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NEWSLETTER

These are very busy days for the Water JPI team. After our sixth Executive Board met in Venice last October, our energies have been absorbed in progressing the joint programming initiative on water challenges of. The **first joint call** was launched on 1 November and we have published all relevant documents on the Water JPI [website](#). Our national contact points are ready to provide more detailed information and Laura Raaska, Director in the Academy of Finland, explains in her interview which results are expected from this important transnational initiative on water research and innovation.

A **Twitter Info-day** and partnering event was held on 13 November. This gave all stakeholders interested in this first joint call the opportunity to have their questions answered and to search for partners in the projects to be proposed. The Water JPI secretariat was contacted by 140 potential participants in the pilot call.



Sixth Executive Board (Venice, 10th October 2013)

You can see all this information by following @WaterJPI.

On 4 November a **videoconference** was organised by our colleagues of IRSTEA to progress the activities related to the new version of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). This will be released next year after the analysis of relevant documents and studies and after a thorough consultation process at national and international level. On 6 November representatives of the Water JPI member institutions involved in the mapping activity of national and regional water RDI programmes and projects met in Paris at BRGM to revise the **mapping questionnaire** under the coordination of our Portuguese partner FCT. This questionnaire will be circulated in December 2013 to collect all the information necessary to assess the state of art of water research and innovation in Europe and in other areas with close interaction with the EU. This work will also be useful to update the SRIA and organise the JPI implementation plan for future years. A **phone conference** was held on 14 November to boost collaboration on water research and innovation outside Europe. This is intended to develop durable partnerships with some of the countries in the world which already have relations with a number of the Water JPI members.

The past month has been an intense period for dissemination activities: the Water JPI was presented at the second Water Festival promoted by the main Italian utilities in L'Aquila and at Ecomondo, held in Rimini (Italy), the annual large exhibition focused on environmental technologies. The JPI Finnish partners presented the initiative during "The Nordic-Baltic exchange of information on drinking water and health" which took place in Uppsala (Sweden) on 14 & 15 November. In addition, our Estonian colleagues have organised a conference of collaborative water research in Tallin for 9th December.

Last but not least we say goodbye to Cynthia Monescillo who left the JPI Secretariat at the end of October to become promoter at the European Unit of the Spanish National Council for Research.

OPEN CALL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROPOSALS

The Water JPI funding partner organizations launch this first common call to enable multi-national, collaborative research, development and innovation projects addressing the topic "Emerging water contaminants - anthropogenic pollutants and pathogens".

The funding organisations and their respective countries are: RPF Cyprus; DCSR Denmark; AKA Finland; ONEMA France; BMBF Germany; EPA Ireland; MIUR Italy; RCN Norway; FCT Portugal; MINECO and CDTI Spain.

Deadline for proposal submission is 19th December 2013 at 12.00 CET. All information is available on [our website](#).

INTERVIEW

with **LAURA RAASKA**

*Member of the Governing and Executive Board
of the **WATER JPI***

*Director of Biosciences and Environment at the
Academy of Finland*

The Academy of Finland is in charge of coordinating all the activities related to this first joint call of the Water JPI. How do you cope with such an important responsibility?

Academy of Finland has long and deep experience on international cooperation. The Academy actively engages in EU activities as a science policy expert, research funding agency and national authority. We contribute to building the European Research Area and Horizon 2020 as well as to implementing their goals.

Since 2004 we have been involved with 30 different ERA-Nes, Article 185 actions and several joint programming initiatives. Many-sided international experience is important to be able to fulfill this task but I see that also our experience and knowhow on peer review of applications is important. Academy of Finland receives annually around 4000 research funding applications. High-level international peer review is the Academy's key tool for identifying the best and most promising research. Annually we have more than 400 international experts invited to evaluate the applications. Good team work and open working atmosphere are crucial. Our staff is highly educated, many of them having also background in research. The funding organisations involved in first pilot call have been very active in the preparation of the call showing strong commitment to the task. The call has been prepared in a very short period of time and has required fast response from all the partners. In this time limit opening of the call could not have been possible without very strong commitment and will.

What are the main aims of this Pilot Call on "Emerging water contaminants?"

The aim of the Pilot Call is to enable multi-national, collaborative research, development and innovation projects addressing questions relating to the water challenges faced by the European society. Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations particularly wish to promote multi-disciplinary work and to encourage proposals with fundamental and/or applied approaches, to stimulate mobility of researchers within the consortia and to enhance collaborative research and innovation during the project life and beyond. The theme is framed within the priority theme "Developing Safe Water Systems for the Citizens", as described in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the Water JPI (<http://www.waterjpi.eu>). The overarching aim is to identify new ways to efficiently assess, prevent, control and remove emerging freshwater contaminants, thereby preventing risks to human health and securing the ecological functions of water ecosystems now and in the future. Three themes have been identified as specific challenges within this Pilot Call: Identification and prevention of emerging freshwater contaminants; Control, mitigation and methods for treatment and removal; Impact on ecosystems services and human health.

Which results do the funding institutions expect from this implementation activity of the joint programming initiative on water?

Water quality is currently threatened by new emerging contaminants, e.g. polar compounds, pharmaceuticals, personal care products, perfluorinated and organosilicon compounds, endocrine disruptors, or emerging pathogens, cyanotoxins and nanomaterials, among others.



