

**European Network of
Freshwater Research Organisations**



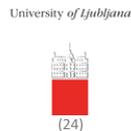
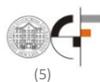
EurAqua 25th Anniversary

**25 Years of Research and Competence
at the service of European Freshwater**

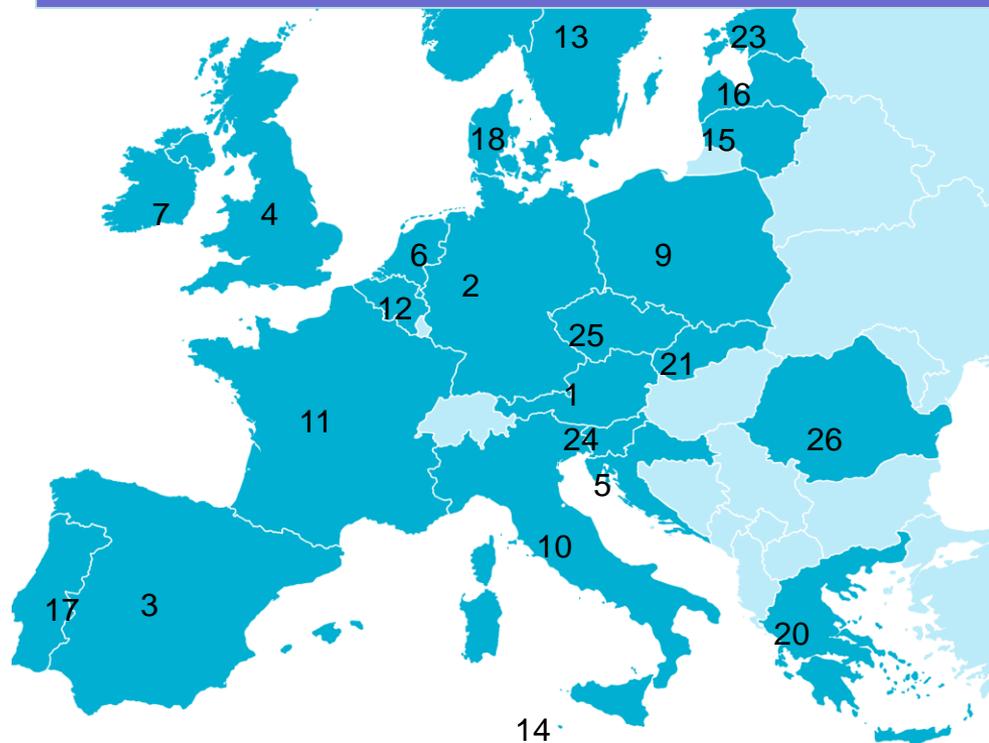
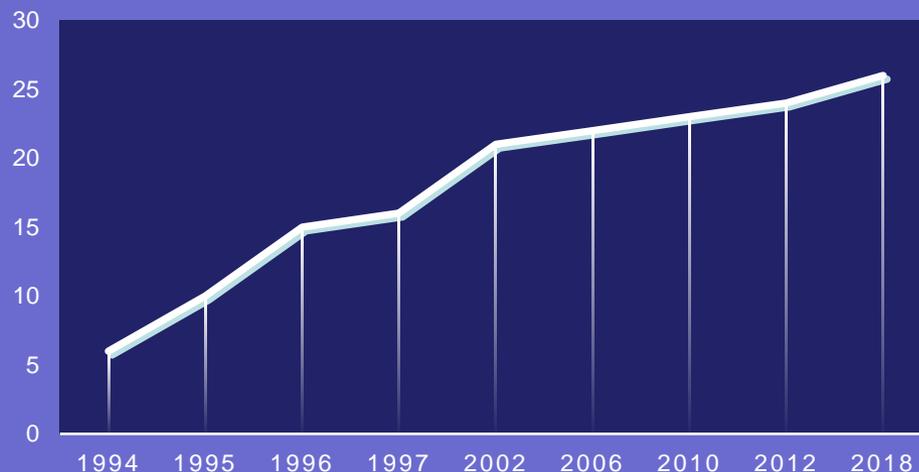
Antonio Lo Porto, Chair of EurAqua
Brussels, 11th June 2019



