



# Title: Prepared Enabling Change

*Subtitle: policy brief*



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### **Policy Support associated with PREPARED *Enabling Change***

How will PREPARED contribute to policy development and implementation, including the uptake of deliverables produced within the project by the intended end-users? The end-users being local municipalities and local utilities, regional and national authorities. But also how can PREPARED accelerate the uptake of new technologies, overall innovative approaches and decision support systems produced and demonstrated within PREPARED? How will PREPARED contribute to the development and implementation of EU policy within the Water Acquis? How will PREPARED help to achieve the Lisbon goals?

### **Objectives of PREPARED *Enabling Change***

The PREPARED project is about the adaptation of the water supply and sanitation sector to cope with the impacts of climate change. PREPARED will do that through:

The development of tools, approaches and decision support systems (DSS) to help water utilities to better cope with the anticipated and uncertain impacts of climate change.

Guidance on how to deal with the uncertainty in the global IPCC scenarios and the translation of such scenarios to a very local level, the level at which our targeted end-users and problem-owners have to operate.

The creation of awareness amongst end-users through participatory approaches and enabling change within the local and national decision making processes.

Positively affecting the decision-making and policy processes at local level through the key involvement of the problem-owners: the city utilities.

### **PREPARED end-user driven**

The PREPARED project is driven by the problem-owners/end-users 12 European city utilities and 2 non-European utilities (Seattle and Melbourne). They together (14 cities) have defined the challenges they have to face and the R&D issues that PREPARED has to address, during the four years of the project. But the role of the city utilities goes further than just defining R&D topics, they also demonstrate the solutions proposed by and developed within PREPARED.

This new approach putting the end-user and the ultimate decision-maker as the driver behind the project guarantees the uptake of the outcomes of the project. We strongly believe in a close cooperation between researchers, water utilities and decision-makers. This co-operation is ascertained by the creation of a cities/utilities alliances forum of cities within PREPARED. But we would like to reach beyond the limited number of cities actively involved in PREPARED. All 12 European cities

have been asked to be a linking pin with a platform of other cities within their country or region. The 12 cities will set up national/regional platforms to exchange information on problems they face and outcomes of PREPARED they might benefit from. The national/regional platforms will not only include cities and city water utilities but also national policy makers.

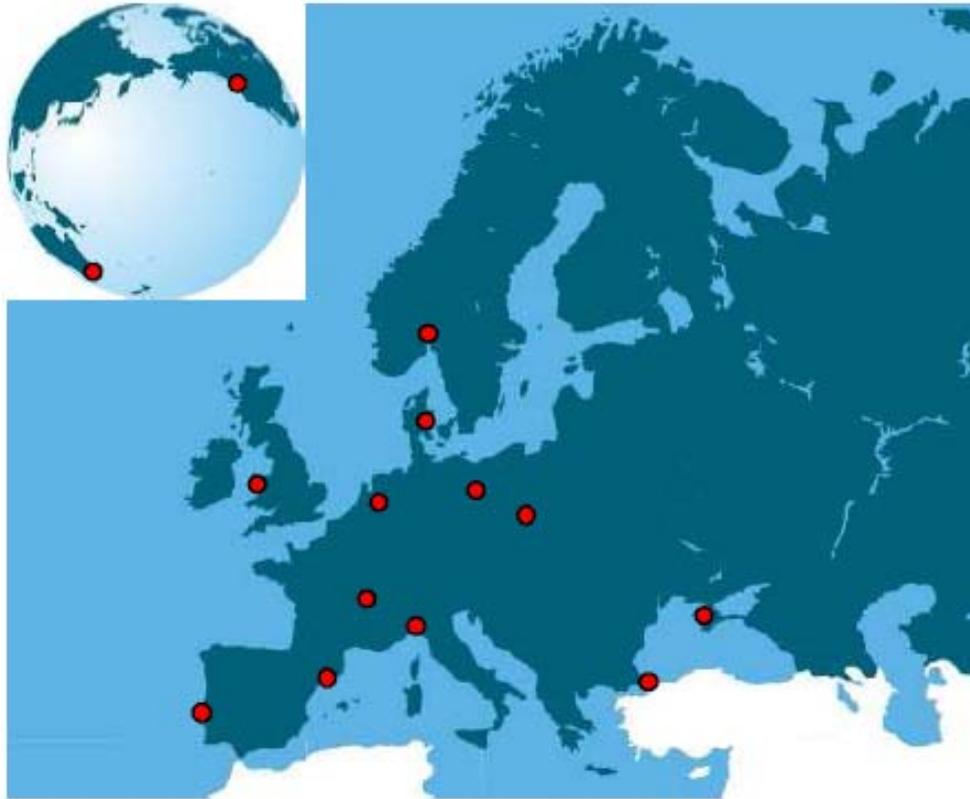
The better target ICPC (International Co-ordination Partner Countries) Countries that are less represented in PREPARED and the R&D programmes in general we will organise a Black Sea Tour. This to reach out to countries beyond the Black Sea project partners Ukraine and Turkey to Georgia, Russia, Romania and Bulgaria.

