

Water

A large graphic featuring the word "Water" in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font. Below the text are two stylized blue waves. To the right of the waves is a 3D-rendered globe of the Earth, showing continents and oceans in shades of blue and white.

International Cooperation

Proceedings from the Workshop on International Cooperation

Towards a Common Strategy on International Cooperation

Virtual Meeting, 26 May 2020

www.waterjpi.eu/international-cooperation/international-cooperation-workshops

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Acknowledgements

The Water Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme for research, technological development and demonstration under Grant Agreement No 730264 (IC4Water). We also wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the invited workshop speakers, moderators, chair, attendees and rapporteurs, the Water JPI Secretariat and Coordinator, and European Commission funding. In addition, we would also like to thank the Permanent Representation of Finland to the European Union, which had kindly offered to host the workshop at its offices in Brussels (before the COVID-19 crisis).

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Abbreviations

ANR	National Research Agency (France)
CEH	Climate–Environment–Health
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (Ireland)
EU	European Union
JPI	Joint Programming Initiative
RDI	research, development and innovation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMART	specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound
SRIA	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

Executive Summary

The Water Joint Programming Initiative (JPI), “[Water Challenges for a Changing World](#)” (www.waterjpi.eu), was launched following a decision of the Competitiveness Council of the European Union (EU) on 6 December 2011.¹ In June 2020, the Water JPI membership included 23 member countries and three observer countries, which collectively represented 88% of European public research, development and innovation investment in water resources. The Water JPI is dedicated to tackling the ambitious challenge of achieving “[sustainable water systems for a sustainable economy in Europe and abroad](#)”.

The Water JPI, as part of its Coordination and Support Action [IC4Water](#), is looking at opportunities to develop a common strategy for international cooperation with other European initiatives. IC4Water was launched in January 2017 and is funded by the European Commission under Horizon 2020. IC4Water aims to implement joint activities in a dedicated effort to reinforce international cooperation on research, development and innovation to address global water challenges.

This report contains the proceedings of the [2020 Water JPI workshop “Towards a Common Strategy on International Cooperation”](#), which took place on 26 May 2020 as a virtual meeting.

There were 62 registrations for this online workshop, from 25 countries. The attendees represented 17 initiatives/networks.

This was the third workshop in a series of three targeting peer EU initiatives (Task 2.4), designed to contribute to develop a Water JPI strategy with other relevant EU and international initiatives on international cooperation in the context of research, development and innovation activities.

All the presentations are available from the Water JPI website: www.waterjpi.eu/international-cooperation/international-cooperation-workshops.

¹ [Council conclusions](#) on the launching of the joint programming initiatives on “Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans”, “Urban Europe – Global Urban Challenges, Joint European Solutions”, “Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe”, “Water Challenges for a Changing World” and “The Microbial Challenge – An Emerging Threat to Human Health” – Adoption 17424/11 of 29 November 2011.

1. Introduction

Over the past few decades, several policies and research, development and innovation (RDI) activities have been put in place to protect water resources. Despite these efforts, many regions in Europe still face water scarcity and/or water quality problems. Climate change, groundwater over-abstraction and diffuse pollution are, among others, the main factors influencing water availability and quality. If no action is taken, their impact will be even greater in the years to come. Guaranteeing a sustainable supply of good-quality water should be a priority for European society. Both policies and RDI activities should therefore contribute to this aim. Water supply for the development of various activities (agriculture, energy production, public services, etc.) also needs to be ensured to benefit the economic prosperity of the European Union (EU).

The Water Joint Programming Initiative (JPI), “[Water Challenges for a Changing World](#)” (www.waterjpi.eu), has recently published its new Water JPI Vision 2030 and Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) 2025. [Water JPI Vision 2030: Together for a Water-secure World](#) outlines what the Water JPI aims to achieve during the next 10-year period (to 2030) and sets out the roadmap for all Water JPI activities, taking into account the main trends, key drivers and challenges in relation to our water resources (**Figure 1**).

By June 2020, this initiative had brought together 23 partner countries, the European Commission and three additional countries as observers. The international cooperation dimension of the first Water JPI implementation actions included Israel, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa and Turkey (full Water JPI members), as well as two additional Horizon 2020 associated countries (Egypt and Tunisia) and three international partners (Brazil, Canada and Taiwan).

The Water JPI, as part of its Coordination and Support Action IC4Water, is looking at opportunities to develop a common strategy for international cooperation with other European initiatives. IC4Water was launched in January 2017 and is funded by the Commission under Horizon 2020. IC4Water aims to implement joint activities in a dedicated effort to reinforce international cooperation on RDI to address water challenges. To date, the Water JPI has set up contacts and initiated joint actions, including joint transnational calls, with several international partners. There have been several Water JPI activities on international cooperation, including one mapping exercise and five workshops on international activities (further details are available from the [Water JPI website](#)²). **Figure 2** provides an overview of these activities.

