

## PROGRESSION WATER JPI

**2017 WATER JPI ALIGNMENT WORKSHOP, 4 APRIL 2017 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN**

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## DROPLETS

**SCIENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

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## OPPORTUNITIES

**WSSTP AWARD 2017, 14 MAY 2017**

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## events

**FOURTH MEETING OF THE EU WATER JPI PROJECT "FRAME". ROME 27- 28 NOVEMBER 2017**

A technical meeting between FRAME (A novel Framework to Assess and Manage contaminants of Emerging concern in indirect potable reuse)

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## PROGRESSION WATER JPI

## 2017 WATER JPI ALIGNMENT WORKSHOP, 4 APRIL 2017 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

The third alignment workshop focused on understanding what [alignment](#) means, planning how to progress alignment using the Thematic Annual Programming instrument and also exploring how Mirror Groups can help to progress alignment nationally. There were 29 attendees at the event.

The objectives of the 2017 alignment workshop were to:

- share good practices,
- exchange views on specific alignment instruments,
- identify the current situation & goals/targets regarding alignment,
- progress case study 1 “Identification of RDI needs/discussion of mechanisms for TAP”,
- progress case study 2 “Review of findings from the 2nd case study”.

The presentations of the workshop are online.

## WATER JPI GOVERNING BOARD MEETING 10TH, 5 APRIL 2017

The 10th Water JPI governing board meeting was hosted by the Swedish Research Council Formas, and took place at the Stockholm city conference centre, Stockholm, Sweden. The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss and agree on the sustainability of the coordination and secretariat team, and to agree on the amendments of the Water JPI terms of reference and procedures for the Water JPI advisory boards renewal in

march 2018. Ingrid Petersson, Director General at Formas, opened the meeting and gave an introduction about Formas commitment in research for the implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ([UN SDGs](#)). Discussions with our invitee, Panagiotis Balabanis from the Directorate General on Research & Innovation, fostered exchanges of views with the European Commission on the Work Programme 2018-2020.

## KICK-OFF MEETING OF THE WATERWORKS2015 FUNDED PROJECTS , 6 APRIL 2017 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

21 funded projects under the [2016 joint transnational call](#) presented their objectives and expected outputs in Stockholm (Sweden) on the 6th April 2017, with a focus on sustainable management of water resources in agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture sectors by at least one of the following three sub themes:

- challenge 1: increasing the efficiency and resilience of water uses,
- challenge 2: monitoring and reducing soil and water pollution,
- challenge 3: integrating social and economic dimensions into the sustainable management and governance of water resources

The 21 projects are scientifically excellent projects, covering a wide range of disciplines (from social and economic sciences to nature sciences), and addressing a range of societal challenges related to water and agriculture. This joint call is the result of a collaboration between the Water JPI and the [FACCE JPI](#).



The event gathered around 90 people from funding agencies and funded projects.

On the Water JPI website is available the [online booklet](#) of the funded projects, created in collaboration with the coordinators and the contact points of communication and dissemination activities. The booklet gives access a wide range of information for each funded project.

## WATER JPI INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WORKSHOP, 26-27 APRIL 2017 MONTRÉAL, CANADA

In collaboration with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada ([NSERC](#)), the Water JPI organised last month a one and half day workshop on “RDI international cooperation development for tackling global water challenges” in Canada. The event gathered delegates representing key American research funding agencies in the water sector from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, and USA, as well as International Institutions, such as the [Belmont](#)

[Forum](#), the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) and [Future Earth](#).

The aims of the workshop were to i) continuing the discussions with the countries already contacted under the [previous activities](#) of the Water JPI in order to develop long term partnerships, and ii) developing cooperation with existing international initiatives. The objective was also to identify possible cooperation models with funding agencies/programme owners for jointly tackling global challenges through common innovative solutions and developing enabling technologies by accessing new sources of knowledge. More information on the workshop will be soon available on our website.



## REPRESENTATION OF THE WATER JPI AT THE NOUVELLE AQUITAINE WORKSHOP, 7 FEBRUARY 2017 LIMOGES, FRANCE

The University of Limoges and Office International de l'Eau ([OIEau](#)) invited the regional water research centers, training institutions and innovation transfer bodies for a 1 day workshop on February 7, to discuss how they could support the development and implementation of a regional water policy. The scientific community will now play a key role in the participatory process recently launched by the region to review its water policy.

