



# Regions for Economic Change

## Networking for results

Merete Ulstein  
Chair of EurAqua  
Research Director

Norwegian institute for Water Research (NIVA)

[www.euraqua.org](http://www.euraqua.org)



# What is EurAqua?



***The vision of EurAqua:***

✓ ***“EurAqua is the leading European network for facilitating improved and co-ordinated water research, in support of knowledge-based water management and policy.”***

# Why EurAqua?

The aim of EurAqua is to:

- ✓ To contribute substantially to the development of European freshwater science and its dissemination on a European scale,
- ✓ having a significant impact on the development of the scientific basis of European management and policy



# How - Overall objectives

- ✓ Involvement in the programming processes of the EC on water-related research
- ✓ Promoting the collaboration and integration of research resources and efficient transfer of knowledge between scientific institutions and between researchers
- ✓ Bridging science and policy by providing support to the development of European water related policies
- ✓ Contributing to sustainability and competitiveness of the European water sector on a global scale



# EurAqua -15 years of networking

- ✓ At present 24 members
- ✓ One member per country
- ✓ Leading national water management institutions
- ✓ MBM twice per year
- ✓ Scientific activities
- ✓ Advice/notes etc
- ✓ Participation



# Keeping a network on the track

- ✓ Clear strategy and work plan
  - operational and annually reviewed
- ✓ Involvement of members
  - Action groups for specific deliverables
  - Rotating chairmanship
- ✓ No secretariat fee from members
  - Voluntary hosting of meetings, web, etc
- ✓ Exclusivity and commitments to members
  - MoU giving responsibility on national level

# How to be interesting to busy people?

- ✓ Agenda
  - Balance new items and continuity
- ✓ Towards surroundings
  - Early news
  - Sharing experience
  - Mainstream science policy
- ✓ Cooperation with
  - PEER
  - RIWM – net
- ✓ Building personal relationships
- ✓ HR requirements - mobility



# EU funded projects with EurAqua partners

**EUROHARP**

**INCA**

**HarmoniQuA**

**RECOVER 2010**

**COMET**

**REBECCA**

**APUSS**

**Care-W**

**HarmoniCA**

**WISER**

**IBM**

**STRIVER**



# Scientific Activities

## ✓ Position Papers

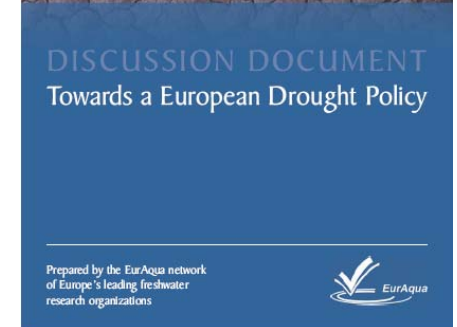
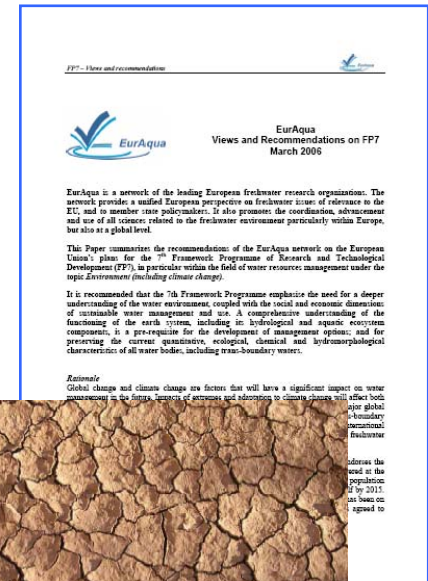
EurAqua position papers are developed by working groups and circulated to a wide audience of decision makers

## ✓ Scientific advice to EU FP7

EurAqua Recommendations and views

## ✓ Strategic and technical reviews

Address topics at the forefront of European freshwater research, forwarded to decision-makers and stakeholders