² <http://www.waterjpi.eu/international-cooperation>

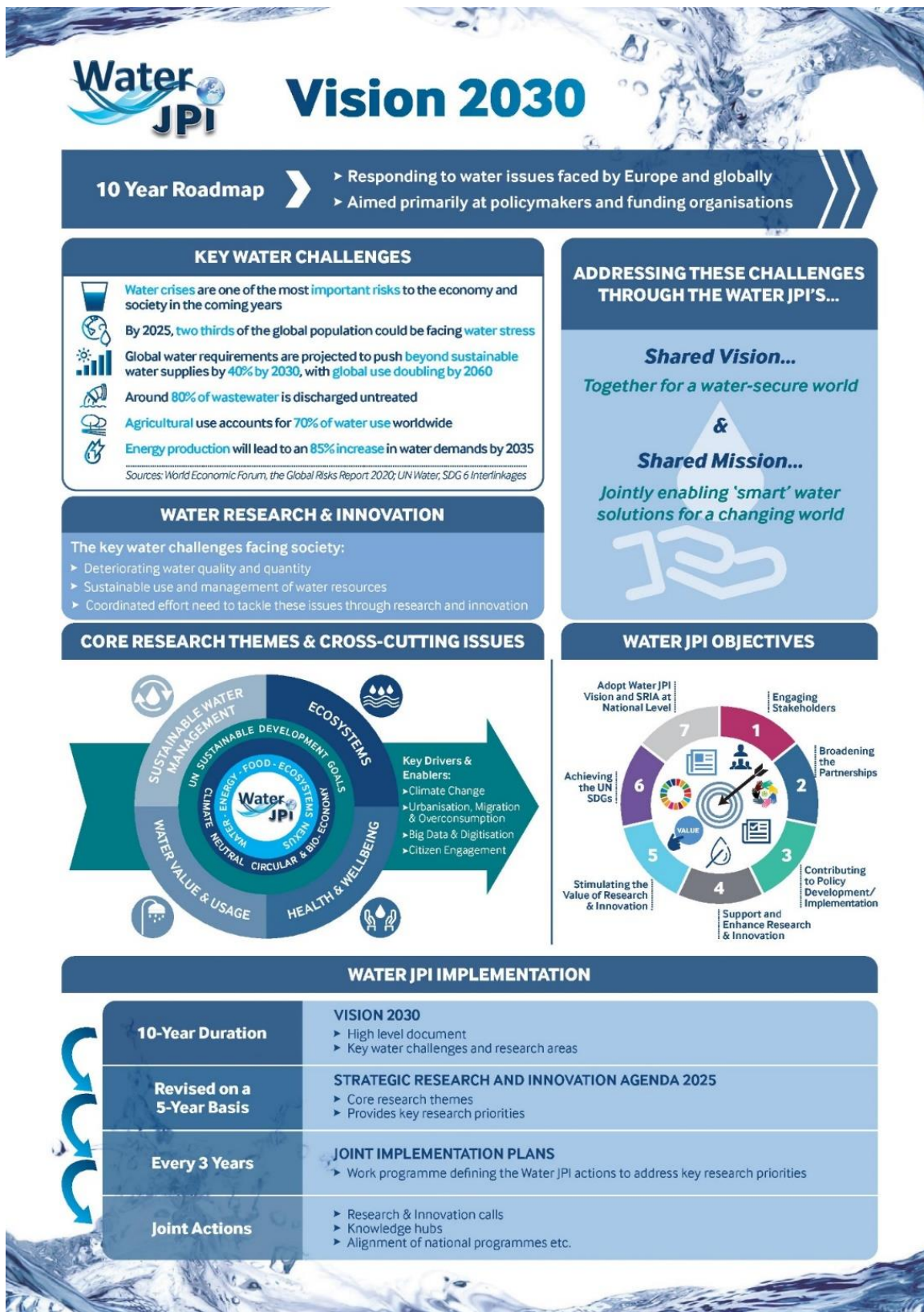


Figure 1: Water JPI Vision 2030 – infographic

The Water JPI approach

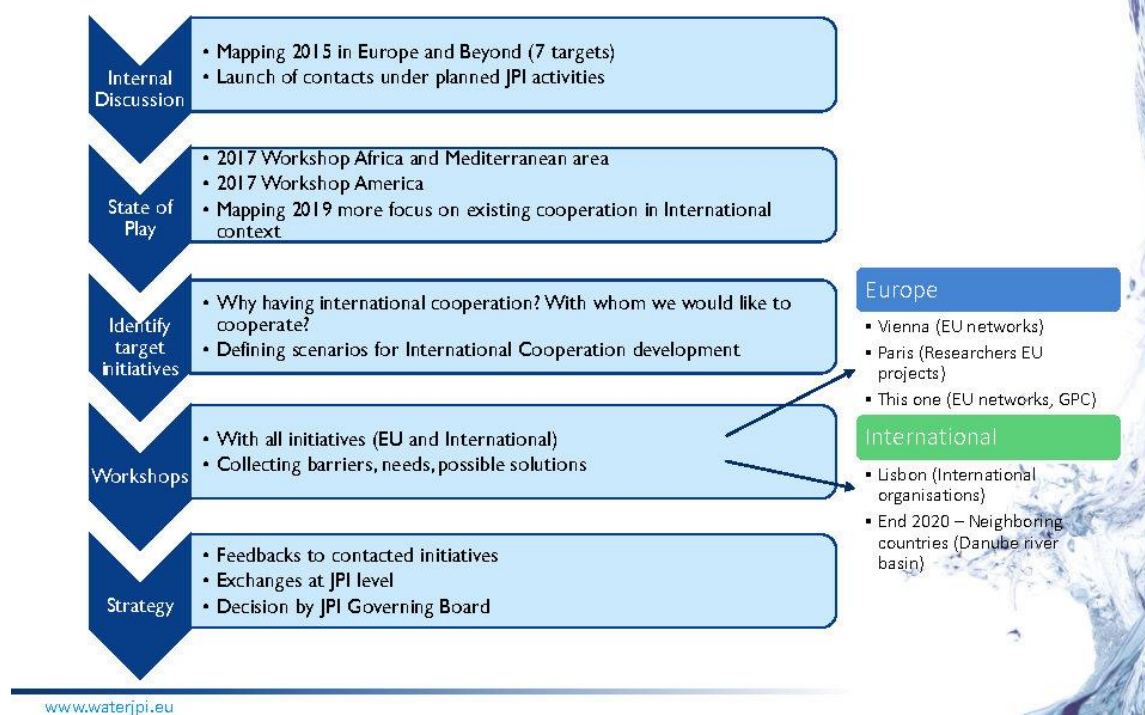


Figure 2: Water JPI's approach to its international cooperation activities

Two workshops on developing international cooperation on RDI to tackle global water challenges were organised in 2017 to discuss regional specificities and cooperation opportunities:

- a workshop dedicated to Africa and the Mediterranean area;
- a workshop dedicated to American area.

To further progress this work, the Water JPI has organised three dedicated workshops (**Figure 3**) in **cooperation with relevant European peer initiatives** to share experiences, identify success factors and propose a common vision on international cooperation. As the European initiatives are targeting the same countries/funding organisations, for international cooperation development it was considered important to share experiences and discuss, if possible and relevant, how to define a common vision on developing cooperation among international RDI programmes.

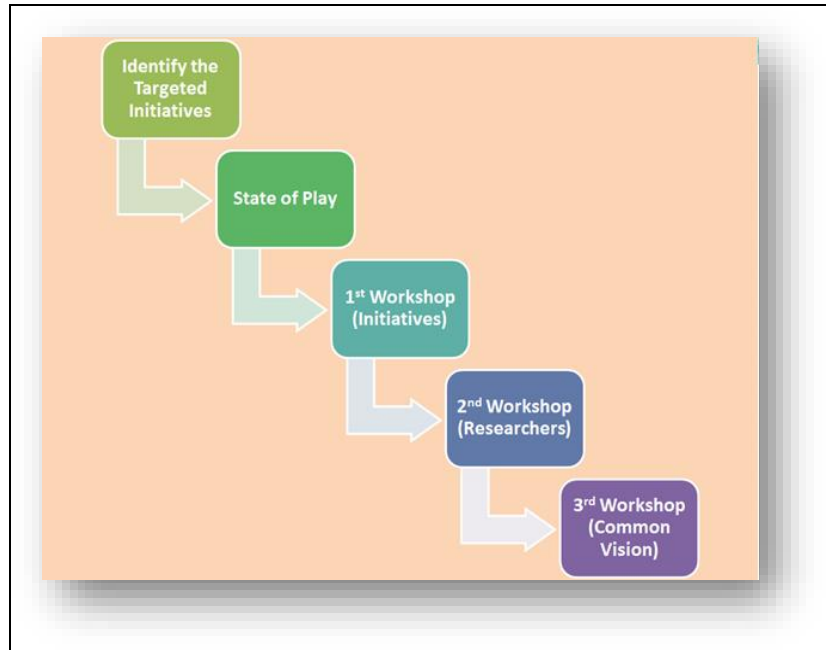


Figure 3. Activities with European peer initiatives towards the Water JPI Strategy on International Cooperation



2018 Water JPI workshop (19 September 2018) in Vienna, Austria

The Water JPI organised the first workshop, hosted by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), **“Towards a Common Strategy on International Cooperation”**, which was held on 19 September 2018 in Vienna, Austria.

