

NEWSLETTER

Issue # 7

“What makes the desert beautiful – said the little prince –
is that somewhere it hides a well”

May 1st, 2011

EDITORIAL

April has been a month of intense JPI activity. We got busy with the preparation of the first meeting of the Governing Board and with the submission of the Maturity Template for the European Commission. The decisions made at the GB have completed implementation of our governance, and have streamlined our vision. These changes are reflected on our core documents, for which new versions are available.

NEWS ON PARTNERSHIP

We are glad to welcome UK as a new JPI partner. On the other hand Poland has updated its status from partner to observer. Today our [JPI is composed](#) by fourteen partner countries, the European Commission (acting as a non-voting partner) and six observing countries.



FIRST GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

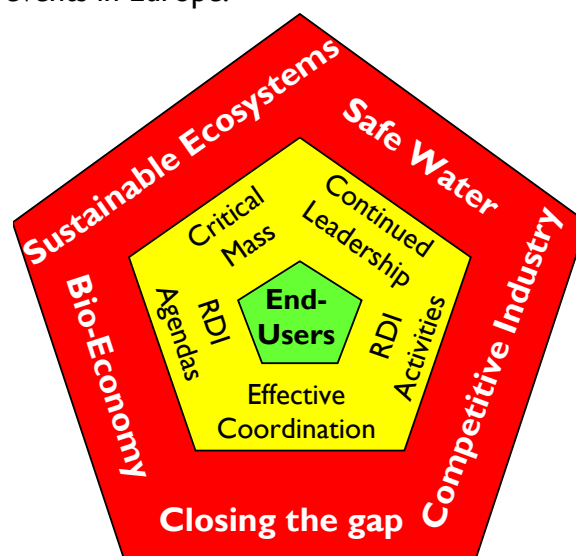
The first GB meeting took place last April 14th at the MICINN Brussels headquarters. A total 29 delegates participated in this meeting, representing 12 partners and two observers.

Opening of the Meeting

The interventions by **Mr. González** (GB President) and **Mr. Kuypers** (GB Vice President) focused on the relevance of the meeting, on the need for lively discussions and on the importance of decisions to be made.

Ms. Soares (Director, Environment theme, DG R&I, EC) congratulated JPI partners on the work done in this JPI, particularly in what respects to communication and cooperation between partners and with the EC. She highlighted that holding the first GB Meeting is a milestone achievement for the JPI.

Ms. Prista (Head of Unit, Environmental Technologies, DG R&I, EC) covered the EU Policy context for environmental research and innovation, current actions and perspectives (with particular attention to water), and the post 2013 situation. Reference was made to the maturity analysis of the JPI and to the list of upcoming water events in Europe.



The new [Vision Document](#) (VD)

The JPI objectives were reformulated to adopt a more managerial approach and to comply with SMART objective principles. JPI objectives are summarised below:

1. Involving water end-users for effective RDI results uptake.
2. Attaining critical mass of research programmes.
3. Reaching effective, sustainable coordination of European water RDI.
4. Harmonising National water RDI agendas in Partner Countries.
5. Harmonising National water RDI activities in Partner Countries.

6. Supporting European leadership in science and technology.

Five types of research questions were defined, targeting specific water users:

1. Maintaining ecosystem sustainability.
2. Developing safe water systems for the citizens.
3. Promoting competitiveness in the water industry.
4. Implementing a water-wise bio-based economy.
5. Closing the water cycle gap.

Terms of Reference of the Management Structure

We agreed to approve [the document](#) describing JPI Governance. The document will probably receive amendments in the future to show more detail about the procedures.



The Advisory Boards

The GB selected ten members of the Scientific and Technological Board (STB): Dr. Cees Buisman, Dr. Damiá Barceló, Dr. Eric Servat, Dr. Jens Christian Refsgaard, Dr. João Santos Pereira; Dr. Luc Abbadie, Dr. Marc F.P. Bierkens, Dr. Merete Johannessen Ulstein, Dr. Michele Vurro and Dr. Sveinung Sægvog.

Six members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) were selected at the meeting: Acqueau, the CIS-SPI Group, FAO Land and Water, the Finnish Environmental Institute, the Júcar River Basin Organization and the WssTP.

We sincerely welcome these persons and institutions to the JPI Advisory Boards, The GB discussed the need to increase membership in these boards. The second

meeting of the GB will select new STB members based on additional candidates to be nominated by the STB.

UPCOMING JPI MEETINGS

- The first meeting of the STB will take place in October 18th.
- The first meeting of the SAG will take place in October 19th.
- The second meeting of the EB will take place in October 20th.

MATURITY TEMPLATE SUBMITTED TO THE EC

Following the first GB meeting, we only had six days to prepare the [maturity template](#). A complete document was finished and submitted to the EC in April 20th. You can imagine that the Easter Break felt good!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [WssTP Stakeholders Event](#) in Brussels, 17- 18th May. We will be there and will present what they are currently doing!



The European Water Platform

- [Cities of the future: "Sustainable Urban Planning and Water management"](#) in Stockholm, 25th – 26th May.



Brussels, 24-27 May 2011

- [GREEN WEEK 2011 "Resource Efficiency: Using Less, Living Better"](#) in Brussels 24 to 27 May 2011.
 - Session 3.3 on Water efficiency
 - Session 2.2 on Eco-efficiency and eco-innovation
 - Side event on Innovation Union and Resources Efficiency
- Second "Science meets Policy" event by the CIS-SPI. End of September.

LINKS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Issues [#1](#), [#2](#), [#3](#), [#4](#), [#5](#) and [#6](#).