

17 March 2021

A call for members: Join the EIA Working Groups

Dear EIA members,

This is a call for all your creative minds to participate in the establishment of the **EIA Working Groups (WG)** for the creation of a new dynamic & responsible discussion on Irrigation and water management in Europe.

Creating the voice of Irrigation

Water availability challenges, irregularity of rainfall & rising temperatures accelerate the discussion on sustainability in Europe, driving demand and creating an exceptional opportunity for the irrigation sector today.

One of the EIA main objectives is to promote the visibility of our industry among professionals and governmental bodies by offering a professional discussion on irrigation and water management.

By exposing the industry advanced water saving technologies, innovation in watering efficiency and promotion of best water conservation practices we will legitimate the place of our sector at the table.

Such an objective will require an active participation of our members in the format of Working Groups to make the different cases and to find best ways to present the sector to the EU Commission and other stakeholders.

What is a “Working Group”?

A WG is a small group of EIA members-volunteers that will deal with a specific challenge in the European Irrigation sector. The members will bring their relevant operations or technical background related to the topic. Each WG will be led by one of the EIA Board members with the intention of integrating our expertise and to lead the discussion on the relevant aspect of the Irrigation.

6 new Working Groups have been created recently based on our members' interests: (1) Sustainable Agriculture (2) Urban landscape (3) Standardization (4) Training & Knowledge (5) Wastewater Reuse (6) Communication.

The members of the WG will be able to brainstorm, bring new ideas, offer initiatives and shape the direction of the EIA on the relevant topic.

In the **Appendix** you'll find a description of the 6 Working Groups and their objectives.



What does it take?

Working groups are open to EIA members only. The chosen team, led by Board member, will generally meet few times along the year for a 60-minute video-conference call and will conduct some work offline.

The routines as well as the frequency and workload of the team will be determined by the members themselves in each group according to their capacity and willingness to invest time on the topic.

If you are interested in joining a working group, be sure you have a little time to volunteer in your busy schedule.

So, how do I join?

Please take a moment to review the different groups and to find the one (or more) which is the most suitable for your interest and experience.

Once done, please send to association an email (Fleur Martin EIA Communication officer: communication@irrigationeurope.eu) with your preferred WG and kindly add few words about your interest on the topic and your relevant experience that you will bring with you.

For any question – please don't hesitate to contact me or Fleur directly.

Please send your response next week until Friday 26/3/2021.

Dear members, It is an opportunity for each one of you to share your knowledge and passion, taking an active and important part in the association and paving the way for the future of irrigation in Europe.

We will be honored to see you with us in our Working Groups activities

Best Regards

Moshi Berenstein / EIA president

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APPENDIX

EIA 2021 Working Groups

WG1: Sustainability in Agriculture

Leader: Giulia Giuffre/ IRRITEC

This WG intends to pay attention to issues concerning the promotion and activation of projects that pursue the sustainable development goals, with a focus on irrigation in agriculture. Some issues we could address are: Promotion of correct management of water, Promotion of high-performance recycling material, Promotion of gender equality in agriculture and irrigation sectors, Definition of a standard model to calculate savings in water, energy, fertilizers and production increase,

WG2: Urban landscape

Leader: Santiago Casanella Roca/ HUNTER INDUSTRIES

Themes addressed in this working group : importance of Green Areas/Landscape in the Cities, Green Roofs & Green Walls, urban Forestry, New Parks, use of devices to reduce water, centralization of Irrigation systems, Smart Cities, maintenance of green areas, rainwater harvesting, sustainability (Ecolabels, Bream and Leed certifications).

WG3: Standardization

Leader: Michel Histel/ Specialist Norms

The EIA recently joined two Technical Committees of the CEN, the European Standardization Committee: the CEN/TC 334 (Irrigation techniques) and the CEN/TC 144 (Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry including hose reels machines, center pivots and lateral move systems). This status of Liaison Partner gives the EIA a unique opportunity to influence the preparation of standards in both key areas of our industry's activities.

WG4: Training & Knowledge Transfer

Leader: Damir Cizmek/ IN AQUA

Working group intends to promote competence in design, installation, and operation of irrigation systems. Organize Irrigation **Proficiency Challenge** for irrigation professionals as a multiple-choice test in web-based format and in the format of physical event in cooperation with organizers of irrigation shows. This test will be available in multiple languages. Liaise with providers of (non-



academic) **irrigation training** at national level and encourage harmonization of training requirements for irrigation professionals at EU level.

WG5: Wastewater Reuse

Leader: Bruno Molle /INRAE - Research Institute

There is no need to recall the need to rationalize water use and the necessary evolution towards a circular economy of resources. Objectives of the group are to share technical experiences and obstacles to the development of Reuse's projects; Identify the constraints involved (technology, risk mitigation), which are very different from a standard irrigation project; access to public data, decision support tools and research in this field; produce thematic technical notes for EIA members; identify project leaders at European level and their national counterparts; integrate these elements into a knowledge transfer policy; being a stakeholder in the development policies regionally; contribute to the revision of the regulations.

WG6: Communication

Leader: Fleur Martin / Irrigazette

The objective of this Working Group is to build a library of technical articles available for our members on the EIA website. These articles are provided by the members or other resources such as Irrigazette magazine. Before publishing them, we will create a small editorial committee which will certify the content and relevancy to our objectives.