The second workshop targeted the research community engaging in joint actions implemented by these initiatives and involving international cooperation. It was organised by the EPA and held in June 2019 in Paris, France.



2019 Water JPI workshop (25 June 2019) in Paris, France

The third workshop was aimed at defining a common vision on international cooperation. It was initially planned to be held in Brussels but, because of the COVID-19 crisis, was held remotely.

This report was prepared based on the presentations and notes provided by the rapporteurs, as well as the feedback received from the attendees on the draft version of this document. The presentations are available from the Water JPI website: www.waterjpi.eu/international-cooperation/international-cooperation-workshops.

2. Methodology

The workshop was organised by the EPA, with the support of the IC4Water partners and the Water JPI Secretariat and Coordinator. Registrations were done using SurveyMonkey. The workshop, which was supposed to take place in Brussels, Belgium, was run virtually using Microsoft Teams, because of the COVID-19 crisis.

2.1. Workshop Aims and Objectives

This third workshop targeted relevant European peer initiatives to discuss the proposed vision for the Water JPI Strategy on International Cooperation, which is due to be prepared and launched in 2021.

2.2. Audience

There were **45 attendees** (from 62 registrations) for this online workshop, from **25 countries**. The attendees represented **17 initiatives/networks**. [Annex 1](#) provides a list of all the registrations. **Figure 4** illustrates the geographical spread of the attendees, while **Table 1** provides information on the initiatives represented at the workshop.

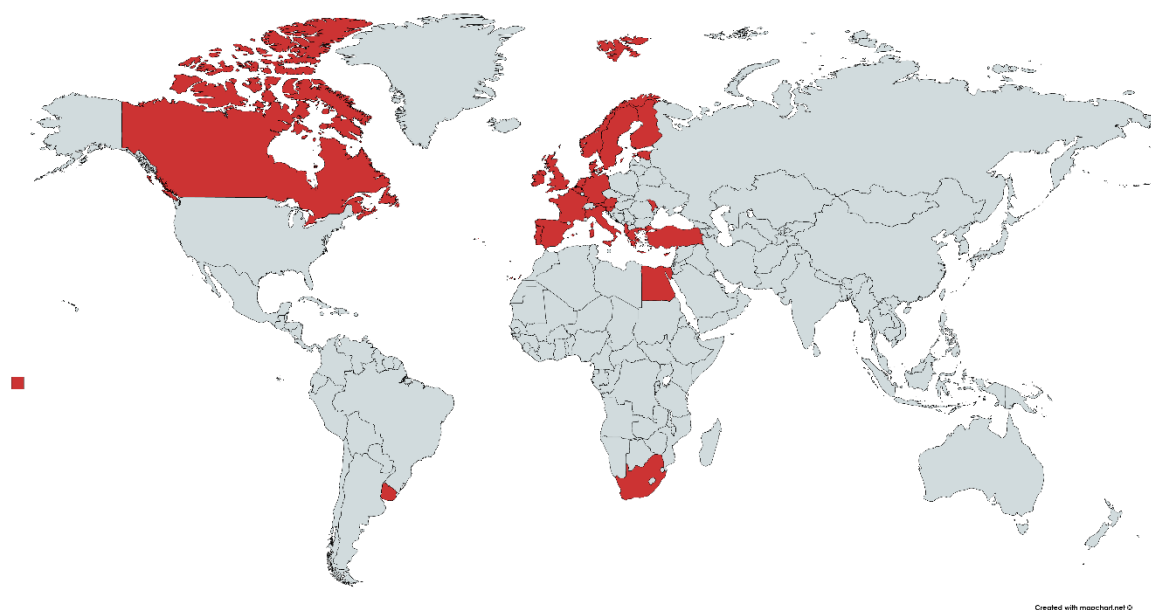



Figure 4. Countries represented by attendees at the workshop

Table 1. Initiatives represented

Name of initiatives / organisations	Abbreviation	Website
Africa–EU Innovation Alliance for Water and Climate (Horizon 2020 project)	AfriAlliance	https://afrialliance.org
Belmont Forum	Belmont	www.belmontforum.org
BONUS, the joint Baltic Sea research and development programme	BONUS	www.bonusportal.org
China–EU Water Platform	CEWP	https://cewp.eu
ERA-LEARN	ERA-LEARN	www.era-learn.eu
European Commission	–	https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en
European Federation of National Associations of Water Services	EurEau	www.eureau.org
European Network of Freshwater Research Organisations	EurAqua	www.euraqua.org
High Level Group on Joint Programming / Groupe de Programmation Conjointe	GPC	www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/preparatory-bodies/european-research-area-innovation-committee
Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change	FACCE-JPI	http://faccejpi.net
Joint Programming Initiative on Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans	JPI Oceans	www.jpi-oceans.eu
Joint Programming Initiative on Urban Europe	JPI Urban Europe	https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu
Mission of Canada to the European Union	–	–

Name of initiatives / organisations	Abbreviation	Website
Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area 	PRIMA	http://prima-med.org
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 	FAO	www.fao.org
Water Europe 	WE	https://watereurope.eu
Water Joint Programming Initiative 	Water JPI	www.waterjpi.eu

2.3. Workshop Programme

The workshop programme is available in [Annex 2](#). The workshop included one plenary session and three breakout sessions.

The plenary session was chaired by [Alice Wemaere](#) (EPA), with an opening introduction given by [Dominique Darmendrail of the French National Research Agency](#) (ANR), Water JPI Coordinator. This introduction was followed by two keynote presentations, from [Panos Balabanis](#) of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation on the proposed Horizon Europe Water4All Partnership, and [Effie Amanatidou](#) of ERA-LEARN on impact assessment. Examples of international cooperation strategies were provided by JPI Oceans and JPI Urban Europe. Finally, the Belmont Forum, Canada and South Africa covered possible opportunities for collaboration with the Water JPI.

The afternoon was organised into three breakout sessions, in which the proposed Water JPI Strategy on International Cooperation was discussed. These discussions covered the following topics:

- the target audience for the strategy;
- the aims of the strategy;
- the structure of the strategy;
- proposed objectives.

Attendees were assigned to one of the three breakout groups in advance of the workshop, ensuring gender balance, a mix of representatives of initiatives and networks, and a balanced geographical representation. In advance of the workshop, a high-level draft of the proposed structure for the strategy was circulated to all those who had registered ([Annex 3](#)).

In the final part of the plenary session, the rapporteurs provided a short summary of the breakout sessions and the workshop was wrapped up.

