

Water

A large graphic featuring the word "Water" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the text are two stylized blue waves. To the right of the waves is a 3D globe showing the continents of Europe and Africa, with a blue and white color scheme.

International Cooperation

Proceedings from the Workshop on International Cooperation

Towards a Common Strategy on International Cooperation
Vienna, Austria – 19 September 2018

www.waterjpi.eu/international-cooperation/international-cooperation-workshop/2018-water-jpi-workshop-strategies-for-international-cooperation

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Abstract

The Water Joint Programming Initiative, Water JPI (www.waterjpi.eu), entitled “*Water Challenges for a Changing World*”, was launched in 2010 and was later formally approved by the European Council in December 2011. As of September 2018, the Water JPI membership included a total of 22 member countries and three observer countries, which collectively represent 88% of European public research, development and innovation investment in water resources. The Water JPI is dedicated to tackling the ambitious grand challenge of achieving “*sustainable water systems for a sustainable economy in Europe and abroad*”.

The Water JPI, as part of its supporting Coordination and Support Action [IC4Water¹](#), is looking at opportunities to develop a common strategy for international cooperation with other European initiatives. IC4WATER was launched in January 2017 and is funded by the European Commission under Horizon 2020. IC4WATER aims to implement joint activities in a dedicated effort to reinforce international cooperation in research, development and innovation to address global water challenges.

This report contains the proceedings of the [2018 Water Joint Programming Initiative Workshop](#) on “*Towards a Common Strategy on International Cooperation*”, which took place on 19 September 2018 in Vienna, Austria.

A total of 40 people attended the workshop including representatives from 15 different initiatives, the European Commission, the United Nations, the Groupe de haut niveau pour la Programmation Conjointe (GPC) and the Water JPI partners.

This first workshop provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the current state of play of international cooperation in the context of research, development and innovation activities, and to exchange views on and share experiences regarding identifying common barriers, as well as good practices.

All presentations, as well as the workshop documentation, are available from the Water JPI website: <http://www.waterjpi.eu/international-cooperation/international-cooperation-workshop/2018-water-jpi-workshop-strategies-for-international-cooperation>.

¹ <http://www.waterjpi.eu/implementation/supporting-projects/csa-ic4water>

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List of Abbreviations/Acronyms

BOKU	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
BONUS	Joint Baltic Sea research and development programme
CEWP	China Europe Water Platform
DG Research	Directorate-General Research and Innovation
EC	European Commission
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FACCE-JPI	Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change
FFG	Austrian Research Promotion Agency
GEO	Global earth observation
GPC	Groupe de haut niveau pour la Programmation Conjointe
INCOBRA	Increasing International Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation between Brazil and the European Union
JPI	Joint Programming Initiative
JPI AMR	Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance
JPI Climate	Joint Programming Initiative “Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe”
JPI HDHL	Joint Programming Initiative “A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life”
JPI MYBL	Joint Programming Initiative “More Years, Better Lives”
JPI Oceans	Joint Programming Initiative “Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans”
NBS	Nature-based solution
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
P2P	Public–Public Partnership
PIANO	Policies, Innovations And Networks for enhancing Opportunities for China–Europe Water Cooperation
PRIMA	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
WssTP	Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform

1. Introduction

Over the last few decades, several policies and research, development and innovation activities have been put in place to protect water resources. Despite these efforts, many regions in Europe still face water scarcity and/or water quality problems. Climate change, groundwater over-abstraction and diffuse pollution are, among others, the main factors influencing water availability and quality. If no action is taken, their impact will be even greater in the years to come. Guaranteeing a sustainable supply of good-quality water should be a priority for the European society. Both policy and research, development and innovation activities should therefore contribute to this aim. Water supply for the development of different activities (agriculture, energy production, public services, etc.) also needs to be ensured to benefit the economic prosperity of Europe.

Beyond Europe, water crises were identified in 2015 by the World Economic Forum² (nearly 900 experts took part in the Global Risk Perception Survey) as the most important risk in terms of impacts to the economy and society in the upcoming years. Water crises, associated with the failure of climate change adaptation, are also perceived as more likely to occur and having an impact than the average risk. Global water requirements are projected to be pushed beyond sustainable water supplies by 40% by 2030³.

It is in this context that the Water Joint Programming Initiative (JPI), “[Water Challenges for a Changing World](http://www.waterjpi.eu)” (www.waterjpi.eu), has defined its grand challenge as “achieving sustainable water systems for a sustainable economy in Europe and abroad”. JPIs are intergovernmental initiatives aimed at tackling societal challenges that cannot be addressed by single countries alone. To this end, JPIs foster cross-border collaboration and coordination. The Water JPI was launched in 2010. As of September 2018, this initiative has brought together 22 partner countries, the European Commission (EC) and three observer countries.

The Water JPI, as part of its supporting Coordination and Support Action IC4Water, is looking at opportunities to develop a common strategy for international cooperation with other European Initiatives. IC4WATER was launched in January 2017 and is funded by the EC under Horizon 2020. IC4WATER aims to implement joint activities in a dedicated effort to reinforce international cooperation in research, development and innovation to address water challenges. To date, the Water JPI has set up contacts and initiated Joint Actions, including Joint Transnational Calls, with several international partners, as outlined in **Figure 1**. There have been several Water JPI activities on international cooperation, including two mapping exercises on international activities (further details are available from the [Water JPI website](http://www.waterjpi.eu)⁴). Two workshops to develop “International Cooperation in RDI for tackling global water challenges” were organised in 2017 to discuss regional specificities and cooperation opportunities:

- one workshop dedicated to Africa and the Mediterranean area; and
- one workshop dedicated to America.

² <http://reports.weforum.org/global-risks-2015/part-1-global-risks-2015/introduction/>

³ 2030 Water Resources Group, 2009.

⁴ <http://www.waterjpi.eu/international-cooperation>



Figure 1. Water JPI current Joint Calls, partners and contacts.

