

Call for Expression of Commitment for Action Groups under the EIP Water

The European Commission launches the Call for expression of Commitment for Action Groups as envisaged in the Strategic Implementation Plan of the European Innovation Partnership on Water (EIP Water):

(http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/innovationpartnership/index_en.htm).

Action Groups are a central element of the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership on Water (EIP Water).

The Call for Expression of Commitment is open to all European stakeholders to form Action Groups that focus on the Initial Actions identified in the Strategic Implementation Plan, and listed in Annex III to this Guide.

Criteria for establishing Action Groups

Each Commitment needs to fulfil the general criteria and EIP principles as listed in Annex I. Action Groups should comply with the following criteria.

A. Composition of Action Groups

The possibility to form Action Groups is open to all interested stakeholders at a European level, who will collaborate on one or more actions as defined in the SIP. The Action Groups should be formed along the rationale of the EIP Water, bringing together a relevant multi-stakeholder group of partners across various disciplines for innovation (e.g. research, industry, finance, NGO, ICT, etc.), as well as the demand and supply sides of innovation. Where possible, an international composition is encouraged.

B. The governance and working methods of the Action Groups

The Action Groups are free to establish their working methods and governance. The Commission services will be available for facilitating the process, if needed. The governance and working methods should rely on the rules of engagement based on the following principles:

- Openness and partnership – common willingness of all partners to cooperate with other relevant partners inside and outside the action group.
- Reporting – to the EIP Water Task Force on an annual basis on the progress and on the bottlenecks/barriers that the Action Groups encounter in their activity and which solutions they propose to overcome them.
- Evaluation – outcome of actions to be evaluated annually, and results made public, subject to compliance with Intellectual Property rights.

Selected Action Groups are free to communicate externally that they are working as an Action Group under the EIP Water and the EIP Water will communicate about the Actions Groups through its available channels.

Funding possibilities for the functioning of the Action Groups

- The EIPs and their Strategic Implementation Plans are neither a new funding programme, funding instrument, nor a legal entity. However, they aim bring together public and private stakeholders to accelerate the development and deployment of major innovations by bringing together supply and demand side measures across sectors and the entire innovation system.
- The activities of Action Groups will not be funded by the EIP. Action Groups are entitled to react to calls of existing EU financial mechanisms to receive financial support. Key EU funding mechanisms linked to the EIP Water are the 7th Framework Programme 7 (FP7) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), their successor, Horizon 2020 as well as the Structural Funds.
- In addition, national, regional and private partners are expected to contribute to the work of the Partnership by also employing their own relevant resources.

Submission process

Interested stakeholders can submit their Expression of Commitment online via a form available at (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/innovationpartnership/index_en.htm) or by submitting the filled in form to ENV-EIP-WATER@EC.EUROPA.EU. A template of the form is available as Annex II. For joint initiatives, the actual submission of the commitment can be made by one organisation on behalf of the coalition of partners.

A first **deadline for submissions** is set at **4 April 2013**.¹

All submitted Commitments will be made publicly available via the website of the European Innovation Partnership on Water. Assessment of the received Expression of Commitments will be made by the European Commission, supported by the Secretariat of the EIP Water, within 2 weeks from the closing date. The results of the assessment will be communicated directly to those submitting the Expression of Commitment, and will be placed on the website of the EIP Water http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/innovationpartnership/index_en.htm

Further Calls for Commitment will be open on a regular basis (bi-annually), inviting stakeholders to submit their commitments also at later stage and to keep the possibility to start new Action Groups over time and to respond to potential adjustments of the Strategic Implementation Plan.

¹ This Call for Expression of Commitment for Actions Groups under the EIP Water is not the same as the FP7 Water Inno & Demo call, which is currently open and also closes on April 4th 2013.

