

European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Water

EUWMA members welcome the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative for a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for Water. EUWMA fully supports the overall objective of the EIP on Water is to support and facilitate the development of innovative solutions to deal with the many water related challenges Europe and the world are facing, as well as to support economic growth by bringing such solutions to the market. We consider the European Innovation Partnership on Water a fundamental tool to achieve these objectives.

EUWMA members emphasize that the European Innovation Partnership for Water should:

- Be a bottom-up approach: problems should be identified at the bottom;
- Address not a single sector, but focus on cross links within society such as energy and water, food security and water, agriculture and water etc.

EIP priorities:

EUWMA would like to emphasize that water managers have been innovative for over 1000 years to prohibit flooding and to keep the land dry and provide circumstances for land use (e.g. farming, housing). EUWMA considers the following priorities -decided by the High Level Steering Group and the Task Force- most important:

1) The water-energy nexus

- Combine water safety with energy from water technologies such as blue energy and tidal current, integrated in dikes, dams and barriers;
- Setting up of IT systems to manage energy for irrigation as well as other sectors to minimize and manage the energy use;

2) Resource efficient urban water supply and wastewater treatment

- Technology for the treatment of wastewater and drinking water (drug residues and other harmful substances);
- Innovation in the field of heat recovery from waste water in households and firms, heat recovery from sewage water ('riothermie');
- Water treatment; innovations in the entire chain of wastewater collection to purification and drinking water. New technology in monitoring sewers, new concepts for replacement of obsolete sewerage in urban areas to decentralized wastewater treatment, wastewater separate collection at source, vacuum sewage closing water cycles in municipalities.

Aside from these two priorities, EUWMA considers the following priorities of equal importance:

1) Integration of rural water management and land-use planning

- Innovation to anticipate increasing salinity in coastal areas and deltas;
- Innovations in dams, dikes sensors and ICT to better predict and information in case of emergencies;

2) Water supply for small rural communities

- Irrigation techniques;
- Sensors and satellite data for the visualization of drought, soil nutrients and salinization in agriculture, monitoring water quality and quantity for industrial and agricultural use;

3) Management of extreme events

- For Drainage and Irrigation Boards- especially in the South of Europe, floods and drought control is of major importance for their work.

Due to their long experience with water management and innovation in this field, management organizations across the EU offer many regional best-practices and ideas on how best to contribute to the development of the European Innovation Partnership on Water.

EUWMA, the European Union of Water Management Associations, represents public local and regional water management organizations from nine EU member states, covering a surface of at least 50 million hectares.

***EUWMA members:** Belgium/ Belgique - Vereniging van Vlaamse Polders en Wateringen (VVPW) / l'Association des Wateringues Wallonnes (AWW); France – wateringues & Association Syndicales Autorisées (ASA); Germany - Deutscher Bund der Verbandlichen Wasserwirtschaft (DBVW); Hungary - Vízgazdálkodási Társulatok Országos Szövetsége (VTOSZ); Italy - Associazione Nazionale Bonifiche, Irrigazioni e Miglioramenti Fondiari (ANBI); Portugal – Federação Nacional de Regantes de Portugal (FENAREG); Spain - Federación Nacional de Comunidades de Regantes de España (FENACORE); The Netherlands – Unie van Waterschappen (UvW); United Kingdom - Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA).*