

# Water challenges for a changing world

HOME Water JPI Implementation Mapping & Agenda Joint Calls Alignment International Cooperation Resources

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## EDITORIAL

Celebrated since 1993, this year's World Water Day will take place on 22 March as usual. The event aims to raise awareness about the essential role played by fresh water in our lives, using case studies which demonstrate best practice to promote better policies on water protection and management.

This year, celebrations throughout the world will focus on the "**Water and Energy**" nexus. Water is required to generate nearly all forms of energy and 90% of power generation is water-intensive. Future demand for freshwater and energy will increase significantly, given that 1.3 billion people are still living without electricity. It is therefore imperative that the efficiency of both water and energy sectors is improved.



We, the Water JPI team, are already actively committed to tackling these water-related challenges. Our new updated Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda will contribute to a stronger and more sustainable bio-based economy by improving our understanding of ecosystem services.

## PROGRESS ON THE JPI ACTIVITIES

### New Water JPI Secretariat Team



The Water JPI Secretariat has recently undergone significant change. Armela Dino has left us to take up other responsibilities. We thank her for her dedication and commitment to the project over the past year. The new secretariat consists of three people: Dolores Liébanes (Project Manager), Moira Torrent (Junior Project Manager) and Leyre Vergés (Technical Administrator). We sincerely welcome Dolores, Moira and Leyre to the Water JPI, and we wish them all the best in this new endeavour. You will find them all at [waterjpi.secretariat@mineco.es](mailto:waterjpi.secretariat@mineco.es).

### Water JPI Pilot Call

The topic of this first joint call among the Water JPI partners is "**Emerging water contaminants – anthropogenic pollutants and pathogens**" and three themes have been identified as specific challenges: "Identification and prevention of emerging freshwater contaminants"; "**Control, mitigation and methods for treatment and removal**"; "**Impact on ecosystems services and human health**". The eligibility check decision was adopted by all call partners: 61 proposals (including a total of 392 partners) will proceed to the evaluation phase.

The Evaluation Committee will soon start the pre-assessment of the 61 eligible proposals and later in the spring they will meet in Helsinki to finalize the evaluation tasks and rank the proposals to be recommended for funding. The national funding decisions will be made after this evaluation process.

### Towards the new Strategic R&I Agenda

The first consultative workshop of the WatEUr project, the Coordination and Support Action of the Water JPI will be held in Lyon (France) on 3 & 4 April 2014. This event represents one of the milestones of the WatEUr project and the outcome obtained thereof will be a key element in the success of the WatEUr project and the Water JPI. Organising the consultative workshop is listed as one of the tasks of WP3 and its aim will be to produce a new updated version of the **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda** (SRIA) of the Water JPI. [Read more](#)

### South Africa and Europe cooperate on water research and innovation

Last month a delegation from South Africa visited Brussels to strengthen the ties with European institutions and initiatives related to water research and innovation. The Delegation was composed of officers from the South African Water Research Commission, University professors, public researchers and private entrepreneurs. South Africa has a long tradition of cooperation with Europe through the Framework Programme, and is now interested in playing a major role in Horizon 2020 with the other European water actors. [Read more](#)

## FOCUS ON WATER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



in Portugal

Portugal does not have targeted programmes or specific calls for projects in water research. All the projects in this area are funded by competitive calls for research projects in all scientific domains. Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT), the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, is the national funding agency for science, technology and innovation, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Science. FCT aims to continuously promote the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge in Portugal, achieving the highest international standards in quality and

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competitiveness in all scientific and technological domains, and encouraging its dissemination and active role in society and in the economic development of the country. [Read more](#)

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## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### Reports of the Irish STRIVE Programme



The Irish Environmental Protection Agency has just released a report on "**Norovirus in wastewater and shellfisheries**" within its STRIVE programme on water research. This STRIVE Report 109 is now available on the EPA website to download from [here](#). Norovirus is a leading cause of gastroenteritis in humans. The report describes the survival of Norovirus (NoV) through wastewater treatment, in the aquatic environment, and subsequent uptake in oysters. [Read more](#)

### Results of the project JPIs TO CO-WORK



The 7<sup>th</sup> FP project JPIs presented its results and findings at its final conference in Madrid on 19 & 20 February. The findings are now available on its website [Jpis2cowork](#). TO CO-WORK is responsible for providing the ten EU Joint Programming Initiatives already in place with elements to better decide on the options they have to implement [framework conditions](#) and promote common guidelines.