European coverage



EURAQUA MEMBERSHIP



Membership



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

They tend to

- Be **key advisors** to 'water management' Ministries and other regional water authorities
- Have an **international profile**
- Link to **water management industry**



Management board meeting in Dublin, 2017

General rule: 1 Member / country

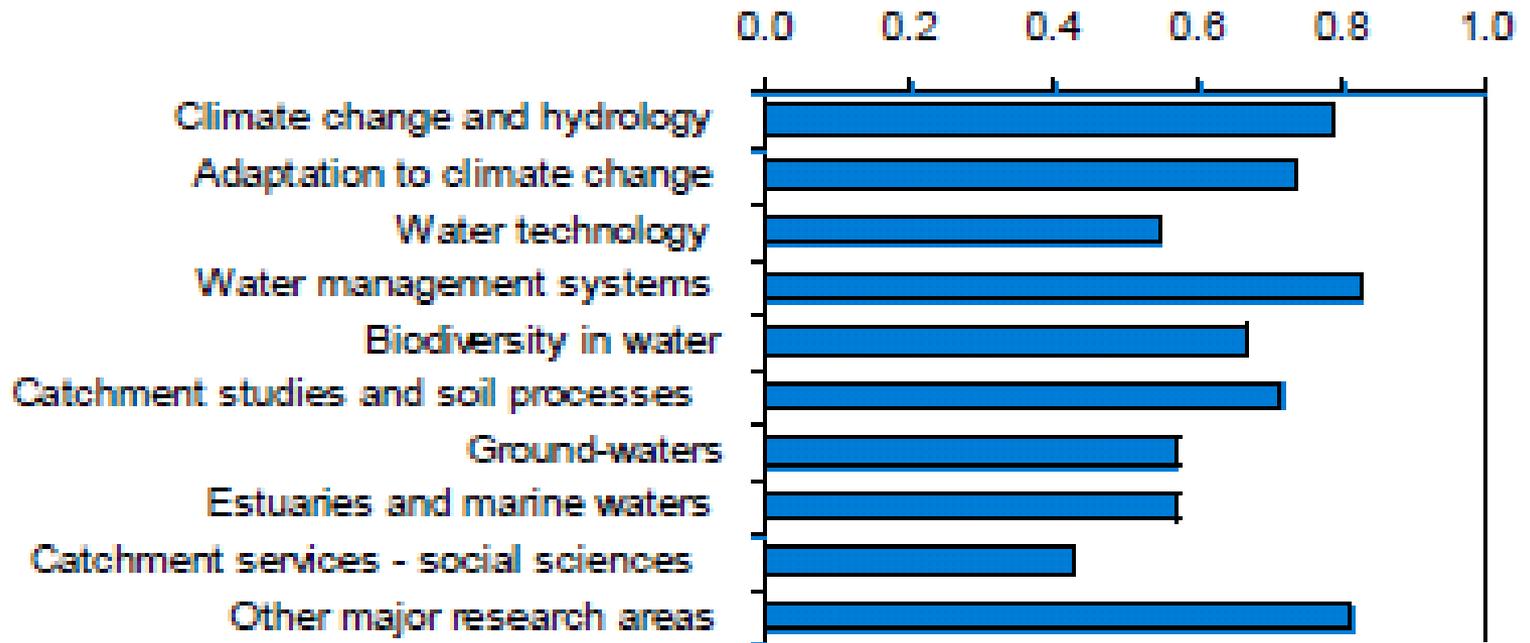
Within each country, EurAqua members are closely connected to other relevant institutions.