To progress this work, the Water JPI has planned three dedicated workshops (**Figure 2**) in cooperation with relevant initiatives to share experiences, identify success factors and propose a common vision on international cooperation. As the European initiatives are targeting the same countries/funding organisations, for international cooperation development it was considered important to share experiences and discuss, if possible and relevant, how to define a common vision on international RDI programmes cooperation development. The Water JPI organised the first workshop, hosted by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on **“Towards a Common Strategy on International Cooperation”**, which was held on 19 September 2018 in Vienna, Austria.

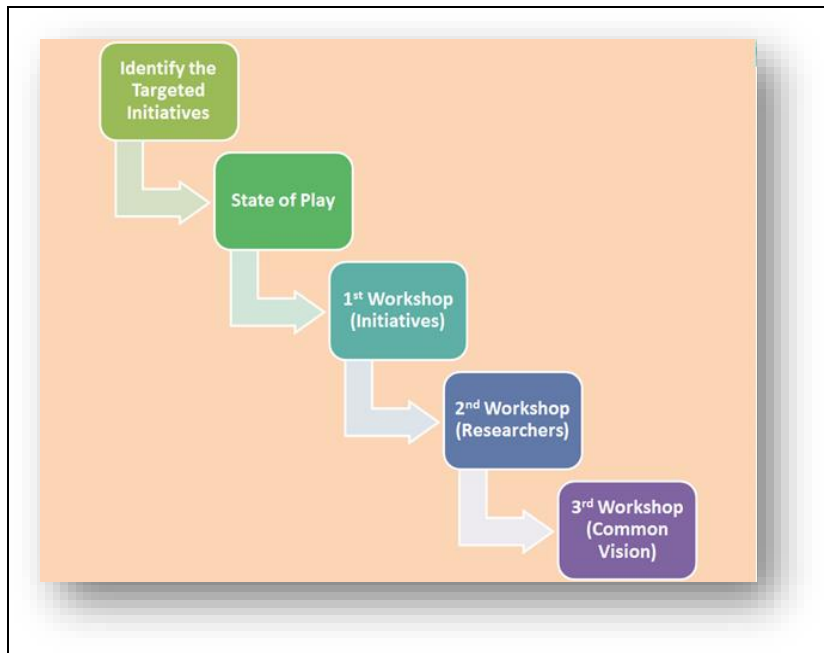


Figure 2. Proposed work plan of the activities intended under IC4Water working towards establishing a common vision on international cooperation

The second workshop will be targeted at the research community engaging in the Joint Actions implemented by these initiatives involving international cooperation and will be organised in 2019. The third workshop will be targeted at defining a common vision on international cooperation.

The outcomes from this workshop will inform the next steps to progress this work and the second workshop to take place in 2019. All presentations, as well as the workshop documentation, are available from the Water JPI website: <http://www.waterjpi.eu/international-cooperation/international-cooperation-workshop/2018-water-jpi-workshop-strategies-for-international-cooperation>.

This report was prepared based on the presentations and notes provided by the rapporteurs, as well as the feedback received from the attendees on the draft version of this document.

2. Methodology

The workshop was organised by the Environmental Protection Agency (Ireland), with the support of the IC4Water partners and the Water JPI Secretariat and Coordinator.

2.1. Workshop Aims and Objectives

This first workshop was targeted at relevant European Union (EU) initiatives, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the current state of play of international cooperation in the context of research, development and innovation. It aimed to facilitate the exchange of views and sharing of experiences to identify common barriers, as well as good practices.

The main objectives of this workshop were to:





1. establish a permanent dialogue with institutions, initiatives and organisations working within international cooperation activities;
2. avoid duplication and foster a collaborative partnership of common international cooperation activities between initiatives;
3. move forward and build joint and complementary actions between all initiatives.

2.2. Relevant Initiatives and Stakeholders

As a first step, the Water JPI identified **key initiatives, organisations and stakeholders** with which to carry out the proposed work of developing a common vision (**Table 1**).

All initiatives and stakeholders identified in Table 1 were invited to the workshop. The workshop was also open to all Water JPI Advisory Board members and Water JPI Governing Board members, as well as IC4Water partners. In total, **40** people attended the workshop. [Annex 1](#) provides a list of all attendees.

Table 1. Key relevant initiatives and stakeholders identified

Name of initiative		Acronym	Website	Attended the workshop
Belmont Forum		Belmont	www.belmontforum.org	No
BiodivERsA		BiodivERsA	www.biodiversa.org	Yes
China Europe Water Platform		CEWP	https://cewp.eu/	Yes
ERA-LEARN		ERA-LEARN	www.era-learn.eu	Yes

Name of initiative	Acronym	Website	Attended the workshop
European Commission – Directorate-General Research and Innovation 	DG Research	https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/research-and-innovation_en	Yes
Groupe de haut niveau pour la Programmation Conjointe	GPC		Yes
INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme 	Danube Transnational Programme	www.interreg-danube.eu	Yes
Joint Baltic sea research and development programme 	BONUS	www.bonusportal.org	Yes
JPI: “A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life” 	JPI HDHL	www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu	Yes
JPI Climate: “Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe” 	JPI Climate	www.jpi-climate.eu	Yes
JPI: “Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans” 	JPI Oceans		No
JPI: “More Years, Better Lives” 	JPI MYBL	www.jp-demographic.eu	Yes
JPI on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change 	FACCE-JPI	www.faccejpi.com	Yes
JPI on Antimicrobial Resistance 	JPI AMR	www.jpamr.eu	Yes
JPI Urban Europe 	JPI UE	https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/	Yes
Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area 	PRIMA	http://prima-med.org/	Yes
Project: Policies, Innovation And Networks for enhancing Opportunities for China– Europe water cooperation 	Project PIANO	http://project-piano.net/	Yes

Name of initiative	Acronym	Website	Attended the workshop
United Nations Water 	UN Water	www.unwater.org	Yes
Water JPI 	Water JPI	www.waterjpi.eu	Yes
Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform 	WssTP	http://wsstp.eu/	Yes

2.3. Workshop Documentation

An online survey using Survey Monkey was circulated on 11 April 2018 to the relevant initiatives to gather background information on the current state of play of international cooperation. The survey was sent to 16 initiatives with a similar status to that of the Water JPI, with responses received from 11. The Summary Report (i.e. [Discussion Document](#)), based on the survey results, was circulated to all attendees in advance of the workshop to inform the round table discussions during the workshop. This Discussion Document is available in [Annex 2](#). A template was also provided to all initiatives to help with the 5-minute overview sessions.

