

Recommendation and support by the European Commission

In October 27, 2011, the European Commission issued a [Recommendation](#) about the WATER JPI. A decision of the European Council on this JPI was released in December 6, 2011. The Coordination and Support Action (CSA) WatEUR supporting the JPI with 2 M€ is being executed from January 2013 to December 2015. Two ERANET-Cofund actions named “WaterWorks2014” (ongoing) and “WaterWorks2015” (currently in proposal phase), within the frame of Horizon 2020, the EU Programme for Research and Innovation, will implement the activities of this joint programming initiative on water till 2021.

Coordinating efforts with Horizon 2020

During the definition of Horizon 2020 (on June 21st 2013) the Water JPI released the strategic document entitled “[Towards Partnership & Complementarities with Horizon 2020](#)”. This document mapped the areas of thematic synergies between Horizon 2020 and the Water JPI, and outlined the differences in conception and implementation. A proposal for partnering was issued. Among other actions, the Water JPI proposed cooperation in the implementation of the synergy areas regarding projects and networking.

The European Commission Communication 494 dated 10 July 2013 on public-private partnerships in the next EU strategy for research and innovation identified the channels of external advice for the development and the implementation of this ambitious programme. Among the relevant supporting structures European Technology Platforms, Joint Programming Initiatives and European innovation partnerships play an important role.

On June 16th 2014, the Water JPI [Position Paper](#) on Horizon 2020 [Societal Challenge 5](#) (Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials) identified ten RDI topics implementing synergies with the European Commission's actions for boosting European research and innovation and protecting environment. These topics were suggested for implementation within Horizon 2020.

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“Water Challenges for a Changing World”
Joint Programming Initiative

Fact Sheet

5th February 2015

Introduction

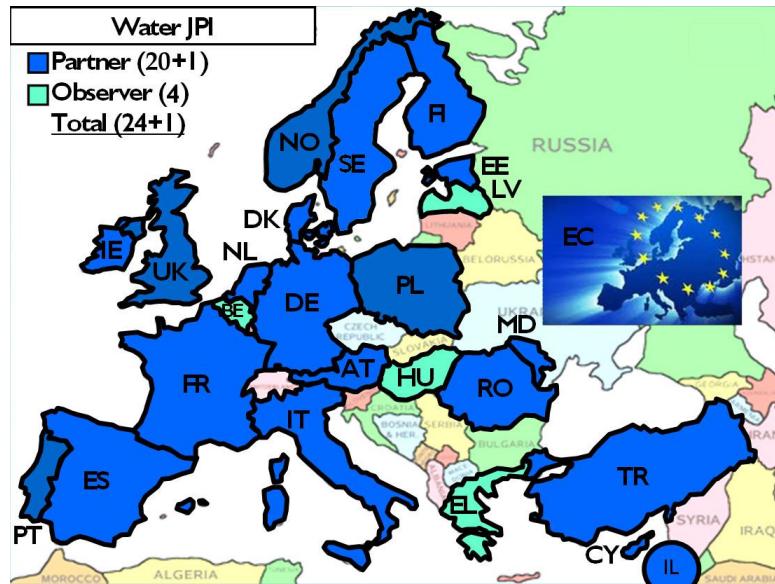
The Water JPI is one of the [ten](#) Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) identified on relevant societal challenges aiming at strengthening coordination and cooperation among EU Member States and Associated Countries in themes representing urgent and far-reaching problems to be better solved by joining efforts at European and international level. The Water JPI is harmonizing national Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) agendas and developing joint actions (projects, mobility and infrastructure) in the water sector. After a five years' leadership of the Spanish Ministry for Economy and Competitiveness [MINECO](#), the French National Agency for Research [ANR](#) is now leading this “*Water Challenges for a Changing World*” JPI, which is playing a critical role in building the [European Research Area](#) (ERA). The Water JPI has developed strong cooperation with [Horizon 2020](#) (the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation) and with the [EIP on Water](#) (European Innovation Partnership on water).

Water in Europe and the World

According to the [Strategic Research Agenda](#) of the [WssTP](#) (Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform), the European water sector has an annual turnover of 72,000 M€, sustains 600,000 jobs, manages a network of 5.7 M km, and operates 70,000 wastewater plants. There are 9,000 SMEs active in the water domain and annual European investments currently exceed 33 G € in this field. The water world market is growing each year and is estimated as one trillion US dollar by 2020 due to a compounding effect of failing infrastructures, urbanization, industry development and climate change.