Uncertainty is an important factor in the decision-making process at national and local level. The IPCC develops climate change scenarios from a global perspective but investment decisions have to be made at local level. The city utilities need tools to balance the costs of measures against the risks. PREPARED will support the decision-making process, by addressing the level of uncertainty in the IPCC scenarios and trying to make the translation to the policy-makers and decision-makers level. Risk can be reduced to an acceptable level, but the lower the risk that is acceptable the higher the costs involved. Ultimately it will be a matter of communication of risks and costs to the people affected (the citizens).

Another important outcome of PREPARED will deal with the preparedness itself. How to monitor and predict sudden impacts as heavy rainfall and of drought and how to best operate and manage the existing system to survive such extreme periods.

Where the maximum management and utilization of existing systems ends we have to design and build new systems. PREPARED will work on new and innovative urban water systems that are flexible and will better be able to cope with quantities and qualities that are as yet quite uncertain.

From the above it is clear that PREPARED will significantly contribute to the decision-making and policy-making process at the level of the problem owners. The project as such is demand driven and as close to direct demonstration and implementation as possible.



## PREPARED and European Policy

PREPARED focuses on the urban water cycle, the WFD on river basin management, the difference being mainly the scale. PREPARED is not directly working on the policy aspects or implementation of the WFD, but the project will produce tools that will reduce the contaminant load to water systems and river basins (including CSO), and as such help to achieve the goals of the WFD. In addition, PREPARED stimulates the co-operation between cities by setting up platforms. A good example that could be mentioned is the co-operation between the Water Board, the Water Supply Company and the Municipality of Eindhoven. The co-operation between water agencies to better address and manage the (urban) water cycle is the only way the WFD can be implemented successfully. PREPARED strongly focuses on interaction between problem owners and technology developers.

More in general PREPARED will contribute to EU water policy development and implementation. To ensure direct links with EU water policy PREPARED has invited DGENV Marine unit to sit in the Project Advisory Committee (Jan Cortvriend desk officer responsible for the

Drinking Water Directive and the Bathing Water Directive has accepted the invitation to be a PAC member).

PREPARED will work a risk assessment and risk management approach to the whole urban water cycle. The policy of DGENV is to revise the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC to include a risk based approach. This is done in the water safety plan approach. With the Water Cycle Safety Plans that will be developed within PREPARED we might pave the way for a step in the direction of a water cycle base policy development within the European Union.

DGENV is also responsible for the EU legislation on bathing waters, urban waste water treatment and flooding. All these aspects will be present in the R&D of PREPARED. Solution and approaches resulting from PREPARED might trigger new directions in EU legislation.

### **Technology development, demand for technology and policy development**

Technological developments should be driven by demands from problem-owners (demand driven) in practice there is an autonomous development of technologies regardless of the need for such developments. Policy is often lacking behind. To illustrate this we only have to look at the research industry where the urban water cycle is at the center of attention, while the EU legislation is still working on the various

compartments as drinking water, bathing water, groundwater, urban waste water etc. Another example on yet a higher level is the integration of the urban water cycle and the energy supply that can no longer be dealt with in separation. As yet there is no sign of integration of such aspects in legislation development.

### **Cities of the future/Green cities**

The next most logical step is the integrated and cross-sector approach for cities where not only water services, but also energy sectors, ICT, planning and building activities, transport and telecommunication are seen and addressed in combination. The City/Utility Alliances set up at modest scale within PREPARED could well be the kick-start for a utility-wide knowledge exchange and sharing platform.

Cities and city utilities within Europe are faced with the same or similar problems that are enlarged by both climate change, population growth and urbanization. European platforms will not only bring the joint knowledge and expertise to a much higher level, it will also be the next step towards achieving the Lisbon goals on competitiveness of the European utilities and of Europe as leader in the world's innovation field.

A map of Europe is shown in the background, with three red dots marking specific locations: one in Spain, one in France, and one in Turkey.

### **PREPARED Succes Factors**

- End-user and Problem-owner driven: problem owners are the drivers behind the R&D topics and the First to demonstrate and implement key outcomes of the R&D;
- Participatory approach combined with enabling change. How to move beyond traditional and customary approaches to more flexible and innovative solutions;
- How to deal with uncertainty of climate change and how to bring this to a local level where decisions on risk and costs have to be made;
- Communication of risks and costs to the people involved, the citizens;
- Direct link with EU policy-makers through active involvement of DGENV in the PAC;
- Rolling out of PREPARED through national platforms, city clusters and Black Sea Countries;
- PREPARED city branding and on-demand quick scan of preparedness by PREPARED expert team.