Annex I

General criteria and EIP principles

- A. Engagement** – underwriting the EIP Water and its objectives and criteria, specifically:
- (1) Demonstrating a clear link towards the initial actions of the EIP Water;
 - (2) Identifying key barriers and demonstrating its contribution to overcoming them;
 - (3) Fostering use of innovative solutions by clearly demonstrating the element of innovation in any of its forms (e.g. product, tools, services, process and social innovation).
- B. Inclusiveness and Partnership** – widely involving all relevant actors and constituencies:
- (1) Identifying existing partnering stakeholders and areas of their ongoing cooperation in carrying out actions, as well as describing the complementarity among all parties
 - (2) Identifying additional potential partners to cooperate in order to implement an action.
- C. Delivery** – timely delivery of agreed outcomes/outputs, demonstrated by:
- (1) Identifying key milestones and indicators to measure progress of the commitment;
 - (2) Defining precise timeline and schedule of the activities contributing to the implementation of the commitment.
- D. Measurable Commitment** – sufficient, concrete and measurable resources to carry out the actions of the commitment, such as:
- (1) Financial resources, e.g. funding for implementation of programmes; public sector budget dedicated to relevant activities such as coordinated or joined up public procurements; private sector budget for developing or commercialising their products or services, including at favourable conditions; availability/access to infrastructure or materials or research results (including waiving of IPR);
 - (2) Human resources, e.g. a number of: person-hours of staff, users involved in associated deployment of services, person-hours offered towards technical assistance and training, volunteers engaged in the action;
 - (3) Know-how and in kind contributions;
 - (4) Other, e.g. organisation of meetings, engagement of relevant constituencies through networking, advocacy and leadership, pledges.
- E. Advocacy** – inspiration and political support for all participants including:
- (1) Motivating other relevant parties and/or constituencies to be involved in the action;
 - (2) Openness and disclosure of full information about the action and its results;
 - (3) Media campaigns and public presentation.
- F. Reporting** – to the EIP Water Task Force on an annual basis on:
- (1) Progress of the actions;
 - (2) Progress on the bottlenecks/barriers encountered and solutions proposed to overcome them.
- G. Evaluation** – outcome of actions to be evaluated annually, and results made public, subject to compliance with Intellectual Property rights

Annex II

Template for Submission of Expression of Commitment for Action Groups of the European Innovation Partnership Water	
1. Title of the Action Group <i>Specify the title of the Action Group that should reflect the priority action(s), on which the AG will be working.</i>	
2. Selected Initial action(s) as specified in the SIP of the EIP Water to which the Action Group will work <i>Specify the selected action(s), on which the Action Group will be working.</i>	
3. Action Group partners <i>Specify the Lead and collaborating partners.</i>	
4. Description of the activities <i>Specify the activities that the Action Group will be working on. The following elements must be included under this point.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Description of the innovation potential.</i> • <i>Identified challenges.</i> • <i>Identified barriers to innovation and suggested ways to overcome them.</i> • <i>Identified market opportunities.</i> • <i>Major questions to be addressed by the Action Group.</i> 	
5. Specify measurable commitments <i>Specify clearly measurable commitments. For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i><u>Financial</u> – budgets by public sector actors for activities related to the relevant activities, budgets for products or services made available by private sector actors, availability/accessibility to infrastructure/materials or research results, etc.</i> • <i><u>Human resources</u> – number of man-hours of professional staff, volunteers, number of users, technical assistance and training, etc.</i> • <i><u>Other</u> – organisation of meetings or engagement of relevant constituencies through networking, advocacy and leadership, etc.</i> 	
6. Specify the deliverables and expected time horizon <i>Specify in a table format the envisaged deliverables and their time horizon.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree on the level of data sharing; - Provide a delivery plan with milestones and targets, indicating how the various activities are combined to reach the defined deliverables of the Action Group. - Envisage annual reporting to the Task Force of the EIP Water on the progress of the Action Group's activities. 	

Annex III

Initial actions

1. Water reuse and recycling

- 1.1. **Fit for purpose/symbiotic approaches** based on technical, economic, social and environmental criteria, where cost-effective treatment meets intended use and quality.
- 1.2. Innovative solutions and/or treatment options, producing and testing **recycled/reclaimed water** for residential, urban, industrial and agricultural uses, with consideration of ecosystems and involving multiple stakeholders.
- 1.3. Systems capable of determining the **quality of recycled and reclaimed water** to improve management and public acceptance according to health requirements.
- 1.4. Innovative **separation- and extraction technology** pilot projects in industrial zones to harvest resources from waste- and re-used water.

