

EDITORIAL

These days there is plenty of **smoke** coming out of the **Water** JPI, with all the activity going on for the building of “WatEUr”. This proposal responds to the EC [call](#) for a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) on the Water JPI. For many of us, “Smoke on the Water” brings back memories from the English rock band [Deep Purple](#), which hit the top during the seventies. If you were on this wavelength, you will enjoy revisiting this [video](#) from 1975. The video displays a quaint collection of tacky outfits, but quite fresh sound!



Water issues have much improved since the seventies, with key research breakthroughs on environmental protection, water safety and security, water footprinting and pollution control. Innovative water laws have been approved in EU countries, and the EC has led the way through the Water Framework Directive.

There is still much to be done to improve water issues in Europe. At least, the evolution of water research and innovation has been much more positive than that of rock bands. Don't you think so?

WATEUR

The CSA proposal continues its preparation. Twelve Water JPI partner countries have teamed up to participate in WatEUr

“Tackling European Water Challenges”.

The proposal has identified six work packages covering the main areas of the Water JPI. Proposal design aims at providing support to Water JPI implementation. The deadline of March 20th means that JPI partners will be quite busy in the weeks ahead. Now, for the good news, the proposal contains a detailed planning of most Water JPI activities for the period 2013-2015.



OPINIONS ON RESEARCH FUNDING

Twitter's [@innovationunion](#) (maintained by the Communication Unit of the EC's Research & Innovation DG) has helped us spot two interesting articles on research funding. These articles very well fit on the current discussions within Europe in general and the Water JPI in particular... Enjoy the reading!

- [What should drive science funding: curiosity or commerce?](#) Published at The Guardian by Stephen Curry.
- [Blue-sky bias should be brought down to Earth.](#) Published at Nature by Daniel Sarewitz.



THIRD MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Water JPI partners will meet at The Hague in March 1st. The meeting will review progress in WatEUr preparations. It will also prepare the enlargement of the Advisory Boards,

which will be performed at the second meeting of the Governing Board (May, 2012). New members will be selected from a list of candidates:

- The Scientific and Technological Board (STB) was requested last year to nominate twelve world-class STB candidates. Work is in progress.
- Partner countries are currently nominating candidates for the Stakeholders Advisory Board (SAG), focusing on prominent European organizations.

The Executive Board will also analyse progress towards a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, resulting from the input received this month from the STB and the SAG.



CANDIDATE EIP ON WATER

The Candidate European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Water continues its development. In February 1st the EIP will be celebrating a Stakeholder Consultation in Brussels. The event will gather an audience composed by research, development and innovation programme owners and managers, Industry, Academia, Innovation Agents and Government Officers. Discussion will focus on:

- The optimal governance model for the EIP on Water;
- The specific targets of the EIP on Water;
- Priorities of different work packages (rural areas, urban areas and industry; and
- Horizontal themes in the EIP on Water.

The Water JPI will be there, and will continue to cooperate in the building of this new initiative.

UPCOMING EXTERNAL EVENTS

Cooperation with FACCE JPI

The Water JPI will cooperate with the Food, Agriculture and Climate Change JPI ([FACCE](#)) during their meeting in Madrid in February 22 and 23. The meeting will be devoted to mapping activities, and will count on a presentation by the Water JPI.

World Water Forum

The [event](#) will be organized in March 12-17th in Marseille. The Water JPI is [cooperating](#) in a session organized by [ONEMA](#) and the International Office for Water ([IOW](#)).



ESOF 2012

The Euroscience Open Forum ([ESOF](#)) is Europe's largest, general science meeting. The event will run from July 11-15, A Session on "Water Challenges for a Changing World" will be held in July 12th. The session will count on Laura Burke (Chair, EPA Ireland), Luisa Prista (EC), Damià Barceló (STB), Durk Krol (SAG) and Michael Depledge (Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, UK).



ESOF2012
EUROSCIENCE OPEN FORUM

"Water Innovation Europe" event

[WssTP](#), [ACQUEAU](#) and [IWA](#) are organizing this [event](#) in Brussels, on 15th & 16th May 2012. The event will host a variety of high-profile conferences and debates. It will be the occasion to celebrate the 2012 [Project Innovation Awards](#) for Europe, the prestigious awards event organized by the International Water Association. Save the date now!

LINKS TO THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

[First season](#) (issues #1-9), [#10](#), [#11](#), [#12](#), and [#13](#). More info at our [public repository](#), including our updated [who is who](#)!