

Water challenges for a changing world

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

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EDITORIAL



The kick-off meeting of the seven water research projects funded by the first joint call of the Water Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) took place in Brussels on the 11th March 2015. This meeting involved representatives of the funding ministries and national agencies of the member states, which funded this joint call, and many researchers involved in the activities of the projects FRAME, MOTREM, PROMOTE, METAWATER, PERSIST, STARE, TRACE (see [here](#) for the description).

This was a very fruitful day discussing the research, which will be carried out with different methodologies and focus on the common topic of "Emerging water contaminants – anthropogenic pathogens and pollutants".

This event was also a good opportunity for welcoming the researchers involved in these seven projects into the Water JPI community, networking, and for strengthening the science and policy interface within the Water JPI, which is also based on the fundamental concept of **co-production of new knowledge** on the topics identified in its jointly elaborated Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

It was very promising to see researchers and funders, who are also policy makers in many cases, discussing the developments of their cooperation, the expected results of the projects, as well as the possible participation of other stakeholders in the projects advisory board. This dialogue between the scientific and policy-making communities will surely improve the necessary linkages between policy demands and research needs, as well as between owners and performers of the national water research and innovation programmes. It will also contribute to improve the accessibility of the scientific knowledge to be produced and of the experiences already achieved, thus increasing the societal impact of the European initiative on water challenges.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARTNER

After the formal approval of the Governing Board of the Water JPI convened in Brussels last week, Sweden has become the country number 20 in the partnership of the joint programming initiative on water. Our new member country is represented by the Swedish Research Council [Formas](#) which receives its financial allocation from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry for Rural affairs to promote and support research in the areas of environment, agricultural sciences and spatial planning. Formas is already funding the joint call launched at the beginning of March in the frame of the ERANET-Co-fund WaterWorks 2014. We are very pleased to address a warm welcome to our Swedish colleagues who represent a country which allocates considerable funds to the European research and innovation and is very active in the water domain.

PROGRESS ON WATER JPI ACTIVITIES

After the official launch of the seven projects of the Pilot Call, several meetings took place in Brussels and have catalyzed our interests and energies. Two EC-funded projects: the Coordination & Support Action (CSA) **WaterUr** (funded under FP7) and the ERANET COFUND **WaterWorks2014** (funded under Horizon 2020) support the Water JPI implementation & joint activities.

The General Assembly of the FP7 Coordination and Support Action (CSA) WaterUr was held on the 12th March 2015 to take stock of the activities performed by the six work packages (WPs) so far. The Water Research & Innovation Mapping [Report](#) provides a [map](#) of research, innovation & development (RDI) in the water sector in Europe and associated countries and has been published on the [Water JPI website](#). This report will be updated in the coming months. This mapping survey is a useful tool supporting the efforts in the identification of water RDI needs to be included in the new version of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) (version 2.0), which will be released at the end of the CSA WaterUr project. Upcoming activities include the launch of a second Public Consultation on Water RDI needs in April 2015, a meeting of the new Water JPI Advisory Boards in June 2015 in Dublin, as well as a Stakeholders Workshop on the SRIA in Orleans in October 2015. The French ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche), which now coordinates the Water JPI since the Governing Board held in Oslo last November, has become a partner of WaterUr CSA and will be responsible of the activities focused on international cooperation. The WaterUr CSA project will be completed at the end of June 2016.

The Kick-Off meeting of the Horizon 2020 ERANET-CoFund WaterWorks 2014 took place also on the 12th March 2015 and focused on the proposed activities of this action aiming at supporting the implementation of the Water JPI. The second Water JPI cofounded Call will focus on the topic Research and Innovation for Developing Technological Solutions and Services (1) for Water Treatment, Reuse, Recycling and Desalination; (2) for Water Resources Management; and (3) to Mitigate Impacts of Extreme Events (Floods and Droughts) at Catchment Scale; was opened on the 2nd March 2015 (see the Water JPI [website](#) for more details). A new tool to building consortium and looking for partners is now available [here](#). If you are interested in the call, join the LinkedIn discussion group!

[Read more](#)

FOCUS ON WATER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



in Austria

The Federal Ministry of Science and Research is responsible for 72 % of the public research funding in the country. Research funding is performed through specialized federal organisms.

The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is Austria's central funding organization for basic research. The purpose of the FWF is to support the ongoing development of Austrian science and basic research at a high international level. In this way, the FWF makes a significant contribution to cultural development, to the advancement of knowledge-based society, and thus to the creation of value and wealth in Austria. FWF's objectives include strengthening Austria's international performance and capabilities in science and research as well as the country's attractiveness as a location for high-level scientific activities, primarily by funding top-quality research projects for individuals and teams and by enhancing the competitiveness of Austria's innovation system and its research facilities. In 2009, FWF funded research in hydrology for 1.2 M€. The programme in chemistry (partially relevant to

water purification and treatment) received 7.8 M€.

FFG is the National support centre for industrial research in Austria. They support Austrian companies, research institutions and researchers with a comprehensive range of support and services and representing Austrian interests at European and international level.

The Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management are responsible for 16 % and 3 % of the public research funding in the country, respectively. However, they specialize on research lines which in many cases are directly related to the water JPI. Such is the case of the Floodrisk programme, in which both Ministries acted as programme owners.

INTERVIEW WITH SEPPO REKOLAINEN



Director of the Freshwater Centre of the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE),
member of the Stakeholders Advisory Group of the Water JPI

[Read his interview](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

In situ remediation for contaminated land and groundwater

In Europe groundwater provides up to 98% of potable water supplies in some countries. Consequently, it will become more important to protect and enhance groundwater resources. There is chronic and widespread contamination of European land and aquifers with contaminants from industrial, agricultural, mining, military and other activities.

This liability is set against the ambitions of the Water Framework Directive, which aims to protect and restore water resources across Europe and to ensure their long-term sustainable use. Linked to this are significant socio-economic pressures from brownfield redevelopment within urban regeneration programmes, which aim to return this asset back to good use for communities and reduce consumption of greenfield land. This philosophy is central to sustainable development.

Within this framework, there is a need to develop sustainable approaches for the remediation of contaminated groundwater resources. Traditional remediation methods for contaminated land and groundwater are widely acknowledged to be unsustainable in many cases, considering environmental impacts, costs, performance and treatment timescales. Sustainable remediation practices integrate all relevant technical, environmental, economic and social indicators to identify an acceptable balance which delivers net benefits. It allows sustainable development criteria to be formally incorporated within contaminated land and groundwater management strategies at all stages of decision-making, scales of operation and site development phases.

In situ remediation (ISR) is often the most sustainable management approach for soil and groundwater contamination. This field is relatively new and the practical implementation of sustainable ISR in Europe is significantly underdeveloped. This can only be improved by cross-disciplinary applied research that integrates the various scientific, technical, environmental and socio-economic aspects that affect decision-making, management strategies and technology applications for contaminated land and groundwater across different scales.

ADVOCATE (Advancing Sustainable In Situ Remediation for Contaminated Land and Groundwater), aims to address this challenge. **ADVOCATE** consists of project partners of few European Countries (United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, Poland and Switzerland) that provide advanced training to early stage and experienced researchers in scientific, technical and practical skills related to the research of sustainable *in situ* remediation techniques and applications for contaminated land and groundwater.

You can find more information at the project website: <http://www.theadvocateproject.eu/>

DROPLETS

Implementation of the Water Frame Directive



Last 9 March the European Commission released the [4th report on the WFD](#) which informs on the state of art in the development of River Basin Management Plans and programmes of measures. The aim of this report is to provide an overview of the progress made by Member States in the implementation of the WFD. Key recommendations for each member State are included.

Contribution to H2020 work programme 2016-2017



A [stakeholders document](#) on water priorities in demand-driven research and innovation was presented to the European Commission by the EU water sector major organizations to suggest themes, calls and topics for the work programme 2016-2017 of Horizon 2020.

EEA state of environment



According to this [report](#) of the European Environmental Agency Europe is far from meeting water policy objectives and having healthy aquatic systems. An outlook on water quality and quantity is also provided for some cooperating countries outside Europe such as Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Turkey.

EIP publication on annual conference 2014



The European Innovation Partnership on water held its annual conference in Barcelona last November. The [report](#) is now published. A call is open to find a host city for the conference scheduled for February 2016.

EUOMED cooperation on water



The report of the conference held in Naples last November is available [here](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

Recruitment of young researchers



14 PHD studentships are offered by the Marie-Curie Action [TRUSS](#) (Training in Reducing Uncertainty in Structural Safety). These early stage researchers positions will start next August or September. More information is available [here](#).

Public Consultation on FP7 results

The evaluation of the achievements of EU's 7th Framework Programme for research and innovation worth € 53 billion of funding for the period 2007-

2013 is the object of this public [consultation](#) open till next 22 May.

More than 66 billion € committed to the cohesion policy

The European Commission has adopted 40 new programmes to support economic development and social cohesion across the European Union. More information is available [here](#).

Pilot action on WFD intercalibration



A call for a pilot action developed by the JPI-Oceans will fund a scientific intercalibration exercise for the EU WFD coastal and transitional waters. More information is provided [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

7 th World Water Forum



Every three years this international forum on water challenges involves governments, research institutes, enterprises, international organizations and NGOs from hundreds of countries. The 7th WWF will be held in Daegu and Gyeongju in the Republic of Korea from 12-17 April and focus on the theme "Water for our future". Details are provided [here](#).

EGU General Assembly



The annual conference of the European Geosciences Union will be held in Vienna from 12-17 April. Work sessions related to water are available [here](#).

Global Water Summit



This summit to be held in Athens on next 27-28 April will focus on the theme "Water Value Revolution", recognizing water as one of the top three development risks, because it is a finite resource and its connection to economic growth and the sustainability of our well-being is crucial. Details are provided [here](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS

15th EuCheMS international conference



The event will be held in Leipzig in September 2015. Abstract submission is possible till 30th April. See [here](#) for more information.

Enviroinfo 2015



The call for the submission of abstracts for this event to be held in September in Copenhagen has been extended to 31st March 2015. See [here](#) for details.