

Water challenges for a changing world

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

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EDITORIAL

NEWSLETTER

Regular meetings are always very useful to strengthen our collaboration in the joint programming initiative on present and future water challenges. These face-to-face meetings not only provide valuable inputs to progress the Water JPI activities, but they also help to improve personal interactions and knowledge of the meeting hosts and their countries. Last time we were together was in Protaras, near Cape Greco in Cyprus. This was the fourth Governing Board of the Water JPI, held on 28 May 2014. The meeting was hosted by our colleagues from the Research Promotion Foundation based in Nicosia.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Marina Villegas, Director General of Scientific and Technological Research of the Spanish Ministry for Economy and Competitiveness. Dr Luisa Prista, head of the Environmental Technologies Unit at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation also attended.

The members of the Governing Board and the other national delegates received detailed information about the evaluation of the proposals submitted to the Pilot Call, the progress in the elaboration of the new version of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, the activities, instruments, management and procedures identified to implement the Water JPI in the coming years, the first results of the mapping of water research, development and innovation in Europe, and the progress in cooperation with partners outside Europe.

Of the resolutions adopted by the Governing Board, the most important is the new governance model which will be decided in spring 2015. A specific Task Force was created to propose new governance models. The Task Force will carry out a consultation with the members of the Governing Board (to be launched soon). Candidacies for the new Water JPI leadership will be submitted to the next Governing Board meeting, scheduled for 11-12 November 2014, and hosted in Oslo by the Research Council of Norway.

Last but not least, we have learned that some of our young colleagues are expecting babies: Lene is looking forward two twins, while Stefanie and Anna Maria are expecting their first children. Best wishes to all of them! Water is life and these new lives are lovingly welcomed into the Water JPI family.

SEVEN PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

Panel reviewed the proposals according to their scientific and technological quality, using the methodology approved by the Call Steering Committee. The seven top-ranked transnational collaborative research proposals recommended for funding are:

- **FRAME** (A novel Framework to Assess and manage contaminants of Emerging concern in indirect potable reuse);
- **METAWATER** (New METAgonomics and molecular based tools for European scale identification and control of emergent microbial contaminants in irrigation WATER);
- **MOTREM** (Integrated processes for MOnitoring and Treatment of Emerging contaminants for water reuse);
- **PERSIST** (Persistence and fate of emerging contaminants and multi-resistant bacteria in a continuum of surface water groundwater from the laboratory scale to the regional scale);
- **PROMOTE** (PROtecting water resources from MOBILE TracE chemicals);
- **StARE** (Stopping antibiotic Resistance Evolution).
- **TRACE** (Tracking and assessing the Risk from Antibiotic Resistant genes using Chip technology in surface water ecosystems);

These seven projects will be funded by the following Water JPI partners: BMBF (Germany), MINECO (Spain), AKA (Finland), ONEMA (France), RCN (Norway), InnovationsFonden-former DCSR (Denmark), MIUR (Italy), FCT (Portugal), EPA (Ireland), CDTI (Spain), and RPF (Cyprus). Specific funding decisions will be made by the national funding organisations later this year after the establishment of each Consortium Agreement and the formalization of grants according to national rules.

Three of the recommended projects have a German coordinator, two have a consortium led by a Spanish organization, one project is coordinated by a French institution and another one has a Portuguese coordinator. Three of these seven consortia are led by female coordinators, while four are led by male coordinators. The seven recommended proposals have a total of 53 partners, of whom 44 will be fundable. Fundable partners (led by 13 females and 31 males) represent all ten funding countries and all eleven funding organizations involved in the Call. BMBF (Germany) and MINECO (Spain) have the highest number of fundable partners, thirteen and nine, respectively. The average age of consortium coordinators is 48 years.

EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED FOR THE PILOT CALL



A message from the Chair of the evaluators international panel Professor Steven Eisenreich

The Water JPI Evaluation Committee (EC) for the Pilot Call met at the historic Helsinki Congress Paasitorni on 6-8 May 2014 (days of cool sunshine with a promise of spring) with the task to evaluate proposals submitted to the Water JPI's Pilot Call. My message today is to summarize the proposal evaluation process and to offer our combined insights and

recommendations on the quality of submitted proposals and the evaluation process itself.

[Read more](#)

WATER JPI IMPLEMENTATION



Enrique Playán Jubillar, coordinator of the Water JPI, explains in this interview how the EU joint programming initiative "Water challenges for a changing world" will be implemented in coming years until 2020.

The envisaged activities are the fruit of a joint effort to harmonize our national programmes, to identify and jointly implement best practices in water RDI management and attain higher efficiency in finding water research and innovation.

