

Water challenges for a changing world

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EDITORIAL

"Feeding the planet, energy for life" is the motto of the universal exposition of Milan open till 31st October 2015. Water is a central theme of this big international event and the focus of the EXPO satellite event [AQUAE Venezia](#) which describes, in an educational and interactive way, how deeply water influences the quality of our lives. Fountains, streams, a lake, water and lights effects, water-dripping walls, water nebulizers and free distributors are everywhere in the huge EXPO area. Water as essential resource for the production of food is the main focus of many EXPO pavilions representing countries all over the world.

Also the Water JPI contributed to raise the general awareness on this essential element for a sustainable development of our planet. The event held in the European Union pavilion last 17 June was organized to present our joint activities performed till now, further steps up to 2021 and discuss with invited experts the present and future challenges to achieve sustainable water systems for the citizens in Europe and in the world. The interest for our initiative is increasing and we have gained new friends and supporters.

Presentations, some photos and a video realized for this occasion are available at the Water JPI homepage.



PROGRESS ON WATER JPI ACTIVITIES

Meeting with the new Advisory Boards of the Water JPI

The 1st Advisory Board meeting took place on 4th & 5th June 2015 in Dublin, Ireland, where the consortium presented the objectives of the Water JPI, the developments and the results achieved since the start of the Water JPI (elaboration of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, development of the Implementation Plan, mapping the research activities in Europe and in some no-European countries) and the expected role of the boards.

The meeting was the opportunity to discuss with the Advisory boards:

their contribution to the different activities of the Water JPI, and in particular for the short term the revision of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, the identification of the priorities;

the ways to increase the impact of the joint calls on the research communities and on the water sector market;

the possibilities of synergies with some existing initiatives for improving the leverage effect.

[Read more](#)

Results of the public consultation on the Water JPI SRIA

The Water JPI launched the second Public Consultation on its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA 1.0) published in June 2014 aiming to gather the opinions of the society at large.

Consultation was open in 27th April – 24th May 2015.

In total 390 responses were submitted by the deadline. The responses were received from 25 countries of which six were other than European countries and most of the respondents were affiliated within research (64 %) (Figures 1 and 2).

Three of the sub-themes were ranked as the most important. With 14 percentage share sub-themes Reducing Soil and Water Pollution (Theme 4) and Emerging Pollutants: Assessing their effects on nature and humans and their behaviour and treatment opportunities (Theme 2), and with 13 percentage share Enabling Sustainable Management of Water Resources (Theme 5).

The complete results of the consultation will be published later this year in the second consultation workshop in Orleans and implemented to the SRIA 2.0 which will be published by the end of the year.

[Read more](#)

Developments in the second call for proposals

NEWSLETTER

TER

The ERA-NET Cofund, WaterWorks 2014-2019 in support of the Water JPI (WaterWorks 2014), launched in March 2015 a cofunded call on **"Research and Innovation for Developing Technological Solutions and Services for Water Systems"**, with the participation of 17 funding partner organisations (FPOs) from 15 different countries. The submission period for pre-proposals ended in May 4, with the additional participation of institutions from 4 other countries at their own expense. Out of the 118 submitted proposals, circa of 10% were not considered eligible. Despite existing a strong emphasis on non-profit organisations, it is important to mention that 20% of the partners come from the private sector. The overall requested funding from all partners ascended to 100 M€ compared to the 10 M€ contribution from the FPOs; on average there is a 15% ratio between requested funding from partners and funds made available from the FPOs. The eligible pre-proposals are being evaluated by external experts at the moment, with the expected outcomes being generated during the month of July. The period for submission of the full proposals will end in September 2015."

FOCUS ON WATER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION in Germany



Water research and innovation in Germany addresses the major challenges of sustainable management of our natural water resources. Water research is driven by Germany's competitiveness in the global economy and by demographic and climatic changes. It contributes to the **"High-Tech Strategy"** of the German government, which defines its path of becoming a worldwide innovation leader.

[Read more](#)

INTERVIEW WITH LAURA BURKE



General Director of the Irish Environmental Protection Agency

"JPIs contribute to developing common solutions, sharing of good practices resulting in more efficient research programmes , to supporting the implementation of joint actions (such as cross-border collaboration projects or infrastructure sharing), and to improving coordination with other national and European RDI programmes."

[Read this interview](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Artificial water recharge for the quality of aquifers

It is expected that in the next decades Europe will suffer a dramatic reduction of availability and easy access to water resources and artificial recharge represents an appropriate and effective tool to protect both surface and groundwater. **WATER RE-BORN Project - Artificial Recharge: Innovative Technologies for the Sustainable Management of Water Resources**, is a European project funded by EC in 2011 within the LIFE + Programme with the aim of investigating measures to reduce and control groundwater pollution. Coordinated by the National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS) of Trieste, the WARBO project has applied a new methodology for water artificial recharge (AR) to prevent nitrate pollution, saline wedge intrusion and over exploitation of aquifer. This very innovative approach will facilitate the regulation of water artificial recharge (AR) and determine how to respond to the need to safeguard, protect and enhance water and land ecosystems. The project mainly focuses on sites with AR problems that host ecosystems of community interest where urgent measures are needed to fight against water scarcity and to develop protocols able to specify how to manage recharge activities. In Italy the following test areas have been studied: the Po Delta, the high plains of Friuli and a spring water area of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, one of the regions of Europe with higher water resources. The issues addressed by the project are common to many areas of the Mediterranean countries which are sensitive to climate, and artificial recharge results to be the best methodology to contrast mid-term and long-term water cycle imbalance. Many of the project results are still in the process of being published and they will be a good food for thought for next project activities within future LIFE+ and Horizon 2020 programs. [To know more](#)