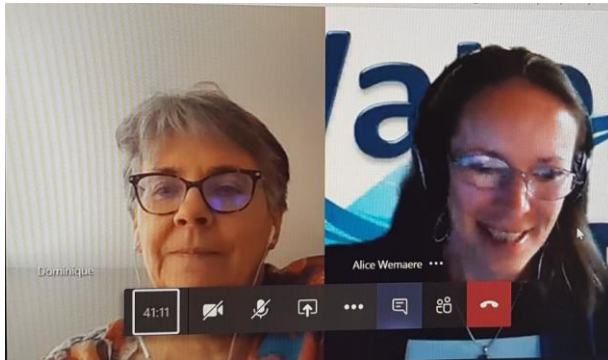
Links to the [proceedings of the first workshop](#)³ (2018) and the [proceedings of the second workshop](#)⁴ (2019) were circulated to all those who had registered in advance of the workshop.

³ <http://www.waterjpi.eu/international-cooperation/international-cooperation-workshops/2018-water-jpi-workshop-strategies-for-international-cooperation>

⁴ <http://www.waterjpi.eu/international-cooperation/international-cooperation-workshops/strategies-for-international-cooperation-workshop-2019>

3. Proceedings

3.1. Welcome and Introduction



Alice Wemaere of the EPA opened the virtual meeting via MS Teams and welcomed the attendees to the workshop. She also introduced the aims and objectives of the workshop and what she hoped the participants would achieve by the end of the day.

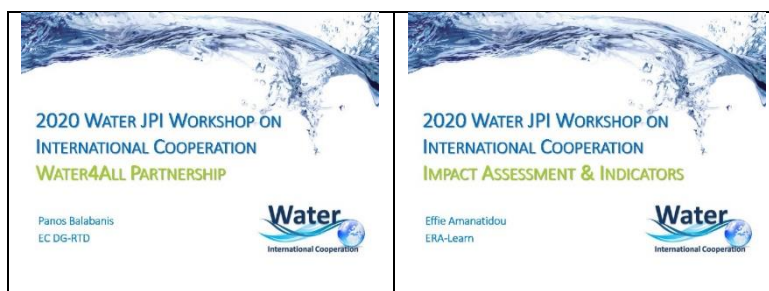


Dominique Darmendrail, Water JPI Coordinator, gave a general introduction to the Water JPI's current set-up and activities, focusing on its experiences of international cooperation and the cross-cutting relationship that water has with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

She also highlighted the Water JPI mapping of RDI activities in seven targeted countries (Brazil, Canada, China, India, South Africa, the USA and Vietnam) and first contacts with and invitations made to research funding organisations to participate in European Research Networks (ERA-NETs), in, for example, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, South Africa, Taiwan and Tunisia.

3.2. Plenary Session: Keynote Presentations

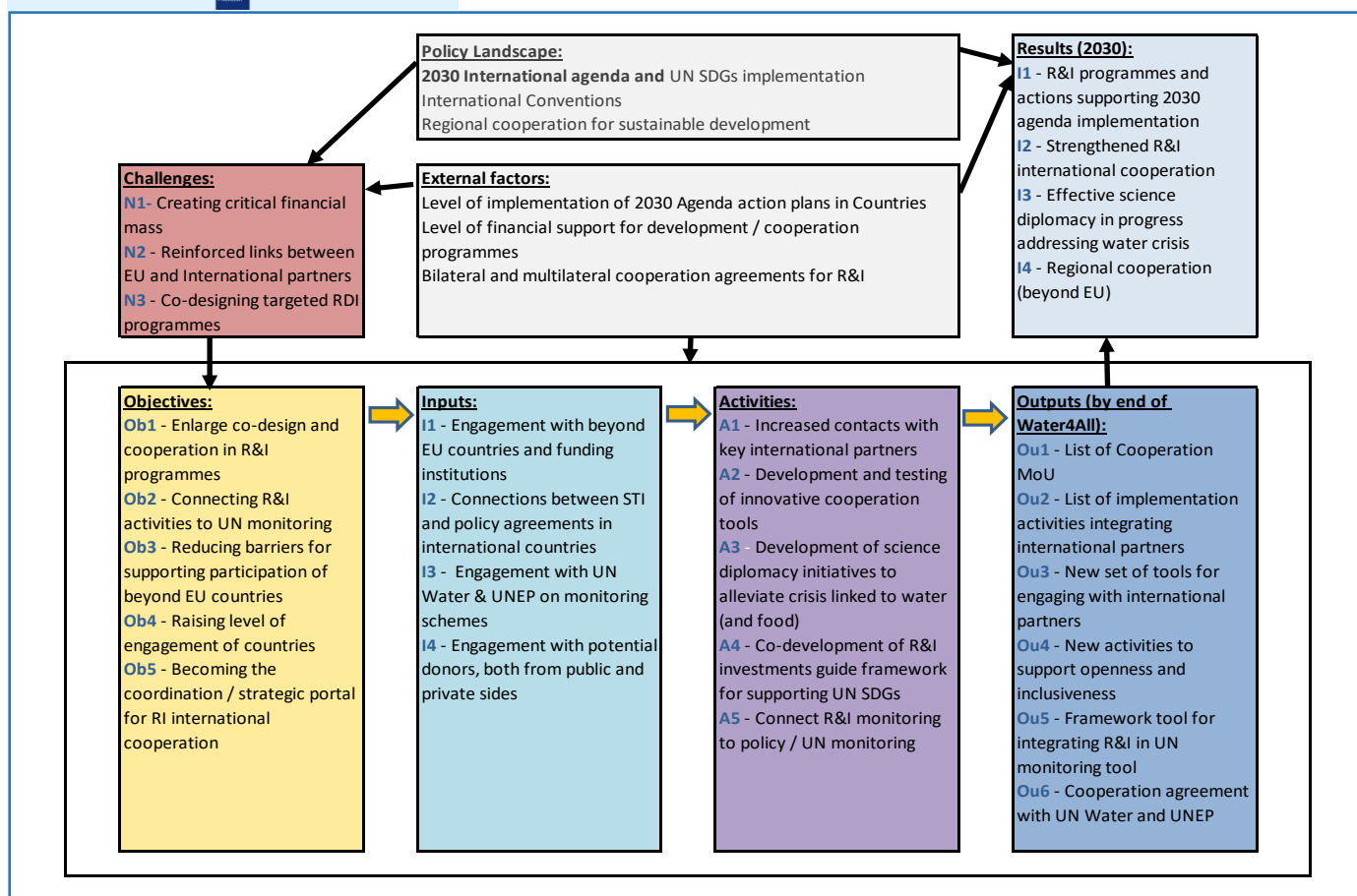
The first part of the plenary session included two keynote presentations, on the proposed Horizon Europe Water4All Partnership and on ERA-LEARN's activities on impact assessment.



Water4All Partnership



Panos Balabanis, of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, provided an overview of the state of play with regard to the European partnership Water Security for the Planet (Water4All), proposed for inclusion under Horizon Europe Cluster 6. International cooperation activities are included in Pillar E of the proposed partnership.



