

Water challenges for a changing world

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Last Updated on Tuesday, 15 April 2014 10:15

NEWSLETTER

04
2014



EDITORIAL

The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the Water JPI is an important part of the European joint programming initiative on research and innovation in the water sector. It is the backbone of all our activities and a reference document for all JPI implementation actions and European policies concerning the RDI needs in the water sector area.

The first version of the Water JPI SRIA was adopted at the end of May 2013 after an initial process of collective analysis on the shared priorities in water research and innovation. Particular thanks are also due to the experts and relevant stakeholders at regional, national and EU levels who contributed to this.

By June 2014 the new improved and updated version of the Water JPI SRIA will be launched as a milestone in the strategic objectives of this intergovernmental initiative. Aiming at strengthening European competitiveness in the field of water research and innovation, it will achieve this through better coordination of programmes and allocation of funds to tackle future water challenges.

We're really keen for you to participate in helping us refine version 1.0 of our SRIA. You can do this by taking part in the public consultation which is open until 30 April and can be found on the [Water JPI](#) website. Please, answer the [questionnaire](#) on the five themes presented in our Vision Document. The questions are also available in Spanish and in Italian. Only half an hour time is required. Thank you very much in advance for your contribution!

PROGRESS ON THE JPI ACTIVITIES

First consultative workshop of the Water JPI

The first consultative workshop of the Water JPI took place the 3rd and the 4th April in Lyon (France). More than 50 people participated in the workshop between members of the Advisory Boards of the Water JPI, national experts, and members of the WatEUr Project. Severina Markova, programme officer at the European Commission, also attended the workshop. This first consultative workshop aimed at fine-tuning and prioritizing the research needs so far identified, being therefore an essential information source for the preparation of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA 1.0). The workshop was designed around a number of plenary and parallel working group sessions – one for each of the five themes of the Water JPI. Participants were invited to join one of those working group sessions according to their preference and research expertise. The outcome of the workshop shows that no major changes to the SRIA currently under preparation will be made. Nevertheless, some new research needs will also be included in the agenda as well as research priorities and implementation instruments. The minutes of the workshop, with detailed information on the discussions and the proposals made by participants, will be available on the Water JPI's site very shortly. Thank you very much to all workshop participants for their valuable input!

Next JPI partners' meeting in Cyprus

The fourth Governing Board will be held in Cyprus and hosted by our colleagues of the Research Promotion Foundation based in Nicosia. The members of the GB representing the Water JPI countries will discuss the progress on the 2013 Pilot Call, the submission of the WaterWorks 2014 proposal for the ERANET-COFUND call implementing the Water JPI activities after 2015 involving also South Africa as first partner outside Europe, the renewal of the internal governance.

FOCUS ON WATER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



in Italy

The main funding agency of research and innovation in Italy is the Ministry of Education, University and Research [MIUR](#) responsible for the implementation of the National Plan for Research [PNR](#) which establishes the main actions of the national and regional programming in research and innovation according to the European policies. The PNR 2014-2020 aims at strengthening the national system of RDI through a better integration of research needs, governance strategies and sources of funding in order to avoid the previous fragmentation of initiatives and duplication of efforts. Next water research and innovation initiatives will be funded within this new PNR which also allocates yearly 30 M€ to the joint programming initiatives involving the country. [Read more](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

The Leidenfrost Maze



The Leidenfrost effect is a phenomenon in which a liquid, in near contact with a mass significantly hotter than the liquid's boiling point, produces an insulating vapor layer which keeps that liquid from boiling rapidly. When a liquid droplet is placed on a surface that is significantly above its boiling point, a layer of vapor is formed beneath the droplet, allowing it to skip and slide around like a deformed air hockey puck. [Read more](#)

New action groups of EIP WATER



The 16 new Action Groups of the European Innovation Partnership on water efficiency have been selected out of a total of 38 submitted proposals on the basis of these established criteria:

strong relation to the EIP Water Strategic Implementation Plan, presence of innovative concepts, breadth and

experience of the involved team, demand or market relevance and urgency, considerations of governance, and clarity of end goals. These newly- selected Actions Groups bring the number of EIP Water action Groups to a total of 25. Priorities areas that dominate in this 16 new Action Groups are water governance, decisions-support systems and monitoring, and water and wastewater treatment. A total of 557 organizations and companies from 45 countries were involved with France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain and Italy in the leading positions. More information is available [here](#)

EWA statement for EP Water Agenda



Elections for the new European Parliament are scheduled for next 25 May. The European Water Association has published a [statement](#) calling for policies able to promote water related actions on the main problems affecting an efficient and sustainable water management.

