

# SWITCH-ON: OPEN DATA PROJECT SUCCESSFULLY CLOSED

**Deltares and another fourteen consortium partners have successfully completed the SWITCH-ON project. The aim of this EU FP7 project, which ran from 2013 to 2017, was to exploit the European Open Data Strategy to mobilise the use of environmental data and information. The project targeted the sustainable use of water resources, a safe society and the advancement of hydrological sciences.**

The innovative spatial information platform that was developed provides open and INSPIRE-compliant data and tools to identify, assess and reduce water-related problems. The open data has been used as a vehicle for innovations in the scientific domains of floods, droughts, water quality, global change and adaptation to change. Deltares led the development of the online Open Data Registration and Data Upload tool for registering new open datasets and corresponding metadata in the open catalogue. This catalogue can be searched using another new online tool: the Browse Your Open Datasets tool (BYOD). This catalogue of open datasets contains more than 8,000 unique references to open – mainly earth observation – datasets with information about their user conditions and where or how to obtain the datasets. At the end

of the project, this catalogue became a registered data provider for the GEOSS open data portal. This means that the SWITCH-ON metadata catalogue will be harvested on a regular basis so that references can be searched from GEOSS as well.

SWITCH-ON advocated an entirely new form of collaborative research for water-related sciences. We developed a tool for capturing all relevant information and meta-information for new hydrological experiments in the Protocol Tool. During the project, scientists from all over Europe used this tool to write down, review and share their ‘structured recipe’ for their hydrological experiments. The tool is open for registration and scientists will be invited to contribute in different ways: to work together on the development and discussion of new ideas for research, to review existing protocols

and even to repeat published protocols to further the reproducibility of the experiments.

Another goal of SWITCH-ON was the production of a set of fourteen new operational products and services dedicated to appointed end users, in conjunction with the development of new business and knowledge as support for individual and collective decisions in line with the Europe’s smart growth and environmental objectives. We developed two of those data products. The first was the Forecast Broker, an open archive and searchable catalogue for hydrological forecasts, and the second was NUTPRINT, an online tool for raising awareness about, and visualising, the nutrient footprint on European coastal waters for any location on the European continent.

Since SWITCH-ON covered numerous water-related activities, we produced three overview movies based on the European Union’s three-O’s approach (Open Innovation, Open Science and Open to the World). They are available on [http://www.water-switch-on.eu/the\\_3\\_0\\_movies.html](http://www.water-switch-on.eu/the_3_0_movies.html).

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