Questions raised during the Q&A session

<p>Will the SRIA produced by Water4All replace the other SRIAs from the Water JPI and Water Europe?</p>	<p>The partnership SRIA will be based on proposed common strategic research directions put forward by the various networks involved in the preparation of the Water4All partnership, for example the Water JPI, Water Europe and the European Network of Freshwater Research Organisations.</p> <p>The Water4All SRIA will be based on the identification of a common landscape, and the partnership will be looking at how it can better use this information.</p> <p>In the short term, each network has its own agenda, priorities and work programme.</p> <p>In the long term, yes, the Water4All SRIA could be considered a common agenda.</p>
<p>International cooperation is not particularly emphasised in the preparation of the Horizon Europe partnerships. What about international cooperation, in particular for Water4All? (But it's a more general question too.)</p>	<p>Not all partnerships have a strong international cooperation component. However, this is not the case for Water4All. The Water4All partnership has a strong international relevance and includes a dedicated action pillar. The problems are global and there are also international commitments to be considered.</p>
<p>How will the partnership relate to proposed missions, for example on oceans & inland waters?</p>	<p>Water considerations are included in the development of the mission scoping papers, for example water pollution (mission on oceans and inland waters), adaptation of water systems to climate change (mission on climate adaption), soil pollution linked to water activities (mission on soil).</p> <p>How the links between the partnership and the missions will be made is not yet clear, as it depends on the final focus of the missions and which type of activities the Mission Board will propose.</p>
<p>Can you explain the twinning activities?</p>	<p>These will be considered in the context of the development of the scope of a particular topic / action to be connected, especially those topics of relevance to international cooperation.</p>

Impact Assessment



Effie Amanatidou of ERA-LEARN gave an overview of ERA-LEARN’s activities on impact assessment, focusing on the international cooperation dimension.

The key message was that the international dimension needed to be integrated into the overall Water JPI agenda, instead of being an addition or supplement.

Internationalisation is a cross-cutting dimension. It may not be directly linked to

Horizon Europe missions, but it may be needed to tackle the challenges addressed by those missions. Finally, internationalisation is important in influencing policies worldwide, but generating economic impacts in certain areas beyond Europe is not to be neglected, even if it is not an explicit target.

Questions raised during the Q&A session

With regard to data verification, what are the selection criteria for the person carrying out this exercise?

It depends on the types of data being requested and collated. A first step in verification is to ensure that the data provided are cleaned and are what was requested. An independent view on the data can also provide an opportunity to ensure that the data are as they should be.

You need to define the requirements for validation of the data when specifying your data requests/impact assessment activities.



Note on ERA-LEARN – Focus on Global Research Cooperation

The upcoming activities on global research cooperation from the ERA-LEARN network were mentioned on several occasions during the workshop and are therefore described here, as they are relevant to all public-public partnerships and their international cooperation activities.

Representatives of the public-public network will be approached by the Horizon 2020 project ERA- LEARN in coming weeks as part of a dedicated (and recently started) activity exploring the internationalisation/globalisation of European partnerships and other multilateral (non-EU) initiatives, namely ERA-LEARN – Focus on Global Research Cooperation: <https://www.era-learn.eu/news-events/news/era-learn-focus-on-global-research-cooperation-1>.

More than ever, global research and innovation cooperation is crucial to tackle global challenges. And it is used for many other purposes, for example as an instrument of diplomacy and to support the competitiveness of European industries. Currently, the ERA- LEARN team is exploring the globalisation of European partnerships with the goal of identifying drivers and barriers, as well as good and less functional practices for the initiation and management of globalisation through European partnerships. This activity is based on telephone interviews, taking into account views and experiences from global partners of European partnerships. The results will be published on the ERA- LEARN website and discussed during events later this year.

3.3. Plenary Session: Examples of International Cooperation Strategies

The second part of the plenary session included two presentations from peer EU initiatives, namely JPI Oceans and JPI Urban Europe.



JPI Oceans



Thorsten Kiefer, of JPI Oceans, presented on the JPI’s international cooperation strategy, its joint actions, and the potential for Oceans–Water JPIs’ collaboration at land–sea interfaces. Opportunities for novel collaboration across the proposed partnerships at the fringes of the draft proposal for the Blue Economy partnership were outlined. These could enable the strengthening of international collaboration with countries bordering the sea and ocean basins

surrounding Europe.

Questions raised during the Q&A session

<p>Can you give an example of international collaboration linked to the Blue Economy partnership?</p>	<p>This will be developed as part of the partnership preparation process, which will build on existing international cooperation relations.</p> <p>There will be a broadening of the community to other European groups, concentrating on problems in regional sea basins (e.g. the Mediterranean, the Black Sea, the Baltic Sea) that border non-EU countries.</p> <p>These global problems and the related solutions cannot be tackled by individual countries; the situation requires a holistic approach.</p>
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JPI Urban Europe



Margit Noll, of JPI Urban Europe, gave an overview of the JPI’s activities and expectations in relation to international outreach. She outlined steps to be taken in relation to some key areas.

- Strategic policy cooperation:
 - establish strategic relationships with policymakers and networks;
 - gain knowledge about urban priorities and strategies.

- Community building:
 - support international relationship-building among researchers and urban stakeholders;
 - implement support measures to exchange research results and policy measures.

- Joint funding:
 - identify relevant international research and innovation programmes;
 - set up joint calls with international partners considering JPI Urban Europe’s and partners’ portfolios.

Her conclusions included the following:

- A common understanding is needed on the aims of outreach to specific countries and regions.
- International networks can be entry points for international collaboration.
- Sustainable bilateral cooperation requires a portfolio of actions to increase impact.
- There is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to international outreach.

Questions raised during the Q&A session

Comment: it is important to acknowledge political drivers, for example, for JPI Oceans, the activities of the Commission in instigating the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation (the US, Canada and Europe) and the Belém Memorandum of Understanding (the EU, Brazil and South Africa), and the G7 actions on oceans give momentum to international partnerships and joint actions.

Was it easy for JPI Urban Europe to arrange joint calls with, for example, China with joint funding?

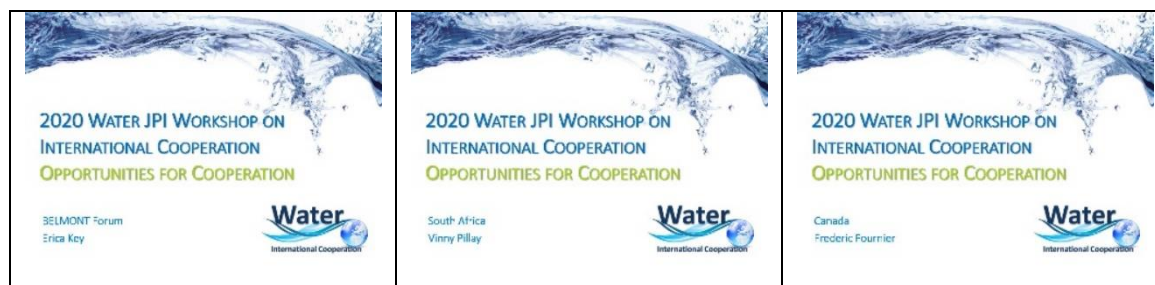
No, it took 5 years to build the joint call (e.g. to understand the settings and identify the correct partners)

JPI Urban Europe is collaborating with the National Natural Science Foundation of China, which is really familiar with similar joint calls. The set-up of the call was pretty easy. There were some small issues with implementation. But there is a very strong interest in participating in international cooperation. We hope to continue this collaboration.

