



ACQUEAU

A EUREKA Cluster for

GROWTH AND INNOVATION IN WATER

www.acqueau.eu


Water innovates

What is a EUREKA Cluster?

EUREKA was established by a Conference of Ministers of 17 countries and Members of the Commission of the European Communities in July 1985. Today, EUREKA brings together 39 members including the European Union. The prestigious EUREKA Label offers added value to project participants in terms of enhanced visibility, a guarantee to potential private investors to develop applied research and new products or services.

EUREKA 'Clusters' are long-term, strategically significant industrial initiatives. They usually have a large number of participants. They aim to develop advanced technologies of key importance for European competitiveness mainly in ICT, energy and more recently in the biotechnology sector. ACQUEAU is the first cluster directly related to environmental resource and more specifically on water.

Why do we need ACQUEAU?

ACQUEAU will complement other water programmes in the following ways:

- More projects to fund applied research
- Boost competitiveness & innovation through Small Medium Enterprises
- Encourage collaboration to unleash the expertise of the water sector
- Strengthen the European competitiveness of the water industries
- More flexibility
- Beyond EU, national and regional agendas

From a Common Vision to a Technology Road Mapping

The development of a common vision for water innovation aims at ensuring that the European water sector will be the leading international centre of expertise for providing safe, clean and affordable water services while protecting the environment and managing the water resources for the next generations.

The strategy of ACQUEAU is based on the SRA of WssTP, the European Technology Platform for Water that promotes Research and Development (R&D) in general and via the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) favours academic research. To encourage the development of new technological products and new services, ACQUEAU developed a Technology Road Mapping based on the water cycle.

This strategy is described in the Blue Book, and thereby the main technological areas and five major programmes, ACQUEAU has chosen key working areas to drive innovation and market-driven projects of the water sector and industries.

Five Key Programmes to boost competitiveness

ACQUEAU has identified five key challenges to boost the competitiveness of the water sector in Europe and to develop a bottom-up solution for the market.

Low environmental impacts for disinfection and oxidation

This programme is intended to develop new disinfection or other oxidation processes for the removal of microbiological activity or other harmful compounds. This targets all new processes for disinfection that will 1/ consume less energy, less chemical products; 2/ reduce environmental impacts of water treatment processes and 3/ guarantee the best safety for the human health. Disinfection is widely used:

- To reduce or eliminate microbiological activity in water.
- To ensure drinking water safety at point of use.
- To guarantee the safety of bathing waters near waste water discharges.
- To reduce harmful compounds.

Low energy wastewater treatment

To target low energy waste water implies the development of the municipal waste water plant of the future. It aims to promote worldwide municipal waste water treatment based on different objectives:

- To develop energy self-sufficient plant with energy recovery and energy in situ production.
- To guarantee the removal of effluent pollutants (phosphorus, nitrogen, etc.).
- To transform all effluents (solid or liquid) into useful products (biorefinery concept).

The main goal is to ensure the protection of water resources and the preservation of the environment.

Membrane Technologies

Membrane technologies include any process for water or wastewater treatment achieving filtration through a porous or permeable media made of polymeric, mineral or composite material.

The global membrane market for water applications will grow by 8.6% to over €10,5 billion in 2012. The objective is to foster the emergence of European champions with new technologies to secure a market essentially dominated today by US and Japanese equipment suppliers; and to develop European know-how and equipment in order to propose competitive European technologies for various applications including:

- seawater and brackish water desalination,
- waste water treatment and reuse,
- water softening or removal of organic substances,
- disinfection for drinking water production.

Real-Time System Management

Real-Time System Management includes online sensor networks, data management systems, representation (maps, links with GIS, etc.) and modeling, and wireless communication systems. The goal is to reinforce European know-how and equipment in order to secure the management of water resources, water and wastewater works, secure the quality of the product delivered to end-users, improve the operation of networks and reduce the cost of construction.

Materials for pipes and coating

Water distribution and storage are based on a comprehensive infrastructure for water delivery to private or industrial consumers. They are responsible for about two thirds of the total cost of water supply in developed regions. The objective is to improve durability, safety and cost of “environmentally friendly” materials.

How to apply for funding?

To apply for funding, you need to submit a Project Outline to ACQUEAU Offices during the agenda for Calls of ACQUEAU.

How many calls does ACQUEAU run per year?

ACQUEAU publishes two calls per year: one in January or February and one in June or July.

How much does it cost to submit a proposal?

Large Enterprises are required to become members of ACQUEAU to submit a proposal, SMEs and Universities or Research centers will be required to pay the ACQUEAU membership if their proposal is labelled. When a proposal is labeled, ACQUEAU will apply a fee of 1% from the total budget amount. Consortium should take this into account in their financial proposal.

What is the expected level of funding for ACQUEAU projects?

With more than 20 supporting countries, ACQUEAU is the first cluster starting with such a strong support from national governments. ACQUEAU expects to label between 10 to 20 projects for 20 million euros per year from national funds. The involvement of governments is highly variable and depends on the national context, that is why projects and consortia are encouraged to contact their NPC directly.

How to join ACQUEAU?

To join, you need to complete the membership registration form please contact: information@acqueau.eu
The membership fee for ACQUEAU is €1,000 per year.



Call procedure

Information Day
J-1 month

Networking

Publication
for Project Outline
J=0

Consortium

Deadline
J+1,5 month

Project Outline

Evaluation
& Selection

Publication
for Full Proposal
J+2,5 months

Deadline
J+4 months

Full Proposal

Adjustments

LABELLING
J+6 months





ACQUEAU is the **EUREKA Cluster for Water**

ACQUEAU is the first industry driven initiative to fund innovation and RTD projects in the water sector

ACQUEAU is a non-profit association. It is the first EUREKA Cluster dedicated to water related technologies. It aims at promoting innovation and market driven solutions to develop new technologies in the European water sector.

ACQUEAU is supported by more than 20 countries and 40 industries from Europe.

The ultimate aim is to facilitate the generation of market driven, pan-European collaborative water research and technological development projects for the benefit of the European Water Industry.

In order to facilitate the innovation of products, processes and systems, ACQUEAU will initiate R&D calls on a regular basis identifying key 'technology needs' in accordance with its strategy developed in its Blue Book. As a result, these successful project calls will strengthen the technological base of the European Water Industry.

Who supports ACQUEAU?

National Commitment

- Belgium
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Israel
- Malta
- Monaco



- Poland
- Norway
- Sweden
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- The Netherlands
- The European Union
- United Kingdom

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