DROPLETS

\$12.3 billion to Middle East Countries for water projects



Middle East Countries expect to award \$12.3 billion US dollars to the development of water and used water projects and infrastructure in 2015. Six out of the top 10 projects in the region are on desalination. In this emerging economic area, business intelligence is important to disseminate information on technology, solutions and development. As the world becomes fossil fuel free, the impact of water in the Middle East region is of growing importance. [To know more](#)

Report of the Global Water Partnership



GWP in Action is the annual report of the Global Water Partnership. It analyses the network achievements and presents the progress, the challenges and the status of the Partnership from around the world. An interesting highlight of this edition is the launch of the [GWP Gender Strategy](#) at World Water Week in Stockholm. The report also mentions the network's contribution to the post-2015 development agenda. [Read more](#)

IWA's proceedings on water efficiency

The proceedings of IWA International Conference on "Water Efficiency and Performance Assessment of Water Services" that took place in Cincinnati, Ohio - USA on April 20-24, 2015 are now available. The main objective of the conference was to tackle the challenges that water services are facing in the 21st century: water scarcity, climate change, increasing demand, and the deterioration of water resources. The conference gathered a large number of water professionals to exchange experiences on key topics on urban water.

[Download presentations](#)

UN World Water Development Report 2015

The 2015 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR 2015), titled Water for a Sustainable World, edited by UN-WWAP and UN-Water was launched in New Delhi at the official celebration of the World Water Day, on March 20. [The report](#) describes a world in the not-so-distant future in which water resources and water-related services are managed in such a way that the benefits derived are shared equitably throughout the world. It demonstrates how water resources and services are essential to achieving global sustainability by analysing the relation between water and the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

OPPORTUNITIES

2015 Call for proposals for LIFE grants



The European Commission has published the invitation for legal persons (entities) registered in the European Union (EU) to present proposals for the 2015 call for proposals for LIFE Action Grants. The call covers proposals for both LIFE sub-programmes: *Environment and Climate Action*. These two calls will cover action grants for "traditional" projects, preparatory projects, integrated projects, technical assistance projects and capacity building projects. Applicants must use the LIFE 2015 application packages (in English only) for the preparation of their proposals. Closing dates: from September 15 to October 7 2015. [To know more](#)

TECO Project 2014-2018 first call



TECO is a EU-funded project for the implementation of EU-India exchange of experts and innovators in the field of technological eco-innovation applied to the pollution of soils and waters and to the improvement of their quality. The duration of the grant for each project ranges from 15 days to 3 months. Applications for getting the mobility grants from Europe to India will be accepted starting from 31st July 2015. The application deadline is 15th September 2015.

[To know more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

36th IAHR World Congress



The International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) organizes this event at the World Forum in Delft and The Hague, the Netherlands from 28 June - 3 July. It will cover several topics related to hydro-environmental science and engineering. Being located in the delta of the Rhine-Meuse river system, the Netherlands has been dealing with issues related to flooding, land reclamation, and sustainable development. Special emphasis will be put on practical implications of delta-technology and sustainable delta development.

[To know more](#)

IWE Istanbul Water Expo



Turkey, one of the largest markets of the world for water and wastewater solutions according to EU reports, will host IWE Water and Wastewater Treatment Technologies Exhibition (Istanbul, 3-5 September 2015). The event is completely focused on water and wastewater industry presenting the latest technologies and developments in sustainable use of water resources, water saving, wastewater treatment and recycling. [To know more](#)

Conference on large wastewater treatment plants



The 12th IWA specialized conference on design, operation and economics of large wastewater treatment plants will be held in Prague (Czech Republic) from 6-9 September 2015. More information is provided [here](#).

ACQUEAU workshop on smart water systems



"Making water smarter" will be the title of the second ACQUEAU annual workshop that will be held in Paris on 16th September 2015. It will focus on real time systems & water management.

Hosted by Bpifrance (<http://www.bpifrance.fr/>), the event is co-organized with National Research Council Canada (<http://www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/eng/>). Main topics: Monitoring system, sensors, mapping, low energy communication tools and data management. SMEs, national funding agencies and large enterprises from Europe and Canada will be involved in the event. [To know more](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Water Convention 2016 Call for Papers



Water Convention has officially launched the Call for Papers (1 June - 15 August) for Singapore International Water Week (SIWW Water Convention 2016) which focuses on strategy, innovation and available solutions. Experts are called to share their knowledge on the following themes: [Delivering Water from Source to Tap](#); [Effective and Efficient Wastewater Management](#); [Water for Liveability and Resilience](#); [Water Quality and Health](#); [Water for Industries](#). The submission deadline is **15 August 2015**. Selected abstracts may be further reviewed and considered for publication in IWA's Journal of Water Practice and Technology. [Submit your abstract](#)