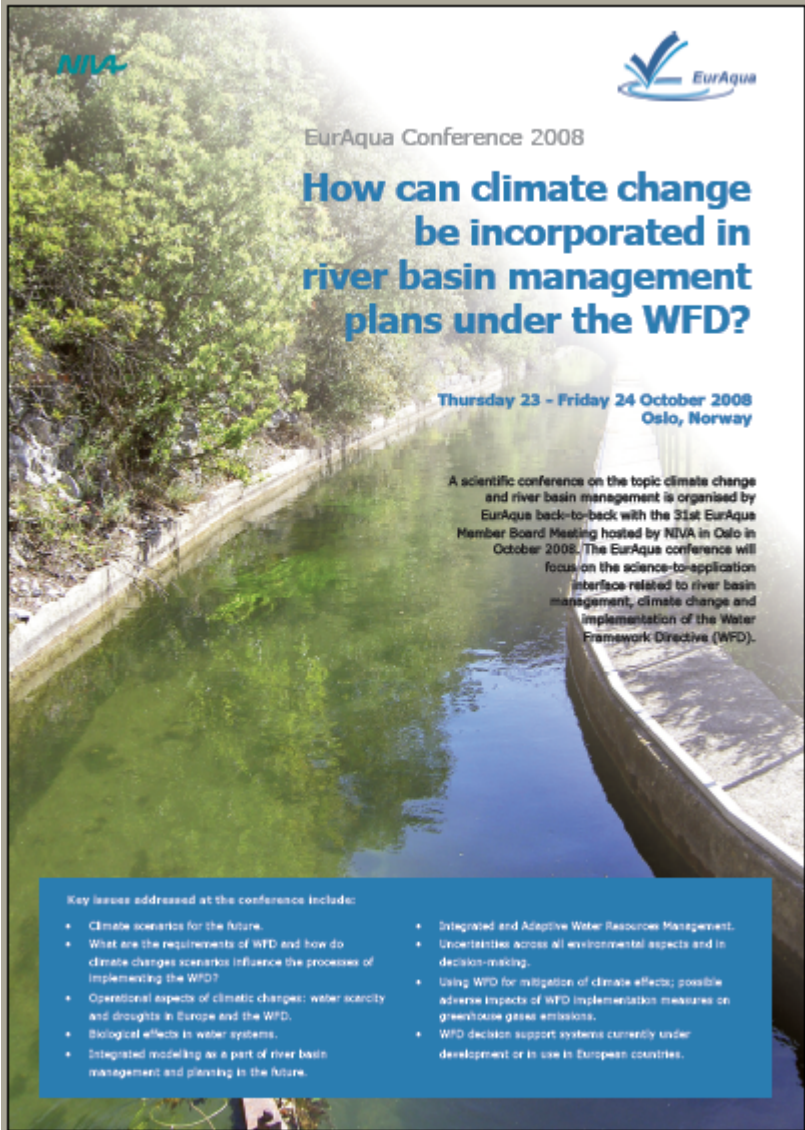


# EurAqua conference

- October 2008
- Invitations spread by members
- Speakers from members
- Invited speakers
- Scientific results and summaries

New effort of EurAqua in creating knowledge and awareness for management and new challenges

[www.euraqua.org](http://www.euraqua.org)



**NIVA** **EurAqua**

EurAqua Conference 2008

**How can climate change be incorporated in river basin management plans under the WFD?**

Thursday 23 - Friday 24 October 2008  
Oslo, Norway

A scientific conference on the topic climate change and river basin management is organised by EurAqua back-to-back with the 31st EurAqua Member Board Meeting hosted by NIVA in Oslo in October 2008. The EurAqua conference will focus on the science-to-application interface related to river basin management, climate change and implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Key issues addressed at the conference include:

- Climate scenarios for the future.
- What are the requirements of WFD and how do climate changes scenarios influence the processes of implementing the WFD?
- Operational aspects of climatic changes: water scarcity and droughts in Europe and the WFD.
- Biological effects in water systems.
- Integrated modelling as a part of river basin management and planning in the future.
- Integrated and Adaptive Water Resource Management.
- Uncertainties across all environmental aspects and in decision-making.
- Using WFD for mitigation of climate effects; possible adverse impacts of WFD implementation measures on greenhouse gases emissions.
- WFD decision support systems currently under development or in use in European countries.

# Conference message:

*EurAqua strongly recommends that instruments for policy support are reintroduced in FP7 to address issues associated with policy development or implementation of European legislation, such as the Water Framework Directive.*

[www.euraqua.org](http://www.euraqua.org)



EurAqua statement  
on Instruments for Targeted  
Research under FP7

November 2008

## APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENTS FOR TARGETED RESEARCH

The recent EurAqua Conference (Oslo, 23-24 October 2008) considered "How can climate change be incorporated in River Basin Management plans under the WFD?" (<http://www.euraqua.org/content/activities/euraquaconference2008>)

The meeting focussed on:

- Climate change and the WFD: status and uncertainties
- Modelling tools and technology: uncertainties and future challenges
- Adaptation to climate change

The meeting highlighted significant progress from a scientific perspective in understanding the potential impacts of climate change. Much of the new understanding related to climate change impacts results from EU and national research funding, especially under Integrated Projects. EUROLIMPACS is an example of a successful Integrated Project, with over 400 scientific publications resulting from the research activity. The meeting, however, also raised a number of key issues regarding the practical 'implementation' of recent scientific findings.

For example, research on the following is urgently required for the 2nd cycle of the WFD:

- How will climate change impact on: pressures on water bodies (nutrients, hazardous substances, hydromorphology); reference conditions; ecological thresholds used to set the good/moderate boundary and thereby the WFD objective?
- How will this impact be reflected in terms of water body status and classification?
- How can uncertainty in climate change impacts be incorporated in the RBMPs?
- How should the 'measures' be assessed for 'no regrets'?

Such questions would benefit from targeted research projects. An excellent example in this respect was the REBECCA project; a Specifically Targeted Research Project or STREP (policy support project). Such funding instruments for policy support seems to have been dropped from FP7. EurAqua strongly recommends that this instrument, or something similar, be urgently introduced to address the specific issues associated with the continued implementation of the WFD.

EurAqua members are developing extensive research in support to water-related policies. They are fully aware of the needs to further increase science-policy interfacing, for co-designing and orienting research activities on one hand, and for ensuring smooth and efficient transfer of research results to decision makers and practitioners on the other hand.

**EurAqua strongly recommends that instruments for policy support are reintroduced in FP7 to address issues associated with policy development or implementation of European legislation, such as the Water Framework Directive.**



Read more on

[www.euraqua.org](http://www.euraqua.org)

Or contact us on

[euracqua@niva.no](mailto:euracqua@niva.no)