Laura Raaska

Contaminants affect ecosystem services and societal wellbeing at large. At present, knowledge gaps remain about their environmental behaviour and risks in surface- and groundwater bodies. Projects funded should produce new scientific and technological knowledge and explore the implementation of novel management measures and technologies, to manage emerging freshwater contaminants and to assess their environmental behaviour. Moreover, projects funded should answer some of the RDI needs of controlling the impact of emerging contaminants on human health and citizens' quality of life in the context of reuse of urban effluents in agricultural irrigation, water supply and water storage.

When will another joint call be scheduled on the main water challenges which have been identified?

We are preparing (or having discussions) for two ERA-NET calls (through challenge 5) within Horizon 2020 in 2014 and 2015. In 2014 call will be on a topic related to "developing technological solutions and services for water distribution and measurement, waste water treatment and reuse, desalination, floods and droughts, etc." which fulfils pillar 3 of our SRIA. The second ERA-NET call in 2015 would be on a topic related to "improving water use efficiency and reducing soil and water pollution for a sustainable agriculture" fulfilling pillar 4 of SRIA. Both of these planned calls are expected to have incremental country involvement and funding commitments but also include partners outside Europe.

Apart from the joint common calls, what are the other actions which will enable a better coordination of the European water research and innovation?

The joint calls and other activities are based on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda which is the backbone of Water JPI. The SRIA, fed by national strategies, is collective and based on shared prioritization. The aim is to have a forward-looking living document that will direct the RDI actions at EU level. The first version of collective SRIA was published in summer (May 30th) 2013. The SRIA will be updated in 2014. Important task is the consultation with the Water JPI Advisory Boards (and other relevant experts) that will enable gathering of relevant driving forces and trends and information on recent scientific outputs and gaps.

What further developments of the Water JPI will there be in the next EU research and innovation programme?

The first two-year work programmes of Horizon 2020 will be published in the beginning of December. Water innovation is one of the focus areas in the first work programme. Stepping up EU research and innovation cooperation in the water area is an ERA-NET action in Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials –work programme draft aiming at EU co-funding of two ERA-NET calls in 2014 and 2015. The call in 2014 will focus on water distribution and measurement, waste water treatment and reuse, desalination, floods and droughts and in 2015 on sustainable water use in agriculture to increase water use efficiency and reduce soil and water pollution. Hopefully JPI Water will have continuum for the current CSA Water challenges for a changing world (WatEUr) action in the coming work programmes.

EXCELLENCE IN WATER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

In the framework of the World Water Summit the European research Council dedicated a special section on its website to the water related ERC projects, being water research and innovation a priority for the excellence at a pan-European level. To see some of the proposed projects visit the page under this [link](#).

BUDAPEST WATER SUMMIT STATEMENT

A document pinpointing the outcomes of the thematic sessions of the Water Summit held in Budapest from 8 to 11 October 2013 and presenting policy recommendations is available [here](#)

EEA STUDY ON WATER PRICING

This [publication](#) of the European Environment Agency considers water pricing in several European countries and states that water should be priced at a level which both encourages efficient use and properly reflects its cost.

ACQUEAU POST-WORKSHOP REPORT

The [report](#) of the workshop "Water Beyond Europe" is now published.

OPPORTUNITIES**EIP WATER SECOND CALL FOR ACTION GROUPS**

New proposals for Action Groups of the European Innovation partnership on water will be presented by the 31 December 2013. The objective of these voluntary, transnational and multi-stakeholder groups is to develop, test, scale up, promote, disseminate and stimulate the uptake of innovative approaches and solutions to major water-related challenges by European and global markets. A call for expression of commitment is now open to allow for new Action Groups to join the EIP Water.

Click [here](#) for details.

THE JOINT FACCE/BIODIVERSA CALL

The JPI FACCE and the BiodivERSa ERANET have launched a joint call for project proposals on "Promoting synergies and reduce trade-off between food supply, biodiversity and ecosystem services". The deadline for mandatory pre-registration is on 16 December 2013.

More information is available [here](#)

**UPCOMING EVENTS****FINAL WORKSHOP OF WATER DISS 2.0**

For the last three years the FP7 project WaterDiss 2.0 has been focusing on strategies for more effective and speedier transfer of research results to intended users in the water sector. The work will be presented in Barcelona on 2-3 December 2013. For more information click [here](#)

CONFERENCE OF PREPARED PROJECT

This project focuses on the technological preparedness of water supply and sanitation systems of ten cities in Europe to adapt to the expected impacts of climate change. The conference "Adaptive solutions for water utilities" will be held in Aarhus, Denmark on 21-13 January 2014. More information [here](#)

SECOND WORKSHOP OF ECRA

The workshop "Climate and the Ecohydrological Cycle: Filling the Scale Gap" of the European Climate Research Alliance will take place in Munich on 24-25 February 2014. For detail click [here](#)

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SLUDGE MANAGEMENT

The fourth ECSM conference will be held in Izmir in Turkey on 26-27 May 2014 and also an environmental exhibition to present water technologies will be organised. ECSM 2014 aims to create an effective platform to share the most updated scientific and technological knowledge on sludge management. For more information click [here](#)



THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE [waterjpi](#) WEBPAGE

