



## EIP WATER ACTION GROUP: CITY BLUEPRINTS

### MEETING SUMMARY

LEEUWARDEN, FEBRUARY THE 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

Prior to the EIP WATER Annual Conference and the Cities and Water Conference in Leeuwarden, an open meeting of the EIP WATER ACTION GROUP: CITY BLUEPRINTS was held in the same city in order to review the general progress of the Action Group and to discuss ways of developing its work further.

There is no doubt that the AG has been active since it was chosen as one of the original nine proposals to be accepted by the European Commission. Indeed, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, during his speech at the Cities and Water Conference, the European Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella cited City Blueprints as an example of the good progress of EIP WATER.

([http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/vella/announcements/mayors-and-water-conference-leeuwarden-netherlands\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/vella/announcements/mayors-and-water-conference-leeuwarden-netherlands_en))

The concept of CITY BLUEPRINTS is the result of the work of Kees van Leeuwen and his team at KWR and the supporting political and social action of the AG partners, who KWR co-coordinates together with CTM-NETWERC H2O. Kees van Leeuwen and Stef Koop have published a number of papers during the last two years and representatives of the CITY BLUEPRINTS AG have argued at numerous international conferences that in order to address the global challenge of water, an awareness and important level of social consensus regarding the environment must be created if we are to adequately face the effects of climate change. First among the environmental factors to be tackled in this way is water. The CITY BLUEPRINT methodology seeks not only to act as a self-assessment tool of value but also as an instrument of dissemination and communication in order to create proactive rather than reactive cities; municipalities which are capable of creating and sustaining long-term goals in a transversal approach whereby the water sector integrates its progress with that of other sectors such as energy, ICT, waste and transport.

As Stef Koop of KWR in his general presentation of the progress of CITY BLUEPRINTS demonstrated, the CITY BLUEPRINT is becoming increasingly accepted as an effective baseline

assessment tool which gives rise to a process of visioning, strategy development, implementation, monitoring and assessment of urban water policies. The revised 25 indicators have been applied to 45 cities situated all over the World and it is hoped that further municipalities will be evaluated this year.



CITY BLUEPRINTS has given rise to two successful HORIZON 2020 proposals. The first is BlueSCities, which started in the January of 2015 ([www.bluescities.eu](http://www.bluescities.eu)) and which seeks to integrate water and waste into the Strategic Implementation Plan of the EIP SMART CITIES AND COMMUNITIES. Meanwhile POWER, which had its Kick-Off meeting in Brussels in the January of this year, concentrates on the development and effective deployment of Digital Social Platforms in order to facilitate improved water management at a local level.



Those members of CITY BLUEPRINTS who are involved in BlueSCities and the association NETWORK H2O have also been responsible for the Dubrovnik Declaration of Intent which is a document that encourages cities to participate in the creation of citizen awareness concerning water. In close collaboration with the Joint Research Centre (the European Commission's science service) this document signed by a number of cities from the Middle East, the Balkans, Turkey, Eastern and Western Europe has led to a series of actions which promote the mutual knowledge exchange or 'winning-by-twinning' approach established in a workshop of that name held in

Dubrovnik in the autumn of 2015. This in turn has led to the signatories organising a number of very successful science café and school activities, some of which are closely related to the publication this year of the Pan-European Atlas on Water Management.



In Amman, the Jordanian capital, for example, an exhibition of Jordanian Children's artwork on the subject of water will be inaugurated by the Minister of Education on February the 18<sup>th</sup>. (See: <http://www.netwerch2o.eu/projects/> ).



Bernd Gawlik, representative of the JRC suggested that the Action Group should continue to develop a more intense dialogue with those regions addressed by the Dubrovnik Declaration

and this was supported by Hans Zojer of Graz University of Technology and Leonardo Piccinetti of REDINN who called for clear concrete proposals from all members of CITY BLUEPRINTS.

Further discussion gave rise to suggestions regarding a) the necessity to translate the AG's work into different languages as proposed by Gül Özerol of the University of Twente and b) more development regarding the reaching out to *'the man in the street'*.

For further information regarding the CITY BLUEPRINTS AG see:

[http://www.eip-water.eu/City Blueprints](http://www.eip-water.eu/City_Blueprints)

As an Action Group open to all interested partners we encourage the recruitment of new members to our activities. We would also advise you to see the following websites:

[www.watershare.eu](http://www.watershare.eu)

[www.netwerch2o.eu](http://www.netwerch2o.eu)

[www.bluescities.eu](http://www.bluescities.eu)

Richard Elelman and Kees van Leeuwen

15/02/2016