



European Network of Freshwater Research
Organisations
www.euraqua.org

Mission Statement

The aim of EurAqua is to contribute substantially to the development of European freshwater science and technology and its dissemination on an European scale, thus having a significant input on the development of the scientific and economic basis of European water management.

Objectives

1. "Science Collaboration" - further strengthen the collaboration and integration of research and to facilitate efficient transfer of knowledge between scientific institutions and between researchers.
2. "Science Policy Collaboration" – EurAqua takes action to collaborate and exchange research results with public and private end-users, thus aiming to bridge the science-policy and the innovation gaps.
3. "Research needs identification and validation" – EurAqua actively and continuously works on identifying research needs and validating policies and solutions required for implementing today's policy and future emerging challenges.
4. "Efficiency and strength of EurAqua"- EurAqua actively pursues information flow between its partners as to increase efficiency. EurAqua also liaises with other networks to collaborate whenever possible, further enhancing efficiency and effectiveness.

Membership

The EurAqua Partner institutions are leading, generally public, freshwater research institutions in the EU Member States and the European Economic Area. They generally ...

- ...are key advisors to 'water management' ministries and other regional water authorities
- ... have an international profile
- ... link to water management industry

Within the country, the EurAqua members are closely connected to other relevant research institutes.

EurAqua history, foundation and development

The original foundation of EurAqua dates back to 1993 when members from six countries (FR, UK, NL, DK, IRL, I), began to work informally together. After the first formal Board Meeting on 29 November 1993, the membership was extended to include 10 out of 12 countries of the European Union. In 1995 at the fourth Board Meeting the European Economic Area (EEA) countries, Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland joined EurAqua as new Members. Portugal joined later on in 1995.

In April 2002 the decision was taken to extend the membership with new members. In subsequent years, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia joined EurAqua.

During the course of years some memberships changed due to national reorganizations or institutional refocusing.

Partnering with other networks and initiatives

EurAqua is engaging with several other networks and initiatives, for example:

- Memorandum of Understanding with the Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER)
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform (WssTP)
- Member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group of the Joint Programming Initiative 'Water Challenges in a Changing World' (JPI)
- Observer to the Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive (WFD CIS)
- Member of the Water EU Water Innovation Alliance, an alliance of WssTP, Eureau, EWA, EurAqua, Acqueau and NetworkH2O

Through its members, information exchange with several other networks and organisations takes place, for example with WMO, SedNet, ECTP. The intention is to further increase inter-network collaborations, including River Basin Management Organizations.

Position papers / consultations

Over the past years EurAqua has developed several position papers which can be downloaded from the website:

- Position paper on the specific programme of Horizon2020
- Position paper on the outline of the European Innovation Partnership on Water
- Position on the need of integrating and opening national hydrology research infrastructures regarding hydrology.
- Joint input to the EC on priority issues for the Horizon2020 work programme on Societal Challenge 5: Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials

EurAqua frequently discusses with representatives of the European Commission on new developments. EurAqua invites the EC to Management Board meetings.

Governance and funding

Membership of EurAqua is free of charge. The main effort, the network expects from its members to invest in taking part in network meetings and to follow up on agreements.

The Management Board Meetings (MBMs) are the main events where generally speaking senior science managers or science directors exchange information and discuss activities. Such meetings are held twice a year and are voluntarily hosted by a member organization.

A core-group of members is in charge of preparing MBMs and undertakes any day-to day activities.

The chair and secretariat are provided free of charge by one member. At the moment the chair is held by Deltares.





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