



# Water JPI Knowledge Hub - KHCEC

## Contaminants of Emerging Concern

Within the ERA-NET Cofund programme WaterWorks2015, one of the additional activities has been to set up a Knowledge Hub: The Knowledge Hub on Contaminants of Emerging Concern (KHCEC). This Water JPI pilot Knowledge Hub was launched in March 2018 and continued up to February 2020. During this time the KHCEC organised four workshops and produced several outputs including policy briefs, press releases, and infographics among others and engaged in dissemination activities for achieving knowledge transfer goals. The Seed Group of the KHCEC consisted of 23 experts from 11 countries. This summary aims to highlight the key achievements and added value of the KHCEC. Read more about the KHCEC [here](#).

### Key terms of outputs from the KHCEC pilot phase 2018-2020

**November 2018:** Who is Who leaflet, [click here](#)

**April 2019:** Implementation Plan

**April 2019:** Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Protocol

**May 2019:** Business Plan

**June 2019:** Policy Brief - "Contaminants of Emerging Concern-an emerging risk in our waters" [click here](#)

**October 2019:** Communication Strategy/Dissemination Roadmap

**December 2019:** Stakeholder Brief - "Continuous increase of CECs in the anthroposphere as a stressor for water resources", [click here](#)

**January 2020:** Media campaign to disseminate the CEC message on a national basis, particularly by sharing press release with networks and engaging in social media activities, managed by Intrigo Ltd.

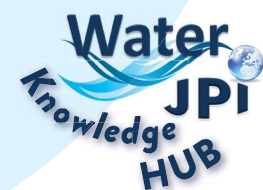
**2019-2020:** Infographics for different groups (industry, society, endusers), [included in this document](#)

### Key recommendations from the KHCEC pilot phase 2018-2020

#### An inclusive hub for fostering knowledge transfer and SRIA alignment

The KHCEC activities made an important contribution to the development and alignment of Water JPI SRIA at national levels. Focus of the KHCEC was set in compatibility with SRIA priorities, particularly the sub-theme 2.1 "Emerging Pollutants and Emerging Risks of Established Pollutants". The Policy Brief, Stakeholder Brief, Press Release and Infographics addressed research and policy challenges associated with the CEC topic in multiple ways to improve understanding of different groups. In more practical terms, the Stakeholder Brief was utilised as a reference for the call preparations of Aquatic Pollutants 2020 Co-Fund that has been coordinated jointly by Water JPI, JPI Oceans and JPI AMR.

It is recommended that knowledge hub activities should be **inclusive and communicative to other initiatives** in order to impact on SRIA alignment objectives. **Inclusion of stakeholders including similar knowledge platforms, decision makers, civil society and private sector** will foster dynamic interactions among these stakeholders and strengthen ownership of knowledge by end-users.



### The importance of facilitator support and time management

The KHCEC set a framework (ToR, IPR), structured clear plans with deliverables (Implementation Plan, Business Plan) and implemented them in a timely manner. Workshops and online meetings have been useful to the continuation of follow-up, update and calibrate agendas based on the plans.

The KHCEC presents a high profile of membership with senior scientists who worked simultaneously in several projects. In the process, the busy schedules of the Seed Group members exposed that time resource is critical and not everyone could commit with equal contribution. The engagement of the Facilitator has been very supportive of the Seed Group and the Scientific Coordinator for reaching the KHCEC's objectives.

In relation to that, another key recommendation is to have a **dedicated facilitator and scientific coordinator** through the whole process and **relocate coordination responsibilities** among the Seed Group members when needed. Time commitment from the experts should be improved with the **inclusion of early-career scientists and professionals** who may dedicate more time for knowledge hub activities.

### A sustainable budget for continuity

There has been a clear support from the KHCEC members for the possibility of extending the initiative. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> KHCEC workshop, held in March 2019, all Seed Group members agreed that the support from the funders should be maintained post February 2020.

The Business Plan developed in May 2019 recommended to continue the KHCEC, preferably with the same supports and systems in place after the current phase that ended in February 2020. The Seed Group concurred that the KHCEC has achieved so much in a short amount of time, however a lot more can be achieved if the funding was made available.

The Steering Committee also supported the concept of the extension but many of the partners could not provide resources to its continuation. The KHCEC Steering Committee discussed two funding options: **creating a common pot** with a fixed amount contribution from the funders and **a joint call** for a knowledge hub development project. However, none of these two funding options were implemented due to low financial commitment. Thus, it is highly recommended to **investigate and develop sustainable funding options for future knowledge hubs** that can cover the costs for Seed Group members and the central facilitation.

## The Water JPI Knowledge Hub

The purpose of the Water JPI Knowledge Hub is to share knowledge that can be used by regulatory authorities, environmental scientists and professionals to make informed decisions. Another purpose is to raise public awareness on these issues.

The Water JPI Knowledge Hub brings together experts from several research areas to collaborate and communicate across different scientific disciplines and with decision makers. It closely works together with other European Networks such as the NORMAN Association. Emerging Pollutants is the first research area developed within the Water JPI Knowledge Hub. The second Water JPI Knowledge Hub is dedicated to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and was launched by the Water JPI in December 2019.

Read more about the Water JPI Knowledge Hub *here*.

