



Water Challenges for a Changing World

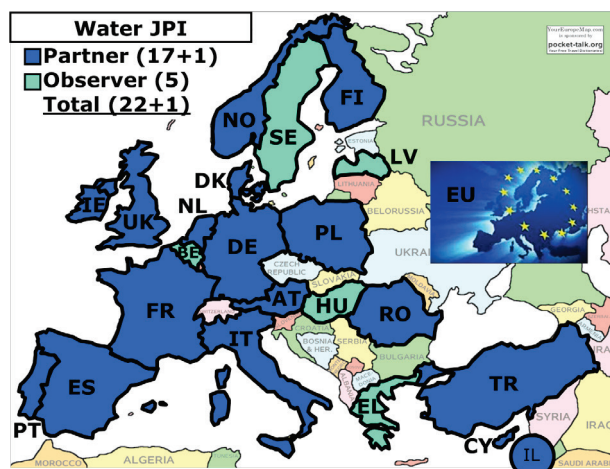
Fact Sheet

December 12, 2012

Joint Programming

In 2008 the European Commission presented a new policy: 'Towards joint programming in research' with the meaningful subtitle 'Working together to tackle common challenges more effectively'. They challenged countries to develop initiatives on joint programming with the purpose of increasing the efficiency and impact of national public funding in strategic areas. Joint programming targets public research programmes first and foremost, which means public-public cooperation in the direction of the definition and implementation of common research agendas with jointly agreed-upon multi-annual activities and funding mechanisms.

The JPI "Water challenges for a changing world" deals with research in the field of water and hydrological sciences. The availability of water in sufficient quantities and adequate quality is indeed a public issue of high priority and addresses a pan-European and global environmental challenge.



Partnership

The Initiative (the Water JPI) is led by Spain, as coordinator, and by The Netherlands, as co-coordinator.

A total of seventeen countries and the European Commission are partners of this initiative, while five additional countries play the role of observers.

Partner and Observer countries are distributed across the EU. Two Associated Countries are Partners of this JPI.

Reference Documents

The basic reference document to the JPI is the Vision document. This document presents the grand challenge and describes economic, ecological, societal and

technological challenges. Objectives address the need for increased coordination in European research, development and innovation (RDI), and address issues such as user participation, attaining targets in the coordinated use of funds and progress in the integration of RDI agendas and activities. The research questions are cast in five axes: the bio-based economy, sustainable ecosystems, healthier water systems for a healthier society, improving water use in the industry, and closing the water cycle gap.

Governance

A governance structure, based on the recommendations of the GPC, has been adopted and implemented. The structure is based on a Governing Board, an Executive Board, two Advisory Boards and a Secretariat. The JPI held its kick off meeting on September 19, 2010 in Brussels. The first meetings of the Executive and Governing Boards were held in Brussels in January 29 and April 14, 2011.

Endorsement by the European Commission

In May 4th 2011 we were informed by Commission Services that the EC had completed the maturity assessment of our JPI. The communication read: *“the Water JPI proposal has been found sufficiently mature against the criteria adopted by the Council. Accordingly, the EC has decided to start preparing a Commission Recommendation concerning this JPI for EC adoption no later than the fourth quarter of 2011”*. A call for a Coordination and Support Action on the Water JPI was published on January 2012. The WatEUr proposal, prepared by the Water JPI was successfully evaluated and is bound to start on January 1st, 2013. The duration of this project is 36 months.

The web page

The Water JPI web page has been in operation since July 2012 at: www.waterjpi.eu. This site is continuously updated to present the latest information on the Water JPI and its activities.

Newsletters

Twenty-two monthly newsletters have been published to energise internal communication. You can download all these documents at the Webpage:

- All Newsletters
- The Vision Document
- List of Partners and Country representatives
- List of Members of the Advisory Boards
- A Water JPI dossier and a Maturity template
- A position paper on the European Innovation Partnership on Water

Contact

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(Photo “La Sarda”, courtesy of Julio Abad, 2009)