



## FORUM INNOVATION 2023

### Innovating for concerted and sustainable water management What contributions from the social sciences?

Montpellier, November 13 and 14, 2023

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The « Forum Innovation » is organized each year by the **Research Network on Innovation (RNI)**, to explore how economics and management sciences, and more broadly the social and engineering sciences, address new issues, processes or fields of innovation. The issue of water has been chosen for 2023, by associating teaching and research organizations from Montpellier, one of the most important international scientific sites for this theme: the **Unesco ICIREWARD center**, the **"Water, Agriculture, Climate Change" Chair**, the research units (UMR) **G-eau** and **Innovation**. The event also benefits from the support of **Montpellier University**, **INRAE**, **CIRAD**, **AGRO Institute Montpellier**, **Caisse des Dépôts & Consignations Research Fundation**, and the **Government of Quebec**.

The acceleration of climate change, the pursuit of demographic and urban pressures, the growing challenges of preserving biodiversity and food or energy sovereignty, are putting water management under more pressure than ever, in France and all over the world. In this often conflicting context, technological, agro-ecological, organizational or political innovations are proposed, tested or developed to implement a new water management on a territorial scale, involving a diversity of activities and actors. These innovations can be carried out by companies, researchers, local authorities or communities of users, by urban or rural actors... The economic, social and political conditions of the emergence and deployment of these innovations are still to be studied and are currently being questioned by several scientific communities in social sciences:

On the one hand, **researchers already working on water management** ("water studies") are broadening their analyses by questioning the processes of innovation, transition and transformation in the territories and systems in order to understand the changes of practices, the redistribution of access to the water resource, the effects on vulnerable populations, the integration of the diversity of interests and constraints within a hydro-social territory (Leenhardt et al, 2020; Venot et al., 2021; Mayaux, Lejars et al., 2022; Seijger, Hellegers, 2023)

On the other hand, **researchers who study responsible innovation processes, ecological transitions, adaptation to climate change, new activities participating in the circular economy, innovation ecosystems...** are discovering or increasingly taking into account the issue of water (Iglesias, Garrote, 2015; European Commission, 2022; Heiber et al., 2022; Morseletto et al., 2022; Pakizer et al., 2022)

The objective of the Forum Innovation 2023 is to bring together these scientific communities around the theme of **"innovating for responsible and sustainable water management"**. The communications will highlight the contributions of research in economics, management, sociology of science and technology and more broadly in social sciences or engineering, which are interested in

these innovations with specific attention to territorial approaches and the integration of a plurality of issues, actors and activities ... The themes may relate more specifically :

- the analysis of **technological innovations** (processes, conditions, impacts) contributing to a new management of water on a territorial scale: use of NICTs to manage networks and consumption, new equipment, new irrigation techniques, desalination, Re-use...
- the development of **agro-ecological innovations** or more broadly solutions based on nature and local knowledge, offering new perspectives of global water management on a territory;
- the adaptation of innovations through **technical and institutional "bricolage"** processes, the development of low-cost technologies and their effects in terms of redistribution of the powers of control and regulation of water use in a territory;
- the development of **new circular economic models** in the field of water or the integration of water in innovations aimed at developing industrial ecology;
- the design and implementation of **new tools for concerted planning** and adaptive management of water as a common good, carried out by local communities or authorities;
- the role of **governance, public policies**, but also innovation ecosystems and financing mechanisms (e.g. green financing) as incentives or barriers to the dissemination of innovations applied to water management, and to the resolution of conflicts of use in a territory.
- the **international dimensions of innovations** in water management, including the strategies of firms, the role of international institutions, transboundary management of the resource;
- the evaluation of **new devices to support R&D and innovation** in the water sector, involving researchers in water management, such as living labs, open laboratories, etc.
- Innovations to improve **the management of water-related risks** in a context of climate change and crisis: floods, torrential rains, droughts, etc.
- Innovations to preserve/restore **water quality** on a territorial scale

Work targeted on innovations in the use of water in a particular sector (agricultural irrigation, industrial or domestic uses, leisure activities, etc.) has its place as long as it takes into account the new issues and conditions of use in a territory, which could lead to a revision or transformation of the activities in this sector.

### **Submission of a communication proposal**

Proposals for papers, in French or English, should be in the form of an extended abstract (five pages maximum) presenting: the objectives of the paper, the problematic, the methodology, the expected results, the main bibliographic references

### **Submission of a session proposal**

Session proposals (one page maximum) must present the theme and the names of the proposed speakers. A session includes 4 papers. Each speaker must also submit a proposal individually.

### **Publications**

Papers may be published in a special issue of the following journals: "Journal of Innovations Economics & management" and/or "Innovations. Journal of Innovations Economics & Management" and/or "Innovations.

### **Deadlines:**

Submission of paper and session proposals: May 22nd, 2023

Reviewers' response: June 20th, 2023

Registration: September 30th, 2023

**Information and platform for submission :** <https://forum-innovation2023.colloque.inrae.fr/>  
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**Location:**

Inrae Campus / AGRO Institute, Montpellier

**Participation :**

RNI members: 50€

Non RNI members: 150€.

Students: free

Extra for the Conference Gala Diner : 50 €

**Scientific comity :** Laurence Amblard (Inrae, UMR Territoire), Camille Aouinaït (Agroscope, Suisse), Simon Barnabé (Université Quebec 3 Rivières), Sylvain Barone (Inrae G-eau), Olivier Barreteau (Centre UNESCO Icireward), Sami Bouarfa (Inrae AQUA, Chaire EACC), Gabrielle Bouleau (Inrae Lisis), Delphine Burger-Leenhardt (Inrae ACT), Romain Debref (Université Reims Champagne Ardennes), Aliénor de Rouffignac (Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale), Emmanuelle Dubocage (UPEC), Nicholas Fecteau (Université Quebec Trois Rivières), Nina Graveline (INRAE Innovation), Muhamed Kudic (Univ. Siegen, Allemagne), Marcel Kuper (Cirad G-eau), Julien Leconte (Institut Agro, chaire EACC), Syndhia Mathé (Cirad Innovation), Mireille Matt (Inrae Lisis), Alexandre Mayol (Université de Lorraine), Marielle Montginoul (Inrae G-eau), Michelle Mongo (ENMSE), Matthias Müller (Univ Hohenheim, Allemagne), Angeles Pereira (Univ Santiago de Compostela), Eric Piatyszek (ENMSE), Thierry Ruf (IRD), Eric Servat (Centre UNESCO Icireward), Corinne Tanguy (Institut Agro Dijon, Cesaer), Leila Temri (Institut Agro, Moisa), Alban Thomas (Inrae EcoSocio), Jean-Marc Touzard (INRAE Innovation), Xavier Vence (Univ Santiago de Compostela)

**Organizing institutions**

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[UMR Innovation](#) – Jean-Marc Touzard, Directeur

[UMR G-eau](#) – Marcel Kuper, Directeur

[Chaire partenariale Eau, Agriculture, Changement Climatique](#) (Eacc) – Sami Bouarfa (Inrae) et Gilles Belaud (institut Agro), coordinateurs scientifiques

[Centre Unesco International Center for interdisciplinary research](#) on water systems dynamics (Icireward) – Eric Servat, directeur et Olivier Barreteau, directeur adjoint

[Institut CDC pour la Recherche](#) – Isabelle Laudier, Directrice

[Gouvernement du Québec](#) –

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Venot J.-P. et al., 2021. A bridge over troubled waters. *Nature Sustainability*. [doi.org/10.1038/s41893-021-00835-y](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-021-00835-y)