

Task Force H2020 / Horizon Europe

Water4All

Note

Version – 31 August 2020

The objective of this note is to support the Water JPI members in their decision related to the future of the Water JPI offered by the 9th Framework Programme “Horizon Europe” (FP9), in particular the Partnership Water4All.

In this note the TF on H2020/Horizon Europe will try to clarify the following points:

1. Why do we need a specific partnership on water? How does it stand out from normal joint research calls in Horizon 2020?

- Water is essential for all life on earth; Water4All aims at concentrating research and innovation and the funding landscape of water in Europe and beyond.
- The partnership aims at enabling **water security for all** on the long term by boosting systemic **transformations** and changes across the entire water research and innovation pipeline, **fostering the matchmaking between problem owners and solution providers**.
- It adopts a **cross-sectoral approach, encompassing policy, environmental, economic, technological and societal considerations** (see Figure 1).

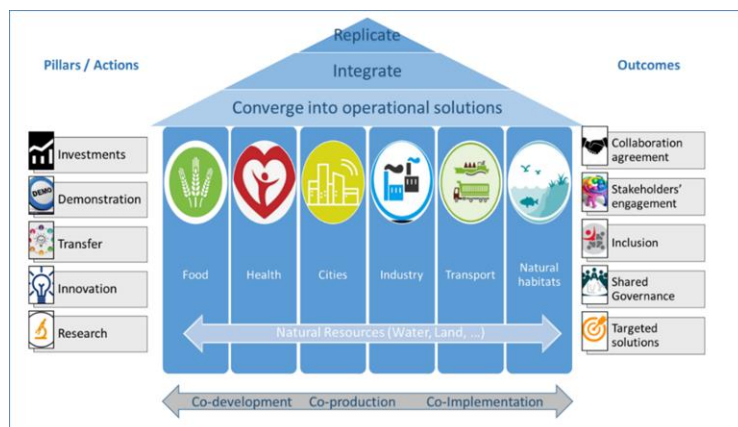


Figure 1: Cross-sectoral approach proposed in Water4All

- The spotlight of this Partnership is in continuum from knowledge and solutions development to the **transfer and put in practice of water research and innovation to**

the according actors of policy, operators and society. It is aimed at generating **more impact than previous EU instruments.**

- Participating at a partnership means to generate **impact within and for Europe**, a **strong leverage effect on sufficient scale and longer term** of all the involved parties' commitments (European Commission, Countries, Regions, etc.).
- Partnerships may also have relevance for the implementation of the Horizon Europe Missions.

2. What are the expected results and impacts?

- Water4All aims to address achieving the UN SDGs, the Green Deal and EU Policy Objectives (Water Framework Directive, Priority substances directive, Floods directive, and the more recent on water reuse).
- It is envisaged to:
 - **Increase protection of water resources** and ecosystems and strengthening of biodiversity,
 - **Enhance resilience, mitigation and adaptation of water systems to climate change,**
 - **Pool resources (EU, Member States, European platforms and economic sectors)** by developing a shared and co-developed SRIA and aligning related implementation plans,
 - **Develop new instruments for cooperation**, across stakeholders, sectors and scales for developing future actions and implementing newly developed solutions,
 - **Establish a greater cooperation across sectors, with multi-stakeholder engagement and empowerment,**
 - **Reinforce the EU's role in the international water agenda,**
 - **Scaling-up projects (from research to demonstration) and policy implementation**, and therefore leveraging impacts of policies on the water security crisis,
 - **Develop capacity and community building at all scales (from local to international)** to drive necessary societal transformations required for securing water for all,
 - **Develop a more systemic and integrative policy** that considers cross-sectoral interconnections (Water, Biodiversity, Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Energy, Health ...).

3. Which activities are foreseen?

- Water4All partnership will **deploy a broad range of activities** along the whole R&I chain of values, e.g. (extract):
 - o Alignment of national and regional programmes; research synergies among networks;
 - o Implementing Joint calls, usual and new formats to account for knowledge and innovation transfer to the relevant end-users;
 - o Joint activities beyond calls such as knowledge hubs, engaging with demonstration sites or living labs, roadshows, science – policy interface documents and events;
 - o Contribution to UN monitoring, decrease of barriers in international cooperation.
- The partnership will implement its vision with a holistic approach that is built upon the pillars of strategic programming, knowledge and innovation development, valorization and exploitation of R&I results, demonstrating efficient solutions and internationalisation as depicted in *Figure 2*.