EURAQUA genetic code

Research fields - average score of importance (0 = none, 1 = significant)

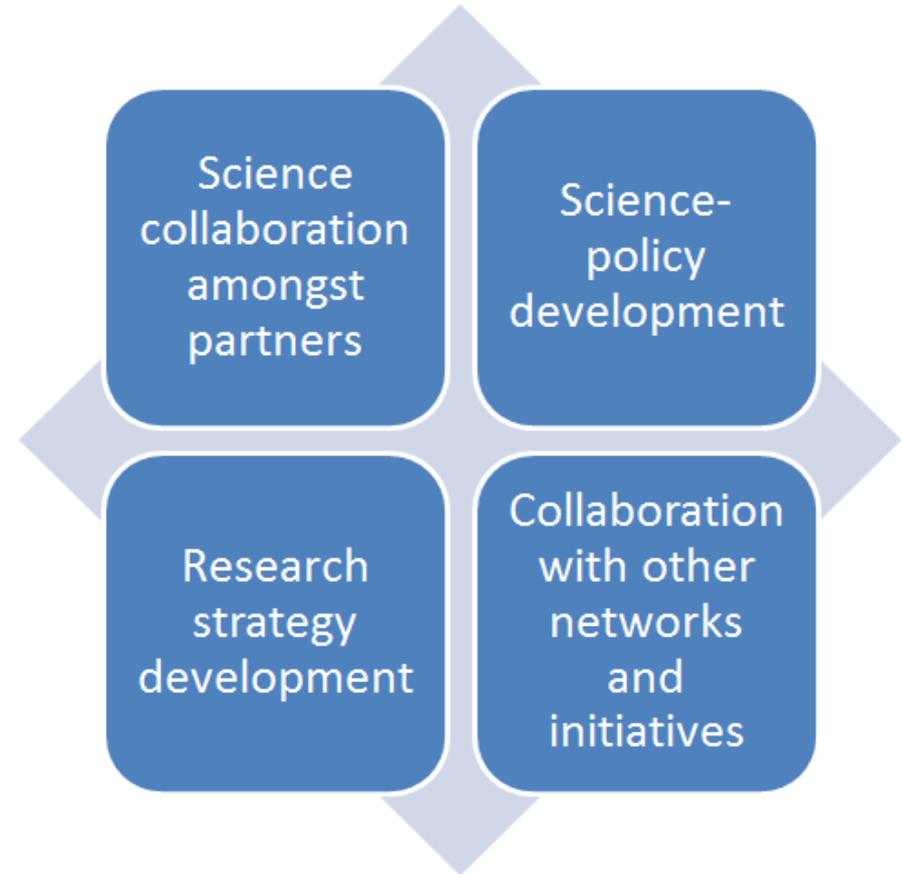


Mission statement



To contribute to the development of European freshwater science and technology as well as to its dissemination on a European scale.

EurAqua's actions therefore aim to play a significant role in the **development of the scientific and economic basis** of European water management.



EurAqua's strategic actions.

Strategic Action 1: Science collaboration amongst partners



➤ Project setting and development

- EurAqua's partners have been involved in **more than 80 EU projects** (*Framework Programme, joint programming initiatives, Structural Funds or COST*)

➤ Knowledge sharing and dissemination

- EurAqua Conference: How can climate change be incorporated in river basin management plans under the WFD? (2008)
- EurAqua Symposium "Impact of climate change on water resources — 200 Years hydrology in Europe — a European perspective in a changing world" (2010)
- Innovative approaches for the management of environmental risks from plant protection products. A joint EurAqua-PEER Scientific Conference (2010)
- Joint EurAqua – WssTP workshop: Water-related ecosystem services [ESS] – increasing the relevance of the concept for operational management on various scales (2014)

Strategic Action 2: Research strategy development at the EU level

- **Identification and validation of RDI needs**
 - Paper on priority research needs to better implement the Water Framework Directive (presented at the EU Council)
 - Contribution to the update of the strategic agenda
- **Write-up of position papers and consultations; examples:**
 - Specific programme of Horizon2020
 - Priority issues for the Horizon2020 work programme: Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials
 - Outline of the European Innovation Partnerships
 - Need of a network of hydrological observatories for future activities for integrating and opening up the water cycle
 - Along with the EU Water Alliance, proposal for a Water Research and Innovation Hub in Horizon Europe

Water for our Environment, Economy and Society:
Research and Innovation Needs for Enhanced WFD Implementation

(Version 2)

