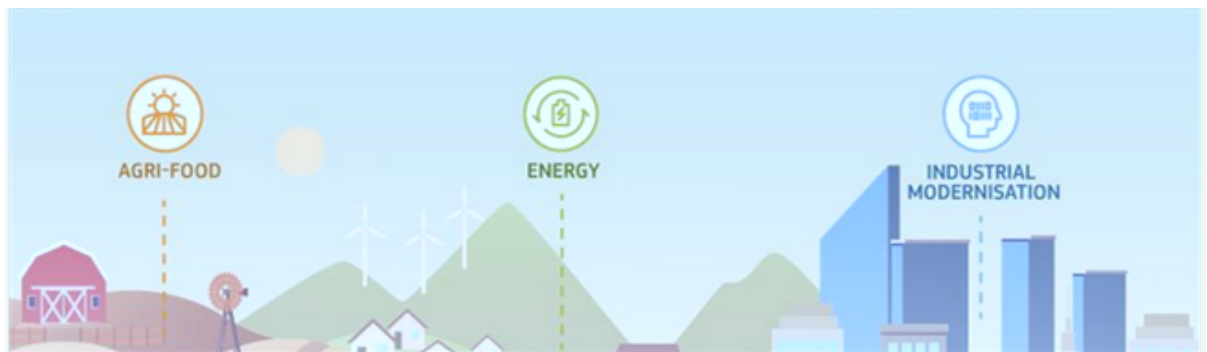# Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms
Monitoring Progress Report

> Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnership
Monitoring Progress Report

This report is presented to the relevant Working/Steering Committee.

The report is updated every six months.

Confidentiality:
The management report (section I) and progress report (section II) will be made available to the public via your Partnership's web page.
The part on self-assessment is confidential.

Based on the monitoring results, the European Commission will decide on the following term's support.

* **Reporting period**

> July - December 2020

* **Please select the name of your partnership**

> Water Smart Territories

* Start date of your partnership

> 19/03/2019

* Partnership's webpage

> https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/water-smart-territories

I. Management report

* Please provide the executive summary and the objectives of your partnership

> The main goal of this thematic area (WST) is to strengthen the innovation capacity of European regions beyond resource efficiency, in order to facilitate new investments based on open innovation infrastructure and new technologies for sustainable water management by clusters in regional ecosystems. A closer and interdisciplinary collaboration by partner regions and regional cluster organizations will respond to the water industry challenges through advanced technological solutions to tackle European water territories and society needs. The European society and economy in different territories must tackle the following trends that will determine the competitiveness of the European water industry:
>
> • Boosting resilient infrastructure. Ageing infrastructure and low investment in operation and maintenance; persistent and emerging pollutants, water losses and scarce resources must be tackled through a combination of innovative and nature-based solutions, opening the traditional water sector to 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 are new elements that 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 that should be taken into consideration in water management plans of different water consumers.
> • Enable multistakeholder governance, as water should be managed according to the multiple water users: agriculture, urban and industrial water consumers that need to observe different requirements and manage common and unique resources. Especially, at Small municipalities.
> WST is working on 5 working groups:
> 1) Sludge
> 2) Diffuse pollution
> 3) Micro-pollutants
> 4) Digitalisation
> 5) Circular Economy

* Please provide the list of leading regions

> Aragon (Spain), ES24
> Centre Val de Loire (France), FRB0
> Friesland (The Netherlands), NL12

* Please provide the list of participating regions.
If possible, please follow this format: "Name of the region in English (Country abbreviation), NUTS code".
e.g.: Lapland (FI), FI1D7

Catalonia (ES), ES51
Crete (GR), EL43
Grand Est (FR), FRF1, FRF2, FRF3
Kainuu (FI), FI1D8
Latvia (LV), LV00
Liberec (CK), CZ05
Lombardy (IT), ITC4
Malta (MT), MT00
North Portugal (PT), PT11
North East Romania (RO), RO21
Occitanie (FR), FRJ1, FRJ2
Olomouc (CZ), CZ07
Oulu (FI), FI1D9
Pohjois-Savo (FI), FI1D2
Scotland (UK), UKM5, UKM6, UKM7, UKM8, UKM9
Slovenia (SI), SI0
South Moravian (CZ), CZ06
South Savo Mikkeli (FI), FI1D1

Please provide the list of interested regions or other entities (other than national /regional authorities)

