Water can and should complement each other in the name of water innovation. The main outcome of the conference was the 'Leeuwarden Declaration' which presents the key findings of the event and outlines a set of actions that address the urgent need to accelerate the development and uptake of innovation.

With innovation in mind, WssTP Working groups met during the EIP Water Conference 2016 and discussed their recent developments and upcoming activities. WssTP WGs are working diligently to identify future research and innovation needs, providing at the same time WssTP with constructive input on the new WssTP Water Vision 2030 and SIRA2030 and the next H2020 WP 2018-19.

We are glad to see that our members are bringing game changing innovations to the market and they get rewarded for this. WssTP member, and winner of the WssTP SME award 2015, Resolute Marine was the recipient of Dragon's Den Award at the EIP Water's Got Talent Competition. For more details, read the article below.

This month, WssTP announced the official theme of Water Innovation Europe Conference 2016 '*Water-Smart!: European solutions for a smart water society*'. WssTP brings a broad perspective to the topic of 'Water-Smart'. Not limited only to ICT ((Information and Communication Technologies), WIE2016 will showcase how 'Water-Smart' reaches out its tentacles across all sectors of our society. The three day conference will also feature the 3rd edition of WssTP Water Innovation SME Awards and will mark the launch of the new WssTP Water Vision 2030 and the new WssTP Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda 2030 (WssTP SIRA 2030).

WssTP is gearing up to make sure that the water topic will be strongly reflected in the next Horizon2020 Work Programme 2018-19. We will keep our members closely informed of any developments through our monthly members' newsletter. WssTP members and network are the fuel powering our platform's activities. So, stay informed, involved and active. Alone we go fast but together we go further.

**Tomas Michel,**  
WssTP President

Special article on the  
**EU Dutch Presidency** by  
**Melanie Schultz van Haegen,**  
Minister of Infrastructure & the  
Environment, The Netherlands



The Netherlands is widely known as a country that lives with water. It is a reputation I am proud of – certainly when, after a water-related disaster somewhere else in the world, people say 'Bring in the Dutch'. But of course we need much more than Dutch know-how alone. People around the world increasingly face too much, too little or too polluted water. To address it, we need a worldwide partnership, a united waterfront. So I say, 'Bring in the world. Bring in the scientists, the academics, the engineers. Bring in the water experts from every discipline and every country!'

The Netherlands holds the EU Presidency for the first six months of this year. This is a serious responsibility. But it is also an opportunity to put EU water policy higher on the agenda and, where possible, make it more effective and more innovative. I am convinced the EU can and must be more innovative. New ideas and innovations that are important to society do not evolve themselves. Governments cannot buy them by offering grants, and the market cannot pluck them out of thin air. What works is an active government that fills us with a sense of urgency that brings stakeholders and experts together, and makes it easier to get to work.

Innovation is best served by a positive attitude to the market. Governments should seek an inspiring, facilitating role through more flexible means, such as green deals on ambitious initiatives from or with the sector, strengthening societal commitment and cooperation among government layers, exchanging best practices and the use of open-source data.

With regards to many policy issues, the EU stands at a crossroads for the future. Water plays a crucial role in many important EU dossiers, making Europe a global player in the implementation of the Paris climate change agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, 'blue growth' and the circular economy. It is crucial to work closely with other European countries, to try new technologies, to develop new insights and move forward step by step. Whether we are talking about water purification, wastewater treatment or flood safety.

A lot of changes already have been made for the better. Like the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme, which strikes a better balance between fundamental and applied research. But there is always room for improvement. EU legislation on tenders is still seen as a major obstacle. So I am pleased that the new legislation which comes into force in April will provide more scope for an integrated approach. Public authorities and the private sector will be able to work together at a much earlier stage to develop and apply innovations. It is a good move, and I hope full use will be made of the new opportunities!

Questions about this newsletter? Contact us: [durk.krol@wssstp.eu](mailto:durk.krol@wssstp.eu)  
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**Inge Genné**, leader of the WssTP WG '**Nanotechnologies for water treatment**' talks to us about the newly established Working Group!

*With the start of the new Working Group on "Nanotechnologies for water treatment" – shortened as Nano4water, the WssTP goes nano. Nanotechnologies are one of the key enabling technologies, considered to be of systemic importance for the innovative capacity of a wide range of industries and the economy as a whole. The emerging field of nanotechnology has the potential to lead (and has already led) to substantial advances in many sectors. Also in the battle of water, nanotechnology has emerged as an exciting and promising science. Looking at the nanoscale has stimulated the development and use of novel and cost-effective technologies for nanoselective separations, catalytic degradation, adsorptive removal, and detection of contaminants.*

#### **Why is it important to have a Working Group focused on this theme?**

It is clear that the EU recognises the importance of nanotechnologies and their application in very different fields, including water. Parallel to the execution of the FP7 framework, the European Commission launched the Nano4water cluster. This initiative thematically grouped FP7 projects dealing with "Nanotechnologies for water treatment". Over a period of five years, the cluster created a forum to strengthen research and intensify information exchange. The last workshop in a series of successful Nano4water-cluster events was held January 2015 in Barcelona. We think that there still is a large need to create some clarity in the mysterious world of nanotechnology. In the format of a WssTP WG, we can create a new forum to bring together market players and innovators.