2.4. Workshop Programme

The workshop programme is available in [Annex 3](#). The workshop included one plenary session, as well as three breakout sessions. The plenary session was chaired by [Durk Krol](#) (Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform), with an opening introduction given by [Dominique Darmendrail](#), Water JPI Coordinator. The 15 initiatives represented in the workshop gave a 5-minute overview on their work. The initiatives described their experiences in international collaborations to date, the challenges they have faced and the benefits they have experienced. Each initiative was also asked to indicate on a printout map the countries with which they are collaborating (see [Annex 4](#)). This output will be used to complete the information collated through the pre-workshop survey, as well as the workshop presentations.

Keynote presentations were given by the GPC, Directorate-General Research and Innovation (DG Research) and United Nations (UN):

- “GPC’s Views on International Cooperation” by [Leonidas Antoniou](#) [Chair of the *Groupe de haut niveau pour la Programmation Conjointe (GPC)*];
- “DG Research’s Views on International Cooperation” by [Panagiotis Balabanis](#) (DG Research); and
- “The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals – Why is International Cooperation Needed?” by [Federico Properi](#) (Chief Technical Adviser for UN Water).

There were three breakout sessions during the workshop, based on the following key questions:

- Why is international cooperation needed in the context of research, development and innovation?
- Common experiences from joint activities involving international cooperation – key lessons learned; and



- Common barriers to and possible solutions for joint activities involving international cooperation.

3. Proceedings

3.1. Welcome and Introduction



Dominique Darmendrail, Water JPI Coordinator, gave a general introduction to the Water JPI's current set-up and activities, focusing on its experience with international cooperation and the cross-cutting relation that water has with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She also highlighted the Water JPI mapping of research, development and innovation activities in seven targeted countries (Brazil, Canada, China, India, South Africa, USA and Vietnam) and first contacts with and invitations made to research funding organisations to participate in ERA-NETs, in, for example, South Africa, Brazil, Canada, Egypt and Tunisia.

Dominique introduced the aims and objectives of the workshop and what the expectations were before the end of the day going forward.

3.2. Five-minute Overviews of Initiatives

The 15 initiatives represented in the workshop gave a 5-minute overview on their work⁵. Those representing the initiatives also described their experiences in international collaborations to date, the challenges they have faced and the benefits they have experienced.

a) BiodivERsA

Claire Blery, Executive Manager of the BiodivERsA Secretariat, presented the 5-minute overview for the BiodivERsA network.



BiodivERsA is a network of programmers and funders of research on biodiversity, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions across European countries and territories. It includes 36 partners, six of which are non-European. The main challenge highlighted was the higher level of complexity involved in implementing actions, in particular COFUNDs, whereas the benefits of involvement related to having the relevant global scale to tackle global challenges, increasing critical mass and greater opportunities for the research community.

⁵ The Water JPI overview was provided in the Welcome presentation.

b) BONUS: Joint Baltic Sea research and development programme

Meelis Sirendi, Deputy Director of BONUS, presented the 5-minute overview on BONUS.



This initiative, launched as an Article 185 programme, aims to improve the effectiveness of the Baltic Sea environmental research programming and approach by integrating the research activities in the Baltic Sea system into a durable, cooperative, interdisciplinary, well-integrated and focused multi-national programme. Russia is a key partner in this programme. The initiative has bilateral agreements with the Russian Foundation for Basic Research and Russian Foundation for Humanities, both of which participated in BONUS calls for proposals. Other bilateral agreements are with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the Black Sea Commission.

The main challenge identified was finding the right partners and agreeing on procedures.

c) China Europe Water Platform

Seppo Rekolainen, Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Current EU Chair of the [China Europe Water Platform \(CEWP\)](#), presented the 5-minute overview on the CEWP.



This platform has been in place for 6 years (since 2012) and consists of two Secretariats: one European and one Chinese. It has three pillars: policy, business and research. One of the main challenges identified related to having stronger linkages between the Ministries for Water and the Ministries for Science and Technology.

d) JPI Climate: Joint Programming Initiative “Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe”

Petra Manderscheid, Executive Director of the JPI Climate Secretariat, presented the 5-minute overview on the JPI Climate.



The main mission of the JPI Climate is to “provide climate knowledge to inform implementation of the Paris Agreement and SDGs”. JPI Climate connects scientific disciplines and enables cross-border research. JPI Climate collaborates with the Belmont Forum (e.g. participating members such as Brazil, China, India, Japan and Qatar). Other collaborative projects are with JPI Oceans and FACCE-JPI ([Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change](#)).

e) ERA-LEARN, INCOBRA and BILAT USA4.0

Berna Windischbauer, Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), Coordinator of INCOBRA (Increasing International Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation between Brazil and the European Union) and BILAT USA4.0 and partner of the ERA-LEARN Consortium, presented the 5-minute overview on the ERA-LEARN initiative, as well as introduced the INCOBRA and BILAT USA4.0 projects.



INCOBRA is an Horizon 2020-funded project that aims to focus on, increase and enhance research and innovation cooperation activities between Brazil and the EU. The consortium consists of seven European organisations and six organisations in Brazil, representing universities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research organisations, techno-parks, companies and funding agencies.

BILAT USA4.0 is an Horizon 2020-funded project that aims to enhance, support and further develop the research and innovation cooperation between the EU and the USA. The consortium consists of 10 European and six US organisations representing universities, research organisations, NGOs, companies and funding agencies.

