

# NEWSLETTER

Issue # 4

"Water which is too pure has no fish"

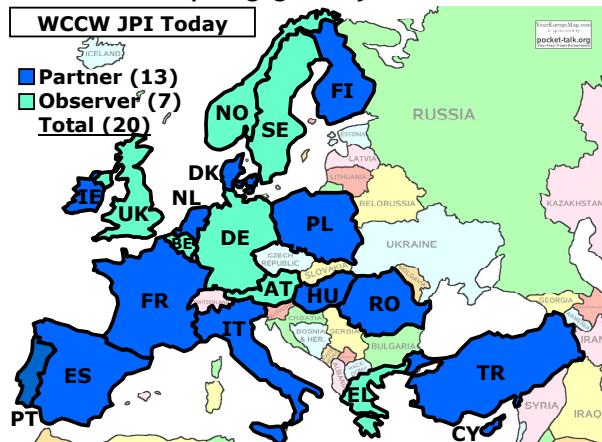
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

## EDITORIAL

Last January 19<sup>th</sup> the JPI held its first Executive Board Meeting. This issue of our Newsletter is entirely devoted to it. More detail and rigour can be obtained at the first draft of the [minutes](#) and the meeting [presentations](#). Oh, yes, there are [pictures](#) too!

## JPI Membership

The JPI currently counts on 13 partners and 7 observers. We are encouraging observers to become fully engaged in JPI activities.



The First meeting of the EB was attended by 11 partners and 5 observers. High participation evidences interest on the part of the 20 countries involved.

## JPI TASK FORCES PROGRESSING

All four Task Forces have been making significant progress in the last month.

### **The Vision Document and Terms of Reference**

(Led by **Hans**)

The document was reviewed and comments were made that will constitute the basis for another round of review. The VD is being built in a cooperative fashion.

### **Mapping Water Research**

(Led by **Alice**)

33 surveys were received from research programmes established in 11 countries. Only 40% of the programmes are specific for water. 55% of the programmes can fund

transnational activities, but only 30% of them can fund other countries. The analysis of the survey also permitted to obtain the first estimates of current investments in national (non EC) public funding of water research:

- In the EU-27: 225 M€/yr
- In the Member States and Associated Countries: 252 M€/yr
- In the current partners + observers of the Water JPI: 228 M€/yr

The EB decided to extend the deadline for survey [submission](#) and corrections till February 7<sup>th</sup>.



### **The Advisory Board**

(Led by **Giuseppina**)

In the first round of expert nomination, 24 nominations were received for the Science and Technology Board (STB) from 9 countries. Nominations showed a very good coverage of water quality, a good coverage of water quantity and poor coverage of floods and droughts. In addition, 13 nominations were received for the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), from 7 countries.

The EB decided to extend the period of expert nomination to February 8<sup>th</sup>. Following this deadline, the information dossier will be passed on to the National Delegates at the GB for analysis. Both the STB and SAG members will be elected at the first meeting of the GB (foreseen for mid April).

### **The Strategic Research Agenda**

#### **Thematic Analysis**

(Led by **Manfred**)

This group has collected information from different sources, including the CIS-SPI event,

the Framework Programme, the water related ERA-NETs and the WssTP. At the EB meeting, countries committed to send National research priorities to the TF, for inclusion in their thematic analysis.

### **PRESENTATION BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

2011 brought a new organigram to the DG, which is now called "DG Research and Innovation". The unit following our JPI is no longer headed by **Andrea Tilche** (who is now in charge of climate change). From these pages we want to thank him for his energetic support of water research throughout these years. We warmly welcome the new Head of Unit of Environmental Technologies, **Luisa Prista**.

### **Joint**

### **Programming**

- Enhanced coordination of existing national programmes, or setting up of entirely new ones
- Increased efficiency, critical mass and impact of public research funding in Europe (Common vision, SRAs, implementation of the research life-cycle)

- Focus on national public R&D programmes
- National research makes up 85% of all European public research
- Europe's research landscape still deeply dispersed (scope, depth, procedures)

Our liaison officer, **Michel**, presented the roadmap for JPI endorsement, and challenged our JPI to prove its maturity by mid March, when a dossier needs to be prepared reflecting issues like:

- Why is water a major societal challenge?
- Why is a substantial research action needed?
- Which are the current actions at Member States Level?

We need to provide this information to the Commission, and we need to prove that:

- Substantial commitment by partner countries exists. National programmes need to be identified that could open to the JPI.
- We comply with EU 2020 objectives.
- The JPI will add efficiency to public RTD, and will show relevant impact.

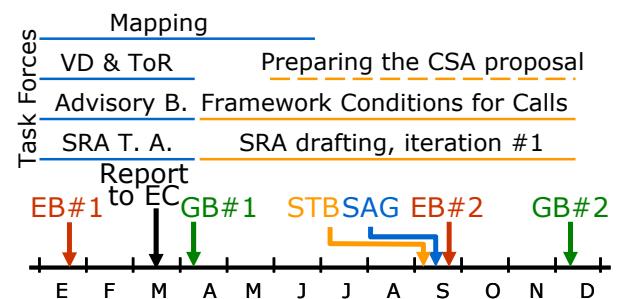
- We are focusing on clear and realistic objectives.
- A sound governance model is being implemented.

The EB accepted this challenge and is currently working to meet the objectives!



### **PLANNING OF 2011 ACTIVITIES**

Task Forces and the Coordination Team are currently preparing the information requested by the EC for our eventual endorsement. Action is intense these days on the finalisation of the vision document, the mapping exercise and the governance structure.



The Figure above presents a time line of 2011 meetings of the GB and EB, as well as the first meetings of the STB and the SAG. Task forces will also be reshaped between April and June. New task forces will start on the adoption of framework conditions and on the Strategic Research Agenda. Finally a task force will be established to prepare the CSA proposal if the JPI is to be endorsed in 2011.

### **EARLY PLANNING FOR THE GB MEETING**

- Foreseen for April 12, 13 or 14, 2011
- European water research decision makers will be gathered at the GB to:
  - Review the activities of the Coordinating team and the Executive Board.
  - Adopt the JPI structure, governance boards, and major documents
  - Plan activities for 2011 and 2012.