

Industrial Modernisation Thematic Platform. Thematic area: WATER SMART TERRITORIES

Sustainable water management is essential for European key sectors such as tourism, agriculture, energy, but also chemical, paper and food industry. European society and economy in different territories must tackle the following trends that will determine the competitiveness of European water industry:

- **Boosting resilient infrastructure.** Aging infrastructure and low investment in operation and maintenance; persistent and emerging pollutants, water losses and scarce resources must be tackled with new technologies that introduce efficiency and productivity in water management
- **Digitalization.** Industry 4.0 also brings many opportunities for economic development in the water sector. Business intelligence, big data -acquisition and management-, sensors, robotics, virtual reality might facilitate water management for different water users and uses.
- **Circular economy** introduces a new paradigm for current water technologies. Resource recovery, sludge valorisation, water reuse, energy efficiency and production are the new paradigm.
- **Enable multistakeholder governance**, as water should be managed according to the multiple water users: agriculture, urban (large and small municipalities) and industrial water consumers that need to observe different requirements and manage a common and unique resource.

Expression of Interest: Collaborating Region

The European commission recently approved a new thematic Area focused on [“Smart Water Territories”](#) in the S3 Industrial Modernisation Platform. The regions of Aragón (Spain), Centre – Val de Loire (France) and Fryslân (The Netherlands), are leading this initiative and as a next step they are gathering relevant information on other regions interested in participating actively in this thematic area. **The main goal of WST** is to strengthen innovation capacity of European regions beyond water resource efficiency, in order to facilitate new investments based on open innovation infrastructure and new technologies for sustainable water management by clusters and other actors in regional ecosystems.

WST aims to **expand its current network** to collaborating regions committed with this initiative and the following phases:

- I. *WST Phase I:* To prioritise sub-areas for collaborating innovations and the exchange of experiences and identification of relevant regional assets and stakeholders
- II. *WST Phase II:* To facilitate the identification of new projects and joint activities allowing the development of innovative technologies and services and identify the scope for the development of co-investment opportunities



We invite your region to respond to this form with a confirmation of interest including the following information:

- **Contact details** in charge of the involvement in the partnership:
- Level of **regional commitment for collaborating with WST** (Letter of Commitment of the corresponding Region) and contact details:
- Are you involved in the design and/or implementation of the research and innovation **strategies for Smart specialisation** (RIS3) in your region/Member State? If yes, please outline in which way:
- Which of your regional RIS3 specialisation choices is most closely aligned with the objectives of the WST Thematics?
- Do you have any major specialised stakeholders present in your region aligned with the WST thematics? (clusters, technology centres, research facilities etc) List the most representative ones aligned with WST topic.
- Please add here your preferred topics within WST working areas:
 - Resilient Infrastructure
 - Digitalisation of water services
 - Circular economy
 - Multistakeholder Water governance
- Please add here sub-topic within the proposed domains to take them into consideration
- Is your region involved in any other S3P Industrial Modernisation Partnerships? If yes please specify which ones and your role (Lead or Partner Region)

Please send this form to mfernandez@zinnae.org and francisco.vigalondo@aragonexterior.es

WST - Contact details

Aragón:

Francisco VIGALONDO – Aragón Exterior - Brussels' liaison office - 10 rue Montoyer – 1000 Bruxelles – Phone: +32 (2) 503 02 08 – Email: francisco.vigalondo@aragonexterior.es
Marisa FERNÁNDEZ – ZINNAE, Cluster for the efficient use of water – CEEI – María de Luna 11, 50.018 Zaragoza – Phone: +34 649107506 – Email: mfernandez@zinnae.org
Inés TORRALBA – Instituto Aragonés del Agua – Email: iaa@aragon.es

Centre Val de Loire:

Francis BERTRAND – DREAM Cluster – Phone: +33 623598833 - Email: francis.bertrand@poledream.org
Alban MARCHÉ - Director of Economy, Centre-Val de Loire Region - Email: alban.marche@regioncentre.fr
Rodolphe DOITE – Policy Officer Research and Innovation - Representation in Brussels and European Projects Unit – Phone : +32 2 486 15 53 - email : rodolphe.doite@regioncentre.fr
Héloïse PESCHARD - EEN Project officer - DEV'UP – Phone : +33 2 38 88 87 85 – email : heloise.peschard@devup-centrevalde Loire.fr

Province of Fryslân:

Eric VOS, province of Fryslân, e.r.vos@fryslan.nl, +31-58 29 25 838
Tjeerd HAZENBERG, province of Fryslân, t.hazenberg@fryslan.nl
Stefan BERGSMA, Water Alliance, s.bergsma@wateralliance.nl, +31-58 284 90 44, Mobile: +31 6 1110 1240
Pieter de JONG, EU Representative Wetsus/ WaterCampus Leeuwarden, pieter.dejong@wetsus.eu, Mobile: +34-6-1711-3944