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### EIP WATER: 38 new commitments for action groups

Responding to its second call - closed on 31 January 2014 - the EIP Water has received 38 expressions of commitment for establishing an EIP Water Action Group. The participants include a large variety of organisations spread across Europe. The European Commission will evaluate the received proposals regarding their completeness and contents during spring 2014 and then announce the new EIP Water Action Groups.

The EIP Water Action Groups bring together diverse partners across various disciplines and are at the centre of implementing the EIP Water; once established, they will start working [on the eight EIP Water priority areas](#) according to their respective proposals. Currently, nine Action Groups are active already, and their activities can be followed at <http://www.eip-water.eu/working-groups/action-groups>.

### A good practice on Water Management



The city of Portland in Oregon has launched its stormwater utility discount program called "Clean River Rewards". If a person manages stormwater on his property, he can receive up to a 100% discount on his on-site stormwater management charges because his actions help protect rivers, streams and groundwater from the damaging effect of stormwater runoff.

Ratepayers that are able to manage only a portion of their stormwater runoff are encouraged to apply for the discount. Partial credit is available on a sliding scale for properties that manage any portion of stormwater on their site, including partial credits for tree coverage and a credit for residential properties that have less than 1,000 square feet of total impervious area (roofs, driveways and paved areas). More information is available [here](#)

### Flood Protection Helps Economic Growth

Two recent studies of the European Commission available [here](#) show how environment policy can spur economic growth by boosting flood protection and making more a switch to greener taxes. One produces more evidence about the overall economic benefits from timely investment in defences against flooding, and the other highlights the advantages of moving the tax burden away from labour and towards resource use and pollution.

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## OPPORTUNITIES

### Call EuroScience Forum



The organisers of Europe's largest general science event, EuroScience Open Forum, invite journalists from around the world to apply for media travel grants. It is expected that 250 media representatives will be at the science forum in Copenhagen from 21-26 June 2014.

The slogan of **EuroScience Open Forum 2014** in Copenhagen is '*Science Building Bridges*'. One of the main objectives of the event is to build links between the media and the research community by providing a platform where journalists can discuss and report on the latest scientific developments.

To see how to apply for the media travel grants link [here](#)

### Selection Process at EIT



The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has launched a call for proposals to set up two new **Knowledge and Innovation Communities** (KICs) with partners from higher education, research and business.

The two KICs will focus on innovation for healthy living and active ageing, and on raw materials-sustainable exploration, extraction processing, recycling and substitution. The application process is open until 10 September 2014. More information is available [here](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Second Conference of the JPI HDHL



This event of the Joint programming Initiative "A healthy diet for a healthy life" will be held in Brussels on 28 March. The programme is available [here](#)

### Global Water Summit



This annual event will be held in Paris on 7- 8 April 2014 and will focus on the theme: "**Water for Growth**". Opportunities, emerging markets, new financial models, and creative approaches to performance in the utility sector will be discussed. Link [here](#) for the programme.

### EWA 17th Symposium



The European Water Association will held a workshop on water, energy and sanitation during the IFAT fair in Munich from 5-9 May 2014. See [here](#) for details

### International Conference of the AQUAKNIGHT Project



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The 2nd International Conference on the theme: "*Water Loss Management in the Mediterranean Countries: the AQUAKNIGHT Project Results*" will be held on Wednesday, 21st May 2014 in Aqaba, Jordan. More information is available [here](#)