Dominique Darmendrail, the Water JPI coordinator, presented the water-related research programs at national and European levels, and how research-training-transfer initiatives could support regional development, while benefiting from those supra-regional programs.

## WATERWORKS2015 WORKSHOP: COMMON VISION AND ADAPTING THE STRATEGIES OF THE WATER AND FACCE JPIS

A one-day Workshop at the 21st June 2017 in Bonn, Germany.

The workshop has the aim to form a working group, consisting of experts both from Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE) and from Water JPI in charge to develop a framework and an action plan and to develop the common vision of the two JPIS. After a brief introduction of the two JPIS, the experts will



discuss in four different sections dedicated to the following issues: the JPI vision and SRIAs of both JPIS, the commonalities and differences, possible synergy activities and shared strategies. The last section is dedicated to the common vision: identified key messages, targets, time line and processes.

# DROPLETS

## SCIENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Natural water-retention measures, which ‘keep the rain where it falls’, have great potential to be used as part of flood-risk management plans. But their benefits for downstream urban areas can bring costs to the upstream agricultural areas where they are installed, a recent analysis explains. The researchers behind this analysis suggest that we need new and/or improved policies and institutions to oversee the trade-offs and benefits for agriculture and flood management, and a better scientific understanding of the measures’ likely impact on urban flood risk. The analysis, conducted by academics in Sweden, draws on various studies to discuss the many benefits of natural water-retention measures and how to encourage their uptake. Floods, which have caused annual economic losses of €4 900 million in Europe, are a serious problem. Natural water-retention measures could play an important role in managing floods, the researchers say, and help meet the goals of the EU’s [Floods Directive](#) and [Water Framework Directive](#). These nature-based solutions store rainfall and allow it to evaporate back into the atmosphere to help prevent water flowing into urban areas, where it can cause the greatest damage.

## EU-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR FOOD AND WATER PROJECTS: COREPER APPROVES THE “PRIMA” INITIATIVE

The EU will help to develop water provision

and agro-food projects in the Mediterranean region under a new Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area ([PRIMA](#)). The PRIMA initiative will pool the know-how and financial resources of the EU and participating states. The partnership currently involves eleven EU member states: Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Slovenia; and eight non-EU countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. The EU’s participation will include a contribution of €220 million from [Horizon 2020](#), the Framework Programme for research and innovation. The participation to PRIMA will remain open to any other EU member state, as well as to third countries provided they fulfill the conditions for participating in PRIMA. “The PRIMA partnership will help improve the health and livelihoods of those living in the Mediterranean region. It is also expected to encourage economic growth and stability in the longer-term”, said Chris Agius, the Maltese parliamentary secretary, on the day of the agreement. PRIMA is expected to be operational in early 2018, after the formal adoption of the decision by the European Parliament and the Council in the coming months.

It is also available the [Public Survey](#) until 31 May and the [SRIA](#).

## OUTCOMES FROM WSSTP WORKSHOP IN BRUSSELS

On 20 April, the [WssTP](#) and [SusChem European Technology Platforms](#) jointly hosted a successful and well-attended [workshop](#) on ‘Industry water: from single use to integrated management’ in Brussels. The workshop succeeded in gathering challenges and perspectives on the management of smart industrial water reuse and featured

contributions from the European Commission and the sector made by both “problem owners” and “solution providers”, and with a final insight on the holistic and systemic structure (Smart Governance and Digital Water) which addressed the challenges for discovering and exploiting the true value of water, as highlighted in the [WssTP vision document](#).

## EEA REPORT RIVERS AND LAKES IN EUROPEAN CITIES

European Environment Agency



Most European cities have at least one river or lake crossing their urban landscape. Urbanization has come at a cost to rivers and lakes, as they have been heavily degraded to enable development, carry waste, supply drinking water and facilitate transport and industry.

The report describes water management issues related to rivers and lakes and outline the ways in which European cities develop strategies and measures to cope with the key challenges they currently face in relation to their inland surface waters. The report uses 17 case studies on urban river and lake restoration to illustrate important aspects on urban and water management. Finally, the report draws some important lessons learned from the case studies reviewed and frames some key contextual issues that are potentially relevant to different urban settings across Europe.

