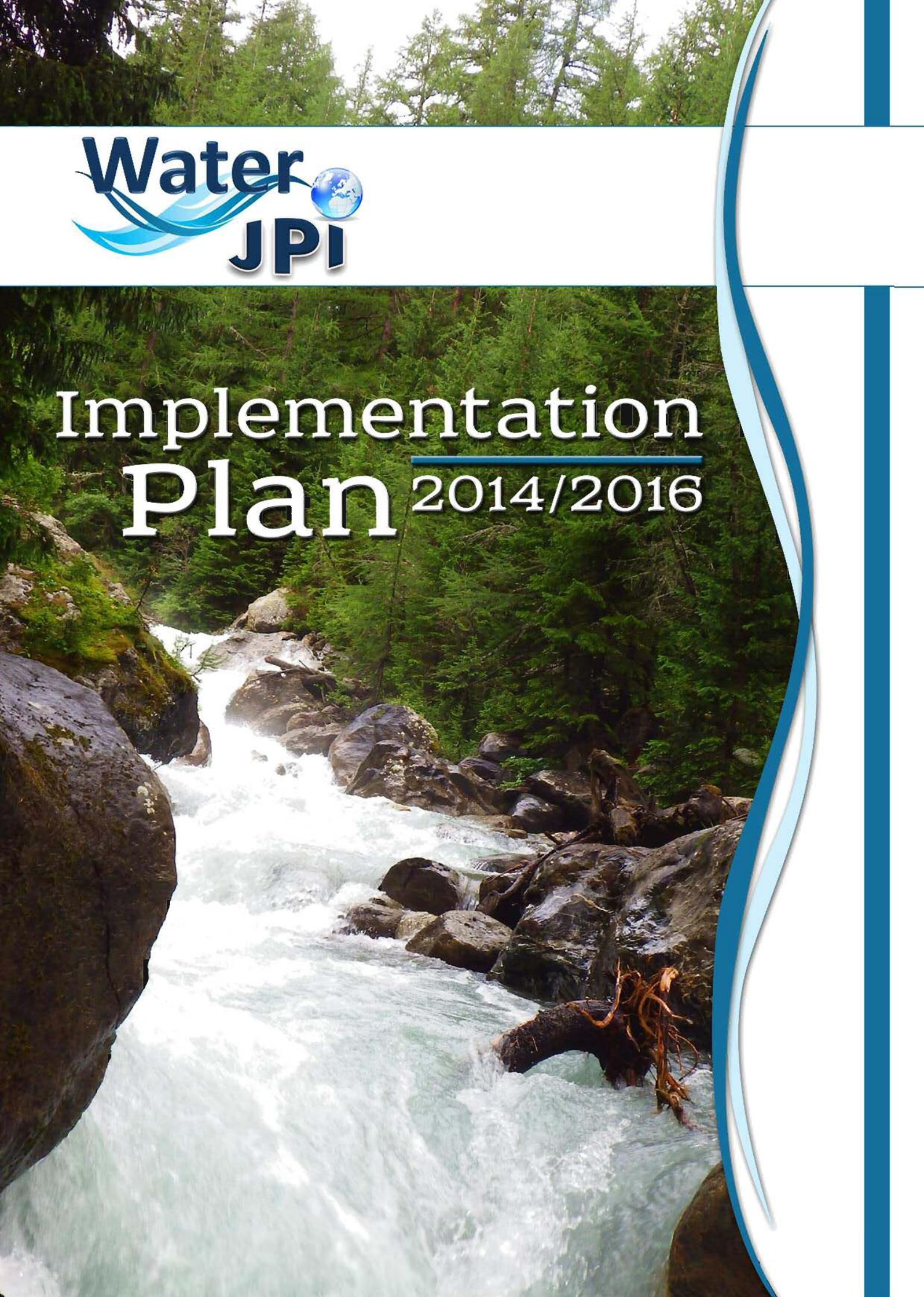




# Implementation Plan 2014/2016



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# 1. Executive Summary

Following the publication of the Water Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) versions 0.5 and 1.0, this document presents the Water JPI Implementation Plan covering the period 2014-2016. This Implementation Plan aims at delivering the Water JPI SRIA while maximising societal impact. Some of the activities in this Implementation Plan are owned and performed by the Water JPI. These activities are the main focus of the Implementation Plan. Other activities are proposed to be owned or performed by the European Commission (Horizon 2020 or DG Environment). The latter complements the delivery of the Water JPI SRIA.