ERA-LEARN is an Horizon 2020-funded project that aims to support research funding organisations, policymakers and researchers by providing general information and services relating to Public–Public Partnerships (P2Ps). The goal is to increase the impact of P2Ps for transnational cooperation through providing a solid knowledge base and communication and coordination activities. Its activities involve analyses of previous initiatives, international strategies of JPIs and international participation in ERA-NET actions to be undertaken in mid-2019.

The key challenges identified within all three projects were that:

- international cooperation should be considered as a long-term investment (understanding each other, trust building, agreement in modalities, commitment);
- each international partner country has its own priorities, working culture and funding schemes;
- there is confusion in international partner countries caused by dealing with different EU initiatives, as well as bilateral actions;
- equally established win-win partnerships between funding organisations from Europe and those from the international partner countries must be created;
- identifying the right contact person who is enthusiastic, believes in the added value of the cooperation to his/her organisation/country and has the capacity and authority to pull things together can be challenging.

Key advantages of having such international linkages included:

- widening the geographical scope of the P2Ps and increasing the critical mass, especially in the areas of the SDGs; and
- increasing influence and impact, as well as showcasing European solutions at a global level.

f) **FACCE-JPI: Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change**

Heather McKhann, Head of the FACCE-JPI Secretariat, presented the 5-minute overview on the FACCE-JPI.



The FACCE-JPI, launched in 2010, aims to promote the alignment of national research funding and programming in Europe. It addresses the challenges of sustainable agricultural development and enhanced food security in the face of climate change, as well as climate action in the agriculture sector. It has 24 member countries (three associated countries, one non-EU member). It is currently involved with the Belmont Forum, Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) and International Bioeconomy Forum.

It also has individual non-EU country involvement, from, for example, New Zealand, the USA, Canada, Japan, China, Brazil, India and South Africa. Over 50% of all FACCE-JPI joint research actions have been developed with international partners.

The main challenges identified included:

- **complexity of the European research and innovation landscape:** lack of understanding of what JPIs are, how they function and how they differ from Horizon 2020 activities;
- **time:** getting to know each other’s research activities, building trust and agreeing on a common topic and modality for collaboration takes time;
- **differences in the way that research is funded and managed:** e.g. timing of research programming cycles, funding and reporting procedures and other legal obligations;
- **few resources** in the FACCE-JPI Secretariat: small team and budget (no dedicated Coordination and Support Action for international cooperation).

Key benefits of being involved were:

- **building critical mass** and expanding the array of scientific evidence to tackle global challenges more effectively;
- strengthening **visibility and impact** at the international level;
- facilitating the **exchange of information, mutual learning** and capacity building with initiatives or countries in other regions;
- contributing to “**science diplomacy**” efforts.

The key success factors for the FACCE-JPI were highlighted as:

- **developing partnerships** that bring **mutual benefits** and add value;
- **co-constructing** the joint research action from the start;
- ensuring **strong commitment** for cooperation at policy, funding and research performing levels;
- conducting a **stakeholder mapping** within partner organisations to identify the right counterparts.

g) INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme

Gusztáv Csomor, Danube Transnational Programme Project Officer, presented the 5-minute overview on the Danube Transnational Programme.



This was the first involvement of the Danube Transnational Programme with the Water JPI. The Danube Transnational Programme is a financing instrument of the European Territorial Cooperation, better known as INTERREG. European territorial cooperation is one of the goals of the EU cohesion policy and provides a framework for the implementation of Joint Actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different Member States.

The Danube Transnational Programme promotes economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Danube Region through policy integration in selected fields.

The main challenges identified included:

- mobilising certain stakeholders and sectors;
- different legislative and/or institutional frameworks;
- different availability of resources;
- different innovation policy approaches (state vs. research driven);
- brain drain (endangering human capacities); and
- programme management: complex and bureaucratic for stakeholders.

The main benefits were highlighted as:

- addressing macro-regional challenges at the transnational scale;
- connecting EU and non-EU parts of the Danube Region;
- harmonised, coordinated, joint strategies, innovative solutions and actions (e.g. on the river basin scale);
- integrated approaches (quadruple helix) on the broader territorial scale;
- sharing knowledge/expertise/data; and
- capacity building.

h) JPI HDHL: Joint Programming Initiative “A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life” – Aligning Research Programmes in Food, Nutrition and Health

Jolien Wenink, Coordinator of the JPI HDHL, presented the 5-minute overview on the JPI HDHL.



The main objective of the JPI HDHL is to improve the impact of research and innovation investments in food, nutrition, health and physical activity to overcome the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases on citizens and societies. This JPI involves 26 countries (23 full members and three observer countries), including Turkey, Israel, Canada and New Zealand.

JPI HDHL’s **ambition** is to establish **sustainable collaborations** with countries all over the world that can meaningfully engage in, contribute to and capture the benefits from participation in the JPI HDHL. The collaboration principle of the JPI HDHL can be summarised by a **general openness** and **flexibility towards countries outside** the EU. The JPI has developed a **Strategy and Action Plan for Flexible and Efficient Collaboration with Third Countries**. The JPI HDHL aims to leverage existing relationships and membership of international forums, such as the:

- International Bioeconomy Forum (potential alignment);
- E-Asia Network; and
- Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases.

The main challenges were identified as:

- complexity of the EU funding landscape;
- getting on board both agriculture and health players;
- lack of buy-in to tackle the societal challenge – not seen as the most important core driver.

The key success factors of international collaboration were highlighted as:

- the efficient concept of the JPI;
- case studies that show the added value of membership/participation;
- utilising existing opportunities for international alignment;
- pilot interactions with non-EU countries.

i) JPI Urban Europe

Margit Noll, chair of the JPI Urban Europe Management Board, presented the 5-minute overview on the JPI Urban Europe.



