

01.  
2013



# NEWSLETTER

## *Editorial*

*The new year 2013 represents a milestone for the JPI Water team: we feel ready to fully commit ourselves to the activities of WatEUr, the Coordination and Support Action promoted by the DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission.*



*In fact, the WatEUr project runs from 1/1/2013 to 31/12/2015, involving 17 institutions of 14 partner countries in the Water JPI.*

*To mark this new phase in our cooperation in the water domain we propose a new layout of the monthly newsletter. We are full of energy and enthusiasm for the beginning of this new and stronger collaboration in the water research at European and international level. We hope our efforts will meet the ambitious goals of this joint programming initiative in such an important field for environmental protection and sustainable development.*

## **MOLDOVA NEW PARTNER COUNTRY**

The Academy of Sciences of Moldova has recently sent to the Water JPI coordinator its *Letter of Intent* to become a full partner. We welcome on board Prof. Gheorghe DUCA who will represent Moldova in the Governing Board and Mr. Igor SEROTILA, the new member of the Executive Board.

## **THE OFFICIAL LAUNCHING EVENT of THE WATER JPI**

The first official presentation of the Water JPI will take place in Madrid on February 5th. The Coordination Team managed to secure the presence of high-level representatives of the Spanish Government and of the European Commission. Many other authorities of the Water JPI partner countries have been invited to take part in this event which will take place at the magnificent *Zurbano Palace*. The Palace was built in 1878 on command of Earl de Muguiró. Queen Fabiola of Belgium was born in this palace, which was the residence of her family, the marquis of Casa Riera. Now the *Zurbano Palace* is a State property and hosts the Centre of historical studies on public works and urbanization.

## THE KICK-OFF MEETING OF THE CSA WATEUR

This event will be held in combination with the Official Launching of the Water JPI, i.e. during the afternoon of February 5th. The six WP leaders will present the progress made in the project activities and the envisaged



future steps in the implementation of the Joint Programming Initiative which aims at strengthening and better coordinating water research in Europe and in other associate countries. This intense day will be closed by a social event and dinner. Meeting attendants will get a taste of Madrilenian cuisine!

## MEETINGS OF THE EB, STB, SAG

Wednesday 6th February 2013, the day after the plenary session gathered for the official launching of the Water JPI, will be devoted to the parallel meetings of the Executive Board, of the Scientific and Technical Board



and of the Stakeholders Advisory Group. The Advisory Boards will examine progress towards the Water JPI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda in the light of current developments in Horizon 2020 and in the European Innovation Partnership on Water.

## COORDINATION MEETING WITH DG RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, EC

In the early afternoon of Thursday 17th January 2013 a Water JPI group composed by representatives of Spain, the Netherlands, France and Italy met with Andrea Tilche, Director of Environment, Luisa Prista and Michel Schoupe. The goal of the meeting was to start coordination towards Horizon 2020. The informal agenda included issues such as Water JPI milestones towards a Research and Innovation Agenda, and the relation between this R&I Agenda and the new programme Horizon 2020. The Water JPI is considered a key element for the next planning action of DG R&I and a relevant stakeholder for the consultations on objectives and priorities of Horizon 2020. Such consultations will start in mid-March. The large partnership and mobilization capacity of the Water JPI were praised. The EC has strong expectations on the Water JPI due to the current fragmentation of the water sector.

## THE EIP ON WATER

The last version of the Strategic Implementation Plan of the European Innovation Partnership was approved on December 18th 2012 by the High Level Steering Group. A [Call](#) for Expressions of Commitment to form Action Groups has been immediately open with deadline 4th April 2013.

Action Groups have the task to draw up tools and mechanisms to promote innovations in water policies and technologies. Funding for a total of 40 million € is available through the INNO-DEMO call to support projects and coordination actions contributing to Identify, test, scale up, disseminate and deploy innovative solutions for major water related challenges. EIP on Water priority areas have been identified: water reuse and recycling; water and wastewater treatment; water and energy; risk management of water related extreme events; ecosystem services; smart technologies; water governance; management models and monitoring; and financing for innovation. The EIP on Water brings together actors from water industry, SMEs, research communities, local governments, major water users and finance.

## THE RESULTS OF THE THIRD CIS-SPI EVENT



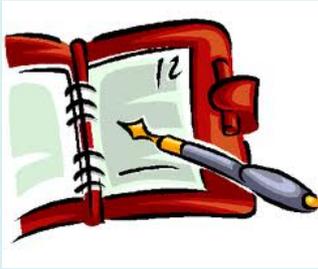
The third meeting « *Water Science meets Policy* » organized by the French Water Agency ONEMA and the DG Research and innovation of the European Commission took place in Brussels on 14th-15th November 2012 with the participation of many colleagues also involved in the Water JPI. The workshop focused on a better coordination between the WFD implementation needs and the EU research initiatives on water. Presentations are available [here](#)

## UPTAKE OF EU WATER RESEARCH IN POLICY AND INDUSTRY

Recommendations for a better uptake of EU water research were presented during the final conference of the STEP-WISE and STREAM projects on 3rd- 4th December 2012. According to this Roadmap available [here](#), research projects should have a professional communication strategy, target the necessary stakeholders and disseminate research results through policy briefs.

## THE STRATEGIC RESEARCH AGENDA OF FACCE-JPI

[FACCE SRIA](#) was released on 4th December 2012 setting out five core themes as key challenges to be tackled by this Joint Programming initiative on Food, Agriculture and Climate Change which was launched by the European Council in October 2010.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 7th WEX Global 2013

This international summit for leaders and decision makers in the water, waste water and energy industry is programmed in Madrid from February 19th to 21st. WEX GLOBAL conference offers networking opportunities for international business partnerships in the water sector. Details [here](#)

### In Dublin the JPI conference

The annual meeting of the Joint Programming Initiatives "[jpc2013](#)" is organized in Dublin from 28th February to 1st March under the Irish presidency of the EU Council.

### Mekong Environmental Symposium

The event will take place in Ho Chi Minh City/Saigon from 5th to 7th March 2013 organized by the German Earth Observation Centre, EOC, the German Aerospace Centre, DLR, with the sponsorship of the German Ministry of Education and Science, BMBF. The event is a three-day platform for national and local decision makers, stakeholders, renowned scientists, and industry from all six Mekong riparian countries (China, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam), as well as from the international community to share their experience and knowledge. It will focus on relevant aspects of finding equilibriums between necessary economic development as well as the urgent need for environmental protection and the maintenance of the Mekong's river ecology. More information [here](#)

### JPIs to CO-work next meeting

The [third workshop](#) of this project aiming at providing a forum amongst on-going and future JPIs will be held in Vienna next 14th -15th March, with the title "Framework Conditions of the implementation phase of Joint Programming Initiatives: Peer Review, Funding and Call Management Issues".



JPIs TO COWORK

