

## PRESS RELEASE

### “Leaving No One Behind”

#### The European Water Association supports UN World Water Day 22.03.2019

Press release 21.03 2019

The theme for UN World Water Day 22 March 2019 is “Leaving no one behind”. The Agenda for Sustainable Development goal no. 6 promises water for all by 2030. This means that everyone must benefit.

As an independent, non-governmental and non-profit making organization, European Water Association (EWA) is dealing with the management and improvement of the water environment. With member associations from nearly all European countries, EWA is one of the major professional associations in Europe that covers the whole water sector, wastewater as well as drinking water and water related waste. Johannes Lohaus, who is the general secretary of the EWA underlines that *“Leaving no one behind is the core philosophy in EWA’s Code of Ethics and the reason behind the wish to always manage water resources in a fair, equitable and sustainable way”*.

Still today in Europe, too many people live without a home, and thus without access to clean water and proper sanitary conditions. This has environmental as well as human consequences. Especially marginalized groups often suffer and sometimes face discrimination or violence, as they try to access and manage the water they need. Refugees and the Roma people are two of these marginalized groups still struggling in Europe in 2019. In 2016, Slovenia’s parliament voted unanimously to declare drinking water a basic human right. This made Slovenia the first, and so far still the only, European nation to do so. Europe still has its fair amount of problems, and as the problems reach across borders, so the solutions must be handled on a national as well as international level.

EWA represents more than 22 European countries, among others Slovenia, and since 2018 EWA has also opened up for research institutions to become members. *“In EWA, we use our strength in numbers to seek political influence and attention to water issues. Our members work together for a future with better water conditions for everyone”*, Johannes Lohaus says, and he goes on *“in the EWA committees experts from different countries are sharing best practices and developments across borders. In a time with increasing insecurity, it is more important than ever that we stand together, that we support each other and that we learn from each other. Only by standing together, can we make sure that we leave no one behind”*.

Information:

EWA has different [options for membership](#): National, corporate, sponsor and research membership if your organization would like to be a part of an association, which fights for better access to clean water for everyone.

**For more information, please contact:** Johannes Lohaus: [lohaus@ewa-online.eu](mailto:lohaus@ewa-online.eu)