

# Water challenges for a changing world

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## EDITORIAL



This sky-blue building that sounds rain music is located in the Neustadt district of the German city of Dresden in Saxony. Rainy days are usually gloomy and boring. But not at all in the artistic series of courtyards situated at Görplitzer Straße 21-23 known as "**Kunsthofpassage**" for its glimpse of architectural craziness. This "Funnel Wall" has orchestral skills thanks to the rain collected by its funnel-shaped gutters able to amplify the sound produced by the [water flow](#).

It is particularly rewarding for the Water JPI team to realize that water cycle, so essential for life, is also providing a special contribution to art and fun.

## PROGRESS ON WATER JPI ACTIVITIES

The invitation to submit project proposals to Waterworks 2014 [call](#) on the topic "**Research and Innovation for Developing Technological Solutions and Services**", subtopics: for water treatment, reuse, recycling and desalination; for water resources management; to mitigate impacts of extreme events (floods and droughts) at catchment scale is open till next **4th May 17 h** (central Europe time) for the first step of this funding opportunity offered by some organisations members of the Water JPI.

Private and public researchers of Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and The Netherlands can be part of the transnational consortia (with at least 3 partners of 3 different countries) which are necessary to present proposals for this call based on the "virtual common pot" rule: each national funding agency will support financially the research units located in its country. The secretariat of this Waterworks 2014 call ([ww2014@fct.pt](mailto:ww2014@fct.pt)) and the [National Contact Points](#) are available to provide information and suggestions for the participation in this water research and innovation funding initiative with a total budget of 16 M € including 1 M € for loans to private companies provided by the Italian Ministry for Education, University and Research (MIUR). Project proposals must be submitted through the dedicated account [ww2014@fct.pt](mailto:ww2014@fct.pt).

A **WaterWorks2014 Twitter Info-day** (with these credentials/hashtag @WaterJPI - #WaterWorks14) was held on Wednesday 15th April 2015 h. 14.00-16.00 (CET). It was managed by the Call Secretariat to support all interested subjects in the application procedure of the WaterWorks2014 co-funded call. The main questions were related to some aspects of the application, i.e. the relation between the topics and the number of funding project per topic and the limit concerning the overheads costs.

## Renewal of the Water JPI Advisory Boards

The Water JPI Management Board is assisted in its work by two groups of advisors; a Scientific and Technological Board (STB) and a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG). The former is composed of pre-eminent scientists from any part of the world who are expert in some aspect of water quantity or quality and who contribute scientific advice to the Water JPI project. The latter is made up of nominees from water industry, water users, non-governmental organisations and local or national authorities and they provide a user perspective of the work of the JPI. Both groups are appointed for a term of two years and are expected to contribute a maximum of one week per year to the work of the Water JPI.

Both advisory groups were overdue for renewal as, strictly speaking, their term ended in 2014 and so, participating countries were canvassed for nominees for the STB and the SAG. In total, 24 nominations were received for the STB and 12 organisations were nominated for the SAG. The revised and updated Terms of Reference of the Water JPI decreed that membership of both groups should be confined to ten people.

The STB nominees were assessed by the Management Board according to their experience in conducting research and development in the fields covered by the JPI, leadership in the JPI's thematic areas, academic record and recent and active participation in international scientific expertise, foresight and cooperation. A shortlist of 10 were proposed to the Governing Board at their GB6 meeting in Brussels and the Governing Board made two changes to the proposed list in order to improve the range of disciplines and avoid duplication. The revised shortlist of 10 was approved by the Governing Board.

Following the GB6 meeting in Brussels Governing Board members were circulated with the list of 12 organisations proposed for the SAG and asked to nominate 2 for deselection. The results lead to the removal of 2 organisations leaving 10 members on the SAG also. Each of these organisation must now propose a person to represent them on the Water JPI Stakeholder Advisory Group for the next 2 years until March 2017.

The first meeting of both Advisory Boards is planned for 4th and 5th of June 2015 in Dublin

## The Water JPI at the 4th European Water Conference

Members of the Water JPI attended the 4th European [Water Conference](#) held in Brussels on 23-24 March 2015. They were among the hundreds of experts, researchers, policy makers, representatives of the European Commission who contributed to the discussions with a special focus on the "**Fourth implementation report – assessment of the Water Framework Directive programmes of measures and the Flood Directive**" and the reports on the screening assessment of draft second cycle [river basin](#) management plans and [flood risk](#) management plans.

Mr. Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, declared that new solutions to improve the implementation process of the European policy for water are expected from the research projects that will be funded by the Horizon 2020 calls while increased monitoring activities will certainly improve the water management in Europe especially in those countries which are still lying behind and can take benefit of the European structural and investment funds 2014-2020.

Information on the Water JPI activities was provided to the very large audience of this international event through the dissemination of our [flyer](#), [factsheet](#) and the [leaflet](#) related to the Waterworks 2014 call.

NEWSLETTER

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## WATER JPI EVENT AT EXPO 2015



Next 17 June our team will be engaged in an EXPO 2015 event organized in the Europa Pavilion to present the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, the seven Pilot Call funded projects on water quality and the other activities already in place to implement this international cooperation on water. A round table on drinkable water and the water-food nexus will be at the core of this Water JPI event and will gather experts and representatives of private and public institutions. The [programme](#) and the [registration form](#) are available in the Water JPI website.

