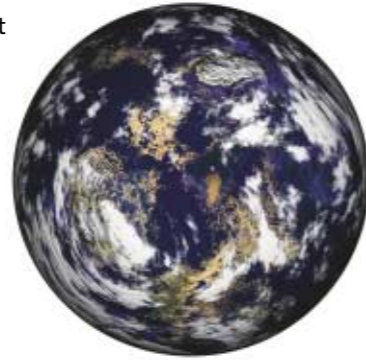


Other Partners

Open to inter-regional and multi-disciplinary partnership, the Water Cluster has arrived to complete and reinforce the system of poles in the Mediterranean:

- **Risks Pole** - risk and vulnerability management in territories, based in Aix en Provence;
- **Sea Pole** - development of a maritime economy : security, safety and sustainable development, based in Toulon;
- **DERBI Pole** - development of renewable energy sources in building and industry, based in Perpignan.



A Pragmatic and Flexible Structure

Hosted by the Association VERSeau Development as a financially independent and autonomous entity, the Water Cluster is directed by a governance commission of twelve members:

- six industrial representatives;
- four research and higher education representatives; and
- two representatives from interface associations.

This governance commission defines the political, scientific and financial strategy of the cluster, participates in the creation of innovative projects, assures the relationships with decision makers and donors and ensures the promotion of the pole within the national and international institutional markets.



Founding Members of the Water Cluster

www.brl.fr

www.ifr-ilee.org

www.swelia.com

www.veoliaeau.com

www.verseaudeveloppement.com



Water Cluster in the South of France

anticipating the future world pole
of competitiveness

Water Cluster

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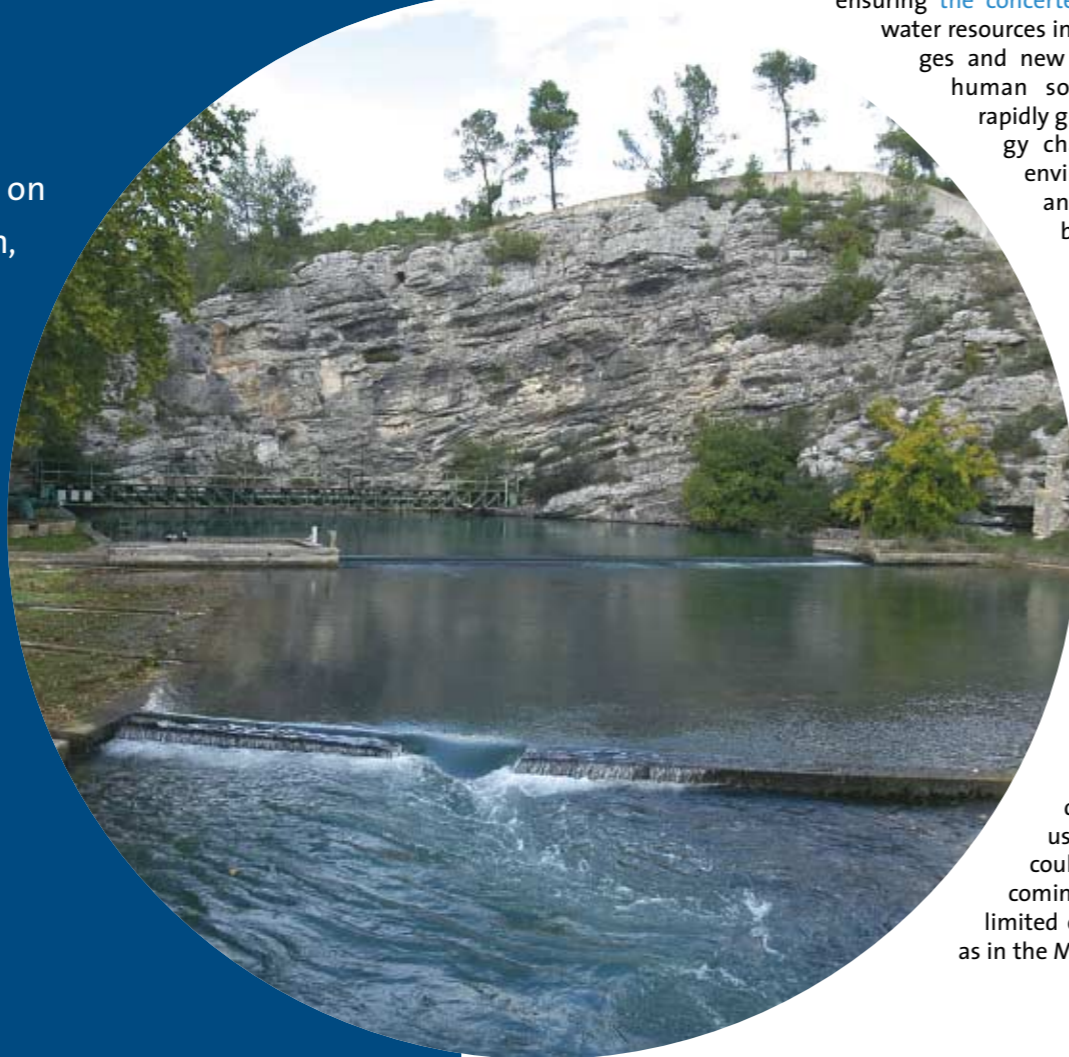
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The Water Cluster was founded on 11 February 2008 within the association, VERSeau Développement: in the South of France, research laboratories, educational organisations and enterprises joined together to create value through innovative projects in the field of water. This dynamic is a prelude to the future water pole of competitiveness and is supported by the State and by territorial collectivities.



