

WE@EU:

WATER EFFICIENCY IN EUROPEAN URBAN AREAS

Newsletter 4- What's new in WE@EU?

March 2015-September 2015

WE@EU - Water efficiency in European Urban Areas is a FP7 - Regions of Knowledge project, based on the ambition to create an open European platform for EU excellence in water efficiency in urban water management through cooperation among research driven clusters from five regions of Europe. This Newsletter provides an insight on WE@EU workshops, Regions and activities to come. More info available [online](#)

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4 Newsletter



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1. WE@EU in a nutshell

WE@EU is a FP7 - Regions of Knowledge project based on the ambition to create a open European platform for excellence in R&D&I in urban water management through transnational cooperation among clusters from five regions in Europe.

What pretends?

To create a European Platform for innovation in the area of water efficiency in urban areas.

How?

Boosting transnational cooperation among research driven clusters.

Who?

Five European Regions highly specialized in water efficiency and innovation: Aragon (Spain), East of England (UK), Eastern Galilee (Israel), Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (France) and Malta.

Why?

To increase competitiveness of European business entities, generate new skills and reduce pressures on the environment.

More information available: <http://www.weateu.eu> #weateu

Analysis and integration of research agendas in regional clusters



Definition of a RTD Strategy for water efficiency in urban areas of partner regions



Trans-Regional activities to support triple helix collaborations for water efficiency

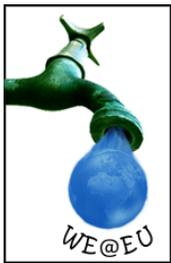


International networking to boost competitiveness of regional research-driven clusters



Mentoring of region to support the development of research-driven clusters





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2. What now in WE@EU?

The WE@EU roadmap was outlined at the beginning of 2015 with the first version of the Joint Action Plan. The JAP sets the strategy for the five regions to **boost collaborative projects and R&D&I strategies**. A key tool for increasing the collaboration among WE@EU clusters and their members are the transregional Workshops. Two of them have happened in this period (March – September 2015):



Malta Water Week

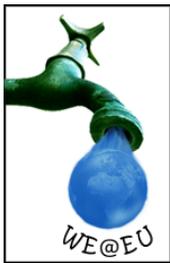
Malta Water week has been organised by **Paragon Europe** and took place during **23-27 March 2015**, featuring a number of activities centred around innovation in water management solutions and technology and novel financing ideas to bring together international business and investors. More information available online. [Click here to watch.](#)



Water Connect 2015

On **8th July**, the **Global Sustainability Institute** and **Opportunity Peterborough** co-hosted Water Connect 2015, providing an excellent environment to open the dialogue with key stakeholders from the water sector. Almost 150 delegates attended. More information available online. [Click here to watch.](#)





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3. WE@EU Regions of knowledge in depth: East of England

The region

The East of England is one of England's nine official regions. Second largest region in the UK with the fourth largest population. In The East of England is the second largest region in the UK with Cambridge renowned for high-tech and bio-tech industries, and Peterborough known for the largest low carbon housing development, adopting the target of 'Creating the UK's Environment Capital'.



Water in the East of England

A combination of drought warnings in 2012, large flooding events in 2013/2014 and a growing demand for water due to rising housing and service provision has resulted in the publication of a number of commissions and reports on water security. Key priorities in the region are both preventing urban flooding through flood forecasting and prevention, as well as leakage detection and monitoring to combat fears around the frequency and severity of droughts.

Another issue of extreme concern is water and wastewater treatment modernization mainly by integrated IT systems and energy recovery. Water Companies in East Anglia have been working to develop a robust, long term water resources strategy, the Water Resources East Anglia Project, a multi company multi sector strategic water resource planning project for mitigating long term supply demand risk in East Anglia.