## FOCUS ON WATER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION in Belgium



Water research and innovation in Belgium is funded by three institutions: the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office, the Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology and the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS) for an annual estimated funding budget of more than 12 M €. The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office, previously known as the 'Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs' (OSTC), is a federal administration which covers a very broad area. It manages an annual budget of about 513 M € and a staff of 2.700. The mission of the Federal Science Policy Office is to prepare, execute and evaluate science policy and its extensions, support ten other federal scientific institutions for the coordination and valorisation of research activities, implement scientific means in support of authority competences. The Research Programmes Department is responsible for managing multi-annual, topic-specific programmes in response to problems linked to the policies of the public authorities, such as social cohesion, sustainable development and information society. The matters fall within the sole jurisdiction of the Federal Government or that of several authorities (federal and federate), in which event the programmes are the subject of co-operation agreements concluded between the Federal Government and the Communities and/or Regions, (2) Basic research programmes are also run under the "inter-university attraction poles" programme (IAP), which falls within the framework of a co-operation agreement between the Federal Government and the Communities. The Office also represents the Federal Government in specific committees of the European Research Programs of the DG Research and related activities.

[Read more](#)

## INTERVIEW WITH JEAN-PHILIPPE TORTEROTOT



Deputy Director of Research, Development and Innovation of the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.  
Former President of EWA - European Water Association.

*"Innovation and public-private collaboration on research are high on national and European agendas, in order to support both sustainable water management and economic competitiveness. Green growth objectives fully apply to water issues, on one hand by protecting resources and reducing production inputs, on the other hand by developing new technologies and know-how which are competitive internationally."*

[Read his interview](#)

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### Climate change could put millions more at risk of water scarcity



Although water scarcity is already a problem in many countries today due to factors like population growth, the effects of global warming could put millions more people at risk of absolute water scarcity, according to a [study](#), edited by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and published in a special issue of the journal "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America".

This paper highlights the fact that water resources will be affected by changes in rainfall and evaporation due to climate change, putting 40 percent more people at risk of absolute water scarcity.

The combination of unmitigated climate change and further population growth will expose a significant fraction of the world population to chronic or absolute water scarcity. In fact, between one and two people out of 100 live in countries with absolute water scarcity, which is defined as less than 500 cubic meters of water available per year and per person. On average, each person consumes about 1,200 cubic meters of water each year. But population growth combined with the effects of global warming could bring the ratio of people living in countries with absolute water scarcity up to about 10 in 100 people.

The quantities that most humans need for drinking and sanitation are relatively small, and the fact that these basic needs are not satisfied for many people today is primarily a matter of access to, and quality of, available water resources.

For more information read also [Severe Heat Waves Are Expected to Double by 2020](#)

## DROPLETS

### EIP Water new action groups



Four new Action Groups were selected after the third call for expressions of interest of the EIP Water. There are now 29 Action Groups, helping to reach EIP Water's goal of proper representation over all eight priority areas as defined in the EIP Water Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP). [More details](#)

### Management and protection of transboundary rivers



Thanks to a collaborative project between GWP Lithuania and GWP Poland (Development of GIS communication technology platform and database for transboundary Neman and Pregolya river basins), a set of 30 GIS (Geographic Information System) maps, an interactive database and a video have been created aiming at improving the management and protection of the two transboundary rivers. [Read more](#)

### Sao Paulo could run out of water by June

According to an estimation set forth by Brazil's own government, the region is experiencing its worst drought in 80 years. Low water levels are affecting more than just the drinkable stuff. As a result of the arid conditions, reservoir levels and lake water flow to hydroelectric facilities that supply power to Brazil's most densely populated city of Sao Paulo, are nearing zero capacity. The drought is also having an impact on energy supplies. [Read more](#)

## OPPORTUNITIES

### ERC Call for Proposals



The ERC (European Research Council) has yearly calls for proposals covering all scientific fields. Open calls are: ERC Advanced Grant, designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage, already established research leaders with a recognized track record of research achievements ( Deadline 2 Jun 2015, 17:00 Brussels local time) and ERC Proof of Concept ( deadline 28 May and 1 Oct 2015, 17:00 Brussels local time). For [more information](#)

### WssTP SME AWARDS 2015



Applications for the second edition of Water Innovation SME awards are still open . The main objective of the call is to boost economic opportunities for the European water sector and especially for the small and medium enterprises. Commitment to the SMEs is renewed and they are invited to submit their innovative breakthrough solutions or technologies for the 2nd Water Innovation SME Awards. All submissions will be evaluated on the basis of their innovation, market potential and exploitation strategy. Entries will stay open until 22nd May 2015. For [more details](#)

### BiodivERsA call : Pre-Announcement of the 2015 Call for proposals



The next BiodivERsA call, cofunded by the European Commission will be launched in May 2015 and will close in early November. It will cover the following themes: *Understanding and managing the biodiversity dynamics of soils and sediments to improve ecosystem functioning and delivery of ecosystem services and Understanding and managing biodiversity dynamics in land, river and sea-scapes (habitat connectivity, green and blue infrastructures, and naturing cities) to improve ecosystem functioning and delivery of ecosystem services.* The indicative global budget for this call is ca. 30 million euro. For [more information](#)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### EU-China forum on science and technology



A conference to strengthen the international cooperation of the European Union with China in S&T matters is organized for the 28th April in Brussels by the China Science and Technology Exchange Center and supported by the FP 7 project [Dragon Star](#). More information on this event is provided [here](#).

### First JPI Oceans conference



This event will be held in Brussels next 7 May 2015 to present the JPI Oceans Vision and Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. Details are provided [here](#).

### CEWP 4th Annual High-Level Meeting



The China-Europe Water Platform established to promote policy dialogue, joint research and business development in the water sector between China and Europe organizes its annual high-level meeting in Copenhagen on 12th May 2015. Click [here](#) for more information.

### FACCE-JPI and JPI-HDHL at Expo 2015

A joint event of the joint programming initiatives [FACCE](#) and [HDHL](#) will be held at Expo 2015 in Milan next 13th May. For more information see [here](#).