

Editorial

It was great to be part of the European and international water community which gathered in Madrid for the official launching of the Water JPI, the kick-off of the Coordination and Support Action WatEUR and the meetings of the Executive Board, and the Scientific and Technical Board, and the Stakeholders Advisory Board. Mrs. Carmen Vela, the charming Spanish Secretary of State of Research, Development and Innovation (dressed totally in black in the front line) welcomed all the participants coming from more than 20 different countries. Representatives of the European Commission (Director Andrea Tilche and Officer Michel Schouppe), and the high-profile members of the research institutions of Spain, Netherlands and Portugal addressed the audience composed of more than 100 people. Key note speeches on water research issues were presented by Damià Barceló and Cees Buisman, president and vice-president of the Water JPI Scientific and Technical Board. Key speeches were also presented by Tomás Michel, chairman of the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform, and by Seppo Rekolainen, Finnish Environmental Institute. These institutions hold the presidency and vice-presidency of the Stakeholders Advisory Board, respectively.



The two days spent in Madrid were demanding, but they represent a significant milestone in our international cooperation in this major societal challenge related to sustainable water systems in Europe and abroad. We discussed in detail the progress already achieved and the steps to be taken during the following weeks and months. We were pleased to meet colleagues from the new partner countries and other institutions acting as observers. Thanks are due to the Spanish coordination team for the perfect organisation of the workshops and to Aqualogy which sponsored our cultural event in the museum El Prado. The visit was quick, but really impressive.

NEXT JPI GOVERNING BOARD

The fifth Executive Board of the Water JPI held in Madrid on the 6th February confirmed the date for the Third Governing Board: May 14, 2013. The meeting will be hosted by our Danish partner in Copenhagen.



One of the agenda items is the election of the President and Vice-president of the Governing Board. Nominations must be sent to the Water JPI coordinator.

EXPERTS FOR HORIZON 2020

The call for expressions of interest to participate in the Advisory Groups for the agenda of Horizon 2020 covering the "societal challenges" and other specific objectives of the next EU programme for research and innovation is open till 6 March 2013 at 17.00, Brussels local time.

Individuals in their personal professional capacity or representatives of organisations and collective interest groups can express their interest in providing advice for the preparation of Horizon 2020 call for project proposals. Expertise in water topics can be offered within challenge 2 "*Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy*" and – particularly – within challenge 5 "*Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials*". For more information see the webpage of [horizon2020](#)

THE LIFE BLUEPRINT

The latest LIFE Focus publication highlights the relevance of LIFE Environment project actions in helping to implement EU water policy. As its title suggests, the LIFE Blueprint for water resources is a practical companion piece to the recent European Commission Communication, 'The Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources'.



This document also serves as an introduction to the policy agenda and as an overview of LIFE's role with regards to Europe's water resources. The LIFE Focus [publication](#) takes an in-depth look at projects targeting five key areas, each of which ties in with the recommendations of the 'Water Blueprint', namely water quality and quantity; water-related green infrastructure; increasing water efficiency; water re-use; and management tools for effective water use. Featuring more than 100 projects in total, there is a host of practical examples of ways in which water-related policy can be implemented, not only to achieve the desired environmental goals, but also to provide added social and economic value across the EU.

THE EUROPEAN PORTAL ON RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

This database available [here](#) provides access to information on a number of major research infrastructures belonging to the EU and associated countries in all fields of science, and allows updates on the already existing data covering facilities, resources and services used by the scientific community in their fields of interest. Information on water research infrastructures needs integration and updating.

EU UNITARY PATENT RULES APPROVED

The new patent regime approved by the [europarliment](#) will be cheaper and more effective in protecting the inventions of individuals and firms. Any inventor will be able to apply to the European Patent Organization for an EU unitary patent valid in all 25 EU member states taking part in the so-called "EU patent package". The related international agreement will enter into force on 1 January 2014.

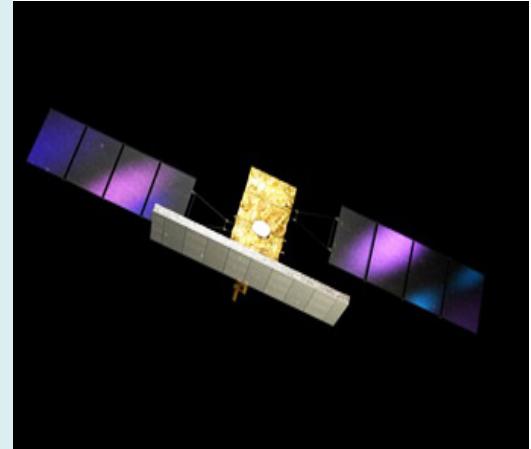
THE EUROPEAN ECO-INNOVATORS MAP

A first overview of the Call 2012 CIP Eco-Innovation is presented [here](#) through a map which illustrates the geographical distribution of the 916 participants from 31 countries. 284 proposals have been submitted for a total funding request of 196 M€. 14% of these proposals concern the water sector, doubling the 7% value of the previous call CIP Eco-Innovation launched in 2011.