An Original Thematic Framework

The Water Cluster is formed to respond to the constantly growing needs for innovative proposals to face the issues of ensuring **the concerted management** of world water resources in a context of global changes and new challenges arising from human society: global warming, rapidly growing populations, energy challenges, economic and environmental issues in urban and rural development, globalisation of markets and services, emerging countries, stagnation in the poorest regions, etc...

The Millennium Objectives of the United Nations and the European Water Framework Directive have placed these issues amongst the most important challenges to sustainable development.

The Water Cluster is particularly interested in complex **aquifers** (karstic, substrate and volcanic areas). These represent major reservoirs but are poorly understood as they are not well identified, inaccurately presented and empirically managed. Their exploitation for domestic, industrial and agricultural uses require specialised techniques that could see spectacular development in the coming decades, especially in regions with limited or even disputed water resources such as in the Mediterranean basin.



Global Scale

Forming part of the internationally recognised and long experience of France in the field of water policy, the Water Cluster, is a prelude to the future world pole of competitiveness and brings together skills, questions and answers to resolve the numerous problems concerning water resources management. In a world that is more and more concerned by water and its management, the objective is to place the French Mediterranean area at the heart of the international dynamic. Its priority targets are to meet the needs of and to develop institutional markets which constitute the majority of the clients for the economic players in the water field.

A Regional Richness

The Cluster has no equivalent in France nor in Europe; it is justifiably located in the French Mediterranean area for several reasons:

- an exemplary geographic location: facing the Mediterranean basin and the Southern countries, it is rich in complementary resources in underground and surface water;
- the history of water transportation has played and still plays an important role from the "Pont du Gard" to the "Aqua Domitia project";
- the presence of an industrial fabric bringing together blue chip organisations and small-to-medium size enterprises;
- young innovative companies that develop projects with the support of and within the framework of world-renowned incubateurs.
- a powerful research capacity. Its multi-disciplinary approach has no equivalent and its quality and visibility are world-renowned;
- a complete capacity for professional education and higher education with qualification at all levels engineer, master or PhD;
- an acute understanding of territorial collectivities (Region, Departments, Agglomerations, Communes) concerning any water issue, in quantity or quality, manifesting itself through the presence of interface associations;
- adapted infrastructure: urban, industrial areas, research laboratories, technology halls, territorial observatories and communications means.