<p>Is JPI Urban Europe working with other provinces of Canada, apart from Quebec?</p>	<p>Not yet.</p> <p>At the moment the JPI is in close contact with Quebec and there is nothing in place yet with the rest of Canada.</p> <p>We would be interested in developing future opportunities for collaboration.</p>
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3.4. Plenary Session: Opportunities for Cooperation

The final part of the plenary session included three short presentations from non-EU networks and countries, providing an overview of opportunities for collaboration. These included the Belmont Forum, South Africa and Canada.



Belmont Forum



Erica Key of the Belmont Forum provided a short overview of its activities. The Belmont Forum aims to provide knowledge for understanding, mitigating and adapting to global environmental change through the funding of transnational and transdisciplinary actions.

Opportunities for collaboration with the Belmont Forum activities were discussed in relation to:

- the Belmont Forum’s activities under the headings of Soils and Groundwater for Society (Collaborative Research Action currently open), Pathways to Sustainability (about to launch), Migration and Beyond the Paris Agreement (at the scoping stage), and Climate–Environment–Health (CEH) II and Sustainable Consumption (at the focusing stage);
- the Sustainability Research & Innovation Congress 2021, which will take place on 12–15 June 2021 in Australia (more details at <https://sri2021.org/>);
- the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management (S2S Platform), which is a multi-stakeholder initiative that helps freshwater, coastal and marine experts to contribute to global knowledge generation on source-to-sea interconnections.

Questions raised during the Q&A session

<p>How is the cross-cutting topic of the environment and human health developing in the Belmont Forum?</p>	<p>The Belmont Forum is launching the first projects on the CEH theme next month, with a virtual kick-off. The second call on that theme is in the early focusing stage and will move into scoping in 2021. There is a Commission coordination offering for CEH projects.</p> <p>Most likely, there will be a large scoping event at the Sustainability Research &</p>
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- [Alliance grants](#) (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada).

Questions raised during the Q&A session

Comment: it is important to highlight the success rate of Canada in the WaterWorks2015 call. All proposals advancing to the second stage with Canada's participation were funded (with Canada significantly increasing its financial contribution).

In relation to the New Frontiers in Research Fund budget allocated to international activities – €50 million for 5 years – how much of this budget is allocated to activities in the context of Horizon Europe?

The international stream of the New Frontiers in Research Fund is a co-funding mechanism with the EU, i.e. the full budget (€50 million over 5 years for international cooperation) is to be dedicated to Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe calls.

3.5. Breakout Sessions

During the breakout sessions, the attendees were divided into three groups and asked to consider the following topics:

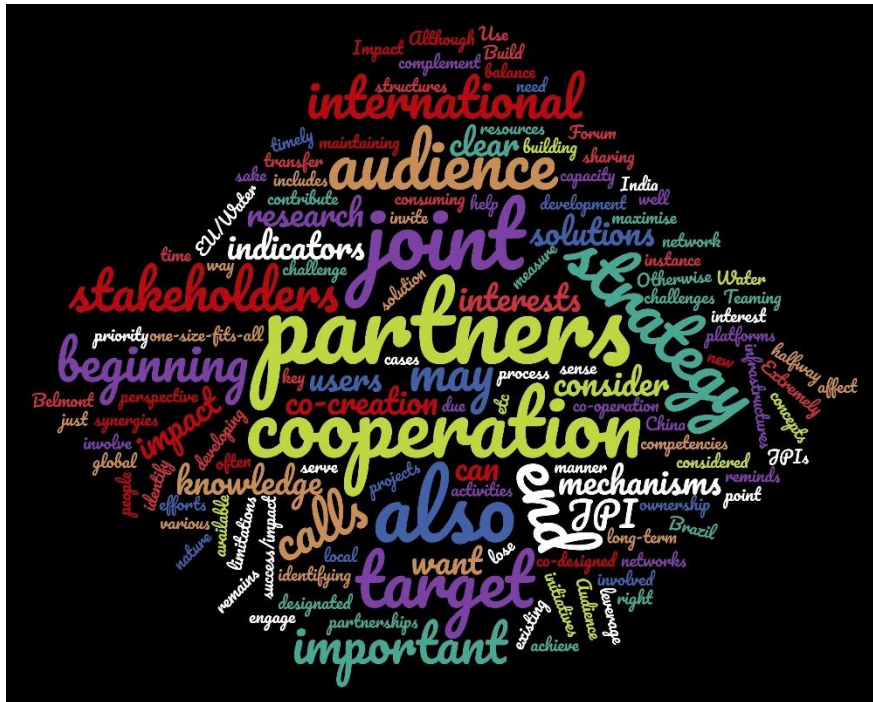
- the target audience for the proposed Water JPI Strategy on International Cooperation;
- the aims of the strategy;
- the structure of the strategy;
- proposed objectives.

The aim of these sessions was to collate the feedback and input from the attendees, especially those from outside the Water JPI community.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Moderator: Alice Wemaere, EPA	Moderator: Lisa Sheils, EPA	Moderator: Dominique Darmendrail, ANR
Rapporteur: Rui Munhá, Foundation for Science and Technology (Portugal)	Rapporteur: Osman Tikansak, Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development	Rapporteur: Laurence Carvalho, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
7 attendees	11 attendees	10 attendees

Target audience for the Water JPI Strategy on International Cooperation

- When identifying the target audience for the Water JPI Strategy on International Cooperation, **it is important to consider the available mechanisms of cooperation.** For instance, not all partners can be involved in joint transnational calls owing to various limitations. In such cases, mechanisms for joint actions other than joint calls should be considered to enable cooperation (e.g. knowledge transfer platforms, networking activities, joint research infrastructures, strategy development activities).
- **The partners, end-users and stakeholders should be identified from the beginning and involved in the process of creating the strategy.** This will enable a sense of ownership and may result in greater interest and buy-in.
- It is extremely important to **engage the right people in a timely manner.** The target audience should include those whom the Water JPI wants to affect through its international cooperation activities (i.e. impact should be taken into account).
- It is also important to **have in place clear indicators of success/impact from the beginning.** Most international cooperation structures have developed clear concepts of what they aim to achieve, but it often remains a challenge to measure their impact. **Impact indicators should be co-designed with the target audience and stakeholders from the beginning.** This will also help in maintaining a balance between the Water JPI's interests and the interests of its partners.
- The international cooperation should not only involve sharing existing knowledge and solutions but also contribute to the **co-creation of new solutions.** Although the challenges are global, they are also local in their nature. There is **no one-size-fits-all solution for international cooperation.**
- **Building capacity and competencies with a long-term cooperation perspective is time- and resource-consuming.** Therefore, building a network by identifying and complementing the actions of other joint initiatives will help to maximise/leverage efforts.
- **The European Commission is a key audience,** as are the countries covered by the priorities for international partnerships that the Commission and the Water JPI are developing (e.g. Brazil, China, India).
- **The target audience also includes other research networks, such as the Belmont Forum and other JPIs,** and it will be important that the strategy builds on commonalities and synergies.



