



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA



Call for Papers

International Seminar and Special Issue in Water Resources Management

on

European Water Utility Management: Promoting Efficiency, Innovation and Knowledge in the Water Industry

In the European Union, the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) is based on the idea that water management needs to take into account economic, ecological and social issues, and that its major objective is the sustainable and efficient use and management of water resources. In the coming years, European water resources will be placed under further pressure by many factors, such as population growth, urbanization and climate change. Therefore, policymakers and water utility managers face the puzzle of balancing the increasing human demand for water and the protection of the ecosystems' sustainability, fueling the on-going search for the best practices in water utility management that produce superior performance.

In the light of the current challenges on resource efficiency and performance improvement, the promotion of innovation and benchmark activities within the water industry is a cutting edge issue for the European Union.

The literature still face the need of identifying and discussing in depth current relevant experiences of benchmarking in water utility management and regulation that characterize different European countries in order to identify the relevance, usefulness and potential cross-border diffusion of these activities, becoming trans-boundary strategies, policies and actions. Bearing this in mind, the European water management system could become a collaborative catalyst of methods and tools for setting, maintaining and improving best practices in utility management.

This special issue (SI) of Water Resources Management intends to foster relationships via discussion, creation and dissemination of relevant and cutting-edge European water utility management issues by

bringing together outstanding international scholars and contribute positively to the research agenda. It will draw on an International Seminar held under the same theme and integrated in the European Jean Monnet EWUM Project, sponsored by the European Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). The **EWUM Seminar will take place in Pisa, Italy, 3 June 2015**. The SI will gather selected research papers from the Seminar. The emphasis will be on research that accounts for cutting-edge European water utility management issues, such as experiences in benchmarking (management and regulatory impacts) and attempts to highlight best practices to be spread throughout European countries.

Submission Guidelines

The schedule for submission, review, and publication is:

- Call for papers: 1 February 2015;
- Submission of a 300-400 word extended abstract to the Editorial Team (see contact information below) by 15 March 2015;
- The editorial team completes evaluation of extended abstracts and invites authors of accepted abstracts to develop full papers and present them in the *EWUM Workshop*: 3 June 2015;
- Deadline for submission of full papers via Springer's online system, in accordance with Water Resources Management specific guidelines for authors: 15 October 2015;
- All manuscripts will be fully reviewed before final decisions are made on all submissions;
- Publication date: Fall 2016.

Paper submissions should be around 6,000 words. All types of submissions are welcomed (e.g. comprehensive reviews, theoretical papers, broad empirical studies and/or case studies).

All papers should be developed based upon the editorial guidelines provided in the instructions for authors for Water Resources Management, which can be accessed here:

<http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/hydrogeology/journal/11269>

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