The activities of the Water JPI have been classified into three types:

- 1) Interfacing with society;
- 2) Empowering Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) actors; and
- 3) Improving the efficiency of RDI Programmes.

Nine instruments have been designed by the Water JPI to implement its activities, including, for instance, strategic workshops, exploratory workshops, calls for proposals, or the alignment of National RDI Programmes.

The Water JPI will own and perform six major activities, using most of the above-mentioned instruments. Some activities directly target the main themes of the SRIA, while others are horizontal in nature. This Implementation Plan actively aims at implementing three Calls for proposals and progressing in Programme Alignment, SRIA development and Outreach.

In June 2014, the Water JPI suggested ten topics for inclusion in Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5 Work Programme 2016-2017. These topics complement the activities owned and performed by the Water JPI. Eight of the proposed topics would be implemented by European RDI actors, while two of them by the Water JPI. The latter aims at energising the Water JPI implementation, and includes a proposed Coordination and Support Action and an ERA-NET Cofund.

The publication and execution of this Implementation Plan demonstrate the maturity and capacity of the Water JPI to address and tackle European Water Challenges.

## 2. Preamble

The JPI “Water Challenges for a Changing World” was endorsed by the European Council in 2010. Today, this initiative counts nineteen partner and five observer countries. It aims at tackling the ambitious grand challenge of “Achieving Sustainable Water Systems for a Sustainable Economy in Europe and Abroad”.

### 2.1. The Water JPI vision

The Water JPI vision is structured through a set of objectives and a set of research questions. The Water JPI objectives represent a contribution to the 2020 vision for the European Research Area (ERA). These objectives will be achieved by 2020 and address JPI performance through internal indicators:

- Involving water end-users for effective RDI results uptake;
- Attaining critical mass of research programmes;
- Reaching effective, sustainable coordination of European water RDI;
- Harmonizing National water RDI agendas and activities in Partner Countries; and
- Supporting European leadership in science and technology.

Discussions among JPI partner and observer countries led to the identification of five research questions, addressing different aspects of European society:

- Maintaining ecosystem sustainability;
- Developing safe water systems for the citizens;
- Promoting competitiveness in the water industry;
- Implementing a water-wise bio-based economy; and
- Closing the water cycle gap.

### 2.2. The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

The Water JPI SRIA follows the structure of the research questions above, elaborated as five agenda Themes. SRIA versions 0.5 and 1.0 were released in May 2013 and June 2014, respectively.

The SRIA development is an iterative foresight project led by Water JPI partners and fuelled by contributions from the Water JPI Advisory Boards, selected RDI performers and society at large. The production of the SRIA 1.0 relied on:

- The collection, review and synthesis of a large number of foresight documents;
- A Consultative Workshop gathering 54 members of the European Water Research and Innovation community; and
- An online consultation, which received 637 responses from researchers, innovators, Programme owners and managers, citizens, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and other stakeholders.

The RDI Programmes composing the Water JPI represent 88% of the European National Public investments in water<sup>1</sup>. This is a clear indicator of the relevance of the Water JPI SRIA. The version 2.0 of the SRIA is currently under development, and will be released by the end of 2015.

### **2.3. Implementation Plan: goals and target audience**

This Implementation Plan sets out to deliver the Water JPI SRIA in the period 2014-2016. The purpose of the document is to guide the operations of the Water JPI. In particular, the Implementation Plan:

- Focuses the development of the Water JPI;
- Presents priority items to be implemented;
- Permits to plan ahead for agreed joint activities;
- Lists specific goals for the two-year period; and
- Outlines the efforts to be deployed.