Please provide an overview of the **working areas** of your partnership

	Working area	Region in charge	Involved regions	Other actors
*1	Sludge	Latvia (LV), LV00 Lombardy (IT), ITC4	Aragon (Spain), ES24 North East Romania (RO), RO21 Slovenia (SI), SI0 South Moravian (CZ), CZ06 South Savo Mikkeli (FI), FI1D1	-
*2	Diffuse pollution	Aragon (Spain), ES24	Liberec (CK), CZ05 North Portugal (PT), PT11 Slovenia (SI), SI0	-
*3	Micro-pollutants	Friesland (The Netherlands), NL12	Centre Val de Loire (France), FRB0 Grand Est (FR), FRF1, FRF2, FRF3 Kainuu (FI), FI1D8 North East Romania (RO), RO21 Occitanie (FR), FRJ1, FRJ2	-
*4	Digitalisation	Centre Val de Loire (France), FRB0 Oulu (FI), FI1D9	Aragon (Spain), ES24 Crete (GR), EL43 Grand Est (FR), FRF1, FRF2, FRF3 Kainuu (FI), FI1D8 Lombardy (IT), ITC4 North Portugal (PT), PT11 North East Romania (RO), RO21 Pohjois-Savo (FI), FI1D2 Slovenia (SI), SI0 South Moravian (CZ), CZ06 South Savo Mikkeli (FI), FI1D1	-

*5	Circular Economy	Aragon (Spain), ES24 Centre Val de Loire (France), FRB0	Kainuu (FI), FI1D8 Liberec (CK), CZ05 North Portugal (PT), PT11 North East Romania (RO), RO21 Occitanie (FR), FRJ1, FRJ2 Slovenia (SI), SI0 South Savo Mikkeli (FI), FI1D1	-
*6	-	-	-	-
*7	-	-	-	-
*8	-	-	-	-
*9	-	-	-	-
*10	-	-	-	-

Please provide information regarding past meetings, workshops and dissemination activities (six months prior to filling out the survey)

	Event	Date	Place	Any other information
1	WST Leading regions meeting	08/09/2020	Online	Agenda: 1) Centre Val de Loire: update of its participation in WST 2) Report January-June 2020; 3) Participation TAF workshop June 2020; 4) Participation ECCP webinar Towards Green Recovery; 5) Discussion about the update of the S3 and development of a common strategy; 6) Water4all initiative: meeting 10th of September 2020; 7) Public consultation on I3 (Interregional Innovation Investment).
2	WST-Water4all presentation	10/09/2020	Online	Presentation: 1) European Partnership Water4all; 2) Funding Synergies Component 5; 3) The role of clusters in greening, digitalisation and resilience for recovery
3	WST General Assembly	19/11/2020	Online	Results of the 2 years of development and new working groups
4	WST General Assembly	17/12/2020	Online	Methodology Working groups and roadmap 2021

5	Preparation of WINNing Days event-get ready for Horizon Europe	03/12/2020 11/12/2020 18/12/2020 23/12/2020	Online	France Water Team, ZINNAE and Water Alliance organise the event
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Please provide information regarding planned future meetings, workshops and dissemination activities

	Event	Date	Place	Any other information
1	Preparation of WINNing Days event-get ready for Horizon Europe	08/01/2021 15/01/2021 22/01/2021 28/01/2021 02/02/2021	Online	
2	Working Group Circular Economy	27/01/2021	online	
3	Working Group Digitalisation	28/01/2021	Online	
4	Working Group Diffuse Pollution	Week 05 2021	Online	
5	WST General Assembly	Week 06 2021	Online	
6	WST General Assembly	March 2021	Online	How to increase synergies and utilise the flexibility rule to build long-term regional and interregional collaboration"
7				
8				
9				
10				

II. Progress report

Innovative results

Please describe innovative results and achievements that could be attributed to the partnership (specific examples of results vs. objectives)

This thematic area (WST) 's main goal is to strengthen the innovation capacity of European regions beyond resource efficiency to facilitate new investments based on open innovation infrastructure and new technologies for sustainable water management by clusters in regional ecosystems. To achieve this objective, during the last period, WST has developed a project idea with three main dimensions:
1) Engagement and connecting existing innovation platforms, testbeds and services (capitalise and support new investment;
2) Support SMEs implement and finance pilot and demonstrator projects;
3) Connect ecosystems with a digital platform for facilitating SME technology development and internationalisation/market testing.

Tangible short- and medium-term socio-economic impacts achieved or expected (specific examples)

2020 has brought the COVID19 crisis that will have long term social and economic consequences in Europe that we cannot assess yet. The Green New Deal and the twin transitions of the European industry should be a vector of the European reconstruction. Environmental and digital transitions will be a powerful source of job creation. The collaborative projects that WST involve the private sector to obtain new capabilities and embedded technology contributing to the reduction of water stress that comes from resource extraction and processing; the promotion of no waste; the development of circular approaches to water reuse, and the stimulation of markets for recovered nutrients.

