

Water challenges for a changing world

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

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EDITORIAL

The Water JPI involves a wide partnership, composed of 19 partner countries and 5 observers. Sweden with [FORMAS](#), the Swedish Research Council will be the partner number 20 very soon, after the formal approval of the Water JPI Governing Board.

In addition to the Coordination and Support Action **WatEUr**, which started in 2013 and is still progressing, the Water JPI is also now pursuing its goals through a new project titled **WaterWorks2014**. This [ERANET-Cofund](#) action, which is supported by the EU Horizon 2020 research programme, started its activities at the beginning of this month and will last till the end of 2019.

Next month, **WaterWorks2014** will launch a substantial joint call for transnational collaborative research projects on the topic of **"Research and innovation developing technological solutions and services for water systems"**. The Water JPI members are encouraging wide participation across the international research community in this initiative. The total available budget of this upcoming call amounts to 20M€, from eighteen national funding organizations and the EU Co-fund. For the first time a Water JPI joint call is also funded by an institution outside Europe: the Water Research Commission of South Africa. This active cooperation on water research and innovation therefore represents an important step in strengthening the international dimension of the Water JPI with countries beyond Europe.

WaterWorks2014 will promote and finance multi-national, collaborative research projects oriented to the development in the global market of innovative technologies and services for water treatment, recycling and reuse, desalination, floods and drought. A [pre-announcement](#) of this call, which will open on next 2nd March and close on 4th May 2015, is published on the Water JPI website. The list of funding agencies enabling the participation of their national research and innovation community, according to the so-called "virtual common pot" scheme, is also included.

As usual, all developments in the activities of this new water project will be communicated and disseminated through the [Water JPI website](#) and this newsletter.

PROGRESS ON WATER JPI ACTIVITIES

A report on the water research and innovation mapping exercise, included in WP 2 of WatEUr, was finalized and delivered to the European Commission at the end of December 2014. 108 organisations responded to the questionnaires, aiming at facilitating a better understanding of the European water-related RDI landscape. The survey results are accompanied by a bibliometric analysis to provide an inventory of national and regional research strategies, policies and programmes. A preliminary strategic analysis of the current water research strengths, weaknesses, gaps and barriers to cooperation and alignment of agendas is also included. A synthesis of this report will be published soon on the Water JPI website.

The WP 3 partners in charge of carrying out the consultation process which will contribute to version 2.0 of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) met in Brussels on 15th January. They focused their discussions on the identification of new water research and innovations which need to be taken into consideration for the updated version of the SRIA and on the organization of a second consultative workshop involving water experts and stakeholders. Special attention was devoted to the analysis of the first draft of the questionnaire designed for a public consultation on the themes and subthemes of the Water JPI [SRIA](#). The aim of this public consultation, which will be launched soon, is to collect comments on the relevance, urgency and socioeconomic impacts of the already identified water RDI needs and suggestions on new possible demands. The new version of SRIA will be completed by the end of this first coordination and support action. [Read more](#)

FOCUS ON WATER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION in United Kingdom



The [Business, Innovation and Skills](#) (BIS) Department of the Government of the United Kingdom pursues global excellence in science and research to help the UK maintain economic prosperity and address key global and domestic challenges, such as climate change and security. Innovation helps BIS deal with complex challenges and drive growth by improving productivity and R&D. The BIS Department coordinates scientific efforts in the country. Responsibilities for water related research are also distributed across devolved governments (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and between different departmental interests (e.g. environment, international development). The largest funders of water research are the [Research Councils and The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#) (DEFRA). Each year the Research Councils invest around 3,500 M€ in research covering the full spectrum of academic disciplines from the medical and biological sciences to astronomy, physics, chemistry and engineering, social sciences, economics, environmental sciences and the arts and humanities. The focus is on excellence with impact. While each of the seven Research Councils is to some extent involved in water research, some of them are highlighted below. [Read more](#)

INTERVIEW WITH DURK KROL



Director of the WssTP - European Technology Platform for Water Research and Innovation.
Deputy-Secretary General of EUREAU

[Read his interview](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

An assessment of disproportionate costs in the Water Frame Directive

In 2013, the Emilia-Romagna regional administration created a project to assess the costs needed to meet the Water Framework Directive (WFD) policy objectives. The project involved a group of experts with a combination of relevant expertise from the Emilia-Romagna Regional Environmental Agency and the University of Bologna (geologists, engineers, statisticians and economists). The participating experts developed a methodology for the assessment of disproportionate costs according to the WFD guidelines. The methodology explicitly considers the interdependencies between water bodies and the multiple interactions between measures and pressures and fits into a common assessment procedure, developed in recent studies conducted in different European countries. The assessment of cost disproportionality was carried out for regional rivers flowing in the Po river basin

and for all others river basins entirely included in the administrative boundaries of the Emilia-Romagna region and flowing directly into the Adriatic sea. The procedure made it possible to sketch the linkages between impacts and sources of pressure and to identify a cost effective combination of measures allowing to meet Water Framework Directive requirements.