## URBAN WATER ATLAS FOR EUROPE – A 360° VIEW OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN CITIES

On 27 April 2017, the European Commission

published the [Urban Water Atlas for Europe](#). The publication – the first of its kind – shows how different water management choices, as well as other factors such as waste management, climate change and even our food preferences, affect the long-term sustainability of water use in our cities. The new atlas illustrates the role of water in European cities and informs citizens as well as local authorities and experts about good practices and cutting-edge developments that can contribute to ensuring that water is used more efficiently and sustainably, helping to save this valuable resource. It also attempts to change traditional perceptions of water being a free and infinite resource, and to encourage conservation. Detailed factsheets in the [Urban Water Atlas for Europe](#) present the state of water management in more than 40 European cities and regions together with a number of overseas examples.

## GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE: KEY CHALLENGES IN APPLYING THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION *FINAL KEY PROJECT DOCUMENTS*

The recent Global Framework for Action on Groundwater Governance ([GEF](#)) is based on extensive international consultation and a comprehensive global diagnostic, and provides a systematic framework for strengthening the governance of groundwater resources and subsurface space (FAO [2015b](#)). The importance of understanding the local context (hydrogeological setting, level of development, socioeconomic situation, political leadership and macro-economic objectives) is emphasised from the outset and the five principal facets of the process are introduced in the following sections.

The final versions of the Groundwater Governance [‘Shared Global Vision for 2030’](#), [‘Global Framework for Action’](#), [‘Global Diagnostic’](#) and [‘Thematic Papers on Groundwater Governance’](#) are available to download.

## [EEA REPORT EUROPEAN BATHING WATER QUALITY IN 2016](#)

Every summer, European holiday resorts fill up with tourists eager to enjoy the warmer weather and the beautiful natural surroundings of this diverse continent. For many, the summer vacation is synonymous with swimming in the

sea or in a lake, so it is natural that water quality is an important factor in choosing a destination.

To help citizens make informed choices, the European Environment Agency ([EEA](#)) and the European Commission publish the annual European bathing water quality report. The information contained in this edition - which covers bathing water quality in 2016 in the EU Member States, Albania and Switzerland - indicates where good quality bathing water is likely to be found in 2017.

The report shows that more than 85% of bathing water sites monitored across Europe in 2016 met the most stringent ‘excellent’ quality standards, meaning they were mostly free from pollutants harmful to human health and the environment.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### WSSTP AWARD 2017, 14 MAY 2017

WssTP has launched its annual prestigious [awards](#) that aim to support the implementation of the WssTP Water Vision “the value of water: towards a futureproof model for a European water-smart society”, by raising the visibility of new innovative water-related approaches, solutions, and technologies with high market or high value application potential.

The four prizes are:

- SMEs prize - open to SMEs that are innovative both in terms of the solutions and the technologies they create and the way they market themselves and/or their solutions;
- water technology & infrastructure prize - open to innovative technologies related to all aspects of the water cycle;
- digital water prize - open to any solutions providing digital value to water;
- water governance prize - open to proven successful governance solutions.

### [MOROCCO: TWO NEW FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS TO SUPPORT NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR LIQUID SANITATION](#)

The National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water ([ONEE](#)) of Morocco signed two financing agreements for the funding of the second phase of the National Liquid Sanitation Programme: a loan of more than EUR 34 million with the European Investment Bank ([EIB](#)), and a grant

Of EUR 8 million with the Agence Française de Développement ([AFD](#)) in Morocco, with funds from an EU grant to be managed by the AFD.

### [A2 MILLION HORIZON PRIZE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL WATER CONTROL](#)

Water is a scarce and extremely valuable resource. Therefore it is crucial to develop more sustainable and efficient water technologies by driving efficiency, reducing emissions and boosting resilience. Moreover, renewable resources could minimize production costs, reduce pollution and ensure their availability for future generations.

In order to tackle these challenges, the European Commission launched the [Zero Power Water Monitoring Horizon Prize](#). This is the fourth [ICT-based Horizon Prize](#) and it will be awarded to the best solution that will succeed putting together wireless sensors using harvesting technologies and demonstrate the positive impact of using self-powered energy in acquiring, monitoring, communicating and analysing information about water resources.