The JPI Urban Europe is the research and innovation initiative driving urban transitions towards sustainable and liveable urban futures. Its mission is to be the “European platform to create, combine, discuss and make available knowledge and robust evidence for sustainable urban solutions”. A total of 20 European countries are involved with cooperation schemes with the Belmont Forum (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Qatar, USA, South Africa and Switzerland) and China. There are ongoing exploratory communications with Canada, India and New Zealand.

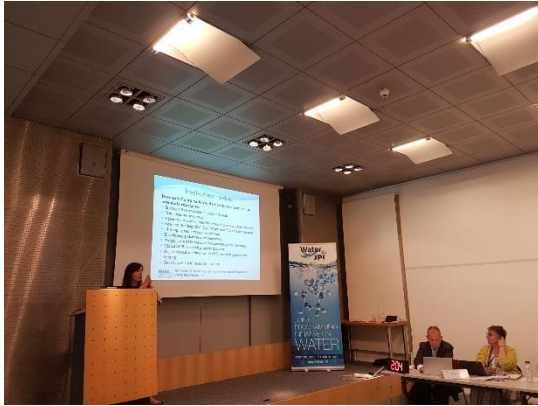
The key challenges identified were

- the need for **long-term planning** and creating environments for building trust and strategic knowledge;
- **creating cooperation models that fit urban needs** by developing funding schemes and strategic partnerships to support science–city–industry cooperation.

The main benefit of being involved on an international scale is the **diversity of local conditions**, which provides opportunities for experimentation, piloting and learning from good practice globally.

j) JPI AMR: Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance

Laura Marin, Swedish Research Council and Head of the JPI AMR Secretariat, presented the 5-minute overview on the JPI AMR.



The JPI AMR is an international collaborative platform that aligns national research funding, coordinates multidimensional antimicrobial resistance research and funding on a global scale and supports collaborative action for filling knowledge gaps on AMR with a One Health perspective. It has 27 members, including South Korea, Japan, India, Egypt, South Africa, Argentina and Canada.

The JPI AMR has been involved with international cooperation on a large scale by:

- developing global research networks;
- mapping the AMR research investments global landscape;
- developing a global AMR research projects database;
- aligning national and international AMR research agendas and funding and by the development of a Virtual Research Institute.

It also has international cooperation linkages with the G20 AMR Global Hub, UN, World Health Organization and Transatlantic Taskforce on Antimicrobial Resistance, which comprises government agencies from Canada, the EU and the USA. Issues that need to be addressed by the JPI AMR are new drugs, diagnostics, public awareness, stewardships, policy change and surveillance, as well as research and development.

k) JPI MYBL: Joint Programming Initiative “More Years, Better Lives”

Edvard Beem, Chairperson of the JPI MYBL, presented the 5-minute overview on the JPI MYBL.



The JPI MYBL follows a transnational, multidisciplinary approach to enhance coordination and collaboration between different research programmes and researchers from various disciplines in order to provide solutions for the upcoming challenges and make use of the potentials of demographic change in Europe and beyond.

The main benefits of being involved in international cooperation were identified as:

- better coordinated activities relevant to demographic change;

- exchange of best practices, pooling of expertise and financial resources and carrying out joint activities; and
- Impact on national and global agenda setting.

The key challenges included:

- the multi-sectoral character of the national landscapes;
- the involvement of low- and middle-income countries.

l) PRIMA: Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area

Omar Amawi, PRIMA Deputy Director, presented the 5-minute overview for PRIMA.



The main aim of PRIMA is to “build research and innovation capacities and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for agri-food systems, to make them sustainable, and for integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area, to make those systems and that provision and management more climate resilient, efficient, cost-effective and environmentally and socially sustainable, and to contribute to solving water scarcity, food security, nutrition, health, well-being and migration problems upstream”.

The main countries involved are Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey. PRIMA is a very ambitious joint programme undertaken in the frame of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. EU Member States, Horizon 2020 Associated Countries and Mediterranean Partner Countries are partners on an equal footing basis (**co-ownership, co-management and co-funding**). One of the main advantages of being part of this multi-stakeholder group is the creation of a strong network of stakeholders from both shores of the Mediterranean with diverse backgrounds and mutual trust.

m) PIANO: Policies, Innovations And Networks for enhancing Opportunities for China–Europe Water Cooperation

Dr Markus Starkl, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Austria, and PIANO project partner, presented the 5-minute overview on the PIANO project.



The PIANO project is creating business and social opportunities for EU–China water cooperation. Its role is to strengthen and expand the existing network of the CEWP to cover all actors in water research and innovation relevant for China–Europe water cooperation. It identifies European technological water innovations and areas for joint development of technological solutions that have a potential for implementation in China. It also aims to promote knowledge exchange and policy dialogue to build an enabling environment for the uptake of technological water innovations with a great potential for implementation.

n) WssTP: Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform

Durk Krol, Executive Director of the WssTP, presented the 5-minute overview on the WssTP.



The WssTP is an enabler for its members with regard to international cooperation. It aims to present EU partner countries with the best water knowledge that the EU has to offer and to set up a dialogue with counterpart water communities. This in turn allows an unlocking of the human, technological and financial potential of the water sectors and exploration of business opportunities. There are over 200 members with international involvement with India, China and Iran as part of the Ardashir' Foundation.

3.3. Keynote Speakers

a) GPC's Perspectives on International Cooperation



Leonidas Antoniou (Chairperson of the GPC) gave a summary of the major milestones and evolution of the GPC from 2008, with the establishment of joint programming through the Lund Declaration in 2009 (revised in 2015), to the 2012 Council approval of the JPIs and the current 2018 partnerships in Horizon Europe. The Lund Declaration set out the grand challenges for the global community. The engagement of major stakeholders including European institutions, businesses, public services, NGOs and the research community, as well as interaction with major international partners, is critical in delivering answers and solution to these global challenges.

Following on from the establishment of the JPIs and their challenges, it was essential to start working on international cooperation, recognising that the JPIs had the propensity to offer benefits for both sides (increasing the science base and critical mass) by playing a part in the global flow of knowledge as well as politically through enhanced visibility and the identification of new opportunities.