The Implementation Plan adds to the visibility of the Water JPI, and informs policy makers, RDI Programme owners and managers, RDI performers, and society at large of how the Water JPI will tackle water challenges in the period 2014-2016. Additionally, the Implementation Plan is a guide for researchers and innovators interested in participating in Water JPI activities. The Water JPI Implementation Plan stands in parallel to a number of Horizon 2020 Work Programmes (in particular, the Work Programme of Societal Challenge 5: Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials).

*1. This figure was obtained in the Mapping of European Water RDI published at the Water JPI Maturity Template, April 2011.*

## 3. Implementation Activities

### 3.1. Principles, types of activities and instruments

In order to achieve the Water JPI objectives, three principles inspire the activities proposed in this Implementation Plan:

- Variable geometry: Water JPI partners only participate in activities of their specific interest;
- Flexibility: This supports the development of activities responding to partners' needs and opportunities; and
- Responsiveness: The Water JPI provides an enabling environment: the water challenge is tackled through specific and tailored activities.

The Water JPI draws upon the instruments and methodologies of earlier European water RDI coordination efforts, other JPIs and similar alignment and coordination initiatives, as deemed appropriate. Attention is continuously paid to produce and communicate policy-relevant results.

The following summarizes the document "Water JPI activities, instruments, management and procedures". "Types of activities" define functions to be performed by the Water JPI, whilst "instruments" are specific tools used to pursue a defined objective applied to a type of activity (usually within well-defined times and budgets).

Three types of activities have been defined in this Initiative:

- Interfacing with society. These activities will lead to a broader participatory approach to water challenges and needs, speeding up the uptake of RDI results and strengthening the links between water science, policy and industry. A key responsibility of the Water JPI is to ensure that it addresses issues of public interest, and that RDI results are made accessible through appropriate dissemination activities.
- Empowering RDI actors. These activities target researchers, technologists and innovators from public and private institutions. RDI actors will be supported by the Water JPI through the funding of transnational collaborative projects, increasing information exchange efforts, providing access to water RDI results and data, creating opportunities for further training, and nurturing transnational Water RDI infrastructures.
- Improving the efficiency of RDI programmes. These activities will optimise internal procedures through the sharing of good practices, and will foster the alignment of existing national strategies and programmes, as a way to progress in Joint Programming.

In addition to these three major types of activities, the Water JPI will continue interacting with the European Commission using their own Horizon 2020 instruments and Work Programmes (DG Research and Innovation). Interaction will extend to the policy level (DG Environment).

The following Water JPI instruments will be used in this Implementation Plan:

- Strategic knowledge exchange events. These events will increase the connectivity of the RDI communities with wider society (to raise awareness to the water challenges ahead), Industry and policy makers (facilitating the uptake of results).
- Webinar and Infoday. These may involve the use of innovative information technologies and powerful social networks to exchange information with RDI actors. The Water JPI Communi-

cation and Dissemination Strategy provides a framework for this instrument.

- Sharing good practices on funding and management. Workshops for sharing good practices among RDI Programme owners and managers provide an efficient instrument to alignment, improving Programme efficiency across Europe.
- Exploratory workshops. The “Sandpit” or “Ideas Laboratory” formats generate innovative research topics and proposals. Participants are drawn from a range of disciplines to develop novel ideas around a key sub-challenge.
- Calls for proposals in Collaborative projects. Joint Calls may be implemented as one- or two-step processes. Calls require specific, detailed, commonly agreed procedures.
- Alignment of National Programmes. Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn stated at the Dublin Conference in February 2013 that “By aligning and co-ordinating the institutional and competitive funding committed under national research programmes, which accounts for 88% of the public research in Europe, we can better exploit our resources for maximal societal impact”.

