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Editorial

This sketch of the water cycle was drawn specially for the Water JPI partners by a primary school pupil to celebrate World Water Day with all of us. Thank you, Valeria!

Friday 22 March 2013 marks the twentieth anniversary of World Water Day. Originally recommended as an event to celebrate freshwater in 1992 by the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the UN General Assembly designated 22 March 1993 as the first ever World Water Day. Annual celebrations on 22 March have continued ever since.

The UN has declared this year to be the **International Year of Water Cooperation** and fittingly, the slogan for this year's World Water Day is **"Water, water everywhere, only if we share"**. Many international workshops and events have been planned, focusing on freshwater as a resource and the



importance of managing it sustainably. A unique multidisciplinary approach is needed, embedding natural and social sciences within education, culture and communications.

The Joint Programming Initiative's (JPI's) "Water Challenges for a Changing World" is a European programme supported by a large network of collaborating ministries, research centres and environmental agencies. It adopts a similar multidisciplinary model of engagement to meet the grand challenge of achieving sustainable water systems for a sustainable economy in Europe and elsewhere. The Water JPI's WatEUr Project and the FP7 Coordination and Support Action also embrace and champion the goal of strong international cooperation.



The **Water JPI** will be presented during the workshop organized by the **Lincei National Academy** in Rome (on the occasion of the **XIII World Water Day**).



EIP ON WATER

The Directorate General (Environment) of the European Commission has published a new document titled [FAQ on the EIP Water Call for Expression of Commitment for Actions Groups](#) to inform all stakeholders about aims, advantages and responsibilities of this central element in the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership on water. The first call for expressions of commitment for action groups will remain open till 4 April 2013. Such calls will be made twice a year. The 28 initial actions under the priority areas identified in the Strategic Implementation Plan of the EIP-Water are listed in the Annex III of these [guidelines](#).

EP WATER GROUP

The Intergroup on water in the European Parliament was created in 2009 under the initiative of its President, the Austrian MEP Dr. Richard Seeber. The Intergroup on water meets regularly once a month to discuss the most relevant water issues. Dr. Seeber is convinced that the interaction of the people with this valuable resource, essential to the world economy, should be managed at the political level in order not to deprive future generations of their rights to water. The secretariat of the EP Intergroup on water is managed by [EUREAU](#), the European federation of national associations of water and wastewater services.

A DATABASE ON RIVER RESTORATION

The [riverwiki](#) developed by the LIFE+ RESTORE consortium holds information on 300 projects from 24 countries, and is still growing! Case studies from all over Europe cover a range of themes from biodiversity to economics and flood risk management. This database provides a useful support for the

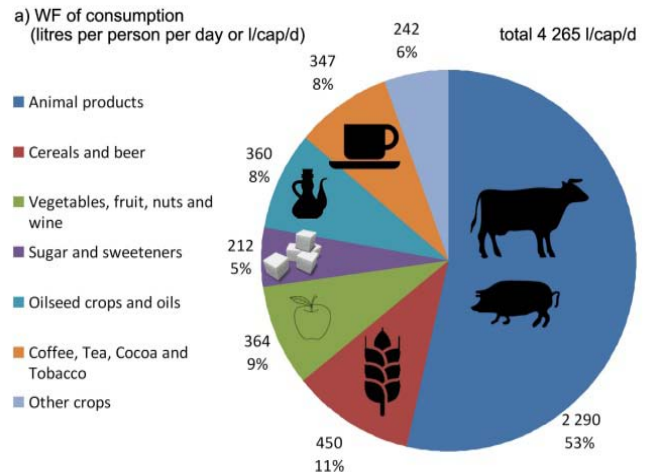


decisions and activities of river basin managers, policy makers and practitioners involved in the restoration of European rivers towards a more natural state for increased ecological quality, flood risk reduction, and social and economic benefits.

THE BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

An article by John Sexton published in the journal "Scientific American" analyses the increasingly strong trend toward international collaboration produced by our present global society and suggests the thesis that the creativity of a nation is better supported by international cooperation. Global studies are required by pressing worldwide challenges like water protection. Furthermore, science and technology are an effective way to build or reinforce the economy of many developing countries like for instance China, India and Brazil which have recently doubled their investments on research and development. The full text of the article is available [here](#).

A study carried out by Vanham and Bidoglio, two scientists from the Institute of Environmental Sustainability in the EU JRC, recommends reducing food waste, changes in diet and increased agricultural efficiencies. The “water footprint” is a measure of water use which accounts for both direct and indirect use by a region, business or individual. The concept was developed to help decision makers in water management. According to this article published by the Partnership for European Environmental Research [PEER](#), each EU citizen consumes on average 4,265 liters of water per day.



NEW TECHNICAL REPORT OF DROUGHT-R&SPI PROJECT

The FP 7 DROUGHT-R&SPI project tackles the ever increasing frequency of extreme droughts focusing on the urgent need to improve drought preparedness through increased knowledge, drought management plans and an improved science-policy interfacing in order to reduce vulnerability to future drought events. A new technical report titled **“Change in future low flow and drought in selected European areas derived from WATCH GCM forcing data and simulated multi-model runoff”** is available from the project website [eu-drought](#).