In 2015, when the Lund Declaration was revisited, one of the key priorities was global cooperation and highlighting that Europe needs to connect with partners around the world, in advanced, emerging and developing countries, to address the grand societal challenges of partnership and to attract the world's best researchers and innovators and private sector investment. During 2017, the Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation noted the importance of P2P actions with third-party country participation and enhancing the international role of the JPIs. The GPC's opinion at this junction was to **"increase the impact of national R&I investments, foster and test innovative approaches and science-policy cooperation, while reducing fragmentation, as well as being gateways for scientific excellence, relevance and international cooperation"**, noting that the JPIs have developed a strong international cooperation agenda, through membership or partnership. This is an area where Horizon 2020 has struggled and where the JPIs constitute Europe's most developed and successful form of initiatives.

The main conclusion from a GPC point of view is that international cooperation is now a strategic goal and is to be included in all of the long-term strategies of the JPIs. Basically, we cannot act alone when trying to solve global societal challenges. With the main challenges, such as legal barriers and lack of alignment of research programmes potentially causing issues, there are, however, many opportunities for developing strategies that include water. By building trust, JPIs can play a central and critical role in international cooperation to benefit all. JPIs need to secure engagement and be sustainable.

b) DG Research's Perspectives on International Cooperation



Panagiotis Balabanis, DG Research, presented the three main objectives of Horizon 2020 in relation to international cooperation:

1. Strengthening the EU's excellence and attractiveness in research and innovation as well as its economic and industrial competitiveness.
 2. Effectively tackling common societal challenges.
3. Supporting the EU's external and development policy objectives and complementing external and development programmes including international commitments and their related goals, such as the achievement of the UN's Millennium Development Goals. Synergies with other EU policies will be sought.

To date, the communication channels have varied from structured dialogues with agreements in place and ad hoc workshops and input from various advisory groups and committees. Horizon 2020 has already set up several international cooperation activities through:

- **multilateral cooperation such as** with the Belmont Forum (environment, sustainability, etc., research);
- **cooperation with international/intergovernmental organisations, e.g.:**
 - earth observation: global earth observations (GEOs);
 - climate: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
 - biodiversity: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); and
 - environment: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- **bilateral cooperation, e.g.:**
 - Brazil [sustainable urbanisation and nature-based solutions (NBSs), water, GEO];
 - China (sustainable urbanisation, water, climate);
 - India (water, polar research);
 - Japan (climate, NBS for disaster risk resilience, GEO);
 - Russia (Arctic, GEO);
 - USA (Arctic – trilateral with Canada, climate, GEO);
- **regional cooperation, e.g.:**
 - South Mediterranean (PRIMA – water, food and agriculture);
 - Latin America and the Caribbean (sustainable urbanisation and NBS, biodiversity and ecosystems, water, climate).

Panos also gave an update on Horizon 2020 funding that is supporting other initiatives, such as the JPIs, CEWP with the PIANO project, tackling climate change (with 35% budget targets for the whole of Horizon 2020) and achieving the SDGs, while boosting EU competitiveness and growth. DG Research views international cooperation as a means of ensuring effective tackling of global societal challenges, by accessing the world's best talents, expertise and resources and in turn enhancing supply of and demand for innovative solutions.

c) The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals – Why is International Cooperation Needed?



Federico Properzi, Chief Technical Adviser for UN Water, described the UN as being a “Partnership of UN agencies to deliver and to speak as one”, with UN Water coordinating the UN’s work on water and sanitation by, specifically:

1. informing policies with knowledge-based decisions;
2. monitoring and reporting; and
3. inspiring action: knowledge hub and world water days.

He highlighted that the SDGs are a social pact between governments and their people and belong to us all and are the responsibility of us all. The main message regarding SDG 6 is that it will not be achieved if it is “business as usual”.

He summarised why international cooperation is required:

1. goals are interlinked (synergies and trade-offs among the different SDGs);
2. complex problems need a matrix response;
3. no single stakeholder can fix it alone (research, policymaking, financing, implementation, monitoring, etc.); and
4. multi-stakeholder partnerships (notably including the private sector) are needed to drive implementation.

3.4. Discussion

Following on from the Keynote Speakers, a general discussion was facilitated. Some of the key points of the discussion are summarised in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Summary of the key points of discussion

<p>Point 1: What criteria are used to select the countries we collaborate with?</p>	<p>The selection of countries is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the EC's focus as indicated in Horizon 2020 ➤ capacity (notably scientific excellence)/competence and funding availability (and commitment of funders) ➤ previous experience of collaboration ➤ common research problems ➤ mutual interests through national strategies ➤ shared benefits ➤ research challenges to be addressed requiring a multi-national collaboration rather than bilateral collaboration ➤ private sector interest ➤ addressing the SDGs
<p>Point 2: Africa appears to be missing from (or at least not the focus of) current international cooperation activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In some areas, the research capacity is not very strong ➤ However, there is ongoing work with excellence centres created by the World Bank in Africa ➤ There is a need for a common strategic platform to enhance the ability of Africa to be involved (e.g. develop awareness of the funding rules, etc.) ➤ Development agencies could play a role in funding African researcher participation through foundations, existing platforms, etc.
<p>Point 3: Why did Tunisia decide to participate in European initiatives?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are several existing bilateral collaboration agreements between Tunisia and several European countries ➤ There are joint interests and common challenges ➤ There is a will to increase the capacity of the research community ➤ Tunisia is an Horizon 2020 Associated Country
<p>Point 4: difference between international cooperation with India and that with China</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The EC has put a focus on India as part of FP7 and Horizon 2020, but it was found more difficult to link up with India than with China ➤ The point was made that there is only one bilateral structure between Europe and India and that this collaboration is not working

