



Katrien Van Hooydonk - Strategic Partnerships and Internationalization, VITO (Flemish Research and Innovation Organization) WaterClimateHub (www.vito.be)

VITO, as a knowledge institute, recognizes the importance and need to connect technological innovation & international cooperation. VITO has put this into practice by creating the global community of G-STIC, the Global Sustainable Technology and Innovation Community (www.gstic.org), bringing new technologies to the attention of policy makers on the yearly STI forum in NY.

Active participation to the UN Water Conference 2023 is a steppingstone to advocate the **system thinking** as an important red thread in the Water Action Agenda.

Water governance on multiple levels is crucial. We need to **think big and act local**. The Blue Deal in Flanders acts as a gamechanger. A clear vision and active engagement from government at high political level create a dynamic amongst all stakeholders to **build jointly** a coherent trajectory towards a climate resilient water secure future.

The research and innovation agenda and the co-funding mechanism of the Water4All partnership help to accelerate the achievement of SDG6, by putting **innovation into practice** #wateraction.

Water Oriented Living Labs, developed by WaterEurope, and Water Reuse Schemes from Water Reuse Europe allow to create a **common language** to share successful implementations and lessons learned for faster replication and upscaling.

The Living Tomorrow Conferences, organized in the spirit of the G-STIC community make sustainability more attractive. VITO reaches out and provides learning opportunities to **young “waterlovers”** in research and innovation to build a future generation of strong water experts.

Co-creation towards a water-smart society is all about people. Providing a “learning by doing” environment encourages (international) **collaboration**. We need to adopt technological solutions, combined with social sciences and innovative business models. Thereby recognizing the true value of water and the human right to water.

VITO nv

Boeretang 200 - 2400 Mol – Belgium
VAT BE 0244 195 916
Bank 375-1117334-90 ING
BE34 37511173-5490 - BBRUBEBB

Tel. +32 14 33 55 11
Fax +32 14 33 55 99
vito@vito.be

vito.be