

# A common vision for European Water Innovation

April 2014



Dear WssTP friends,

This month has been marked by a number of important developments within WssTP and its network.



The WssTP launched its new Innovation and Technology Advisory Board (iTAB). The WssTP iTAB will advise the Board on the consistency and relevance of the WssTP WG structure; evaluate and advise the board on the relevance of bottom-up proposals for new WG; monitor, guide, and supervise the quality of the work done in the individual Working Groups (WGs) and the WG structure as a whole. After the call for candidacies published at the middle of this month and our members' positive response in nominating the best candidates, WssTP iTAB will take its final shape and spring into action from next month onwards.

WssTP has also unfolded a new SME strategy with the aim to further stimulate the engagement of SMEs in WssTPs activities. The strategy consist in both an attractive membership fee for SMEs, in particularly micro and small enterprises, as well as the creation of a WssTP SME Task Force to advise the Board on the specific needs of SMEs. To learn all about WssTP new SME arrangements, read the relevant article.

Meanwhile, the EU Water Alliance, composed of WssTP, AquaEuropa, EWA, EWP, EURAQUA, Netwerch20, EUREAU, ACQUEAU, Aqua Publica Europea, and AquaFed held its 2nd meeting on 14th of April in Brussels. The purpose of the meeting was to identify the priorities of the water sector for the next legislature 2014-2019. Among the short-term objectives of the EU Water Alliance is to produce a joint positioning paper of the water sector towards the new Commission after the European elections.

WssTP was also well-represented in the 5th EIP Task Force meeting that took place on 3rd of April in Brussels. Some key issues discussed were the results of the 2nd call for Action Groups, the analyses of the barriers and bottlenecks to innovation in the water sector in Europe and abroad, and the preparations of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017.

Water Innovation Europe 2014 conference dedicated to "Water in Europe: green tape or blue gold" is rapidly approaching and the programme of the event is shaping up. More information and details about the special speakers and highlights of the conference will be published in the course of this week. Stay connected through WssTP's website and social media channels to keep up to date with all the upcoming information!

**Tomas Michel. WssTP President**

## WssTP new SME Strategy

As part of the new WssTP SME strategy, the WssTP Board has decided to 1) develop a tailored membership fee for micro and small enterprises, 2) set-up an SME Task Force to advise the board on how to further improve SME involvement within WssTP, and 3) to launch a new European wide WssTP SME award.

The tailored membership fee for micro and small enterprises takes into account the tendency of SMEs to engage on the European level through intermediaries. The proposal consists in a substantially reduced fee for the micro and small enterprises and a further bulk discount, if they join WssTP by means of an intermediary that is corporate or associate member of WssTP.

Turnover	Regular SME fee	Reduced SME fee for SMEs that are already part of a WssTP (associate) member
		10-25 SMEs (50%)
≤ €2	€500	€250
€2M - €5M	€1.500	€750
€5M - €50M	€3.000	€1.500

The new [WssTP SME awards](#) will be handed out for the first time during the **Water Innovation Europe 2014 conference on 25th of June** and **the deadline for applications' submission is on 15<sup>th</sup> of May**. All submissions will be evaluated on the basis of their innovation, market potential and exploitation strategy. Successful innovations will be the ones characterized as best practices with high market potential in their field of application. [For more information, please contact Durk Krol.](#)



**Water Innovation Europe 2014**  
**Only until the 15/05 the early bird discount! [Register now](#)**

The WssTP stakeholder event 2014 (WIE2014) will be held this year on 25th-26th June in Brussels under the title "Water in Europe: green tape or blue gold". The programme will be organised around key-issues: Demonstrating the economic importance of the water issue both in terms of support to the wider economy and the economic opportunities in the sector itself e.g. for the export of technologies (Day1), as well as ensuring a proper representation of water issues in the H2020 work programme 2016-2017 (Day 2). Information available [here](#).

Questions about this newsletter? Contact us: [durk.krol@wsspt.eu](mailto:durk.krol@wsspt.eu)

Writing Committee: M.Mirachtsi, D. Krol, T. Michel Mayer, T. van den Hoven

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This month, we sit down with **Gilbert M. Rios**, Working Group leader of the WsTP WG 'Advanced Membrane Technologies' to get his latest insights on membrane technologies and the progress of the Working Group .

## Why has WsTP set up a Working Group on 'Advanced Membrane Technologies' ?

Membrane technologies are recognized today as "dominant technologies" in most countries all over the world and everybody knows the huge potential they have to develop new breakthrough processes. The need for water and wastewater treatment, development of new materials and modules, new processes -reverse osmosis for desalination and membrane bioreactors for effluent treatment- , has led to a continuous increase of the market of about 10% per year. Based on the final and holistic vision to imitate nature and all the mechanisms which are at the base of life - biological membranes -to go towards new soft processes, perfectly fitting the constraints of sustainable development and opening over the bio-based economy that the EU want to develop, there is really a win-to-win system to build!

## What are the challenges that the WG 'Advanced Membrane Technologies' has to face in order to meet its objectives?

The challenges to which the AMT WG has to face are diverse :

- Proper education for membrane experts is still a necessary step to unlock the "bottleneck towards yet more membranes" .
- Pushing research efforts towards new biomimetic materials and processes, with a globalized approach capable to serve a lot of applicators and thus to reduce costs by sharing between the different sectors,.
- Supporting industry with more demonstration actions, as research if not driven by societal applications is not totally satisfying.
- Explaining that actions must concern not only the more advanced but also transition and developing countries.