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The question was raised whether JPIs are the adequate instrument to facilitate/encourage such cooperation, as JPIs mostly involve public actors and not the private sector ➤ There are existing political mechanisms supporting international cooperation with China (e.g. with existing platforms), which is not the case for India. Such cooperation requires long-term commitment and support
<p>Point 5: Use of complementary mechanisms facilitating international cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Instruments such as calls for tender for funding resources for internationalisation, COFUNDS, etc., should be used to build capacity and make third countries ready for cooperation
<p>Point 6: EU programmes/multilateral cooperation vs. bilateral cooperation programmes: how to align them/ensure that they are complementary?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It was recognised that multilateral cooperation in the context of Horizon 2020 is complex and challenging, whereas JPIs could be seen as an “entry point” through which third countries can access the excellence of the whole EU at once

3.5. Breakout Sessions

There were three breakout sessions during the workshop. The attendees were divided into three groups and each group had an opportunity to discuss the following key questions:

- Why is international cooperation needed in the context of research, development and innovation?
- Common experiences from joint activities involving international cooperation – key lessons learned; and
- Common barriers to and possible solutions for joint activities involving international cooperation.

This section is based on the notes provided by the rapporteurs: Alice Wemaere (EPA), Miguel Ángel Gilarranz (AEI/MINECO) and Lisa Sheils (EPA).

a) Breakout discussion 1: Why is international cooperation needed in the context of research, development and innovation?

The following points were raised and discussed:

- **Solving global problems with global solutions:**
 - “If we are together we are stronger” – this in turn increases our chances of achieving the SDGs on a global scale.
 - Addressing global challenges, such as climate, water and population growth (e.g. 40% of the world’s people live in transboundary basins).
 - Cooperation on a global scale allows solutions to be found to many of the global issues that are located outside Europe.
- **Open science/open innovation/open to the world:**
 - Good opportunity for **mutual learning**, data sharing/access to new models/infrastructure.
 - Networking – **added value** and benefit for both Europe and third countries.
 - **Harmonisation** of tools, solutions on global/regional and local scales.
 - Aligning of national agendas/**harmonisation** procedures/indicators/directives, etc.
 - **Sharing best practices/knowledge and excellence.** Enlarging the portfolio to solve common problems with common solutions.
- **Mutual benefits:**
 - Networking facilitates **real change** and allows a wider impact.
 - Capitalising on local knowledge and innovation – **allowing wider impacts.**
 - Science tourism.
 - **Building trust.**
 - **Research diplomacy** – researchers will continue to communicate and connect with each other.
 - **Increased recruitment and career development** – international cooperation seen as an attractive alternative to pursue.
 - Demonstration of **success stories** where the quality of lives and environments has been improved.
 - **Mapping** of research communities.
 - **Connectivity** and **knowledge transfer** increase opportunities in research/awareness/education and employment and competitive markets.

- Demonstration sites **at the local level** and outside Europe.
- **Increase the critical mass and research capacity to solve common issues:**
 - Positioning European research on a **global scale/working towards global excellence**.
 - **Building markets in new countries** – increasing competitiveness.
 - Mobilisation of **larger funds**.
 - Capacity building to counteract the brain drain – **co-creating/co- developing/development of joint tools**.
 - **Increased efficiency** of research, development and innovation funds.
 - Opportunity for **new markets** in countries outside Europe.

b) Breakout discussion 2: Common experiences from joint activities involving international cooperation – key lessons learned

The following points were raised and discussed:

- **Leadership:**
 - Importance of **“political” support** and **buy-in** from local/regional/national and international policymakers and regulators, to ensure the implementation of outputs and that good cooperation exist. This also ensures **commitment** throughout the process, over the lifetime of partnerships.
 - **Strong leadership** is critical for international cooperation to work. A fair and strong chairperson and co-chairperson with **equal standing** allows for all partners to have an equal footing and voice. It was recommended that these positions should be equally represented by Europe and third countries.
 - Having a **respected leadership**, with an established and proven record in global networking.
 - **Commitment from all partners** is critical.
- **Trust and respect:**
 - Importance of **building and developing trust** with partners.
 - Different countries have different needs and perspectives; therefore, **flexible and variable** instruments are required.
 - Need for a **“mutual benefit” approach** and a **full understanding of added benefits/value** of engaging with third countries.
 - **Understanding of the needs** of the third partner countries.
 - All partners should be on an **equal footing** regardless of financial input or resources.
 - Having **empathy towards and understanding of different cultures** and the rules/means by which they conduct business.
 - Awareness of different national rules and regulations and ensuring that this is taken into consideration.
 - **Mobility of partners and face-to-face meetings** are key to truly engage with all partners. Not all meetings should be held in Europe; they should also be held in third partner countries.
 - **Two-way process**.
 - Attention to **socio-economics issues**.
- **Simplification:**
 - **Need to reduce** European **bureaucracy** – EC rules can **lack flexibility**.
 - **Development of better tools and mechanisms** to support international cooperation.

- Consideration should be given to providing **25% more funds to those who leverage/engage in international cooperation.**
- The JPIs should facilitate alignment rules and tools – it is not just about leveraging funds but also experience and knowledge.
- **Expectations:**
 - From the start, it is important that **expectations are managed and are pragmatic.**
 - A **consortium agreement was recommended.** This agreement should consider the following: Why are you doing this? How will it be done? When and over what timescale? What will be the outputs?
 - Ensuring that partners know from the start what outcomes and deliverables are expected.
- **Platforms/initiatives:**
 - The importance of **building on existing and current platforms** to increase momentum.
 - **Learn from mistakes** and **showcase positive experiences/best practice** that are successful examples of international cooperation.
 - Knowing what partners you want to work with and why? Is it academia and/or industry you wish to work with?
 - **Choose the “right” partners:** it is not just about funds or resources; it is also about experience and genuine collaboration with like-minded partners.
 - **Commonality** – look for those **with common interests, common engagement and common understanding and goals.**
- **Timing:**

This was highlighted as an important lesson on several levels, e.g.:

 - **timing of calls** – Europe tends to start and others “jump in”;
 - timing to allow buy-in and **build strong and lasting** relationships;
 - **impact and implementation** take time to be established;
 - need to understand **different** timescales for various partners.

c) Breakout discussion 3: Common barriers and possible solutions for joint activities involving international cooperation

The following points were raised and discussed:

- **Common barriers:**
 - Lack of **implementation of outputs.**
 - Lack of **political commitment.**
 - Lack of **consistency** – changes in national governments/agencies/regulations and institutions.
 - Lack of **people/resources/** teams/experience.
 - **Difference between national rules and EC rules.**
 - Lack of **trust** between partners and third countries.
 - Lack of **respect**, especially for third countries.
 - No available platforms to partner with and connect with in certain research, development and innovation fields.
 - Too much focus on local/national issues rather than global and international aspects.
 - Different models of governance.