#### **What are the main goals and expectations you have from this Working Group?**

I would like to create some clarity in the so-called new "breakthrough" solutions and possible market applications for nanotechnology in water applications. One of the first goals is to make an overview of success stories of market ready technologies that have passed the lab stage. This serves as an information base to assess the potential for the application of nanotechnology in new products for the water market. We also want to set-up interactions with other WssTP WG's thematic clusters and key organisations (nano-institutes – research centres – industries) to look for options to participate with WssTP members in multi-disciplinary research programmes.

#### **What does the Working Group plan on working in the upcoming months?**

The kick-off of the Nano4water WG was held in November in Brussels, linked to the WssTP Brokerage Event 2015. There we agreed to have a joint event with the WG on Membranes (WG MIEW). Together with Gilbert Rios we are looking for a suitable date and venue. The preferred option is to link the workshop to the NanoMatEn2016 conference in Paris, setting as tentative date the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2016. As soon as it is confirmed, we will send out a call.



## **Resolute Marine wins the 'Dragon's Den Award' at the EIP Water Conference 2016**

In collaboration with Isle Utilities, the EIP Water Conference 2016 featured a "Dragon's Den" or "EIP Water's Got Talent" session in the afternoon of 10 February. Out of 15 applications, three finalists had been selected out: Microbia Environnement, Smart H2O and Resolute Marine Limited (RML) - Wave2OTM. After a tight competition and Q&A session, the expert panel selected **Resolute Marine** as winner that has generated innovative solutions and technologies with the highest market potential for water resource management.

RME COO **Olivier Ceberio** commented, "We're extremely honored to have received this award. Europe is a world leader in water industries so we are particularly proud of this award as it comes from a highly respected source. Furthermore, Europe plays a key role in our business development strategy and we hope this award will pave the way for more initiatives and collaborations with European partners." To have a look at Resolute Marine's presentation at the EIP Water Conference 2016, please click [here](#).



**Public Online Consultation  
on PRIMA launched!  
Closing date: 24.04.2016**

The European Commission has published an Open consultation on a new research and innovation initiative for sustainable food production and improved water management in the Mediterranean area. PRIMA, the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area, will involve both EU and non-EU Mediterranean states. Researchers, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders are welcome to give their views on the scope, potential impact and make-up of the PRIMA initiative. To submit your contribution click [here](#). For more information, please visit the [dedicated webpage](#).

**Launch of Stakeholder Consultation on  
Research & Innovation Programme for  
'Climate Action, Environment, Resource  
Efficiency and Raw Materials'  
Closing date: 08.04.2016**

A stakeholder consultation has been launched on potential priorities for research and innovation in the 2018-2020 Work programme of the Horizon 2020 research programme for Societal Challenge 5 "Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials". The consultation document is available [here](#) (PDF) and background information on the whole process can be found on the [Horizon 2020 website](#). Responses should be sent to [RTD-ENV-H2020STAKEHOLDERS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-ENV-H2020STAKEHOLDERS@ec.europa.eu).



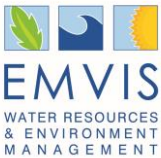
## Global Water Market 2017: Meeting the world's water and wastewater needs until 2020

The new edition of Global Water Intelligence bestselling report – [Global Water Market 2017](#) is now available to pre-order with a 15% pre-publication discount until 31<sup>st</sup> March.

With 100 country profiles, coverage of 7 major global markets and a map of key participants in each market space, this is the most complete survey of the opportunities and activities in the international water sector ever attempted. [Order online now](#) or email Jake on [jg@globalwaterintel.com](mailto:jg@globalwaterintel.com).

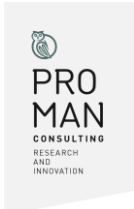


## Welcome 3 New Members



**EMVIS SA, Greece**

EMVIS Consultant Engineers, is a company actively involved in the wider field of Water Resources Management, through design studies, advisory work and research. Some of the main water related activities that EMVIS is involved include: water resources management- advisory work and research with emphasis on aspects related to the WFD and other EU water legislation. *For more information, please click [here](#).*



**Proman, Austria**

Proman Management GmbH, founded in 2002, is a small SME that develops, designs and manages research, development, innovation and transition projects for governments, business and non-profit organisations. Proman team operates at the interface of academic and industrial research trying hard to combine the advantages of two worlds: industry driven, practical thinking and scientific curiosity for integrated process solutions. *For more information, please click [here](#).*



**BIOAZUL, Spain**

BIOAZUL is an engineering and technological consultancy focused on the environment. It offers to its customers a wide range of engineering services, as well as customized solutions for treatment of industrial and urban water based on technologies resulted out of research, development and innovation work. BIOAZUL has participated in more than 30 EC projects. *For more information, please click [here](#).*

## Join WssTP!



WssTP counts now 153 members, a constant growth since its creation in 2007. As a WssTP member, you can have a European impact on the EU Water RTD&I strategy and be benefited from numerous services including:

- Networking workshops and brokerage events
- Information on the latest news about calls for proposals and relevant EU policy.
- Take a leading role in one of our working groups.
- Contribute to the shaping of relevant EU policy and the priority setting for public funding, research and innovation at EU level.

For more information, please contact [Durk Krol](#) !

### AGENDA

**17 March 2016**

PRIMA Stakeholder Event

**23 March 2016**

WssTP Board Meeting

**8 April 2016**

WssTP WG Water & ICT meeting

**19-20 April 2016**

WssTP WG Energy & Water meeting

**19-20 April 2016**

Global Water Summit 2016

**13 -16 June 2016**

IWA Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies

**21-23 June 2016**

Water Innovation Europe 2016  
*Brussels, Belgium*

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

On Twitter: [@wsstpeu](#)

On LinkedIn: [The WssTP Group](#)