

NEWSLETTER

*“Glory is like a circle in the water,
Which never ceaseth to enlarge itself,
Till by broad spreading it disperses to naught.”*

Issue # 3

January 1st, 2011

EDITORIAL

The year has gone and it is time to start thinking about 2011. In this New Year we need to get busy to complete a number of ongoing tasks and to take on board new and challenging ones. The firm foundations we built last year will be the basis for solid, sustainable growth in 2011.

According to the planning adopted at the [Kick Off](#), this year will see the first meetings of the Executive Board (EB), the Governing Board (GB), the Scientific and Technological Board (STB) and the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG). In addition, the Vision Paper, the [Framework Conditions](#) and the Strategic Research Agenda will be adopted at the end of 2011.



Support from the European Commission will be decisive, particularly in the current economic context. We expect to have the chance this year to prepare a proposal for a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) in the Framework Programme. Four JPIs have already gone beyond this point.

We all know how difficult it is in these days to obtain additional funding for research. This is why actions like the JPI – aimed at multiplying the return of the existing national funds through international cooperation – are particularly necessary today. We respond to this need from the water perspective.

JPI TASK FORCES PROGRESSING

All four Task Forces have been making significant progress in the last month.

The Vision Document and Terms of Reference (Led by **Hans**)

A second draft is being prepared by the TF leadership to be discussed during January. A short, clear, appealing document is being sought, and progress is showing!



Mapping Water Research (Led by **Alice**)

A simple on-line [Survey](#) on European water research funding bodies was launched in November 29th to be completed by Partner Countries by December 17th. A total of **26 surveys were received from eight countries**. In view of the insufficient turnout, the **deadline was extended to January 10th**.

It is extremely important that this survey is completed by all partner countries, and there is still plenty of time to do it. Data included in the survey will support JPI implementation in a number of ways:

- This information is of primary importance to present National Water Research in major JPI documents and at the CSA proposal.
- Quantitative survey information will be used to present an estimated figure for

water research funding in the ERA. Crude estimates based on GDP and general RTD investment will be produced for countries not completing the survey.

A qualitative, in-depth survey will be released and completed in the upcoming months.

The Advisory Board

(Led by **Giuseppina**)

Prospective members of the STB and the SAG proposed by Partner Countries were collected by the TF till December 17th. By that date, eight countries had proposed **20 STB** members and six countries had proposed **10 SAG** members. Due to the request of some partner countries, the deadline was extended till December 31st.

In the first half of January, a summary on the candidatures received will be prepared and a proposal on the selection procedure and establishment of the Advisory Board will be developed. Both the summary and the proposal will be presented and discussed at the January EB meeting in Brussels.

The Strategic Research Agenda

Thematic Analysis

(Led by **Manfred**)

This TF is analysing the outcome of previous European Priority Setting exercises for water, and collecting similar National Exercises. Progress will be accelerated by the enlargement of the CY team last month.

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

COMMITTING TO THE JPI

A draft [Letter of Intent](#) (LoI) has been circulated to all partners. It is currently being adapted to the specificities of each water research funding body. Signed copies of the LoI have already been received by the Coordination team. There is no deadline for this document, but it needs to be completed soon, since it contains the nomination for representatives at the JPI GB.

UPCOMING EVENT: EB MEETING

The first EB meeting will be held in Brussels in January 19, 2011. A [draft agenda](#) has already been distributed. Please confirm attendance to the meeting by [email](#). The EB will review progress in all fronts, and will

serve the purpose to prepare a major challenge for 2011: the first meeting of the Governing Board.

Do not miss this chance to interact in the progress of the JPI. Your input is greatly needed to preserve the participative character of this initiative.

EARLY PLANNING FOR THE GB MEETING

- Foreseen for February/March 2011
- Water research decision makers will be gathered at the GB to:
 - Review the activities of the Coordinating team and the Executive Board.
 - Adopt the JPI structure, governance boards, and major documents
 - Plan activities for 2011 and 2012.

A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS TREE

Finally, let us wish you **all the best for this New Year** in your professional and personal lives. We will do it with a different Christmas tree adapted to our endeavours: it is the Tree of Science, as depicted in a stained glass window located at the headquarters of [CSIC](#) in Madrid, Spain.

