

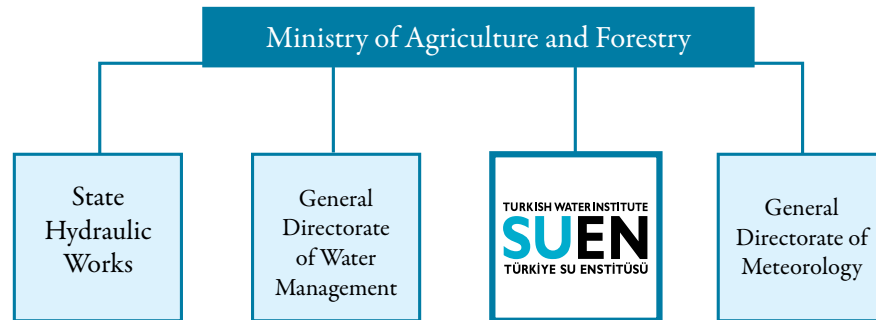
TURKISH WATER INSTITUTE

**SUEN**

TÜRKİYE SU ENSTİTÜSÜ

# About us

SUEN is a national think tank that aims to develop short and long-term strategies and national policies for the good governance of water. Established in 2011 under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) of Turkey, SUEN works in close collaboration with national and international organisations on sustainable water management, development of water policies, technical advisory and capacity building for the solution of local and global water problems.



## What we do

SUEN's role includes conducting and supporting scientific research to develop national and international water policies, organising national and international forums, conferences, meetings and training programmes and contributing to water-related events both at home and abroad. SUEN follows recent developments on water, performs knowledge production and statistical studies, carries out activities to enable cooperation among national and international water organisations and collaborates in projects with institutions and professionals distinguished in the water sphere. SUEN also represents the MoAF in formal (Track I) and informal (Track II) meetings on transboundary water issues.



## History

The idea of establishing a national water think-tank was first put forward after the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum held in 2009 in Istanbul. Attracting more than 30,000 participants from 192 countries, the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum proved to be the largest water-related event ever organised. The great success of the Forum awarded Turkey a new status as a country with a principal voice on water at global scale. The decision of founding the Turkish Water Institute stemmed from the need for a consulting body to assist decision-makers in developing the water strategies of Turkey and enable the wider and more efficient participation of Turkey in the process of shaping international water policies. The organisation of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum gained Turkey an invaluable experience, a worldwide network and multi-faceted knowledge on water. SUEN was founded in November 2011 to carry on these gained values and serve as a multi-disciplinary national institution that produces guiding information and ideas through research and strategic thinking.



Every three years,  
the world water community  
meets at the

# Istanbul International Water Forums

Organised one year prior to each World Water Forum, Istanbul International Water Forum (IIWF) is the flagship event of **SUEN**.

The first Istanbul International Water Forum (IIWF) was organised as a preparatory meeting on 14-15 February 2009, one month prior to the 5th World Water Forum (WWF). In 2011, the Forum gained an international dimension by broadening its area of study and range of subjects and focusing on the water-related problems of the Middle East, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Turkey. The 2nd Forum was held on 3-5 May 2011 with the main theme “**An Istanbul Perspective on Regional Water Problems and Search for Solutions**” and attracted more than 4,500 participants from over 100 countries. Organised particularly with a regional focus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> IIWF was the official preparatory meeting for the 6th WWF’s Europe Region Process. The Forum also featured a Ministerial Meeting with an aim to stimulate political will toward taking actions regarding regional water challenges.

The outcome reports of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IIWF were introduced at Stockholm World Water Week 2011 and 6<sup>th</sup> WWF in 2012.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> IIWF on 27-29 May 2014 brought together over 3,000 water-related people across the world in Istanbul to discuss two all-important subjects: “**Water Security**” and “**Legal Aspects of Water**”. The eight thematic sessions held under the two main themes featured keynote addresses followed by moderated panel discussions. 21 side/special events were held by local and international organisations on a wide range of subjects.