### 3.2. On-going Water JPI activities

This first Implementation Plan continues from previous efforts in Water JPI implementation. A number of activities are currently being implemented to make the Water JPI instrumental to the RDI community, and effective in tackling European water challenges. The delivery of Joint Activities intensified in mid-2013, following the release of SRIA version 0.5. On-going activities include:

#### Managing the 2013 Joint Pilot Call and resulting collaborative projects

The 2013 Joint Pilot Call of the Water JPI (published on November 1st, 2013) targeted the topic “Emerging Contaminants - anthropogenic pollutants and pathogens”. The Call counted on a budget of 9 M€, and gathered eleven funding organisations from ten partner countries. The Call resources were completely applied to seven collaborative projects selected for funding. These projects will be active during the years 2015, 2016 and 2017. Project activities include research, innovation, mobility, policy support and communication with society.

#### Alignment of National Programmes

In 2013 the GPC<sup>1</sup> established a Working Group on Alignment. In their Draft Report<sup>2</sup>, the following definition for Alignment in the JPI context was provided: “The strategic approach taken by Member States’ programming authorities to gradually modify their national programmes, priorities or activities as a consequence of the adoption of joint priorities in EU level Public-public partnerships for the implementation of changes and improved efficiency of investment in research at the level of Member States and ERA”. In the past years, most of the Water JPI effort has been devoted to setting the scene for the alignment of National RDI Programmes. These activities (i.e., mapping, agenda setting) address the core of the Water JPI objectives, and often have moderate visibility.

#### Cooperating with the European Commission

Regarding cooperation with DG Research and Innovation, the Water JPI published, in 2013, a **Position Document on Horizon 2020**. In this document, the Water JPI committed to sus-

2. Group de Programation Conjointe, High level group for Joint Programming, a dedicated configuration of ERAC (European Research Area and Innovation Committee).

3. Alignment in the context of Joint Programming Initiatives. Draft report of the GPC working group Alignment. June 2014. This report contains a list of good practices for alignment. The Water JPI is making an effort to accommodate these good practices through the following activities:

- Mapping International Public Water RDI funding, procedures, performance and strategies;
- Developing and updating the SRIA;
- Developing a set of Types of Activities and Instruments; and
- Building commonly accepted procedures for the management of Joint Activities.

tain a permanent dialogue with Horizon 2020 focusing on issues like: 1) the implementation of synergy areas in water RDI; and 2) agenda setting within Horizon 2020. In turn, DG Research and Innovation has taken steps to facilitate the growth and development of the Water JPI. An FP7 Coordination and Support Action (WatEUr) is being executed since January 2013, and will last until the end of 2015. Additionally, the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5 Work Programme 2014-2015 includes two ERA-NETs Cofund devoted to the implementation of the Water JPI SRIA.

- The WaterWorks2014 proposal was submitted by the Water JPI, and includes a Call for proposals (with a budget of 20 M€) on “developing technological solutions and services for water distribution and measurement, waste water treatment and reuse, desalination, floods and droughts, etc.” The proposal passed all evaluation thresholds, and a Grant Agreement is being prepared.
- An additional proposal is currently under construction for the second ERA-NET (WaterWorks2015), and will include a Call for proposals on “improving water use efficiency and reducing soil and water pollution for a sustainable agriculture”.

In June 2014, the Water JPI produced a *Position Paper on the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5 2016-2017 Work Programme*. This document was sent to the European Commission as part of the EC public consultation process for the strategic planning of the new Work Programmes. The Position Paper contains a desideratum of ten topics covering the synergy area between Horizon 2020 and the Water JPI. Eight topics would be implemented by Horizon 2020, comprising seven proposed topics for Collaborative Projects and one Coordination and Support Action. Additionally, two topics would be implemented by the Water JPI, comprising a Coordination and Support Action and an ERA-NET Cofund.

Cooperation with the European Commission also addresses linkages with DG Environment. In 2012, the Water JPI published a *Position Document on the EIP on Water*<sup>4</sup>, and got involved in the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) governance at the Steering Group and Task Force levels. In addition, the Water JPI is following up the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, contributing to the events of the CIS-SPI<sup>5</sup> and gathering the input of the working groups under the Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive for the update of the Water JPI SRIA.