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3. WE@EU Regions of knowledge in depth: East of England (II)

Innovation and R&D Regional Policy

The East of England is governed by the East of England Local Government Association (EELGA), which have chosen to focus on five priority areas of action; adult social care, children's service and health, economic development, **environment, waste and resources**. Regarding the Innovation policy, East of England is home of several Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) which are voluntary partnerships between local authorities and business.

The LEPs were setup up in 2010 by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to help identify priority areas for local economic development, as well as lead growth and create jobs in the local area. Operative LEP within East of England are focused in sustainable economic growth, Agritech growth initiative and creating an enterprising economy.

R&D entities linked to innovation and water

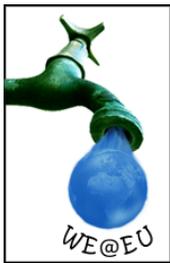
In 2011, **business in the East of England spent £3.6 billion on research and development**, approximately 20% of the UK's expenditure. In the East of England alone, there are approximately 260 businesses working in the water sector, employing over 5,000 people across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk.

Home to world class research centres including the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, and the [Cranfield Water Science Institute](#), other key initiatives linked to water and innovation in the region are:

[Waterwise](#) East, regional centre of excellence for water efficiency.

[Water Innovation Network](#), a partnership between OP and Anglian Water to support innovation.





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3. WE@EU Regions of knowledge in depth: East of England (III)

The Water Cluster

The Water Cluster is a network which provides a platform for bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, including academia, business, government, NGOs, SMEs and others. The aim is to share ideas on the forum and encourage collaboration and the development of long term partnerships with the purpose of innovating and improving water efficiency in East of England.



The Water Cluster aims to **DEVELOP** an innovation HUB , getting regional water actors to sign up and enter into a dialogue.

The Water cluster aims to **CONNECT** cluster members and areas of expertise .

The Water Cluster platform offers members an open forum for **SHAREd** learning.

Click [here](#) to know more.

The Water Cluster is supported by the [Global Sustainability Institute](#) at Anglia Ruskin University and [Opportunity Peterborough](#), as part of WE@EU project.

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4. Upcoming WE@EU events

Galilee Region as part of WE@EU project is hosting a WE@EU workshop, together with WATEC Fair in Tel Aviv, Israel (13rd – 15th October). WATEC will bring together a wide range of stakeholders from all across Europe to showcase the most advanced water technologies and solutions. Within the margins of WE@EU, a project meeting, booth, networking session and participation on the WATEC is envisaged. More info on twitter #WEatEU

- Exhibition
- Board Meeting
- Networking Event
- Participation on ISERD meetings *“Bringing Israeli Water Innovation to the EU”*





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5. WE@EU Innovation Map

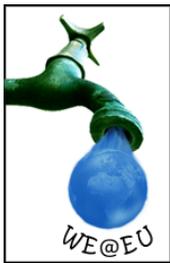
The WE@EU innovation map is one of the most useful deliverables of the project as it allows the clusters of the five participant regions to boost collaboration among their members.

This open tool allows to filter results searching for type of entity; offer and demand of innovation; and innovation assets (projects, research lines and property rights) linked to water.



[Search for Companies, public administrations, research centers or NGOs that work in innovative water management in Aragon \(Spain\), Galilee \(Israel\), Malta or Provence Alpes coté d'Azur!](#)





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6. Upcoming Water events

WE@EU recommends not missing:

Open days 2015, 12-15th October in Brussels

Some representatives of WE@EU will be attending the Open Days 2015 in Brussels. Highly recommended *Using smart combination of Funding Sources to boost Energy investment at Regional Level: Synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds and Horizon 2020.*

ICT 2015 Innovate, Connect, Transform, 20-22 October 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal,

Organised by the EC together with Fudação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, the ICT 2015 will comprise a policy conference, exhibition and networking activities.

EIP on Water Conference, 10 February 2016 in Leeuwarden

The 2016 Conference of the European Innovation Partnership on Water will be held on 10 February 2016 in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands, and carry the theme: "How is water innovation succeeding in Europe?"





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More information:

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