To know about the first implementation plan responding to the societal challenge of "Achieving Sustainable Water Systems for a Sustainable Economy in Europe and Abroad" [read this interview](#)

WATER CHALLENGES HERE AND THERE

The Water JPI at Istanbul Water Forum



Organized by the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN), the 3rd Istanbul International Water Forum took place on 27-29 May, 2014. Over 3.000 participants from various countries showed interest in eight thematic sessions and twenty-one side events of the Forum.

The plenary session of the Forum addressed the relevance of water security in emerging Sustainable Development Goals of post 2015 process. The Forum was particularly remarkable with the spirit of highlighting tangible issues of water security and legal aspects of water. Likewise, the side events were as productive as the main sessions owing to the efforts of the side event conveners including World Water Council (WWC), 7th World Water Forum Secretariat, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Water Research Institute (IWRA), International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Water JPI among others. Enrique Playán (MINECO), Patrick Flammarion (IRSTEA) and Osman Tlikansak (SUEN) participated as the panelists to the Water JPI Side Event Session chaired by İpek Erzi (TUBİTAK) on the final day of the event. The Water JPI Session hosted a small, but interested group of audience who were introduced to the structure and aims of the Water JPI, development of SRIA and SUEN's involvement in the WatEur CSA.

The output of the 3rd Istanbul International Water Forum will be documented in detail in the following months and disseminated publicly. For the time being access to the power point presentations of the Wrap-Up Sessions is possible via [this link](#)

EEA Publication on Water Service

The European Environment Agency published last May a [report](#) titled "Performance of Water Utilities beyond Compliance" presenting data on the water using habits of 50 million European citizens. This publication came shortly after a commitment of the European Commission to improve the transparency and accountability of water service providers by giving citizens access to comparable data on the key economic, technical and quality performance indicators

The New Strategy of the Water Global Partnership



GWP's new 2014-2019 global strategy, Towards 2020, is [now available online](#). The strategy outlines a new direction for GWP with the goals of catalyzing change, sharing knowledge, and strengthening partnerships for a water secure world.

OPPORTUNITIES

ESA Call for Research Proposals



The European Space Agency (ESA) has launched the first Call for Research Proposals of the Living Planet Fellowship. This initiative represents the follow-on of the successful Changing Earth Science Network. The main objective of this initiative is to provide support to young researchers who have a doctoral degree and who would like to initiate a scientific career in the context of Earth Observation, Earth science and Climate research. Proposals and all supporting documents must be sent by e-mail to: EOScience@esa.int by no later than 30 June 2014

Scholarships and Fellowships in Australia



The Australian Government offers support to non-Australians to undertake study, research or professional development in Australia next year. Application will close on 30 June 2014. More information is available [here](#)

EuropaBio Award



EuropaBio's Most Innovative European Biotech SME Award aims to reward European Biotech SME's that have developed an innovative solution to technical, social and environmental problems. Deadline for application is 1st July 2014. Click [here](#) for details

Call for nominations



The Ramsar Convention Secretariat has announced that three awards will be given in the categories of wetland wise use, wetland innovation and young wetland champions. Deadline for nominations is 15 July 2014. More information is available [here](#)

Third DRAGON-STAR Call



The FP7 DRAGON-STAR project supporting the EU-CHINA cooperation in Horizon 2020 has launched its third call to provide travel grant to European organizations willing to investigate the Chinese market and identify partners to conclude technological and/or research collaboration. Deadline for applications next 18 July. Click [here](#) for details.

Public Consultation on the Europe 2020 Strategy

NEWSLETTER



The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the EU's long-term growth and jobs plan. The consultation will be open until 31 October 2014. To take part in the inquiry click [here](#)

Open Call for abstracts



The SCARCE International Conference: "River conservation under water scarcity: integration of water quantity and quality in Iberian Rivers under global change" invites anyone working on water sustainability to share knowledge on water resources management. Click [here](#) for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Water Innovation Europe 2014



The big annual event organized by the European Water Platform WssTP will take place on next 25-26 June at the Diamant Centre in Brussels. The programme is available [here](#)

Horizon 2020 Info Day



The European Commission services organize an Info Day on the "Spreading excellence and widening participation" calls in Horizon 2020 on next 3rd July. More information [here](#)

Event on Water Distribution System Analysis



The conference will take place from 14-17 July 2014 in Bari (Italy) Details are provided [here](#)
14 - 17 July 2014, Bari, Italy

Conference on large rivers



After the first International Conference on "The Status and Future of the World's Large Rivers" held in Vienna in 2011 a new edition of this global forum for a wide-ranging discussion of key issues related to research on large rivers and to their effective and sustainable management, involving both scientists and decision makers is organized from next 21-25 July in Manaus, Brazil. Click here for [details](#).

7th River Flow conference



This international conference on fluvial hydraulics and river morphology will be held from 3-5 September 2014 in Lausanne, Switzerland. More information is available [here](#)