## How could the progress on membrane technologies affect the conditions of tomorrow's water applications?

Pushed by the increasing demand for materials, energy and products, chemical engineering faces a crucial challenge today: How to support a sustainable industrial growth? Process intensification constitutes a privileged path to reach this goal, with membrane technologies as key tool. These technologies allow to reduce equipment size due to their modularity, energy consumption by operating at low temperature and waste production because strongly orientated towards recycling. They are perfectly adapted to the specific constraints of water applications. With the development of new nano materials with very large and active specific surfaces , and huge progress in nanofluidics, intensification will know in the coming years new

horizons. This will contribute to improve tomorrow's water applications. To bring an example, the recent creation and very fast development of new company such as NanoH2O in the US, which base their development strategy on these concepts.

## What is the objective of its first upcoming workshop on 13th of May in Paris?

The objective of the 1st upcoming workshop of 13th May in Paris is to deal with two points of an utmost importance - next process generation of hybrid membrane systems for water treatment and next process generation for low energy seawater desalination. We will prepare a joint contribution on these 2 points and will discuss together ideas for future projects.

## What will be the final output of the WG ?

A synthesis report will be published at the end of 2014 which will serve as basis for Strategic Business and Research Agendas, future Call for proposals(EU, national). All in all, it will be a reference document, to be up-dated regularly, as already done in the past with the various past documents published by the EMH.



**WaterPiPP project**

**Launched on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2014, WaterPiPP project** is coordinated by WsTP's member OIEau and will last 3 years. It counts the participation of 11 more institutions, among which other WsTP members as VTT and Deltares are also found. WaterPipp is about exploring new public innovation procurement methodologies and testing it in water sector, in the context where European innovation potential in the water sector is blocked by a number of bottlenecks and barriers. Public procurement represents around 19% of the EU's GDP, an important lead market for innovators in particular in the water and climate change sectors. Innovation procurement of products and services can: be used to deliver societal objectives requiring new solutions that are not available on the market or are too expensive ; solve problems related to the commercialisation of innovative solution; improve quality and efficiency of public services with a better value for money . The first phase of the project will be to gather information to produce knowledge on IOPP transferability to the water sector while the second one will focus on pilot cases where different IOPP will be tested by public procurement authorities. The first meeting of the project has been scheduled to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> of June in Paris.

**For more information, please contact [Natacha Amorsi](#).**

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## Welcome 4 new Members!



### Arkema, France

Arkema is a French leading Specialty Chemicals and Advanced materials Company. The Arkema group is organized around three business segments: High performance materials, Industrial specialties and Coating solutions. Arkema also pursues innovation projects through its ten R&D centers worldwide, all based close to the Group's manufacturing plants, markets and customers. Each of the ten R&D centers of the Group specializes in particular fields, but all are dedicated to developing new products and processes.

*For more information, please click [here](#)*



### CIEMAT, Spain

Plataforma Solar de Almería (PSA), a dependency of the **Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT)**, is the largest concentrating solar technology research, development and test centre in Europe. PSA activities are integrated in the CIEMAT organization as an R&D division of the Department of Energy. Research activity at the Plataforma Solar de Almería is structured around three R&D Units: Solar Concentrating Systems, Solar Desalination and Solar Water Treatment. The Solar Desalination unit has the objective of new scientific and technological knowledge development in the field of brackish and seawater solar desalination. *For more information, please click [here](#).*

**hansgrohe**

### Hansgrohe, Germany

Hansgrohe, the innovative bathroom and sanitation specialist, is one of the few global players in the sanitation sector. Hansgrohe founded in 1901 is also one of the industry pioneers in sustainability, and environmental and climate protection. It looks back on decades of "green" company history and sets high goals for an ecological future. Hansgrohe's passion for water continually spurs on to extend their range of energy-saving and water-saving products and to set worldwide trends using innovative technologies. *For more information, please click [here](#)*



### Coventry University SUDS ARG, UK

The SUDS Applied Research Group (ARG) at Coventry University draws on broad cross-faculty expertise to develop interdisciplinary aspects of sustainable drainage. The group includes professionals with expertise in porous paving, environmental geochemistry, the microbiology of geotextile, geographical information systems (GIS), constructed wetlands and urban hydrology. Coventry University has a 25 year track record in researching SUDS and the SUDS ARG group has extensive expertise in relaying complex scientific ideas to a wide variety of audiences and in a variety of formats. *For more information, please click [here](#)*

## Increase your chances to succeed in 2014 Calls- Horizon 2020! Join WssTP!



WssTP counts now 110 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

**6th May 2014**

WG Water & ICT meeting

**7th May 2014**

WG Urban Water Pollution meeting

**13th May 2014**

WG Advanced Membrane Technology  
Workshop

**23rd May 2014**

EIP Water Steering Group

**3-5 June 2014**

Green Week Conference

**12nd & 13th June 2014**

Week of Innovative Regions, Athens

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting WG Shale Gas, Brussels

**25th-26th June 2014**

Water Innovation Europe 2014

**26<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

WssTP General Meeting

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

On Twitter: [@wsstpeu](#)

On LinkedIn: [The WssTP Group](#)

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