



“Water Challenges for a Changing World” Joint Programming Initiative

Fact Sheet - 5th May 2015

Introduction

The Water Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) is one of the [ten JPIs](#) identified by relevant societal challenges, which aim to strengthen coordination and cooperation among EU Member States and Associated Countries, in themes that represent urgent and far-reaching problems which are better solved by joining energies 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 five years of leadership by the [Spanish Ministry for Economy and Competitiveness \(MINECO\)](#), the [French National Agency for Research \(ANR\)](#) is now leading the “Water Challenges for a Changing World” JPI, and 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 [European Innovation Partnership \(EIP\) on Water](#).

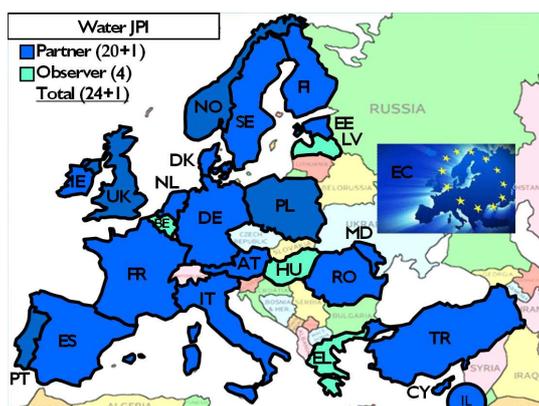
Water in Europe and the World

According to the [Strategic Research Agenda](#) of the [Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform \(WssTP\)](#), 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 to be one trillion US dollars by 2020, due to a compounding effect of failing infrastructures, urbanization, industry development and climate change.

Partnership

A total of nineteen countries are partners of this intergovernmental initiative; five additional countries play the role of observers, whilst the European Commission acts as an extra, non-voting partner. 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.

The Scientific and Technological Board is composed of prominent scientists, from any part of the world, who are expert in some aspect of water quantity and quality.

The Stakeholder Advisory group is made up of nominees from water industry, water users, non-governmental organisations and local or national authorities.

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 was followed by 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 the promotion of 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](#) after the public consultation which is open from 27 April to 24 May 2015 and a workshop for experts to be held in Autumn 2015 are completed.

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 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 and acts as a guide for researchers and innovators who are interested in participating in Water JPI activities.

In particular, this document lays out plans to implement three Calls for proposals on Water RDI, including two, which will be reliant 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 in 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 million.

Following the evaluation of the received proposals, which was performed by an international panel of experts, [seven transnational collaborative research projects](#) in the field of water quality were selected for funding.

The projects, which will run for about three years, had their kick-off meetings on 11th March 2015.

The second Call for Proposals

The Second Call for proposals of the Water JPI was 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 counts on a budget of €16 million plus €1 million as loan.

Upcoming Call for proposals

- 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*”.

Water JPI Coordinator Dominique DARMENDRAIL, PhD
 Agence Nationale de la Recherche
 n°50, avenue Daumesnil F-75012 Paris
 e-mail : dominique.darmendrail@agencerecherche.fr
 phone : + 33 1 78 09 80 68 | GSM + 33 6 20 75 09 25



JPI Secretariat
 Juliette Arabi
 Agence Nationale de la Recherche
 n°50, avenue Daumesnil F-75012 Paris
 e-mail : juliette.arabi@agencerecherche.fr
 phone: + 33 1 78 09 81 20

Communication & Media
 Elena Giusta
 Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)
 Via Vitaliano Brancati 60 00144 Roma
 e-mail : elena.giusta@isprambiente.it
 phone: +39 06 50074172

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 also published to energise internal and external communication.

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 million in funding, 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, will implement the activities of this JPI on water until 2021.

Coordinating efforts with Horizon 2020

During the definition of Horizon 2020 (on June 21st 2013) the Water JPI released the strategic document, “[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 also issued.

Amongst 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.

Joint Programming Initiatives and European innovation partnerships play an important role among the relevant supporting structures, such as the European Technology Platforms.

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 the environment. These topics were suggested for implementation within Horizon 2020.