- Lack of transparency.
- Competition of national and international funds – **unable to compete on equal footing.**
- Difficulty in funding medium- and long-term projects.

- **Solutions:**
 - Establishing partnerships to **generate critical mass and capacity building** – provision of funding for a themed challenge.
 - **Demonstrate and showcase the impact of research.**
 - **Adapting to the audience you wish to engage with** – policy/industry/civil society.
 - **Providing funding for those leveraging international cooperation and partnerships.**
 - **Science diplomacy** needed in many situations.
 - **Create awareness to overcome short-term views in political decisions.**

4. Next Steps

It is hoped that knowledge exchange and the experiences of those already partaking in international cooperative initiatives will educate and inform others to do so, by answering the following questions:

- What are the benefits?
- How best to go about it?
- What to do differently?
- What are the pitfalls to avoid?

In turn, the outcomes from the workshop will feed into the two planned follow-up workshops. The overarching objective of these workshops is to develop a common strategy for international cooperation with other European initiatives.

The second workshop will be targeted at the research community engaged in activities involving international cooperation. It will take place in late 2019. It will be critical to ensure balanced representation from researchers from both EU and third countries.

Annex 1: List of Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Initiative
Omar	Amawi	PRIMA	PRIMA
Leonidas	Antoniou	RPF, Cyprus	GPC
Panagiotis	Balabanis	EC DG Research	EC
Edvard	Beem	ZonMw	JPI MYBL
Claire	Blery	French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity	BiodivERSA
Gusztáv	Csomor	INTERREG Danube	INTERREG Danube
Dominique	Darmendrail	ANR	Water JPI
Olga	Davidenco	National Agency for Research and Development of the Republic of Moldova	
Anna	Di Noi	ISPRA	Water JPI
Salma	Essawi	ASRT Egypt	PRIMA
Miguel Ángel	Gilarranz	AEI	Water JPI
Prisca	Haemers	National Contact Point The Netherlands	Water JPI
Maurice	Heral	ANR	Water JPI Chairperson
Bjørn Kaare	Jensen	IFD	Water JPI
Maja	Kolar	AEI	Water JPI
Durk	Krol	WssTP	WssTP
Antonio	Lo Porto	EURAQUA/IRSA-CNR	CWEP
Heather	McKhann	INRA	FACCE-JPI
Petra	Manderscheid	JPI Climate Central Secretariat	Climate JPI

First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Initiative
Laura	Marin	Swedish Research Council	JPI AMR
Denice	Moi Thuk Shung	ZonMw	JPI MYBL
Rui	Munha	FCT	Water JPI
Margit	Noll	FFG	JPI Urban Europe
Emmanuel	Pasco-Viel	French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation	GPC
Federico	Properzi	UN Water	UN Water
Seppo	Rekolainen	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Water JPI Advisory Boards
Ali	Rhouma	IRESA	
Irina	Rotaru	National Agency for Research and Development	
Cristina	Sabbioni	National Research Council, Italy	JPI Cultural Heritage
Lisa	Sheils	EPA Ireland	Water JPI
Meelis	Sirendi	BONUS EEIG	BONUS
Maria Chiara	Sole	ISPRA	Water JPI
Mari	Solerød	Research Council of Norway	JPI Urban Europe
Sabine	Sorge	Project Management Jülich	Water JPI
Markus	Starkl	BOKU	Project PIANO
Irja	Truunmaa	MoE-EE	Water JPI
Kata-Riina	Valosaari	Academy of Finland	Water JPI
Alice	Wemaere	EPA Ireland	Water JPI
Jolien	Wenink	ZonMw	JPI HDHL
Berna	Windischbaur	FFG	ERA LEARN



Annex 2: Summary Report on the Current State of Play

Annex 3: Programme

Chairperson: Durk Krol (WssTP)

8.30am – 9am: Registration and coffee

9am – 9.15am: Welcome/aim of the workshop (**Dominique Darmendrail**, Water JPI Coordinator)

9.15am – 10.30am: 5-minute introduction from each initiative (**All**)

- BiodivERSa
- BONUS Article 185 programme
- China Europe Water Platform
- Climate JPI
- ERA LEARN
- FACCE-JPI
- INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme
- JPI HDHL
- JPI Urban Europe
- JPI AMR
- JPI MYBL
- PRIMA
- Project PIANO
- Water JPI
- WssTP

10.30am – 10.50am: Coffee break

10.50am – 11.10am: GPC's views on international cooperation

Leonidas Antoniou (Chairperson of the GPC)

11.10am – 11.30am: DG Research's views on international cooperation

Panagiotis Balabanis (DG Research)

11.30am – 11.50am: The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals – why is international cooperation needed?

Federico Properzi (Chief Technical Adviser for UN Water)

11.50am – 12.15pm: Group discussion

12.15pm – 12.30pm: Overview of the afternoon breakout discussions

12.30pm – 1.30pm: Lunch

1.30pm – 4.15pm: Breakout discussions

3.30pm – 3.45pm: Coffee break

4.15pm – 4.30pm: Recap of the breakout discussions (**Rapporteurs**)

4.30pm – 4.45pm: Introduction of next steps and Workshop 2 (**Alice Wemaere**, Water JPI)

5.00 pm: Close of the workshop

Annex 4: Collaborations