Target Audience - Word Cloud

Citizens	End-users	Private sector	Research community / institutes
Governmental institutions	European Commission	International partners (e.g. Brazil, China, India)	Research networks
Belmont Forum	Other JPIs	UN Environment Programme	World Wildlife Fund
Gates Foundation	Global Environment Fund	Future Earth	World Health Organization

Target Audience – Key Messages

Aims of the Water JPI Strategy on International Cooperation

- The aims of the strategy should be **tailored to the different audiences**.
- The aims of the strategy are to **enable the Water JPI to become a facilitator** to act in the intersections and **promote linkages between sectors**.
- One of the essential questions when describing the aims of the strategy is '**Why do we need international cooperation in the first place?**' One honest answer is to claim a leadership position in the global research community, in a positive manner, by **inspiring, sharing and co-creating knowledge and solutions**.
- One of the aims of the strategy is to **address global challenges** that require global solutions.
- The aim of the strategy is to enable not just the leveraging of budget but also the **sharing of other resources**, such as local experience, knowledge, data, etc.
- **Identifying mechanisms for achieving international cooperation** should be considered a top priority. **The programmes and mechanisms best suited to the needs of audiences** should be targeted (e.g. mechanisms for funding organisations, non-governmental organisations, experts, etc.).
- **Leveraging partnership funding** and **creating top-ranked science** are aims of the strategy.
- The aims also include **delivering global and local impact**, as well as **developing research and innovation collaboration**.
- **It is important to be transparent about the strategy's aims**, i.e. is it more about **delivering impact** or **developing research and innovation?**
- A **balance** must be ensured between the need to act from a **global strategy/policy** perspective (UN SDGs) and the need for **local implementation** (where impacts are created).
- The aims of the strategy should take into account and be aligned with those of specific funds aimed at overseas development in a European/international context.



Aims - Word Cloud



Aims – Key Messages

Structure of the Water JPI Strategy on International Cooperation

- The strategy should **include a high-level vision** (about half a page) and be a short, high-level document.
- **The strategy should highlight three areas of engagement:**
 - **aligning national priorities for joint funding initiatives;**
 - **building networks of researchers and stakeholders and living labs; and**
 - **supporting impact through policymaking.**
- The structure **should be co-designed** with the target audience. The strategy should highlight the joint benefits of cooperation, recognising that **Europe has a lot to learn from partnerships with an equal-footing understanding.**
- The strategy should highlight joint challenges and focus on knowledge and technology transfer, as well as on innovation (in the context of living labs and regional funding).
- The strategy should also provide information regarding the proposed types of actions, going beyond joint calls, such as:
 - **leveraging** on ongoing projects;
 - **science diplomacy;**
 - **actions adapted** to regions/countries;
 - **knowledge transfer tools**, such as knowledge hubs and platforms.

However, with regard to that last point, the utility of existing tools may remain weak, as our understanding and expectations of these concepts may vary. Ultimately, knowledge transfer tools should serve to foster dialogue between the research community and practitioners. We can look for opportunities to develop and utilise new mechanisms of knowledge transfer. Integration of citizen science, living labs and demonstration facility approaches can be considered in developing new structures.

- **The strategy can help in making decisions on whether to pursue and agree common research frameworks.**
- The strategy should be **designed as a toolbox**, offering different instruments for cooperation with mutual benefits (i.e. encouraging international cooperation by enabling partners to identify how to participate without taking on an additional burden or adapting existing national strategies).

Proposed Objectives of the Water JPI Strategy on International Cooperation

- International cooperation is **a means to achieve the objectives of the overall Water JPI vision**, but it, in itself, also has some **specific needs/objectives (and impact criteria)**.
- There is a need to define **specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) key performance indicators**, and it will be important to link impacts, objectives and types of actions. These could be **target audience-specific**.
- The **intervention logic needs to be totally integrated** into the approach to achieving the JPI's objectives. There is a need to consider the tactical and operational objectives of internationalisation and to develop specific objectives/indicators to measure these.
- Objectives could include:
 - **Aligning the policy agendas** of partner institutions with global priorities and challenges. The UN SDGs provide an enabling framework for this alignment.
 - **Targeting regions or countries for cooperation**, by identifying “regional champions” at local level, with common issues, who can facilitate an understanding of real needs and channel the outcomes of the strategy.
 - **Engaging with stakeholders in the co-design** of the strategy from the beginning of the process to increase the sense of ownership.
 - **Participating on an equal footing at all levels** including priority definition, implementation, human resources allocated in actions, etc. An equal footing usually requires co-funding and equal prioritisation; this can be a problem outside of Europe, where there is less alignment. Indicators of an equal footing (i.e. of representation) need to be established at all levels.
 - **Developing specific tools:** the example of the Water JPI Water4SDGs Knowledge Hub was discussed, where specific deliverables are co-designed (not necessarily with equal funding, but with agreed priorities and objectives). Water4SDGs is seen as a key tool for sharing knowledge and delivering outputs that can deliver impact.
 - **Co-designing solutions** (avoiding the approach of transfer of knowledge from Europe to rest of world, often triggered by high-level policy to exploit intellectual property rights and economic opportunities globally).
 - **Reducing barriers to engagement and attracting new partners** (i.e. critical mass, an operational objective), with all country members devoting X% of resources to this objective.
 - **Establishing an unbroken chain** from creating new knowledge to incorporation into policy.

It was noted that one of the main challenges for an equal footing and for co-design is the requirement for co-funding. However, it was pointed out that an equal footing does require equal funding from national resources and that the key is to provide the resources to achieve the objectives.

4. Next Steps

The next steps towards the preparation of the Water JPI Strategy on International Cooperation were presented by Dominique Darmendrail, the Water JPI Coordinator. These include:

1. A review of the proposed draft common strategy principles based on:
 - outputs from previous stages (including the 18-month review process for launching the Water JPI vision 2030 and SRIA 2025);
 - outputs from other related IC4Water tasks.
2. Upcoming preparatory workshops:
 - a workshop on public–private partnership business models, which will aim to establish the basis for an action plan for possible public–private cooperation on RDI programming;
 - a workshop with the Water JPI members (October 2020), which will aim to discuss and progress the draft strategy;
 - a workshop with neighbouring countries (November 2020), which will aim to identify specific needs relating to international river basin conditions (water diplomacy).
3. Progressing discussions with the Belmont Forum investigating possible means/mechanisms for cooperation (ongoing).
4. Integrating inputs from all actions.
5. A final workshop (September 2021) with the Water JPI Governing Board members to discuss the proposed strategy.

The [Water JPI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda 2025](#) is the 5-year reference base, highlighting the range and direction of all Water JPI activities for that period, which will be delivered through the Water JPI Implementation Plan. The SRIA 2025 has been developed to guide future water-related RDI actions. It sets out specific research themes, sub-themes and priorities. These research priorities can then be considered by various stakeholders, such as researchers, regulatory agencies, policymakers, industry and the public. Four core themes will drive this agenda: (1) Ecosystems, (2) Health and Wellbeing, (3) Water Value and Usage and (4) Sustainable Water Management.