### 3.3. Activities planned for 2014-2016

Table 1 describes the **Major Groups of Activities** composing this Implementation Plan. Some of these activities are owned and/or performed by the Water JPI; others are the fruit of Cooperation with the European Commission. These Activities will be performed in cooperation by Water RDI Programmes from:

- Water JPI Partners and Observers;
- Other EU Member States and Associated Countries; and
- Countries outside Europe.

This document focuses on the groups of activities owned and performed by the Water JPI (i.e. the first part of Table 1). Table 2 presents these six major groups of Water JPI activities in detail. These are broken down into nineteen **specific activities**. For each specific activity, the type of activity, the instrument to be used and the timing are indicated.

4. *European Innovation Partnership on water (EIP on Water)*.

5. *Science-Policy Interface of the Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive*.

Table 1: Major Groups of Activities Composing the Water JPI Implementation Plan.

Owns	Performs	Ref.	Group of Activities and its description	
Water JPI		1	Pilot Call for Proposals	Topic: “Emerging water contaminants – anthropogenic pollutants and pathogens” (published in Nov. 2013)
		2	Second Call for Proposals	Topic: “Developing technological solutions and services for water distribution and measurement, waste water treatment and reuse, desalination, floods and droughts, etc.” (to be published in first quarter 2015)
		3	Third Call for Proposals	Topic: “Improving water use efficiency and reducing soil and water pollution for a sustainable agriculture” (to be published in first quarter 2016)
		4	Programme Alignment	A set of continued activities throughout the planning period
		5	SRIA Development	From SRIA 1.0 to 2.0 and beyond
		6	Outreach	Dedicated activities to link up with key stakeholders and society at large
DG Research and Innovation	Horizon 2020	A	Approaches for Assessing and Optimizing Ecosystem Services and the Ecological Functioning of Ecosystems, <i>Collaborative projects</i>	
		B	Hydromorphology: Restoring Continuity, Sediment Transport and Fish Migration Within River Systems, <i>Collaborative projects</i>	
		C	Understanding the Implications of Ecological Flows, <i>Collaborative projects</i>	
		D	Assessing the Impacts of Unconventional Gas Exploration and Extraction on Water resources, <i>Collaborative projects</i>	
		E	Systemic Reuse and Recycling Technologies in the Water Sector, <i>Collaborative projects</i>	
		F	Towards Urban Flood Proof Cities, <i>Collaborative projects</i>	
		G	Measures to Achieve Water Framework Directive Objectives in Heavily Modified Water Bodies, <i>Collaborative projects</i>	
		H	Infrastructure for Water Research and Innovation, <i>Collaborative projects</i>	
DG Research and Innovation	Water JPI	I	Support to Water JPI Development in Specific Target Areas (topic for 2016), <i>Coordination and Support Action</i>	
		J	Closing the Water Cycle Gap (topic for 2017), <i>ERA-NET Cofund</i>	
DG Environment		K	EIP on Water: <i>Participation in Governance meetings</i>	
		L	Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive: <i>follow-up and integration in SRIA</i>	

Table 2: The six Major Groups of Activities Owned and Performed by the Water JPI.

Major Group of Activities	Specific Activity	Type of Activity	Water JPI Instrument	Timing											
				2014	2015				2016						
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
1. Pilot Call for Proposals	1.1. Adoption of funding decisions	Empowering RDI Actors	Collaborative Projects	★											
	1.2. Projects Kick off Workshop		Strategic Workshops		★										
	1.3. Mid-term review		Collaborative Projects									★			
2. Second Call for Proposals	2.1. Infoday and partnering event	Empowering RDI Actors	Strategic Workshops		★										
	2.2. Call publication		Collaborative Projects		★										
	2.3. Adoption of funding decisions									★					
	2.4. Projects kick off workshop									★					
3. Third Call for Proposals	3.1. Submission of an ERA-NET proposal to Call Water 3 2015	Empowering RDI Actors	ERA-NET Cofund <sup>6</sup>			★									
	3.2. Infoday and partnering event		Strategic Workshops						★						
	3.3. Call publication		Collaborative Projects						★						
4. Programme Alignment	4.1. Continued activities	Improving efficiency RDI programmes	Programme Alignment	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	
	4.2. 1 <sup>st</sup> workshop for sharing good practices in Programme management		Strategic Workshops			★									
	4.3. 2 <sup>nd</sup> workshop for sharing good practices in Programme management									★					
5. SRIA development	5.1. Consultation for SRIA 2.0	Interfacing with society	Strategic Workshops			★									
	5.2. Exploratory Workshop								★						
6. Outreach <sup>7</sup>	6.1. Launching SRIA 1.0 and the Implementation Plan	Interfacing with society	Strategic Workshops	★											
	6.2. Participation at the World Water Forum					★									
	6.3. Final Conference of FP7 WatEUr project									★					
	6.4. EIP Water 2014 Conference			★											
	6.5. Launching SRIA 2.0 and the update of the Implementation Plan												★		