The € 2million cash award will go to any entity (innovators, SMEs and non-profit organisations acting alone or together with other entities) that will come up with a breakthrough solution able to boost the use of self-powered energy in smart water management system. All the proposals have to fulfil the three cumulative award criteria: positive impact, reliability and innovative design. The proposed concepts should also increase the efficiency of existing and new monitoring parameters.



By accelerating clean energy innovation in the ICT water sector, it will increase sustainable competitiveness that will contribute to the transition to a low carbon, secure and competitive economy. Wiser use of energy in the efficient management of efficient water resources is both a spur for new jobs and growth and an investment in Europe's future.

## CALL FOR PAPERS ERANET CALL FOR PROJECT IDEAS, 7 JUNE 2017

The ERA-NET Co-fund [GeoERA](#) is aiming to support the establishment of the "European Geological Surveys Research Area" to deliver a Geological Service for Europe. The main objective of GeoERA is to contribute to the optimal use and management of the subsurface, by maximising its added value for energy, raw materials, and groundwater, while minimizing environmental impacts and footprint. Therefore, GeoERA will fund projects that support a more integrated and efficient management, and more responsible and publicly accepted exploitation and use of the subsurface. [Call for project ideas](#) of GEOERA is now open to all stakeholders.

## WATER SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGES, COLOGNE, GERMANY 1 -21 SEPTEMBER 2017

The call for paper related to [Water Security and Climate Changes](#) is open. The conference will take place in Cologne on September 18. Achieving water security is one of the major challenges faced by society on both a global and local level, as it is essential to promote economic and social development as well as resources sustainability.

Recent global agreements such as the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the [Paris Agreement](#) on climate change and the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) relate substantially to questions of water security. The deadline is on May 31, 2017.

## 1ST EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATION, 22- 25 NOVEMBER 2017, SOUSSE, TUNISIA

The [EMCEI 2017](#) is dedicated to the knowledge-sharing among researcher in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The conference aims to gather high-quality, original research papers for publication after peer review in topical collections (special issues) of Euro-Mediterranean Journal for Environmental Integration and some other "Springer" journals on various multidisciplinary topics linked to the evolution and development of the Euro-Mediterranean environment-past, present, and future (see Special Issues). The main objective of the conference is to support research and innovation, promote the exchange of scientific knowledge, and foster collaboration among Euro-Mediterranean communities.

## [9TH WORLD AQUA CONGRESS](#) , OCTOBER 23- 24, 2017 DUBAI, UAE

9th World Aqua Congress, will be organized around the theme "To Explore the recent trends in Aquaculture". Aqua 2017 is comprised of keynote and speakers sessions on latest cutting edge research designed to offer comprehensive global discussions that address current issues in Aqua 2017.

## EVENTS

### FOURTH MEETING OF THE EU WATER JPI PROJECT "FRAME". NEXT MEETING ROME 27- 28 NOVEMBER 2017

A technical meeting between [FRAME](#) (A novel Framework to Assess and Manage contaminants of Emerging concern in indirect potable reuse) project partners took place at the Technical University of Munich on 27-28th April, 2017.

Next FRAME consortium and stakeholder meeting will be in Rome (ISS, National Institute of Health), 27 to 28 November 2017.

### [WATER INNOVATION EUROPE 2017, 14-15 JUNE 2017, BRUSSELS](#)

Water is critical for our economy, food security, environment, and the well-being of our citizens. Water scarcity, pollution of our fresh water sources, and the effects of more frequent and intense floods and droughts can have severe economic impacts. To prevent these risks, investments in water infrastructure, in technologies for water-efficiency in industrial and agricultural sectors, and in the restoration and maintenance of well-functioning natural water systems are necessary. The [2017 edition](#) of Water Innovation Europe conference will showcase that pro-actively addressing these water challenges can create and secure jobs and strong investment and market opportunities within and outside Europe.

### COST CONNECT: WATER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA, BRUSSEL, BELGIUM 28 JUNE 2017

The [event](#) aims to increase awareness on the different relevant funding opportunities in the field and how to access them. Participants will decide on the issues to discuss, such as emerging S&T topics in the field, identifying potential future research cooperation.

Water for food and agriculture is an important topic and COST supports more than 20 Actions in this area. Furthermore, European stakeholders intensively discuss the issue with a strong focus on the Mediterranean area. [COST](#) aims to provide networking opportunities to structure this important field, to link the active researchers with policy stakeholders and thus connect the dots in the European Research Area.