

EurAqua is the European network of freshwater research organisations whose mission is to contribute to the development of European freshwater sciences and its dissemination on a European and global scale.

VITUKI hosted the 26th EurAqua Management Board Meeting

The 26th Management Board Meeting of EurAqua was hosted by VITUKI in Budapest, Hungary. The meeting was attended by 30 EurAqua participants from 18 countries in Europe.

On the agenda were, *inter alia*, the FP7 process, an update on the WFD implementation by the Joint Research Center in Ispra, and a discussion on the future EurAqua strategy, including EurAqua's co-operation with PEER (Partnership for European Environmental Research). Updates were also given on the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform, SedNet and the EU Floods initiative. EurAqua members may access the minutes on the member pages at the web.



The MBM 26 meeting was set in a hydrological scene, as it coincided with the flood in the Danube.

EurAqua gives input to the FP7 process

Partners in EurAqua were pleased to welcome Mr. Andrea Tilche of the European Commission to the MBM in Budapest. Mr. Tilche held a presentation on the progress of the EC 7th Framework Programme (FP7).

EurAqua has expressed its views and recommendations on the FP7 to the Commission in a new document,

which identifies key areas that are in need of further research. The paper has been sent to the Commission, and has also been presented directly to DG Research during the MBM26 in Budapest, and also to DG Environment at a meeting in Brussels in March. Copies of the document may be obtained from the EurAqua secretariate.

New Joint Research Projects

One of the main purposes of EurAqua is to stimulate to increased research co-operation between its members. A number of new common projects have been started lately; these will be listed on the homepages shortly. One such project is "STRIVER" – Strategy and

methodology for improved IWRM – An integrated interdisciplinary assessment in four twinning river basins in Europe and Asia. The project will be managed by NIVA; other EurAqua partners include IRSA and JRC.

Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform (WSSTP)

The Strategic research agenda of the WSSTP is recently distributed. Although much is achieved, a coherent strategic research agenda is still some time ahead, due to fragmentations of the water sector across Europe. The large private sector remains engaged in the process, which is encouraging, as the primary objective is to

increase the amount of the private sector's involvement, including funding of research. Of the EurAqua members, CEH and Cemagref are the most actively involved institutes, whereas others, such as LNEC and NIVA, are members of working groups.