Moving from the UN Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals, the 3rd Forum hosted a plenary session on “Water Security and Sustainable Development Goals”. Another



plenary was held on “Istanbul Water Consensus” (IWC), which is a global initiative to help and challenge local and regional authorities to improve their water management strategies and services in the face of global changes. IWC was initiated in 2009 by the Mayor of Istanbul and endorsed during the 5th WWF in Istanbul. The 3rd IIWF also hosted a Water Expo, where the participants explored the activities, services and products of various water organisations and firms. The 3rd IIWF yielded some very important outcomes on water governance, water diplomacy, transboundary water cooperation and urban water management, which are significant steps for Turkish water policy extending to the international framework.

The 4th IIWF was organized on 10-11 May 2017 under the main theme of “**Water and Peace**”. Prominent speakers and panelists had fruitful discussions on urban water management, relief actions, legal aspects and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a specific focus on the refugee issue.

The Forum enabled ample exchange of experiences and success stories on the challenges of providing water and sanitation services to refugees among hosting countries. The Forum’s main message was that the refugee crisis is not an issue to be dealt alone by host countries and the responsibility should be shared by the international community.



The main outcomes of the 4th IIWF are compiled in a summary report that is available for download on [www.suen.gov.tr](http://www.suen.gov.tr)





## International Collaborations



### Developing Eight (D-8)

Since 1997, the D-8 Organisation works for economic development and cooperation among Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. In 2013, **SUEN** organised the D-8 Water Cooperation Meeting in Istanbul. This meeting was the first water-related gathering ever convened by the D-8 Organisation and featured technical meetings between high-level governmental officials from each member country. **SUEN** is the prime mover institution for the D-8 Water Cooperation Initiative and facilitates coordination among the member states.



### INBO

The International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO) promotes integrated water resources management at river basin level as an essential tool for sustainable development. **SUEN** hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> European Conference “Europe-INBO 2012” on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Istanbul in October 2012. At the end of the Conference, an “Istanbul Declaration” was adopted and **SUEN** took over the presidency of Europe-INBO for the 2013-2014 term.



### UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

**SUEN** President is a member of UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education Governing Board.



### IWRA

International Water Resources Association (IWRA), of which **SUEN** President is a Board member, is a network of multidisciplinary experts on water resources aiming to improve and expand the understanding of water issues through education, research and information exchange among countries and across disciplines. **SUEN** closely collaborated with IWRA in setting the theme and developing the content of the 3rd IWF. **SUEN** also participated in IWRA's XVth Water World Congress held in May 2015 in Edinburgh, Scotland with the main theme “Global Water, a Resource for Development: Opportunities, Challenges and Constraints”, by presenting posters on the subjects of “stream daylighting” and “urban water management”. During the preparatory process of the 7th WWF, **SUEN** cooperated with IWRA and UNEP for the preparation of Session 3.3.4 “Sustainable Wastewater Management and Reuse”.



### OIC

Water is one of the most important topics on the agenda of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water convenes once every two years. The first meeting was held as a summit at the level of Heads of State and Prime Ministers during the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum held in 2009 in Istanbul. The second Conference was also hosted in Istanbul on 5-6 March 2012 under the theme “Working Together for a Water Secure Future”, at which the OIC Water Vision Document was adopted. The OIC Water Vision aims to provide the basis for cooperation and collaboration on water issues among the OIC Member States. Turkey hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Islamic Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water in May 2016 in Istanbul. The OIC Water Council was established as a result of the conference. The 1st OIC Water Council Meeting was organized by **SUEN** on 15-16 November 2017 in Istanbul. **SUEN** continues to facilitate the water-related activities under OIC on behalf of Turkey.



