Water-oriented Living Labs for a Water-Smart Society

Durk Krol
Belgium/Water Europe
Water Europe

- Recognized voice and promoter of water-related RTD and innovation in Europe

- **Mission:**
  - Improve **coordination and collaboration** in the water ecosystem in the EU and beyond;
  - Enhance **performance and competitiveness** of the water ecosystem;
  - Contribute to solving **global water challenges** through RTD&I.

- **Water Europe Strategy:**
  - **Multistakeholder** association representing the whole water value-chain
  - **Value-based** organisation: Water Vision
WE Water Vision

Challenges:
• Water scarcity
• Pollution of the environment
• Adaptation to climate change and extreme events

Water-Smart Society:
• a society in which the true value of water is recognised and realised;
• all available water sources are managed in such a way that water scarcity and pollution of water resources are avoided;
• Water and resource loops are largely closed to foster a circular economy and optimal resource efficiency,
• the water system is resilient against the impact of climate change events.
• A society in which all relevant stakeholders are involved in the governance of our water system.
WE Innovation Areas

1. Multiple Waters
2. Digital Water
3. Value in Water
4. Hybrid Grey-Green Infrastructure
Water-Oriented Living Labs (WoLLs)

Definition of European Water-oriented Living Labs (WoLLs)

1. **Demo-type** and platform-type research and innovation settings, with **context specific** needs and enabling conditions.

2. **Water-oriented** interventions with a cross-sector nexus approach in real-world and/or realistic environments.

3. Proactive learning and innovation **ecosystem** with R&D continuity and reproducibility.

4. Open and local **multi-stakeholder governance** structure with democratic control systems.
Water-Oriented Living Labs (WoLLs)
Horizon Europe Water4All Partnership

Engaging with existing operating WoLLs and Demos

Establishment of new WoLLs and Demo

Engaging with the development/Investment programmes

Co-development of practical, cost-efficient and affordable solutions for replication in different contexts

Enabling new environments for facilitating replication.

Connecting support and funding from a combination of research and innovation programmes
Thank you
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