



## **The CENTA Foundation attends the Living Labs meeting organized by Water Europe at the 5th EIP Water Innovation Conference 2019**

The CENTA Foundation, as coordinator of the TWIST Project - Transnational Innovation Strategy in the Water Sector, attended one of the parallel meetings of the 5th EIP Water Conference 2019 in Zaragoza, dedicated to the Living Labs as innovation environments in the water sector.

The 5th EIP Water Conference, dedicated to innovation in the water sector was held in Zaragoza on December 12. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> EIP Water Conference and built upon the European Innovation Partnership (EIP Water)'s efforts so far to foster innovation in the water sector and overcome the main existing barriers. The EIP Water conference was preceded and followed by a series of parallel meetings on December 11 and 13.

One such event organized by Water Europe has been aimed at the Living Lab in the water sector. The CENTA Foundation attended the meeting as project coordinator. Water Europe is a European platform to promote innovation and R&D related to water in Europe. Water Europe is committed to the development of water-oriented Living Lab as "user-centred, open innovation ecosystems based on a systematic user co-creation approach in public-private-people partnerships, integrating research and innovation processes in real-life communities and settings".

Water oriented Living Labs are real-life, water oriented and demo-type and platform-type environments with a cross-sector nexus approach, which have the involvement and

commitment of multi-stakeholders and provide a real life “field lab” to develop, test, and validate a combination of solutions as defined in the Innovation and Research Strategic Agenda of Water Europe. This includes technologies, their integration in combination with new business and governance models, and innovative policies based on the true Value of Water.

The CENTA Foundation coordinates the TWIST project - Transnational Innovation Strategy in the Water sector, an Interreg Sudoe project, whose main objective is to create new transnational and trans-regional partnerships between different agents in the water sector with the capacity to mobilize existing processes and create new R & D & I processes for compliance with the Water Framework Directive and the promotion of Innovative Public Procurement. TWIST addresses the technological perspective of wastewater management, wastewater treatment solutions and water regeneration with a circular economy approach, but also covering the social framework.

The TWIST project is creating an open model of transnational and transnational organization and collaboration for the co-creation, experimentation, evaluation and marketing of products based on real-life scenarios through the **creation of three Water Living Labs** in France, Spain and Portugal. TWIST will also develop a Common Strategy for Mutual Learning and the Capitalization of Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialization (RIS3) of the participating regions, a Market Place and a Business School in the field of water.