

European process for
**WORLD
WATER
FORUM
2015**



**Living with Water in Cities – Interregional
Session Europe, Arab region and Asia-Pacific
14 april 2015 – Hyundai Hotel, Gyeongju
Outcomes of European Regional Process –
Miriam Feilberg**



Europe:

More than 75% of EU citizens live in urban areas

Diversity:

Leakages in water infrastructure cause water losses ranging between 5% and 50% across the EU – Waste water treatment from 9 – 95%

Comprehensive Policy Framework in place – WFD complimented by:

- Groundwater
- Floods Directive
- Urban waste water treatment Directive
- Drinking water Directive
- Bathing water Directive

But still challenges:

Climate change, urban efficiency, aging infrastructure, urban water quality, technological development and innovation, stakeholder integration, knowledge sharing + policies and their implementation (efficiency)

Key messages

- There were presentations of good cases on **innovative, integrated** solutions to urban future challenges Paris, Istanbul, Rotterdam, Aarhus and CEE involving **interdisciplinary** approaches and methodologies
- It seems as if there is **not a profound scaling problem** in terms of where the different innovative urban solutions can be applied.
- Within the municipalities and in the public authorities in general there is an understanding of the **necessity of public acceptance and awareness** when introducing innovative solutions, but there are few good examples of involving the civil society and there is a need for developing methodologies for this element
- The thinking of **circular economy** is well understood and is underlying many of the current efforts. Water is never waste.
- In general there is a good regulatory and policy framework for introducing innovative solutions, but there are **still some barriers** in terms of stimulating water efficiency and linking urban and basin water governance

Cooperation and sharing of experiences matters