EPA catalogue of expertise in Environmental Research



The catalogue of the Irish Environmental Agency provides an insight into Irish companies and research organisations active in the field of Environmental Research. There have been approximately 52,000 hits/views to date since the launch and there are 173 profiles publicly available (65% *Academic*, 10% *Gov*, 15% *SME*, 10% *Other*) in this [catalogue](#).

Report on Domestic Wastewater



The EPA has just released the Research **Report 123 "Management Options for the Collection, Treatment and Disposal of Sludge Derived from Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems**, and is now available on the EPA website at this [link](#). In the report it is suggested that alternative recycling or disposal options, such as recycling to energy crops, conversion to fertilisers, incineration, pyrolysis and other feasible disposal routes may need to be adopted on a significant scale, in order to deal with the volumes of municipal and the additional DWWTS sludge produced nationally. The report also puts forward a number of recommendations with regard changes to legislation, increased investment in infrastructure and desludging rotas etc.

OPPORTUNITIES

Heritage Plus Joint Call



The Joint Programming Initiative in Cultural Heritage and Global Change has launched a call for pre-proposals to promote new, research-based knowledge on sustainable use and management of cultural heritage. The deadline for submission of proposals will be 28 April 2014. The total budget for this call is around 9 M €. More information is available [here](#)

Travel Grant for EU-CHINA Cooperation



FP7 Dragon-STAR project opened its second call for a Travel Grant Scheme providing the opportunity for European organizations to investigate the Chinese market and identify suitable partners to conclude technological and/or research collaboration. The Dragon-STAR funding will cover travelling expenses and accommodation with a maximum of 2,500 € for each European organization. The call is open until 30 April 2014. Details are available [here](#)

UNESCO-IHE Fellowship programme



The Experienced Water Post Doc Fellowship Cofund programme launched by the Institute for Water Education of UNESCO and co-financed by the EU Marie Curie programme offers fellowships covering a research period of 24 months. The application deadline is 30 April 2014. For more information click [here](#)

Environmental Informatics Prize for students



The German Informatics Society will award the "Environmental Informatics Prize" sponsored by the University of Hamburg. Students of all subjects from all countries are eligible. The deadline for submission is 31 May 2014. Click [here](#) for details

The portal for jobs and services to EU Researchers



EURAXESS is a unique European Research Area (ERA) initiative providing access to a complete range of information and support services for European and non-European researchers wishing to pursue research careers in Europe. It offers access to the job market; assists researchers in advancing their careers in another European country and supports research organisations in their search for outstanding research talent. EURAXESS is a pan-European initiative, supported by 40 participating countries across Europe. More information is available [here](#)

International call for best sustainable practices



Water is one of the priorities of the programme Feeding Knowledge about sustainable natural resources management: it describes the links between natural resources status and management and their inter-linkages with food security, by analysing five important components including water (and also land, climate change, biodiversity, and energy).

Feeding Knowledge, developed by CIHEAM-IAMB and Politecnico di Milano, is the Expo 2015 Program for cooperation on research and innovation on food security. An international call for best sustainable practices on food security is open until 15 September 2014. Click [here](#) for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE 5th INCO Conference



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.

SusChem stakeholder event



This year the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry will celebrate its 10 year anniversary. The celebration will take place during the 12th stakeholder event to be held in Brussels on 11-12 June 2014. The programme is available [here](#)

Water Innovation Europe 2014

The European technology platform for water sanitation services WssTP, member of the



stakeholders advisory board of the Water JPI, has organized its stakeholder event on next 25-26 June at the Diamant Centre in Brussels with the aim of bringing together hundreds of experts of the water sector. The event will host the WssTP-IWA PIA Awards and the first Water Innovation SMEs Awards in Europe. For more information see [here](#)

10th Symposium on Ecohydraulics



Scientists, engineers, end users and decision makers are invited to share information, discuss advances and problems and further develop the field of ecohydraulics to benefit for the aquatic environment and a sustainable development of water resources during this event organized in Trondheim, Norway from 23-27 June 2014. Click [here](#) for details

World Lake Conference



The 15th World Lake Conference will take place in Perugia (Italy) from 1-5 September 2014. This event, originally launched by the Shiga Prefecture, Japan, has previously been organized by the International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC). This year's conference foresees the participation of international, national and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, private sector representatives and other water stakeholders. The aim is to disseminate the importance of conservation and safeguarding of the earth's natural resources to the new generation of researchers and scientists, and to the world of education. Click [here](#) for more information.

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