Identifying research gaps and topics, as well as means of implementation (e.g. joint actions, via calls or networks), will be prioritised and an agreed implementation plan developed, detailing joint actions. The Water JPI will act as a facilitator of cooperation between countries on water research, supporting European and international water and environmental policy by coordinating and funding research on existing and emerging problems to come up with feasible solutions.

Future success in addressing global problems will depend upon harnessing the spirit of cooperation/partnership to overcome barriers and this spirit of working collaboratively in a strategic way was one of the key take-home messages from this third workshop. In this context, the International cooperation component of the proposed Horizon Europe Water4All Partnership is very relevant.

Annex 1: Registration List⁵

Name	Organisation	Country
Alice Wemaere	Environmental Protection Agency	Ireland
Anders Brudevoll	JPI Oceans	Belgium
Andrea Rubini	Water Europe	Belgium
Anne J. Dobel	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	United Kingdom
Antonella Autino	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area	Spain
Antonio Lo Porto	Water Research Institute	Italy
Avelino Gonzalez	European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation	EC
Bjørn Kaare Jensen	Innovation Fund Denmark	Denmark
Bruno Tisserand	European Federation of National Associations of Water Services	France
Chrissie Brierley	Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development	Netherlands
Daniela Carmen Stoica	University of Korçë	Albania
Dominique Darmendrail	National Research Agency	France
Dorothy Stewart	Environmental Protection Agency	Ireland
Effie Amanatidou	University of Manchester	Greece
Elena García	State Research Agency	Spain
Emmanuel Pasco-Viel	Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation	France
Erica Key	Belmont Forum	Uruguay
Eve Külmallik	Ministry of Rural Affairs	Estonia
Frédéric Fournier	Mission of Canada to the European Union	Canada
Gaetano Casale	IHE Delft Institute for Water Education	Netherlands
Gonçalo Zagalo Pereira	Foundation for Science and Technology	Portugal

⁵ Attendees (who could be identified based on their MS Teams log-in) are highlighted in blue.

Name	Organisation	Country
Hannele Lahtinen	Academy of Finland	Finland
Heather McKhann	Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change	France
Ingunn Borlaug Lid	Research Council of Norway	Norway
Ivar Berthling	Research Council of Norway	Norway
Jacqueline Wood	UK Research and Innovation – Natural Environment Research Council	United Kingdom
Jolien Wenink	Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development	Netherlands
Karin Schmekel	Ministry for Education and Research	Sweden
Karoliina Koho	Baltic Organisations Network for Funding Science	Finland
Kata-Riina Valosaari	Academy of Finland	Finland
Kristina Laurell	Swedish Research Council	Sweden
Laura Marin	Swedish Research Council	Sweden
Laurence Carvalho	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	United Kingdom
Leonidas Antoniou	Research Promotion Foundation	Cyprus
Liis Siinor	Ministry of the Environment of Estonia	Estonia
Lisa Sheils	Environmental Protection Agency	Ireland
Madalena Antunes Pereira	Foundation for Science and Technology	Portugal
Mamohloding Tlhagale	Water Research Commission	South Africa
Maraym Shapouri	Research Council of Norway	Norway
Margit Noll	Austrian Research Promotion Agency	Austria
Maurice Heral	National Research Agency	France
Miguel A. Gilarranz	State Research Agency	Spain
Mohamed Naaim	National Institute of Agricultural Research	France
Olga Davidenco	National Agency for Research and Development	Moldova

Name	Organisation	Country
Omar Amawi	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area	Spain
Osman Tikansak	Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development	Sweden
Panos Balabanis	European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation	EC
Petra Zagar	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport	Slovenia
Prisca Haemers	Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management	Netherlands
Ralf König	Austrian Research Promotion Agency	Austria
Richard Andersson	Swedish Research Council	Sweden
Rui Munhá	Foundation for Science and Technology	Portugal
Sabine Sorge	Project Management Jülich	Germany
Salma Essawi	Academy of Scientific Research and Technology	Egypt
Sasha Koo-Oshima	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Italy
Silvia Baralla	Council for Agricultural Research and Economics	Italy
Susanne Meissner-Dragosits	Austrian Research Promotion Agency	Austria
Teppo Vehanen	European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission	Finland
Thorsten Kiefer	JPI Oceans	Belgium
Tyani Chauke	Water Research Commission	South Africa
Ulku Yetis	Middle East Technical University	Turkey
Vinny Pillay	Department of Science and Technology	South Africa
Viorica Boaghi	National Agency for Research and Development	Moldova

Annex 2: Programme



2020 Water JPI Workshop on International Cooperation Towards a Strategy on International Cooperation

Date: Tuesday 26th May 2020 – 9.30am to 3pm - All times are CET (i.e. Brussels Time)

Programme

Plenary Session (morning)

Link to Meeting Room: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

9.30am: Welcome & Ground Rules

9.40am: Plenary Session – Setting the Scene

- **Introduction:** *How will the outputs from the workshop feed in the process of preparing the Strategy*
- **Keynote Presentations**
 - Water4All Partnership (International Cooperation context)
 - Impact Assessment and Indicators

10.30am – 10.45am: Break

10.45am: Examples of International Cooperation Strategies

- *JPI Oceans*
- *Smart Cities / Urban Europe JPI*

11.15am: Opportunities for Cooperation (non-EU initiatives / networks)

- *Cooperation with BELMONT Forum*
- *Cooperation with South Africa*
- *Cooperation with Canada*

12pm – 1pm: Lunch Break

Breakout Groups

Links to Breakout Meeting Rooms:

Breakout Group-1: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Breakout Group-2: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Breakout Group-3: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

1pm: Interactive “Table” Discussions (Breakout Groups)

- Questions:
 - Target Audience of the Strategy
 - Aims of the Strategy
 - Structure of the proposed Common Strategy
 - Proposed Objectives

2.15pm – 2.30pm: Break

Plenary Session (afternoon)

Link to Meeting Room: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

2.30pm: Rapporteurs Feedback and Discussion

2.50pm: Wrap-Up (Water JPI)

Annex 3: High-Level Strategy Structure

Water JPI International Cooperation Strategy

c. 20-page short high-level document

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Water JPI
- 1.2 Water JPI International Cooperation to-date

2. Why is International Cooperation required? Benefits

e.g. Global Challenges, UN SDGs

3. How?

- 3.1 Type of Actions

e.g. Joint Transnational Calls, Networks of researchers, Joint strategic activities, Knowledge Hub

- 3.2 Implementation Modes

International partner considered as 1 in a consortium or Separate funding streams, e.g. EU-India, EU-China

4. With Whom?

- 4.1 Country by Country basis
- 4.2 Synergies with international research funder networks

Do we need selection criteria?

5. On What? Scope: Joint Challenges

Identifying common areas of our SRIA e.g. if possible mapping areas of our SRIA to regions in the world in terms of relevance? Mapping SRIA with SDGs

6. Learning from past Experiences

e.g. summarising outputs from previous discussions / workshops / Knowledge Hub process

7. Measuring Impact

e.g. linking with Impact Assessment activities and criteria