

# Water challenges for a changing world

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

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## EDITORIAL

We achieved a large success with the public on-line consultation on the updated version of the Water JPI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA v.1.0). A total of 637 respondents (female: 261; male: 376) cast their opinions on the importance and urgency of the questions presented in this consultation open on the JPI website. We want to thank this large number of contributors for their inputs which will help us in finding the best solutions to the present and future water challenges.

The participants in the Water JPI Public Consultation have a great diversity of typologies. Most respondents have declared to be occupied in research organizations (413 respondents) or in public administrations (104), but also 37 representatives of water SMEs and large companies sent their opinions. A 7% of respondents belong to professional associations and non-governmental organizations, and citizens have also contributed in a 6%.

As for their nationality the most involved countries are: Italy, Spain, Portugal, France and Finland. Besides, we have also a 4% of participation from other countries out of the Water JPI partners.

**Maintaining ecosystem sustainability** was the most highly ranked water research and innovation priority, both for importance and urgency before the theme **Developing safe water systems for the citizens** and the less selected **Promoting competitiveness in the water industry, Implementing a water bio-based economy, and Closing the water cycle gap**.

The new version of our SRIA will be launched by June 2014.

## PROGRESS ON THE JPI ACTIVITIES

Within the water Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) mapping four questionnaires are currently available for public consultation on an online platform (PLATFORM SURVS). **WatEur** WP2 partners have been compiling mailing lists with potential respondents for the dissemination of these questionnaires and since 11 February 2014 this dissemination has been accomplished in the following countries: Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Ireland, Finland, Norway and Turkey. With the goal of complementing the data gathered in the questionnaires with the experience and particular thoughts of stakeholders and leaders of relevant European initiatives in the field of water, potential interviewees are being selected and personal interview structures developed. In addition to the overview of questionnaires and interview answers, the inclusion in the *Mapping Annual Report* of countries reports with summary analysis of publications and patents is currently being discussed in the Coordination Team.

WP 5 of **WatEur**, the Coordination and Support Action of the Water JPI, has completed the report on international RDI cooperation in water topics outside Europe. Main funding agencies and actors in water research and innovation were analyzed in the following countries chosen for close collaboration: Brazil, USA, Canada, South Africa, India, China and Vietnam.

The Evaluation Panel appointed to select the best projects to be funded by the pilot call met in Helsinki last 6-8 May to review the 67 proposals which had fulfilled the admission criteria. Decisions on the list of projects which will be funded by the Water JPI organizations supporting this first common call will be taken during the 4th meeting of the Call Steering Committee scheduled for next 27th May in Cyprus hosted by the Research Promotion Foundation. GB members will also focus their meeting on the new version of the SRIA and the implementation plan of the Water JPI.

## FOCUS ON WATER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



in Finland 

There is a wide range of funding bodies for water science in Finland, mostly ultimately governmental. Funds can be divided into those provided by core budgets for Institutes and Universities and those provided through competition. The central funding body for research beyond core government funding in the area of water research is the **Academy of Finland**.

[Read more](#)

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### Monitoring Water Cycle from Space



The project earth2Observe had its kick-off meeting in Delft last January and will last for four years, funded by FP7. Earth2Observe aims at a better use of the European and international environmental satellite missions for a high space-time resolution monitoring of the atmospheric and terrestrial components of the water cycle.

The project will integrate available Earth Observations (EO) from different satellite missions, in-situ datasets from various sources, and state-of-the-art models to construct a consistent and robust Global Water Resources Reanalysis (WRR) dataset of sufficient length (at least 30 years). The WRR will enhance the availability of information on freshwater resources worldwide, and will allow for improved insights into the status and existing pressure on global water availability in all components of the water cycle (precipitation, soil moisture, evapo-transpiration, runoff and groundwater), subsequently supporting efficient water management and decision making.

NEWSLETTER

The WRR will support a wide range of applications at various scales and setting, from local and regional to the pan-European and global levels, from data-rich to data-poor areas of the world. It will help identifying water stress and vulnerability hotspots, support trans-boundary catchment water resource planning, determine water related risks (floods, droughts, water pollution) and plan targeted actions. Case studies cover several continents, with a variety of hydro-climatic, geo-morphological, water use/management and governance conditions (Spain, Morocco, Estonia, Ethiopia, Colombia, Australia, New Zealand and Bangladesh). More information can be obtained by accessing the project's [web site](#)

#### Water Cap and Trade Project

"*Water Cap & Trade, Water Markets Scenarios For South Europe: New Solutions For Coping With Water Scarcity And Drought Risk?*" is a IWRM - ERA NET project, that brought together expertise of research groups from southern Europe to investigate different aspects of Water Markets (WM) in the European context. The aim of the project was to investigate if, and under which conditions, the establishment of various systems of tradable water rights could help coping with increased water scarcity and drought. Several water trading scenarios were investigated, their economic efficiency assessed using economic models and their acceptability analyzed through farm surveys and stakeholders' focus groups. Results obtained contribute to the discussion on water market initiated by the European Commission in its "Blue Print to safeguard Europe's water resources" (2012). The water trading perspective raises a number of questions related to: the expected economic gains; the social and territorial impacts; the cost of establishing such a system; the most appropriate institutional set-up; and the social and political acceptability of this instrument. It also calls for a comparison with alternative approaches relying on cooperative and contractual mechanisms. Models developed in several case studies have highlighted that water trading activities within the agricultural sector would only increase marginally gross margins and additional research is required to gain knowledge on transaction costs.