<sup>6</sup> This is an instrument of Horizon 2020 containing co-fund for a Call for proposals. In this particular case, Additional Activities are also funded.

<sup>7</sup> Every year the Water JPI participates in more than ten international events promoted by various organizations. This Implementation Plan only refers to two major international events which are already planned for.

### 3.4. Outlook on possible post-2016 activities

In addition to the instruments listed in Section 3.1, the Water JPI has identified three other relevant instruments, however not used in the present planning for 2014-2016:

- **Knowledge hub.** A network consisting of selected research groups within a defined area of research. This instrument contributes to optimising/aligning RDI outcomes by facilitating the exchange of information among actors, creating critical mass and avoiding duplications.
- **Mobility actions.** These involve capacity transfer of single persons working or visiting a place different from the one they belong to (foreign Institutes, other sectors); or even the exchange of larger groups, e.g. between research infrastructures.
- **Infrastructure actions.** These refer to facilities, resources and related services used by the RDI community in conditions of excellence. The instrument develops the joint creation, management, access and updating of infrastructure.

These are recognised by the Water JPI as important instruments. Their implementation is currently under discussion. These could be used in the review of this document (disseminated in activity 6.5) or in future Implementation Plans. The SRIA 1.0 contains a number of subthemes, which could be implemented through knowledge hubs, mobility or infrastructure activities. In addition, the Water JPI SRIA and Implementation Plan are living documents, which will be adapted to respond to emerging issues in water challenges.

## 4. Delivering the SRIA through the Planned Activities

Table 3 presents how the five Themes of the Water JPI SRIA will be delivered through the Planning Activities of this Implementation Plan. A sixth area, named “Horizontal” has been added to the Water JPI Themes. It includes activities of horizontal and cross-cutting nature. For each table entry, a brief description of the expected impacts is provided.

Table 3: SRIA Themes, Major Groups of Activities and Expected Impact.

