

The economic challenge

The European water sector is of prime economic importance, as it offers jobs for thousands of citizens across Europe. Investments in water technology around the world increase every year, in a market which has become very competitive.

The ecological challenge

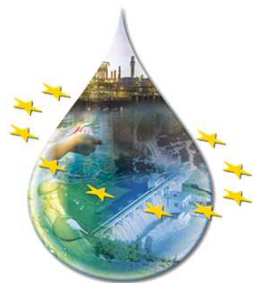
Preservation and protection of waters is a crucial asset for sustainable development. It is essential to enhance the absorbing and self-purification capacity of the landscape and water ecosystems to reduce the transfer and storage of pollutants and maintain biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The societal challenge

Water is a natural resource necessary for societal well-being. Water fulfils a multitude of services and functions for a sustainable livelihood. Water re-use and nutrient recovery from municipal, industrial and agricultural waste water offer economic advantages and societal gains.

The technological challenge

Specific innovations in monitoring technologies and developments in information systems and methodologies are required to address the complexity of water systems and water issues. Many capital-intensive water infrastructures require research to improve design and maintenance, maximize societal benefit and moderate costs.



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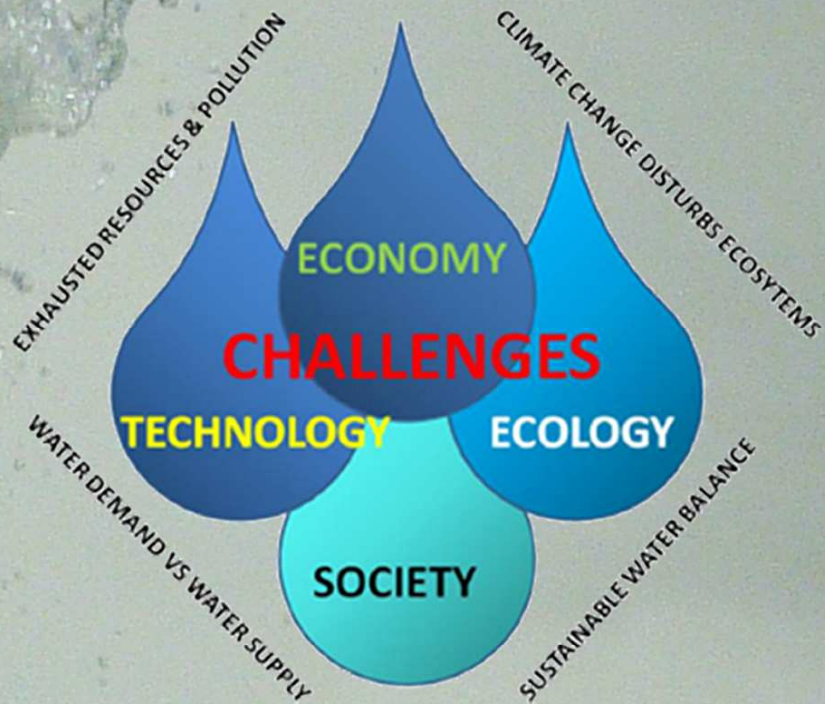
*WATER CHALLENGES FOR
A CHANGING WORLD*



JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE

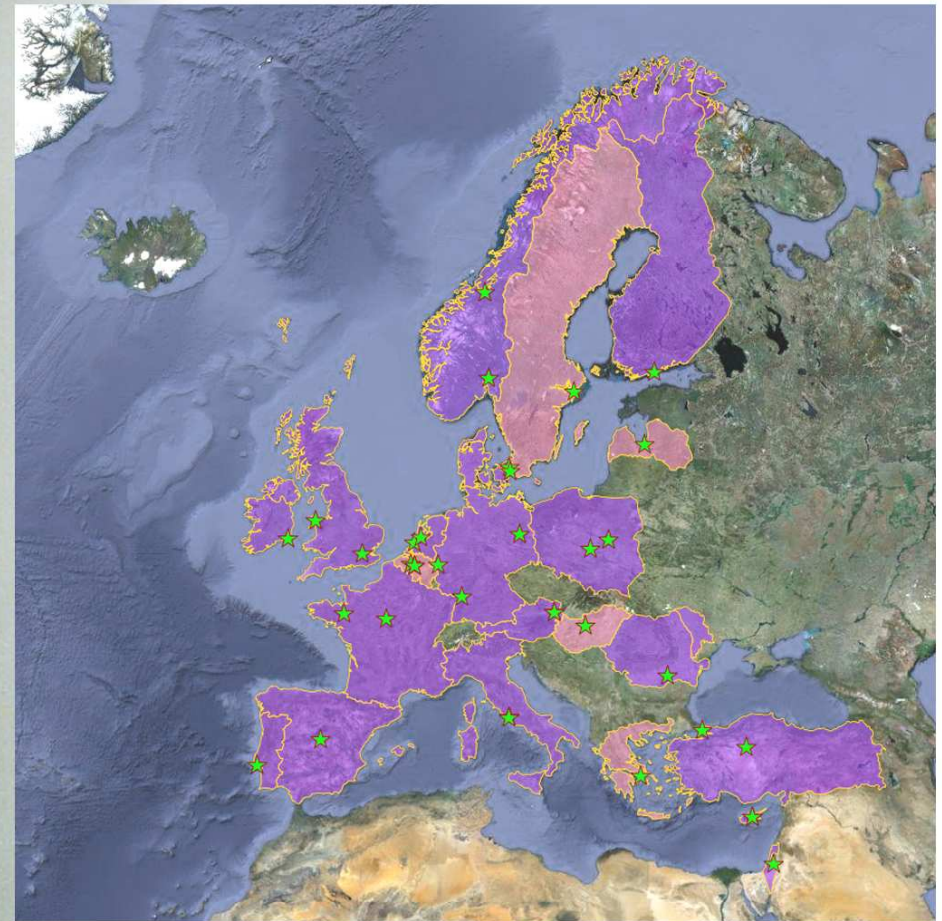


The Joint Programming Initiative "Water Challenges for a Changing World" (the Water JPI) is an **intergovernmental initiative** which aims at achieving sustainable water systems for a sustainable economy in Europe and abroad.



This global challenge will be achieved through **harmonizing and mobilizing Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) National and Regional Programmes.**

No single European country can address this challenge by itself, due to the magnitude of the needed operations and to the geographical variation of the water problems. The Joint Programming Initiative will actively cooperate with the European Commission to provide the European society with the maximum return of its investments on water research.



The initiative is composed by:

- **18 partner countries** plus the European Commission (non-voting partner) and
- **5 additional observing partners.**

Current National investments on water RDI in the EU Member States and Associated Countries are estimated at 370 M€/yr, while the European Commission invests 130 M€/yr through the EU 7th Framework Programme.

Water JPI partners currently represent 88% of the European National Public RDI investment on water.