2. Water and wastewater treatment, including recovery of resources

- 2.1. Innovative concepts for (alternative) **water supply, wastewater treatment and recovery of resources**.
- 2.2. **Source control methods** for discharges of emerging pollutants and pathogens into the wastewater treatment system and develop cost-effective on-site technologies, removing as much as possible at source.
- 2.3. **Water treatment innovation hubs**, in regions that currently lack of appropriate sewer systems and treatment and sanitation facilities, applying smart technologies and decentralized systems with a focus on alternative water sources.
- 2.4. Systematic approaches to avoid **loss of water, energy and resources** in industrial production and water and waste water infrastructure.

3. Water-energy nexus

- 3.1. Approaches for **reducing energy consumption** related to drinking water production, wastewater treatment, industrial water use, and irrigation for agriculture.
- 3.2. Innovative and widely applicable solutions for **energy recovery** and/or surplus energy production both from water in natural systems as well as from anthropogenic water use.
- 3.3. Develop and demonstrate widely applicable concepts and solutions **for water use related to energy production**, urban and industrial hot/cold water systems.

4. Flood and drought risk management

- 4.1. Innovative **extreme event prevention and protection tools**, including sensor technology and monitoring networks, forecast and early-warning systems in urban, rural, riverine and coastal areas, for support of policy, land-use planning and emergency management,
- 4.2. Innovative **mitigation and adaptation measures** to minimize climate change impacts, including the role of natural ecosystems and their protection
- 4.3. Integrated **risk assessment and management approaches**, ranging from planning to implementation of new insurance policies, bringing together the physical, economical, insurance, emergency management and social factors, based on resilience and social vulnerability and ensuring social acceptance.

5. Ecosystem services

- 5.1. Methodologies for **valuation of and payment for ecosystem services**, including tangible and intangible services.
- 5.2. Innovative **management schemes addressing water related ecosystem services** in Europe and non-European countries.

6. Water governance

- 6.1. Innovative forms of **governance that connect across boundaries** of regions, policy sectors, jurisdictional levels and timescales, and that simultaneously involve the public and raise public awareness.
- 6.2. **Partnership models** which link private sector governance, such as certification, stewardship and round tables, to public sector water governance with a view to achieve sustainable water management in low-income countries and emerging markets.
- 6.3. **Water pricing policies** based on innovative approach, where the over-user pays principle is added to the polluter pays principle, defining clear and measurable efficiency targets for each area of activity at the relevant level.
- 6.4. Interventions to **overcome barriers in the governance systems** that hinder development and uptake of innovations.

7. Decision support systems and monitoring

- 7.1. **Smart water management systems** with export potential, based on multi-sourced data platforms including quality and quantity monitoring, data management and modeling. The platforms should include data sources from water cycle and data sources from other interconnected domains.
- 7.2. **Interconnection of smart sensor based monitoring networks**, crowd-sourcing, localized and other smart information dissemination and data management to enhance operational services.
- 7.3. Model and monitoring standards for the **global water cycle** with integration of all water cycle aspects, such as ecological, environmental, economic, social, to establish a leaders' role in the export market.
- 7.4. Well targeted **monitoring and analysis** of drinking, waste and process water to enhance decision making.

8. Financing for innovation

- 8.1. An EU wide common structure to build **interfaces between funders, industry, companies, SMEs and research organizations** to foster relationships promoting innovation and improve knowledge about access to finance.
- 8.2. Options to **improve access to finance for SMEs** active throughout the water cycle, especially those with potentially disruptive technologies and those with high export potential.
- 8.3. Frameworks and instruments to **stimulate public sector innovation** in the priority areas identified by the EIP, based on a review of public procurement best practices in relevant sectors of industry in Europe and other OECD countries.
- 8.4. Innovative financial instruments at an EU level to **support European companies proposing innovative goods and services** and to facilitate access into overseas water sector export markets in line with the objectives of the EIP.