## Water JPI



Water Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) aims to achieve sustainable water systems for a sustainable economy in Europe and beyond. Water JPI brings together major RDI (Research, Development, Innovation) actors of Europe under the common cause of developing continent-wide RDI policies by aligning national priorities, funding joint project calls and increasing overall scientific competitiveness of Europe. **SUEN** and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) collaborate and represent Turkey within the Water JPI in order to strengthen the research capacity of the Turkish water RDI sector.

## UN-Habitat GWOPA



Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance (GWOPA) under the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) is a network formed by water operators, who help capacity building to provide access to water and sanitation for all people across the globe. **SUEN** cooperates with GWOPA to develop Water Operator Partnerships (WOPs) aiming to build the capacities of water operators in its region.

## World Water Council



In 2009, Turkey hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (WWF) in Istanbul in partnership with the World Water Council. Ever since, this cooperation has consistently continued and progressed. **SUEN** is a member of the World Water Council and regularly participates in the Board of Governors meetings as Governor. Every three years, **SUEN** organises the Istanbul International Water Forum (IIWF) with an aim to provide

inputs to the next WWF in the following year. The 2<sup>nd</sup> IIWF held in 2011 was officially listed as a preparatory event for the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF held in France in 2012. **SUEN** actively participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> WWF's European Regional Process and contributed to the Forum's High-Level Panel on "Water, Food and Energy Nexus". The World Water Council supported the 3<sup>rd</sup> IIWF by providing top-level participation, organising a plenary session on "Istanbul Water Consensus" and a side event on the "Progress of the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum". **SUEN** took an active role in the 7<sup>th</sup> WWF (South Korea, 2015) and in the 8<sup>th</sup> WWF (Brazil, 2018) by coordinating Turkey's representation in the Forum's thematic, political and regional processes. **SUEN** takes part in the preparatory process for the 9<sup>th</sup> WWF to be organized in Senegal in 2021.

## OECD



**SUEN** has been a member of the OECD Water Governance Initiative (OECD WGI) since 2013. OECD WGI is a multi-stakeholder network of over 200 public, private and not-for-profit institutions. From 2013 to 2015, **SUEN** contributed to the designation of OECD's 12 Water Governance Principles by collaborating within the "Basin Management working Group" of OECD WGI. Since 2016, **SUEN**'s collaboration with OECD WGI continues through new working groups on "Indicators" and "Best Practices", which aim to implement, monitor and disseminate the OECD Water Governance Principles.



## Global Wastewater Initiative (GW2I)

Launched by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in May 2013, the GW2I is a global multi-stakeholder platform comprised of UN agencies, international organizations, governments, scientists, private sectors and major groups and stakeholders to provide the foundations (including information, tools and policy mechanisms) for partnerships to initiate comprehensive, effective and sustained programmes addressing wastewater management. The GW2I operates as a voluntary network of stakeholders with a view to facilitate joint efforts to communicate and address the wastewater challenge and to push the wastewater agenda by sharing, among stakeholders, information, lessons learned and best practices for wastewater management, including sound technologies that do not adversely affect the environment and biodiversity. **SUEN** is a partner of GW2I and in 2015, Projects Coordinator of **SUEN** was selected as the Chair of the GW2I Partnership Steering Committee for two years.





# Projects

## Surface and Groundwater Modelling

With the ultimate goal of ensuring the sustainable use of transboundary water resources, **SUEN** undertakes surface and groundwater modelling projects that result in management plans to solve possible water problems.

## Technical Advisory to Treatment Projects

**SUEN** provided technical support to the design of wastewater treatment plants in 12 provinces within the “**Ergene Basin Protection Action Plan**”, which was implemented to mitigate existing pollution in the basin. **SUEN** continues to provide technical consultancy for the design of water and wastewater treatment plants in different regions.

## WatEUr



**SUEN** represents Turkey in the “**WatEUr - Tackling European Water Challenges**” project, which is supported by the European Commission under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme. WatEUr contributes to structuring, coordinating and increasing of the overall efficiency of Water RDI activities in Europe. The overall aim of the project is to build up a new strategic research agenda for Europe including actions for maintaining ecosystem sustainability, developing safe water systems for the citizens, promoting competitiveness in the water industry, implementing a water-wise bio-based economy and closing the water cycle gap.