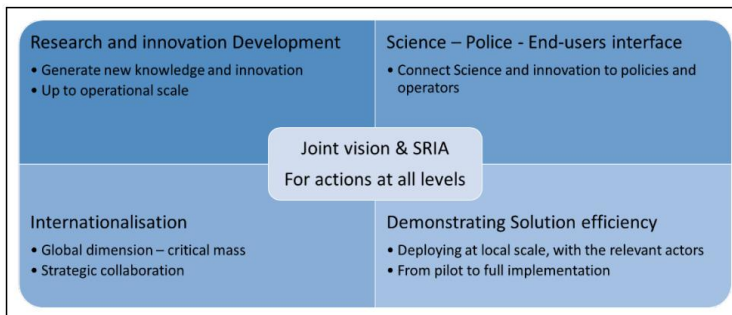


Figure 2: Water4All pillars

4. How will the governance look like? Who will decide on the implementation plan?

- Member states in form of national/ regional funding institutions will be organised in a **Governing Board** that is the supreme decision-making body.
- An **Associated Partners Board** integrates all partners (economic sectors, end-users) that formally do not belong to the partnership, but participate at certain activities.
- An **Advisory Board** is set up and consists of scientists, stakeholders and representatives of the European Commission policy directorates (Environment, Climate, Regions, Growth, Agriculture, ..)

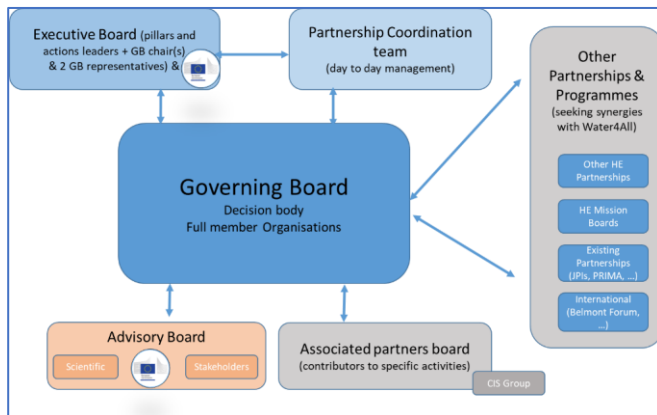


Figure 3: Proposed governance structure of Water4All

5. How much will it cost for Member states? What is the budget?

- The current global budget estimation amounts to **400-450 Mio. Euro**.
- **Member states and national contributors** need to collect approx. **200-225 Mio. Euro for seven years** (being in the same range of previous financial commitments from Member States).
- EC contribution could be in the range of 50% (still to be confirmed) of the **global budget**.
- Financial contribution by Member States or associated partners can be made **in cash or in-kind**.

6. What is the relation with other partnerships?

- **Cluster 6:** Agro-ecology living labs and research infrastructures; Rescuing biodiversity to safeguard life on Earth; Safe and Sustainable Food System for People, Planet & Climate; A climate neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy; and potentially Circular bio-based Europe and Environmental Observations for a sustainable EU agriculture.
- **Cluster 1:** Chemical Risks Assessment, One Health / AMR
- **Cluster 4:** European Metrology, potentially Carbon Neutral and Circular Industry
- **Cluster 5:** Smart Sustainable, Smart and Inclusive Cities and Communities, Smart and zero-emission waterborne transport
- **Other existing Partnerships:** Article 185 PRIMA, Follow-up of BANOS (former Article 185 BONUS); EIT / KIC Climate; ESA
- Links and collaborative opportunities with other **Union programmes:** links with EU Structural Funds, LIFE, COPERNICUS, are necessary to demonstrate the efficiency and the sustainability of the innovative proposed solutions at the local levels, in close cooperation with the relevant actors

7. Time line of decisions to be taken by Member States:

- **End April 2020:** Official Publication of the Partnership candidate presentations by the EC for launch of the intra-EC and MS consultations.
- **May 2020:** Meetings per cluster to start discussions on budgetary aspects (overall investment envisaged, possible Union contribution needed) and governance. It will also take stock of progress on collaboration with other partnerships, and synergies.
- **June 2020:** Commitments from partners will be requested by the EC, with the timing depending on impact of Covid-19 pandemic and the progress on MFF negotiations.
- **September 2020:** earliest possible adoption of Commission proposals for Article 185/7 initiatives, subject to e.g. political agreement of the MFF.
- **September 2020:** R&I Days (communication and discussion with stakeholders).
- **15 October 2020:** Deadline for preliminary Member States commitments
- **End of 2020:** List of Partnerships finally retained for Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021 / 2022 (WP 2021 expected for Water4All as demanded by MS – Water4All consultation).
- At the time of adoption of the WP 2021/2: signature of MoUs for co-programmed partnerships, opening of calls for co-fund actions implementing co-funded partnerships.