SRIA Theme	Owns & Performs		Major Groups of Activities	Notes on Expected Impact
	Water JPI	Other		
Maintaining Ecosystem Sustainability		A	Approaches for Assessing and Optimising Ecosystem Services and the Ecological Functioning of Ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution to safeguarding water resources for future generations</li> <li>Sustainability of riparian ecosystems</li> <li>Prioritising measures to adapt to pressures</li> <li>Integration of externalities in policy making</li> <li>Assessment of ecosystem service approaches</li> <li>Support to a wide range of policies at European and national levels</li> </ul>
		B	Hydromorphology: Restoring Continuity, Sediment Transport and Fish Migration Within River Systems	
		C	Understanding the Implications of Ecological Flows	
		G	Measures to Achieve Water Framework Directive Objectives in Heavily Modified Water Bodies	
Developing Safe Water Systems for the Citizens	1		Water JPI Pilot Call on “Emerging water contaminants – anthropogenic pollutants and pathogens”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting citizens from emerging water contaminants</li> <li>Reducing risks to human life and loss of assets deriving from urban floods</li> <li>Improving the resilience of urban water networks</li> </ul>
		F	Towards Urban Flood Proof Cities	
Promoting competitiveness in the water industry	2		Second Call for Proposals on “Developing technological solutions and services for water distribution and measurement, waste water treatment and reuse, desalination, floods and droughts, etc.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing industrial technologies in support of access to quality water and reduced pollution</li> <li>Empowering European industry with knowledge leading to new and better products and services for domestic and world markets</li> <li>Streamlining policies to support market uptake of innovations</li> </ul>
		D	Assessing the Impacts of Unconventional Gas Exploration and Extraction on Water resources	
	E	Systemic Reuse and Recycling Technologies in the Water Sector		
Implementing a water wise bio-based economy	3		Third Call for Proposals on “Improving water use efficiency and reducing soil and water pollution for a sustainable agriculture”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmentally friendly farming operations related to water</li> <li>Better use and protection of natural resources</li> <li>Support to agricultural, bio-economy and market policies</li> </ul>
Closing the water cycle gap		J	Closing the Water Cycle Gap (ERA-NET Cofund topic for 2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution to reconcile water supply and demand through a large, dedicated ERA-NET containing a Call for proposals and Additional Activities</li> </ul>
Horizontal	4		Programme Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General contribution to the objectives of the Water JPI through horizontal activities</li> </ul>
	5		SRIA Development	
	6		Outreach	
		H	Infrastructure for Water Research and Innovation	
		I	Support to Water JPI Development in Specific Target Areas (Coordination and Support Action topic for 2016)	
		K	EIP on Water: participation in Governance Meetings	
	L	Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive		

## Annex. Fiches of activities owned and performed by the Water JPI

<b>1</b>	<b>Pilot Call for proposals for collaborative projects</b>
Timing:	On-going activity: Since Q4 2013 to Q2 2018.
Description:	The 2013 Call topic is: “Emerging water contaminants – anthropogenic pollutants and pathogens”. Activities comprise the adoption of funding decisions, a workshop for projects kick-off and a mid-term review of the funded projects. These three activities will continue the execution of the 2013 Pilot Call for Proposals in the scope of this planning exercise. Although three activities of the 2013 Pilot Call have been highlighted in this document, the 2013 Pilot Call represents a continuous effort on the part of the Call Secretariat and the Call Steering Committee.
Target Group:	The 2013 Pilot Call addresses the Research and Innovation community. The workshop for projects kick-off also addresses society at large.

<b>2</b>	<b>Second Call for Proposals for collaborative projects</b>
Timing:	From Q1 2015 to Q4 2019.
Description:	<p>The preliminary Call topic is: “Developing technological solutions and services for water distribution and measurement, waste water treatment and reuse, desalination, floods and droughts, etc.”. The activities in this Second Call include: an Infoday and partnering event, the Call publication and launching, the adoption of funding decisions and the projects kick-off workshop.. These four activities cover the first two years of activity of the Second Call for Proposals of the Water JPI. The specific Call scope will be decided during Q1 2015. Although four activities of this Second Call have been highlighted, managing the Call is a continuous effort on the part of the Call Secretariat and the Call Steering Committee.</p> <p>This Call is supported by ERA-NET WaterWorks2014, responding to Horizon 2020 Call Water-3 2014. The Call funding is estimated at 20 M€.</p>
Target group:	The Second Call for proposals addresses the Research and Innovation community. The workshop for projects kick-off also addresses society at large.

<b>3</b>	<b>Third Call for Proposals for collaborative projects</b>
Timing:	From Q1 2016 till Q4 2020.
Description:	<p>The preliminary Call topic is: “Improving water use efficiency and reducing soil and water pollution for a sustainable agriculture”. The activities in this third Call include an Infoday and Partnering Event and the Call Publication and Launching. These two activities comprise the first year of activity of the Third Call for Proposals of the Water JPI. The specific Call scope will be decided during Q1 2016. Although two activities of this Third Call have been highlighted, managing the Call is a continuous effort on the part of the Call Secretariat and the Call Steering Committee.</p> <p>This Call may be supported by an ERA-NET responding to Horizon 2020 Call Water-3 2015.</p>
Target group:	The Third Call for proposals addresses the Research and Innovation community.