## WATERMED 4.0



Funded under the PRIMA 2018 call, WATERMED 4.0 proposes a holistic water cycle management approach, by utilizing both conventional and non-conventional water resources for irrigation. In collaboration with partners from Algeria, Germany, Morocco and Spain, **SUEN** will coordinate a pilot study for the 2019-2022 period in Konya Basin, where treated wastewater meets the standards for reuse in irrigation. At pilot scale, the aim is to

develop smart farming systems by integrating advanced wastewater treatment technologies and remote sensing applications into a DSS software. **SUEN** will conduct a socio-economic impact analysis as well, to assess the feasibility of these applications in comparison to the business-as-usual model.

## Benchmarking of Water and Sewerage Administrations in Turkey



The Project is to assess and benchmark the performance indicators of the water and sewerage administrations in Turkey and identify the improvement areas based on the study outcomes. Study results are fed back to the water and sewerage administrations with necessary strategic recommendations.

## Blue Peace in the Middle East



With the long-term vision of transforming water from a potential source of crisis into a potential instrument of cooperation and peace through concrete actions, the Blue Peace in the Middle East Initiative, is a structured and dynamic network of prominent institutions from partner countries in the region.

**SUEN** functions as the Coordination Office of the Initiative and implements the agricultural water efficiency project (including capacity building activities) together with the region countries.

## AGRINUPES Project



“AGRINUPES: Integrated Monitoring and Control of Water, Nutrients and Plant Protection Products Towards a Sustainable Agricultural Sector” Project is funded under WaterWorks 2015 ERA-NET Cofund Call with the aim of developing sensors for optimum use of nutrients in agricultural applications and detection of pesticides in surface waters.

**SUEN** carries out the following tasks; coordination of the field study at Konya closed basin in Turkey; a SWOT analysis of the EU legislation related to water quality monitoring and public participation; dissemination of Project outcomes and strategy documents. AGRINUPES consortium gathers 8 partners from 5 countries (Portugal, Sweden, the Netherlands, Spain and Turkey). The Project started in April 2017 and will last for 3 years.



## TRAINING PROGRAMS

SUEN transfers and shares knowledge in the fields of water and wastewater both at national and international levels. Since its establishment in late 2011, SUEN delivered trainings in the form of 1-to-3 week short courses to nearly 1,000 water professionals from over 30 countries.

Training programs cover the following topics:

- River basin management planning
- Master planning in the urban water sector
- Water and sanitary engineering
- Wastewater management in rural areas
- Water and sewage network design and management
- Groundwater management
- Runoff harvesting

The trainings are delivered by prominent experts with extensive practical experience, who are specialized in the management of water and wastewater. The programs are specifically tailored to meet each group's needs and include field visits to treatment plants and water administrations. Participants who successfully complete the program are awarded with a certificate.





# Publications

## 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, 2009

- Regional Reports
- Global Water Framework (English)
- Final Declarations (Turkish)
- Final Report
- Analysis Report
- Evaluation Report
- Synthesis Book  
“An Istanbul Perspective on Bridging Divides for Water”



## 2<sup>nd</sup> IIWF, 2011

- Final Report  
“An Istanbul Perspective on Regional Water Problems and Search for Solutions”
- Synthesis Book (English)  
“A Regional Perspective on Water-Food-Energy Nexus”



## Europe-INBO 2012

- Final Report  
“10<sup>th</sup> European Conference on the Water Framework Directive Implementation”



## 3<sup>rd</sup> IIWF, 2014

- Final Report  
“Water Security and Legal Aspects of Water: Confronting Risks and Challenges, Seizing Opportunities”



All publications can be downloaded at: [www.suen.gov.tr](http://www.suen.gov.tr)





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