Partnership

A total of twenty countries are partners of this intergovernmental initiative, while four additional countries play the role of observers. The European Commission is partner number twenty (acting as non-voting partner). Partner and Observer countries are distributed across the EU. Three Associated Countries are Partners of this JPI.



Governance

The Water JPI governance structure is based on a Governing Board, a Management Board and two Advisory Boards: the Scientific and Technological Board and the Stakeholder Advisory Group. The Governing and Management Boards are led by France with the support of Spain, Ireland and Italy. Dr. Damià Barceló (ICRA, CSIC) and Dr. Cees Buisman (WETSUS) lead the Scientific and Technological Board. The Water Supply and Sanitation Technological Platform and the Finnish Environmental Institute lead the Stakeholders Advisory Group.

A vision for Water Research, Development and Innovation

The [Vision Document](#) published in April 2011 presents the grand challenge of the Water JPI: "Achieving Sustainable Water Systems for a Sustainable Economy in Europe and Abroad". The document identifies specific challenges in the economic, ecological, societal and technological domains. The following objectives were set for 2020:

- Involving water end-users for effective RDI results uptake
- Attaining critical mass of research programmes;
- Reaching effective, sustainable coordination of European water RDI;
- Harmonising National water RDI agendas in Partner Countries;
- Harmonising National water RDI activities in Partner Countries; and
- Supporting European leadership in science and technology.

A Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)

The Water JPI launched its first SRIA on May 30th 2013, and released version 1.0 on June 30th 2014. The release of version 1.0 followed a comprehensive review of national RDI agendas, the strategic agendas of partnering initiatives, policy documents and foresight studies. A consultative stakeholder workshop provided further information on scientific and technological outputs, trends, gaps and priorities in the water RDI domain.

The Water JPI SRIA is structured around five core themes:

1. Maintaining Ecosystem Sustainability;
2. Developing Safe Water Systems for the Citizens;
3. Promoting Competitiveness in the Water Industry;
4. Implementing a Water-Wise Bio-Based Economy; and
5. Closing the Water Cycle Gap.

The [SRIA](#) focuses on tools and measures to provide effective solutions to key water challenges, thus contributing to promote societal wellbeing and to boost competitiveness and growth in the European water sector. A new updated version of the SRIA will be released at the end of the Coordination and Support Action [WatEUR](#).

An Implementation Plan for 2014-2016

The Water JPI [Implementation Plan](#) for the period 2014-2016 was adopted on October 2nd 2014. The Implementation Plan presents Water RDI priority themes to be implemented; permits to plan ahead to agreed joint activities; lists specific goals; and outlines the efforts to be deployed. It also informs policy makers, RDI programme owners and managers, Water RDI performers and society at large on how the water JPI will tackle water challenges in the period 2014-2016, being also a guide for researchers and innovators interested in participating in Water JPI activities. In particular, this document lays out plans to implement three Calls for proposals on Water RDI. Two of them will count on financial support from Horizon 2020.

A Pilot Call for proposals in Water RDI

Eleven Water RDI funding organisations from the Water JPI partnership launched a Pilot Call for proposals on November 2013. The aim was to set up multi-national, collaborative RDI projects addressing the topic "Emerging water contaminants – anthropogenic pollutants and pathogens". The total budget amounted to 9 M€. Following the evaluation of the received proposals performed by an international panel of experts, [seven transnational collaborative research projects](#) in the field of water quality were selected for funding. The projects have their kick-off meeting on 11th March 2015 and will last for about three years.

Upcoming Calls for proposals

- The Second Call for proposals of the Water JPI will be published on 2nd March 2015 on a topic related to: "Developing technological solutions and services for water distribution and measurement, waste water treatment and reuse, desalination, floods and droughts". The Call will count on a budget of 20 M€.
- The third Call for proposals of the Water JPI will be published in the first quarter of 2016 on a topic related to "Improving water use efficiency and reducing soil and water pollution for a sustainable agriculture".

Communication and dissemination

The Water JPI web page is located at: www.waterjpi.eu. This site is continuously updated to present the latest information on the Water JPI and its activities. A monthly [newsletter](#) is published to energise internal and external communication.