EurAqua, February 2018



Sietzra River, Poland

Strategic Action 3: Science-policy development



- **Meetings with members of the European Commission**
 - DG ENV
 - DG Agriculture
 - DG RTD

- **Meetings with members of the European Parliament**

- **Purpose of these meetings:**
 - Presentation of EurAqua activities --- enhanced visibility at the EU level
 - Identification of potential collaboration activities (ex: identification of RDI needs for achieving the objectives of the WFD, 2017-2018)



Strategic Action 4: Collaboration with other networks and initiatives



- **Formalized MOUs**
 - Partnership for European Environmental Research (PEER)
 - Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform (WssTP)
- **Observership**
 - Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the WFD (Strategic Coordination Group)
 - JPI Water (Stakeholder Advisory Board)
 - Rhine Commission
 - EC JRC (Ispra)
 - In preparation / informal: HelCom; Europe-Inbo; MenBo; ICPDR, Danubius RI, PRIMA
- **EU Water Alliance**
 - ‘ad hoc’ network of umbrella organisations: Aqua Europa, EWP, WssTP, EurEau, Aqua publica europea, EurAqua, ACQUEAU, EWA, Netwerch2O

The intention is to step-up on inter-network collaborations

Support any of the other strategic actions (bridging science policy interfacing, identification of RDI needs, project set-up and development) and bring forward EurAqua's expertise at the European level

EurAqua's strategic agenda

It sets out RDI areas where **collaboration sought** through either **internal** (in-kind) or **external** (EU Programme, JPIs, COST, etc.). Its content is aligned with **members' institutional programmes**.

Collaboration will translate into:

- the launch of projects;
- mobility actions;
- peer-reviewed papers;
- science-policy, or
- infrastructure sharing.

RDI themes laid out in EurAqua's strategic agenda.



Theme I: Environmental and climate change

- System understanding
- Solutions: Co-creation
- Solutions: Catchment



Theme II: Resilient and sustainable water systems

- Flood resilience
- Drought and water scarcity



Cross-cutting issues

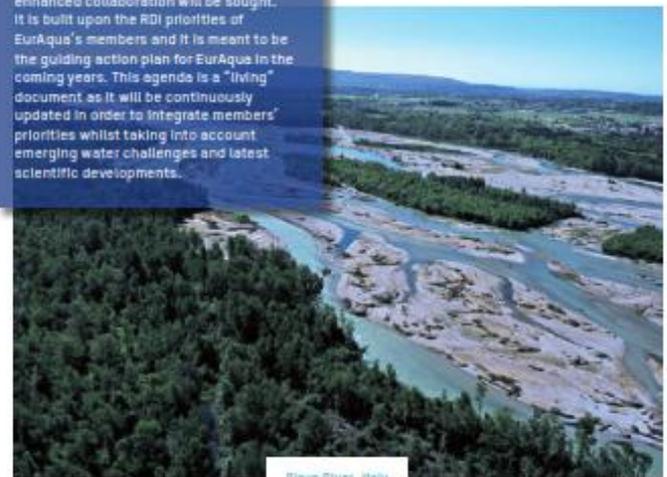
- Digital technologies and (big) data
- Experimental facilities

EurAqua's strategic research and innovation agenda

EURAQUA, JUNE 2019

This paper contains EurAqua's strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA).

It outlines water Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) areas for which enhanced collaboration will be sought. It is built upon the RDI priorities of EurAqua's members and it is meant to be the guiding action plan for EurAqua in the coming years. This agenda is a "living" document as it will be continuously updated in order to integrate members' priorities whilst taking into account emerging water challenges and latest scientific developments.



Pave River, Italy

EurAqua's Joint Research Working Groups



WFD: "Solutions for Stressed Out Waters: Science for Implementing the WFD"

Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital: "Aquatic research and Social sciences: EurAqua Group in Action on ecosystem services and natural capital"

Plastics: "EurAqua's position on plastics research - Knowledge gaps, research priorities and action roadmap"

Drought: "Freshwater resources under changing climate: recent research and future challenges"

European Network of Freshwater Research Organisations



Thank you for your attention

Contact: chair@eur aqua.org

www.eur aqua.org