Inter-regional and inter-partnership collaborative results

Additional results obtained from working with other partnerships under the thematic S3 Platforms (specific examples)

There are 5 working groups: WG1. Sludge, WG2. Diffuse pollution, WG3. Micropollutants, WG4. Digitalisation and WG5. Circular Economy with high participation of the regions. The working groups will focus on developing contents and improving connections with networks, sharing best practices to boost replicability and Strategic information, as regulatory surveillance.

Evaluation of the involvement of relevant business sector (clusters, SMEs, business associations, chambers of commerce, Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs), etcetera) in the Partnership activities (specific examples)

Clusters are strongly involved supporting the regions in the development of the cross-regional collaboration project. Clusters involve are:
Pole Dream (FR), Water Alliance (NL), ZINNAE-Cluster for the efficient use of water (ES), Catalan Water Partnership (ES), Kuopio Water Cluster (FI), Aqua Valley (FR), Nanoprogress (CZ), CREA- Hydro&Energy Cluster (CZ), Water Ecosystem (FI), Lombardy Energy Cleantech Cluster (IT), HYDREOS (FR). Furthermore, the proposal developed by Digitalisation working group will promote the collaboration with:
Digital Innovation Hubs(DIH) to provide technologies for pilots. Through Water Cluster Finland, we will collaborate with SuperIoT AI DIH that has 300 ICT member companies and close operations with other Digital Innovation Hubs around Europe as a member of DIHNET.EU. SuperIoT AI DIH can serve both SMEs and large global companies in developing digital products and services, digital transformation and scaling up the business. It is specialized in IoT and AI, including cloud-based services, Edge computing and wireless connectivity (5G/6G). Through Water Alliance and ZINNAE will collaborate with an ESCP4i partnership (Techbridge) and an ESCP4x partnership (BLUES), as well as the EEN network. Aragon region will collaborate with EBN with more than 150 European Business Incubators (BIC).

Evaluation of whether the level of inter-regional cooperation is sufficient to potentially provide practical and relevant socio-economic impacts (specific examples)

Interregional cooperation is deepening in the Water Smart Territories partnership. At this stage, interregional cooperation is starting and not yet generating socio-economic impacts. This being said, the level of commitment of regions in the making of cooperation projects is promising and socio-economic impacts could be expected next year.

New activities

Involvement of regions from EU13 Member States in the Partnership, in particular with respect to scoping, mapping and/or matchmaking. In addition, justification should be provided if no EU13 regions are involved

There are several EU13 regions involved in the WST partnership: one in Romania (North East) and three in the Czech Republic (South Moravia, Liberec and Olomouc). These regions are very active in the partnership and all of them participate in the interregional projects.
Malta is also participating in the partnership.

Involvement of regions/countries from outside of EU28 Countries. (Number of participants from non-EU countries (specify their contribution)

There are no regions outside of the EU28 that are part of the partnership.

Advancement and promotion of the Partnership through publications and other communication/outreach activities (number of outreach activities that resulted from the partnership)

Participation in the European Commission consultation on the I3 instrument in order to underline the importance of Water and digitalization in its priorities.

Activities and projects with partnerships working under other S3 Thematic Platforms (AgriFood, Energy and Industrial Modernisation)

Your Partnership and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The EU has a strong position when it comes to sustainable development and is also fully committed to be a frontrunner in implementing the UN's 2030 Agenda, together with its member countries and regions. Many interregional partnerships under the thematic S3 Platforms contribute strongly to the attainment of these 17 goals.

Please indicate to which Sustainable Development Goals and to what extent your thematic Partnership contributes?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	○	○	◉	○	○	○
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition & promote sustainable agriculture	○	◉	○	○	○	○
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives & promote well-being for all at all ages	○	○	◉	○	○	○
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	○	○	◉	○	○	○
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality & empower all women and girls	○	○	◉	○	○	○

Goal						
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	●	○	○	○	○	○
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	○	●	○	○	○	○
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment & decent work for all	○	●	○	○	○	○
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation & foster innovation	●	○	○	○	○	○
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	○	●	○	○	○	○
Goal 11. Make cities & human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	●	○	○	○	○	○
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption & production patterns	○	●	○	○	○	○
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	●	○	○	○	○	○
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas & marine resources for sustainable development	○	●	○	○	○	○
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	○	●	○	○	○	○

Goal 16. Promote peaceful & inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	◎	◎	◉	◎	◎	◎
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	◉	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎

.