



# South African experience in the Water JPI

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# About the Water Research Commission

THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF THE WRC IS TO:



# Experience in international cooperation

## ▶ Bilateral partnerships with EU member states

- ▶ e.g. Research Institutes of Sweden, Institute de Recherche Pour le Developpement, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, implementation of inter-Ministerial agreements (e.g. Netherlands, Denmark, Italy)

## ▶ Multilateral partnerships

- ▶ e.g. Watershare, Water JPI, Global Water Research Coalition, AfriAlliance, Indian Ocean Rim Association (Academic Group and Water and Sanitation STI), OECD Water Governance Initiative

## ▶ Modalities

- ▶ Joint funding of R&I projects
- ▶ Technology sharing
- ▶ Joint research agenda setting
- ▶ Market access
- ▶ Capacity building and knowledge exchange (dialogues, workshops, exchange programmes)

# Key challenges

- ▶ **Asymmetries in research agenda setting**
  - ▶ “European leadership”, “valorising European know-how” vs. “mutual benefit and equal footing”, “co-construct joint RDI action”
- ▶ **Misalignment of systems, procedures between SA and JPI**
  - ▶ Timeframes, evaluation procedures, contracting, reporting, travel plan approval
- ▶ **SA is not seeing full potential benefits of projects it co-funds**
  - ▶ Locally funded components vs. full projects
- ▶ **Limited financial resources to allocate to Joint Calls**
  - ▶ SA gross expenditure on R&D in 2018 was 0,68% of GDP vs target of 1,5%. Global average was 1,4%.
  - ▶ WRC joint project funding is limited and spread across several partnerships

# Cooperation with economic sector

- ▶ Joint agenda setting based on their RDI needs
- ▶ Co-funding research projects
- ▶ Co-creation of relevant solutions
- ▶ Targeted knowledge products
- ▶ Involvement of sector expertise in reviewing proposals, participating project reference groups
- ▶ Convening and supporting communities of practice

# Recommendations

- ▶ **Broaden WJPI membership and cooperation,**
  - ▶ Especially developing countries
  - ▶ Align with other water related EU platforms
- ▶ **Identify sufficiently overlapping areas of mutual benefit**
  - ▶ More focus on co-creation
- ▶ **Better coordination between co-funding partners**
  - ▶ Especially on individual projects, to maximise benefits for all partners
  - ▶ Mechanisms for bringing new potential partners together
- ▶ **More streamlined administrative processes**
  - ▶ Reducing transaction costs and synchronisation problems
- ▶ **Use technology optimally to support collaboration**
  - ▶ Improving communication, information sharing, team working
  - ▶ Remote connections for all key meetings



