



The role of the water sector for driving innovation in the European Union

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Water

Major component of successive EU RTD programmes

- ✓ Major societal challenge
- ✓ Key element of several EU policies (environmental, agriculture, climate change, international and development cooperation policies)
- ✓ Sector of key economic importance and ready for innovation



FP7 – The importance of water related research

- ✓ Community research has supported water research since the first Framework Programme in the 1980's and has attracted increasing water-related scope and budget over time
- ✓ €130million per year in FP7 for approximately 900 projects on Water
- ✓ A wide range of research instruments including collaborative research projects, international cooperation projects, coordination and support actions, research infrastructure projects, SME-targeted projects or Marie Curie fellowships
- ✓ The various projects have looked at water issues under various perspectives including environment, technologies (eco-innovation, space, ICT, etc.), food and agriculture, material sciences, transport, energy, security, social sciences, or regional development
- ✓ From a multidisciplinary sectorial approach in FP7 to a transdisciplinary and cross-sectorial approach in HORIZON 2020

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Research and
Innovation



EU major policy drivers for research and innovation in the water sector in the context of Horizon 2020

- ✓ Innovation Union Flagship Initiative - European Innovation Partnership on Water
- ✓ Resource Efficiency Flagship Initiative
- ✓ Eco-Innovation Action Plan
- ✓ EU water related policies (Blueprint to safeguard Europe's waters)
- ✓ Joint Programming Initiative "Water challenges in a Changing World"
- ✓ Water related ETPs (WssTP, SusChem) and PPPs (SPIRE)

Water in Horizon 2020

A key component of Societal Challenge 5: Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials



Objective of Societal Challenge 5:

"to achieve a resource – and water – efficient and climate change resilient economy and society, the protection and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, and a sustainable supply and use of raw materials, in order to meet the needs of a growing global population within the sustainable limits of the planet's natural resources and eco-systems."



Prospects for water R&I in the 2016-2017 Horizon Work Programme

- ✓ *Maintain the momentum of the Water Innovation FA promoting investment of innovative solutions*
- ✓ *Putting water in the center of a systemic approach for eco-innovation and circular economy, natural based solutions and climate services*
- ✓ *Help unlock public and private investments in the water sector*
- ✓ *Make wider use various Horizon 2020 financial instruments and create opportunities for synergies with other EU funds (Cohesion funds, LIFE+, etc.)*
- ✓ *Large-scale demonstration projects with replication potential*



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**Thank you
for your attention!**

Find out more:
www.ec.europa/research/horizon2020

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