#### THE SIPE-RTD Web Portal



This Portal serves as a knowledge brokerage tool, linking EC Policies to European Standards related to (monitoring of) the environment, as well as to EU funded RTD results potentially in support of the development and implementation of such standards. The SIPE-RTD Web Portal operates as a 'switch board', linking related information that is available in the different communities (standards, policy and research) in a thematic way.

The SIPE-RTD Web Portal offers information on Standards, interlinked with Research projects & results and policies in the environmental compartments **Water & Marine, Air, Waste & Sludge and Soil & Sediments**. participants. All interested stakeholders are invited to give feedback on this web portal. For more information click [here](#)

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### OPPORTUNITIES

#### Open Call of OECD Research Programme



Scientists who are nationals or permanent residents of a country participating in the Co-operative Research Programme of OECD and who have completed their postdoctoral training may apply for a research fellowship. Applications must be relevant to one of the research themes of the programme. The deadline for applications is 10 September 2014. Details can be found [here](#)

#### Belmont Forum 's Call for Proposal



The Belmont Forum has released a call for proposals on "*Arctic Observing and Research for Sustainability*" as part of its 2014 International Opportunities Fund to encourage interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary science. The call seeks to bring together integrated teams of natural scientists, social scientists, and stakeholders to develop projects that utilize existing Arctic observing systems, datasets and models to evaluate key sustainability challenges and opportunities in the Arctic region. Proposals for this funding opportunity are due 31 July 2014. For more information see [here](#)

#### FET Proactive Consultation



The European Commission launched a public consultation on new ideas for the programme Future and Emerging Technologies. Suggestion of new ideas for the FET work programme 2016-2017 is possible until next 15 June. Details are available [here](#)

#### EU Cohesion Policy Future Plans



Cohesion policy is the main investment pillar of the European Union budget that provides support to innovative business, supports SMEs, creates sustainable jobs, improves skills, combats poverty, promotes social inclusion, gives remote regions broadband, tackles the brain drain, improves the environment, promotes energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources, builds vital transport links and strengthens efficiency of public administrations. Information on the new programming of the EU structural funds is provided [here](#)

#### Call for Papers on Nanotechnology



Excellence in science, industrial leadership, responsiveness to societal challenges, sustainability, will guide the EU Industrial policy for growth in the coming years and are featuring the action of Horizon 2020. Cross cutting Key Enabling Technologies (KETs)\* are the drivers to attain these goals.

**NanotechItaly 2014** will showcase, with the contribution of specialist coming from industry and academia, how nanotechnologies, together with the other KETs, can sustain a Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) assuring a competitive advantage to a variety of industries, relevant to EU and national economy. The three-days event to be held in Venice on 26-28 November 2014 will also focus on **water remediation and treatment**. For more information click [here](#)

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Workshop on Extreme Events



The ECRA Collaborative Programme on High Impact Events will organise a workshop on 2-3th June 2014 in Copenhagen with the aim to engage stakeholders for developing research priorities and to discuss the state-of-the-art developments in the science of extreme events. More information [here](#)

#### Singapore International Water Week



Source for your water solutions at Water Expo, one of the world's most important and comprehensive water trade shows focusing on innovation, products and services. Look out for the new Innovation Pavilion, encompassing 200sqm of new technology showcase from local and international start-ups.

This global water trade show will be held from 1-5 June 2014. Details [here](#)

#### Final Conference of the SIPE Project



This event is organized in Brussels on Tuesday 17 June 2014. The conference's main goal will be the official launch of the SIPE-RTD Web Portal, showing its potential in knowledge brokering with respect to standards development and implementation. Details are available [here](#)

#### Water Research Horizon Conference



The 5th Water Research Horizon Conference will take place on June 17/18, 2014 in Berlin, Botanical Garden and Museum. As established in the last conferences of this series, two main overarching themes were set. These are: "Water in urban areas" and "Extreme events – understanding environmental processes in real time". For the first time, the Conference will be organized by the Water Science Alliance. More information is available [here](#)

#### Canadian Water Summit



Since 2009, the Canadian Water Summit has served as a collaborative forum for leaders from diverse sectors to share insights and further a united mission: to build a sustainable water future for Canada.

This conference will be held in Toronto on next 18 June. For more information click [here](#)

#### Brasilia will host The 8<sup>th</sup> WWF



The World Water Council (WWC) has selected the city of Brasilia and the country of Brazil to welcome the 8th World Water Forum in 2018. The World Water Forum, the world's largest water event that aims to put water firmly on the global agenda, gathers international organizations, political leaders, parliamentarians and mayors, representatives of civil society, water professionals and scientists together every three years.