<b>4</b>	<b>Programme Alignment</b>
Timing:	Covering the whole planning period, with specific activities in Q1 2015 and Q1 2016.
Description:	<p>The Water JPI has developed an unprecedented SRIA and has derived critical information from the mapping of partner RDI programmes. These milestones pave the way for a fruitful dialogue with and between partner countries, so as to make the most of national resources and to increase the potential of national RDI groups. The harmonisation of agendas through alignment will boost efficiency in RDI investments and will make a positive contribution to the realization of the ERA. Alignment will be extended to RDI planning, funding, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The draft report of the GPC Working Group on Alignment will inspire the design of this activity in the planning period.</p> <p>Two workshops for sharing good practices will be programmed on specific aspects of project funding and management. Good practices identified at the Joint Activities (i.e. Joint Calls) will be contrasted with national practices. The specific topic of each workshop will be decided about two months before the meeting in order to ensure the opportunity and interest of the topics.</p> <p>A major aim of this activity is to ensure that alignment does not interfere with the proven capacity of European programme owners and managers from partner countries and the EC (through Horizon 2020) to respond to local challenges in a creative way.</p>
Target Group:	Programme owners and managers.

5	SRIA development
Timing:	Covering the whole planning period, with specific activities in Q2 and Q4, 2015.
Description:	<p>The Water JPI SRIA follows an iterative approach, in which every new version is supported by a specific consultation activity. This is the case of the upcoming SRIA 2.0, which will hold its consultation in Q2 2015. The first part of the consultation involves a specific workshop. About 50 participants, including the Advisory Boards and National experts will gather to update SRIA 1.0 taking into account the changing realities in Water RDI and progress in SRIA implementation. Working groups will be established for the five themes of the agenda, where the issues will be discussed and the texts will be streamlined. The even composition of Working Groups in terms of size, gender, affiliation and country of origin will be specifically sought. The second part of the consultation involves an online public consultation, to be performed through the Water JPI web site.</p> <p>An exploratory workshop will be devoted to analyse one or several emerging scientific or technological topics. This 1-2 day workshop will gather relevant experts in the subject, which will present and discuss their findings to other experts and stakeholders (end-users, policy makers and industry). Discussions will be oriented to elucidate the convenience of preparing plans for Joint or Cofunded Calls for proposals in the topic at the right time and with the correct funding intensity and instruments. This activity is critical to update the Water JPI SRIA and to implement it in coordination with Horizon 2020. Linkages with other initiatives (JPIs and International Programmes) will be actively sought to leverage additional funding.</p>
Target group:	<p>The SRIA consultation targets a wide variety of stakeholders: Research and Innovation community, National and European policy makers, Programme owners and managers, Society at large.</p> <p>The exploratory workshop targets the Research and Innovation community.</p>

6	Outreach
Timing:	Extending throughout the planning period.
Description:	<p>In a major event in October 2014, the SRIA 1.0 and this Implementation Plan will be launched. About two hundred invited representatives from Partner Countries, the European Commission, other European and non-European countries, and the scientific and technological communities will gather in Brussels in a half-day meeting. The new programming tools of the Water JPI will be discussed, highlighting how these will bring progress in tackling European Water Challenges. A similar event has been planned for Q2 2016, launching SRIA 2.0 and the update of this Implementation Plan.</p> <p>The Water JPI will be present at international events such as the EIP Water 2014 conference (Q4 2014) and the World Water Forum (Q2 2015). In addition, a number of other relevant international events will be attended.</p> <p>In Q4 2015 the FP7 WatEUr project - energising the Water JPI since January 2013 - will come to an end. A major dissemination event has been planned to take place in Rome. This event will showcase all developments in WatEUr and the Water JPI. Progress in tackling European water challenges will be demonstrated.</p>
Target group	This major activity mainly addresses society at large. Specific activities also address the Research and Innovation community, National and European policy makers and Programme owners and managers.

**All Water JPI documents  
referred to in this Implementation Plan  
can be downloaded from:**

**[www.waterjpi.eu](http://www.waterjpi.eu)**