This study investigates future drought hazards for the project case study areas, including the Po River Basin in Italy, the Netherlands, the Jucar River basin in Spain, the Syros Island in the Greek Cyclades, in Portugal and in Switzerland. The study uses the downscaled, bias-corrected outcome from three General Circulation Models (CNRM, ECHAM5, IPSL) from two emission scenarios, using the data available through the WATCH (WATER and global Change) project.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



THE HYMEX PROGRAMME

The “Hydrological cycle in Mediterranean Experiment” ([HyMeX](#)) is an international programme aimed at advancing the scientific knowledge of the water cycle variability in the Mediterranean basin and at improving the observation strategy and the processes-based models needed for monitoring and predicting high-impact weather events, flash-floods and intense sea-atmosphere interactions induced by strong winds. The HyMeX research activities are based on a fruitful collaboration

in an international framework of the meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic operational and scientific communities. The 10-year observation strategy of HyMeX is focused on Special Observation Periods ([SOPs](#)) suitable to provide detailed and specific information on key processes of the water cycle

in specific Target Areas. The first HyMeX SOP (SOP1), dedicated to heavy precipitation and flash-floods over the North-West, was held in September-November 2012, whereas the second one (SOP2), aimed at studying intense air-sea exchanges and dense water formation over the Gulf of Lions, is scheduled in February-March 2013. HyMeX is endorsed by two major international programs of WMO dealing with weather prediction research and climate research: [THORPEX](#) and [CORDEX](#). A 3-day [debriefing workshop](#) will be hosted by the International Conference Centre of Météo-France in Toulouse, from 15 to 17 April 2013, to provide an overview of the first two Special Observation Periods (SOP1 & SOP2) of the international HyMeX programme and to discuss and set further collaborative studies based on the observations and forecasts collected during the field campaigns.





ECOINNOVATION CALL FOR TRANSNATIONAL PROPOSALS

The international network [ECO-INNOVERA](#) has launched a call for collaborative R&D projects including social, environmental, market and technological issues. Proposals should have a strong focus on future markets and societal needs as well as strong capability to deliver to the market. Topic 3 of the call addresses better treatment and uses of wastewater. Deadline for submission of the electronic version of joint pre-proposals is 8th April 2012 at 12 a.m.

ICT FOR WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The call for proposals [FP7-ICT-2013-11](#) will remain open till 16 April 2013. The aim is to pilot and demonstrate innovative ICT systems and services for efficient water use and reuse, in order to enable the introduction of innovative resource and demand management schemes and adaptive pricing incentives.

JOINT CALL OF CIRCLE-MED2-2013

CIRCLE-2 ERA-NET is launching a new joint call for transnational research projects in "*Adaptation to Climate Change from a natural and social science perspective: Water in coastal Mediterranean areas*". The aim of this call is to encourage scientific cooperation between social and natural scientists in order to find novel solutions for transnational water-related climate change adaptation challenges in support of public policies. The funding organizations are: the French Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, the Greek Mariolopoulos-Kanaginis Foundation for the Environmental Sciences, and the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology.

More information at the link: [circle-era](#)

LIFE + CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The [Lifeplus2013](#) call for proposals was published last February 19, with up to 278 M € available for co-financing of projects. Proposals should be submitted to the relevant national authority using the eProposal tool no later than 16:00 hours (Brussels time) on 25 June, 2013.

RESEARCH TRAINING AT IRSTEA

The French National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture offers employment contracts to achieve a PhD in 3 years. IRSTEA is looking for candidates with a Master 2 and wishing to start a thesis on the subjects offered in 2013. For more information see this [link](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

CONFERENCE ON WATER IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

The joint COST and WssTP strategic conference on water in the [urban environment](#) will take place in Brussels on 16, 17 and 18 April 2013. The conference aims at exploring the cornerstones of water innovation and its applicable directions to the market.

EGU GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The annual meeting of the European Geosciences Union [egu2013](#) will take place in Vienna on April 7-12. Session HS4.4, scheduled for Thursday 11 April 2013, will be devoted to the discussion on "Drought and water scarcity: hydrological monitoring, modeling and forecasting to improve water management".

IHA WORLD CONGRESS

Between 21-24 May 2013, the International Hydropower Association will hold the world's most important gathering of hydropower stakeholders in Kuching, Sarawak, the largest state of Malaysia. The [event](#) will bring together a range of key actors from all over the world.

ICWRER CONFERENCE

The 6th International Conference on Water Resources and Environment Research (ICWRER) will take place in Koblenz from 3-7 June 2013 and is jointly organized with the German programme KLIWAS and the European sediment network SedNet. The focus of the event is set on fostering an integrative understanding of the issues [water and environment](#).

WATERS IN SENSITIVE AND PROTECTED AREAS

The Croatian Water Pollution Control Society (CWPCS) and the European Water Association (EWA) jointly organize the 3rd International Conference on Waters in Sensitive and Protected Areas, which will be held in Zabreb from 13 to 15 June 2013. More information available [here](#)

2013 WORLD WATER WEEK

The event will be held in Stockholm from 1-6 September 2013. Click [here](#) for more information