FLOOD ANALYSIS USING SATELLITE DATA

Demand for crisis information on natural disasters like severe flood events has increased substantially during recent years worldwide. Simultaneously, a rising awareness of the availability of satellite information has lead to an increase in requesting the corresponding mapping services. Because of their specific illumination and their all weather capabilities Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors are optimally suited for providing reliable information on extensive floods, which usually occur under rainy or at least cloudy conditions. Flood information is needed as quickly as possible to provide an overview of the situation and to improve the crisis management and response activities.

In the paper available [here](#) an overview of the use of SAR for flood mapping is outlined. Initial experiences in using the very high resolution satellite system of SAR Cosmo SkyMed, as well as key processing elements and some of the important analysis techniques used for the extraction of flood information, are presented.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**WATER INDUSTRY TO SOLVE WATER SCARCITY PROBLEMS**

An interesting article available [here](#) provides updated information on the global water market estimated at 316 billion US dollars in which Spain has a relevant position which dates back to the 1970s when the Spanish government and large infrastructure companies invested in early osmosis desalination technologies to supply "new" fresh water. Population growth, urbanisation, agriculture and climate change will have an increasing impact on the availability of fresh water resources in the world and make more urgent the global need for water-treatment technologies. Innovation is also required to make them more cost-effective and accessible in areas of the world with the greatest potable water needs.

OPPORTUNITIES

ACQUEAU CALL 2013-2014

The EUREKA cluster for growth and innovation in water [acqueau](#) will accept an outline proposal submission at any time and on any research innovation topic within the context of the water cycle. A workshop to analyse the water priorities for funding is organized in Brussels on 19 February 2013.



CALL OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

The European Research Council is the first pan-European funding organisation for frontier research. The new [erc](#) funding initiative, called "Proof of Concept" is open to researchers who have already been awarded an ERC grant. The total budget available is 10 M€. The intermediate deadline is fixed for 24 April 2013 at 17:00 Brussels local time.

EURAMETCALL

The European Association of National Metrology Institutes has launched a call addressing the topic areas Metrology for Energy, and Metrology for Environment focusing also on contamination of water. Details can be found on the dedicated call webpage: www.emrponline.eu/call2013

VACANCY IN THE EWP

The European Water Partnership is offering an [internship](#) to assist communication managers for the activities planned for 2013. Closing date for applications: 27th February 2013

CALL OF FACCE-JPI

[FACCE -JPI launches an international call on mitigation](#): it is an intergovernmental initiative of 21 EU member States and associated countries regarding the global challenges of agriculture, food security and climate change.



UPCOMING EVENTS

WORKSHOP ON EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

This event organised by the Research Infrastructures Unit of DG RTD of the European Commission will be held in Brussels, [19-20-March-2013](#). Its overall objective is to develop synergies between ESFRI research infrastructures, integrated projects and joint programming initiatives relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem research.

COST AND WSSTP EVENT

A 3-day event organized by the COST programme and the European water platform in Brussels from 16th-18th April 2013 will provide innovative solutions to water-related challenges in the urban context and contribute to the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership on water. For more information link at [wie2013](#).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER ECONOMICS

This [IWA](#) event is organised as a platform to exchange scientific and professional experiences between academics and practical water managers on water economics, statistics and finance. It will be held in Marbella from 24-26 April 2013.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF RIVER BASIN AUTHORITIES

The international network of basin organisations [INBO](#) will gather for the 9th world general assembly in Fortaleza (Brazil) from 13 to 16 August 2013 and will focus on the adaptation to the effects of climate change and prevention of floods and droughts, management of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers, in addition to financing of water management.

COMPUTING AND CONTROL FOR THE WATER INDUSTRY

This is the title of the international conference which will be held in Perugia (Italy) from 2-4 September 2013 and will focus on information for water systems and smart cities. Abstracts can be sent till next 28th February. For more information see the link [ccwi2013](#).



THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE
[waterjpi WEBPAGE](#)