[Read more](#)

DROPLETS

The Global Opportunity Report 2015



The report sets out a view on 28 economic, environmental, societal, geopolitical and technological long-term risks worldwide, highlighting 15 opportunities for a better world, including 3 solutions to combat the lack of fresh water. For more information click [here](#).

Public participation in the WFD implementation



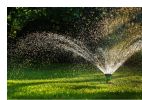
A [publication](#) of the European Environment Agency evaluates whether the provisions for public participation in the context of the EU Water Framework Directive contribute to achieving the objective of this water policy. Experiences from eight case studies in Europe are presented in this report titled "Public participation: contributing to better water management".

The 5 essential elements of a hydrological monitoring programme



Written for water resource managers this [whitepaper](#) presents a modern "best practices" approach to hydrometric monitoring based on these 5 essential elements: quality management system, network design, technology, training, data management.

Report on water reuse in Europe



The scope of this JRC Science and Policy [report](#) is to analyze the technical, environmental and socioeconomic challenges of related to water reuse as an innovation option. This report presents and compares the most relevant national and international guidelines on water reuse, and evaluates existing water reuse standards in EU Member States.

Furthermore, it presents a risk-based management approach for wastewater reuse and identifies needs for technological and regulatory innovation as well as barriers to overcome

OPPORTUNITIES

Cost open call



The European programme for cooperation in science and technology [COST](#) has published a new call for proposals for action aiming at providing for knowledge share, creation and application. Submission is possible till 24 March 2015 at 12 noon CET.

Fast track to innovation pilot

A call to support projects undertaking innovation from the demonstration stage through to market uptake is open in the participial [portal](#) of the programme Horizon 2020.

Vacancies for researchers

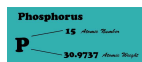
The European Commission launches a first call for expressions of interest to create a database of candidates from which to recruit contract staff in function group IV to provide additional capacity in the research field in the Commission and, in particular, in the Joint Research Centre (JRC). More information is available at this [link](#).

Research fellowship for young researchers in China



The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) supports this [funding call](#) for international researchers. Deadline for applications is 20th March 2015.

Environmental competition in Scotland



A £800,000 competition launched across Scotland last January aims to develop innovative solutions through private-public sector collaboration to recover phosphorus and other nutrients and chemicals from water for beneficial use.

For more information, please follow this [link](#).

Guidance for beneficiaries of ESIF funds



This [guide](#) of the European Commission explains how to effectively access and use the European Structural and Investment Funds and on how to exploit complementarities with other instruments of relevant Union policies.

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme



The Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme has opened the first call for proposals. Up to 80 million Euros of co-financing are available for public and private organisations that want to cooperate beyond borders on innovation, low-carbon strategies, natural and cultural resources or transport. The first call is organised in a competitive two-step procedure. The deadline for submitting online applications to step 1 of the call is 13 April 2015. More information is available [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

World Water-Tech Investment Summit



This event will be held in London from 9 to 11 March 2015 with the goal to pool ideas and experiences from around the world to accelerate the adoption of advanced technologies by both municipal and industrial water users. For more information click [here](#).

ACQUEAU workshop



The EUREKA cluster on water organizes a workshop on the theme "Industrial waste water treatment". The workshop will be held in Helsinki on 12th March, hosted by [Tekes](#), the national funding agency for innovation in Finland.

International conference on drought



This event organized in the frame of the FP7 project Drought Research and Science-Policy Interfacing will be held in Valencia from 10th-13th March 2015.

Click [here](#) for the programme.

The ASEAN-EU Science, Technology and Innovation Days



The ASEAN-EU STI days are a forum style event, initiated by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme funded SEA-EU-NET II project for cooperation between Europe and Southeast Asia. The event 2015 will be organised in Paris, France on next 17-19 March. More information is available [here](#).

Water Matters conference



This EurEau event will be held in Brussels on 25th March and gather policymakers, water industry leaders and water users. The programme is available [here](#).

Joint WssTP-ERRIN RIS3 workshop



This event will focus on water cluster development, water challenges and international cooperation, having as its main objective to gather around 20 European regions which want or have already implemented water in their policies. Registration is available [here](#).

4th European Water Conference

The Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission is organizing this event to debate the first cycle of the WFD implementation and the process towards the preparation of the flood risk management plans. The programme of this event scheduled in Brussels on next 23-24 March is available [here](#).

Water & Health Conference



This event programmed in Geneva for next 26-27 March will focus on the theme: "Pharmaceuticals in the urban water cycle: state of art and reduction strategies" and aims to provide an interdisciplinary view between water and health stakeholders, technicians and local representatives. Click [here](#) for details.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstracts submission for Aqua 2015



The international association of hydrogeologists will hold its 42nd congress in Rome from 13-18 September 2015. The deadline for abstract submission is March 31, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

Water and Society 2015



An invitation to present papers at the 3rd international conference on water and society is open [here](#).

2nd Conference on land use and water quality



Abstract submission for this event to be held in Vienna from 21-24 September 2015 is still possible. See [here](#) for details.