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# Future of water in Europe II: Strategies for 2020 and beyond

Kemi Adeyeye, Carla Pimental Rodrigues, Armando Silva Afonso

The uncertainties of climate change, weather variability and the over-exploitation of natural resources including water has meant that business-as-usual practices are untenable and new resource strategies are needed. Globally, and in Europe, policy makers, businesses, markets and individuals are collectively acting to transition towards a more sustainable future by promoting renewable resources, resource efficiency and resilience of people and environments.

This Special Issue of the *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* contains a selection of 7 papers presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Water Efficiency Conference – WATEFCON 2018 organised by the Water Efficiency Network. The conference held at the University of Aveiro in Aveiro, Portugal, from September 5-7, 2018 was chaired by Dr Carla Pimental Rodrigues and Prof Armando Silva Afonso.

The Water Efficiency conference series, organised by the Water Efficiency Network ([www.watefnetwork.co.uk](http://www.watefnetwork.co.uk)) has been taking place since 2013. The network is a global group of academics, industry practitioners, NGOs, interest groups and members of the public who share a common interest in promoting water resource efficiency and resilience, progressive water policy and standards, and good social and environmental water practices. The network was established in 2011 with the support of the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and is remains successful thanks to its many dedicated members and technical committees.

The Water Efficiency Conference WATEFCON 2018; the network's 5th conference, explored the various questions that could impact on future water resources in Europe. It also proposed solutions and strategies for how the quantity and quality of water can be preserved, how water can be used more efficiently and how its inherent properties can be exploited to generate renewable energy. The proceedings, in addition to the conference papers, included 3 keynote lectures from leading water experts in Europe, and 2 industry sessions. The first industry session on Water Labelling was organised in collaboration with ANQIP: Associação Nacional para a Qualidade nas Instalações Prediais. The second industry session was on Micro Hydro Energy Recovery and System Control towards Smart Water organised in collaboration with the EU Interreg Atlantic Area project, REDAWN: Reducing Energy Dependencies in Atlantic Area Water Networks ([www.redawn.eu](http://www.redawn.eu)).

This Special Issue is the second from the WATEFCON 2018. It contains a selection of papers which address water resources issues from the urban scale, to the building scale, as well as from the socio-technical perspective. The first two papers address issues of water quality and water supply resilience, the next three focussed on urban and alternative water supply, followed by two papers on water-energy nexus at the building scale. The last paper explored user-product interactions to improve water efficiency and labelling.

The seven papers included in this special edition are entitled as follows:

1. Risk management in water supply networks: Aveiro case study

2. State of a Sustainable Drainage System at end-of-life: Assessment of Potential Water Pollution by Leached Metals from Recycled Pervious Pavement Materials when used as Secondary Aggregate
3. Complexity-balanced method for urban scale rainwater harvesting simulation
4. Performance Assessment of Water Reuse Strategies using Integrated Framework of Urban Water Metabolism and Water-Energy-Pollution Nexus
5. Assessing water, energy and emissions reduction from water conservation measures in buildings: a methodological approach
6. Increasing water and energy efficiency in university buildings: A case study
7. Beyond the flow rate: the importance of thermal range, flow intensity and distribution for water efficient showers

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